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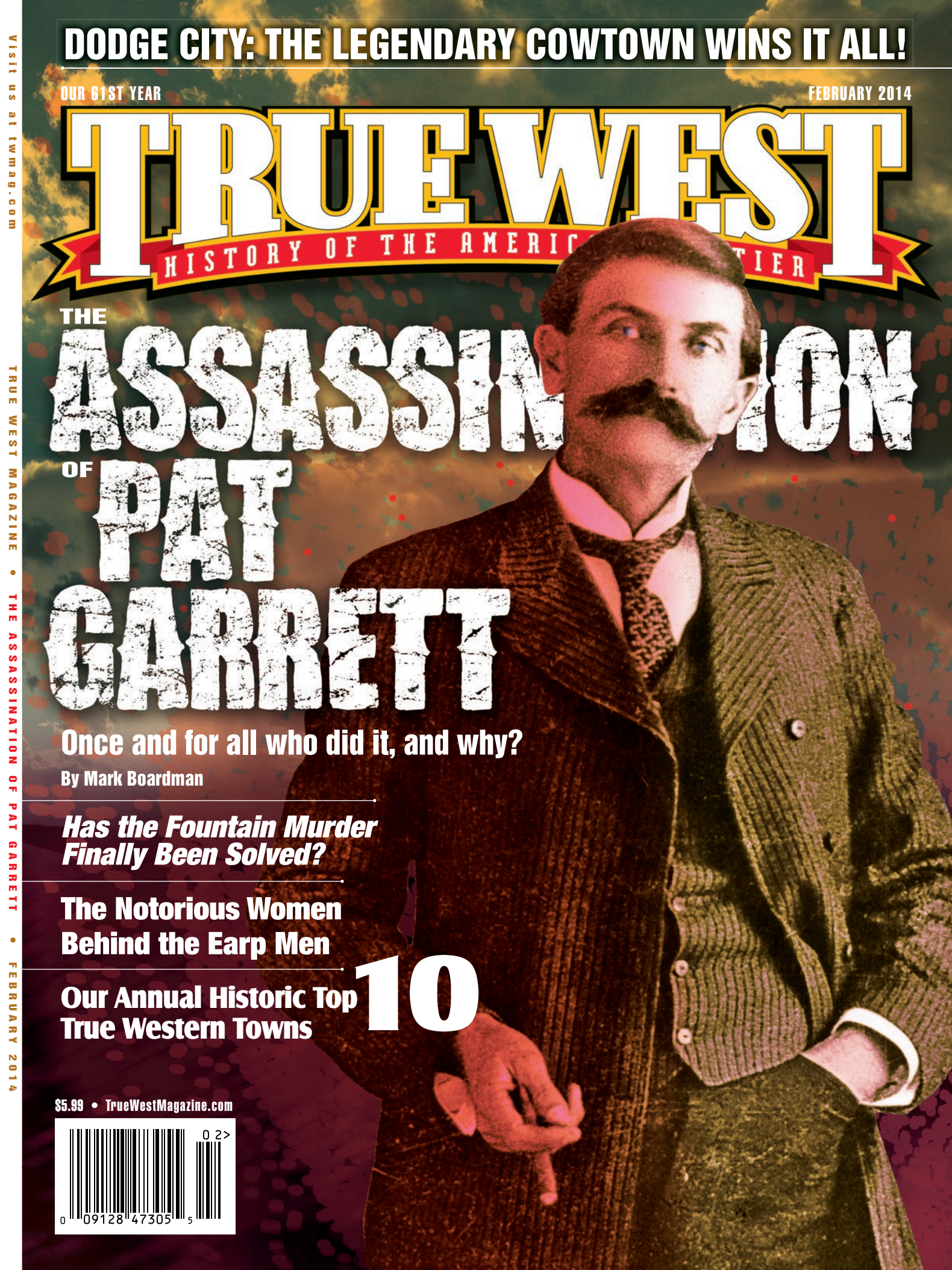
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TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERIC TIER



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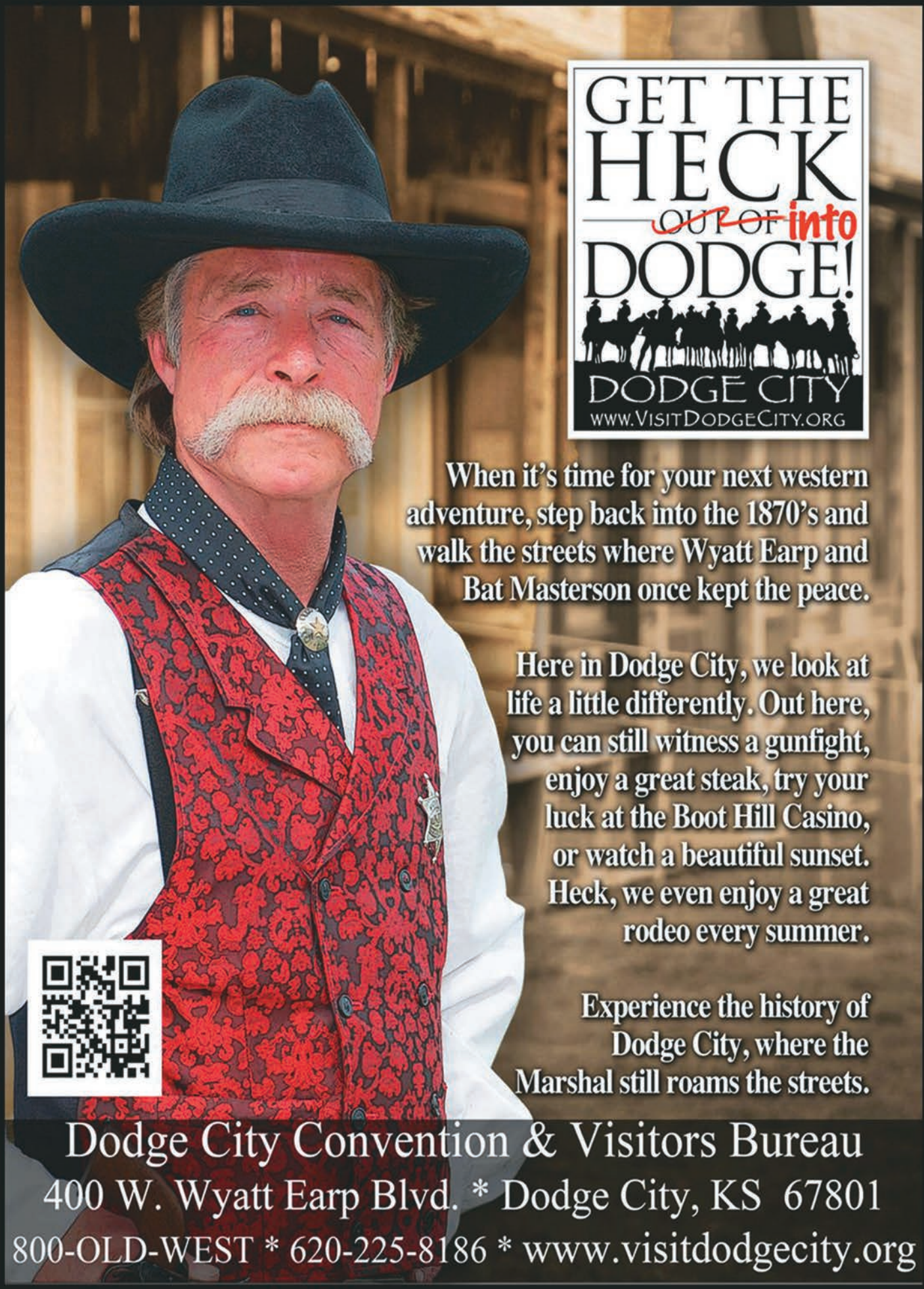
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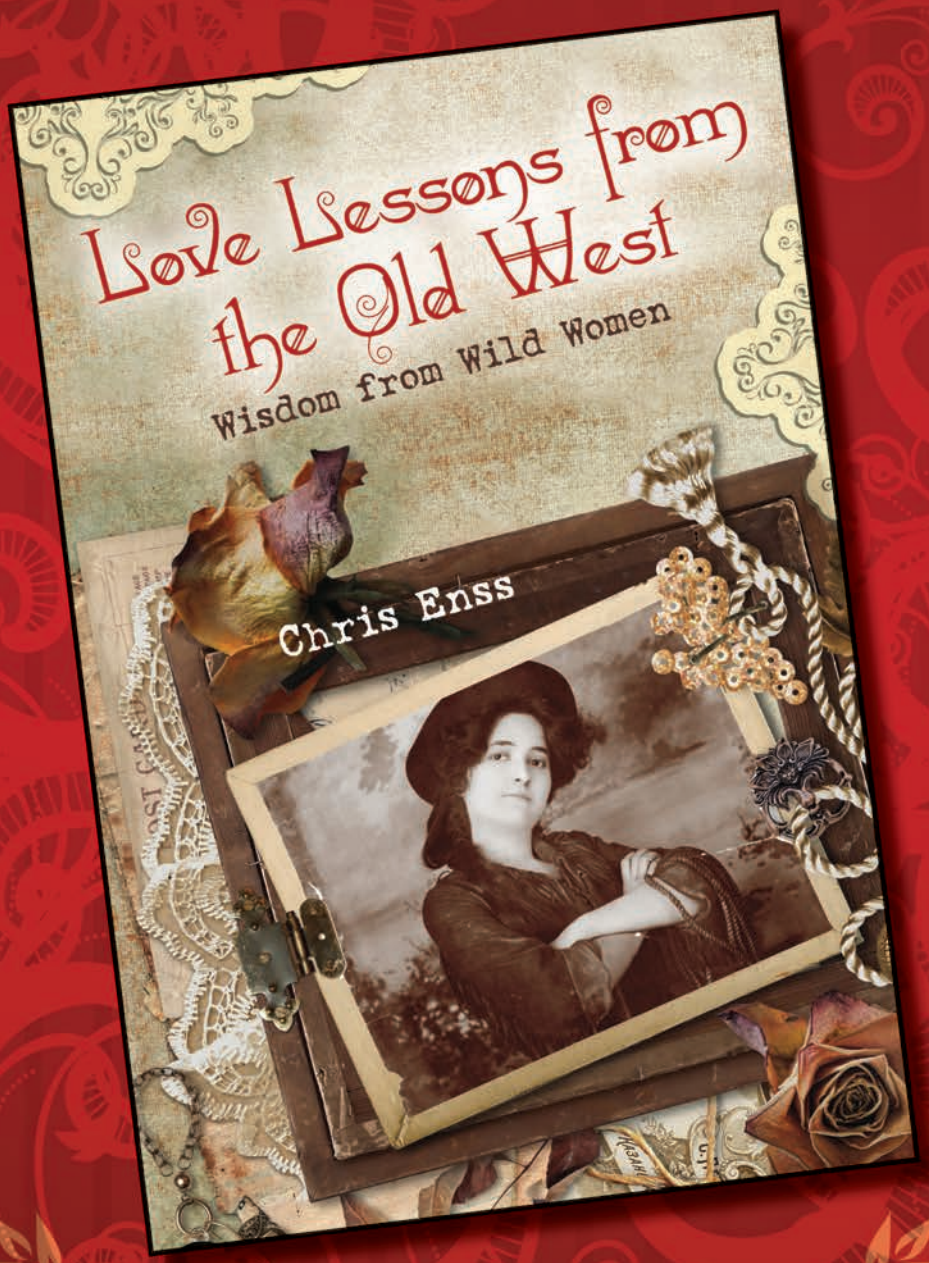
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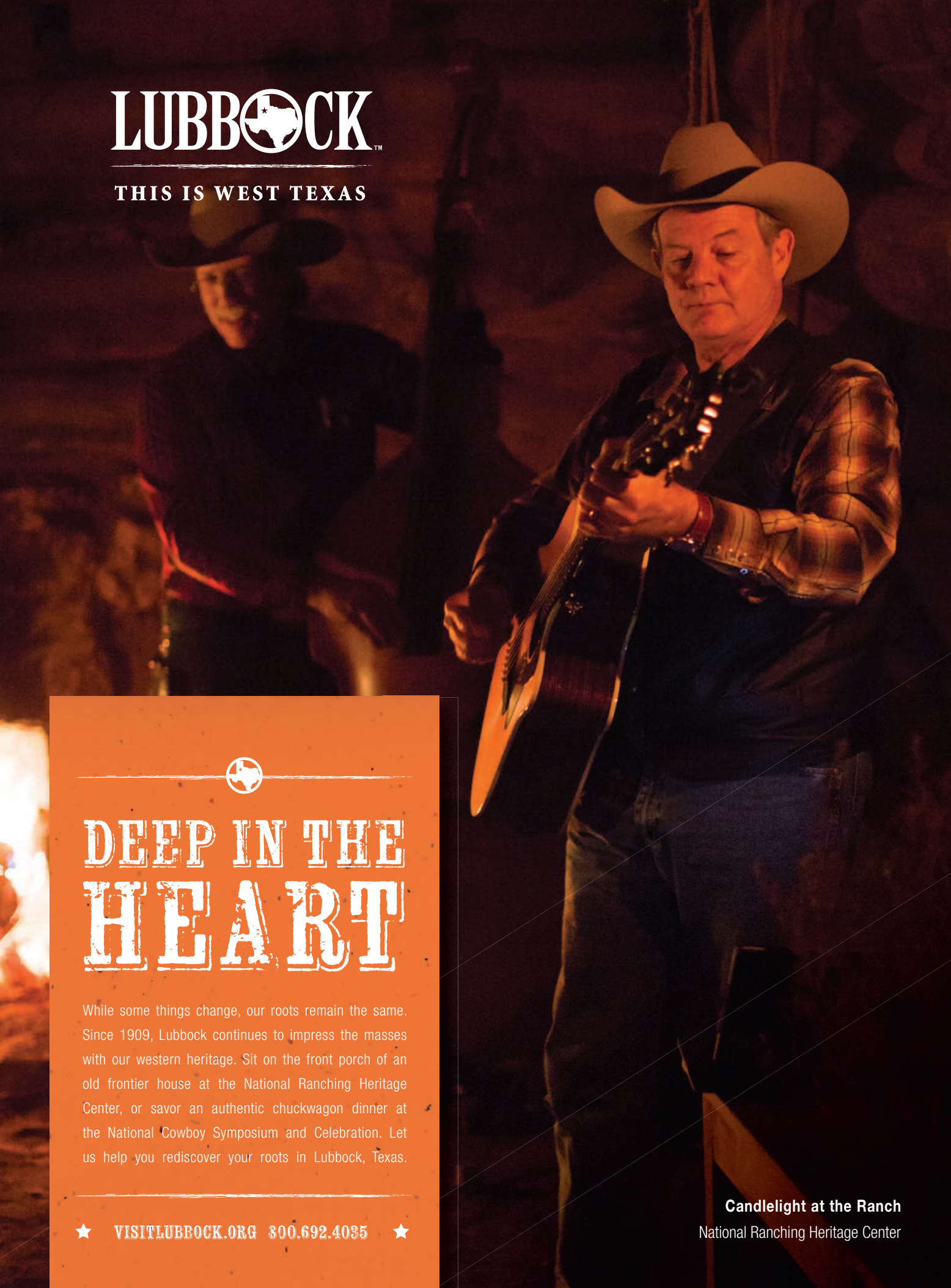
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Dodge City Cowboy Band in St. Louis

After hearing the news that the Dodge City Cowboy Band would be performing at the first National Convention of Cattlemen, held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1884, the *Kansas Cowboy* newspaper predicted: "They will find that the historic cowboy of the plains, as will be represented by the members of this band, is an individual of a far different color than what has been painted by sensational papers. He will be found to be a gentleman and as proficient in the aesthetical art of music as he is in the skill of punching cows."

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

TRUE WEST
PRESENTING THE AMERICAN WEST

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

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As the two railroads were set to meet in Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 8, 1869, Union Pacific Vice President Thomas C. Durant was stuck in his train. Want to see more historical photos? Check out our "Western History" board.

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Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see this and more of his Daily Whipouts (search for "November 11, 2013").

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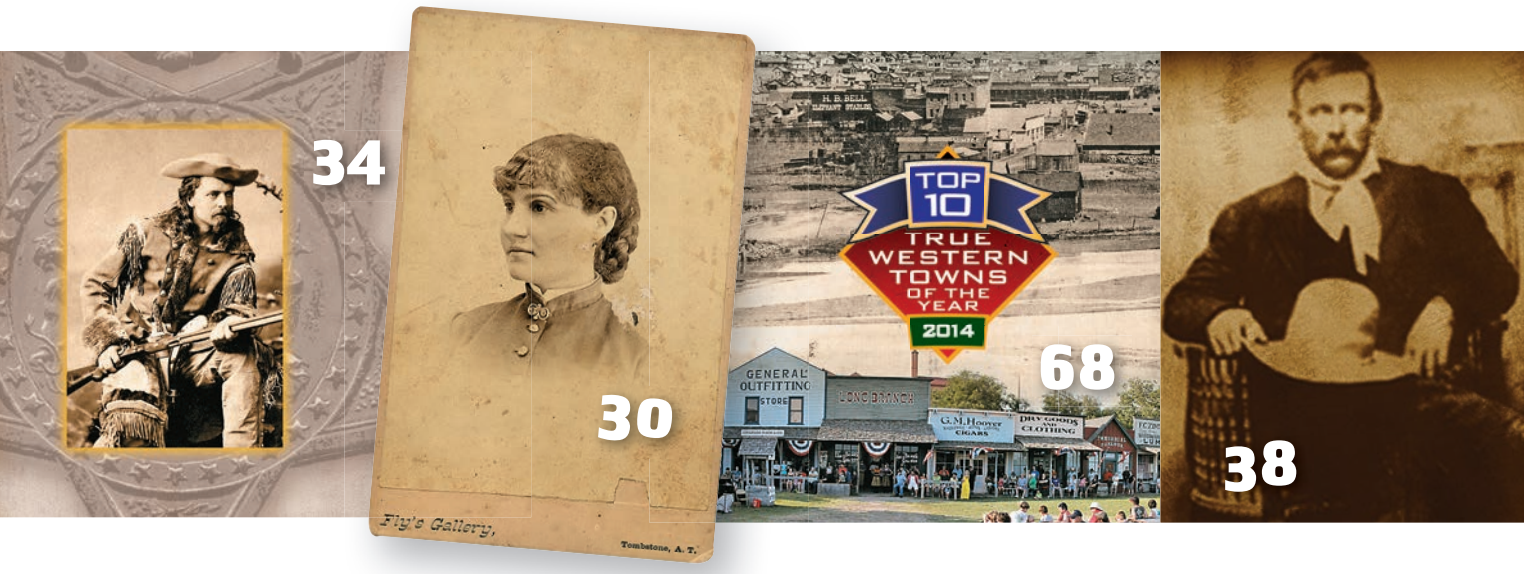


Join the Conversation

"Inspiring stories of ladies following their dreams even when it was man's world, love it!!! I will show my granddaughters this pic tonight and tell them the story, thanks."

-Sunny Sky from Wakefield, Kansas

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This groundbreaking story proves once and for all who assassinated the sheriff most known for killing Billy the Kid.
—Mark Boardman

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A closer look at the women (including a never-before-published photo) who called themselves Mrs. Earp.
—Sherry Monahan

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William F. Cody's Medal of Honor is displayed in two museums... but which medal is the real one?
—Jeff Barnes

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Our ninth annual award for communities that rally to preserve their Old West history.
—The Editors/Written by John Stanley

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TRUE WEST WINS EMMY

True West Publisher Ken Amorosano and Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell (below, from left) were each honored with an Emmy last August for their work on the Channel Eight documentary *Outrageous Arizona*, which won in the nostalgia category. The documentary was an extension of *True West's* Arizona Centennial issue (Feb. 2012) and, in addition to Bell, featured *True West* contributors Marshall Trimble and Jana Bommersbach as cohosts. Bell and Amorosano are teaming up with Eight again for another documentary, *The 66 Kid*, which will air this August.



Have Gun–Will Travel



Richard Boone as Paladin

True West Maniac Ed Washington wrote in a follow-up to the *Ask the Marshall* question in our November 2012 issue that asked if Paladin had a first name. "There is the possibility," he writes, "that we do know Paladin's real name. In a novelization by Frank G. Robertson of several episodes set into a novel format, he actually gave a name. I am not sure if this was done with the permission of Richard Boone and the others. It was published at the end of the last season. According to the book, *A Man Called Paladin*, his name was Clay Alexander."

– Ed Washington, True West *Maniac #613*

From 1957 to 1963, *Have Gun–Will Travel*, which starred Paladin, a hired gun with morals and a conscience, was one of the most popular shows on television, trailing only *Gunsmoke* and *Wagon Train*.

I did some checking and learned the show's creators, Sam Rolfe and Herb Meadow, preferred to have their knight errant remain an enigma. This begs the question: Did Rolfe and Meadow approve of Robertson giving their mysterious hero a first name?

What if another writer had taken Jack Schaefer's mysterious Shane, named him Jasper, had him run away with Marian, settle down in Pittsburgh and go to work in a steel mill?

Part of the charm both Paladin and Shane had was knowing them only by single names. Many of Louis L'Amour's characters had only one name.

Robertson had a right to write the "rest of the story" as fiction. However, many Paladin fans, preferring the enigmatic original, disapproved.

In my humble opinion, Paladin's real name was never revealed because Rolfe and Meadow chose to keep it a mystery.

An interesting sidebar to the Paladin story concerns a 1950s rodeo performer named Victor LaCosta who dressed in black, called himself Paladin and handed out cards stating, "Have Gun Will Travel." He successfully sued CBS for trademark infringement and won. The verdict was later overturned. He continued to pursue legal options and was awarded $3 million. Unfortunately, he died, at the age of 83, before he could collect.

– Marshall Trimble, Ask the Marshall *columnist*



– COURTESY FRANK PARRISH / OWNED BY JOE SOEBBING –

McCubbin Hates New Billy

There is absolutely zero possibility this photo is of Billy the Kid. I say that with total confidence. To begin with, it simply does not look like him. Everyone I know who knows photos agrees. Further, the photo that Mr. Frank Parrish used to identify the other guy in the photo as Dan Dedrick, and was the "clincher" in his view, has very questionable provenance and does not look at all like the four photos of Dedrick owned by the Dedrick-Upham family that were sold with the Billy the Kid tintype in 2011. None of these photos (and even Mr. Parrish's purported photo!) look like the guy he has identified as Dedrick.

Mr. Parrish claims the owner got the photo directly from Pauline Garrett, Pat's daughter. Pauline lived and died in Las Cruces, New Mexico, but she did not have anything of her father's. Pat Garrett's biographer, Leon Metz, visited and interviewed Pauline on more than one occasion when gathering information for his biography published in 1974. She never mentioned that she had a photo of the Kid. Almost everything of Pat's ended up with his youngest son, Jarvis. I visited Jarvis several times, and he never mentioned a photo of the Kid. Jarvis's best friend, Bobby McNellis, never heard that any of the Garrett family had a Billy the Kid photo. Pat did not have a photo of the Kid as early as 1905, when he was helping Emerson Hough with a book on the Lincoln County War (published in 1907 with the title *The Story of the Outlaw*).

I hate people stomping on history! I hope this photo dies a quick death, like all the other phony ones have. The tintype is still the only authenticated photo of Billy the Kid.

– Robert G. McCubbin, Santa Fe, New Mexico

A Long, Crooked Road

From Billy the Kid to the fall of Fall, strange and deadly bedfellows walk the Land of Disenchantment.

I have long viewed the Lincoln County War as an aberration, but as our contributors dug deeper into New Mexico politics for this issue, the corruption in the Land of Enchantment was wider and deeper and longer lasting than I had ever realized. Of course, my New Mexico friends laugh at me for being so naive: Paul Hutton maintains the state *still is* a scorpion's nest of corruption.

Mark Boardman leads the charge in our twin features about two of the most famous unsolved murders ever—they both involved many of the same people.

Author Corey Recko was extremely helpful, and, I must say, his new book on the murder is most excellent. Also, Boardman praises these historians who helped him with his feature: "I owe a bunch to Ellis Lindsey and Jerry Lobdill, each of whom is working on a Jim Miller bio. And to Chuck Hornung, who has done important research and is writing on the New Mexico Mounted Police."

Another realization I had while working on this issue was that both Fountain and Garrett were riding in buggies on the same road when they were ambushed and killed. But the most disturbing aspect of both cases was that their killers got away scot-free. If you believe in justice and karma, these stories will make you weep.

"That's the history of New Mexico: kill somebody or steal something and you can sure get a good office."

—J.A. Woodward









1 The Valley of Death for Pat Garrett. This is the arroyo the old lawman was traversing when he was assassinated. Photo taken in 1991.

2 Killin' Jim Miller was a notorious killer for hire, and Mark Boardman makes a very good case for his involvement in the Garrett hit.

3 Albert Fall, on his last legs in 1940, when he had about a year to live. He was a handful, as they say.

4 Oliver "Dad" Lee as he appeared in his later years, affecting a Wild West gunfighter pose. As we shall see, his involvement in the murder of a child casts a sickly pall over this kind of posturing.



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

Joke

A middle-aged man is waiting in a grocery store checkout line while his cashier talks on the phone in a foreign language. When she hangs up, the man says, "You're in America now; you need to speak English." The incredulous woman asks, "Excuse me?" The man says slowly, "You are no longer in Mexico. You-need-to-speak-English." Ringing up his items, she says, "I was speaking Navajo, and if you want to speak English, go back to England."

Quotes

"Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a poor hand well."

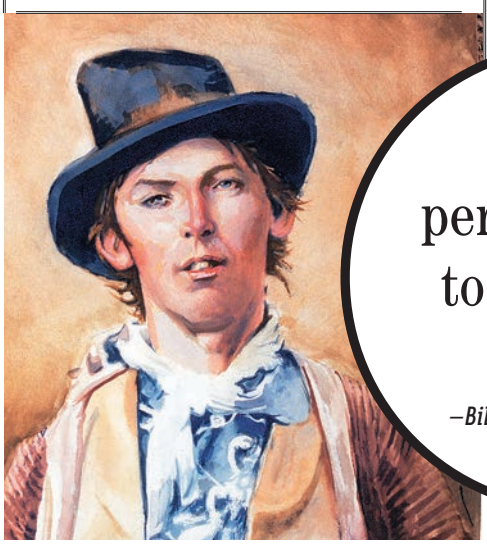
– Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist

"The trouble is, you think you have time."

– Buddhist teaching

"No matter what side of an argument you're on, you always find some people on your side that you wish were on the other side."

– Jascha Heifetz, violinist



"Advise persons never to engage in killing."

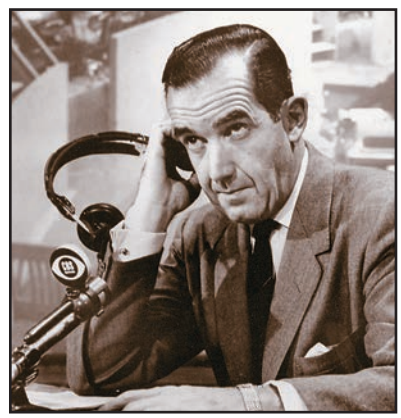
–Billy the Kid, to a reporter

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



"Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts."

– Edward R. Murrow, broadcast journalist



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

The West's Most Western Town

How did the showdown between Scottsdale and Cave Creek end?



"A showdown with all the markings of a classic spaghetti Western is brewing between Cave Creek and Scottsdale," is how Arizona's largest newspaper, *The Arizona Republic*, classified the fight over the brand the "West's Most Western Town."

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

In Arizona's high noon showdown over the brand the "West's Most Western Town," Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane and Cave Creek Mayor Vincent Francia faced off with their hands on their holsters.

Since 1947, Scottsdale has proudly worn the title—displaying it in advertising to tourists and new businesses, and at dozens of its Western-themed events. The town even installed a beautiful Ed Mell statue of a bucking horse with a rider holding on for dear life as the centerpiece on Main Street. When Scottsdale says, "Our brand isn't for sale," you know the town is not joshin'.

But Cave Creek from up the road thought Scottsdale had outgrown the slogan years ago. Mayor Francia is pretty blunt about why: "Scottsdale is all hat and no cattle."

True West even had a dog in the fight—two dogs, actually, when *The Arizona Republic* asked Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and columnist Marshall Trimble (also Arizona's official historian) to sound off.

Cave Creek resident Bell has long been suspicious of Scottsdale's claim and considers Scottsdale the "West's Most Midwestern Town."

Scottsdale resident Trimble gently admonished: "I like ya, Cave Creek, but you're going to have to get creative and come up with a motto of your own. You can't have ours."

Scottsdale's Mayor Lane agrees: "It's really a one-sided fight—we're not participating, because we're not giving up our motto."

Being the "West's Most Western Town" has helped draw roughly eight-and-a-half million visitors a year to the upscale town that borders Phoenix, Lane admits, adding, "We wouldn't want *The New York Times* saying we're scamming those visitors."

"We own that title," he says. "We're not living in the 1870s anymore, with hitched horses, but we have a great Western flare. We've got the hospitality and spirit of the West. We're not doing pig races and quick draw contests on the street, but that's not what makes a Western town."

> "Where we hitch horses, they park Porsches."

Scottsdale, which officially trademarked the motto in 2007, even threatened to go to court to get Cave Creek off its back.

Cave Creek did not sound worried. Mayor Francia challenged Mayor Lane to meet him at high noon in front of the Horny Toad restaurant last November—during Cave Creek's Wild West Days.

"We still live the Western lifestyle," Francia says. "We still have horses hitched up and a cowboy culture that's alive and well; we've got one of the largest equestrian populations in the state and hundreds of trails. Scottsdale once was a Western town, but it's evolved into something else. Where we hitch horses, they park Porsches."

In the end, after another successful Wild West Days, Cave Creek decided to give up the (unwinnable) fight with Scottsdale and do just what Trimble had suggested: come up with its own slogan.

Cave Creek is now "Where the Wild West Lives," just up the road from Scottsdale, the "West's Most Western Town."

Like any admirable Old West Savior, these towns have deemed the West as a way of life worth fighting over.

Jana Bommersbach has been Arizona's Journalist of the Year and has won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She also appeared on the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and is the author of two nationally-acclaimed true crime books and a children's book.

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A Courageous Standoff

Jeff Milton saved the day with the help of the first lever-action repeating shotgun produced in the United States.



Lawmen George Scarborough (left), killer of outlaw John Wesley Hardin's killer, John Selman, and Jeff Milton (far left), relied on Winchester's Model 1887 scattergun. The John M. Browning–designed 1887 Winchester was a pioneer in the field of repeating shotguns.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



Winchester's innovative scattergun carried five rounds; the 12 gauge with a 30-inch barrel and chambered for 2⅝-inch shotshells weighed about eight pounds, while the 10 bore with a 32-inch barrel that handled 2⅞-inch shells weighed around nine pounds.

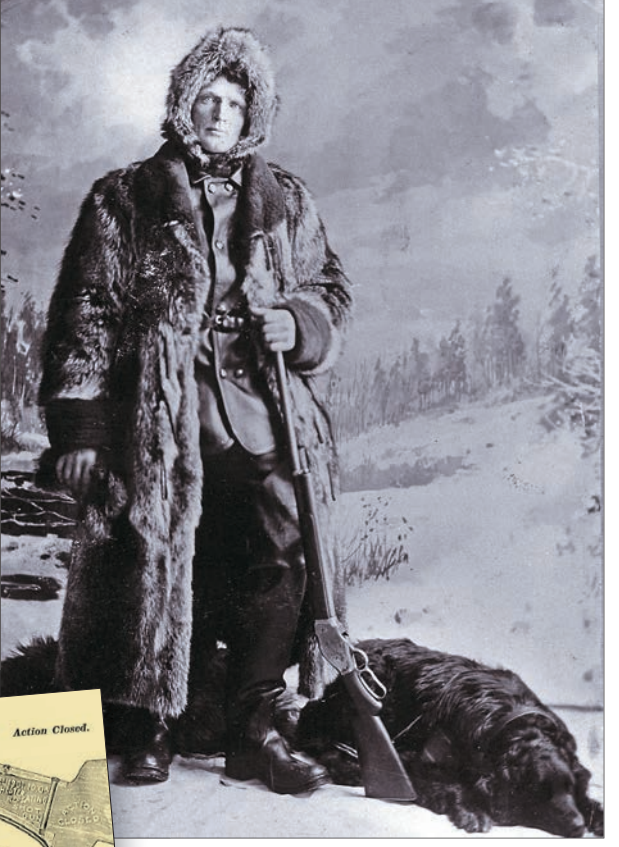
– COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY –

On February 15, 1900, as the train slowly steamed to a stop at the Fairbank, Arizona, station, members of the notorious Stiles-Alvord outlaw gang yelled for express messenger Jeff Milton to throw up his hands. As a shoot-out ensued, they fired a volley into the car, shattering Milton's left arm. He scrambled for his 10-gauge Model 1887 Winchester shotgun and quickly sent a blast of 11 buckshot, riddling "Three Finger" Jack Dunlop and wounding a second robber, then he closed the door before he fainted. Although the bandits forced the engineer to open the door, Milton had hidden the keys to the safe, leaving the thwarted bandits to flee without the loot—thanks to Milton's courage and his '87 Winchester scattergun.

The brainchild of arms inventor John M. Browning, Winchester's lever-action shotgun was the result of the 1884 discontinuance of the company's profitable English-made double-barrel shotguns that were stamped with the Winchester name. Looking to develop a repeating shotgun incorporating their rifle's lever action, the New Haven, Connecticut, firm turned to Browning, who had been perfecting just such a system in a shotgun.

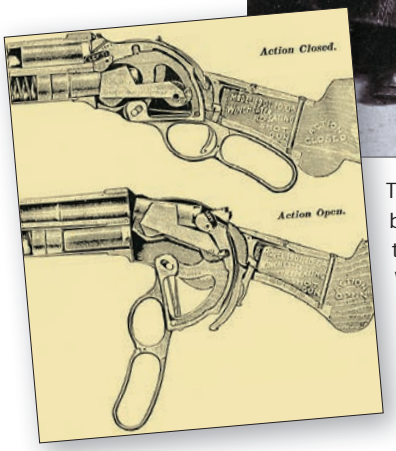
Patented on February 16 and July 20 in 1886, this scattergun utilized the levering action of cycling the shotshells, much like that of Winchester's famed rifles. However, unlike the action in the rifle's sliding bolt, which moved toward and away from the chamber, this repeating shotgun used a rolling block type of bolt that duplicated the arcing movement made by the cycled lever. As the bolt slid upward to a closed position, a camming action forced the rear portion of the bolt solidly against the receiver—an important feature with the





Dressed for hunting in the cold north country and accompanied by his Labrador Retriever, this late-19th- century sportsman has opted for Winchester's 1887 lever-action shotgun to make fast follow-up shots in his quest for feathered game.

– COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER –



The Model 1901 Winchester shotgun was a beefed up version of the '87, to handle the then-new smokeless powder. These early Winchester catalog cutaway views reveal the mammoth rolling block type of action and show the open and closed positions of the cycled lever and bolt of the models.

– COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER –

oversized and blackpowder fouled chamber or shotshells of the day.

Simply dubbed the Winchester Repeating Shotgun Model 1887, the new 12-gauge smoothbore was initially announced in Winchester's June 1887 catalog. A 10 gauge was added in November of that year, starting with serial number 22,148. Although sales started off briskly, the large oversized breech required for the big shotshells somewhat negated the resemblance between lever rifles and the shotgun, giving the Model '87 a comparatively modest acceptance, with stiff competition soon resulting from the introduction of Winchester's own Model 1893 and 1897 slide action shotguns. Regardless, the gun was the choice of a number of express men, prison guards, railroad agents and others on both sides of the law, with professional gunmen like John Slaughter and George Scarborough listed among the users.

> The thwarted bandits fled without the loot—thanks to Milton's courage and his '87 Winchester scattergun.

With a total of 64,855 Model 1887s turned out, guns were produced in 30-inch and 32-inch rolled steel barrels (Damascus tubes could be special ordered) with a few 20-inch barreled Riot guns made (added in 1898). The smoothbore held five shotshells in its under-barrel tubular magazine, whose length was 13¾ inches in the 12 gauge and 15¼ inches in the 10 bore.

Most '87s were finished in bright blue with casehardened receivers, but a few wore an overall blued finish. Oil-stained walnut stocks sporting semi-pistol grips

were standard with a unique two-piece fore end. Varnished plain stocks or checkered, special dimension stocks were optional at extra cost.

Most guns left the factory with checkered steel buttplates, although a few were fitted with hard rubber models. Standard front sights were brass beads, with nickel silver, ivory or other materials also offered. Full choke bores were standard, but cylinder bore and modified chokes were also available.

In 1901, the '87 was phased out. The Model 1901, which was beefed up to take the then-new smokeless powder shotshells, replaced it, and another 13,500 nearly identical arms utilizing heat treated and blued receivers were produced in 10 gauge only. Winchester continued to manufacture the '01 model until 1920.

With a number of original 1887s still in use today, this Winchester shotgun's legacy lives on.

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

1887 WINCHESTERS TODAY



Italian-import replicas of the 1887 Winchester lever-action shotgun are available to shooters and are offered in 12 gauge with 22–inch or 28-inch barrels and holds five 2¾-inch smokeless powder shotshells (some importers offer rifled slug models). Quality reproductions can be had from Chiappa Firearms, Cimarron Firearms, Taylor's & Co. and EMF Company (shown). An 18½-inch tubed, pistol-stocked model is offered by Chiappa, EMF and Taylor's. Check with each importer for details and prices.



BY MEGHAN SAAR

Did Custer Die in This Coat?

Some of this winter's Wild West collectibles required a license to dream.







CUSTER'S COATS?

The Custer coat at Rock Island Auction (far left) went unsold, while the Custer coat at Heritage Auctions (below) hammered in at $24,000 on November 24. In 1897, Custer's widow, Elizabeth, reportedly gifted that elkskin jacket to Arthur McCall, a U.S. Army engineer who said he had helped her remove Custer's possessions from storage at West Point. McCall befriended Otto Gerhardt, an artist whose enthusiasm for the Custer campaign so impressed McCall that he entrusted the coat to Gerhardt. A newspaper clipping shows Gerhardt wearing the jacket (inset).



"One must draw their own conclusion regarding the history of this jacket based on the documentation!" Rock Island Auction told collectors in its description of the lot that the Dietzen family claimed was the coat George A. Custer had died in at the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn.

The documentation consists of Joseph Dietzen's discharge papers confirming he was in the service at the time of Custer's death and a 1958 letter from Dietzen's son, John, explaining how his father got the coat: "he had won the coat in a shooting match from a friendly Indian.... He told my father that the coat had been taken by Sitting Bull from General Custer who was wearing it at the time he was killed."

When we look to the historical record, numerous soldiers at the battle confirmed that Custer had tied his jacket to his saddle pack and was wearing his shirt during the battle. A family story by itself is pretty thin provenance, but when the statements are not supported by the facts, it becomes even weaker.

Even if it was a given that this jacket was taken from the battlefield (and it's not), at least seven other officers who died that day also had buckskin jackets with them, so who could say this was Custer's?

The coat, accompanied by a shirt allegedly tied to battle participant Rain in the Face, did not sell at the September

Notable Wild West Collectible Lots Included
(All auction images courtesy auction house cited)



JESSE JAMES'S MILLION-DOLLAR COLT

Jesse James's Colt .45, serial no. 70579, possesses remarkable provenance that stretches to the day Bob Ford killed the outlaw in 1882. The Colt passed to his son, Jesse James Jr., who displayed it (far left) for the public. Around 1924, he gave the gun as bond to a Dr. Lowery to treat a car crash injury. The revolver made its way to Missouri Sen. Harry Hawes and then Alabama Congressman Frank Boykin, until he sold it to a U.S. collector in 1975. On November 24, the bid at Heritage Auctions opened at $400,000 for the weapon estimated to reach $1.6 million—a dream the consignor did not get to realize. The revolver went unsold.

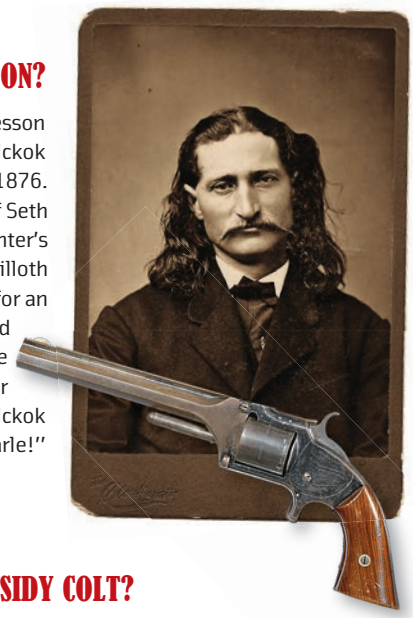
2013 auction. But that was only because it did not meet the reserve price; folks did bid on the lot, up to $90,000.

As John Lennon famously sang, "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." Some collectors are willing to take the chance to pay for a questionable piece of history, most likely hoping the story will prove to be true sometime in the future. The auction houses that put up these collectibles are all reputable, and each one was forthright about the provenance, or lack thereof, associated with the lot in question.

The Custer coat was just one of the artifacts attributed to Wild West legends that folks took a shot at owning this winter. ★

WILD BILL'S LAST WEAPON?

Collectors bid up to $220,000 for the Smith & Wesson No. 2 Bonhams touted as the revolver Wild Bill Hickok had carried when he was slain by Jack McCall in 1876. The Willoth family claimed Deadwood Sheriff Seth Bullock had gotten the weapon from the gunfighter's dead body, then given it to Adolph Fishel (a Willoth father-in-law) to reimburse the store owner for an unpaid Hickok tab. The pistol, serial no. 29963, did not meet the reserve at the November auction. "We are now back to square one," Hickok biographer Joseph G. Rosa tells us, "The only known Hickok weapon is the rifle owned by Jim Earle!"



Although collectors interested in the Custer coat sold by Heritage Auctions were not given any proof of the coat's direct link to Custer, the boy general was known to wear similar hunting jackets (see opposite page). Plus, Libbie had been generous with a Custer coat before; she donated one to the Smithsonian in 1912.



APRIL FOOL'S CASSIDY COLT?

Wild Bunch historian Dan Buck quips the Butch Cassidy Colt, serial no. 165106, might be an April Fool's Day joke. The gun's Colt factory letter was dated April 1, 2001, a Sunday, an odd day to be working. Regardless, the letter stated the gun was shipped in 1896, contradicting the story that Cassidy gave it to Joe Davenport before going to prison in 1894. Plus, Buck says, Davenport was not a "Cassidy gang member," as the description noted; he was an occasional posseman. In 2012, Buck proved Cassidy's alleged "amnesty" Colt, sold that year for $175,000 by California Auctioneers, was bogus. In the arena of outlaw firearms, $15,000 is a rock bottom price, one that a collector willing to believe Davenport's story bid to successfully buy that Colt at Rock Island's September auction.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

January 25, 2014
Western Americana
High Noon (Mesa, AZ)
HighNoon.com • 310-202-9010

January 30, 2014
William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody Collection
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
Cowans.com • 513-871-1670

February 12, 2014
American Indian & Tribal Art
Skinner (Marlborough, MA)
SkinnerInc.com • 508-970-3000

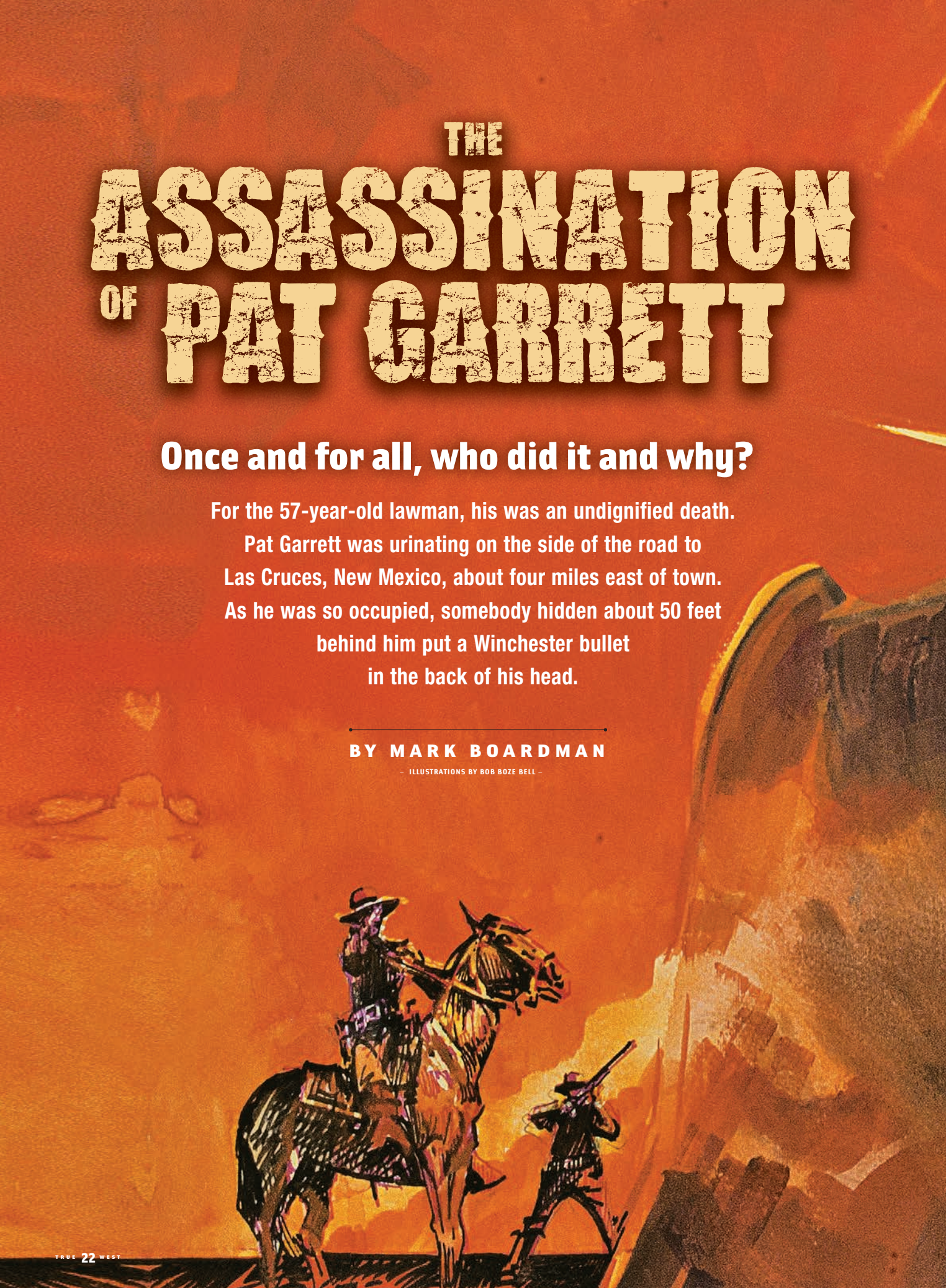
THE ASSASSINATION OF PAT GARRETT

Once and for all, who did it and why?

For the 57-year-old lawman, his was an undignified death. Pat Garrett was urinating on the side of the road to Las Cruces, New Mexico, about four miles east of town. As he was so occupied, somebody hidden about 50 feet behind him put a Winchester bullet in the back of his head.

BY MARK BOARDMAN

– ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –





...the old lawman "fell like a sack of potatoes."

One of his two companions placed the dead man's Burgess folding shotgun—still in its sheath—near the body. Then the pair headed to town to tell a fairy tale about the incident.

On February 29, 1908, Garrett was dead. The man who had headed down the legends trail nearly 30 years before when he killed Billy the Kid, murdered.

It was a conspiracy. A contract murder. An organized crime hit.

This is what we know.

Organized Crime in New Mexico Territory

Yes, organized crime was present in New Mexico in 1908. It had been for more than 30 years at that time.

Early on, the Santa Fe Ring, a Republican organization led by major domo Thomas Catron, gobbled up land by hook or crook, cornered U.S. Army beef and horse contracts, monopolized banking and merchant industries—and was willing to kill to protect its turf. The wars in Colfax and Lincoln Counties showed that.

By around 1890, a Democratic counterpart had taken over in southeast New Mexico and into El Paso. Led by super lawyer and political boss Albert Fall, this group also accumulated land and water rights by any means necessary. They engaged, individually or collectively, in bribery, influence peddling, rustling, intimidation, jury tampering, assault and murder. A couple of them did a little robbery on the side.

All that brought a Democratic crime ring into direct conflict with a Democrat-turned-Republican lawman named Garrett—and set the stage for his ultimate assassination.

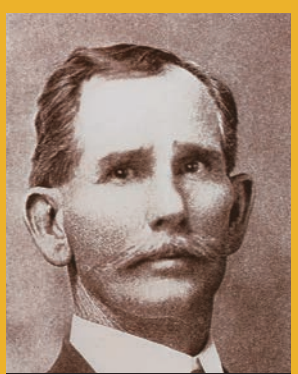
The Conspirators

Historians are unsure who exactly was involved in the plot to kill Garrett. A few names are known, but undoubtedly others played a role. They all had axes to grind with Garrett.

Like the modern mafia, this group was based on family. Ranchers (and suspected rustlers) Oliver Lee and Bill Cox were wed to sisters of strong-arm man Print Rhode. Rancher (and smuggler) Carl Adamson was married to gunman and corrupt lawman Mannie Clements's sister—who herself was a cousin-in-law of hired killer Jim Miller. All had various partnerships, legal and otherwise, with one another.

THE SUSPECTS

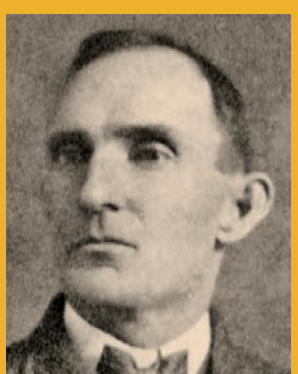

OLIVER LEE

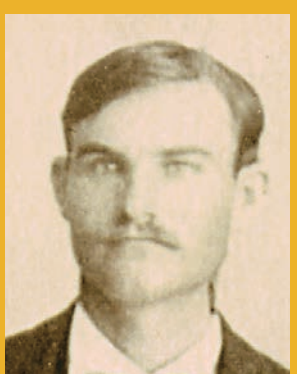

BILL COX

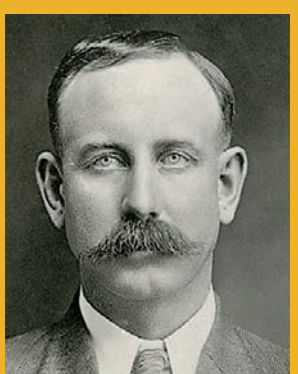

PRINT RHODE


CARL ADAMSON


WAYNE BRAZEL


JIM MILLER


BILL MCNEW


JAMES GILLILAND

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN UNLESS NOTED; RHODE COURTESY PINAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY –

Various members of the plot had specific reasons for wanting Garrett dead.

Take, for example, Lee and Bill McNew. Most folks believed they were involved in the disappearance and killing of Col. Albert Fountain and son Henry in 1896. Fountain had been about to prosecute Lee for rustling; the indictments disappeared with him. As sheriff of Doña Ana County, Garrett decided to arrest the pair and their cohort Jim Gilliland for the Fountain murders. At one point, Garrett and a posse ended up in a gunfight with Lee and Gilliland in which a deputy was killed. The pair eventually did surrender to the authorities (not Garrett) and were found not guilty in the killing of Henry Fountain; nobody was tried for killing Albert Fountain, so the case remained open. Garrett wasn't satisfied and continued looking for evidence against the trio, even after he gave up his badge in 1900. Lee and his pals feared that Garrett might find something—or that he would kill them as he had Billy the Kid.

Carl Adamson and rancher W.W. "Bill" Cox were other possible suspects, as they had reportedly wanted Garrett's land for water rights, grazing of their herds and so forth.

Rhode hated Garrett. The sheriff had tracked a wanted killer—and friend of the Cox/Rhode clan—to the Cox ranch in 1899 and killed the suspect while trying to arrest him. Rhode's sister was present and subsequently miscarried a baby; Print blamed Garrett. To make matters worse, Garrett arrested Rhode the next year in connection with a holdup. Rhode was acquitted, but he wanted vengeance—and he figured that when it came to Garrett, it was kill or be killed.

Albert Fall, a gifted trial attorney and businessman, had connections with all of the conspirators. If Garrett brought down part of the criminal enterprise, he might just catch Fall, the outfit's godfather. That would have been enough for Fall to want Garrett out of the picture.

Throw in another factor—Garrett owed money. Lots of money, to lots of people, including some of the conspirators. He was not good on paying back his debts. The plotters may have figured that killing Garrett would send a message to others who might renege on their financial responsibilities.

A final motive for murdering Garrett has come up in the last 20 years, especially through the work of New Mexico Mounted Police chronicler Chuck Hornung. The conspirators were involved in a ring that smuggled Chinese workers and perhaps narcotics into the U.S. Garrett's Bear Canyon Ranch was a perfect spot for a way station on the smuggling trail. The ring wanted the land—and didn't want Garrett snooping into their illegal activities. They first tried to get it by legal means—Bill Cox took advantage of Garrett's bad financial situation to buy up the note on his ranch. But efforts to evict or pressure him to leave failed.

The Plan

Sometime in the fall of 1907, several conspirators met at the Hotel St. Regis in El Paso, Texas. Among those reported in attendance: Cox, Adamson, Lee, McNew, Miller, Wayne Brazel and possibly others (maybe Fall, according to statements by Lee's son). The men came up with a plan to kill Garrett—and hired Miller to do the job for $1,500 provided by Cox.

But first, the crew set the stage for the killing. Brazel was tasked with leasing some Garrett property (which was actually in the name of Garrett's son Poe). Brazel moved goats onto the land, which enraged a cattleman like Garrett, since the goats would destroy the grazing grass and kill the property value.

Garrett tried to convince Brazel to move off his property. Brazel refused, of course, and Garrett was stuck. That is, until Adamson and Miller came forward, offering to buy Brazel's herd and the Garrett land. Desperate for money, Garrett agreed. To get all the details worked out, the four men—Garrett, Brazel, Adamson and Miller—agreed to meet in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on February 29, 1908.

Hotel St. Regis in El Paso, where the hit was hatched.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



A flurry of telegrams passed among Adamson, Brazel, Miller, Cox and Rhode on February 28, perhaps confirming details of the plot. That night, Adamson went to the Garrett house to spend the night; the two would leave early the next morning. Before bedtime, Brazel showed up with a message for Adamson (the Garrett family came to believe that the note had final instructions on the hit).

That same night, Miller left El Paso, Texas, and traveled to a ranch near Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he caught some shut-eye. The foreman there would later claim that Miller borrowed a horse, saying that he needed it to go kill Garrett.

Adamson and Garrett headed out in a buggy at first light on February 29. Brazel, on horseback, met them on the road—but only after he was seen conferring with an unidentified rider (the shooter?), who left before Garrett and Adamson got there. The trio made one stop at the town of Organ; a bystander there said that Garrett was arguing with Brazel over the goats, further establishing the goat rancher's later claim of self-defense.

The trio continued on until they reached a pre-arranged spot just a few miles outside Las Cruces. The shooter was already in place on a hillock, hidden from view. Adamson said he had to stop to relieve himself; Garrett decided he did too.

That was when the shooter put a bullet in the back of Garrett's head. The second shot to the gut was overkill.

After the deed was done, the killer hightailed it away, leaving behind a Winchester shell, hoofprints and horse droppings. Brazel and Adamson went to



In this rare photograph, Pat Garrett and friends pose on their way to George Curry's inauguration as governor of New Mexico in 1907. That is Garrett's nemesis, A.B. Fall, kneeling, third from right.

– COURTESY CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO –

Las Cruces and reported their version of events to the sheriff's office. Brazel was taken into custody in the death of Garrett.

The Investigation

Frankly, a lot of folks had trouble believing that Brazel shot Garrett. The two had known each other for years, and friends of Brazel were convinced that he couldn't hurt a fly.

New Mexico Mounted Police Capt. Fred Fornoff—who was not a Garrett friend or fan—requested a thorough investigation. But without money for it, Gov. George Curry, ostensibly a friend of Garrett, didn't seem interested in supporting the effort. During this period, certain members of the legislature unsuccessfully tried to disband the mounted police or cut its funding. Fornoff was convinced that the bill's sponsors were trying to block the official inquiry.

Territorial Attorney General James Hervey—whose father was a Garrett friend, and who apparently felt an obligation to get to the truth in the case—tried to raise private money to continue the investigation…and got nowhere. Powerful and wealthy Garrett associates, including El Paso saloon owner Tom Powers, declined to pony up. Western novelist Emerson Hough, who had consulted with Garrett for his book *The Story of the Outlaw*, also said no. The writer had some advice for Hervey: "Jimmie, I know that outfit around the Organ Mountains, and Garrett got killed trying to find out who killed Fountain, and you will get killed trying to find out who killed Garrett. I would advise you to let it alone."

Ultimately, that was just what folks did. It was too dangerous to ask questions.

The Trial

The Territory of New Mexico vs Wayne Brazel was a sham, a setup. The verdict was a foregone conclusion.

In the trial held from April 19 to May 4, 1909, Fall defended Brazel. The prosecutor was Mark Thompson, a Fall ally. The judge was Frank Parker, who had presided over the Fountain murder case; it was known that he and Garrett didn't get along. Parker, too, was a friend of Fall's.

When he testified, Brazel claimed that he and Garrett had argued about the goat issue on the road to Las Cruces. Garrett became increasingly angry and threatening. When Adamson stopped the buggy to answer nature's call, Garrett went for his shotgun—and Brazel killed him in self-defense.

District Attorney Thompson did nothing to prove the territory's case. He didn't call the only eyewitness, Adamson, to the stand. Coroner W.C. Field did testify, but he was not asked about the entry and exit wounds on Garrett's body. The jury never heard that Garrett was urinating when he was killed, or that he was shot in the back of the head, or that his shotgun was holstered and unloaded.

Within just 15 minutes, the panel issued a "not guilty" verdict. Afterward, Cox had a celebratory cookout at his ranch.

So, Who Killed Garrett?

Special investigator Cipriano Baca believed that accused Fountain murderer McNew was the guilty party.

Jarvis Garrett, Pat's youngest son (who was only two when his father died), came to the conclusion that Adamson was the killer.

Some folks thought Brazel himself did the deed and got away with it.

But the top two candidates these days are Rhode and Miller.

Mark Lee Gardner, in his excellent *To Hell on a Fast Horse*, builds the Rhode case. Rhode had the motive—a longstanding fear and hatred of Garrett. He was in the area at the time of the shooting. Two of Rhode's nephews, Oliver Lee Jr. and Jim Cox, suggested later in life that Rhode had shot Garrett. And an anonymous note sent to Garrett's daughter Annie also named Rhode as the assassin. According to this theory, Brazel took the rap because Rhode had kids—and because Brazel had been assured that he would never see a rope or a prison cell.

Then there's Miller, the man known to history as "Killin' Jim," perhaps the most prolific hit man of his era. Miller biographers Ellis Lindsey and Jerry Lobdill (each working on Miller books) both believe he pulled the trigger on Garrett.

So do I.



One deadly and dapper deacon: Killin' Jim Miller.

"[Miller] is today the most dangerous man in the whole Southwest. . . . He is a chief of conspirators and a planner of dark deeds."

–Dr. J.J. Bush, a friend of Garrett's, in a letter to Gov. Curry

A group of men met at the St. Regis Hotel in El Paso, Texas, with the express purpose of hiring Miller to kill Garrett. Oliver Lee Jr. said as much, though he also said that Rhode acted before Miller could complete the contract.

Miller was one of the parties who offered to buy Garrett's ranch from him. He was in the area at the time of the shooting. Miller met with Brazel in El Paso not long before the killing—Lindsey thinks the assassin was coaching the patsy in what to say.

New Mexico Mounted Police Capt. Fornoff, who had investigated the case as much as he could, said that a wealthy rancher (Cox) had paid Miller $1,500 to kill Garrett—and that Miller did it. Territorial Attorney General James Hervey believed the same thing, as reported in *True West's* March-April 1961 issue.

Adamson, on his deathbed in 1919, reportedly told his young grandson that he and others had hired Miller, who proceeded to murder Garrett.

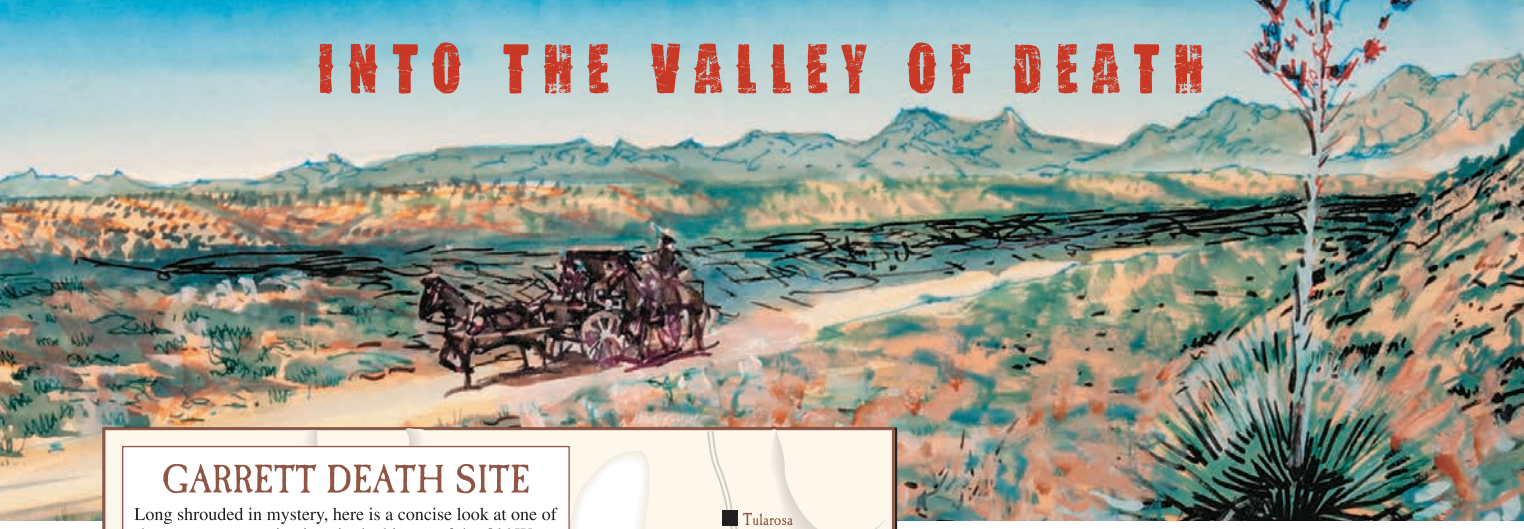
What about the assertions by the sons of Lee and Cox that Rhode was the killer? Their stories essentially cleared their fathers of the killing—sure, they hired Miller, but he didn't actually shoot Garrett, so they weren't guilty of murder for hire. Family protects family...except for their uncle Print.

At that time, people just didn't mess with Miller. He had a reputation, and folks feared him. Does it seem likely that a person—even one as angry and violent as Rhode—would dare take the chance of crossing Miller? Not hardly.

Bottom line: a number of men—powerful and successful men involved in organized criminal activities—were behind the assassination of Garrett. He had made too many enemies, and he posed too much of a threat to their lives and livelihood. All were guilty, even if they never faced a judge and jury. The crime syndicate led by Fall got its way.

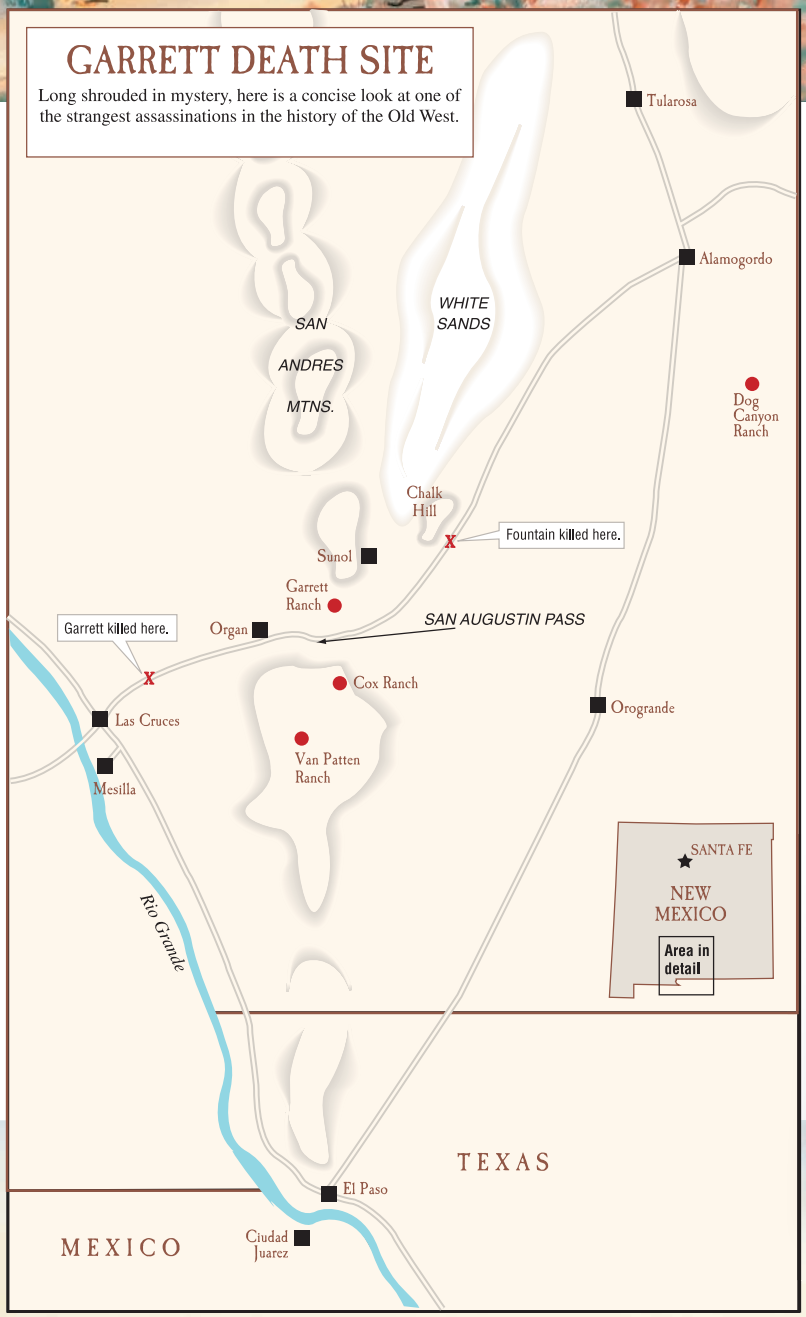
But Miller pulled the trigger on Garrett. It was a story he took to his grave 14 months later. Somewhere, maybe in Hell, Billy the Kid was smiling….

INTO THE VALLEY OF DEATH



GARRETT DEATH SITE

Long shrouded in mystery, here is a concise look at one of the strangest assassinations in the history of the Old West.



Pat Garrett made his last ride on the same road that Albert J. Fountain met his demise (see p. 38). As Garrett and Adamson rode in the buggy, Wayne Brazel rode alongside as the two argued over running goats on Garrett's land (see photo of the site on p. 11).

At a prearranged site, Adamson asked to stop to take a leak and Garrett followed suit. While Garrett stood next to the rear wheel of the buggy, with his one glove off and in his left hand, a rifle shot, fired from behind, hit Garrett in the head, the bullet exiting his right eye.

One of the conspirators remarked the old lawman "fell like a sack of potatoes." Below is a photo taken at the Alameda Arroyo site in 1991. The power pole service road is not the road Garrett was on and, in fact, runs perpendicular to the death road.



– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



ASSASSINATION AND WARLORDS IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Sam Peckinpah's *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid.*

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

One sun-filtered afternoon in Malibu, California, about the age of 12, I sat with my sister and parents in Sam Peckinpah's trailer in Paradise Cove, politely listening to the adult conversation, fixated on the antlered head of a mule deer mounted on the wall. The glass eyes stared back at me as ice and whiskey were stirred and laughter echoed off the wood paneling. I wondered if Peckinpah had killed it. I was too young to have seen any of his movies, except the one he made with my father, *Junior Bonner*, but I knew he had killed it. I had to ask. His answer was simple: "Yes." He looked directly at me and added: "Only hunt for necessity. Don't kill for sport."

That was it, a simple code of honor between the hunter and the hunted. Later, as an adult, I would realize that most of Peckinpah's films were violent parables of the hunter and the hunted, and that thin line between good and evil, when one man tracks, hunts and kills another man, not for sport, but for power and money. Peckinpah found his last, best story in New Mexico, where the dance of death between "brothers" Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid ended in their assassinations, the ultimate left-handed political execution of power that has been a tradition in New Mexico for centuries.

When the Santa Fe Ring controlled New Mexico during the Lincoln County War, the corrupt power brokers ruled the rugged, Southwestern territory of 12 counties like Scottish warlords. But these newcomers didn't invent New Mexico's power structure. The class structure with the Spanish system of *encomienda* had been followed successfully over the centuries by the Spanish-Mexican patronage system of patron-peon, of haciendas and of backroom deals for land grants of millions of acres. The Americans who took over after the Mexican-American War quickly adopted the peonage system for power and profit found in the isolated Spanish province known as *"el fin del mundo"* (the end of the world). Partnered with the leading Hispano families of each county, the new American merchants sought control of everything from federal contracts to voter registration and public education. They also adopted the tradition of intimidation, rebellion and violence in the far-flung American territory, including assassination, as conveniently as generations before them. In 1837, New Mexico Gov. Albino Pérez, who had been sent to enforce tax collections, was beheaded and his head used as a football, while Charles Bent, the first territorial governor of New Mexico, was assassinated during the Taos uprising of 1847 because a political rival, Col. Diego Archuleta, had not received the spoils of victory vaguely promised him during the American conquest of New Mexico.

A few years after Peckinpah's passing in 1984, a director's cut of the film was released. His edit of the film is the most provocative interpretation of the relationship between the Kid and Garrett. Rather then end the film with the killing of Garrett, the controversial director opens with Garrett's killing in a symbolic intercut between Garrett's killers ambushing him with an equally violent scene of the Kid's gang, joined by the newly minted Sheriff Garrett, shooting off the heads of defenseless buried chickens. Peckinpah's film, based on Rudolph Wurlitzer's script, remains the most intuitive interpretation of the lawless warlord culture of patrons and peons that had dictated life in New Mexico since Don Juan de Oñate had taken control of New Mexico as its first governor in 1598.

Was Garrett's murder random or assassination? If the last four centuries of New Mexico history reveal anything, its that nothing is random when a man kills another man, not for sport, but for power and money.



Pat Garrett (James Coburn) and Sam Peckinpah discuss motivation on the set of *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid.*

– COURTESY JOHNNY D. BOGGS –

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

The Dedicated Women Behind the Earp Men



This photo has no identification, but was taken in Tombstone, Arizona, by Camillus S. Fly about the time Mattie Earp lived there (1879–1882). The woman bears a striking resemblance to Mattie in other photos, although we have no confirmation that this photo is of Mattie.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Most *True West* readers are familiar with the name Earp, but more likely with Wyatt, Virgil, Morgan, James and Warren. You may know Josephine and Mattie, but I'll bet you didn't know that collectively these Earp brothers had 11 wives! Their father, Nicholas Porter Earp, started the trend when he married three times—with his last marriage taking place when he was 80. It seems the Earp men didn't like being alone.

Wyatt had four women who called themselves his wife, Virgil had three and young Morgan only married once in his short 31 years of life. James, who was the eldest of the Earps born to Virginia, had two wives, while Warren, who was the youngest brother, was married once. Some of the Earp men may have had additional wives, but right now, only 11 can be documented in one way or another.

Since this entire issue can't be consumed with all of the Mrs. Earps, I have chosen to focus on the more well-known wives

who include Allie, Louisa, Mattie and Josephine.

Mrs. Virgil Earp

Let's save Wyatt's women for last and begin with Virgil, who is the second best-known Earp brother. Virgil married his third and last wife, Alvira "Allie" Packingham Sullivan, between 1871 and 1872. No documentation proves they were married, but they claimed their wedding took place in Iowa or Nebraska.

Allie was a spunky Irish lass who spoke her mind—a habit that often landed her in trouble. When she was 10 years old, Allie's father, John, enlisted to fight in the Civil War. Shortly after his departure, Allie's mother, Louise Jane, died. Allie was one of eight parentless children. The local townspeople found foster homes for the children, like Allie, who couldn't care for themselves.



Virgil Earp's wife-to-be, Alvira "Allie" Packingham Sullivan, at age 16.

– COURTESY SCOTT DYKE / GLENN BOYER COLLECTION –

Because of her brutal honesty, Allie bounced from one home to another. By 1867, she moved in with her older sister, Melissa, in Omaha. Allie worked as a waitress at the Planters House where she met Virgil. Virgil was a stagecoach driver and had come in to eat. She recalled, "For there I was, waiting tables at the Planters House...when I first saw him. It was in the early evening before most of the customers came in, and I had just sat down with all the girls and some chambermaids to have our supper first. I don't know why I remember him comin' so plain. He was tall, just over six feet, blond, blue-eyed, and had a red moustache."

She asked the other girls who he was, and they told her that he drove a stage. She also remembered the first time Virgil had noticed her: "Virge saw me too. He always said I was just gettin' ready to take a bite out of a pickle.... When I was mean he used to say I was just as sour. But mostly he said I was not much bigger than a pickle but a lot more sweet."

The couple stayed together until Virgil's death in 1905. Allie lived to be 96 years old! She was buried with her good friend and sister-in-law Adelia Earp Edwards, who was the Earp brothers' sister.

Mrs. Morgan Earp

Next is Mrs. Morgan Earp, whose husband was murdered in Tombstone, Arizona, in 1882. We have no proof of how, when or where the two had met, but the meeting likely took place in Montana or Kansas between 1871 and 1879.

Louisa Alice Houston was the daughter of H. Samuel Houston and Elizabeth Waughtal. She was born January 24, 1855, in Wisconsin and was the second eldest of 12 children. Contrary to some rumors, she was *not* the daughter of Gen. Sam Houston.

Louisa was petite, loved flowers, wrote poetry and kept a positive attitude despite living with a debilitating illness for most of her adult life. She suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and eventually "dropsy," which is now called edema and is the buildup of fluid in the body.

Sometime after the 1870 census was taken on July 27, Louisa left home. Based on her own letters, around 1872 she was in Mason City, Iowa, where she posed for a portrait. She and Morgan eventually owned a home in Miles City, Montana. Shortly after Wyatt and Virgil headed for Tombstone, Arizona, Morgan and Louisa sold their Montana home, and he took her to stay with his parents in Temescal, California, in March 1880.

On July 20, 1880, Morgan alone set out to meet his older brothers and their wives in Tombstone, Arizona. Right before he left, Louisa penned a letter to her sister Agnes:

My husband starts for Arizona in the morning. I am going to stay here for the present with his parents. They do not want me to go and I do not want to go so I think I will stay here this summer....I have no news to write at present so I will close for this time hoping to hear from you very soon. Give my love to all.

From your sister Louisa Houston to Agnes Houston

Louisa eventually made her way to Tombstone in early December and was reunited with Morgan. This was a short-lived reunion because she returned to stay with his parents in California before Morgan was killed in March 1882. After Morgan's death, she visited her family in Minnesota and then returned to California. She eventually married again on New Year's Eve in 1885 to Henry Gustav Peters, but her marriage to him did not seem a happy one, and it took her two months to write about it to her sister. Her health declined, and, in 1894, 39-year-old Louisa was buried alone.



This photo of Louisa Houston, Morgan Earp's wife, has never been published before appearing in Sherry Monahan's new book, *Mrs. Earp: The Wives and Lovers of the Earp Brothers*.

– COURTESY LYMAN HANLEY –

Mrs. Wyatt Earp

Wyatt was never officially married to Mattie or to Josephine, although the latter would claim the two had wed on a friend's yacht in 1892. His last two "wives," Mattie and Josie, respectively, have had numerous stories written about them, but only on a few occasions have they been the main focus.

Mattie was born Celia Ann Blaylock in Iowa in January 1850. She was the third of six children born to Henry and Elizabeth "Betsy" Blaylock. Celia Ann's father was a farmer by trade near a small but up-and-coming town where she attended school with her siblings. No one knows just why Celia Ann left her strict Lutheran home. She was at home when she was 10 in 1860, but then she does not appear again until the 1880 Tombstone census. In 1871 Celia Ann, who adopted the name Mattie, was living in Fort Scott, Kansas, where she posed for a photograph. Since Wyatt was also in this area at that time, it's possible this is where Mattie met him.

They arrived in Tombstone, Arizona, in December 1879 as husband and wife, but no documentation proves their union was legal. As Wyatt conducted business in town, Mattie stayed home where she and sister-in-law Allie Earp became close friends. After Morgan was assassinated, Mattie was sent to live with Wyatt's parents in California, along with James Earp's wife, Bessie.

Mattie waited for Wyatt to come and get her at his parent's house, but he never did. She realized he was in love with his next and final lady in his life, Josephine. Mattie returned to Arizona, where she became a prostitute in Pinal and died of an intentional drug overdose in 1888. She, too, was buried alone.

Enter Josephine Sarah Marcus, who went by Josie and Sadie at different times in her life. The name she was most proud of was Mrs. Wyatt Earp. She was born in 1861 to Hyman "Henry" Marcus and Sophie Lewis in New York City. Hyman was a baker by trade who arrived in the city in 1853. Her family moved to San

Francisco by 1870 where her father worked as a baker, her mother kept house and Josephine attended school.

Much has been written about Josephine's life in San Francisco and how she ended up in Arizona, and most of it was based on Josephine's recollections. However, with access to more records than ever before, historians and others have begun to find flaws in Josephine's tales of her life. How could she know that one day researchers would be able to fact-check her story with the click of a button? In her stories, events she recalled do not match, people are in places where they truly were not and the timing of many things is just not possible.

She was quite dodgy about much of her life between 1870 and 1885, especially regarding her relationship with her fiancé Johnny Behan. Her relationship with Wyatt was another area she kept quite secret. Regardless, she fell in love for the first time with the charming man-about-town Behan, and he broke her heart when he cheated on her. She then turned to Wyatt, who was handsome, but quiet and stoic. With Behan she had excitement, but with Wyatt she had stability. Their romance blossomed, apparently secretly, in Tombstone.

After Wyatt finished avenging his brother Morgan's murder, he and Josephine met up in San Francisco sometime in 1882. We have no proof the couple was ever really married, but to their friends and family—they were. They had a series of adventures all in search of making money and traveled the western part of the country. They even ventured to the last frontier of Alaska.



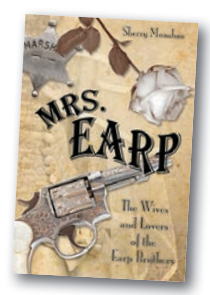
Celia Ann "Mattie" Blaylock posed for this photo in 1871 in Fort Scott, Kansas.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION AND SCOTT DYKE / GLENN BOYER COLLECTION –

In 1901, they returned to California. The following year, they traveled to the Nevada mines in Tonopah, where Wyatt ran a saloon called the Northern. Late in life, Wyatt and Josephine divided their time between Vidal, California, near their Happy Days mine, and Los Angeles.

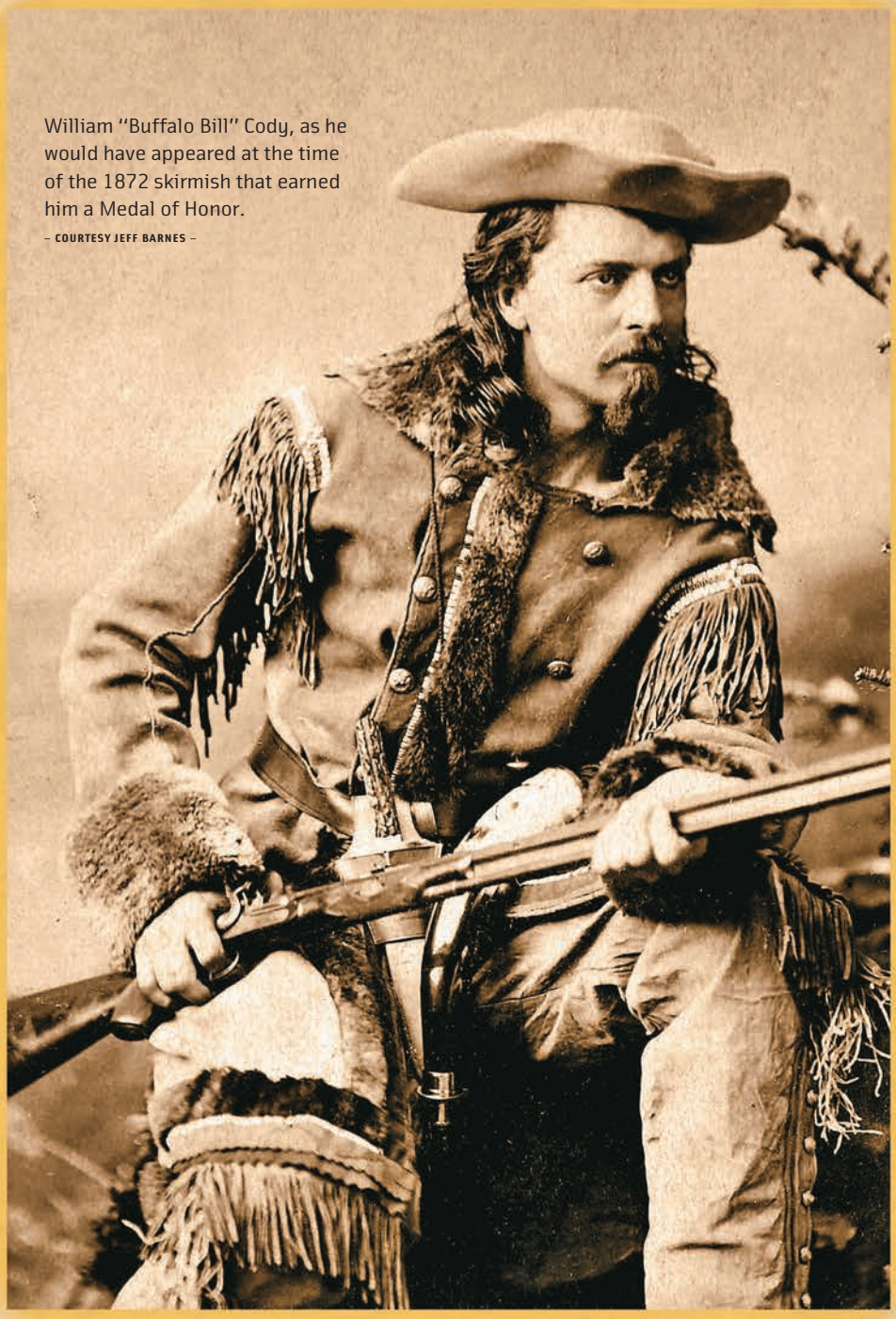
Josephine lost her Wyatt in 1929, after which she became obsessed with his biography getting published to her liking. In 1944, she was laid to rest with Wyatt in her family's plot.

So much more can be shared about these women's stories. Know this—they all came from average backgrounds, with none being rich or well-to-do. They were all little girls at one time and grew into women who shared one thing—the name of Mrs. Earp. They will be forever remembered in history because of that one commonality. May you all rest in peace, Mrs. Earp.



Sherry Monahan is the author of *Mrs. Earp: The Wives and Lovers of the Earp Brothers,* published by TwoDot in December 2013. She is also the columnist of *Frontier Fare* for *True West* Magazine.

Who Has Buffalo



William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, as he would have appeared at the time of the 1872 skirmish that earned him a Medal of Honor.

– COURTESY JEFF BARNES –

BY JEFF BARNES

Bill's Medal?

William F. Cody's Medal of Honor is displayed in two museums...but which medal is the real one?

The life and the legend of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody intertwine like channels of the Platte River he so loved: some of the paths are true, some lead to doubt and some ultimately prove false.

For his Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, Cody and his promoters frequently enhanced stories from his days in the Pony Express, Civil War and buffalo hunting, and some details of his scouting life with the U.S. Army aren't entirely true. Entertainment was almost always paramount to truth with Cody.

What *is* true is that Cody was awarded the Medal of Honor from a skirmish with Sioux Indians in Nebraska. Four years after his death in 1917, his family put the medal on display at the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave on Lookout Mountain, outside of Denver, Colorado.

In 1983, however, another Medal of Honor appeared, inscribed to Cody for the same fight and backed by strong circumstantial evidence. That medal was acquired by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (today's Buffalo Bill Center of the West) in Cody, Wyoming. Thus began a new mystery concerning the legendary scout: Who has Buffalo Bill's Medal of Honor?

Buffalo Bill's Medal

In 1872, Cody served as a scout with the 3rd Cavalry at Nebraska's Fort McPherson on the Platte River. After a band of Minneconjou Sioux raided a nearby depot and stole some horses, he and a company of cavalry were sent to chase them. Following their trail north, Cody found the Indians camped on the South Fork of the Loup River, near today's Stapleton.

With a sergeant and 10 men, Cody covered the south bank of the stream while the rest of the troopers went north. His group closed in on the Sioux and charged, with Cody killing one and the troopers two.

The cavalry commander submitted the names of Cody and three of the enlisted men for Medals of Honor. General Phil Sheridan and the War Department received and approved the nominations, and the medals were mailed to the men.

In Cody's time, the Medal of Honor didn't hold the stature of today's medal. It was the only medal offered by the Army in 1872, and it was bestowed to soldiers and civilians alike for reasons beyond valor—one of the troopers with Cody was awarded the medal simply for following orders promptly and cheerfully. Cody never talked much about his medal, feeling it was more for his Civil War and Indian War service, but he highlighted it on an 1888 promotional poster.

The War Department tightened the criteria for the Medal of Honor in the 1890s, limiting claims to officers and soldiers. It went a step further in 1916 by reviewing previous recipients; one month after Cody's death in 1917, the review board stripped the medal from Cody and other civilians.



In this movie still of Buffalo Bill Cody at an exposition in Marseilles in France in 1906, Cody wears the Medal of Honor above his other decorations.

– COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST –



The Wyoming Medal of Honor is one of the many artifacts displayed by the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody. The medal's inscription is consistent with the medal of a soldier who fought at the same battle. The hanger-hole placement, however, is not consistent with the typical authenticated medal.

– COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST –



The Colorado Medal of Honor is on display at the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave outside of Denver. The inscription is not consistent with the medal of a soldier at the battle, but is similar to another civilian scout's of the time. The placement of the hanger holes (top) is also consistent with other medals of honor.

– COURTESY BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM AND GRAVE –

"Those recipients were asked not to publicly display the medals," says Steve Friesen, director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, "but after Cody's death, the Cody family did share his medal with the public at Johnny Baker's museum on Lookout Mountain."

The medal was featured in a Denver magazine in 1920 as one of the Cody artifacts to be displayed at the new museum, opened by Cody's foster son, Johnny Baker, and the City of Denver.

For more than 60 years, the authenticity of the medal as the one and only was not questioned. Then the Buffalo Bill Historical Center acquired a Medal of Honor from a Pennsylvania collector. But where the Colorado medal read, "The Congress to William F. Cody Guide," this medal read, "The Congress to William F. Cody Guide for GALLANTRY at Platte River Nebr. Apr. 26, 1872." (Although the fight was at the Loup rather than the Platte, it may have been abbreviated from the original recommendation letter for the "Loupe *[sic]* fork of the Platte River.")

Paul Fees, who acquired the medal as the museum's then-curator, believes it was given by Cody to a Pennsylvania family not long after he received it. That family—the Gusses of West Chester—received a visit from him in the winter of 1872.

Fees says the Gusses were "sort-of" grandparents and cousins on Cody's mother's side resulting from remarriages: "I believe that Cody gave the medal to the Guss family patriarch or to his cousin Lizzie. Cody called her, in his autobiography, the 'most beautiful girl I had ever seen.'"

The collector told Fees he had purchased the medal from an estate sale in Chester County, but declined to name it. Fees knew estate sales had been held in the county for both the Guss family and the Charles Trego family, which also knew Cody.

"A fellow curator told me the inscription should include the name of the person, the rank, and the date and place of the action, all of which this had," Fees says.

After the collector offered the medal to the museum, Fees had it checked by a friend who was an expert in military history, heraldry and medals—he called it genuine.

A Refreshed Rivalry

Since Cody's death, a rivalry has existed between these museums and their communities over Buffalo Bill, although much friendlier today than it was in the 1920s. The dispute started with his burial in Colorado, instead of in Wyoming, and

it continued with the establishment of the museum there. The discovery and acquisition of the second Cody medal refreshed the competition.

Would Cody have given the medal away? It's possible. He was a generous man and often "re-gifted" valuables that came his way. As reported in the *Omaha Herald* in 1889, he spent several days at a city hotel giving away diamonds and jewelry to friends who called on him. Given his nature, he could very well have given the medal to a pretty, shirttail cousin.

Only one of the medals can be the original, but can the other be a replacement? In 1904, a statute was passed allowing replacement medals to recipients for medals that had been lost or stolen; prior to that you would have needed some connections to get one replaced. Fees conjectures that Cody may have made such a special request after 1895 when his friend, Lt. Gen. Nelson A. Miles (another Medal of Honor recipient), became commanding general of the U.S. Army.

The government once sold parts of the medal, and some entrepreneurs made copies and fake Medals of Honor. Collectors could easily have purchased these until 1996, when the law prohibiting the buying, selling and trading of them began to be enforced. In this case, however, neither medal appears to be a forgery.

Archaeologist Douglas D. Scott, author of *Custer's Heroes: The Little Bighorn Medals of Honor*, has examined around 100 Medals of Honor. He says both pendants appear in photos to be genuine on their face. "The figures on the face are sharp and defined, and the designer signature is clear on both," Scott says.

"The engraving [on the Wyoming medal] is great and looks like it is clean and proper," he says. Scott also notes that the Colorado medal, while not as clear and obviously having some damage to the reverse, is also consistent with medals of the time.

The inscriptions on official medals were inconsistent, and the Army does not have a record of what was inscribed on Cody's medal, says Laura Jowdy, archivist for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. She says Sgt. Leroy Vokes was also at the fight, and his medal has an inscription similar to the Wyoming medal.

"But what makes me nervous," says Jowdy, after studying photos of both medals, "is that [the Colorado medal's inscription and fonts] also match the style of another Indian scout whose medal we have."

The Colorado inscription is also similar to the one printed on the 1888 poster.

Jowdy says she has photos of three medals bearing engravings that look exactly like the fonts used on the Wyoming medal. "What's interesting about these medals is that they were all issued in 1897 and 1898," she says. "This would hold that Cody perhaps requested a replacement medal during this period and received one."

That timing would coincide with Miles being in the position to order a replacement for Cody, as Fees believes was the case. But if this indicates the Wyoming medal is the replacement, we still don't know how the medal ended up in Pennsylvania rather than with Cody and his family.

Scott and Jowdy agree that the ribbons on both are replacements, based on their excellent condition. Scott says the Colorado medal has what appears to be a brooch and hanger that aren't original, either, indicating the initial hardware had separated from the medal.

What bothers Scott about the Wyoming medal is the placement of the suspension holes. "They should be within the edging of the medal, but these are clearly below the edge," he says. "Maybe it is a replacement piece as suggested, [but] the mystery only deepens for me."

A "Codyesque" Dispute

As far as the Cody family is concerned, there is no dispute: his descendants received a medal of the current design in Cody's honor when his medal was reinstated in 1989. For the rest of us, the debate over the real medal may prove impossible to settle. It's actually kind of "Codyesque" that we don't know the truth behind these Medals of Honor, and—like Buffalo Bill's Wild West—perhaps a visit to both museums is the only way that you can say you saw it.

BARNES'S BUFFALO BILL LECTURES

Monday, March 31: 12 noon
"The Buffalo Bill Mysteries"
Hays Public Library, Hays, KS

Monday, March 31: 7 p.m.
"Buffalo Bill's Kansas"
Ellis County Historical Society Museum, Hays, KS

Tuesday, April 1: 6:30 p.m.
"Buffalo Bill's Kansas"
Last Indian Raid Museum
Oberlin, KS

Wednesday, April 2: 7 p.m.
"Buffalo Bill's Nebraska"
Nebraska Prairie Museum
Holdrege, NE

Thursday, April 17: 12 noon
"Buffalo Bill's Nebraska"
Nebraska History Museum
Lincoln, NE

Thursday, June 19: 12 noon
"Buffalo Bill's Nebraska"
North Platte Public Library
North Platte, NE

Jeff Barnes is an independent historian and writer living in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the author of the books *Forts of the Northern Plains, The Great Plains Guide to Custer* and the newly published *The Great Plains Guide to Buffalo Bill* from Stackpole Books.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE FOUNTAIN MURDERS

A.J. FOUNTAIN VS OLIVER LEE'S GANG

AMBUSHED ON A DESOLATE STRETCH OF ROAD



Albert Jennings Fountain defended Billy the Kid at his murder trial, chased Geronimo and put many cattle rustlers in jail. But he got in over his head when he tried to indict Oliver Lee.

– ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES; ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Mark Lee Gardner and Corey Recko

FEBRUARY 1, 1896

Albert Jennings Fountain is agitated. It's cold and windy, and his young son is coming down with a cold. Fountain is anxious to get the eight year old home to his mother, but his discomfort has more to do with three suspicious horseback riders who have been tailing him for some time.

These are not the first riders to trail him on this ride. Some 40 miles from Las Cruces, New Mexico, Fountain encountered the mail carrier on the way to Tularosa. Reining up, the postman had pulled alongside, and Fountain asked him, while pointing off in the distance: "Do you know who those horsemen are?"

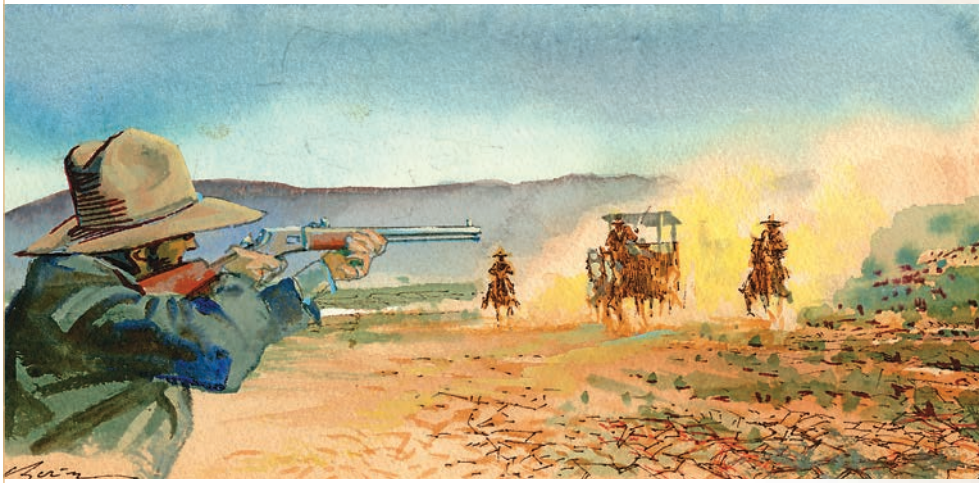
The mailman admitted he didn't know them, and mentioned they did not appear to want to meet him on the road: they "took out across the plain" at his approach, he said.

Although the mailman encouraged Fountain to ride with him to a nearby ranch to wait and then ride back together on Sunday morning, Fountain studied the scene and told him, "No, I will drive on. Good-bye."

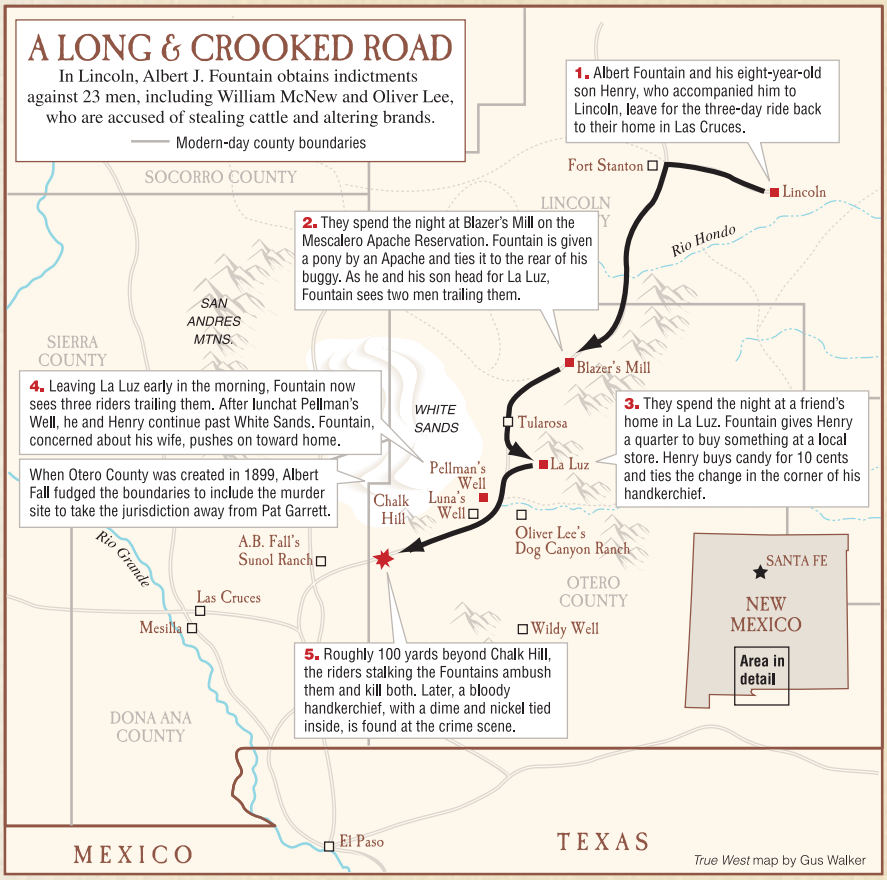
Now, about five miles from his encounter with the mailman, Fountain sees the three horsemen disappear in the sand hills. He proceeds cautiously. As he approaches Chalk Hill, two riders suddenly come out of the brush in a threatening manner. Fountain whips his horses into a run and comes over the hill. Up ahead, one of the riders has dismounted and is on one knee, behind a bush. Before Fountain can retrieve his rifle, the assassin stands and fires, hitting Fountain in the chest and knocking him off his feet. The spooked horses turn and go off the road in the sand as Fountain topples from the buggy.

After putting Fountain's lifeless body on one of the buggy horses, the killers draw straws to see who will kill the boy (in one version, this happens at the first camp, five miles ahead). One of the cowboys draws the short straw. He calmly gets up, walks over to the crying boy and grabs him from behind, covering his mouth with one hand and slitting his throat with a knife in the other. In terror, the boy grabs the man's arm as his scream muffles down to a gurgle. His hand still gripping the man's arm like a vise, the boy slowly loses consciousness and then goes limp.

The brazen killers ride eastward, splitting up with the cowboys packing the bodies and heading toward Oliver Lee's Dog Canyon Ranch. The rider on the big white horse heads to Wildy Well Ranch.

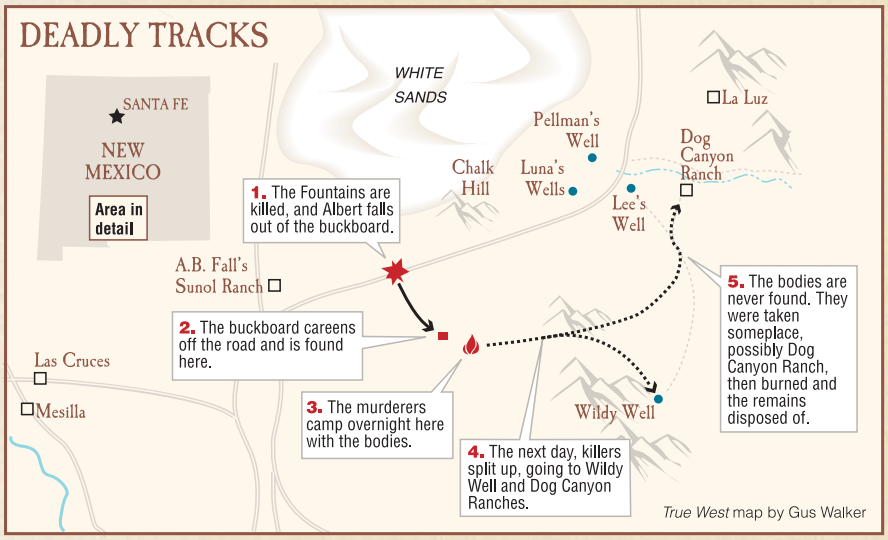


Historians believe two horsemen attacked the buggy, and, as Fountain came over the top of Chalk Hill, a third man, on foot, rose from his hiding spot and killed the colonel.





Topping Chalk Hill: By the time Fountain sees the riders, it is too late.



A posse led by Fountain's son Albert finds the buggy the next day. Not only are the bodies missing, but so are Fountain's Winchester rifle, a dagger, a canteen, a lap robe, an Indian blanket and a quilt. And, of course, all the indictment papers.

The Bizarre Twists & Turns of a Case Going Nowhere

The three suspects, Oliver Lee, Bill McNew and Jim Gilliland, are deputy marshals for Doña Ana County, where the killings took place, in addition to being deputy U.S. marshals. Stymied by the fact that the authorities who are supposed to be looking for the killers of the Fountains are lawmen themselves, the frustrated governor of New Mexico, William Thornton, hires an outside lawman, none other than Pat Garrett, who is now living in Ulvalde, Texas. In addition, Thornton hires the Pinkerton Detective Agency to launch its own investigation.

Garrett is hired at $150 a month, plus a promise of $8,000 if the murderers are arrested and convicted. At the end of February, three weeks after the murder, Garrett is in the saddle, but he and his men turn up nothing.

Garrett does see Lee with attorney Albert Fall on the streets of Las Cruces and in nearby El Paso, Texas. On the urging of Pinkerton agent John C. Fraser, Garrett meets with Fall at his office in Las Cruces. Fall talks freely and readily castigates Fountain's character, repeating a scandalous rumor that Fountain was caught in a "compromising position" with his daughter, and that's why he skipped the country.

As if things could not get more strange, one of Garrett's lawmen partners brought in by the Republicans, Charles Perry, leaves town with more than $7,000 in Chaves County tax funds and flees to South Africa. Soldiering on, Garrett runs for the office of sheriff in Doña Ana County. He wins. But then he is powerless in the Fountain case until the grand jury returns its indictments.

As he waits, Garrett heads to Tularosa and drops into Tobe Tipton's saloon, where he encounters Lee, Fall and George Curry, plus another local. Garrett sits down opposite Lee, and they play poker for three days and nights.

After this incredible marathon game, Garrett confronts Lee, asking him if he will surrender if the grand jury indicts him. Lee responds, "Mr. Sheriff, if you wish to serve any papers on me at any time, I will be here or out to the ranch."

As we shall see, the story doesn't quite go down this way.

Shoot-Out at Wildy Well

After being hamstrung for some time by Fall and his control of the courts, Garrett manages to arrest McNew and another suspect without incident. He takes his time about going after Lee and Gilliland. When two of his deputies spot the pair at W.W. Cox's ranch, Garrett has a good hunch where they will go next.

Riding toward Lee's satellite ranch, Wildy Well, on July 10, 1898, the sheriff and four deputies pick up the trail and stop about a mile from the ranch. Dismounting, they continue on foot. One of the deputies even takes off his boots and continues in his stocking feet, banking on the element of surprise.

Garrett has been here before. When he tracked Billy the Kid and others to Stinking Springs in December 1880, he had wanted to rush in and arrest the outlaws in the middle of the night. He was overruled by calmer heads and was forced to wait until dawn.

At any rate, Garrett and his deputies barge into the Wildy Well ranch house in the dark and scare a sleeping family half to death. The element of surprise is blown. Lee and Gilliland, having awaken from their sleep on the roof, rout Garrett and crew in a chaotic gunfight. One of Garrett's deputies is mortally wounded. Garrett is forced to walk off and leave his deputy behind. It is the most humiliating experience of Garrett's life.

Given the disastrous outcome of the Wildy Well fight, the Kid story might have ended differently if Garrett had barged in there, instead of waiting.



"Men like myself, who spend their lives making enemies of the pests of society, must expect to be killed sometime."

—Pat Garrett



"I come from a country where men kill each other, but not children."

—W.W. Cox



The Victims

Shown above is the only known photo of young Henry Fountain (at left), with his grandmother and a cousin, circa 1893. Plagued by death threats, his father (right) is stubborn and dedicated: he has already sent 20 rustlers to the pen, and he has his sights set on Oliver Lee and crew. Fountain's wife supposedly talked him into taking their eight-year-old son as a hedge against violence. Surely, she reasoned, nobody would harm a child.

The Killer Lawmen

Oliver Milton Lee, 31, hails from Burnet County, Texas, where he grew up on a ranch. He leaves with a herd of horses and lands in New Mexico. Ambitious and commanding, he fast expands his ranch holdings, with his main ranch at Dog Canyon and a satellite ranch at Wildy Well.

James Robert Gilliland, 24, is also a Texan who moved to New Mexico, where he settled with his family when he was 13. He works on various ranches, including Lee's. Tall and good looking, Gilliland is known to be a hard drinker.

William McNew, 32, also hails from Texas. Most historians consider McNew the baddest of the bad in the region. One described him as a "tough Texan with ice-blue eyes."

All three men are deputy U.S. marshals, appointed by District Judge Albert Fall.

"The child was nothing more than a half breed and to kill him was like killing a dog."

—James Gilliland



Oliver Lee



Bill McNew



Jim Gilliland



Oliver Lee's Dog Canyon Ranch in 1936. Today, the ranch is a state park.

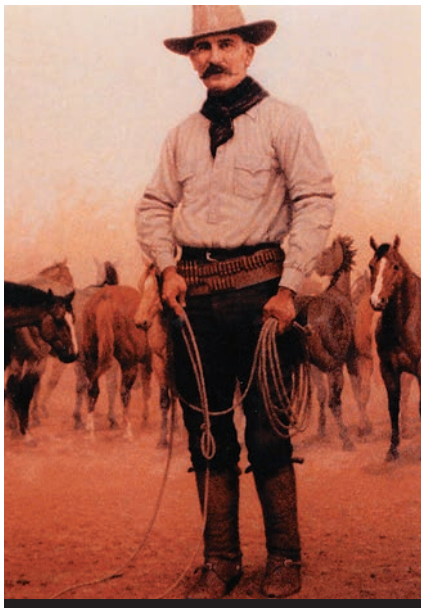
The View From Oliver Lee's Front Porch

Anyone who heard Oliver Lee laugh never forgot it. The staunch Southern Democrat (until 1912, when he changes parties to become a Republican) is also a teetotaler: he neither drinks nor smokes. He is well read and reportedly has one of the finest libraries in the state. His friends and supporters call him "Dad" Lee, and they think enough of him to elect him to high political office on numerous occasions.

At the trial for the killing of the Fountains, swooning ladies send Lee flowers. One Eastern woman gushes of him: "With quick eyes and unobtrusive manners, he carried himself as softly and easily as if he were at a tea party. I was amazed as his low voice and control, and a certain social grace."

And yet, all the tracks in this case lead directly to his front door. More important, he has the motive: he was looking at 10 years in the pen if Fountain had arrived in Mesilla.

One thing is certain: if you could hear Lee now, he'd be laughing that laugh.



Oliver Lee



Storm is a'Comin'

Although only three horsemen are spotted by the mail carrier before the Fountains are ambushed, Oliver Lee likely has several more of his best hands and neighbors with him. After all, to them, they are fighting for their homeland against a corrupt official. Today, some historians believe seven men were in that party.

Evil Twins

The Uncanny Similarities Between the Fountain and Garrett Murders

1 Both were ambushed on the same road.

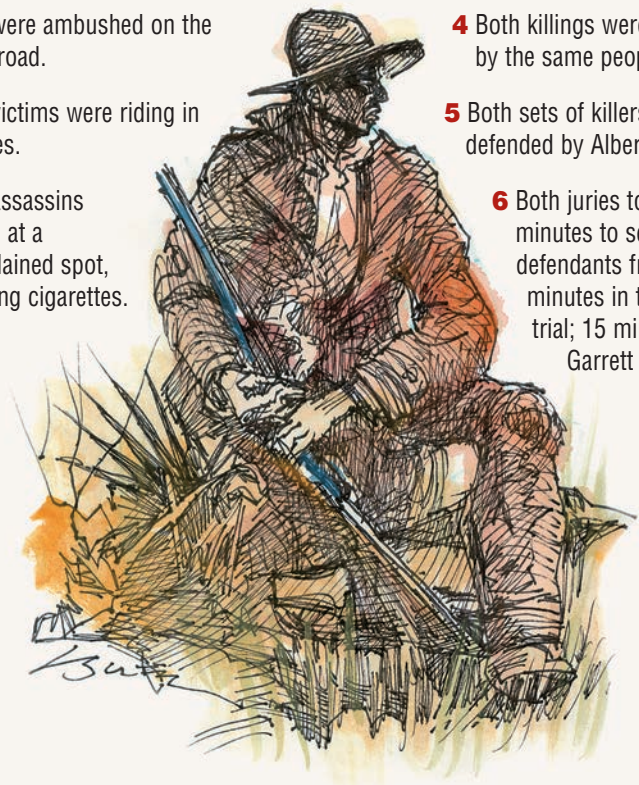
2 Both victims were riding in buggies.

3 Both assassins waited at a preordained spot, smoking cigarettes.

4 Both killings were sanctioned by the same people.

5 Both sets of killers were defended by Albert Fall.

6 Both juries took mere minutes to set the defendants free (eight minutes in the Fountain trial; 15 minutes in the Garrett trial).



The Trial
Tom Catron vs Albert Fall





Three years after the killings, on May 26, 1899, the case against Oliver Lee and James Gilliland finally comes to trial in Hillsboro, New Mexico. After the indictments are read, Lee turns to one of his attorneys and says, "My God, Fergusson, they are not accusing me of the murder of a child."

The crafty Lee "doth protests too much."

Albert Fall examines Pat Garrett on the witness stand, which leads to this bizarre exchange:

Fall: "When this evidence came into your hands, why did you not apply for a bench warrant?"

Garrett: "I didn't think it was the proper time."

Fall: "Why didn't you think it was the proper time?"

Garrett: "You had too much control of the courts down there."

When Lee takes the stand, women weep and give him a "soft patting of hands." Lee claims he didn't know he was a suspect until several days after the disappearance. He tried to give himself up, but was refused.

The prosecution notes that boot tracks found at the scene of the crime match Lee's boot heels, his horse matches the horse seen in the area and the tracks led to his house. Yet all this is circumstantial; the prosecution does not even have the dead bodies.

The jury takes less than eight minutes to reach a verdict of not guilty. The locals cheer. The congratulations go on for half an hour, with the celebration continuing into the night.

All the other charges against Lee and crew are dropped, even though he killed a deputy sheriff. They get off scot-free.



The Hillsboro courthouse, circa 1900. Even though the trial is a statewide sensation, no photographs of the trial have ever surfaced.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

In 1915, Bill McNew shot and killed the husband of Jim Gilliland's sister, Lucy. She wrote a letter to the Fountains: "If I had done my duty on the stand (although it would have ruined my brother), it is possible my husband would still be alive." McNew continued ranching and died in 1937.



Gilliland sold his ranch in 1937 and eventually moved to Hot Springs (Truth or Consequences). One time while he was drinking, he confessed to B.O. "Snooks" Burris that he had killed the boy and that the bodies were buried on his ranch. He gave Burris a Masonic pin and asked him to return it to the Fountains after he was gone. The Fountain family pronounced it authentic.



Albert Fall rose to national office, first as a New Mexico senator and then as secretary of the interior in the Warren Harding administration. Fall resigned in 1923 after he received a $100,000 kickback from an oil company in what became known as the "Teapot Dome Scandal." The "Fall Guy," as he was ever after pegged, served a year in the pen, lost much of his wealth and died a pauper in 1944.

Oliver Lee bought a new ranch and, like Fall, switched parties to become a Republican, serving for many years in the New Mexico legislature. He died respectable and wealthy in Alamogordo in 1941.

Recommended: *Murder On the White Sands: The Disappearance of Albert and Henry Fountain* by Corey Recko, University of North Texas Press.

BY TOM AUGHERTON

Mary Jane Colter

WINDOWS TO THE WILDERNESS

WHERE the infinite Southwestern horizon divides the world's deepest chasm from an ever-changing celestial palette, man's recent arrival is marked by structures of stone and timber. Experiencing America's Grand Canyon and the rustic buildings clinging precariously to its vertical heights is a glimpse into the quiet genius and determination of one of America's most original architects, Mary Colter.

Mary Jane Elizabeth Colter was born on April 4, 1869, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Civil War was over. The Reconstruction Era had commenced. Progress and people were on the move.

After much travel, the family settled in St. Paul, Minnesota. Colter's father died in 1886, and Mary pursued a career to help support her mother and older sister. She attended the California School of Design in San Francisco. Apprenticing with a local architect, she had her first exposure to regional architectural styles. After graduation, she returned to St. Paul as an art teacher in the 1890's. Fate intervened in 1902, when Colter was hired as an "interior designer" for the Fred Harvey Company.

Her first assignment was the interior of the "Indian Building," a gift shop next to Fred Harvey's Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque. Her design impressed Mr. Harvey, and in 1904 Colter was tasked with designing a gift shop across from the El Tovar Hotel, at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Her design for "Hopi House" was her first construction and yielded a remarkable evocation of the ancient architecture of the Hopi people at Oraibi. Its stone-constructed perch on the chasm's edge appears as if it was built centuries earlier.



In 1931, on a visit to Grand Canyon National Park to inspect the construction of Indian Watchtower at Desert View, architect Mary Colter enjoyed a Lookout Studio Pipeline Tramway gondola tour to see her guest lodge at Phantom Ranch.

In 1922, Colter designed the Grand Canyon National Park's Indian Garden "cottages," which she renamed Phantom Ranch, based on her concept of a welcoming, rustic "ghost ranch."

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, GRAND CANYON MUSEUM COLLECTION –



Colter logged 46 years with the Harvey Company, headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, and was responsible for 21 projects, ranging from La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe to the Union Stations in Los Angeles, St. Louis and Kansas City. They all followed the tracks of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway across America. Her style of architecture became known as "National Park Service Rustic" for its use of native stone and rough-hewn wood.

> Her style of architecture became known as "National Park Service Rustic"

Colter died on January 8, 1956, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the age of 88, living long enough to witness the grand construction and sad demolition of some of her creations.

Today, 11 of Colter's buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places; five are designated National Historic Landmarks. The majority of Colter's buildings still stand starkly against the endless seasons, sheltering new generations from wind and rain at the National Parks and railroad towns that Fred Harvey and the Santa Fe Railway served for so many decades.

Her designs provide windows peering into the wilderness, and while we gaze, remind us how transitory are the works of man.

Tom Augherton is an Arizona-based freelance writer. Do you know about an unsung character of the Old West whose story we should share here? Send the details to *stuart@twmag.com*, and be sure to include high-resolution historical photos.



In 1892, twenty-three-year-old Mary Colter was teaching arts and crafts in St. Paul, Minnesota, including metal bowl fabrication, before she was hired to decorate the interiors of the hotels of the Fred Harvey Company of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway in 1902.

– COURTESY U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, GRAND CANYON MUSEUM COLLECTION –

BY CANDY MOULTON

On the High Plains Trail

. . .of Hall of Fame Western Writers from North Dakota to Wyoming.



Ranch life was a theme often used in novels by Louis L'Amour and in Owen Wister's classic *The Virginian,* as well as in his lesser known novel, *Lin McLean*.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Vanette Johnston was moved to tears when Western Writers of America (WWA) inducted her late husband Terry C. Johnston into the Western Writers Hall of Fame during the annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in June 2013.

More than 50 writers hold places in the Western Writers Hall of Fame, which was first started in 1980. They have collectively produced some of the finest novels, histories, poems, and stories over the past century, giving reading pleasure to millions of people around the world.

I set off to see some of the country these writers have utilized as settings for their work. I selected just a few of the members in the Hall of Fame for this particular journey and began the trail in Jamestown, North Dakota, which celebrates the fact that Louis L'Amour was born and lived here during his youth.



Jamestown, North Dakota, welcomes visitors to enjoy Frontier Village, an Old West town re-created from historic buildings from around the state, including the Louis L'Amour Writer's Shack dedicated to the town's famous, native son.

– COURTESY BUFFALO CITY TOURISM –

At Jamestown's re-created prairie town are buildings from frontier villages in North Dakota, one of which is dedicated as the Louis L'Amour Writer's Shack. The space highlights the town's most well-known resident and has a complete collection of L'Amour's works. When here, you can see the sculpture identified as the World's Largest Buffalo Monument, and nearby you can view a herd of live buffalo. A walking tour of Jamestown also takes you to L'Amour's childhood home, the elementary school he attended and the church where his family went to services.

> Wyoming inspired Easterner Owen Wister, the man often credited as being the father of the Western novel.

L'Amour, arguably the most widely published Western author in history, gave us such characters as the Sacketts who came to life on the page in his 17 books about the family, and in films starring Sam Elliott and Tom Selleck among others.

Although he had early books published under pseudonyms, the first novel published under L'Amour's name, *Westward the Tide*, came out in 1951, published by World's Work. The following year *Collier's* published his short story, "The Gift of Cochise," which was soon purchased for screen rights by John Wayne and Robert Fellows. They paid $4,000, changed the name of the main character from Ches Lane to Hondo Lane and brought it out as the film *Hondo*, with L'Amour retaining the rights to novelize the screenplay, which he did under the same title in 1953.

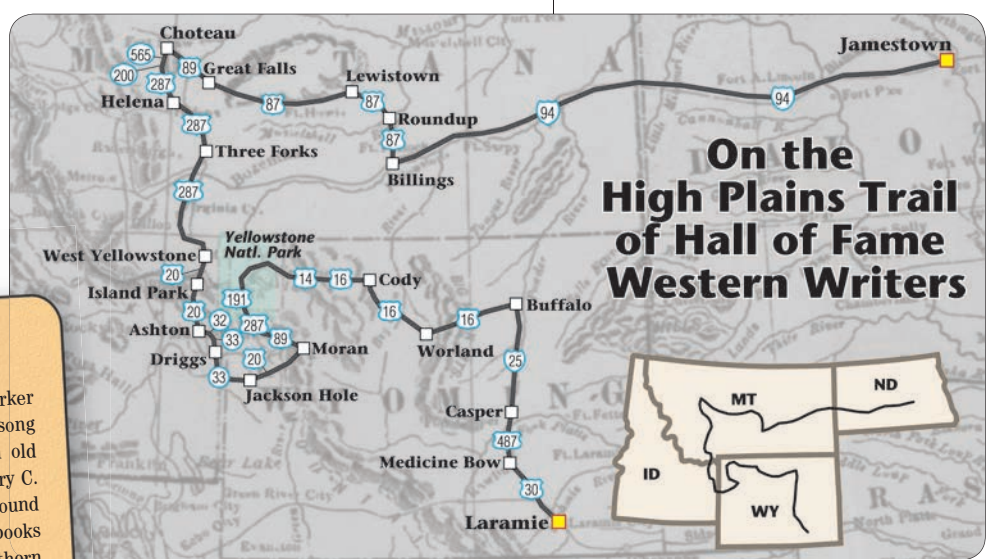
This prolific author drew his stories from people he had met while living in North Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and California. Other stories that found their way to the theater or television screen include *Crossfire Trail*, *Shaughnessy*, *The Quick and the Dead*, *Down the Long Hills*, and *The Shadow Riders*.

L'Amour eventually wrote 100 novels and more than 250 short stories, and has sold well more than 320 million copies of his work around the world. While L'Amour himself called his books and stories "frontier fiction," most categorize them as traditional Westerns often following the theme of a hard-riding cowboy aiding a ranch woman in distress.



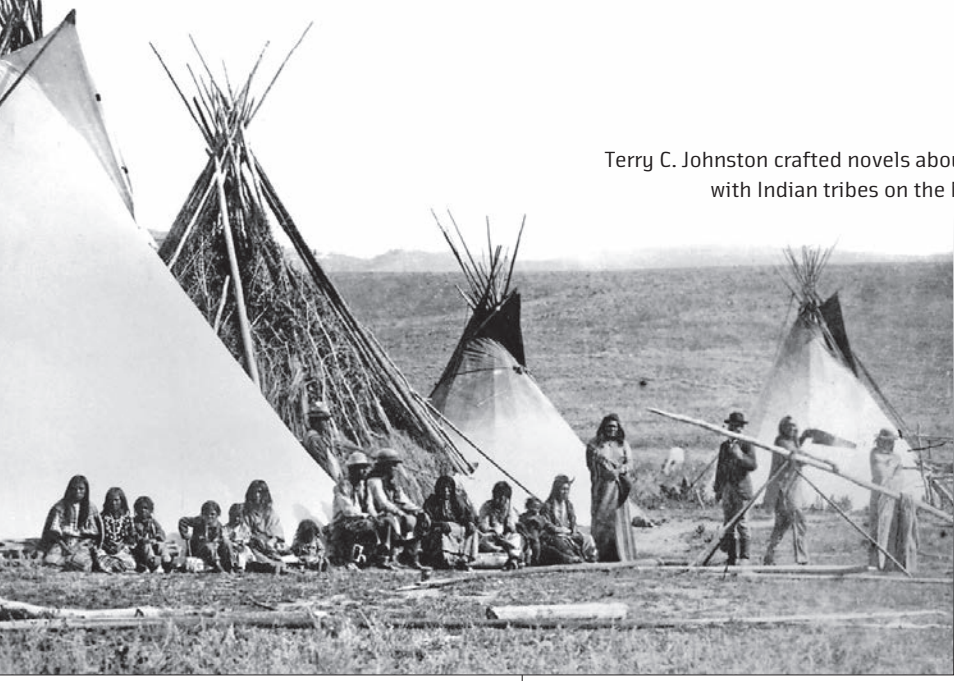
TERRY C. JOHNSTON

In 1982, L'Amour won the Congressional Gold Medal, and two years later he received a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan. While the writer's roots were in North Dakota, he traveled widely and died at his home in Los Angeles in 1988. He was buried in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California.



Historical Marker

Near Garryowen, Montana, is a marker noting the regimental marching song of the 7th Cavalry, "Garryowen," an old Irish ballad. Hall of Fame writer Terry C. Johnston set one of his trilogies around the story of Custer, while his other books are historically grounded in the Northern Plains Indian Wars.



Terry C. Johnston crafted novels about mountain men, the frontier army and clashes with Indian tribes on the Northern Plains. These Shoshones are in a camp after the period of conflict ended.

– COURTESY WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE PARKS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES –

From North Dakota I head west into Montana where the newest inductee into the Western Writers Hall of Fame, Terry C. Johnston, made his home.

Johnston was a car salesman for a time, but stepped onto the Western writing stage in 1982 with his first novel, *Carry the Wind*, which won the Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award for Best First Novel from WWA. He went on to write another 30 novels with more than 10 million copies in print. He is known for his mountain man/fur-trapper books of the early Western frontier. His central character of the "Mountain Man" series, Titus Bass, captured the attention of readers from all over the world. In addition to *Carry the Wind*, titles include *Borderlords*, *One-Eyed Dream*, *Dance on the Wind*, *Buffalo Palace*, *Crack in the Sky*, *Death Rattle*, and *Wind Walker*.

The 16 books in Johnston's "Plainsman" series featured the fictional character Seamus Donegan, who was placed within different battles and confrontations that occurred all across the Northern Plains. The settings for these books included the locations where the frontier Indian war battles like the Fetterman (near Buffalo, Wyoming), Wagon Box (near Story, Wyoming), and Little Big Horn (near Hardin, Montana) occurred.

The Billings writer based his "Sons of the Plains" series—*Long Winter Gone*, *Seize the Sky* and *Whisper of the Wolf*—on George Armstrong Custer.







Jackson Hole inspired Owen Wister, A.B. Guthrie and Jack Schaefer, whose book *Shane* became a hit movie that was filmed in the area.

– BY CANDY MOULTON –



Ranchers who homesteaded along Mormon Row provided livestock used in the filming of *Shane*.

–PHOTO BY CANDY MOULTON–

Pulitzer Prize Winner

A.B. Guthrie was an infant when his family relocated to Montana. He would spend part of his childhood in California, but the Montana landscape led to his best-known book, *The Way West*, a broad-scope story of westward expansion, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize, and *The Big Sky*, a story centered on the mountain men. Guthrie spent years outside Montana as a newspaper editor and reporter, but his success with *The Way West* allowed him to return to the West, settling in Choteau, Montana.

Guthrie would later write *These Thousand Hills*, *The Last Valley* and *Fair Land, Fair Land*, along with a number of mysteries set in the West, poetry, and his autobiography, *The Blue Hen's Chick*.

To get a sense of the landscape the characters from Guthrie's novels may have inhabited, drive north from Billings to Lewistown, then west to Great Falls and Choteau, before heading southwest through Helena and Three Forks to continue south through West Yellowstone



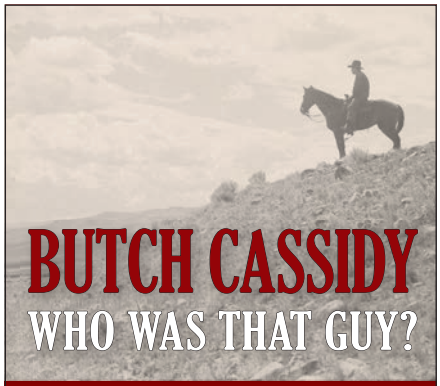
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BUTCH CASSIDY
WHO WAS THAT GUY?

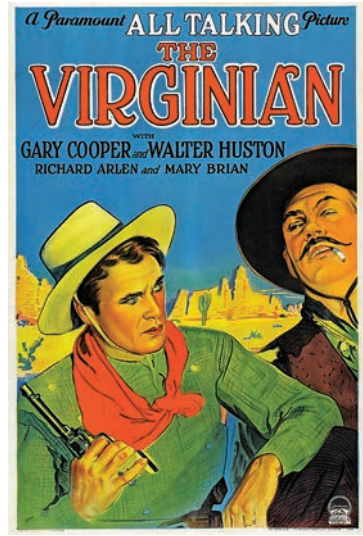


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and into Idaho. The mountain men Guthrie and Johnston wrote about could have been drawn from the real characters who held rendezvous in Pierre's Hole, today's Island Park, Idaho.



In 1929, in his first "talkie," Gary Cooper defined the role of "The Virginian" in the third adaptation of Owen Wister's classic, a film he called his favorite.

– COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES –

Wyoming Inspiration

Continue into the heart of the mountain man country by crossing Teton Pass and into Jackson Hole, a place intrinsically tied to Hall of Famer Jack Schaefer because of *Shane*, the film starring Alan Ladd and Jean Arthur, drawn from his novel, which was set in Wyoming. Guthrie wrote the screenplay.

Old-timers from Jackson Hole recall the filming of *Shane* and how ranchers in the area around Kelly rented their farm animals for appearances in the movie. Another of Schaefer's novels, *Monte Walsh*, has been produced as a film twice: the first in 1970 starring Lee Marvin, and in 2003 for TV, featuring Tom Selleck. Schaefer, a journalist with United Press International news service, later lived in Santa Fe. He wrote novels, plays, nonfiction articles and books, a children's book, *The Plainsman*, and a collection of biographical sketches, *Heroes Without Glory: Some Good Men of the Old West*.

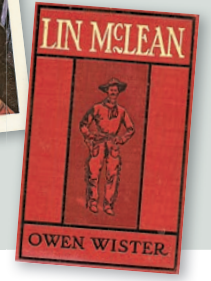
Wyoming inspired Easterner Owen Wister, the man often credited as being the father of the Western novel. He visited Jackson Hole in 1887 on a big game shooting trip with a friend. The two spent more than a month in northwest Wyoming, particularly at Brooks Lake, which is still a remarkable place to visit, traveling through Yellowstone and the Absaroka mountain range.

Of Jackson Hole, where Wister would return with his own family, he wrote in a letter to Fritiof Fryxell on November 26, 1929: "That region is the country I have loved best in the world. Were there any part of my life I would live again, it would be the time spent there. In 1888, the camp

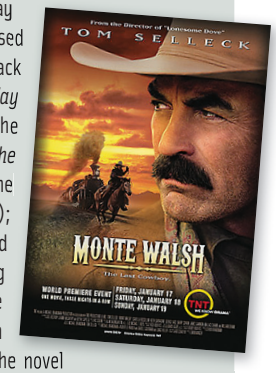
GOOD BOOKS | FILMS & TV:

Shane, *Monte Walsh* and *Heroes Without Glory: Some Good Men of the Old West* by Jack Schaefer; *The Big Sky*, *The Way West*, *These Thousand Hills* and *The Blue Hen's Chick: An Autobiography* by A.B. Guthrie; *Carry the Wind*, *Borderlords* and *Crack in the Sky* by Terry C. Johnston; *The Virginian* and *Lin McLean* by Owen Wister.

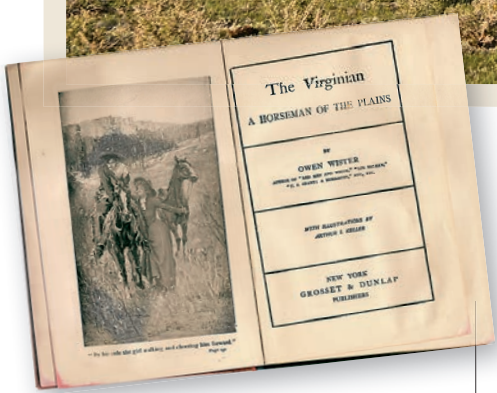




Shane (screenplay by A.B. Guthrie, based on the book by Jack Schaefer); *The Way West* (based on the novel by Guthrie); *The Big Sky* (based on the novel by Guthrie); *Monte Walsh* (filmed twice, one starring Lee Marvin and the other starring Tom Selleck, based on the novel by Schaefer); *Crossfire Trail* (based on the novel by Louis L'Amour); *The Shadow Riders* (based on the novel by L'Amour).







Owen Wister's classic novel *The Virginian* has its roots in the ranch country of Wyoming, such as this region north of Medicine Bow.

– BY CANDY MOULTON –

between String and Jenny Lake, at the edge of the pines where the creek enters them for its final descent into Jenny Lake, I climbed to the rocky scoop where the real steepness of the Grand Teton begins—and came down again ingloriously."

Wister did not visit Cody, but that's where I head to the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, which has a small area devoted to the Western Writers Hall of Fame. The library collections include works by many of the women and men who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. This is a research library, so you should call ahead if you wish to see any of the volumes held here.

From Cody, I travel east across the Bighorn Mountains to Buffalo and the Occidental Hotel, one of the places Wister visited on his own travels through Wyoming. Traveling north of Buffalo to Fort Phil Kearny and the site of the Fetterman battle, I am in the territory Johnston used for his novels involving the Plains Indian Wars. But then I turn south through Casper, site of the Goose Egg Ranch, a location used in Wister's classic novel, *The Virginian*. I travel next to Medicine Bow, home of the Virginian Hotel, where you'll find a hand-painted mural dedicated to Wister's novel, and a suite in the old hotel dedicated to Wister himself.

The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie has Wister's pencil-written diaries of his time in the West and also what are believed to be the only two pages of pencil manuscript of *The Virginian* that exist.

From the grasslands of North Dakota and Montana, to the mountains of Wyoming and Idaho, these great writers of the American West spun stories, created iconic characters, and collected stories of the real people who shaped the West. They have inspired readers, as well as writers, who strive for their own opportunities to bring the landscape of the West to the printed page.



GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Best Grub: Buffalo City Rotisserie Grill (*Jamestown, ND*); The Burger Dive (*Billings, MT*); The Bunnery (*Jackson, WY*); MacPhail's Burgers (*Jackson*).

Best Lodging:
Stage Stop Inn (*Choteau, MT*); Cowboy Village Resort (*Jackson, WY*); The Wort Hotel (*Jackson*); Occidental Hotel (shown above, *Buffalo*); The Virginian Hotel (*Medicine Bow*).

Candy Moulton serves as executive director of Western Writers of America and on the Homestead Foundation board, which manages the Western Writers Hall of Fame.

Talking Dutch

My conversations with one of the greats, Elmore Leonard.



Elmore Leonard's short story "The Captives" became this stark Western, *The Tall T,* considered one of the best Budd Boetticher/Randolph Scott collaborations. Burt Kennedy wrote the script.

– COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES –

I had shaken Elmore Leonard's hand three times, twice at book signings and once on a movie set, years before I wrote him a letter in 2008 and asked if he would be a part of a book I was putting together for McFarland called *The Westerners: Interviews with Actors, Directors, Writers and Producers.*

He was a hero, and I had dreams, but little real hope of getting Leonard to talk about some of his best work for my project. Then he called, full of enthusiasm and ideas. Not only did we have a great conversation, but after the publication of my book in 2009, his support continued with mentions on his website and another interview. Nothing is worse than when our heroes disappoint, and nothing is better than when they exceed expectations.

Like his greatest books, I knew Leonard wasn't going to disappoint, but he really went the distance, stealing time from his busy schedule to lend a helping hand to a newbie. That's old-world class, and it is seldom seen anymore.

Naturally, he was working on a new book when he died on August 20, 2013. I regret that I never got to reconnect or personally thank him for his *Raylan*, his excellent novel that tied directly to FX's *Justified* series,which he created. But I was incredibly fortunate to grab a little bit of his attention, and that's good enough for me.

And yes, I saved all his phone messages.

The following excerpts of Leonard's statements are taken from the chapter "Elmore Leonard: The Master's Touch" in *The Westerners.*

Breaking Into the Business:

Well, it was a wonderful market. Everybody was buying short stories. I mean, you had all the pulp magazines and there were probably a good half dozen good ones. The better ones were like *Zane Grey's Western* and *Dime Western.* They paid two cents a word, and most of the others did, but a few would try and charge you like a cent or a cent and a half, or something. Just to save money. So, we had all the pulps. We had magazines like *Collier's*, *Argosy*, and they'd call us wanting stories, so the market was terrific and they were making a lot of pictures, so I was aiming at the Hollywood market, right from the very beginning. I learned how to write that way.

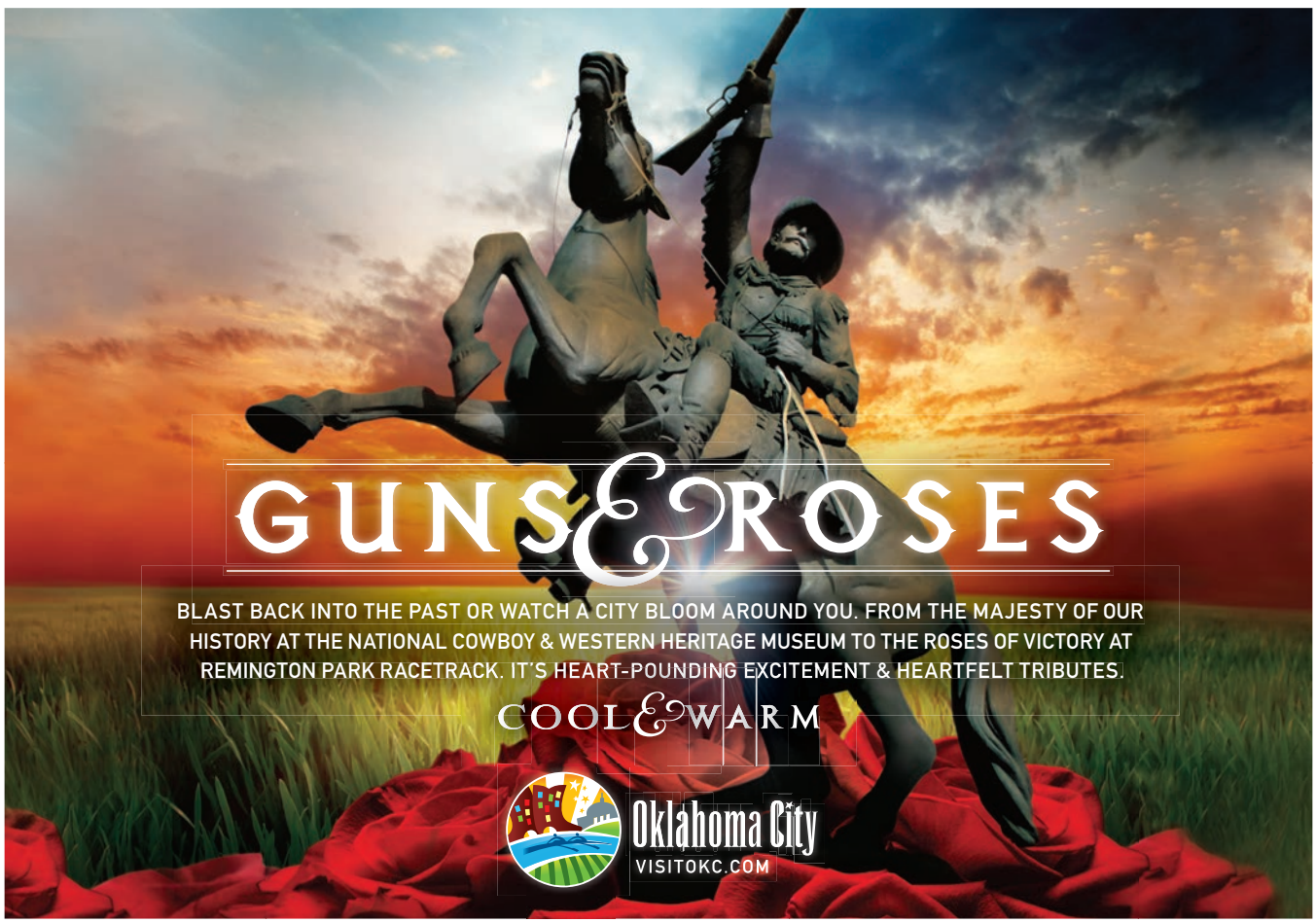
The Tall T:

I thought it was wonderful. I really liked it because they stayed right with the story. There weren't any asides that I noticed. [Richard Boone] stayed right with the dialogue. You mentioned that the type of villain in these stories was often more charismatic than the hero. Well, I think many of the actors were; Richard Boone made the part.

3:10 to Yuma:

At the end, Glenn Ford pushes Van Heflin onto the baggage car and lands on top of him and says, "I've escaped from Yuma before." Because he's the star, so they gave him that, you know. Kind of a fun ending. But in my short story, my guy pushes the guy aboard onto the train and that's it. Knocks him down. Because it's more realistic. I wanted it to be realistic. In the new one, they had that ending, with the whistling for the horse. But the actors were good.


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Leonard loved Delmer Daves's expansion of his short story, and he particularly admired Glenn Ford's turn as another understandable Leonard bad guy, whose last line is a great zinger. The 1957 film was Leonard's second sale to the movies. The shoot 'em up remake from 2007 (inset) is great fun, and Leonard liked both lead performances, but winced when Russell Crowe whistled for his horse, á la Roy Rogers.

– 1957 POSTER COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES; 2007 POSTER COURTESY LIONSGATE –

Selling Paperbacks to the Movies:

Well, I wasn't making any money though. Finally, *Hombre* sold for $10,000. I'm still down; they're just paying me what they have to, but what's the book doing? Nothing.

Racial prejudice and *Hombre*:

It gives me a chance to write a story with that as an overtone. And Hombre used it in the movie, how they make him ride on top on the coach. That's the idea. That one girl who had been taken by the Apaches and held by them for so long, she can't stand them and she's like that all through the book. Real hatred. One of the best examples is the wife on the stagecoach, and she won't attempt to understand the Apache. She won't face it.

Joe Kidd:

Eastwood had shot *Dirty Harry*, but it wasn't released yet, when he called me up and one of my sons answered the phone and said, "Dad, it's Clint Eastwood." So they all ran for another phone and I could hear them fighting for the phone on the extension, and Eastwood said, "*Dirty Harry* is going to make an awful lot of money. I want one just like it. A guy with a gun, only different." And he said, "And I want to own it." That's the thing, he didn't own *Dirty Harry*. So I thought of one that night and I called him the next day and told him the gist of the story. These guys who come in to burn all the wreckage who are kind of revolutionary, and they want their land back, and Joe gets caught in the middle. And he liked it. I don't think it was cast very well, although I think Robert Duvall was very good in it. It wasn't a good picture at all. The train ending was John Sturges' idea. I had nothing to do with it. That was one of his outtake ideas from *The Magnificent Seven*. Another was when Eastwood was in the bell tower and dropped [a clay pot], and hit the guy on the head. Sturges liked the stuff he couldn't use in his other movies, so he put it in.

Sam Peckinpah and *Forty Lashes Less One*:

Peckinpah and I weren't a good fit. His idea of humor and mine are opposite. I forgot what movie [*The Killer Elite*], when a guy gets in a car with another guy and the guy says, "Well, did you see her?" "Yeah, I took her out. I saw her." Because it was this guy who was driving had suggested he go out with this girl and then he says, "You had a good time, huh?" And then he tells the guy who had the date that the girl has gonorrhea and he howls. He thinks that's pretty funny. That's not my type of humor.

Back to television with *Desperado*:

Universal Television asked me if I would develop a character for them. And so then I called Walter Mirisch and said, "You want to produce this?" And he said, "Sure. Let's do a Western." I wasn't thinking about a Western, and I said, "All right, we'll do it." So I thought of this guy who maintains a herd of cattle not too far from a mining town and he supplies the company with beef. That was it. After the first movie, it ran, what, five episodes. I had nothing to do with those, but some were pretty good. TV Westerns, but pretty good.

Last Stand at Saber River:

The novel is possibly a little drawn out, probably slow in places. I wrote that when

I was just learning, in the '50's, but that's when I'd get up at five and write for two hours before going to work. And that really helped. But they took that book, and I thought they did a nice job of it.

On Gunfights:

If you want to shoot somebody, you go into the saloon where he's having a drink and you shoot him, and you turn around and—you can always miss, or hit him not in a vital spot, and the guy fires back at you and pretty soon you're in a gunfight.... But nobody stands in the middle of the street.

The Voice:

Richard Boone was the first one who nailed the sound of me, the same sound I heard when I was writing it, and I couldn't have hoped for a better actor for that part. But there have been others since then. George Clooney, and all those people, that I thought they were right in character.

C. Courtney Joyner is a screenwriter and director with more than 25 produced movies to his credit. The excerpts shared here are from: *The Westerners: Interviews with Actors, Directors and Writers* © 2009 C. Courtney Joyner by permission of McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640. *www.McFarlandPub.com*



Following Leonard's book almost word-for-word, *Hombre* is a superior Western on all accounts. Leonard felt that Richard Boone was an actor who "understands my voice," and here, as in *The Tall T,* Boone propels the simmering violence of the hero (Paul Newman) to the exploding point. For me, this is the best Western from a Leonard novel.

– COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX FILM CORP. –

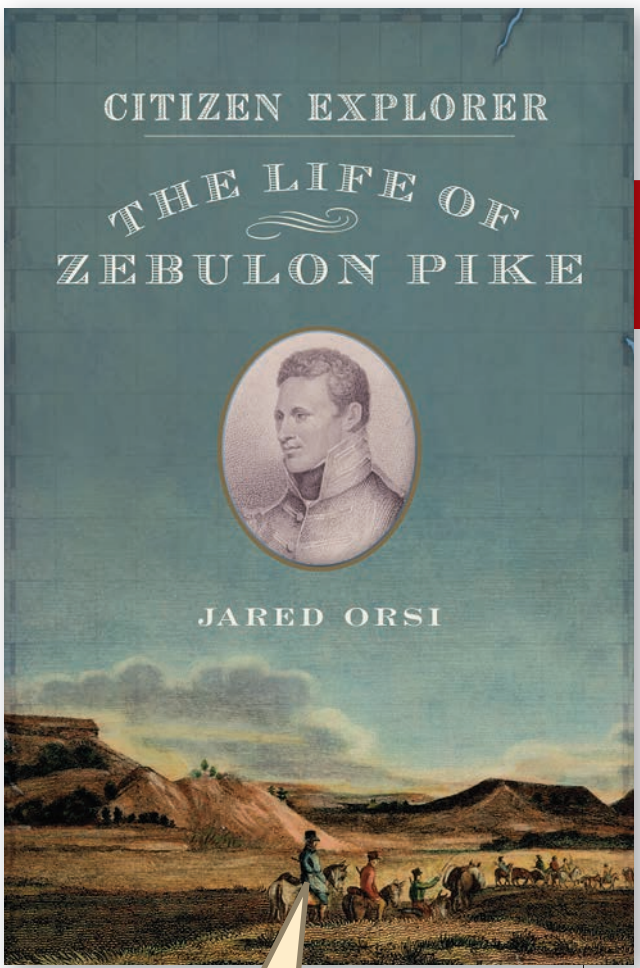




WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK

American Hero Rediscovered



An explorer's life of destiny, love in the Wild West, bronze cowboys, the celluloid Billy the Kid, and the mystic John Ford.

THE LIFE OF ZEBULON PIKE

Born in Somerset, New Jersey, on January 5, 1779, into a patriotic family battling the British for American independence, Zebulon Montgomery Pike was weaned on heroism and love of country, a child of the Revolution and westward expansion, destined for greatness and American immortality. Colorado State University History Professor Jared Orsi's *Citizen Explorer: The Life of Zebulon Pike* (Oxford University Press, $29.95) is the first major re-examination of the adventurer-soldier's life since John Upton Terrell's biography published in 1968. Orsi's study of Pike is extremely well-researched and is finely documented with annotated endnotes and a detailed bibliography. In addition to his primary research on Pike, Orsi provides the reader with a strong contextualization of the parallel historical events, competing empires, Indian nations, and national leaders who influenced domestic, national and foreign policy during Pike's short life. Orsi's broader interpretation restores our



Author Jared Orsi reports Brig. Gen. Zebulon Pike was glorified as a martyr of the nation after his mortal wound at the Battle of York in 1813.

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"... at the end of his life, Pike was more highly regarded than Meriwether Lewis...."



Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike's party's arrival in Spanish Santa Fe in March 1807 was romantically recounted a century later in Frederic Remington's 1906 painting published in *Collier's Weekly*.

– COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTION –

understanding of Pike as one of America's first Western heroes.

Pike had been soldiering since he was 15 years old when he was mortally wounded in the War of 1812's Battle of York on April 27, 1813. At the time of his death at 34 years old, Pike was considered a national hero, a martyr of a young nation whose adventurous life exemplified the sacrifice needed to secure the promise of an independent United States—and an independent citizenry. According to Orsi's book, "...at the end of his life, Pike was more highly regarded than Meriwether Lewis.... More than military prowess and psychological stability, however, distinguished Pike's brief celebrity from Lewis's early ignominy. Pike's story provided the raw material for hagiography because his life reflected America's central promise."

Before he was a heroic American general, Pike was a young army lieutenant who President Thomas Jefferson commissioned to be the first explorer after Lewis and Clark to survey the vast Louisiana Territory. Familiar with the Ohio River Valley since his youth growing up in western Pennsylvania and Ohio, he was adventurous and fearless, eager to explore and had already completed a major survey of the Upper Mississippi River to its source. His transit west across the Plains into the Rocky Mountains, and south into New Spain remains one of the greatest feats of exploration, and best documented, in the early 19th century. More important, his published account in 1810 of his expedition became the primary guide for successive explorations, and had a more profound effect on America's westward expansion in the first decades of the new century than anyone else's surveys.

Orsi is not content to leave Pike's story in the 19th century, but expertly places Pike's life, and the legacy of Pike's Peak, in context to travel, tourism and development of the modern West, including the lesser known story of how the majestic mountain inspired the lyrics for "America the Beautiful." Orsi's conclusions on Pike, as explorer, adventurer, philosopher, and patriot, should lead us to a new understanding of America's continental explorers and their ongoing influence on what we believe the American West is, and for that matter, what it can be.

— Stuart Rosebrook



ROUGH DRAFTS



From the previews of Western fiction and nonfiction I am receiving, 2014 promises to be a big year for all of us. Fans of Western books should attend the upcoming Tucson Festival of Books, March 15-16. *True West* will have a booth right next door to the Western Writers of America and we hope if you attend, you'll stop by and say hello. We'd love to meet you.

Two recent titles I'd recommend you read to kick off your year of reading and Western travels:

The University of New Mexico Press has published a sweeping new study of travel writing in the West, *Global West, American Frontier: Travel, Empire, and Exceptionalism from Manifest Destiny* by David M Wrobel. An exceptionally well-researched history, Wrobel's book offers enjoyable reading about the numerous and varied travel writers who shaped our idea of the West.

Travelers to the Southwest may want to pick up Terry Mort's *The Wrath of Cochise: The Bascom Affair and the Origins of the Apache Wars* (Pegasus, 2013), a finely crafted and well-written history of this defining event in the conflict that shaped the early decades of the Arizona and New Mexico Territories.

–Stuart Rosebrook

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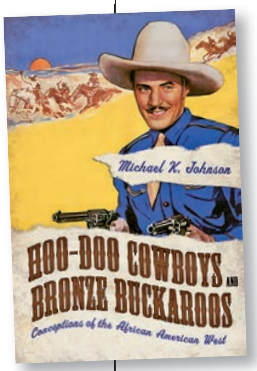
Ta-ayz-slath, most likely Geronimo's sixth of 11 wives, is pictured in Chris Enss's book with their unnamed child, possibly at San Carlos, between 1884 and 1885.

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LOVE IN THE WEST

Chris Enss gives readers a fresh look at love in *Love Lessons from the Old West: Wisdom from Wild Women* (TwoDot, $16.95) during an era and in a region where strength and tenacity went hand in hand with heartbreak and romance. This book is a fun, fast read of the entertaining biographies of some of the most romantic and legendary relationships in the Old West. Enss paints sympathetic portraits of women across a broad spectrum of society, including Geronimo's wives, frontier madams and gunfighters' wives. She shows how the best love lessons come from those not afraid to break the rules.

– *Amy Hale Auker, author of* Winter of Beauty



THE BLACK WEST : REAL AND IMAGINED

Michael K. Johnson's *Hoo-Doo Cowboys and Bronze Buckaroos: Conceptions of the African American West* (University Press of Mississippi, $60) is an important tome chronicling the history of blacks in early film and literature as it relates to the Wild West in reality and fiction. Johnson captures the images that were presented and the prose that was written about the black presence in American popular culture. He also talks about black music and how some of the musicians in traveling venues were affected by performing in the American West in the early 20th century. This is new ground examined that should give all interested readers a better understanding of American popular culture.

– *Art Burton, author of* Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves

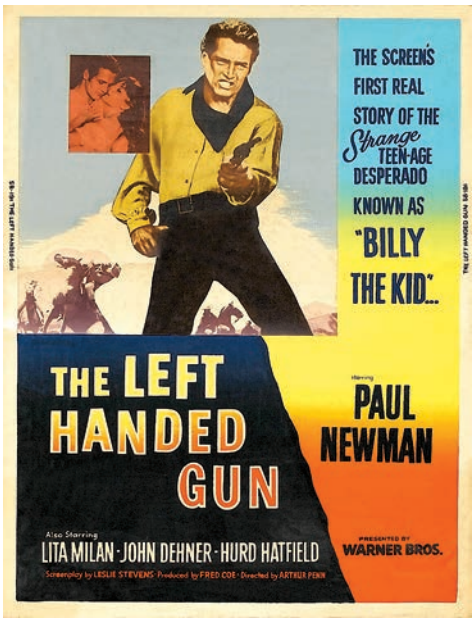


THE CELLULOID KID

Who knew that the first actor to portray Billy the Kid on film was a woman (Edith Storey)? And who knew that reading about so many awful films featuring the famed New Mexico outlaw

could be so much fun? Johnny Boggs's *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012* (McFarland, $39.95) is a fascinating survey of the good, the bad, and, yes, the ugly of Billy the Kid flicks (think *Billy the Kid vs. Dracula*, but don't waste your time). Boggs tells us what each film got right and, more often than not, what it got wrong, providing us with some good Kid history to go along with the stories behind the productions. I highly recommend this book.

– *Mark Lee Gardner, author of* Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape



Johnny Boggs tells readers that Paul Newman's starring role as Billy the Kid in *The Left-Handed Gun* extended beyond the screen into comic books, the "pulps" for a new generation of fans coming of age in the anti-hero 1960s.

– COURTESY WARNER BROS –

FORD, FAITH AND POETRY

Only John Ford won four Oscars for best director (and two more for documentaries), and he helped invent the Western movie genre. Yet

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JAY DUSARD'S FAVORITE READS



– BY SCOTT BAXTER, COURTESY JAY DUSARD –

Artist, writer, horseman, musician, teacher, Jay Dusard, who lives in his beloved borderland country near Douglas, Arizona, is known internationally for his large-format, black and white landscape photography. He is equally renowned for his acclaimed *The North American Cowboy: A Portrait*, which resulted from his 1981 Guggenheim Fellowship. He has published four books, including *Horses*, with essays by Thomas McGuane, and the upcoming e-book, *Vaqueros & Buckaroos*.

From Jay: "At 76, I've been around for a while—certainly long enough to know, or have known, these five talented writers. Tom Lea is gone now, but I had the distinct pleasure of meeting and photographing him in his El Paso studio in 1985. I'm proud to know Toby Jurovics, chief curator and Holland curator of American Western Art at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. The other three fine individuals, Joe Brown, Gretel Ehrlich and Tom McGuane, are my soul mates in the marvelous, ongoing horseback culture that we cherish and enjoy. They are far more than just saddle pals. I have 'cowboyed' with them all." Here, Jay shares with us his favorite books from these authors:

❶ ***The Wonderful Country*** (Tom Lea, Texas Christian University): Lea, a transborder writer, lived on both sides of *La Frontera*, knowing intimately their milieus and writing elegantly about them. In *The Wonderful Country,* we follow bi-cultural protagonist Martin Brady/ Martín Bredi on a sweeping circle of adventure and tribulation through grandiose landscapes.

❷ ***Jim Kane*** (J. P. S. Brown, BackinPrint.com): Brown, like Lea, is a transborder writer. Given all the horseback, mule back, and single-engine airplane time that Brown has logged as a cattle trader in the mountainous backcountry of northern Mexico, I'm inclined to suspect that *Jim Kane* is more than just somewhat autobiographical. It's one "helluva" first novel (1970), uniquely and knowingly written.

❸ ***The Solace of Open Spaces*** (Gretel Ehrlich, Penguin): I was immediately captivated by the courage and sensitivity of the young female character, grieving the loss of a loved one, making a go of it, solo, on a northern Wyoming cattle and sheep ranch. I can't believe how deeply Gretel absorbed and articulated the nuances of the land and its people.

❹ ***Some Horses: Essays*** (Thomas McGuane, Vintage): Everybody needs to read Tom McGuane, America's consummate man of letters, on practically any subject. *Some Horses* is dedicated to rancher and maestro cutting horse trainer Buster Welch. In my attempt to find something of pith and moment to point to, I determined to re-read the essay titled "Buster." I simply realized, again, that to partake of Tom's astonishing observations is absolutely humbling. I shall let that suffice for my recommendation.

❺ ***Framing the West: The Survey Photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan*** (Toby Jurovics, with Carol Johnson, William F. Stapp, and Glenn Willumson, Yale University Press): I was 23 before I experienced the landscape of the intermountain West—that grand expanse of sculptural forms and unfathomable distances that made me want to take up photography and live "out here." O'Sullivan was out here in the most challenging sense of the couplet. What he made in the field were wet-plate collodion negatives on 10 by 12-inch sheets of glass. I've never even considered trying to follow in the tripod tracks of Brother O'Sullivan with my 8 by 10-inch camera.

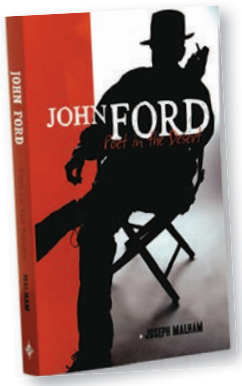




In 1938, John Ford directed John Wayne in *Stagecoach*, the first of nine movies he would film in the iconic Monument Valley, five of which starred Wayne as the leading man.

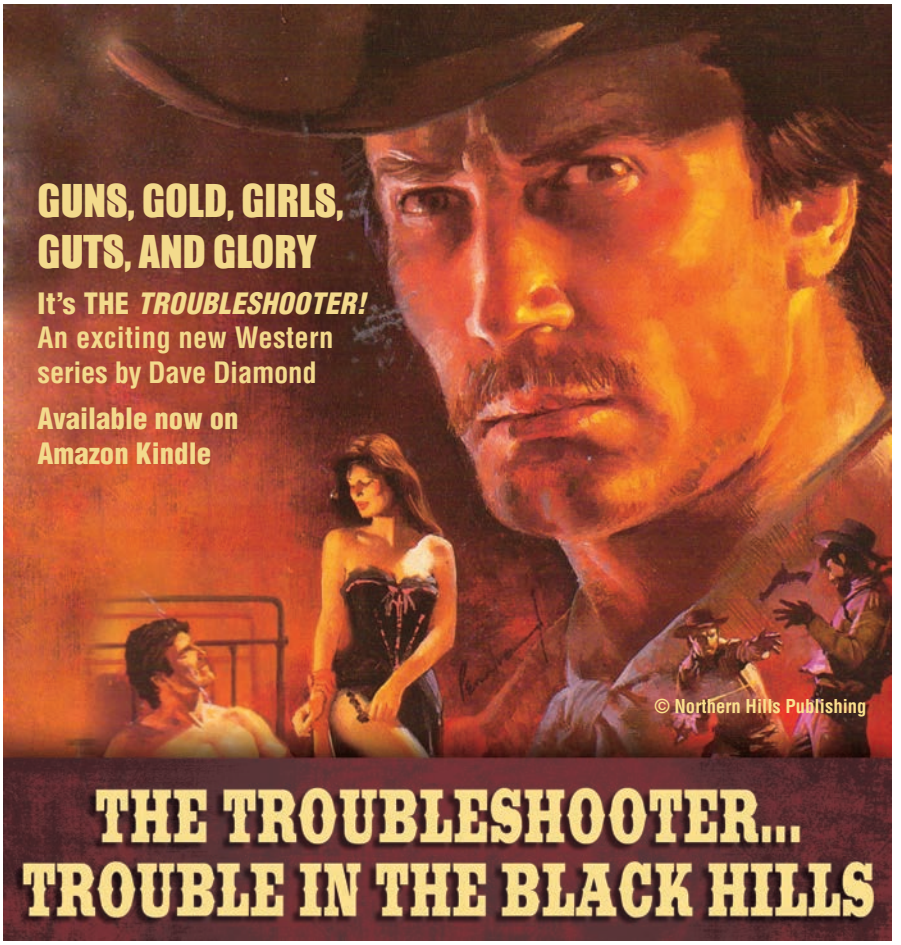
– COURTESY WARNER BROS. –

while revered by Spielberg, Scorsese and Lucas, he is largely overlooked by a new generation with no affinity for John Wayne or cowboy and Indian movies. Joseph Malham's *John Ford: Poet in the Desert* (Lake Street Press, $21.95) seeks to remedy this with an intimate, passionate portrait of a troubled cinematic genius.



While he breaks no new ground and relies heavily on secondary sources, Malham re-tells the story of our American Shakespeare, a superb visual storyteller and mythmaker. A Catholic like Ford, he is especially good at delineating the role of Ford's faith and Irish roots in the director's classic portrayals of families, communities and history.

– *Glenn Frankel, author of* The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend





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Boggs UNLEASHED!

A TWISTED BIT OF HISTORY BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

One Killer Burger

SANTA FE GRILL WAR HAS BURGER LOVERS BURNING UP.



Santa Fe saw a joyless day on June 9, 2013, but then Bobcat Bite's former managers, Bonnie and John Eckre (above), reinvented themselves at Santa Fe Bite. Not only can you get their famous green chile cheeseburger (top right), but now you can get breakfast too; check out those huevos rancheros and homemade pancakes.

– BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS; BREAKFAST PHOTO BY BOB BOZE BELL –

Charles Bent was killed on January 19, 1847. Billy the Kid got shot dead on July 14, 1881. Pat Garrett bought the farm on February 29, 1908. But the worst date in New Mexico history?

June 9, 2013. When the Bobcat Bite in Santa Fe, New Mexico, closed.

A carnivore's heaven and a vegetarian's hell, the Bobcat Bite was renown for its hamburgers, specifically a green chile work of art. The legendary eatery was this rag's "Restaurant of the Year" in our 2012 Best of the West Source Book. It also earned accolades from other respectable magazines, including *GQ* and *Bon Appétit*.

Yet it all ended in a range—er, grill—war worse than those bloody feuds in Colfax and Lincoln Counties.

In a nutshell, the landlord—we won't mention his miserable name to prevent a justifiable lynching—and John and Bonnie Eckre, who have been running the Bite for some 12 years, got into a tiff over the lease, the building (a former trading post and gun shop) and even the name of the business.

It all ended in a range war worse than those bloody feuds in Colfax and Lincoln Counties.

In fairness (yes, I'm a rabble-rouser, but one with a journalism degree from a respectable university), the Eckres didn't start the Bobcat Bite. It dated to 1953, when the late Mitzi Panzer's mother started the business on Old Las Vegas Highway. Bonnie didn't arrive until she began waitressing in 1989. I first ate there in 1998, and it was a good burger then. But John and Bonnie took the Bobcat to a new level.

"This place felt like home to a lot of customers," Bonnie, fighting back tears, tells me. "We wanted everyone to feel like family. Sometimes, they'd come inside and say, 'We're home.'"

It felt like home. Once, while driving my son and a friend to baseball practice, I overheard this conversation:

Jack: "What are you going to do when your major league baseball career is over?"

Friend: "I'll be a sportscaster. What are you going to do when your major league career is over?"

Jack: "I'm going to work at the Bobcat Bite."

Bonnie and John let the evil land baron take his building. So, on June 9, the Bobcat served its last meals. Hundreds of them. People started showing up at 8 a.m., three hours before the Bobcat opened.

"The end of an era," acclaimed jeweler Douglas Magnus said that day. "A sad day for Santa Fe."

Proof of their white hats, the Eckres donated proceeds from that last day to the nonprofit Kitchen Angels, which delivers meals to people in need.

In the weeks afterward, I tried to find green chile cheeseburgers that might come close to matching the Bobcat's, but who can prepare natural boneless chuck and sirloin into freshly ground 10-ounce masterpieces?

But this is the West, where people come to reinvent themselves. Where even Billy the Kid (if you buy the Brushy Bill theory, which we don't) can rise from his grave.

In August, the Eckres opened the newly christened Santa Fe Bite at Garrett's Desert Inn in town on Old Santa Fe Trail.

"We always wanted to serve milkshakes," Bonnie says, "but couldn't because our kitchen was too small. And John always wanted to make breakfast. He makes wonderful pancakes."

These days, the Santa Fe Bite is hopping. Down on Old Las Vegas Highway, the old Bobcat Bite building sits empty. Once, just before noon and up until closing time, it resembled the Long Branch Saloon on Saturday night. Now it's a ghost town.

Justice has been served…with lettuce, tomatoes, white American cheese and fresh, wonderful, spicy green chiles—and one killer burger.

Johnny D. Boggs has yet to tackle the Santa Fe Bite's new "Big Bite"—a 16-ounce burger served with fries, salad and garlic bread for $17.50.

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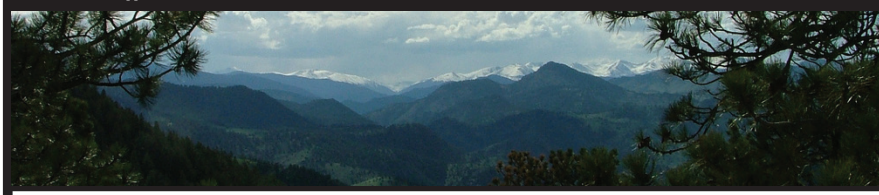
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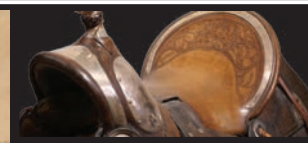
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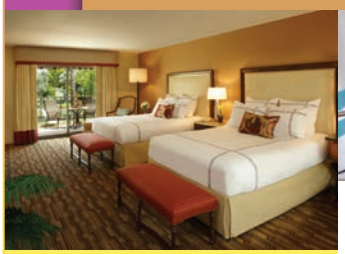
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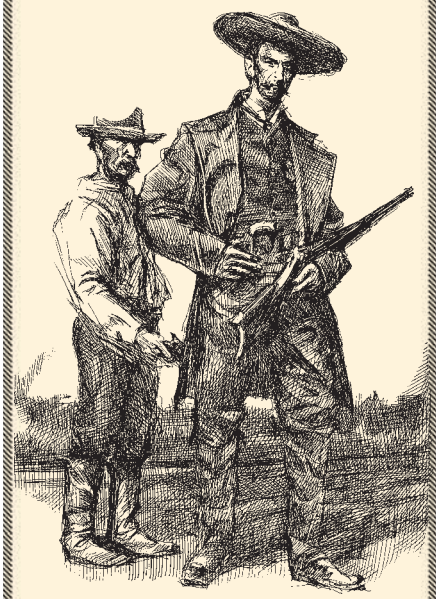
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TRUE WEST
ASCENDING THE AMERICAN MYTH



Tall Paul

One of the tallest men in Arizona territory in the 1880s was Pima County Sheriff Bob Paul. The former stagecoach shotgun messenger had been on the ill-fated Benson stage attacked in November 1880, setting off the events that led to the O.K. Corral gunfight. While most men hovered around 5'7" or 5'8", Sheriff Paul stood at a solid 6'4". Incidentally, Billy the Kid killer Pat Garrett and actors John Wayne and Clint Eastwood all stood at 6'4". Could their commanding height have something to do with their dominance?

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TRUE WEST

Hamming it Up

Ham was the sandwich of choice for much of the 19th century.


– BY SHERRY MONAHAN –

In the mid-1800s, the word sandwich was almost synonymous with ham. If you ordered a sandwich, it was likely ham. The other two options were tongue and corned beef—all with mustard. A variety of lunch meat was not an option, and sandwiches did not become a mainstay noonday meal until around the turn of the 20th century.

Pioneer miners, schoolchildren and picnickers dined on sandwiches, but these were hardly the same as the ones Victorian ladies ate in those days. Their dainty tea sandwiches were often mayonnaise-based, since those could stay cold, but the travelers' sandwiches had to hold their own while folks headed to their destinations, so these contained mustard or oil. In 1876, the San Francisco *Bulletin* ran an ad for potted meats, which were "…adapted for travelers and overland passengers, for Lunches."

> "I tasted the mustard, onion and bread, but didn't get that taste of the dog."

Even gamblers at saloons snacked on sandwiches. Saloon owner Bud Brown remembered rancher Clay Mann devouring sandwiches while on a winning streak in Colorado City, Texas, in the late 1800s: "The time was about 1 p.m. when Clay and Bob [Winders] began to play monte, and Clay played steadily 'til 12 o'clock without stopping.... Several times he went out for sandwiches and munched while playing. He would occasionally send for a drink from the bar."

Alabama native and former Texas Ranger William Blevins also lived in Colorado City, in the mid-1880s, and he recalled a cowhand friend named Buck Jones ordering a "hotdog sandwich" in town. Jones told him, "I tasted the mustard, onion and bread, but didn't get that taste of the dog. I looked inside the bun and could not see any signs of dog."

Jones figured he'd had too much to drink and just missed the dog. He ordered another sandwich and watched the vendor. "When he was ready for the last act of putting the dog between the bread...he held the bun in left hand and picked up the dog with his right, and slapped it into the bun with a great flourish. When he closed the bun, darn if he didn't slip the dog out and held

it in the palm of his hand while handing the sandwich to me."

As early as the late 1860s, you could find ham, tongue and corned beef sandwiches with mustard in restaurants. By 1899, *The World-Herald* in Omaha, Nebraska, reported on 64 types of sandwiches, which included turkey, chicken, sardine, egg, anchovy and tomato. In addition to savory sandwiches, sweet sandwiches were also eaten, such as shaved chocolate and plum cake sandwiches.

Cooks followed two important rules for making sandwiches, regardless of the filling. One—the bread had to be perfect, which meant fresh with thin, but not too thin, slices. Two—the bread also had to be buttered on both inside slices, but the butter could be substituted with mayonnaise or mustard, depending upon the filling.

HAM SANDWICHES

2 c. cooked ham, finely minced
2 tsp. mustard
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1-2 tsp. hot pepper sauce
Cayenne pepper to taste
Bread

Combine all ingredients together (a food processor, on pulse, works great). Cut the crusts off the bread and butter each slice. Add the ham and slice on the diagonal.

Courtesy Sacramento's *Weekly Rescue*, January 19, 1877

Frank Dixon recalled his regular sandwich picnics as a teenager in Hastings, Nebraska, in the late 1800s: "In the summer we were a little slack on [attending church or Sunday school] as picnics down on the river were so much the go. Nearly everyone went and in big bunches....We would hire a wagon or wagonette or hayrack, all chipping in. Then would buy pop or ice cream. Then the girls would furnish the eats: ham and cheese sandwiches, pickles, hard boiled eggs and cakes."

Plan your next picnic and take along some 19th-century ham sandwiches.

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





One of the earliest known bird's-eye views of Dodge City, Kansas, was taken in the spring of 1887, showing an entirely new Front Street in brick. Fast forward to a recent 4th of July, and Front Street fills with folks enjoying patriotic music from the historic Dodge City Cowboy Band.

– HISTORICAL PHOTO COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM, DODGE CITY, KANSAS; MODERN-DAY PHOTO BY JOSH ROESENER PHOTOGRAPHY –



BY THE EDITORS / WRITTEN BY JOHN STANLEY

Given to towns that have made an important contribution to preserving their Old West heritage.

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

HISTORIC ERAS COME AND GO.

The Era of Good Feelings. The Roaring Twenties. The Gilded Age.

None, though, has captured the popular imagination like the Old West.

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Thanks to the determined efforts of preservationists, historians and a virtual army of enthusiasts and volunteers, we have:

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Firsthand accounts by everyone from sodbusters and cowboys to railroad tycoons and mining magnates we can read.

And hoards of glorious photographs of the people and events of the era we can examine and enjoy.

We're proud to recognize each of the following True Western Towns as places that both safeguard and celebrate our Old West heritage.



Gunsmoke fills the air twice daily at the Boot Hill Museum as re-enactors show how Dodge City lawmen served up frontier-style justice.

– COURTESY JOSH ROESENER PHOTOGRAPHY –

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 1
DODGE CITY, KANSAS

Maps show Dodge City on the plains of southwestern Kansas.

But in a larger sense the "Queen of the Cow Towns" exists somewhere in the misty borderlands between history and imagination, an icon branded into popular culture as the epitome of the Old West.

Dodge City has been many things over the years: fort, cattle town, railroad center. It was the perfect Old West mash-up of farmers and frontiersmen, rustlers and railroaders, gunslingers and saloon girls, outlaws and lawmen.

And, oh, did it have a reputation.

One visitor, clearly impressed, described Dodge City as "a perfect paradise for gamblers, cut-throats, and girls."

Another fulminated that: "The employment of many citizens is gambling. [The town's] virtue is prostitution and her beverage is whisky."

Perhaps it's no wonder that men like Doc Holliday, Luke Short, Wyatt Earp and the dapper Bat Masterson all gravitated to Dodge City.

Today the town has nearly two-dozen locally designated landmarks, as well as 11 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And you just gotta love a place that encourages residents to wear their best Western duds on "Cowboy Up Fridays."

You can sample the Old West at some of the town's annual events, especially Dodge City Days, a 10-day festival featuring parades, concerts and Western art shows, as well as plenty of rodeo action and the renowned Backyard Barbecue Contest.

Sidewalk medallions and statues on the Trail of Fame commemorate many of the town's most famous characters, both real and fictional. (You'll remember many from *Gunsmoke*.) The self-guided tours begin on Wyatt Earp Boulevard.

The Boot Hill Museum illustrates local history with thousands of artifacts, photos and documents. The "Guns That Won the West" exhibit is a perpetual favorite.

Although Dodge City had a reputation as a dirty, drunken cowtown, it had a refined side, too. The Hardesty House, a beautifully restored Victorian home built in 1879, shows how some of the town's well-to-do residents lived.

Even with all its successes, this venerable town founded in 1872 isn't resting on its laurels. A statue of Doc Holliday has been commissioned for the Trail of Fame, and city officials are working with the National Park Service to develop the Great Western Cattle Trail.

For Dodge City's inspired and enduring efforts to preserve its heritage, we take great delight in honoring Dodge City as our Top True Western Town of 2014.





Wyatt Earp served as an assistant marshal in Dodge City from 1876 to 1879 (with some time off in 1877). His statue stands tall on the town's Trail of Fame, a self-guided walk commemorating some of the town's most famous characters—both historic and fictional.

– COURTESY DODGE CITY CVB –

BIG WESTERN CITIES WE LOVE

Fort Worth, Texas
No visit here is complete without a stop at the Stockyards National Historic District. Check out the daily Fort Worth Herd cattle drives, see some of the biggest Country music stars perform at Billy Bob's Texas (the world's largest honky-tonk) and watch the rodeo action every weekend at Cowtown Coliseum.

San Antonio, Texas
It doesn't matter how many times you've seen it before. The Alamo is one of the magical places that has transcended history and become legend. After your pilgrimage, take a stroll on the city's celebrated River Walk (also known as Paseo del Rio), which is lined with restaurants and shops.

Wichita, Kansas
Cattlemen driving their herds to the railheads in Abilene, Kansas, often stopped at the Mead Trading Post. Once rails reached it in 1872, the town—then called Wichita—became a regional "cow capital." Learn all about it at the Old Cowtown Museum.

Denver, Colorado
Examine the history of the Old West through a different lens at the Black American West Museum, which highlights the role blacks played—as miners, soldiers, teachers, cowboys and lawmen—in the settlement of the state.

El Paso, Texas
Tour one of the city's most historic houses at the Magoffin Home State Historic Site. The nineteen-room adobe home, built in 1875 for pioneer and civic leader Joseph Magoffin, still holds original family furnishings.

Portland, Oregon
In 1845 Portland's founders, Francis Pettygrove of Portland, Maine, and Asa Lovejoy of Boston, Massachusetts, each wanted to name their new village after their hometowns. So they decided to flip for it, best two out of three. See the historic "Portland Penny" at the Oregon Historical Society Museum.

Sacramento, California
Take a trip back through time at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. On Pioneer Demonstration Day costumed docents show how settlers worked, lived and played in those long-ago days.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum holds the most amazing collection of Western art you're likely to find anywhere, with an assortment of works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, as well as James Fraser's iconic sculpture, *The End of the Trail.*

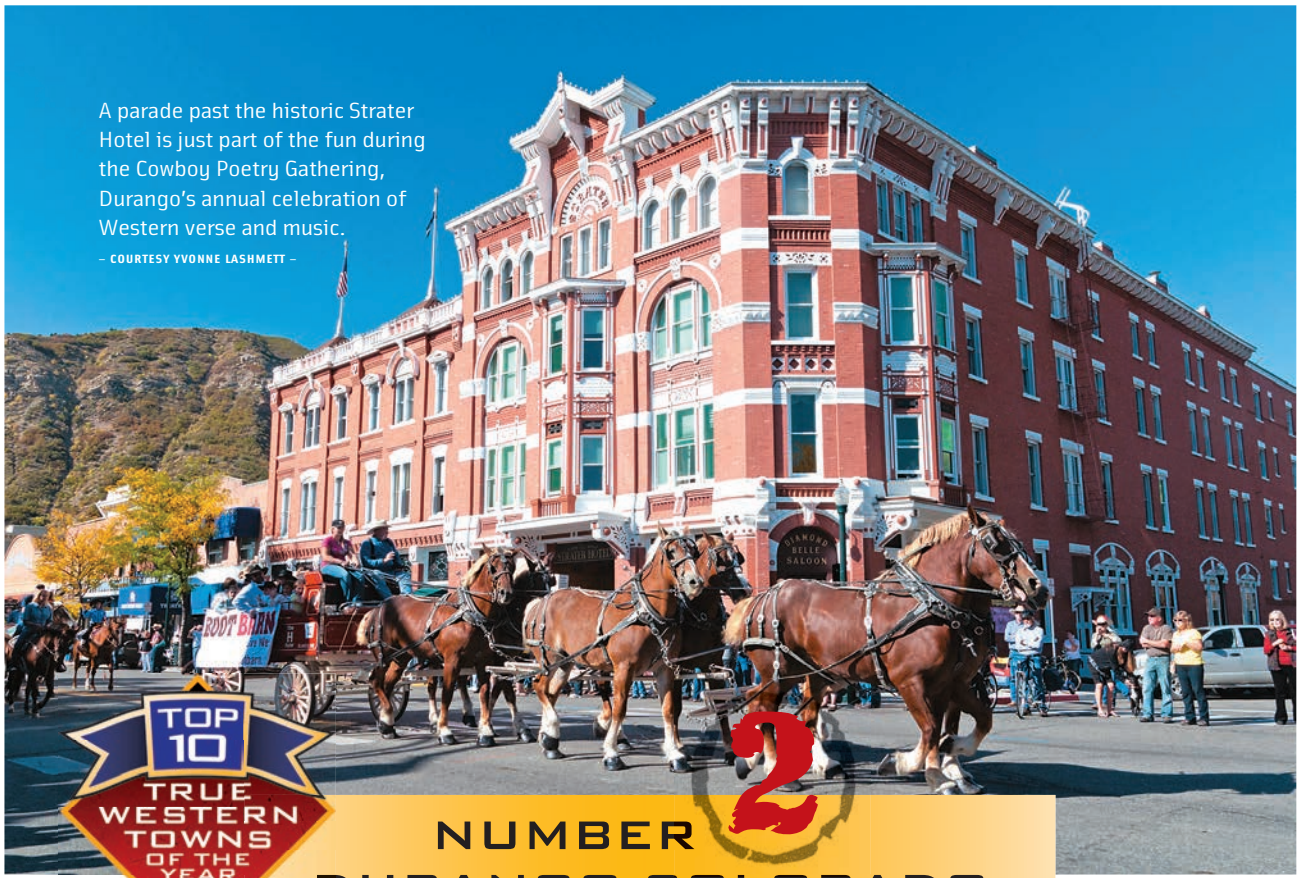
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
Learn all about the history of the Great Northern Railway at the Jackson Street Roundhouse, then check out the miniatures at the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum, especially the O-Scale Exhibit and its astonishing reproductions of some of the Great Northern's most famous 19th-century landmarks.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
Rodeo professionals may come to Cheyenne Frontier Days to compete for more than $1 million in cash and prizes, but the rest of us come for the thrill of attending the world's largest outdoor rodeo, a Cheyenne tradition since 1897. Mark your calendars now—Cheyenne Frontier Days run July 18-27.



Cowboys drive a herd of longhorns through the streets of the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District twice a day.

– COURTESY FORT WORTH CVB –



A parade past the historic Strater Hotel is just part of the fun during the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango's annual celebration of Western verse and music.

– COURTESY YVONNE LASHMETT –

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 2 DURANGO, COLORADO

Gold may have attracted prospectors to the San Juan Mountains, but the railroads ensured Durango's future.

Established in 1880 by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad as a center for mining, agriculture and cattle interests, Durango preserves and protects all aspects of its Western heritage.

No visit is complete without a ride aboard the historic, steam-powered Durango-Silverton Railroad. The 45-mile ride through the breathtaking beauty of the San Juan Mountains has delighted generations of tourists.

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum holds a fascinating array of exhibits, including an 800-square-foot scale model railroad, and a baggage car used in the classic Western *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

It's really no wonder Durango has received so many awards for preserving the spirit of the Old West over the years. Every year some of the town's historically minded outfits—the Center of Southwest Studies, Henry Strater Theatre and Durango Arts Center, among many others—present exhibits and programs on the town's rich Western history.

The 1904 Animas City School Building now holds the Animas Museum, which offers programs and exhibits for all ages. You'll find the town's research library and photo archives there, too.

The Strater Hotel, Durango's finest Victorian structure, was built in 1887. It is still noted for its gracious amenities, with antique furnishings in every room.

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



The steam-powered Durango-Silverton Railroad chugs through the beautiful San Juan Mountains, giving passengers a thrilling ride into the Old West.

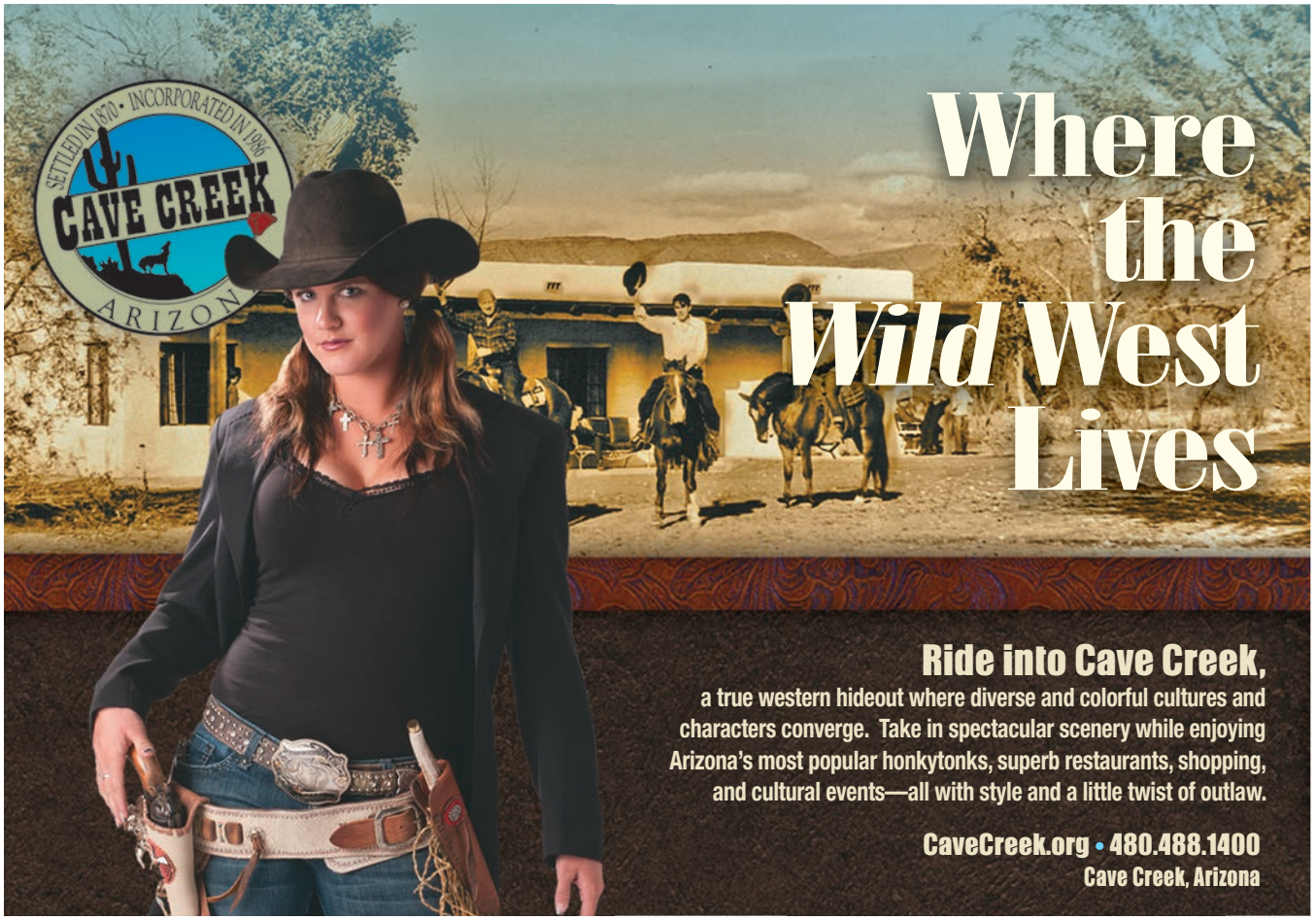
– COURTESY YVONNE LASHMETT –

Durango's history lives on in the town's many heritage events, such as the *True West* Railfest, the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, the Bar D Chuckwagon Suppers, Durango Fiesta Days and many rodeos.

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

OTHER HISTORIC LODGINGS

General Palmer Hotel (1898)
Rochester Hotel (1892)
Gable House B&B (1892)


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The historic Columbia County Courthouse, built in 1887, is the oldest working courthouse in the state of Washington.

– COURTESY NICK PAGE PHOTOGRAPHY –

NUMBER 3 DAYTON, WASHINGTON

Thanks to Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Dayton's history extends more than two centuries.

The intrepid explorers camped on the banks of Patit Creek, just east of modern-day Dayton, in 1806, during the return leg of their historic journey. Local lore has it that several nearby Indian tribes once used what is now Main Street as racing grounds.

The town today boasts an impressive number of historic structures.

Dayton has three historic districts, each noted for its architecture. Between 1880 and 1910 many of the town's more prosperous citizens built their homes and commercial buildings in a remarkable variety of styles—Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic and Craftsman. Today 90 of those buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

But the town's most notable building is the Dayton Depot, the oldest in the state. It was built in 1881 for passengers on the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company line. In 1899 it was moved (using roller logs, horses and a winch) to Dayton's booming downtown area.

The depot closed in 1972, but reopened to the public in 1981 as a museum. Not surprisingly, it is listed on the Local, State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Dayton also has Oregon's oldest working county courthouse, built in 1887. It has been carefully restored to its original splendor.

The historic county seat honors its past with an assortment of walking tours, annual festivals, home tours and ongoing preservation and restoration projects.

The Historic Dayton Pathway in the heart of town takes visitors by the depot, as well as Caboose Park, Smith Hollow School and a striking bronze statue of Sacagawea.

The 37-acre Lewis & Clark Trail State Park stands a few miles west of Dayton along the Touchet River. When Lewis and Clark passed through this site in 1806, they commented on its unusual vegetation—an old-growth forest surrounded by arid grasslands. The park is situated on the historic Nimipooiskit Trail that runs from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. A few remnants of the trail can still be seen near the park.

TRUE WEST TOWNS TO KNOW

Bishop, California

This charming little town in the eastern Sierras is renowned for its annual Mule Days Celebration, in which more than 700 mules compete in over 180 events. Folks there are working to build an American Mule Museum to honor the sturdy beasts that played such an important role in building the Old West.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Way back in 1912, Calgary held a little "Frontier Days and Cowboy Championship Contest." It went over so well they decided to do it again in 1919. Over the years it's grown into the "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth," a.k.a. the Calgary Stampede.

LeClaire, Iowa

Today the birthplace of "Buffalo Bill" Cody may be better known as the base of the History Channel's hit show *American Pickers*. After a visit to host Mike Wolfe's shop, Antique Archaeology, stroll downtown to check out the Buffalo Bill Museum, enjoy a tasting at the Mississippi River Distilling Company and a steak at Sneaky Pete's Bar & Grill.

Cave Creek, Arizona

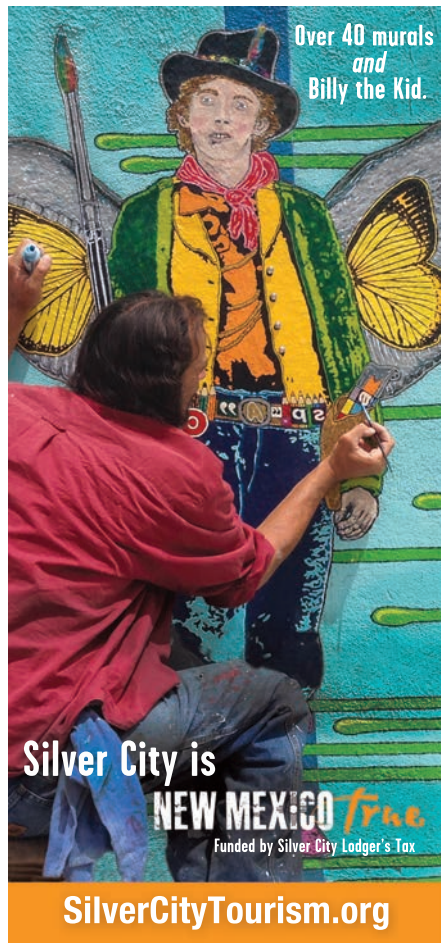
Horses tied to the hitching post at Harold's Cave Creek Corral are just one sign that Cave Creek is still a Wild West town. It is a place to live the Western lifestyle, with miles of scenic riding trails and plenty of honky-tonks, great restaurants like Cartwright's Sonoran Ranch House and Old West boutiques such as Valerie's.

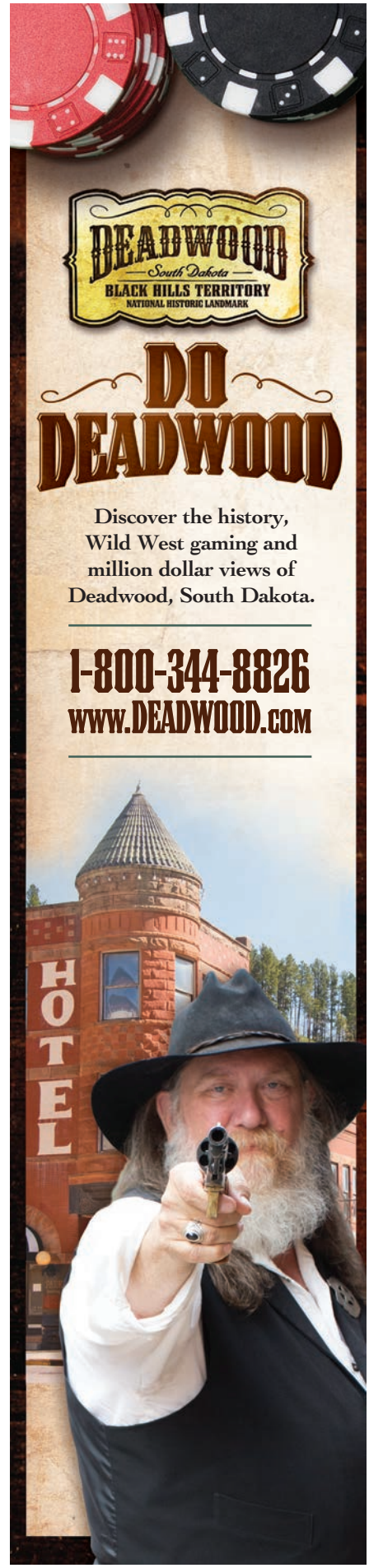
Prescott, Arizona

Founded 150 years ago, Prescott was Arizona's first territorial capital. Learn more about its fascinating history at the Sharlot Hall Museum, then visit the historic town square, where numerous festivals are held throughout the year, including the Prescott Frontier Days & Rodeo held every 4th of July. Don't miss the Palace, Arizona's oldest frontier saloon, located on the town square's aptly named Whiskey Row.


Prescott, Arizona







TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 4 BUFFALO, WYOMING



Re-enactors demonstrate what daily life was like on the frontier during the Living History Days at Buffalo's Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum.

– COURTESY BUFFALO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –

In 1892, Buffalo was not much more than a haven for the renegades and rustlers who controlled, well, pretty much everything around: local politics, courts and even juries.

At least that was the excuse of a group of cattle barons who banded together, with a long list of men they intended to hang or shoot, to invade the county in early April 1892.

So began the Johnson County War, one of the most infamous clashes of the Old West.

Today Buffalo, with a population of around 4,600 people, is the peaceful seat of Johnson County, nestled at the base of the scenic Big Horn Mountains.

The town was founded in 1879, just a few years before the War, on a buffalo trail that forded a tributary of the Powder River.

Many of the Old West's best known characters passed through—or stayed in—Buffalo over the years, including Calamity Jane, Tom Horn, Teddy Roosevelt and, of course, "Buffalo Bill" Cody himself.

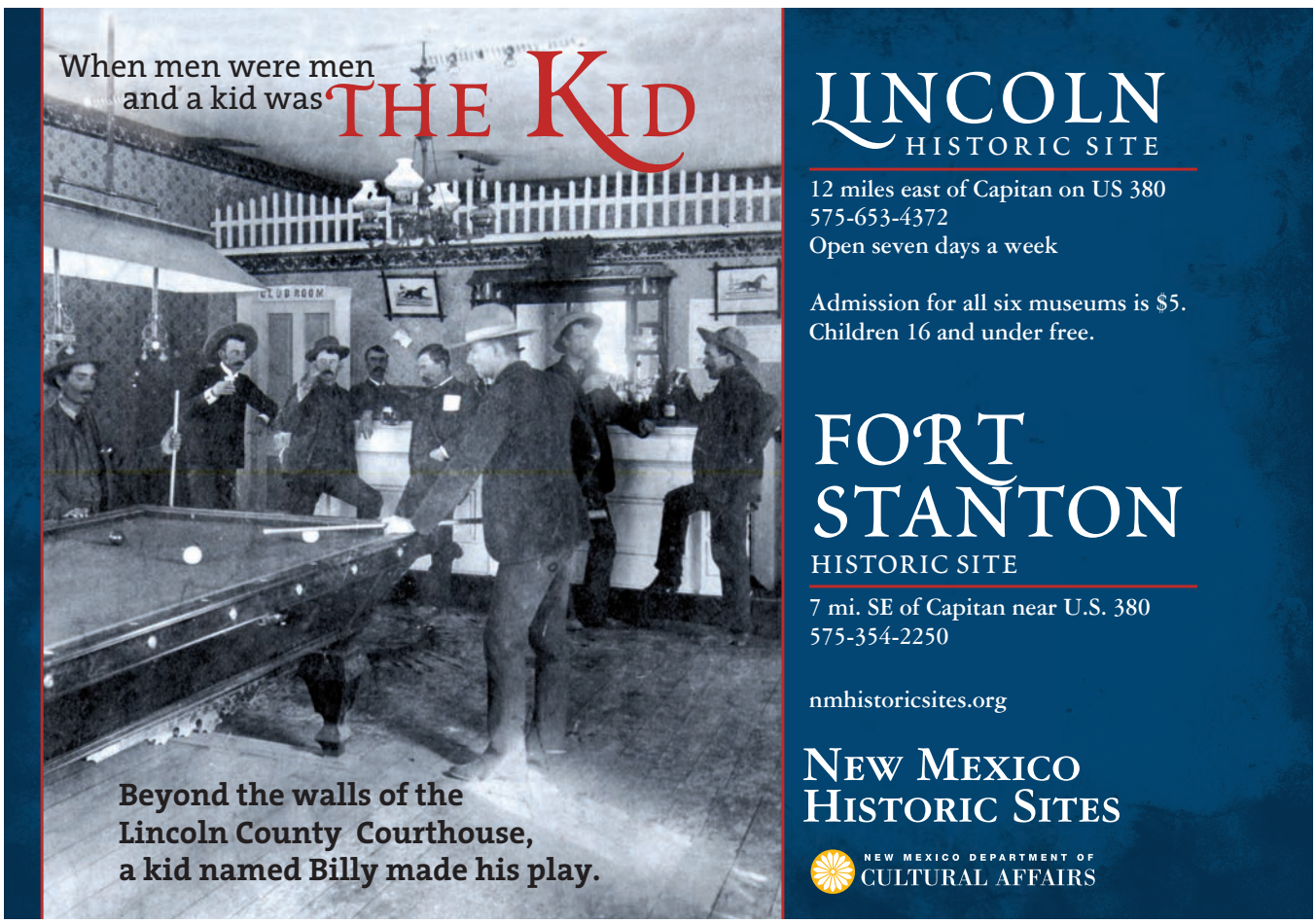
Owen Wister apparently based many of the characters in *The Virginian* (generally considered the first Western novel) on some of the people he'd met while staying at the Occidental Hotel, which has been painstakingly restored.

Learn more about Buffalo's storied past at the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, originally a pharmacy that Gatchell opened in 1900.

Over the years Gatchell received a number of gifts from cowboys, settlers and Indians alike. As his collection grew, residents started giving him all kinds of mementos related to the region's history. After Gatchell's death in 1954, his family donated his collection to the county.

Members of the Living Historians of the Wyoming Frontier often appear at the museum, giving visitors a look into the lives of blacksmiths, gamblers, laundresses, cavalry officers and other everyday people living on the late 19th-century frontier.

You'll find the TA Ranch Historic District a little south of Buffalo. Look for bullet holes in the old barn, where the last desperate standoff of the Johnson County War took place.





TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 5 FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

The tranquil grounds of the Fort Smith National Historic Site belie their bloody past. It was here that "Hanging Judge" Isaac C. Parker sent nearly 80 men to the gallows as he worked to bring law and order to the unruly Indian Territory.

– COURTESY FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE –

Talk about mission impossible.

The federal court at Fort Smith was charged with keeping the peace in the Indian Territory, a vast and untamed land where many of the Old West's most famous lawmen and notorious outlaws crossed paths.

But that thankless task is what makes Fort Smith so revered by history buffs and attractive to tourists today.

A good place to start a visit is Miss Laura's Social Club, a former sporting house that now serves as the town's official visitors center. The gracious, two-story Victorian "hotel" was the first brothel to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Check out the "Hell on the Border" jail, a replica gallows, Judge Isaac Parker's courtroom and a slew of exhibits on outlaws and lawmen at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Firearms enthusiasts will enjoy the site's collection of revolvers and rifles, which features one of the legendary 1873 Winchesters, the "gun that won the West." It also offers exhibits on outlaws like Belle Starr, Bill Doolin and Cherokee Bill.

The Fort Smith Museum of History, located in the 1907 Atkinson-Williams Warehouse Building, holds the original furnishings of Judge Parker, as well as information on legends such as Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves. The museum also hosts special events like the "Saturday Strolls" with Judge and Mrs. Parker, re-enactors who take visitors on a short walk of the area while discussing its history.

Fund raising efforts continue for the U.S. Marshals Museum. When complete, the museum will feature a Hall of Honor to recognize all the U.S. marshals, deputy marshals and special deputies killed in the line of duty. The museum will also display many artifacts associated with some of the greatest lawmen of the Old West, men like Bill Tilghman, Chris Madsen and Heck Thomas.

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TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 6
LUBBOCK, TEXAS



Something is always cooking at Lubbock's annual National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, touted as the world's largest gathering of cowboys.

– COURTESY NATIONAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM –

It's tough to have a more historic foundation than Lubbock.

It was, after all, named after Thomas S. Lubbock, a man who took part in the 1835 siege of San Antonio de Bexar and served as a Confederate officer in the Civil War.

The modern city came about in 1890, when two smaller towns—Old Lubbock and Monterey—united.

Although it had just 50 residents to start with, Lubbock became the county seat less than a year after being established. It incorporated in 1909, the same year the first train pulled into town.

Preservationists work hard here to promote and protect Lubbock's rich Western history.

The National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC), a museum and historical park, houses nearly 50 authentic structures dating back to the 1700s. The 27.5-acre facility was created specifically to preserve the history of pioneer life and ranching in North America.

Structures from some of the West's best-known ranches have been carefully relocated to the NRHC. Each building reflects the geography of its original location, often by the materials used in its construction.

Strolling about today you'll marvel at historic windmills, barns, corrals and pens, as well as a bunkhouse, a one-room schoolhouse and a blacksmith shop. There's even a locomotive and a depot.

Homes range from a primitive cabin made of cactus stalks that were chinked with mud to an elegant two-story ranch home purchased from a mail-order catalog. Each building has been restored, furnished and outfitted to reflect the time period of its construction.

The museum, which often hosts special events to illustrate what pioneer life was like, also holds artifacts ranging from spurs to firearms.

The annual National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration (generally regarded as the largest cowboy gathering in the world) brings in cowboys, ranchers and Old West enthusiasts from across the country.

The four-day event, held Thursday–Sunday after Labor Day, includes entertainers, poetry and storytelling; Western writers and author's panels; seminars on Western films; a Youth Wild West Day; horse-handling demonstrations, Indian activities and presentations; a horse-themed parade; and the ever-popular chuckwagon cook-off.

TRUE WEST TOWNS TO WATCH

Red Cloud, Nebraska
Catch a show at the 1885 opera house or stroll through more than 600 acres of never-been-plowed native prairie in Red Cloud, the childhood home of Willa Cather, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *O Pioneers!* and other classics.

Telluride, Colorado
Originally a mining camp called "Columbia," Telluride boomed when the railroad arrived in 1890. But after the silver market went bust, the town reinvented itself—first as a ski resort, then as host to a variety of cultural festivals.

Juneau, Alaska
Check out the Last Chance Mining Museum to see historical mining buildings and an underground exhibit on hard rock mining in Juneau, named after prospector Joe Juneau (even though Tlingit Chief Kowee was the one who led him to the gold).

Gunnison-Crested Butte, Colorado
The Gunnison Pioneer Museum displays a restored turn-of-the-20th-century schoolhouse, the town's first post office and a railroad depot among other treasures. And the entire town of Crested Butte was designated a National Historic District in 1974.

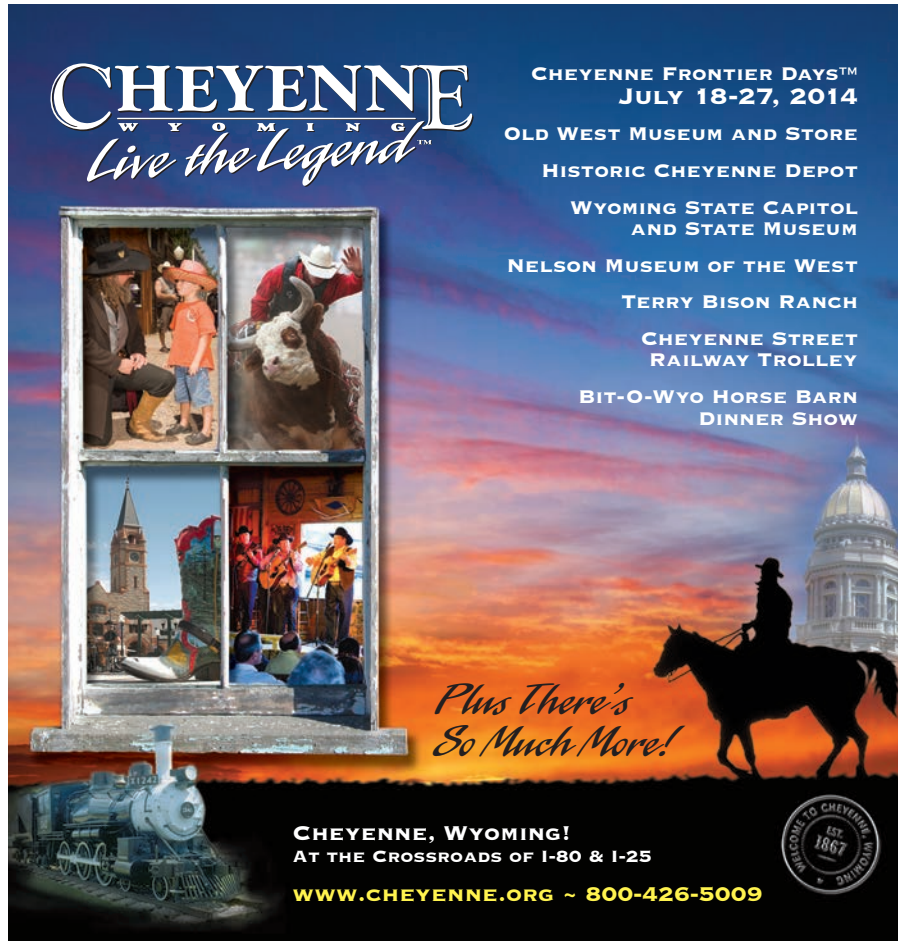
Cody, Wyoming
Buffalo Bill himself spearheaded the effort to build this town in the Bighorn Basin. His legacy lives on at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and the ever-popular Irma Hotel, named for his daughter.

Fort Davis, Texas
We can't wait to see the new exhibits at the Fort Davis National Historic Site this year. Meanwhile, the Overland Trail Museum holds diverse artifacts such as firearms and arrowheads to Victorian antiques and a frontier barbershop.

Checotah, Oklahoma
Just two weeks after Gettysburg, thousands of troops fought at Honey Springs near Checotah. The largest Civil War battle in the Indian Territory is re-enacted every few years. In 2013 the battlefield was named a National Historic Landmark.

Silver City, New Mexico
When ore was discovered there in 1870, the area known to Hispano settlers as La Cienega de San Vicente was renamed Silver City. Billy the Kid, then known as Henry McCarty, grew up and was arrested for the first time here. Shortly thereafter, he made his first jailbreak.





TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 7 THE DALLES, OREGON



A wagon train seems to ride straight out of the Old West and into The Dalles area of Oregon.

– COURTESY THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –

Lewis and Clark called it "Rock Fort" when they camped there in the fall of 1805. It was a good spot, so they stayed there again on their return journey the following spring.

The historic camp is now on the Riverfront Trail in The Dalles, the original end of the Oregon Trail.

The area's modern history began in 1838, when missionaries established the Wascopam Mission near Pulpit Rock.

Thousands of immigrants passed through the vicinity during the Great Migration of 1843.

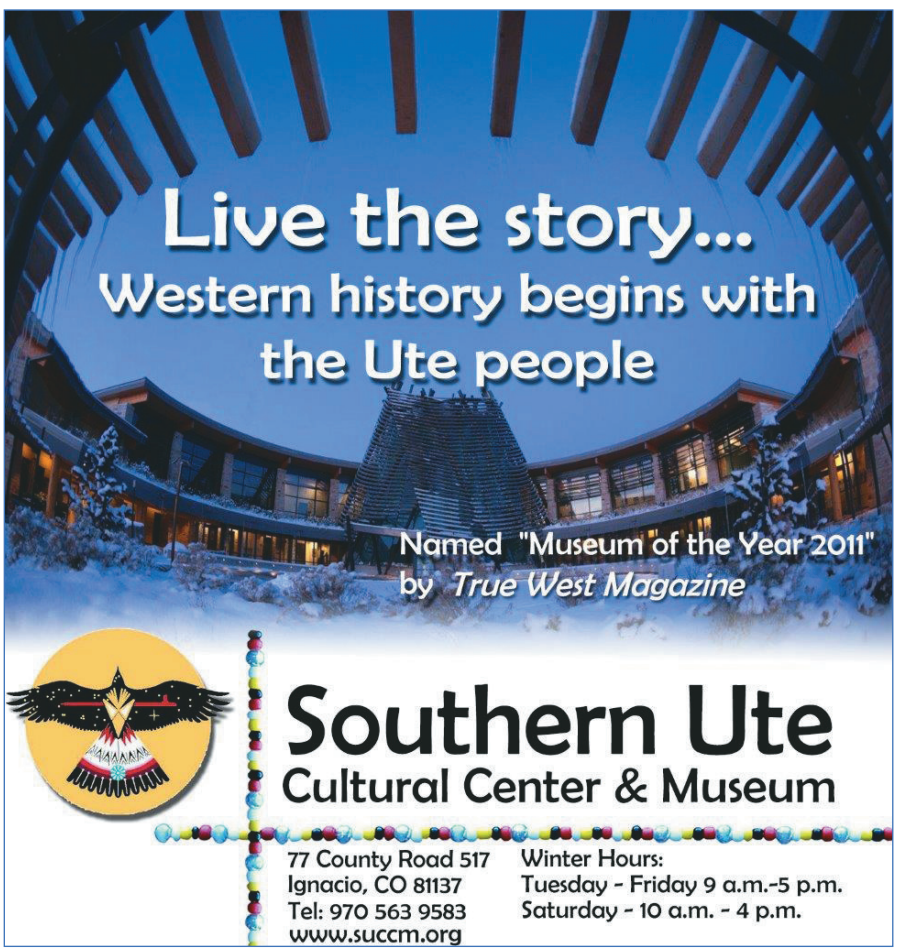
But not until after the Whitman Massacre of 1847 did the military move into the area. Its stronghold was first called Camp Drum, but soon became Fort Dalles. It was an important base of operations through the Cayuse and Yakama Indian wars.

The fort's Surgeon's Quarters, built in 1856, now holds the Fort Dalles Museum, one of Oregon's oldest.

Between 1850 and 1860 the area around the outpost exploded into Dalles City, a ragtag "town" of 10,000 or so settlers, soldiers, missionaries and prospectors, many of whom lived in tents.

The Wasco County Courthouse, built in 1850, housed the sheriff's office, three jail cells and a courtroom, which was often used as a public meeting place. It was the first courthouse west of the Rocky Mountains. When you visit, be sure to check out the original leg shackles and the ball and chain used to restrain prisoners.

The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area trace the history of the region from the ice ages through the arrival of the pioneers. The vistas are pretty spectacular, too.







"Billy the Kid" rides again during the Billy the Kid Pageant, the highlight of the annual Old Lincoln Days at the Lincoln Historic Site.

– COURTESY ERIC MALDONADO –

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 8 LINCOLN, NEW MEXICO

When Spanish pioneers settled in the fertile valley of the Rio Bonito in 1849, they named their community La Placita.

But around 1869, the name was changed to Lincoln.

Less than a decade later, the town became the center of the Lincoln County War, a bloody conflict over the economic and political control of Lincoln County, at the time the largest county in the United States.

It all started—at least the shooting part of it—when partisans shot John Tunstall, a wealthy, 24-year-old businessman, in the head on February 18, 1878.

By September, things had spiraled so far out of control that President Rutherford B. Hayes removed the corrupt Samuel Axtell from the New Mexico Territory governor's office and appointed Lew Wallace (a Civil War general who later wrote *Ben-Hur*) in his stead.

Eventually Wallace proclaimed an amnesty for all those involved in the Lincoln County War, as long as they weren't already under indictment. The proclamation did not include Billy the Kid.

Lincoln today is a beautifully preserved monument to that chaotic period of New Mexico's history.

The town boasts five museums, each housed within historic buildings and operated together as the Lincoln Historic Site. It includes 17 structures and outbuildings and is the most popular state monument in New Mexico, with up to 40,000 visitors a year.

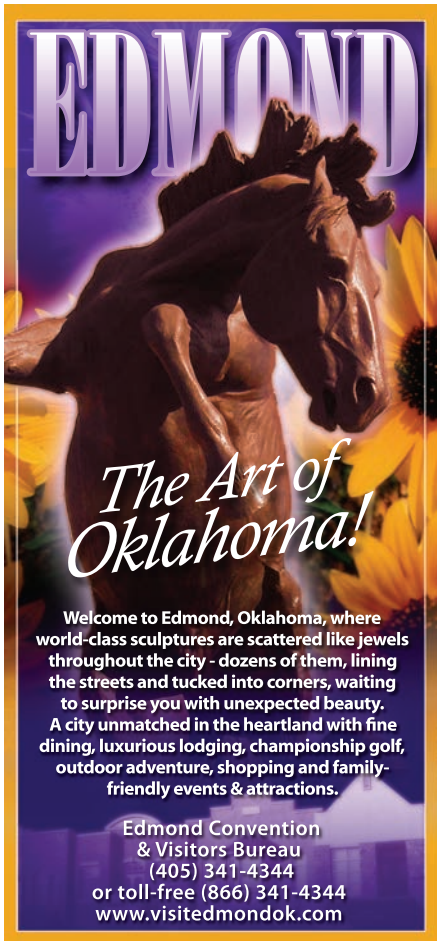
The Anderson-Freeman Museum features exhibits in a timeline starting with the original Indian occupation of the region.

Learn more about the War at the Old Lincoln County Courthouse, used at one time or another as a private home, Masonic Lodge, store and jail.

You'll also want to check out the Dr. Woods House, the village's defensive rock tower (the Torreon), the San Juan Church and the Montaño Store.

In the course of a jailbreak in Lincoln, Billy the Kid killed Deputy U.S. Marshal Robert Olinger and Deputy J.W. Bell. When the breakout occurred, Olinger had been eating at the Wortley Hotel. Hence today's motto: "No guests gunned down in over 100 years."











NUMBER 9 TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA



Ladies dressed in the latest Victorian fashions still stroll the streets of Tombstone, bringing a touch of elegance to the "town too tough to die."

– COURTESY TOMBSTONE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –

Folks laughed at Ed Schieffelin.

The only thing he'd find in the desolate hills of southern Arizona, they told the mule-headed prospector, would be his own tombstone.

Ol' Ed had the last laugh, though. His 1877 silver strike led to the establishment of one of the swankest of the Old West's innumerable boomtowns. Tombstone's mines produced tens of millions of dollars worth of silver before flooding out in the 1880s.

While silver may have brought people to Tombstone, it's history that keeps the town alive today. To say the "town too tough to die" is dedicated to its heritage is to absurdly understate the case. Around these parts, it's the Old West—all day, every day.

Things to put on your must-see list include:

The Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral. Sure, the daily reenactment of the most glorified gang fight in history is kind of touristy. But it's also a lot of fun, and educational to boot. Tombstone, long a favorite of tourists, as well as a magnet for historians and preservationists, has finally made it as one of Top 10 True Western Towns because of its community's recommitment to heritage, history and preservation. The town now has an excellent committee of volunteers who host superior annual events in honor of Tombstone's history and work hard to promote travel and tourism to Tombstone and Cochise County.

The Bird Cage Theatre was once Tombstone's premier entertainment venue. Visiting today you can practically hear the raucous crowds and visualize the gentlemen and their rent-'em-by-the-hour lady friends in the box seats on either side of the bullet-riddled theatre.

Don't miss the back room, which the proprietors claim was the site of the longest continuously running poker game in history—eight years, five months and three days.

Boothill Graveyard is a sometimes funny, other times somber, reminder of just how violent and unpredictable life could be in 1880s Tombstone.

The old Tombstone Courthouse, now a member of the Arizona State Parks system, holds a wonderful assortment of artifacts, as well as a replica gallows in the courtyard.

See presses and other equipment used by the longest continuously published newspaper in Arizona at *The Tombstone Epitaph* Museum. Founded in 1880, The *Epitaph* still publishes a monthly national edition.

TRUE WEST TOWNS TO WATCH

Custer, South Dakota

Custer State Park, South Dakota's first and largest park, holds 73,000 acres of spectacular scenery. The park's famous Buffalo Roundup takes place on September 26 this year.

Panguitch, Utah

The town's annual Quilt Walk Festival (held every June) honors the seven men who walked 40 miles to save the town's settlers from starvation during the winter of 1864. The only way to get through the snow was to walk on quilts, pick them up and put them down, over and over again.

Virginia City, Montana

In 1864, Virginia City had a population of over 10,000. Today only about 150 hardy folks live there year-round, but it's one of the West's best-preserved gold mining towns from the 1860s, with more than 100 historical buildings, many complete with artifacts and furnishings.

Pocatello, Idaho

Like many gateway communities, the town prospered as pioneers, prospectors and settlers on the Oregon Trail passed through Portneuf Gap, south of today's Pocatello. Don't miss the Standrod Mansion, the stately, chateau-like home built for a prominent lawyer in 1902.

Bisbee, Arizona

The one-time "Queen of the Copper Camps" has since re-invented itself as an artist colony that relishes its Old West heritage. The Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum is the single best way to learn about the town's history.

Medora, North Dakota

Teddy Roosevelt came here to hunt buffalo in 1883. Eventually he would own two large ranches in the area, and he often credited his later success to his experiences in Medora. Today, Theodore Roosevelt National Park covers 110 square miles of the ruggedly beautiful North Dakota Badlands.

Northfield, Minnesota

Things did not go well for the James-Younger Gang when they tried to rob the First National Bank of Northfield back in 1876. The town still celebrates the "Defeat of Jesse James Days," a four-day affair featuring re-enactments of the robbery-gone-bad, a parade and the town's beloved horseshoe hunt.





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TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2014

NUMBER 10 LEWISTON, IDAHO

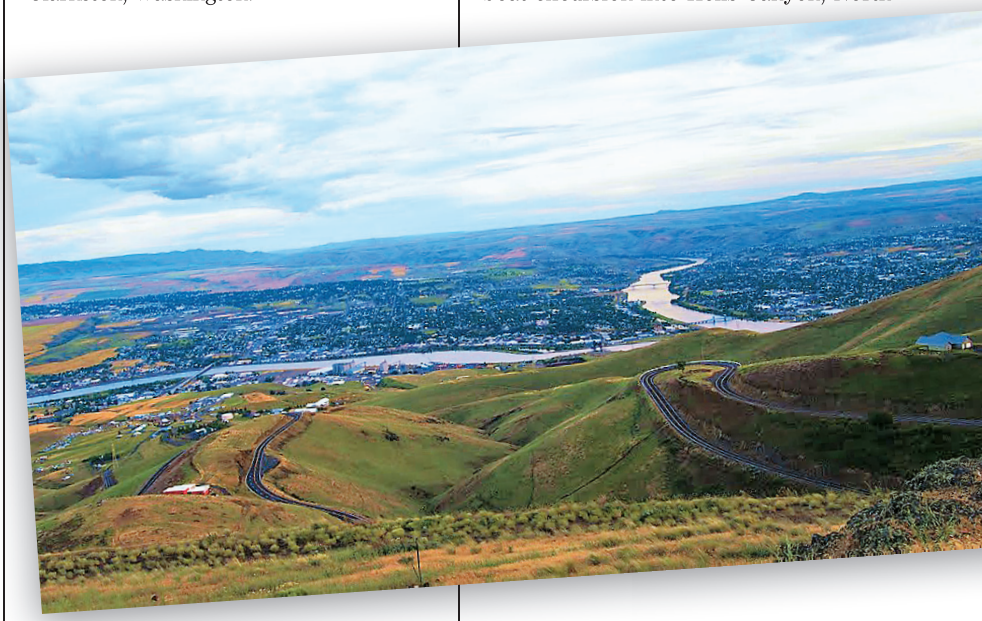
As you might deduce from its name, Lewiston focuses its history squarely on the two young captains who led one of the most extraordinary explorations of all time.

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their celebrated Corps of Discovery camped overnight on an island near the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers located near what are today the sister cities of Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington.

The Lewis and Clark Discovery Center at Hells Gate State Park features several interpretive displays, as well as information about the expedition's difficult traverse of the Bitterroot Mountains.

You'll find the Nez Perce National Historic Park, with 24 separate interpretive sites on the history and customs of the Nez Perce Tribe, about 11 miles southeast of Lewiston.

For a different perspective, take a jet boat excursion into Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river gorge, to learn a little about sunken steamboats and ancient petroglyphs. Your guides will also point out some of the area's mining claims, historic river crossings and jaw-dropping geological formations.



Lewiston was founded in 1861 at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, mostly to provide easy access to nearby goldfields. Today visitors can enjoy panoramic vistas of the Snake River Valley from the top of Lewiston Hill.

– COURTESY HELLS GATE STATE PARK –

A guided walking tour of historic downtown Lewiston is one of the best ways to get an overview of the area.

Among the many historic sites in the region you'll find:

The Confluence Center, located atop the levee in Lewiston, where a marker notes the expedition's 1805 campsite. You will find several open-air interpretive displays nearby.

And you can't miss Nancy Dreher's striking sculpture *Tsceminicum* ("meeting of the waters"), which expresses many elements of Nez Perce lore.

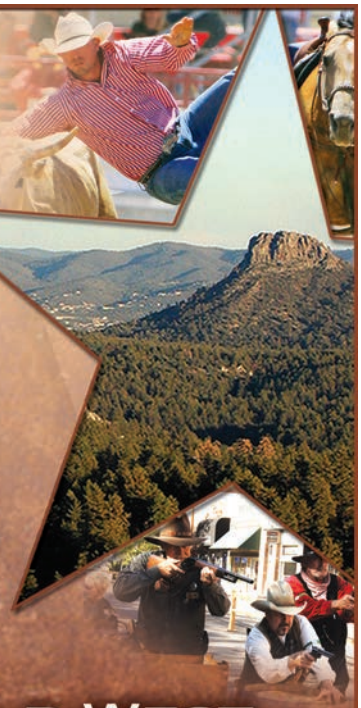
The Lewis and Clark Timeline at the Hells Canyon Resort Marina in Clarkston depicts just some of the adventures the expedition encountered during their journey.

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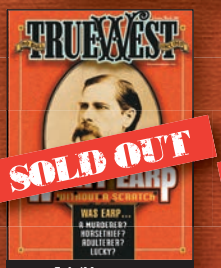
Aug-2000
John Wayne



Sep-2000
Border Breed



May/Jun-2001
Doc Holliday



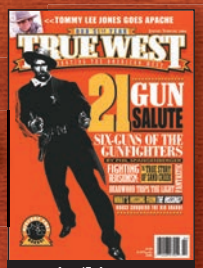
Feb/Mar-2001
Wyatt Earp



Feb/Mar-2002
Texas Rangers



Jul-2003
Doc & Wyatt



Jan/Feb-2004
Six Guns



Jan/Feb-2005
Rare Photos



Mar-2005
Deadwood/McShane



Oct-2006
Tombstone/125th OK Corral



May-2007
Billy The Kid



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Wyatt on the Set

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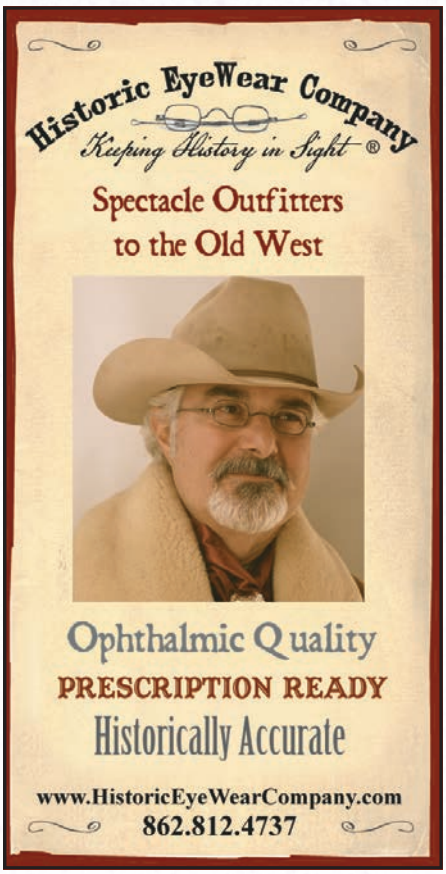














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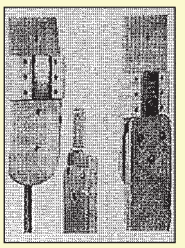
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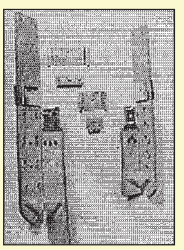
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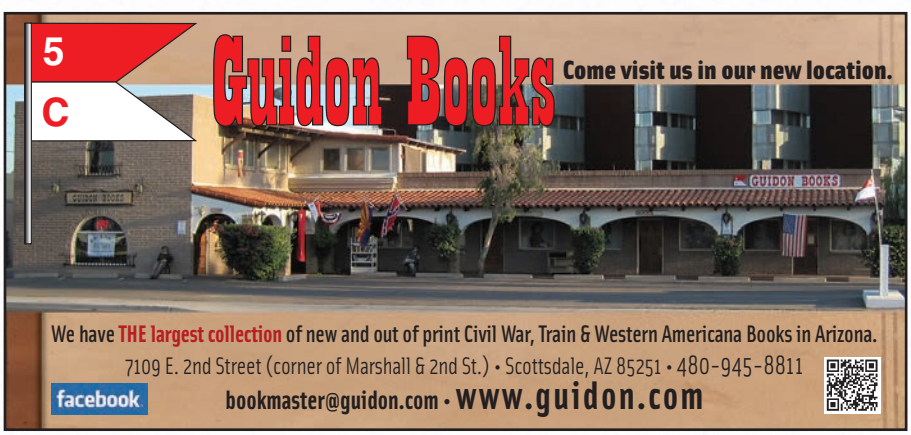
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Western Roundup

FOR FEBRUARY 2014





TALL TALES OF THE WILD WEST: THE STORIES OF KARL MAY

Santa Fe, NM, Closes February 9: Celebrate the life, legacy and numerous stories of the bestselling European author of Westerns, Karl May, shown here.
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NMHistoryMuseum.org

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Alpine, TX, Starts February 22: Nation's second-oldest trappings show, held since 1986, offers cowboy gear and Western art, such as Buckeye Blake's *Sky High on Glass Eye Under Two Sky*.
432-837-8143 • *SulRoss.edu/museum*

ART SHOW

WIGWAM FESTIVAL OF FINE ART

Litchfield Park, AZ, February 14-16: World-class art and entertainment with award-winning Western, American Indian and Southwestern artists.
623-734-6526 • *Litchfield-Park.org*

COMPETITIONS

SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Scottsdale, AZ, February 13-23: 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*

DONALD E. ERICKSON MEMORIAL CHARIOT RACES

Saratoga, WY, February 15-16: Bet on your favorite teams from Wyoming and Colorado as they race two-horse chariots down a quarter-mile track.
307-326-8855 • *WyomingCarbonCounty.com*

FUNDRAISERS

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

Bismarck, ND, February 15: An evening of tantalizing chocolate treats and a silent auction that benefits Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons.
701-223-4525 • *GSDakotaHorizons.org*

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*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

NATIVE TRAILS

Scottsdale, AZ, February 1-27: In this celebration's 12th year, American Indians perform traditional dances and offer up native food and wares.
800-782-1117 • *ScottsdalePerformingArts.org*

ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

Gold Canyon, AZ, Starts February 8: Old West time travelers can take in medieval arts and crafts, jousting tournaments and an outdoor circus.
520-463-2600 • *RoyalFaires.com*



CHAMA SNO-BALL BALLOON RALLY

Chama, NM, February 22: In this festival held since 1997, massive hot air balloons and crews gather to fill the skies above Chama with beautiful colors.
575-756-2306 • *ChamaValley.com*

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Western Roundup

FOR FEBRUARY 2014



SPIRIT OF THE WEST COWBOY GATHERING

Ellensburg, WA, February 14-17: A celebration of traditional cowboy art, poetry and music, including a performance from Riders in the Sky (above), as well as a cowboy gear and art show with workshops.
888-925-2204 • *EllensburgCowboyGathering.com*



GOLD RUSH DAYS AND SENIOR PRO RODEO

Wickenburg, AZ, February 14-16: The Senior Pro Rodeo is just one of the numerous events at the 66th annual celebration of Wickenburg's mining and ranching origins.
928-684-0977 • *WickenburgChamber.com*

BUFFALO BILL'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Golden, CO, February 22: Gathering of Old West re-enactors and history buffs celebrating William Cody's birthday at the Rock Rest Lodge.
303-279-3342 • *BuffaloBillDays.com*

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AND *THE VIRGINIAN* CAST REUNION

Lockhart, TX, Opens February 28: Demonstrations of how the pioneers lived during the 1800s, plus watch *The Virginian* with the cast members!
512-227-1389
TexasIndependenceDay.Homestead.com

HORSE FAIR

OKLAHOMA HORSE FAIR

Duncan, OK, February 7-9: Enjoy the Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo, the horse, mule and pony show, an equine trade show and working cowdog clinics.
405-226-0630 • *OKHorseFair.com*



11TH STREET COWBOY MARDI GRAS

Bandera, TX, February 20-22: Cowboys and Cajuns come together to celebrate Mardi Gras in Bandera, which calls itself the "Cowboy Capital of the World."
830-796-4849 • *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*

MUSIC & POETRY

JAM SESSIONS AT THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL

Buffalo, WY, Thursdays in February: Local musicians gather to perform some of the best Bluegrass, Western and Folk music in the land.
307-684-0451 • *BuffaloWyo.com*

COCHISE COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING

Sierra Vista, AZ, February 7-9: Showcases cowboy musicians, such as Juni Fisher and the Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, and poets, such as Mike Dunn.
520-417-9776 • *CowboyPoets.com*

TEXAS COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Alpine, TX, February 21-22: Doris Daley, Allan Chapman, Washtub Jerry and others celebrate the oral tradition of the working cowboy.
800-561-3712 • *Cowboy-Poetry.org*

PARADE

PARADA DEL SOL

Scottsdale, AZ, February 8: Celebrating its 61st year, the horse-drawn parade features mountain men re-enactors and more.
480-990-3179 • *ParadaDelSol.us*

TOUR

LAKE LUCERO TOUR

Alamogordo, NM, February 22: Learn about the formation, plants and animals of the White Sands on a tour to the dry Lake Lucero.
575-679-2599 • *Alamogordo.com*

TRAIN RIDE

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRAIN & NIGHT PHOTO SHOOT

Durango, CO, February 15-16: Passengers will disembark in the wilderness to capture a K-36 train traveling along the Animas Canyon.
888-872-4607 • *DurangoTrain.com*

TWMag.com:
View Western events on our website.



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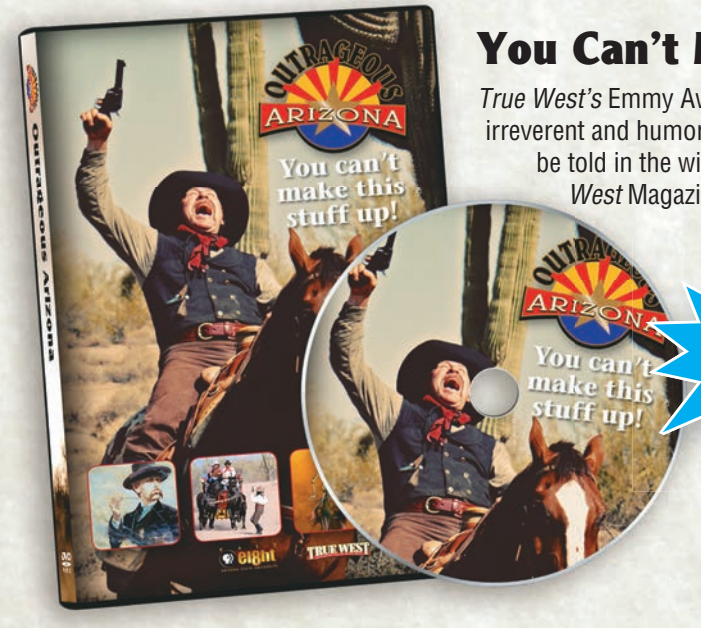
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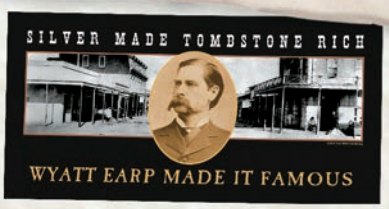
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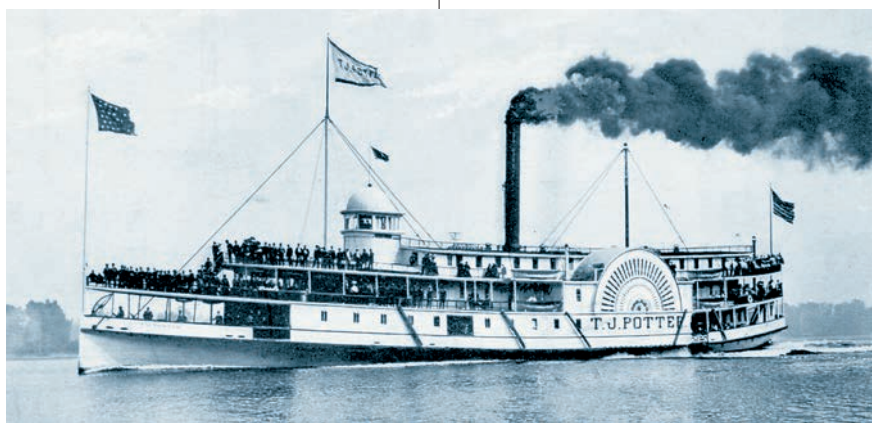
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Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian. His latest book is *Wyatt Earp: Showdown at Tombstone*. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

Riverboat Holdup?



One unverified account of a steamboat robbery reports that the Colorado River steamer *Gila* was robbed of its Eldorado Canyon gold by a man impersonating a soldier in distress.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

Did anyone ever try to rob a riverboat?

Michelle Bryner
Henderson, Nevada

That's an interesting question. I found several instances of individuals traveling on riverboats who were robbed or whose rooms were burglarized, but nothing about someone holding up a steamboat. To pull a heist on a riverboat, a large gang would have had to cover such a big transport; plus, the robbers would have needed a good escape plan.

What is the origin of the shot glass?

Bob Cox
Phoenix, Arizona

Shot glasses probably date back more than 200 years, and nobody seems to agree on just when, where and how they came about.

One origin story I like suggests "shot" refers to a small amount of whiskey. The imbiber downs the contents of the small glass, and then he slams the glass down on the bar with a resounding "shot."

Another claim: the name comes from Old West saloon patrons bellying up to the bar and trading a cartridge for a glass of whiskey. A shot for a shot, as it were.

Another version suggests the small glass is named after Friedrich Otto Schott and sold by a German glass factory around 1884.

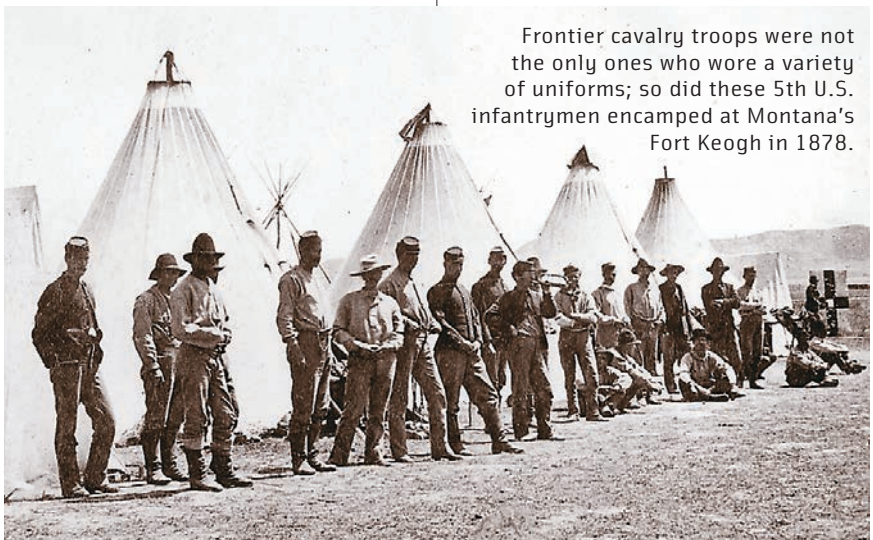
In the 1940s, the shot glass was first documented in reference to regulating the amount of liquor in a drink. By that time, owners probably put it in place to prevent bartenders from overpouring.

What clothing was issued to the cavalry troops in the Old West?

James Rowley
Laingsburg, Michigan

Near as I can tell, frontier cavalry troops were issued all the essentials, including gray or blue flannel shirts, socks and long woolen underwear. The Army-issued material was cheap and wore out quickly, and the soldier had to buy replacements. Frequently, he picked up civilian clothing, which was more comfortable and held up better. "Left to our fancy in the matter, we had fallen back upon our comfortable Arizona scouting-suits, and were attired in deerskin, buckskin, flannels and corduroy," wrote 5th Cavalry Capt. Charles King, who added, "You could not have told officer from private."

The authorities were obviously a little lax in maintaining uniform standards, especially on the frontier. But initially, every soldier got the same clothing—it didn't matter whether the weather was 40 below in Montana or 115 in the Arizona desert.

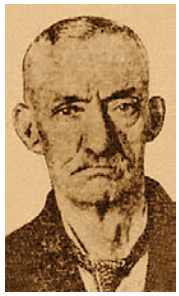


Frontier cavalry troops were not the only ones who wore a variety of uniforms; so did these 5th U.S. infantrymen encamped at Montana's Fort Keogh in 1878.

What can you tell me about Billy the Kid's brother?

Frank Cutler
Sodus, New York

Billy the Kid had a brother, or perhaps a half-brother, named Joseph Antrim. He left Arizona about 1880 and lived in Trinidad, Colorado, as a professional gambler. Some newspaper gossip claimed he was planning to shoot Pat Garrett for killing the Kid, but Joe denied it, saying he and Garrett had discussed the issue and



Although Joseph Antrim was bigger physically than his elder sibling, Billy the Kid lived a life so big that it is still writ in history.

parted amicably. Joe drifted to various New Mexico towns, such as Las Vegas and Silver City, and he spent time in Tombstone, Arizona. He wound up back in Colorado, in Denver, where he plied his trade as a small-time gambler. In 1928, a local reporter interviewed Joe, but wrote him off as "colorless."

On November 25, 1930, Joe died in poverty in Denver. His age was given as 76, but another source states 66.

What were water troughs made of?

Cathy Haustein
Pella, Iowa

More often than not, the water troughs were made of wood, but depending on location and time period, they could be made of copper or some other metal. Wooden troughs could be sealed with sap or resin from pine or cedar trees, which do a great job of holding a seal. I have a woven prehistoric American Indian basket water jug that is sealed tight with cedar resin, and it still holds water.

Were knives more expensive than firearms in the Old West?

Mike Scott
Saugus, Massachusetts

They could be more expensive. Folks on the frontier could pay anywhere from 20 cents to $120 for a knife—the more expensive ones were usually ornamental and featured a fancy or exotic handle. For most folks, a knife was a tool; a good two-blade or three-blade pocket knife could be ordered for $1.50 to $2.50. By contrast, a Colt Peacemaker pistol would cost you a $20 gold piece.



This knife is definitely more expensive than most—Billy the Kid held it when Pat Garrett shot him dead in 1881.

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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



Kelo Henderson (left) starred on *26 Men* with Tris Coffin (far left), who played the real-life Arizona Ranger Capt. Tom Rynning.

History has taught me, via the war, that I am lucky to be alive, and freedom is not free.

I got the part in *26 Men* when my agent, Harold Sloveriand, sent in a photo of me riding a horse. The show asked if I would like to use the screen name "Kelo." I never heard that before, but I said, "Yes." So, I've been Kelo ever since.

I got to meet some of the last surviving Arizona Rangers in 1957. They visited the set, and we talked about the wild old days. They told me the long distances they had to ride. They told me that if they anticipated gunplay, they would cock their guns first. It could save seconds and might save their lives.

Those Rangers looked like guys who wouldn't tell stories. But one guy, William Parmer, still carried a single-action pistol, stuck in his pants. I thought to myself, here is some history, and I'm going to photograph it (see picture at right).

I love working with anybody who knew his lines. One time, Russell Hayden (*26 Men* producer) used a local person, and this guy was full of himself. But when they pointed the camera at him, he froze and couldn't say a word. We all kinda felt for him. He tried it again and finally they had to take his wardrobe and put it on another actor to do the scene.

Before *26 Men*, I appeared on *Cheyenne* and *Tales of Wells Fargo*, plus *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* in 1958. Then I made Westerns from 1964-65 in Germany and Yugoslavia. I worked with many Westerns actors, including those who went on to other series and movies, such as Lex Barker of Tarzan fame and, later on, Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley of *Star Trek*.

My last job as an actor was working on a pilot for Alexander Studios between Denver and Pueblo, Colorado, playing the part of "lead heavy."

My favorite Western movie is *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, starring John Wayne, because he portrayed the West as I thought it might be.

My dad had a ranch outside Pueblo, Colorado. When I was growing up, he always told me to ride a horse with cowboy boots so I wouldn't get hung up in the stirrups if thrown off the horse.

In WWII, I was in the U.S. Merchant Marines, serving on troop ships, tankers and freighters as an able-bodied seaman. While on the *M.S. Western Sun*, we almost got torpedoed by a Japanese submarine after we had taken oil to Espírito Santo. I was in the crow's nest and heard a bunch of hollering. The helmsman and the first mate were turning the ship as fast as they could go, and I saw a torpedo coming at us. It either went under the ship or missed us. I immediately went to my 20 mm gun position. About six fighter planes came to our assistance. Soon after, a flying boat (PBY) arrived and stayed with us until we changed back to our original course.



KELO HENDERSON, ACTOR

Most known for playing fictional Arizona Ranger Clint Travis on the 1957-59 ABC series *26 Men,* Kelo Henderson (born Paul Henderson Jr.) met some real-life Arizona Rangers in 1957 and posed with them (above, from left): John Redmond, William Parmer and Henderson. *26 Men,* based on true official files of Arizona Rangers in the Old West, is available as a "Best of" DVD set from Shout! Factory/ Timeless Media and on Amazon Instant Video. Henderson has been named an Honorary Citizen of Arizona and an Honorary Arizona Ranger.

I received the Golden Boot award in 2003 along with William Smith, Terry Leonard, Sons of the Pioneers, Kris Kristofferson, Tommy Lee Jones and seven other well-deserving contributors to the Western movie and TV era.

My favorite place is southern Arizona because I lived there for 11 years. I loved the sunsets and milder winters.

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