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MARCH 2014

# TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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Pearl-Handled .44

Fact or  
Fiction?

Jack  
London  
in Alaska

# 10 STAND-UP GUNFIGHTS

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Hangin' Judge  
Parker

Secrets  
of the Old  
Spanish Trail

Unsung  
Hero:  
P.C. Baird

FEATURING:

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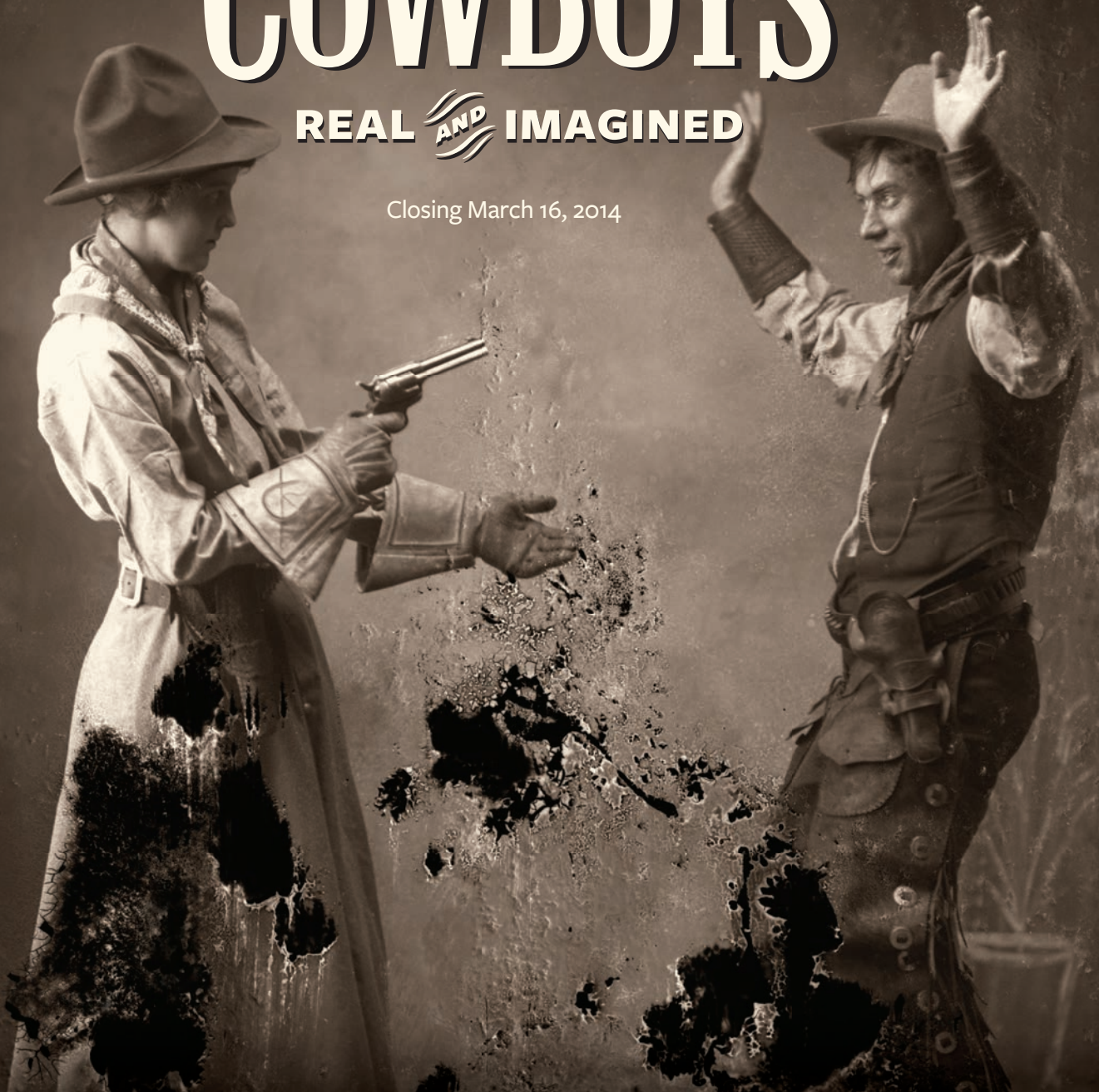
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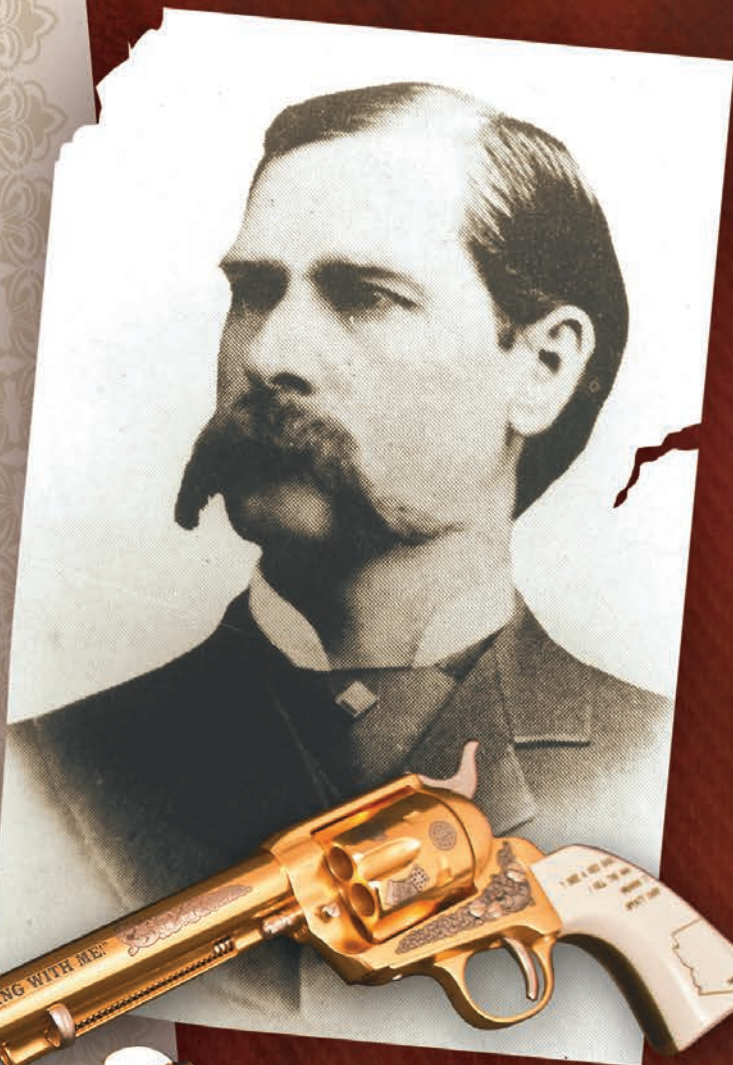


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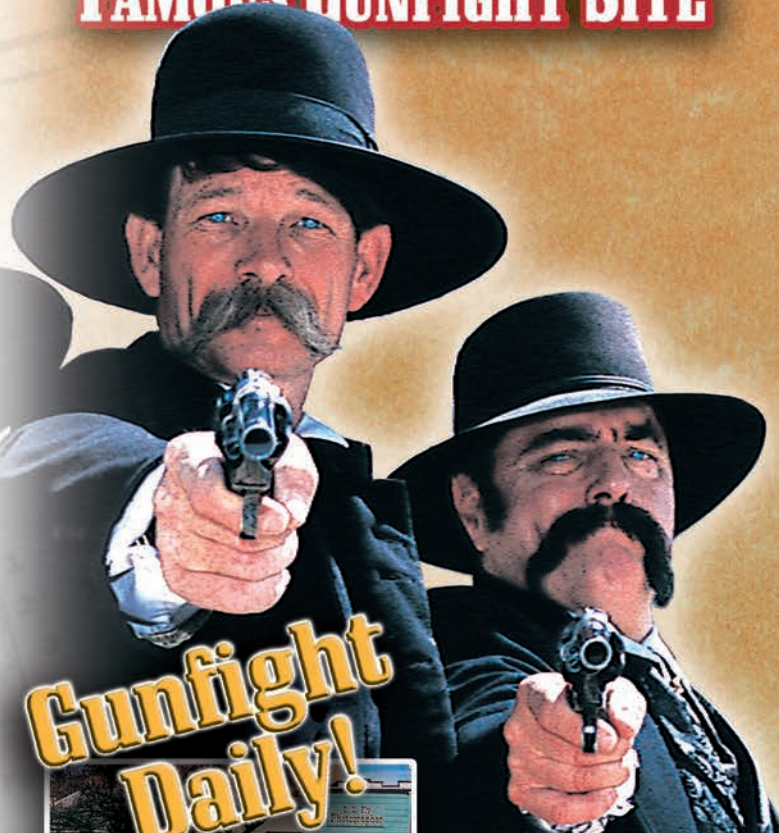
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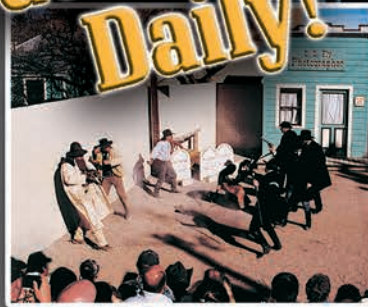
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True West captures the spirit of the West with authenticity, personality and humor by providing a necessary link from our history to our present.

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Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell and see more of his travels along historic Route 66 (search for "December 14, 2013").

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### Join the Conversation

"I can just imagine some of my ancestors traveling from Kansas to northern Saskatchewan with some of their pioneer neighbors, about 1905, to become homesteaders. I cherish pictures like this one."

-Patrick K. Best of Edmonton, Alberta



**4 OPENING SHOT**

**8 SHOOTING BACK**

**9 TO THE POINT**

**10 TRUTH BE KNOWN**

**11 INVESTIGATING HISTORY**

**12 OLD WEST SAVIORS**

**15 SHOOTING FROM THE HIP**

**18 COLLECTING THE WEST**

**34 UNSUNG**

**36 RENEGADE ROADS**

**42 WESTERNS**

**46 WESTERN BOOKS**

**52 BOGGS UNLEASHED**

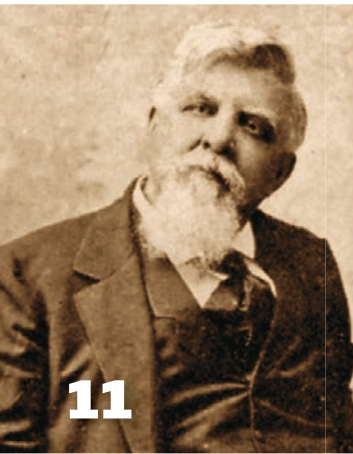
**54 FRONTIER FARE**

**56 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS**

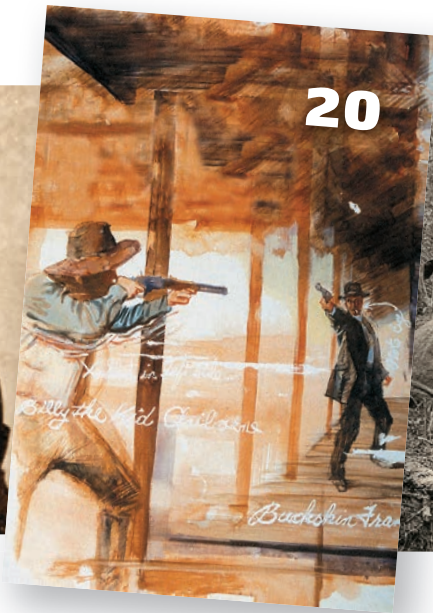
**73 WESTERN ROUNDUP**

**78 ASK THE MARSHALL**

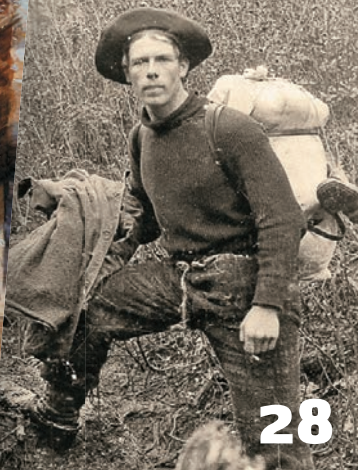
**80 WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME**



11



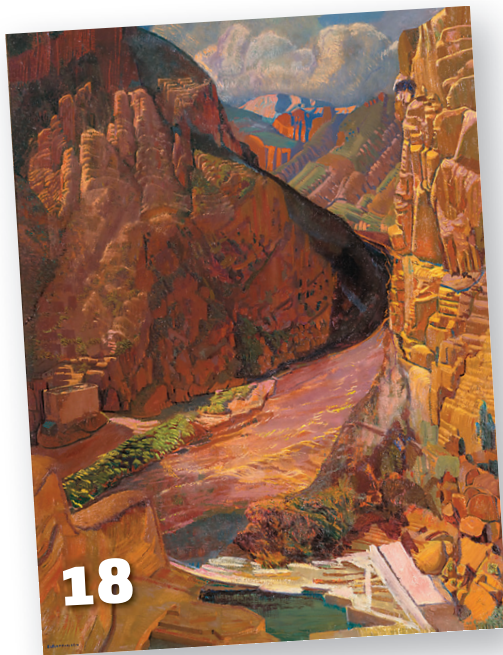
20



28



59



18

**20 10 FACE-TO-FACE, STAND-UP GUNFIGHTS**

Stand-up gunfights are not a myth of Western movies; we feature 10 of some of the best such gunfights of the Old West.

—Bob Boze Bell

**28 JACK LONDON'S ALASKA**

The first blow-by-blow account of the author's Klondike journey that inspired his tales of the last frontier.

—Mike Coppock

**59 THE BEST HISTORICAL ROADSIDE MARKERS YOU HAVE TO SEE**

Get a taste of the Old West's trappers, miners, emigrants, cowboys and more by stopping at roadside signs marking their sites.

—Stuart Rosebrook

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Cover design by Dan Harshberger



## TRUE WEST MAKES RESPECTED LADY STEAL

Must write and accuse you of making a very respected 63-year-old lady “steal” today.

Expiation of unbelievable:

I work in a nursing home. I was delayed by a resident today in his cares (he was in the bathroom), so I picked up a *True West* magazine (October 2013) off his desk. This is very out of character for me because I'm more of a *Good Housekeeping* woman! Oh, my God, p. 40—gunfight of my husband's Great Grandfather Alfred Pearson! What is so unbelievable is I do genealogy research and have documents on this gunfight! I was so excited, I stole the magazine!

Your story will make the perfect addition to the genealogy books I made for my family years ago. I ordered 12 copies—so now my Christmas shopping is done too. Thanks to you.

Guilt did get the best of me, and I confessed to the theft. Your article just jumped out at me; it was as if Mr. Cozad's shot still has continuous affects on the Alfred Pearson family. That one shot changed the lives of his family and ours, either good or bad. There are still a few ruffians in our family! The male members still have inherited tempers.

Therefore, thank you for the wonderful article. Alfred Pearson's family will treasure it for generations!

—Linda L. Pearson of Cozad, Nebraska

I am writing to advise about an error I noticed in one of the articles in the November 2013 issue. The name posted on the photo with Gene Tierney in the movie *Belle Starr* was Randolph Scott, but it should have been Dana Andrews.

I totally love your magazine and have been reading it since returning from Wickenburg, Arizona, last winter. I look forward every month to the new issue coming out and will continue to order the magazine faithfully. I just wanted the magazine to get it correct; if this person was in my family, I would want the photo to read correctly.

—Nancy M. Hansen of Gladstone, Michigan

*The Editors: Our sincere apologies to Dana Andrews' family for our misidentification.*



The lobby card for 1941's *Belle Starr* shows Gene Tierney with Dana Andrews.

— COURTESY 20TH CENTURY-FOX —

## Two Many Photos

A few keen-eyed readers wrote in to inform us that we only had 99 photographs identified in our 100 Best Historical Photos issue (January 2014). Image #37 (on p. 38) and image #58 (on p. 71) are one and the same.

This was our worst fear while putting this issue together; somehow, after counting and looking and proofing ad infinitum to pick out which of the more than 100 photos deserved to be one of the best—there it is, plain as day.

Not to worry though, we have plenty more photos to choose from—like the photo of Semanthe Fallon below. Just cut along the dotted line and paste this new #58 over the existing #58 on p. 71 of your January issue.



• THE BEST OF THE WEST • THE B



## 58 Semanthe Fallon Means Business

Tombstone businesswoman Semanthe Fallon is shown in this C.S. Fly photo, circa 1879, with an 1874 Sharps rifle, two revolvers (possibly Merwin, Hulbert & Co.) carried cross-draw style and a knife. The owner of the San Jose House hotel and a millinery shop in Tombstone, she was purportedly a “girlfriend” of Tombstone founder Ed Schieffelin. Schieffelin holds the same rifle in at least two Fly photos—leaving experts to wonder if this was Schieffelin's rifle or a Fly studio prop.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



# True Westerner

*Forrest Fenn bags our award.*

**I**f you were around in the 1950s, you know that almost every Western featured a quick-draw showdown like Gary Cooper's from *High Noon* (see Cooper above). As the years went by, historians and aficionados (especially the aficionados!) began to eat away at this concept until, by the millennium, a new conceit had emerged claiming the quick-draw showdown was all a Hollywood concoction.

Well, not so fast, Red Ryder. As we showcase in this issue, plenty of stand-up, face-to-face gunfights took place in the real Old West, which just goes to prove, the more things change, the more they remain the same.

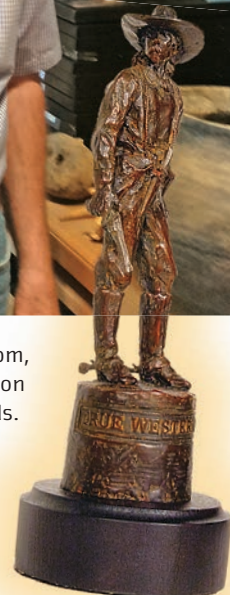
Speaking of mythic characters, Forrest Fenn, whom *Newsweek* has called a "real-life Indian Jones," is our choice for "True Westerner of the Year." The longtime Santa Fe, New Mexico, collector, entrepreneur and author stoked the national media fires last year with his \$1 million hidden treasure hunt, which, by the way, has yet to be found.

We will present Fenn the award at the Arizona Inn in Tucson, Arizona, on March 15, and you are all invited (actually, the first 50 to sign up), so come celebrate this giant of a man. Visit [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com) to purchase the \$25 tickets for the gala.



Forrest Fenn, in his pot room, dedicated to his amazing collection of Southwest pottery and shards. Fenn, 82, is still going strong.

— GARY COOPER PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES;  
FORREST FENN PHOTO BY BOB BOZE BELL;  
AWARD PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY —



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

Quotes

“We rewrite the past to serve the needs of the present.”

– Stephen Marche, The New York Times

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.”

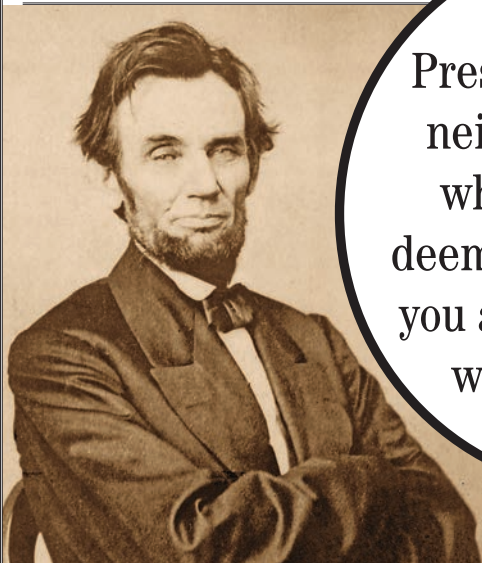
– Mark Twain

“It might be a good idea if the various countries of the world would occasionally swap history books, just to see what other people are doing with the same set of facts.”

– Bill “Mr. Starbeams” Vaughan

**“I never killed anybody, but I often read an obituary notice with great satisfaction.”**

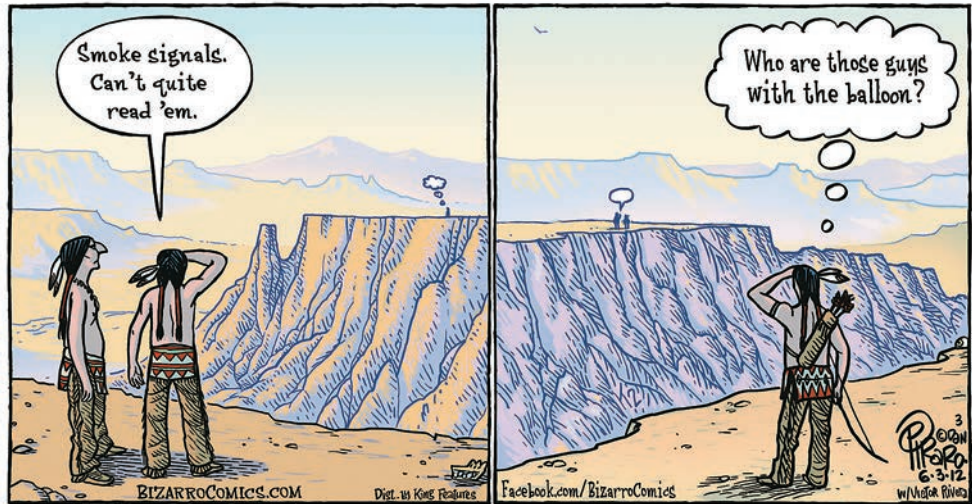
– Clarence Darrow



“Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary...and you allow him to make war at pleasure.”

– Abraham Lincoln

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



**“Get over it buddy. He died of cancer, and it was a movie.”**

– Bruce Dern, during an interview for his latest film, Nebraska, commenting on the fact that some people are still mad at him for shooting John Wayne in the 1972 film The Cowboys



Old Vaquero Saying



“When eating fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.”

# Beginning of the End

*How famed "Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker lost his power.*

**O**n May 10, 1875, a new judge came to the bench in Fort Smith, Arkansas. His territory covered about 74,000 square miles in parts of Arkansas and the Indian Territories (now eastern Oklahoma). The Western District of Arkansas was both a circuit and district court—meaning the verdicts could not be appealed (except to the president of the United States).

Isaac C. Parker had become, arguably, the most powerful judge in the country. He held dominion over life and death—which inspired his “Hanging Judge” nickname.

For 14 years, he wielded that power with diligence, a sense of duty and, yes, maybe a touch of arrogance. But his power did not last. A fair number of folks in Washington, D.C. were concerned that convicted criminals in the Western District—especially those sentenced to death—had no appeal.

Parker was also his own worst enemy. He had ticked off a lot of folks in his life, especially political opponents. The judge had a thin skin; anybody even mildly critical of him became, in Parker’s eyes, an enemy of justice and a friend of crime.

In 1883, some parts of his jurisdiction were given to courts in Texas and Kansas, at least in part to reduce Parker’s case load (unsuccessfully). Six years later, Congress eliminated the circuit



court function at Fort Smith, meaning that convictions could be appealed.

Once the law went into effect on May 1, 1889, others could legally question and change Parker’s rulings, which did not sit well with the judge—especially considering what came to pass.

**Parker made no bones about what verdict he expected (usually “guilty”).**

Between 1891 and 1897, the Supreme Court overturned over two-thirds of the Western District convictions. Forty-four of the death penalty cases came up for appeal—some of them two or three times. Thirty of them were overturned, often for errors on the part of Parker.

Frequently, the error was found in his instructions to the jury. Parker made no bones about what verdict he expected (usually “guilty”)—and the jury almost always went along with him.

Plus, Parker believed in “duty to retreat,” which argued that persons

When Henry Starr was tried for killing a deputy U.S. marshal in 1892, Judge Isaac C. Parker (left) gave jury instructions that lasted more than two hours. The Supreme Court overturned the guilty verdict and ordered a new trial, saying that Parker had misled the jury. After serving his time in jail, Starr went on to make movies, including 1919’s *A Debtor to the Law*.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



threatened with physical harm had to take every opportunity to get out of the situation before, ultimately, taking violent action to defend themselves. That wasn’t what most courts believed; a mere verbal threat could be legal justification for deadly response. The Supreme

Court overturned several Parker cases on that basis.

Parker responded by attacking the high court with tough language, accusing the justices of knifing the “trial judge in the back” and allowing the “criminal to go free.” He claimed the reversals had filled the Fort Smith jail to overflowing and “contributed to the number of murders in the Indian Territory.”

In 1895, Congress stripped the Western District of its jurisdiction over the remaining Indian Territories. That went into effect in September 1896. By then, Parker’s health was failing. He went before the Great Judge 11 weeks later.

But the beginning of his end came 125 years ago, when Congress took away some of the rope from the Hanging Judge. ❏

# The Last Bonanza Farm

*Preserving the history of the megafarms that got their start when a railroad went bust.*



Virginia Goerger

**P**erhaps the greatest example in the Old West of making lemonade out of lemons is what happened in Dakota Territory in the 1870s.

That's when the Northern Pacific Railway, planned from Minnesota to the Pacific Ocean, got to Dakota and financially collapsed, leaving investors holding worthless railroad bonds. But the federal government had given land grants to promote the railroad, so investors swapped their bonds for that land, selling it off to Easterners who envisioned farms.

But not just any farm—not like the 160- to 320-acre farms that already dotted the flat, rich Red River Valley of the North—but the largest cultivated farms in the world, ranging from 3,000 to as large as 200,000 acres. They were called “Bonanza Farms.”

Dakota Territory would eventually have 91 of these megafarms. They used modern farming techniques and equipment, employed thousands of migrant workers and were enormously profitable when wheat prices were high. They were among America's first corporate farms.

Besides being the major tour guide at the Bagg Bonanza Farm, Virginia Goerger (inset, holding one of Frederick A. Bagg's farm ledgers) is also “hands on” at the farm. “I'm not afraid to get on a ladder and paint the tops of buildings,” she says. “I cook meals and clean up the barns.”

— COURTESY BAGG BONANZA FARM —

All that would be only a footnote in a history book if not for Virginia Goerger. For nearly 30 years, she has been a driving force behind saving the home site of the Bagg Bonanza Farm near Mooreton in

southeastern North Dakota.

In its heyday, the Bagg farm included a 12-acre home site with over two dozen buildings and some 7,000 acres planted with wheat. Besides field hands, the farm employed local girls to cook three square meals a day and keep the place clean—including a teenager named Magdalena Schlerer who became the maternal grandmother of this columnist.

Frederick A. Bagg first came to Dakota Territory in the mid-1880s to work on his uncle's Downing farm. After his uncle died in 1913, Bagg inherited one-fourth of the 6,000-acre farm. He moved his share of the buildings and equipment a mile away to land he had bought to start his own farm.

Today, the restored home site and 21 buildings are open for visitors. Although other properties linked to the era exist, the Bagg farm is the only bonanza farm historically true to era. The Main House is the former bunkhouse built in 1882. Its 20

rooms not only housed the Bagg family, including six children, but also the farm's employees. The Foreman's House is now a country store. The blacksmith shop is still a blacksmith shop.

In the late 1980s, Bagg's last living daughter, Ella, asked neighbors and friends for help in saving the deteriorating farm. A freelance photographer, Goerger took photos of the farm and displayed them in a slide show to raise money for the restoration. She never left.

In 2005, the Bagg Bonanza Farm was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The greatest example of making lemonade out of lemons happened in Dakota Territory.

Strangely, this restored farm may end up existing longer than the Bonanza Farms themselves—their size worked against them in hard times, making their losses overwhelming. Besides, the drifters they attracted upset locals. By the 1930s, the Bonanza Farms were no more.

But these farms did not revert back to the lemons that had started it all. The land, broken up into smaller farms, was so rich, it became the nation's breadbasket. Most of that land is still farmed to this day. ✦

**Jana Bombersbach** 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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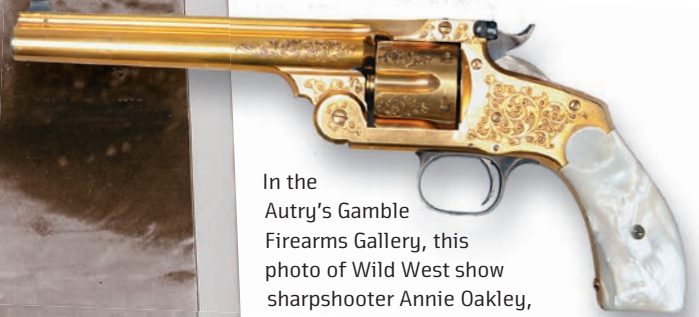


ANNIE OAKLEY.

Famous Rifle Shot and Holder of the Police Gazette Championship Medal.

**W**ithout a doubt, firearms were among the most important tools used in the settling of the West. To quote Jeffrey Richardson, the Autry National Center's Gamble curator of Western history, popular culture and firearms, "Firearms were used in all aspects of life on the American frontier, and they were featured prominently in the re-creations of the West that took place on stage and screen. Firearms are thus a means to tell the story of the West—its history, its myths, its captivating personalities. These artifacts provide entrée to an earlier time."

To exhibit the Autry's extensive firearms collection and inaugurate its new Gamble Firearms Gallery, which highlights George Gamble's generous gift of about 50 incomparable Western guns and related materials, the Los Angeles museum kicked off its "Western Frontiers: Stories of Fact and Fiction" exhibition last July 27, as part of the Autry's commemoration of the National Day of the Cowboy. Besides



In the Autry's Gamble Firearms Gallery, this photo of Wild West show sharpshooter Annie Oakley, from an 1899 issue of the *Police Gazette*, accompanies the gilt finished, engraved and pearl-handled, .44 caliber Smith & Wesson New Model No. 3 Single Action (inset). The revolver

is one of three purchased in 1892, directly from the factory, for "Little Sure Shot" by her husband and manager, Frank Butler.

— COURTESY AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; OAKLEY: 89.68.1; REVOLVER: 86.23.2.3 —



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## The finest examples of firearms that played a vital part in settling the American West.

the firearms from the Gamble donation, coupled with the Autry's own impressive collection, this display features artwork, historical documents and cultural artifacts that tell the colorful story of America's Western history.

The firearms, which are the main focus of the show, run the gamut from a circa 1807 Kentucky flintlock rifle up through the repeating rifles and revolvers of the late 19th century. Remington and Smith & Wesson revolvers, derringers, Sharps rifles and numerous other firearms represent the West of fact and fiction.

Exquisite arms in the show include a truly unique J&S Hawken rifle; an elaborately engraved and silver-plated Henry rifle (serial no. 9) that was presented to U.S. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, under President Abraham Lincoln; superb examples of every frontier-era lever-action Winchester rifle, ranging from the 1866 model through the Model of 1895—including a scarce "One of One Thousand" 1876 model; an array of Colt revolvers that encompasses the famous company's guns from the early Paterson five-shot percussion revolver through the later metallic cartridge six-shooters—including the rare Walker model and several elegant examples of percussion "revolving pistols."

Adding to the flavor and authenticity

of the display are the personal guns from legendary Western personalities, such as President Theodore Roosevelt's Nimschke-engraved 1876 Winchester and Colt

Single Action revolver, as well as his floral carved holster, canvas cartridge belt and his spurs. Visitors will also see firearms from Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Wild West show performers Annie Oakley and Capt. Jack Crawford, saddlemaker Edward H. Bohlin and actor Steve McQueen.

I had the pleasure of attending the opening of this ongoing exhibition and meeting Gamble; I personally thanked him for his generosity in sharing his

This Gamble family heirloom is on display at the "Western Frontiers" exhibit. Signed on the top of the barrel, "J. & S. Hawken St. Louis," and bearing an engraved hammer and lockplate stamped "WOLFE & BISHOP WARRANTED," this .58 caliber Hawken caplock plains rifle is unusual due to its engraved iron patchbox with a buffalo motif (see inset).

— LOAN COURTESY GEORGE GAMBLE COLLECTION, AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER, LOS ANGELES; LT2012-12-1 —

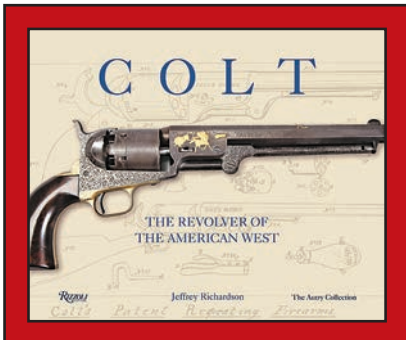


amazing collection of beautiful arms and artifacts with the public.

Thanks to Gamble and the Autry National Center's dedication to preserving and showing the importance of firearms in our nation's past, this display highlights the finest examples of the firearms that played a vital part in the settling of the American West. If you find yourself in the Los Angeles area anytime, this is an exhibition not to be missed!



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



## AUTRY'S COLT COLLECTION

Colonel Sam Colt's revolutionary revolver not only changed firearms history, it also became one of the most recognized implements used in the settling of the American frontier. *Colt: The Revolver of the American West*, written by the Autry National Center's Jeffrey Richardson, features 100 of the museum's most important and significant firearms to tell the story of this iconic breed of firearms and the part each played in taming the Wild West. Each firearm is described in detail and significant artifacts are included for historical context. Richardson's book is an educational and fun read!



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# American Gardens of Eden

Works by Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran and more gave art collectors visions of paradise.



Million-dollar Albert Bierstadt paintings: *Lake in the Sierra Nevada* (left, \$1.875 million at Sotheby's) and *Rocky Mountain Waterfall* (below, \$1.1 million at Christie's).



**A**lbert Bierstadt almost closed the year 2013 without hitting the million-dollar mark. Then, in December, both Christie's and Sotheby's in New York sold Bierstadt oils that crossed the barrier: 1898's *Rocky Mountain Waterfall*, hammering in at Christie's for \$1.1 million, and 1867's *Lake in the Sierra Nevada*, at Sotheby's, for \$1.875 million. Christie's still holds the auction record for a Bierstadt artwork, at \$6.345 million, for the 1862 oil *Indians Spear Fishing*.

The year's top Bierstadt lot was inspired by the artist's painting excursion, undertaken 150 years ago, traveling to the largely undocumented territories of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Yosemite Falls. Although we don't know which lake is portrayed here, Fitz Hugh Ludlow wrote of the crew's experience of Lake Tahoe during that 1863 expedition: "Just across

the boundary, we sat down on the brink of glorious Lake Tahoe.... Geography has no superior to this glorious sea.... Here, virtually at the end of our overland journey, since our feet pressed the green borders of the Golden State, we sat down to rest, feeling that one short hour, one



*Grand Canyon in Mist* (1915), by Thomas Moran, \$1.2 million at Sotheby's.

little league, had translated us out of the infernal world into heaven."

With the dawn of a new day suffusing the lake and its surrounding peaks, Bierstadt's light-filled landscape does evoke the sense of a truly sacred space. In addition to Bierstadt's oils, both auctions gave collectors the opportunity to purchase paintings by notable Western artists. Featured here are the top artworks sold for the given artist at the auctions. ✦



*A Tough Alternative* (1944), by William Robinson Leigh, \$400,000 at Sotheby's.



*Arizona Dam* (undated), by Ernest Blumenschein, \$300,000 at Sotheby's.



*Winter Encampment* (1891), by Henry Francois Farny, \$280,000 at Christie's.

Notable Western Art Lots Included

(All images courtesy Christie's or Sotheby's)

*Lane Through the Buffalo Herd* (circa 1902), by Frederic Remington, \$360,000 at Christie's.



*Bucking Bronc* (1899), by Charles M. Russell, \$130,000 at Sotheby's.



**UPCOMING AUCTIONS**

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## 10 FACE-TO-FACE, STAND-UP GUNFIGHTS

BY BOB BOZE BELL

I'm a member of the Historical Arms Society of Tucson, and our group is curious if the movies are correct about how many stand-up gunfights took place on the frontier. Our consensus is we don't think they happened much at all in the Old West.

-Kevin Mulkins of Tucson, Arizona

BY MY COUNT, MORE THAN  
A HUNDRED TOOK PLACE.  
HERE ARE 10 TO CHEW ON:

### Luke Short vs Long-Haired Jim Courtright

February 8, 1887

**L**ong-Haired Jim Courtright strides into the White Elephant Saloon in Fort Worth, Texas, and has words with co-owner Jake Johnson. Luke Short, the other owner, is called down from the game rooms and brought into the discussion.

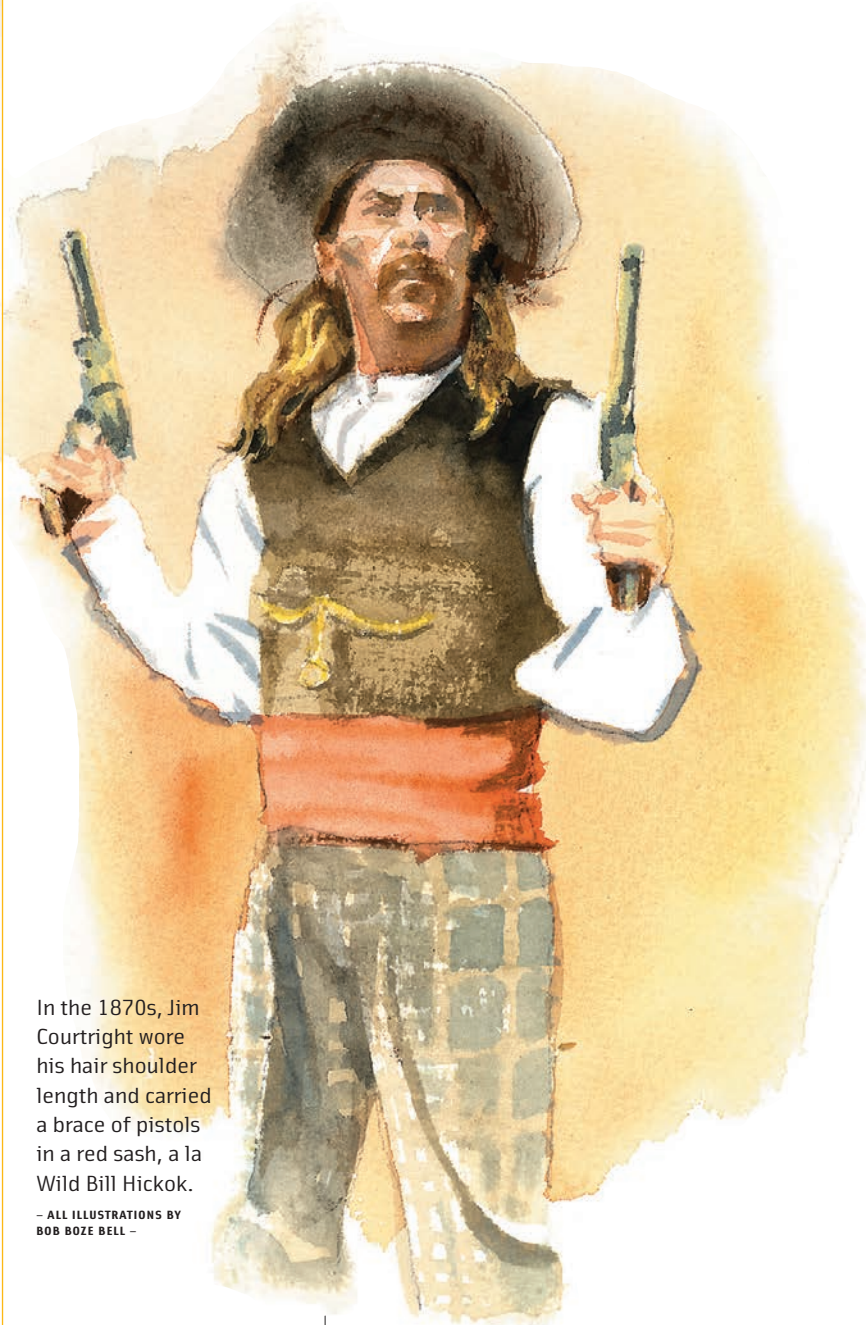
The three men leave the saloon and walk down the sidewalk, stopping outside the Ella Blackwell shooting gallery. Courtright, owner of the T.I.C. Detective Agency, demands money for protection. Short demurs, claiming, with some authority, that he can protect himself without outside muscle.

Short has been standing with his thumbs in the armholes of his vest. When he drops his hands, an alarmed Courtright says, "You needn't be getting out your gun."

Short replies, "I haven't got any gun here, Jim," raising up his vest to illustrate.

Courtright pulls out his own pistol, but fails to pull the trigger (it is later learned that a cylinder jammed). Short fires his now-drawn gun and a bullet strikes Courtright; he then pumps four more bullets in Courtright as he falls.

This is the version of events as told by Johnson. If other issues were raised during the discussion, they died with Courtright.



In the 1870s, Jim Courtright wore his hair shoulder length and carried a brace of pistols in a red sash, a la Wild Bill Hickok.

- ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
BOB BOZE BELL -

## Bass Outlaw vs John Selman

April 5, 1894

**B**ass Outlaw is drunk. This isn't news. He's been described by fellow Texas Ranger Alonzo Oden as "so kind... more sympathetic, more tender, more patient than all of us when necessary."

Except, Oden cryptically adds, "Bass [can't] leave liquor alone, and when Bass [is] drunk, Bass [is] a maniac."

While in El Paso, Texas, to testify in court, Outlaw is in maniac mode at Tillie Howard's sporting house. Ruby, one of the girls, takes him by the hand and escorts him to her room. A few hours later, he emerges and appears "more tender."

Outlaw goes out to Utah Street, where he meets Constable John Selman and Frank Collinson. During their conversation, Outlaw becomes angry and makes threats against U.S. Marshal Dick Ware. Selman tries talking Outlaw into going to his room to sober up.

Instead, Outlaw decides he wants an encore with sweet Ruby. To humor him, Selman and Collinson walk him back to Tillie's and wait for him in the parlor while Outlaw tries to rustle up a rematch.

As Selman and Collinson talk, they hear a shot. (One report states it comes from the water closet.) Selman smiles, then says to Collinson, "Bass has dropped his gun," and Selman leaves to investigate.

Meanwhile, Tillie bursts from her apartment, runs to the back of the building and blows a police whistle. Hearing the alarm, Outlaw chases Tillie into the yard and attempts to take away her whistle.

Texas Ranger Joe McKidric, who's in town to testify before a federal grand jury, has heard the shot and now hears the whistle. He starts for the scene of the disturbance.

Selman steps onto Tillie's back porch just as Ranger McKidric enters the backyard. "Bass, why did you shoot?" McKidric asks.

"It was an accident, Joe," Selman says.

"He's all right."

Turning, Outlaw snarls, "You want some too?" as he pushes his pistol against McKidric's head and pulls the trigger. The bullet strikes the Ranger above the left ear. As McKidric falls, Outlaw shoots him in the back.

Selman jumps from the porch, but before he can draw his weapon, Outlaw fires at the lawman's face. The bullet just misses Selman's ear, and the gunpowder sears his eyes, all but blinding him.

Falling backwards, Selman pulls his pistol and fires by instinct, his vision so impaired that his target is a blur. Selman's shot hits Outlaw just above the heart, tears through his lung and emerges beneath his right shoulder.

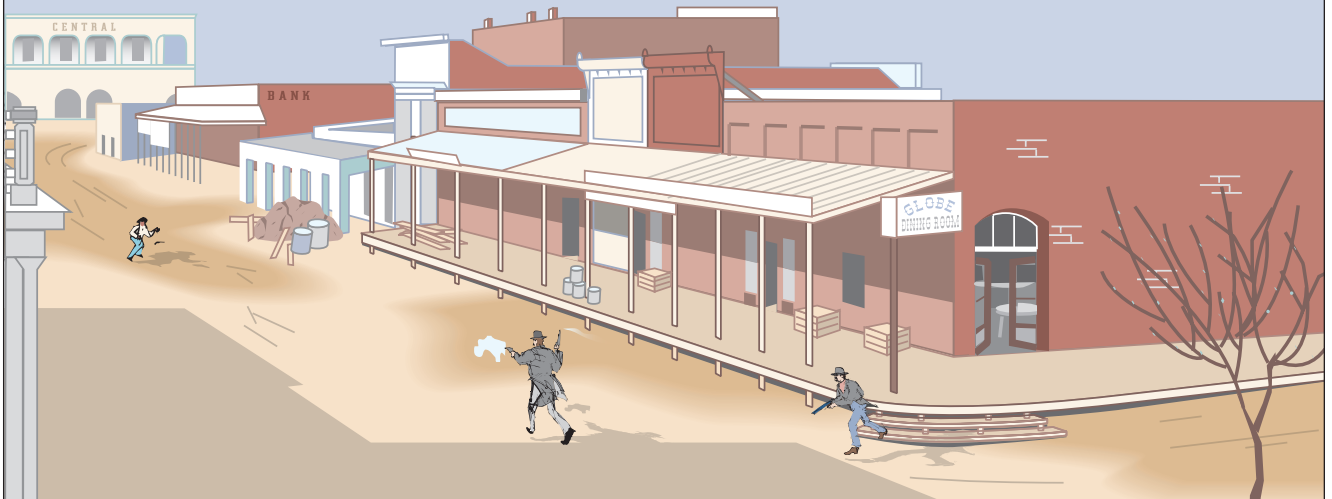
Outlaw totters backwards, firing twice. One slug hits Selman above the right knee, the other rips through his thigh and severs an artery. Outlaw falls over a fence and then makes his way onto Utah Street, where he surrenders to Texas Ranger Frank McMahon.



Shot above the heart, Bass Outlaw (far right) returns fire, hitting John Selman in the thigh.

## El Paso, Texas, April 14, 1881

At 6 p.m., Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire (center) hears gunshots and exits the Globe Restaurant. Sizing up the scene, he attacks Hale and Campbell, who he assumes killed his constable, but he ends up killing an innocent bystander. Doc Cummings (far right), Dallas' brother-in-law and the owner of the Globe, steps off the sidewalk with a shotgun. He fires no shots. Backing into the middle of the street, Campbell (far left) tells them, "Gentlemen, this is not my fight."



## Dallas Stoudenmire vs George Campbell

April 14, 1881

**O**ut in the West Texas town of El Paso, ex-Marshall George Campbell is flat-out looking for trouble. "Any American that is a friend of Mexicans," he booms, "ought to be hanged!"

Constable Gus Krempkau turns red. He has just finished assisting a group of Mexicans into the U.S. "George," says Krempkau, as he slides his rifle into the scabbard aboard his riding mule, "I hope you don't mean me."

"If the shoe fits," hoots Campbell, snapping his fingers in the air for emphasis, "then wear it."

A drunk Campbell then turns to grab the reins of his mule, which are tied to a tree.

Another drunk bystander, Johnny Hale, steps forward and bellows, "Turn loose, Campbell, I've got him covered."

Hale instantly fires, and the bullet hits Krempkau near the heart, before exiting through his lungs.

Across the street, the Globe Restaurant doors blow open, and Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire emerges with a pistol in each hand. Close behind him is his

brother-in-law, Doc Cummings, toting a shotgun.

As he takes in the scene on the fly, Stoudenmire steps lively into the street and snaps off a quick shot at Hale, who ducks behind an adobe pillar. Unfortunately, the marshal's shot misses Hale and hits a Mexican citizen who has just bought a sack of peanuts.

Hale pokes his head around the pillar. Stoudenmire's second shot hits him in the head; he collapses, dead.

Drawing his own pistol, Campbell hastily backs into the center of the street and loudly says, "Gentlemen, this is not my fight."

A dying Krempkau grits his teeth and squeezes off shots at Campbell. The first bullet smashes into the ex-marshal's pistol and breaks his wrist. Campbell yells out and drops to the ground to pick up his revolver. Krempkau's next bullet hits Campbell in the foot.

Defending his mortally wounded constable, Stoudenmire fires at Campbell. The bullet enters Campbell's stomach, causing him to drop his gun a second time, as he topples face-down.

When Stoudenmire rolls Campbell over, Campbell sputters, "You big son-of-a-bitch, you murdered me!"

The fight is over.

## Billy "the Kid" Claiborne vs Buckskin Frank Leslie

November 14, 1882

**I**t's 7:30 a.m. on a Tuesday, and Buckskin Frank Leslie is talking to several friends in the Oriental Saloon in Tombstone, Arizona. Billy "the Kid" Claiborne saunters in and begins insulting Leslie, who is the head bartender of the saloon's tony gambling hall. Leslie is currently off duty.

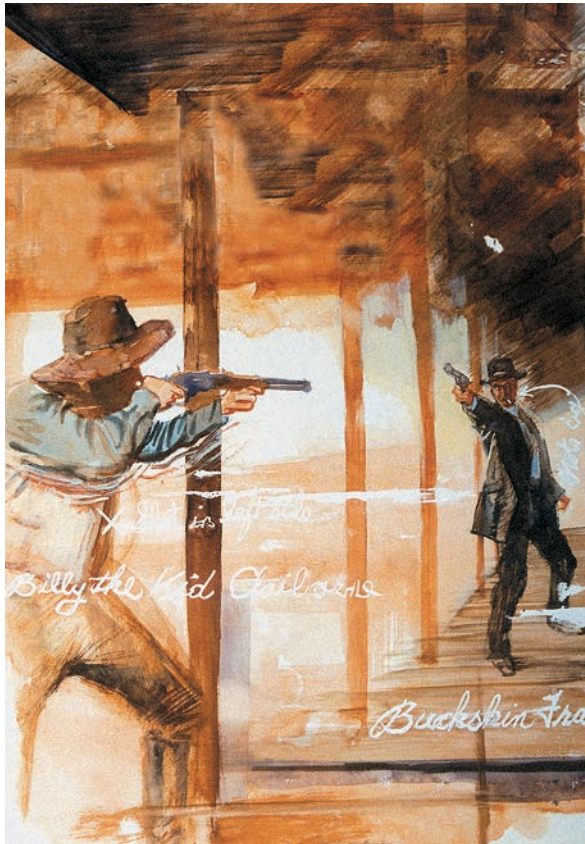
After enduring several abusive remarks, Leslie takes Claiborne aside and says, "Billy don't interfere, these people are friends among themselves, and are not talking about politics at all, and don't want you about." (Some evidence suggests Leslie and his cronies were discussing a recent close election for county sheriff between Dave Neagle, Jerome Ward and Larkin Carr; Ward won.)

Leslie rejoins his friends, but Claiborne, who is obviously drunk, returns and starts in on Leslie again, using "exceedingly abusive language," Leslie claims.

A fed up Leslie takes Claiborne by his coat collar and leads him to the front door, telling him not to get mad because it's for his own good.

**"Frank didn't lose the light of his cigarette during the encounter. Wonderfully cool man."**

—George Parsons' journal entry, November 14, 1882



As they reach the sidewalk, the hot-headed cowboy pushes Leslie away. Shaking his finger at the dapper dandy, Claiborne says, "That's all right Leslie, I'll get even with you."

Shortly afterwards, Oriental bartender W.J. Mason leaves work. On Allen Street, he encounters Claiborne, who is still fuming. Having witnessed the altercation between Claiborne and Leslie, Mason tells Claiborne to cool off. As a gesture of goodwill, he

invites the red-headed youngster to join him for a fish breakfast. Claiborne refuses the offer and tells Mason that instead, he is going to retrieve his Winchester and "settle the matter at once."

Minutes later, Otto Johnson sees Claiborne steaming toward the Oriental, with a holster over his left shoulder and a Winchester rifle in his right hand.

William Henry Bush, a bootblack, tries to dissuade Claiborne from his mission, but he gets a terse reply: "No, you black son of a bitch, I will kill you."

Informed by Johnson of the threat outside, Leslie coolly picks up a pistol, walks to the side door that fronts on Fifth Street and peers out toward the corner. He sees almost a

foot of rifle barrel protrude from the end of a fruit stand, which is abutting the sidewalk at Fifth and Allen.

Leslie quietly closes the door behind him and walks out on the sidewalk. He quickly steps in the street to look around the fruit stand, to make sure it is Claiborne, before he steps back on the sidewalk and says, "Billy don't shoot. I don't want you to kill me, nor do I want to have to shoot you."

Before Leslie can say anymore, Claiborne raises his rifle and fires, but the bullet misses. Leslie returns the fire and hits the left breast of Claiborne, who doubles over.

As Leslie advances on his prone adversary with his pistol at full cock, a police officer runs up and disarms Leslie, placing him under arrest. Leslie tells the officer, "I am sorry. I might have done more, but I couldn't do less."

Eyewitness George Parsons notes in his journal, "Frank didn't lose the light of his cigarette during the encounter. Wonderfully cool man."

Claiborne is taken to the nearby office of Dr. Willis, who describes the bullet wound as entering the breast on the left side and opening in the back to the spinal column. Believing the victim to be dying (he is), Willis sends Claiborne to the county hospital. Before he goes, Claiborne tells the doctor, "Leslie is a murdering son of a bitch to shoot a man in the back."

Unmoved by the claim, Willis later testifies he's confident Claiborne "received the wound in the front." A coroner's jury agrees, and Leslie is set free.

**Commodore  
Perry Owens  
vs  
The Blevins Boys**

September 4, 1887

**S**heriff Commodore Perry Owens steps onto the porch of the Blevins home in Holbrook, Arizona, and knocks on the west-facing door. The Apache

This photo of Holbrook, Arizona, shows the main drag and train depot (center) around the time of the gunfight. Unfortunately, it cuts off the Blevins house, which would have been in the foreground on the right.

— ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



County sheriff is here to serve a warrant on Andy Cooper, a horse thief. The door opens slightly, and Cooper peers out. The sheriff immediately spots an ivory-handled pistol in the outlaw's hand.

"Andy," Owens says, "I have a warrant for you. Let's have no trouble."

"Give me a few minutes," Cooper replies. "I'm not ready yet."

Cooper tries to close the door, but Owens thwarts the maneuver by pushing his boot into the narrow opening. Cooper ducks behind the door and brings his six-shooter up to fire. Without removing the Winchester from the crook of his arm, Owens fires blindly through the door. His lucky shot hits Cooper in the pit of the stomach.

As he backs up, the sheriff levers his Winchester, ejecting the spent shell and slamming another into the breech. He quickly covers all the windows and doors in anticipation of other assailants.

A woman screams. Before Owens can react, a second door opens slightly and the barrel of a six-shooter protrudes and fires about four feet from the lawman. The bullet just misses Owens and, instead, hits a horse tied to a cottonwood tree in front of the house. The terrified horse breaks its reins, runs a short ways and then topples dead in the street.

A third assailant, John Blevins, attempts to take cover behind a door, but Owens fires another intuitive shot, hitting John in the shoulder and sending him crashing to the floor.

Owens scans the house through his rifle sights, watching for an attack from any and all corners. He hears a noise, which he recognizes as a window being opened. Owens runs from the front door to the front window, where he sees Cooper on his knees, about to get a shot off through the narrow slit. The sheriff fires again, and the bullet tears through the thin board siding, hitting an already wounded Cooper in the right hip.

So far, the sheriff's three shots at invisible targets have produced three direct hits.

As Owens levers another cartridge into his rifle, he hears a woman pleading with

someone inside the house. A commotion ensues, with more pleading, and then the front door opens. Fifteen-year-old Samuel Houston Blevins boldly steps out, brandishing Cooper's pearl-handled pistol and vowing to "get" the sheriff. Owens' fifth shot hits the boy squarely in the chest. The lad drops dead on the doorstep.

His every sense on high alert, Owens stands alone in front of the house, waiting and listening. He has no idea how many more men are in the house. His keen ears catch a noise on the eastern side of the house. He runs to the corner of the building, catching Mose Roberts, who is climbing out a window with a pistol in his hand. Owens fires, and the bullet hits Roberts in the chest.

The sheriff chambers another cartridge. By now, the screams and wails inside the house are dreadful. After a few anxious



Training both pistols on the remaining soldiers, Wild Bill Hickok covers his retreat, jumping through the rear window to safety.

minutes, Owens senses that no one else will be coming out to fight.

Satisfied he has finished his work, the sheriff walks up the street toward the livery stable, where he meets several townspeople coming his way.

"Have you finished the job?" A.F. Banta asks.

"I think I have," Sheriff Owens curtly replies.

## Hickok vs The 7th Cavalry

July 17, 1870

**D**eputy Marshal Wild Bill Hickok is conversing with the bartender in Paddy Welch's Place in Hays City, Kansas, when, without warning, two 7th Cavalry troopers attack Hickok from the rear, pinning his arms and wrestling him to the floor. Later, a newspaper reports that "five soldiers attacked Bill."

Of the two known troopers, Jeremiah Lonergan, a "pugilist" and powerful man, pins Hickok and does everything in his power to keep Hickok's arms away from his body . . . and his pistols.

An eyewitness claims that a second soldier, John Kile, whips out a Remington pistol from underneath his blouse, "puts the muzzle into Wild Bill's ear and snaps it." The pistol misfires.

Amid the yelling and ensuing commotion, Hickok and the two soldiers grapple on the floor, each trying to get an advantage. (At some point, Hickok receives a leg wound; history does not record whether he is shot or merely injured in the scuffling.)

In spite of Lonergan's best efforts, Hickok removes one pistol from his holster and fires a round, hitting Kile in the wrist. A second round hits Kile in the side, and he rolls away in agony.

Lonergan desperately fights for his life as he tries to keep Hickok's pistol barrel pointed away from him. Pushing against the much larger man, Hickok fights with all his might, finally turning his pistol far enough to fire. The resulting shot hits Lonergan in the knee cap.

Stunned, Lonergan gives up his grip and joins Kile on the disabled list. Hickok wastes no time as he scrambles to his feet, "makes tracks for the back of the saloon," jumps "through a window,

taking the glass and sash with him,” and makes good his escape.

When news of the gunfight reaches Fort Hays, a number of troopers seize their guns, head for Hays City and search all the “saloons and dives,” but they can’t find Hickok.

## Billy Breakenridge and Posse vs Zwing Hunt and Billy “the Kid” Grounds

March 25, 1882

**A**t 8:20 p.m., a heavy rap on the door disrupts the quiet of the Tombstone Milling and Mining Company office in Millville, across the river from Charleston, Arizona. Four employees are inside: W.L. Austin, George W. Cheyney, F.F. Hunt and Martin R. Peel.

The door flings wide open, and two masked men wielding rifles enter. Without any commands (*The Tombstone Epitaph* reports: “no order to ‘hold up’ was given and no words spoken”), the two intruders open fire. The first shot hits Peel, as he gets up from his chair, striking him near the heart. It’s fired at such close range “that his clothes [are] set on fire.”

The other assailant fires at the three men behind the counter, but the slight delay between the two shots allows them to dive down, so the shot misses.

Both assailants flee. As they run to their horses (eyewitnesses claim a “Confederate” held their horses “a few hundred yards from the office”), one of the shooters loses his white hat.

A \$500 reward is authorized for the “apprehension of the person or persons who murdered M.R. Peel.” Peel, aged about 26, was a native of Texas.

Word reaches Tombstone that two of

Jim Thornhill (right of stove) throws a pistol to Kid Curry who shoots three times, striking Landusky twice. Everyone else heads for the back door. Notice the kid on the floor who is cleaning out the stove. (Inset) This 1893 semi-automatic 7.65x12mm Borchardt pistol is similar to the one Landusky fails to use during the altercation.

the suspected killers, Zwing Hunt and Billy Grounds, are holed up at the Chandler Milk Ranch east of town. Deputy Sheriff William Breakenridge wants to go alone, but an official insists he take along two miners and a jail guard for insurance. (Sheriff John Behan and his cowboy posse are away, chasing the Earps.)

Breakenridge and his posse reach the milk ranch just before daylight. After tethering their horses, they creep up and surround the main house. Two approach the back door, while Breakenridge and E.H. Allen approach the front.

“Just as we got there,” Breakenridge later writes, “I heard [John A.] Gillespie knock on the [back] door. When asked who was there, he answered, ‘It is me, the sheriff.’ The men inside opened the door and shot [Gillespie] dead and shot [Jack] Young through the thigh. Neither Young nor Gillespie ever got a chance to fire a shot.”

Breakenridge jumps behind a small tree, narrowly dodging a bullet. He covers the front door, waiting for the outlaw who shot at him to reappear. When he does,

the deputy fires one barrel of his shotgun into the opening. He later recalls, “Just as I fired I remembered an old adage always to aim low in the dark, and I pulled down thinking I would hit him in the stomach. But I hit [Grounds] in the head and heard him strike the floor.”

Meanwhile, Hunt has been shot through the lungs. He tries to flee, but Breakenridge tracks him up an arroyo and, in the gathering daylight, he corrals him.



## Kid Curry vs Pike Landusky

December 27, 1894

**C**elebrating the holidays in Jacob “Jew Jake” Harris’s saloon in newly named Landusky, Montana, the town’s namesake, Powell “Pike” Landusky, is holding forth with his neighbors and friends at around 10:30 in the morning.

Melting snow has clogged the stove pipe in the store/saloon, and a young kid has been brought in to clean it out. Harris hobbles around behind the bar on his one leg (the other was lost during a gunfight in Great Falls). He sets a bottle and glass on the bar in front of Landusky, who gets ready to take his first drink of the day.

Stepping in out of the cold, cowboys Lonie (pronounced LOne-E) Logan and Jim Thornhill, his neighboring rancher and partner, pass through the saloon into the clothing store. Their mission is to neutralize a gunman named Charles Hogan (a lunger). Thornhill orders 25 cents worth of apples as he and Lonie take up positions to handle Hogan when the fireworks start.

A few moments later, as planned, Harvey Logan, a.k.a. Kid Curry, comes in the front door. Kid Curry’s younger brother John stays outside and guards the front door with a Winchester. Kid Curry advances straight toward Landusky and aggressively slaps him on the shoulder, knocking the bottle out of his hand. When Landusky turns, Kid



Deputy Sheriff William Breakenridge displays courage under fire.

Curry punches the noted brawler in the face with all his might.

When the two clinch, both Lonie and Thornhill step forward, yelling out, "Fair fight!" Landusky's friends, including Hogan, are intimidated and hold back from joining in.

As the men punch each other and scuffle, Kid Curry's pistol falls out of his coat pocket onto the floor. Thornhill fetches the Colt .45 by the barrel so no one can accuse him of assault. (Landusky's friends later allege Thornhill waved it at bystanders, warning, "The first man that makes a move will be killed.")

Landusky is a grizzled, experienced brawler. He gets the advantage on Kid Curry, landing on top of the smaller man while trying to gouge out his eyes. Kid Curry manages to get on top, too, pummeling the much bigger man until Landusky cries out "Enough!"

A mining friend of Landusky, Thomas Carter, asks Lonie to intercede, saying that Landusky has clearly had enough. Lonie allegedly replies, "He has not got enough for what he has done to us."

Thornhill finally convinces Kid Curry to let go of Landusky. The combatants stagger to their feet, and Landusky reaches in his coat and pulls out a semi-automatic pistol (an 1893 Borchardt). As he does, he calls Kid Curry a coward for attacking him without cause. (Landusky doesn't fire his pistol; one account claims he does, but either the gun misfired or he failed to chamber a round before he fired.)

Thornhill pitches the .45 to Kid Curry, who fires a shot in Landusky's gut. Curry fires three times in all, with two slugs hitting Landusky and one going awry. Landusky falls to the floor and dies in about five minutes.

Brother John rounds up the cowboys' wagon, and the four make their escape.



## Harry Morse vs Juan Soto

May 10, 1871

**I**t's a warm day as Sheriff Harry Morse and Deputy Sam Winchell approach an isolated ranch house in California's Coast Range. Reining up at the outer perimeter of a rock corral, they dismount and ask a vaquero, who is working in the corral, for a drink of water.

Following the worker into the house, Morse and Winchell encounter a roomful of natives. Morse is stunned as he immediately recognizes the outlaw they are looking for: Juan Soto—bandido supremo—who is sitting at a table, talking with two other men.

The sheriff jerks his pistol and barks, "¡Manos arriba!" [Put up your hands!]

But Soto doesn't move, even after Morse repeats the command two more times. Yanking a pair of manacles from his gun belt, Morse hands them to his deputy with orders to handcuff the brigand.

Paralyzed with fright, Winchell doesn't move.

"Put them on him!" Morse angrily snaps. Seconds tick by, and still no one moves.

Sheriff Harry Morse's career spanned five decades, and he brought justice to a corralful of desperados, including the infamous Black Bart.

"Then cover him with your shotgun," Morse barks, "while I do it!"

Instead, Winchell bolts toward the door, leaving Morse to fend for himself.

Seizing the moment, a "muscular Mexican Amazon" grabs Morse's shooting arm, while another outlaw grabs his left. "¡No tire en la casa!" they both shout. ["Don't shoot in the house!"]

As Morse grapples with his assailants, Soto leaps behind one of his compadres and begins to unbutton his long soldier coat so he can retrieve his pistols, which are in his belt under the coat.

Morse breaks free from his attackers and levels his pistol at Soto's head, but the arm jockeys spoil Morse's aim. When Morse fires, his shot tears off Soto's hat and thuds into the wall. (Morse later claims he didn't want to shoot an innocent bystander.) The billowing gunpowder smoke adds to the confusion in the dimly lit room, but it allows Soto to seize one of his revolvers and go after Morse, who has just cleared the door.

Out on the porch, Morse tries to sprint to his horse so he can retrieve his rifle from its scabbard, but Soto is right behind him. Morse quickly realizes he won't make it. Turning, so as not to be shot in the back, Morse drops to the ground in an effort to dodge Soto's imminent point-blank shot.

From a nearby hill, Sheriff Nick Harris sees Morse fall, "but quick as a flash, [Morse springs] erect and fire[s]. Soto, advancing with a bound, [brings] his pistol down to a level and [fires] again, and Morse [goes] through the same maneuver as before." To Harris, Morse looks like he has been hit by all four rounds.

On the final exchange, however, when Soto raises his weapon to cock it, Morse's bullet strikes Soto's pistol underneath the barrel. The bullet wedges against the cylinder and jams the gun. The force of the lead ball violently drives the barrel of Soto's own gun into his face, briefly stunning him.

As Morse scrambles to his horse, he jerks his Model 1866 Winchester rifle from the scabbard. When he turns, he sees Soto has retreated inside the house. (Once Winchell sees the outlaw escaping, he sends a load of buckshot in his direction, but the deputy misses.)

After charging his mount down the slope at a dead run, Sheriff Harris reins in, dismounts, pulls out his Spencer rifle and joins Morse.

Following a pregnant pause, two men emerge from the house, heading for a lone horse that is hitched to an oak tree 40 yards out. Sheriff Harris takes aim at the man wearing the long, blue Army coat, but Morse knocks up the barrel before Harris can fire. Morse realizes that Soto has exchanged coats with a comrade and is donning his friend's hat to throw off the officers. (Unbeknownst to them, the outlaw is also sporting three fresh revolvers.)

Morse raises his rifle to shoot the escape horse, but the mount breaks free and evades Soto's grasp. The horse is undoubtedly spooked by the firing. Soto then rushes headlong to a second horse that stands saddled some 200 yards north.

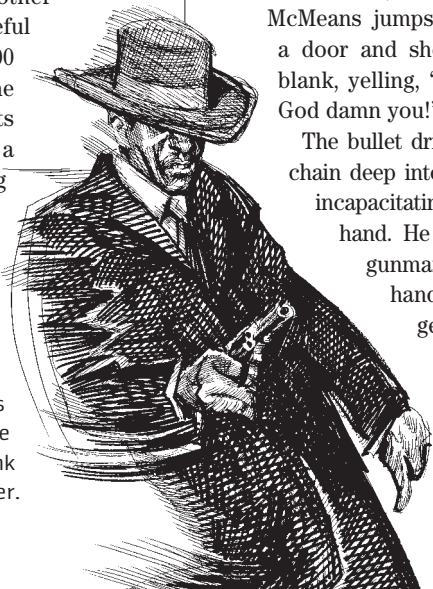
"For God's sake, Juan, throw down your pistols!" Morse yells. "There has been shooting enough!"

Ignoring the plea, Soto continues charging toward freedom. Although Soto is virtually out of range at 225 yards, Morse flips up his gun sight, aims high and pulls the trigger. Incredibly, the "Hail Mary" bullet hits Soto with a sharp click and tears through his right shoulder.

Soto staggers, then the badly wounded outlaw turns to rush his adversaries. He runs headlong with his pistols raised, hoping to make it into firing range. Sheriff Harris shoots at Soto and misses, sending a clump of grass flying.

Morse chambers another round and takes a careful bead. At more than 100 yards from its target, the big '66 booms, and its spinning bullet makes a long, low arc, smacking into Soto's forehead just above the eyes. The bandit topples dead on the spring grass.

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



## Frank & Gladys Hamer vs Gee McMeans & H.E. Phillips

October 1, 1917

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

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

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

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

At about 1:30 p.m., on the approach to Sweetwater, a tire on the Hamer car goes flat. Frank pulls into a garage located on the southeast corner of the town square.

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

Frank enters the empty garage. Finding no one inside, he starts to exit when McMeans jumps out from behind a door and shoots Frank point-blank, yelling, "I've got you now, God damn you!"

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

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

Frank is still wrestling with McMeans and starts slapping the shooter in the head with his open hand. From the corner of his eye, Frank sees the shotgun shooter approaching. McMeans breaks free, the shotgun roars and the concussion of the blast staggers Frank as he falls to his knees.

"I got him! I got him!" the shooter yells in triumph, only to see Frank lunge to his feet. (The blast, fired from two feet away, shredded Frank's hat, missing his head by inches.)

McMeans and the shotgunner run toward a waiting car. Frank runs after them, stumbling, but regaining his feet and pulling a gun with his right hand. He reaches the shooters' getaway car just as McMeans fetches a pump shotgun from inside. As he turns, Frank puts a bullet through his heart, killing him.

Behind the vehicle, the shotgunner crouches beside McMeans's body, the smoothbore still in his hands.

"Get up!" Frank yells. "Fight me like a man!"

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

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

Gladys runs up and takes her husband around the waist, his blood oozing onto her dress. Several other men run toward the scene.

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

This is just one of the 50 gunfights involving Frank; he will be wounded a total of 23 times and declared dead twice. ❏

# Jack London's ALASKA

**THE FIRST BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR'S  
KLONDIKE JOURNEY THAT INSPIRED HIS TALES OF THE  
LAST FRONTIER.**

Jack London was only 21 years old when he stepped ashore in Alaska in 1897 to find his fortune in gold.

He looked boyish and threadbare, as did many who ventured north during a time when America was suffering from an acute economic depression. Skagway was a mob of naive gold seekers, with outlaw Soapy Smith ruling the town through a large ruthless gang. London wisely stayed clear of Smith and his scams that separated would-be millionaires from their money as they made their way to the Klondike.

Hollywood has always done London an injustice. Movies portray him as an innocent when he arrives in Alaska, learning the ways of the world through the hard characters he meets there. Nothing could be further from the truth.

**A**bandoned by his astrologer father, William Chaney, just before he was born, he delivered papers, swept saloons and set up pins in a bowling alley before he turned to pirating commercial oyster beds at age 15. He then hired out to the California Fish Patrol, hunting down other pirates. At age 17, he shipped out to sea under a ruthless captain for Japan who became the background for his 1904 novel, *The Sea-Wolf*. The next year, he returned to San Francisco a confirmed socialist marching with Kelly's Army of unemployed, although he dropped out before reaching Washington, D.C.; in New York, he was arrested for vagrancy and jailed for 30 days.

When he turned 21, he dropped out of college to make his living as a writer; he was starving when word came of gold for the taking in the Klondike. Only four days before the *Umatilla* sailed, his 62-year-old brother-in-law, James Shepard, grubstaked his trip north by mortgaging his home, but only if he could go too. London relented.

On July 25, 1897, the two sailed for Alaska. Onboard, they fell in with Merritt Sloper, a carpenter just returning from South America, Jim Goodman, an experienced placer miner, and a young Fred Thompson, who recorded their adventures.

The five disembarked in Juneau on August 2 and three days later, with five tons of supplies, paddled canoes to Skagway.

The White Pass outside Skagway offered a horrific scene. "The horses died like mosquitoes in the first frost, and from Skaguay to Bennett they rotted in heaps," wrote London of the Dead Horse Trail over White Pass.

Sickened by the sight and fearful of Smith's men, the five paddled eight more miles to Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail.

The Chilkoot Trail ascended 3,400 feet.

Waiting at the summit were the North-West Mounted Police, checking to see that each prospector had adequate supplies before allowing them to enter Canada. London wrote, "I have 1000 lbs. in my outfit," and he recalled carrying 150 pounds on the last stretch, portering it to the summit and waiting for it to be checked.

London and his comrades took 20 days to complete the task. The journey broke the health of his brother-in-law. "I give up," said Shepard, after trying to scale the Chilkoot. "Go on without me. I'm catching the first steamer back to San Francisco."

While portering supplies up the mountain slope, London saw a pair of shoes sticking out from a snowbank. He tugged at them, only to find them attached to a man still alive! An avalanche had just buried him only a few minutes earlier. The man credited London for saving his life.

The party reached Lake Lindeman in the Canadian interior on September 8. Sloper directed London and the others in

**"The horses died like mosquitoes in the first frost...."**



Jack London, dressed here in his Klondike gear, attracted a lot of fans after he sold his first story, "To the Man on the Trail," to *The Overland Monthly* in 1898. The Klondike gold fields excited "jaded readers, grown weary of the stereotyped magazine story of the wild and woolly west..." the magazine reported in a feature about London in 1920.

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building two 27-foot-long boats, the *Belle of the Yukon* and the *Yukon Belle*. They then portaged both boats and all their supplies overland to Lake Bennett, the headwaters of the Yukon River. They made the lake on September 22 with the nip of winter in the air. Soon, ice would form on the river. Between them and Klondike were two sets of murderous rapids. Mounties had placed men at both to retrieve the bodies of any who drowned.

London and his party shot through the Miles Canyon Rapids with the granite walls coming within six feet of the boats. They then walked back upstream to help Mr. and Mrs. Ret shoot down the same course. This second set of rapids nearly killed London and the rest.

Cocky, they found White Horse Rapids to be "a succession of foamy mountainous waves." Yet a whirlpool captured their craft in its spin, nearly throwing them into the canyon walls. London lost control of the boat. Only by luck did the whirlpool shoot them out from its clutches. In spite of this near-death experience, London and Sloper again helped the Retts through the second set of rapids.

Fearful of being caught on the Yukon when the river froze up and hearing that Dawson had no vacant rooms, the party

moved into abandoned cabins they found on Split-Up Island, near the mouth of Stewart River, on October 8.

A few days later, London traveled up Henderson Creek with Goodman, staking Claim No. 54. That site would be the scene for his short story "To Build a Fire."

They then sailed on to Dawson, 70 miles downriver, to file gold claims and "whoop it up." In Dawson, London met up with brothers Louis and Marshall Bond, and their St. Bernard and Scottish Collie mixed-breed dog named Jack. Jack was among many dogs labeled as the inspiration for Buck in London's *Call of the Wild*. Canadian historian Pierre Berton claimed Buck was based on a dog owned by Belinda Mulrooney, owner of the famous Dawson hotel and saloon, Fairview, and hailed as the richest woman in the Klondike.

## This second set of rapids nearly killed London.

The charms of the Fairview and various watering holes kept London in Dawson for six weeks, listening to the tall tales of the millionaire Klondike Kings and to those who had gone

The Huntington Library claims London inscribed the note "This is Buck" on this photograph of the Klondike cabin where Marshall and Louis Bond (pictured) lived with their dog Jack. Buck was the half St. Bernard, half sheepdog who was stolen from a California estate and sold as a sled dog in the Arctic. In London's *The Call of the Wild*, he evolved into a fierce animal torn between his loyalty to his master and his desire to reconnect with the wild.

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In 1897, London set out to explore the gold fields up north, just like these four prospectors, posing on the trail that same year during the Yukon gold rush.

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bust. London waited too long. The *Belle of the Yukon* was now icebound. He and Thompson were forced to walk back to their cabin. By the time they arrived, temperatures were plummeting to 40 below. The party set up a routine of collecting ice, chopping wood and shoveling snow, as well as preparing the three Bs—beans, bread and bacon.

Their cabin became a social mecca for other snowbound prospectors who dropped by for a game of cards or to listen to London tell his stories of adventures at sea. One regular

visitor, Bert Hargrave, described London as a chain smoker, telling yarns between puffs, and a debater while playing cards.

Cabin fever set in. The men became grumpy. One morning in November, London took Sloper's ax to chop ice and damaged the blade. Sloper yelled at him, "Who do you think you are, you pirate! I'll have your hide for this!" Sloper went for his rifle, but Thompson and Goodman held him down.

After that altercation, London moved in with Hargrave, Doc B.F. Harvey, an alcoholic surgeon, and a former judge

Burro pack trains, like this one at Dyea Point in 1897, was a common sight along the Dyea Trail during the gold rush. In another Klondike Gold Rush story by London, "All Gold Canyon," one of his characters described the scene as, "A secret pasture for prospectors and a resting-place for tired burros. It's just booful!"



named E.H. Sullivan. Now and then, he traveled upcountry to his claim, staying at Charley Taylor's cabin. There, he carved into the wall, "Jack London, Miner Author Jan 27, 1898." (The recently deceased Dick North helped rescue the London cabin in 1969.)

By spring, London's gums were swelling and bleeding; he had loose teeth and dark spots were appearing on his dry skin. He was coming down with scurvy. In spite of being in pain, he helped Doc Charley build a new boat. Doc took the exhausted London downstream to Dawson's St. Mary's Hospital in May. The staff failed to cure the scurvy, and London decided he had better leave for home. He left with Taylor and John Thorson down the Yukon for a 1,500-mile voyage to the Bering Sea.

They sailed past abandoned towns and shot geese when they reached the swamp-like Yukon Flats. They dined on salmon from the river. Twice, they pulled in to watch American Indian dances. London jokingly jotted down that he believed the mosquitoes were now coordinating their attacks on him.

Arriving at Anvik on June 18, London ate his first vegetables he had eaten in nearly a year. Scurvy had caused his right leg to draw up against his body, horribly disfiguring him. He wrote that he was "now almost entirely crippled... from my waist down."

By the end of June, they reached the port of St. Michael on the Bering Sea. London managed to ship out by shoveling coal on a steamer. "I brought nothing back from the Klondike but my scurvy," he wrote.

When he arrived in San Francisco, he learned his stepfather, John London, had died. The gold in his pockets amounted to \$4.50. But the Klondike made Jack London into Jack London.

**The gold in his pockets amounted to \$4.50.**

Mike Coppock is a published author of Alaskan history works. He currently resides in Enid, Oklahoma, and he teaches in Tuluksak, Alaska, part of the year.



With five tons of supplies acquired in Juneau, London and his four comrades paddled to Dyea and its Chilkoot Trail. Their crew likely looked similar to these men who landed on the shore of Dyea on December 10, 1897, and began unloading supplies from their scow.



Packers ascending the summit of the Yukon's Chilkoot Pass during the gold rush of 1898. During London's 20-day journey up the Chilkoot Trail, his brother-in-law's health broke down; the brother-in-law caught a steamer back to San Francisco.



LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

BY TOM AUGHERTON

# Winchester Warrior

P.C. BAIRD ENFORCES THE LAW ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER.

**THE TEXAS** Rangers are arguably the most famous law enforcement agency in U.S. history, and they certainly made their mark in the Old West.

It took special men to put on a Ranger badge—"men of fiber," as historian J. Evetts Haley put it. The job was tough, sometimes boring, occasionally dangerous. It tested men to the utmost. Yet, sadly, many of the Rangers of old have been nearly forgotten by history.

One of them is Philip Cuney "P.C." Baird, who during his time came to be known as the "Old Sleuth."

Baird was a Lone Star native, born in Travis County on March 4, 1862. At the age of 20, he joined Company "D" of the Ranger's Frontier Battalion, serving under Capt. L.P. Sieker until 1884. Even in that relatively short period of time, Baird saw some hot action.

Fence cutting and cattle rustling had become a big problem in Texas, and the Rangers were sent to stop the practice. In July 1884, Baird—leading two other Rangers—discovered several fence-cutters near Green Lake. When ordered to surrender, the five scofflaws began shooting at the lawmen. Baird was slightly wounded, but he and his men returned fire and killed one of the outlaws. The others were taken into custody.

The lawmen stood calmly facing the drunken men. Baird took aim and killed John Simmons.



The famed Company "D" of the Texas Rangers enjoyed a meal together near Realitos in March 1888, the same company P.C. Baird had served in from 1882 to 1884.

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS —

After taking a few years off to raise and support a family, Baird was elected sheriff of Mason County in 1888. It was dangerous work. The next year, Baird and a deputy responded to a fight outside Garner's Saloon in the town of Mason. As they arrived, two local brothers, John and Jesse Simmons, opened up on them. The lawmen stood calmly facing the drunken men. Baird took aim and killed John Simmons—the saloon proprietor—with a single shot. Deputy John Butler fatally wounded Jesse, who was a former Ranger himself.

Baird held the sheriff job until 1896 when he was appointed as a Special Texas Ranger, attached to Company "E"

of the Frontier Battalion. He retired in 1898. Or tried.

Baird agreed to run for Mason County sheriff once again in 1928—when he was 66 years old. But the old lawman had run out of trail; he died of pneumonia in San Antonio's Baylor Hospital on March 9, 1928.

Baird wasn't totally forgotten. On June 2, 2012, the Former Texas Rangers Association honored him at his grave in Mason with a benediction of "The Rangers' Prayer," the placement of a Texas flag and the playing of "Taps." They marked his last resting place with their Texas Rangers' Memorial Cross, a mounted circle badge.

An unsung hero finally got his due.



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 [editor@twmag.com](mailto:editor@twmag.com), and be sure to include high-resolution historical photos.



Texas Ranger Philip Cuney "P.C." Baird, a legendary lawman known as the "Old Sleuth," was finally honored in 2012 for his valiant service to his home state.

- COURTESY JAMES BAIRD FAMILY -

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Following the Old Spanish Trail

... A LONG AND WINDING ROAD OF HISTORY FROM SANTA FE TO LOS ANGELES.

KUCHEL & DRESEL: CAL. VIEWS.



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## LOS ANGELES,

LOS ANGELES, CAL., 1857.

An important Spanish and Mexican mission, merchant and port city, Los Angeles was the western terminus of the Spanish Trail from Santa Fe, 1830-48.

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**U**

nlike the Santa Fe or Oregon Trails, you won't find any trail ruts on the Old Spanish Trail. For that matter, it's even hard to find tapas restaurants.

Historian Rod Miller points out that the trail isn't old, and isn't Spanish, and LeRoy R. and Anne W. Hafen wrote in *Old Spanish Trail: Santa Fe to Los Angeles*: "The Old Spanish Trail was the longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America."

Even today, the Old Spanish Trail is arduous (especially during rush hour in Las Vegas and Los Angeles), long and crooked. But for pure Western scenery and a great look at the American West—then and now—this is one trail worth following.

The question, of course, is which route to take.

America's 15th National Historic Trail has three routes, all beginning in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and ending in Los Angeles.

The North Branch takes travelers through Taos and into Colorado (Saguache, Grand Junction), then across central and southern Utah, sliding through southern Nevada and into California. The Main Route heads to Durango, Colorado, and Moab, Utah, before picking up the North Branch trail in Green River, Utah.

I've elected the Armijo Route for good reasons. Okay, number one is my choice because it's shorter than the others, but I am also a historical purist, and Antonio Armijo's route came first. Besides, the Armijo route goes through Page, Arizona, where the margaritas at Fiesta Mexicana



One of the best times to visit Santa Fe's El Rancho de las Golondrinas is the "Harvest Festival" in October, a community celebration that features chile ristras, tortilla making and grapes being crushed for wine by foot.

- ALL PHOTOS BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

are just slightly smaller than Lake Powell in a wet year.

Late in 1829, Armijo, a Santa Fe merchant, left New Mexico with men, mules and—most important—goodies to sell. By the end of January 1830, they had reached San Gabriel Mission. Goods were exchanged, and the trade route between Santa Fe and L.A. was open.

### Santa Fe

One of America's most popular tourist destinations, Santa Fe is a great place to begin this journey

because here, neither heritage nor culture has been forgotten.

Start at the New Mexico History Museum and Palace of the Governors for a 400-year history lesson. That complex is just off the historic Plaza, and the Plaza is a shopper's paradise. Remember: The Old Spanish Trail was about trading and spending

money, and Santa Fe is always about spending money. This is true especially during Traditional Spanish Market (and its companion, Contemporary Hispanic Market), held on the Plaza in July.

But the city's also about history and art, and the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and the Museum of International Folk Art on Museum Hill are also worth visiting.

Yet the best place to experience the Old Spanish Trail is at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum that preserves the Spanish Colonial and Territorial period of New Mexico. The site was an original stop on the Camino Real and is host to a number of festivals, celebrations and history events each year.

Santa Fe might be an art mecca (Gib Singleton, Georgia O'Keeffe), but the West lives here. Hey, cowboys have been



### Historical Marker

*"The Old Spanish Trail—Armijo's Route" historical marker near Henderson, Nevada, in Clark County, on Nevada Route 564, describes how Antonio Armijo, on January 8, 1830, crossed Las Vegas Valley en route from Santa Fe to Los Angeles with roughly sixty men. The successful completion of the journey opened a trade route between the two Mexican provinces of New Mexico and California."*





The Chama River, which Armijo followed from the Spanish outpost of Abiquiú on his westward route across New Mexico, is preserved today as a wild and scenic river.

saddling up for June's annual Rodeo de Santa Fe since 1949.

Finally, if you love tapas, Santa Fe has plenty of "small bites." Check out Taberna la Boca, El Meson Restaurante or El Farol before heading north.

### New Mexico

Armijo began his journey from Abiquiú on November 7, 1829. These days, Abiquiú

is better remembered for O'Keeffe's paintings and the scenic Chama River, but 15 miles north you'll find Ghost Ranch Piedra Lumbre Education and Visitor Center, which contains exhibits on the Old Spanish Trail—as well as geology, paleontology, archeology and other cultural and historical exhibits.

After that, leave O'Keeffe country for Tony Hillerman terrain and the Navajo Nation. Armijo found a Navajo

settlement on his journey west. On his return to Santa Fe in the spring of 1830, he reported that Navajos stole some of his animals.

Aztec is worth a stop for Aztec Ruins National Monument, which preserves kivas and other structures of Ancestral Pueblo people (we don't call them Anasazi these days) from the 1100s through 1200s.

And if you like fly-fishing, the San Juan River is a pretty good place to wet a fly.

Speaking of the San Juan, Armijo crossed the river twice, first near Blanco, and then near the mouth of the Mancos River in the Four Corners area. It is unlikely that Armijo and his mules stopped for a "photo op," but since you're in the neighborhood, you might as well be a complete tourist at Four Corners Monument and stand at

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the reputed intersection of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.

### Arizona

After crossing the Arizona border, check out the trading post at Teec Nos Pos (pronounced Tease-Nhas-phas), established in 1905 and still carrying an extensive collection of Navajo rugs.

Armijo continued west, passing Church Rock near Kayenta, but once you reach Kayenta, you should take a detour. After all, how close do you actually get to John Ford Country? Head north into Utah and visit Monument Valley, where John Ford—and other directors—turned out some spectacular Western movies (and some garbage, too, but always beautiful to look at).

While in the neighborhood, spend a while at Goosenecks State Park. You'll

The country's spectacular, but it had to have been incredibly harsh for a mule train in the winter of 1829.

likely be tempted to keep on north to Moab and Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, but, trust me, there's a lot to see on Armijo's route.

Navajo National Monument, Antelope Canyon, Horseshoe Bend, historic Lees

Ferry and Lake Powell are just a few of my favorites. Page is a good base camp to check out those sites. While in Powell, drop in at Page's only history museum, the Powell Museum, to learn about another courageous explorer, Colorado River rat and trailblazer, John Wesley Powell.

### Utah

Once in Utah, you should be prepared to make more deviations: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase



Hoover Dam, which tamed the wild Colorado and transformed the West with cheap electricity and water, looms high above Las Vegas Wash where Armijo's pack train to Los Angeles crossed in 1830.

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## GOOD BOOKS, FILMS & TV

**Books:** *The Blessing Way* by Tony Hillerman; *In Search of the Spanish Trail: Santa Fe to Los Angeles, 1829-1848* by C. Gregory Crampton and Steven K. Madsen; *Old Spanish Trail: Santa Fe to Los Angeles* by LeRoy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen; *Old Spanish Trail North Branch and its Travelers* by Ron Kessler; *The Way to the West* by Emerson Hough.

**Films & TV:** *Into the West* (2005 miniseries, winner of the Spur Award and Western Heritage Wrangler Award; filmed on location at Monument Valley, Utah); *The Professionals* (1966 movie partly filmed at Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada); *The Vanishing American* (1925 movie partly filmed at Monument Valley, Utah); *Walt Disney Treasures: Zorro—The Complete First Season*; *Walt Disney Treasures: Zorro—The Complete Second Season* (1957-59 Walt Disney Studios TV series filmed in Los Angeles).

Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, even

back into Arizona at Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim and Pipe Spring National Monument.

The country's spectacular, but it had to have been incredibly harsh for a mule train in the winter of 1829. After all, Armijo couldn't break up his travels to learn about paleontology and geology at Big Water Visitor Center in Big Water, Utah, or the Ancient Ones at Red Pueblo Heritage Park and Anasazi Museum in Fredonia, Arizona.

Eventually, you'll wind up back in civilization at St. George, Utah, where you can get your art fix (St. George Art Museum and Store) and history lesson (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers). Okay, I doubt if you'll find any authentic tapas in town, but the view and chow at the Riverwalk Grill is hard to beat.

## Nevada

In Nevada, the country becomes really dismal. And hot.

Southern Nevada can surprise travelers, though, as in the case of Valley of Fire State Park, a red-sandstone haven for rock climbers and people who like to sweat in the summer. The park was founded in 1935, the same year the Lost City Museum was built in nearby Overton by the National Park Service.

When you reach Las Vegas, give the casinos and shows a break and check out the views at Red Rock Canyon



Monument Valley: A worthy detour off the Old Spanish Trail—especially if you're a fan of John Ford Westerns—is a visit to Goulding's Lodge and Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.



Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park, founded in 1935, preserves Indian heritage in the region, including 3,000-year-old Indian petroglyphs.

The Santuario de Guadalupe in Santa Fe was first built as a shrine in 1777.



National Conservation Area, learn the region's history at Clark County Museum in Henderson, and marvel at Hoover Dam near Boulder City.

Las Vegas was on Armijo's route too. He followed a shortcut across the Mojave Desert that Rafael Rivera had discovered in 1828 or 1829—Indians, of course, knew of it long before.

Las Vegas, or "The Meadows," became a watering hole on the Spanish Trail for the next two decades, and Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park is worth a look. There's no neon here to burn your retinas, just the ruins of an old adobe fort.

Then it's across the Mojave Desert and into California.

## California

The land's still brutal in the Mojave, but the food today's better than it was when Armijo was trying to make a living.

His diary entries for January 1830 say much in few words:

17. *A day's journey without water.*
20. *A day's journey without water.*
23. *Along this same arroyo; we ate a horse.*
24. *Ditto.*
25. *Ditto.*
26. *Ditto; we ate a male mule belonging to Miguel Valdés.*

Just north of Barstow, stretch your legs at Calico Ghost Town. It's touristy and overpriced, but give Knott's Berry Farm credit for preserving this 1880s silver camp.

Then pick up the Old Spanish Trail history at Barstow, where the trail is featured as part of the Barstow Main Street Mural. The Mojave River Valley

Museum preserves the valley's scientific, cultural and historical heritage.

By January 27, 1829, Armijo's men had reached the San Bernardino canyon and were in San Jose on January 29 at San Gabriel Mission on January 31.

You'll notice an increase in traffic along the freeways, but maybe not so many tourists at the Agua Mansa Pioneer Cemetery, a state historical landmark, in Colton near San Bernardino. Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, of course, is a must stop for Old Spanish Trail buffs.

San Gabriel, which celebrates its 243rd Fiesta de San Gabriel on August 29-31, is the birthplace of the Los Angeles region, and our final stop.

Silent film star William S. Hart never made any movies about the Old Spanish Trail (he left that to Roy Rogers and *On the Old Spanish Trail* in 1947), but the William S. Hart Ranch and Museum in Newhall is a well-preserved look at how a Hollywood cowboy was living in the early 1900s.

Other area museums reveal just how much L.A. has to offer, from the George C. Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits to the Autry National Center (Gene Autry's museums are certainly better than his movies), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, Travel Town Museum and Forest Lawn Museum.

Our trail ends at the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District, a.k.a. El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park. L.A.'s oldest section—El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles—was the community center during the rule of the Spanish (1781-1821),

Mexican (1821-1847) and United States (after 1847). Designated a state historic monument in 1953, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

I'm hungry. This being L.A., I'm certain I can find tapas somewhere near here. I haven't had any since Santa Fe. ✖

**Johnny D. Boggs** recommends, no matter which route you take, checking out the Old Spanish Trail Association ([OldSpanishTrail.org](http://OldSpanishTrail.org)) for travel and history tips.



## BEST OF THE ROAD

**Dining:** Bode's General Store (*Abiquiú, NM*); Gordon Ramsay BurGR (*Las Vegas, NV*); Pioneer Saloon (*Goodsprings*); Emma Jean's Holland Burger Café (*Victorville, CA*); Bazaar by José Andrés (*Beverly Hills*).

**Lodging:** Hotel St. Francis (*Santa Fe, NM*); Courtyard Page at Lake Powell (*Page, AZ*); CasaBlanca Resort (*Mesquite, NV*); Wigwam Motel (*San Bernardino, CA*); Hollywood Historic Hotel (*Hollywood*).

# WESTERN MOVIES

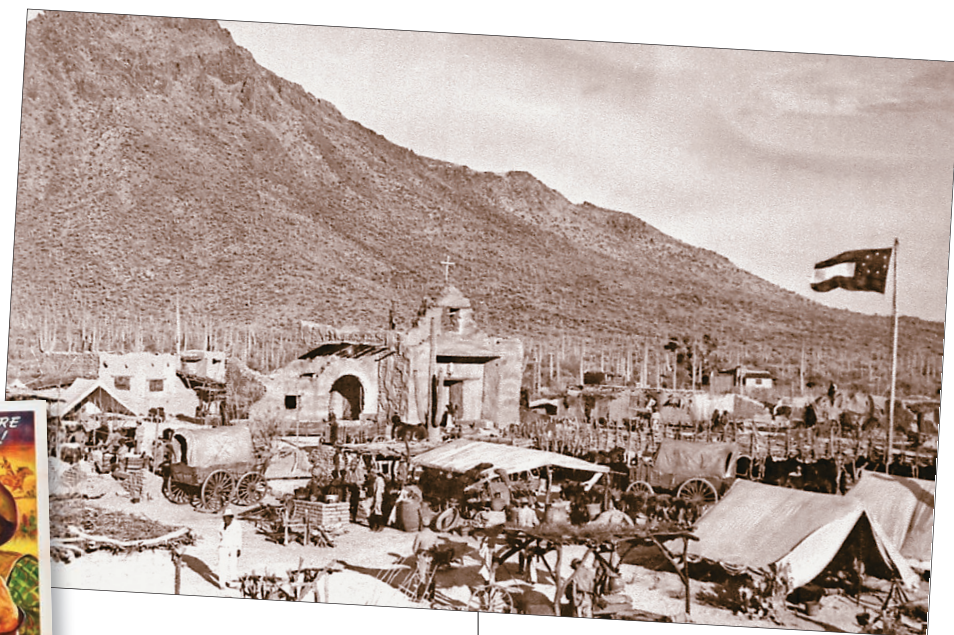
DVD & TV SERIES  
BY C. COURTNEY JOYNER

## Old Tucson's 75th

*Hollywood is still in the desert.*

The film that started it all: Columbia Pictures' entry in the studio Western race that required the building of Old Tucson Studios. *Arizona* hit the mark, and so did the location, which can be seen in hundreds of films and TV shows, from 1940 to today.

— ARIZONA COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES; SET COURTESY OLD TUCSON STUDIOS —



**T**he year 1938 was an off year for Westerns. Cecil B. DeMille hadn't traveled West since making *The Plainsman* in 1936, while *Stagecoach* and *Jesse James* were still a year away. Major studio heads thought Westerns were strictly bread and butter for "B" outfits grinding out six-day features and serials.

Columbia Pictures' tough-minded president, Harry Cohn, took a stand by backing a script for a big-budget Western, *Arizona*, assigning his newest star William Holden to the lead and pairing him with Jean Arthur. Cohn loved to gamble, and he raised the stakes by building an entire town just for the film's production.

Construction of Old Tucson Studios began in 1939, when John Wayne's Ringo

Kid was exploding across movie screens for John Ford. Director Wesley Ruggles spent months crafting his epic. Released on Christmas Day, 1940, *Arizona* was an immediate hit. Old Tucson looked like a real place, without the false trappings so common to studio back lots. Like many towns of the Old West, it was isolated, with an encroaching desert and unforgiving winds beating it. Old Tucson felt right.

The studio's struggle was as real as the town it represented. Labeled a "distant location," the facility didn't see Hollywood again until the non-Western *The Bells of St. Mary's*, starring Bing Crosby. Production picked up in the 1940s, and then Old Tucson became a favorite site for John Wayne, Howard Hawks, John Sturges and,

later, Clint Eastwood. Writer and director Burt Kennedy said that shooting there was "as comfortable as coming home."

Production boomed as TV moved into the studio in the 1960s. Old Tucson was expanded into a theme park, with a natural focus on Western movies, and history, as part of the attractions. Who wouldn't want to trod the same streets as did the Duke in *Rio Bravo* and *McLintock!*, Paul

Newman in *Hombre* or Eastwood in *Joe Kidd* and *The Outlaw Josey Wales*?

I became aware of Old Tucson as a place you could actually visit when I saw Michael Winner's *Death Wish* on TV and watched Charles Bronson's character learn about gunfights at the Old Tucson

stunt show. I finally made it to the studio in the early 1980s, getting the chance to

Construction of Old Tucson Studios began in 1939, when John Wayne's Ringo Kid was exploding across movie screens.

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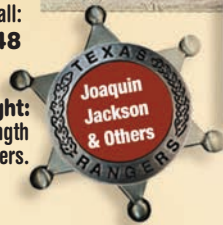
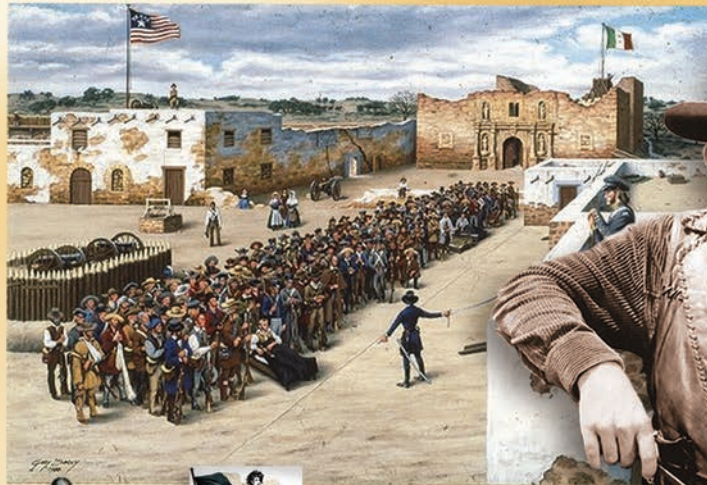
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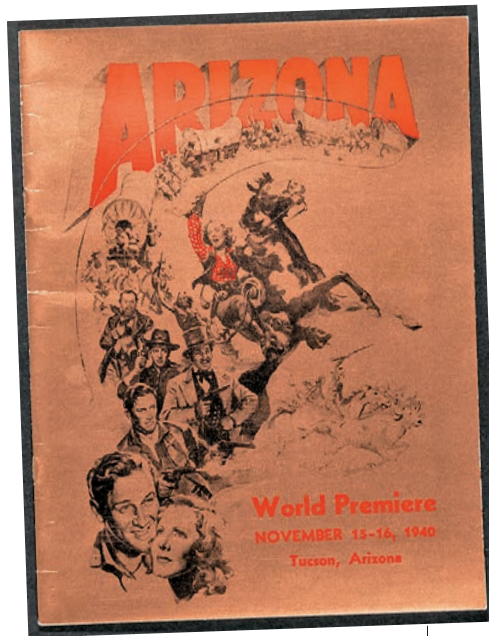
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The world premiere of *Arizona* was held on November 15, 1940, at five movie theaters in Tucson. The stars attended, and tickets were \$3.50 for locals.

—COURTESY C. COURTNEY JOYNER—

hooves to the Western genre this year and the next, Old Tucson is the place where Hollywood should once again turn its cameras.

## DVD REVIEWS

### Shadow on the Mesa

*Shadow on the Mesa* (\$15) is a solid Western from Hallmark, starring Kevin Sorbo, Greg Evigan and Barry Corbin. They

offer fine support to Wes Brown's young gunfighter out to avenge his mother's death, only to be tangled in a range war between the father he never knew (Sorbo) and an evil rancher (Evigan).

Sorbo's character veers toward the dark side, beginning as the nemesis of Brown's gunfighter, but then he redeems himself for his sins against the young man and his mother. Sorbo could roll through this part in his sleep, but dedicates himself to an interesting layered performance.

Director David Cass has been behind the camera on scores of movies for executive producer Larry Levinson. His staging of scenes with an extra focus on tension makes this film a fine example of what a Hallmark Western can be when the right elements fall into place.

### Universal's 40th Discs

Two Universal Westerns have been released on blu-ray as "40th Anniversary Editions," *High Plains Drifter* (\$20) and *My Name is Nobody* (\$25).

Although Clint Eastwood's ghostly tribute to Sergio Leone has never looked better than this superb transfer, *Nobody* edges out as the disc deserving of a special look.

admire John Wayne's holster, before leisurely wandering the sets of *Rio Lobo* and *The High Chaparral*.

I was planning a return when the studio caught fire in 1995, destroying many sets and a great collection of props and memorabilia. Anyone who cared about Westerns felt a sense of loss.

Like the cowboys who had ridden there, Old Tucson was too tough to die. Resurrected with new buildings and streets, and a park expansion, the town is again a fully functional movie studio.

This year, Old Tucson is celebrating its 75th anniversary. "Old Tucson will feature a 'story in pictures' of the building of the original sets for *Arizona*," Marketing Director Marie Demarais says. In March, the studio will host a reunion of the stunt performers who have bitten the dust there since the 1960s. Other events during the year include the Cowboy Music Festival, the Wild West Performing Arts Society Championships and Steampunk conventions.

The studio has seen a surge in activity, with independent productions such as *Miracle at Sage Creek* and *Hot Bath an' a Stiff Drink*. The sequel to *Hot Bath* is shooting at Old Tucson and at its adjoining location, Mescal.

With *The Homesman* and *Bone Tomahawk* bringing back the crack of a Winchester and the thunder of



Based on a story by Leone and directed by his assistant Tonino Valerii, *Nobody* is a good-natured, lighter Western with some stunning action sequences and fine chemistry between Henry Fonda and Terence Hill. Fonda's gunfighter character is trying to leave his rep behind him, while Hill plays a young admirer who keeps getting into trouble and dragging Fonda right along.

The film's comedy has the "Trinity" mark to it, as typical with many Euro-Westerns, but Hill's charisma and amazing athletics have never been better showcased. Fonda, of course, plays on his own quiet, iconic screen image, but he becomes a brutal force in the gunfights.

The "Into the Pages of History" sequence, where Fonda and Hill blow bad guys off their horses by igniting nitro hidden in their saddlebags, is masterful and is complemented by the grandeur of Ennio Morricone's score.

This Image presentation is the European cut—with Italian titles and five extra minutes. Leo Gordon and R.G. Armstrong are still dubbed by others, but that is minor quibbling about a fun, energetic and sometimes spectacular Leone Euro-Western that has been long neglected. This disc is *Nobody's* chance for rediscovery.

Universal has released *High Plains Drifter* a number of times on DVD, but this blu-ray shows off Eastwood's stylized direction and the late Bruce Surtees's superb cinematography. In high-definition, the town of Lago really looks like Hell, and you can see the terror on Geoffrey Lewis as he screams, "Who are you?" before that final bullet.

Unfortunately, neither film has a single extra. But even as bare bones discs, both titles are a bargain, and they make a great Saturday night double feature.

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

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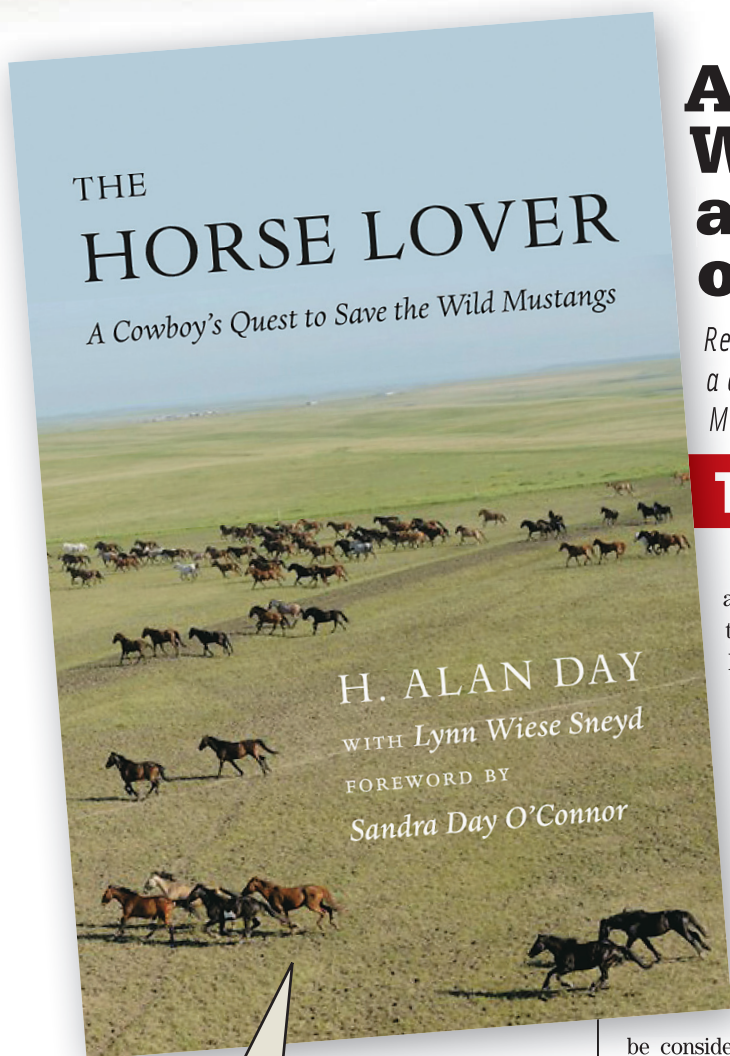
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# WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



"The mustangs taught me to pay attention to the little things in life, to empathize more with the animal kingdom, to trust my instincts."

## An American Tale: Wild Mustangs and the Spirit of a Nation

Read about Alan Day's mission to save the wild horse, a cowgirl's tale of love and life, and the Civil War in Montana; plus, two Western art books.

### THE HORSE LOVER

Deep in the subconscious spirit of the people of the Americas is a love affair with the horse. While the modern horse did not come to the Western Hemisphere until Christopher Columbus brought a herd to the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean in 1493, and it has long since been supplanted in modern times as the primary mode of transportation, the horse remains the single most important animal introduced in the New World by Europeans. Alan Day, a horseman before he could walk, has captured the essence of that unique relationship between man and horse in *The Horse Lover: A Cowboy's Quest to Save the Wild Mustangs* (University of Nebraska Press, \$24.95). Day's love affair with the horse is as timeless as the West, and his personal quest to save the wild mustang is an important link to our past, present and future.

Written with Lynn Wiese Sneyd, Day has crafted a story of his love affair with horses and wild mustangs that will quickly be considered essential reading for those seeking an understanding of the importance of the mustangs in American culture. Glenn Vernam, one of the preeminent historians of the relationship between man and horse, wrote in *Man on Horseback* in 1964: "Man seated on a horse's back is history's dominant figure. How the association of man and horse was first formed is one of history's great mysteries."

Alan Day, a cattle rancher most of his life, discovered his passion for the American mustang when he decided to convert a South Dakota ranch property into a wild horse refuge.



- BY LYNN WIESE SNEYD -



My best Western combo for this winter: Glendon Swarthout's *The Homesman*, a novel re-released on Valentine's Day by Simon & Schuster and an upcoming movie adapted by its star and director, Tommy Lee Jones.

Winter can be a writer's best friend, too. Fire in the fireplace; office stacked with research and books. You have plenty of pencils, paper and your computer. You have your muse, your music, coffee and, of course, deadlines—and bills to pay—the last two maybe the most inspiring muses for any writer.

Recently, I heard through the *True West* grapevine, that two of our favorite contributors are hard at it, their muses inspiring them to reach new levels in their work.

Paul Hutton is three chapters away from finishing his Apache opus. He's at 160,000 words, and he needs to finish because, as he told us, "he's got four kids in college."

Author and screenwriter Ron Hansen is turning his attention to Billy the Kid for his next project. This will make it a trifecta with his previous books *Desperadoes*, which tells the story of the Daltons, and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*.

—Stuart Rosebrook



Herding his beloved wild horses at Mustang Meadows, Day beautifully recalls his hopes and dreams for the wild horse in *The Horse Lover*.

— COURTESY CLARK NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY —

Day may not have answered Vernam's eternal question, but the Arizona rancher's personal quest and dream to help save America's wild horse at his sanctuary, Mustang Meadows ranch in South Dakota, brought him—and us—a little closer. "The mustangs taught me to pay attention to the little things in life, to empathize more with the animal kingdom, to trust my instincts," Day recalls in his conclusion. "Without a doubt, I was a better man for knowing them."

Day grew up on an Arizona ranch, riding before he was walking, knowing he was going to cowboy and ranch cattle his whole life. He and his sister Sandra Day O'Connor told that story in *Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest*. A best seller, *Lazy B* was a statement about family, of hard work and life growing up cowboying in the rural, desert West. One of the touchstones of Day's childhood was his horses, and his relationship to each one of them as he was growing up. "I rode them, broke them, raised them," Day tells *True West*. "My story of the wild mustang preserve, and my life with horses, is the parallel story Lynn Sneyd helped me tell in *The Horse Lover*."

Day's early life in ranching paralleled his father's. Day recalls: "You are born to the ranch, spend your life there, and you die there."

Charles M. Russell's *1904 Smoking Up* is one of the classics featured in *The American West in Bronze, 1850-1925*.

— COURTESY PETRIE COLLECTION / METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART / YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS —



But the heir to the Lazy B gained perspective from some mentors early in his ranching career, and the Arizona rancher began to invest in good ranches and make them better, earning him the opportunity to ranch beyond his corner of Arizona. In 1988, he was introduced to an opportunity he couldn't refuse after he visited the

Arnold Ranch in South Dakota. Little did he know that his love affair with the beautiful Dakota prairie would become his life's passion, Mustang Meadows.

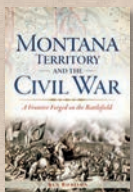
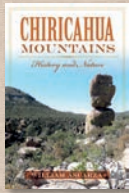
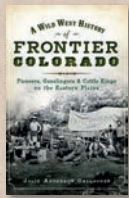
Day's poignant personal journey is one of both heartache and hope, a mirror of not just one man's desire to save a great American icon of freedom, the wild mustang, but a nation's. As his sister, Justice O'Connor, writes in the foreword, "this book...enables the reader to see and feel that excitement and to glimpse what was and what might have been with these splendid animals."

—Stuart Rosebrook

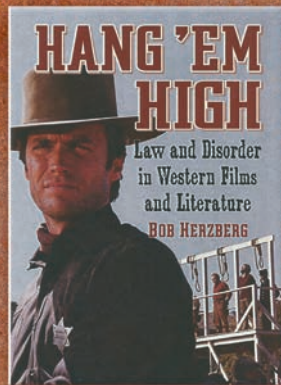
## THE BRONZED WEST

The evolution of bronze Western sculptures in the formative years of the medium is the subject of *The American West in Bronze, 1850-1925* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, \$50), a collection of thematic essays accompanying an

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This book discusses the many Western films that illustrate distortions of the law in the Old West, and the many ways, most of them marked by vengeance, in which its characters pursued justice.

Bob Herzberg is a member of the Western Writers of America. His first novel, *Quattrill's Gold*, was published in 2012. Bob is also the author of several non-fiction books such as *The FBI and the Movies*.

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exhibition organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Featuring works from masters such as Frederic Remington and Charles Russell alongside lesser known artists such as Charles Cristadoro and John Quincy Adams Ward (a name familiar to historical firearms aficionados), the book focuses specifically on the way sculptors codified images of American Indians, cowboys, settlers and Western wildlife. The bronzes, from collections across the country, are featured alongside historical Western images to show how they mirrored and influenced one another. Thoroughly researched with clearly articulated arguments, the book should appeal to a broad audience.

—Jeffrey Richardson, author of *Colt: The Revolver of the American West*

prints, photographs and Plains Indian artifacts running through April 13 at the High Museum in Atlanta. Here's a catalog you'll want to own. It's clearly organized and handsomely illustrated with the masterpieces on loan from the permanent collection of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming. Succinct, scholarly essays by Mindy Besaw, Stephanie Mayer Heydt, Emma Hansen and others explore major themes in Western art and the enduring legacy of Plains Indian culture. Even if you've already visited Cody, this catalog, and the exhibition titled "Go West!," will whet your appetite for more.

—Brian W. Dippie, contributor to *The American West in Bronze, 1850-1925*

**THE REAL AND IMAGINED WEST**

*Art of the American Frontier: From the Buffalo Bill Center of the West* (Yale University Press, \$45) accompanies a major exhibition of paintings, sculptures,

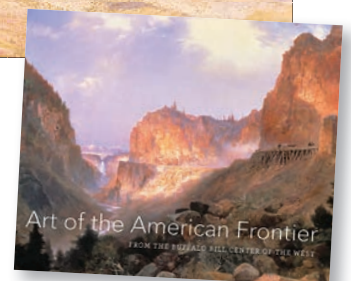
**A RANCH WOMAN'S LIFE**

WILLA-award-winning author Amy Hale Auker has been an essayist, until *Winter of Beauty* (Pen-L Publishing, \$14.97). The story is mainly about Shiney, a ranch woman down to her bones,



*Art of the American Frontier* is a beautifully illustrated, scholarly catalog and history of Western American art from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, including William Herbert Dunton's *The Custer Fight* (above), circa 1915.

— COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST / HIGH MUSEUM OF ART / YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS —



Rancher, photographer, essayist Amy Hale Auker has written her first novel, which reflects her firsthand knowledge of ranching in Arizona's rugged Yavapai County.

- COURTESY AMY HALE AUKER -



living her life in the shadow of Bride Mountain in central Arizona. Tough and independent, she is the woman we all wish we had in our lives. A rancher herself, the author clearly knows the trials, blisters and animals of which she writes. Her details and descriptions are lyric, but, while characters evolve, many of



them are hard to truly know. Perhaps there are too many. This is Auker's first novel, but I believe not her best. I would definitely read a second and third, expecting each one to be more compelling.

—Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, author of *Arizona : 100 Years Grand 1912-2012*


## MONTANA DIVIDED AND UNITED

This is a fine look at an important part of Montana history: how Montana transformed from territory to statehood while profoundly influenced by settlers still bitter from both sides of the Civil War. In *Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield*

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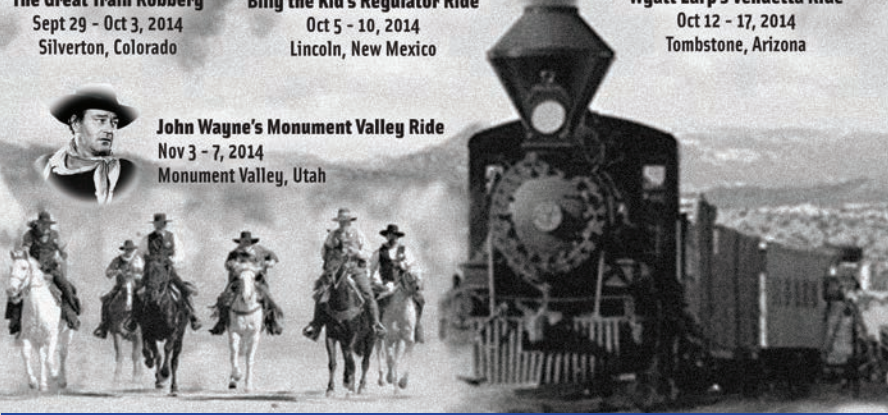
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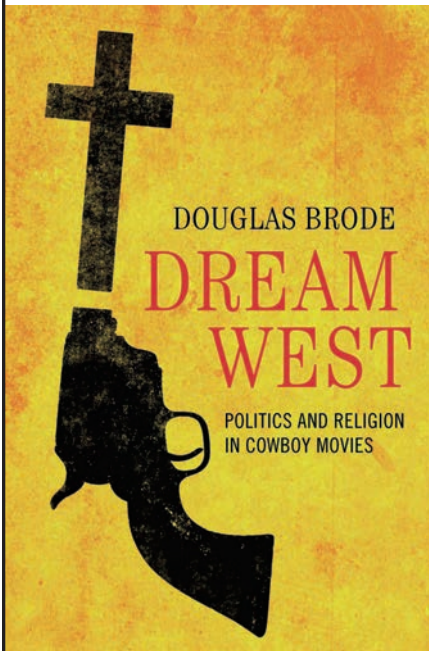
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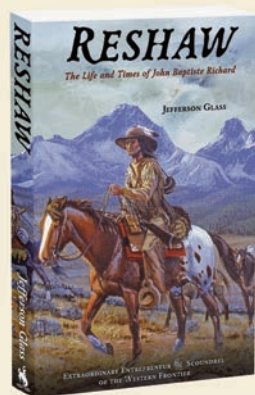


ANN KIRSCHNER'S FAVORITE READS

Ann Kirschner, university dean of Macaulay Honors College of the City University of New York, is a strong and determined historian who finds inspiration from her subjects—and inspires us with their life stories. In her first of two biographies, so personal and poignant, *Sala's Gift: My Mother's Holocaust Story*, she chronicled her mother's incredible tale of survival as a slave for five years in seven Nazi work camps. Her most recent, just re-released in paperback, *Lady at the O.K. Corral: The True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp*, is also the story

of a strong, determined, young Jewish woman, whose metamorphosis from a merchant's daughter in San Francisco to entertainer, actress and wife of Wyatt Earp's, is brought to life through Kirschner's research and travels in search of Josephine. In doing so, she has set a new standard for biographies of women who helped build the West. Kirschner traveled throughout the country in search of Josephine, as far as the Arctic streets of Nome, Alaska, and the desert banks of the Colorado River of Earp, California. Who will she write about next? Kirschner doesn't know yet, but she remains inspired by the stories of individuals who are swept up in history and how their lives are changed by events they cannot control. She recommends these five classic novels to inspire our greater understanding of the West, law and justice, the role of women and the individual in society, the struggle of civilization and the frontier, and why the O.K. Corral is still talked about.

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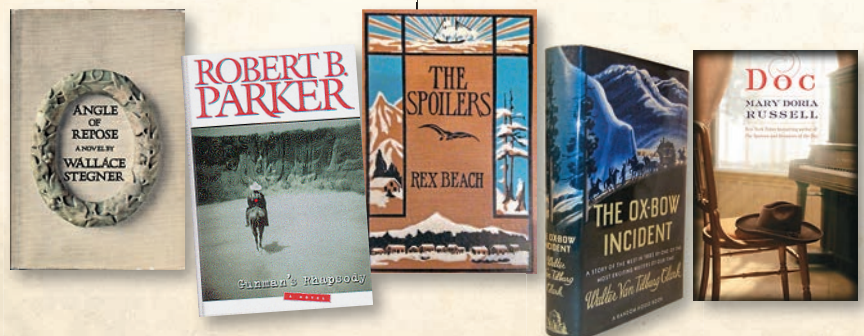
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- 1 **Angle of Repose** (Wallace Stegner, Doubleday): Awarded the Pulitzer Prize, Wallace Stegner's masterpiece weaves a Faulknerian tale of four generations of family, from the frontier West to the present, examining masterfully how marriage—and love—can endure and thrive, or collapse and fail, under the weight of adversity.
- 2 **Gunman's Rhapsody** (Robert B. Parker, Berkley): Grand Master mystery writer Robert B. Parker's first Western novel tackles one of the great criminal cases in American history, the Earp-Clanton feud and the shootout behind the O.K. Corral. Parker's powerful prose brings the reader right onto the streets of territorial Tombstone.
- 3 **The Spoilers** (Rex Beach, Harper & Brothers Publishers): Rex Beach was a best-

selling novelist at the turn of the 20th century. His novel about Nome, Alaska, when the Earps were there during the gold rush, put myself into that land, and gave me an essence into Josephine's character.

- 4 **The Ox-Bow Incident** (Walter Van Clark, Random House): Very few novels approach the level of pathos of frontier justice and the failure of vigilantism on the Western frontier than Walter Van Clark's literary classic.
- 5 **Doc** (Mary Doria Russell, Random House): Mary Doria Russell's well researched novel about Doc Holliday in Dodge City in 1878, and the development of his friendship with Wyatt Earp, evocatively provides the reader with a deep sense of the chaos and challenges of daily life in the early days of the Kansas cattle town.

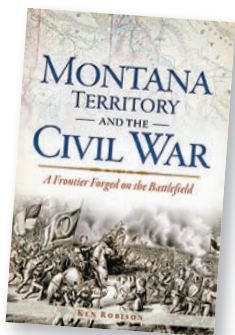




Congressman James M. Ashley, a key figure in Ken Robison's *Montana Territory and the Civil War*, was successful in legislating the creation of the Montana Territory, but was a failure in governing it from 1869-70.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / HISTORY PRESS -

(History Press, \$19.99), Ken Robison uses vignettes of Montana's heroes and heroines to detail the compelling stories of just how the



Civil War influences forged and shaped Montana's early years. Heavily biased toward the Union view of matters, and mostly using heroes who were Union supporters or abolitionists, Robison even refers to the "Lost Cause" as a myth. Although many will question his opinions of George Custer and O.O. Howard, the author's heroes are well chosen and worthy.

—Mike O'Keefe, author of *Custer, the Seventh Cavalry, and the Little Big Horn: A Bibliography*



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A TWISTED BIT OF HISTORY BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

## March Madness

Remembering the 1904 Fort Shaw girls' basketball team.

**M**arch brings madness to the entire United States, where fools everywhere pay more attention to their NCAA college basketball bracket than Louis L'Amour's birthday. Criminy, people should be thinking baseball; it's spring training, when even the inept Houston Astros have a chance at a winning season. Plus, the Spur Awards—which have nothing to do with NBA All-Star Tim Duncan—will be announced by Western Writers of America.

For the record, I hate basketball. James Naismith's invention was sacrilegious to peach baskets everywhere.

Sure, basketball has many Western connections, but I don't like the University of Kansas. "Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!" What kind of cheer is that? UCLA Bruins? Arizona Wildcats? The Lakers? The Mavericks? Bah, humbug. I hate everything about basketball.

Except...

I have come to Fort Shaw, Montana, which is in the middle of nowhere, about 30 miles west of Great Falls. Great Falls is in the middle of nowhere, too, unless you are heading to Glacier National Park or are a Charlie Russell groupie.

My pal Happy Jack Feder, my son and I are here to pay tribute to

one of the West's greatest sports stories. Certainly, this is my favorite basketball story, about the only basketball team I will ever admire. The Fort Shaw Indian Boarding School should be a Western and sports legend.

In 1903, Fort Shaw's girls' basketball team won the state championship, but the

coach—and the girls—wanted more. The next year, those kids traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, for the World's Fair.

There, they cooked and ironed, recited from "The Song of Hiawatha" and showed visitors just how well

boarding schools turned Indians white. Nothing to be proud of, right? They even went on a Ferris wheel ride with Geronimo. Ah, but they also played hoops, teaching white shooting guards and centers a thing or two.

"Kobe Bryant might have sported a gold tooth after playing them."



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Fort Shaw doesn't pull in the fans the way Allen Fieldhouse does in Lawrence, Kansas. In fact, the boarding school closed in 1910, six years after the girls' basketball team's world title. But in 2004, the city dedicated a \$30,000 granite monument at the site of the 1892 school.

— BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* called the girls, who represented at least two states and seven tribes, “streaks of lightning.” Teams from Illinois and Missouri—which even today still field some solid hoops teams—challenged those Longfellow-spouting Indians to play ball. It wasn’t exactly Little Big Horn II, but Fort Shaw beat Illinois, 14-3. They beat Missouri twice, 24-2 and 17-6. They left St. Louis as world champs.

Yet few people remember those heroic girls. Another reason to hate basketball. Oh, some folks have made efforts to honor them. My friend Happy wrote a novel, “*Shoot, Minnie, Shoot!*,” and has been trying to get it turned into a movie. Around the 100th anniversary of Fort Shaw’s world title, PBS produced a documentary, *Playing for the World: 1904 Fort Shaw Indian Girl’s Basketball Team*. Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith wrote a nonfiction book, *Full-Court Quest: The Girls from Fort Shaw Indian School, Basketball Champions of the World*. And Fort Shaw is home to a monument paying tribute to the team.

Happy and us Boggs boys, however, are the only ones at the site. After all, this is Montana, where among sports fans basketball—especially girls’ basketball—probably doesn’t rank up there alongside fly-fishing and elk-poaching.

Just how good were those Fort Shaw girls? I ask Happy if they could have beaten the Lakers.

“They might not have beaten the Lakers,” he says, “but would have left some bruises. A grandson of the coach told me they tied lead weights into their braids and snapped them at opponents. Kobe Bryant might have sported a gold tooth after playing them.”

Of course, Happy tells me, once coaches discovered that little trick, the girls were forced to cut their hair short.

Darn it, just when I was starting to like basketball.



Although he coaches a Little League Baseball team, **Johnny D. Boggs’s** favorite sport is poker, but only when he holds a really good hand.



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## You Butter Believe It!

*Kitchen staples, then and now.*

One may expect that basic kitchen staples, like flour, sugar and butter, on the frontier were identical to what cooks use today, but our imaginations would be mistaken. The way they looked, were made and used were definitely different.

White sugar, which is what most cooks today use for baking, was reserved for special occasions because it was so hard to get. Raw cane sugar was considered unrefined (which it literally was), and high society folk would never dream of serving it during their tea parties or fancy dinners. The sugar situation is the reverse today, with raw sugar being more expensive than refined white.

Similar to sugar, flour was expensive when white and cheaper when brown. The coarseness and color of the flour

depended upon how it was milled; the more finely ground, the whiter it became.

Varieties of flour included wheat (graham, during this time), rye, barley and others. Flour was bought, sold and stored in barrels and sacks, not the five-pound bag found today. It was classified as superfine, extra fine and fine as early as the 1850s and was ground in most areas using locally grown wheat. Most flour was dark in color naturally. Chemical bleaching didn't begin until the 20th century, but it was achieved naturally from oxidation or by adding alum.

Cooks created butter straight from the cow and into the churn. The color was based on Bessie the cow's diet and could range from pale to buttercup yellow. In the 1870s, a new product called margarine, butterine or artificial butter

If you were caught selling margarine in California, you were arrested!

was introduced. On March 18, 1874, the San Francisco's *Daily Evening Bulletin* wrote, "It is estimated that about eight million pounds of artificial butter have been consumed in this country since last June. Oleomargarine is the technical name given to it.... It is made from the yellow, tasteless, and odorless oil obtained from beef suet."

By the mid-1880s, states were passing laws stating margarine could not be labeled as butter. If you were caught selling margarine in California, you were arrested! Anger grew over the adulterated product during the 1880s. In 1886, Albuquerque's *Morning Democrat* jokingly expressed displeasure with hotels using oleomargarine, "Among

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- BY SHERRY MONAHAN -

## BEEF STEAK A LA COMMON SENSE

*T-Bone, Rib Eye, NY Strip*  
 1 T. butter per steak  
 1 T. lemon juice per steak  
 Salt and pepper to taste

Turn your broiler (grill or frying pan) to high. Allow steak to rest on the counter for about 20 minutes to almost room temperature. Coat the steak with a little oil and salt and pepper.

Place the steak on the grill and allow to sear uncovered for three to four minutes on one side for medium rare. Do not press or move the steak. After desired cooking time is reached, flip the steak and grill for two minutes uncovered. Then turn the heat to low and cover for another two minutes.

Place on a platter and add the butter and lemon juice. Allow steak to rest for five minutes before cutting.



Recipe courtesy *The Monday Club Cook Book*,  
 Astoria, Oregon, 1899

the most distinguished arrivals at the leading hotels is a gentleman known with disgust the world over as Col. Ole Margerine. He occupies a seat at the best tables, and denies his own name. Men who pay first-class board do not like to associate with such impositions, and it is not to be wondered that they complain of the yellow-headed assumption. Kick him out, or furnish the public with life preservers.”

Even Congress got involved with hotly-debated sessions between the butter and

oleomargarine supporters. On July 23, 1886, Congress passed a bill that defined what could be put in oleomargarine. It also insisted the product be stamped as a butter substitute, as well as levied taxes on all sales and manufacturing.

Even though this recipe doesn't call for much butter, butter sure makes this classic Western entrée shine!



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.

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# Tombstone, Arizona

*Mining town's history was written in blood.*



**T**ombstone got its start when Ed Schieffelin set out to prospect the desolate hills east of the San Pedro River in 1877. Friends, worried about his safety, tried to talk him out of it. Army Scout Al Sieber supposedly told him point-blank that the “only rock you’ll find out there will be your own tombstone.”

But Schieffelin had the last laugh, naming the town that sprang up around his fabulous silver strike “Tombstone.” The boom was on. The siren song of easy money attracted the usual assortment of boomtown businesses—saloons, gambling halls and houses of prostitution.

Before long, Tombstone’s population soared to around 8,000 people or so. (Some historians think that if you count all the camps in the area, the population may have been twice that.) When the mines flooded in the 1880s, though, the town went bust, just like a thousand boomtowns before it. But the “town too tough to die” held on,

reinventing itself as an exemplar of the wild, wild West.

Today, the echoes from the shoot-out behind the O.K. Corral still reverberate through Tombstone, which draws tourists and Old West aficionados from around the globe. It’s no wonder—with every step down Tombstone’s dusty streets, you feel as if you’re walking back through time.

Although the O.K. Corral gets the lion’s share of attention, there were plenty of other gunfights in Tombstone.

At Doc Holliday’s Gunfight Palace, you can see for yourself how Buckskin Frank Leslie killed Billy Claiborne (who’d run away just before the lead started flying at

Tombstone, dedicated to the preservation of its legendary territorial history, offers visitors an opportunity to experience the past firsthand at its numerous historic sites.

— COURTESY DAN MINJARES —

the O.K. Corral), witness the way Luke Short shot Charlie Storms and learn why in the world E.L. Bradshaw gunned down his friend Tom Waters over a fancy shirt.

“We pride ourselves on being totally historical,” says Palace owner and re-enactor Doc Najarian. “We try to give a little history lesson on how these fights got started, the background on the people involved and what happened afterwards.”

Like other folks in Tombstone, the gunfighters at the Palace are happy to help Old West aficionados dig deeper into Tombstone’s storied past.

For one thing, Najarian says, since many visitors never stray off Allen Street, you can find things most tourists never see simply by exploring other parts of town.



His favorites include Schieffelin Hall, one of Tombstone's first two-story buildings, the Wyatt Earp House and the Western Heritage Museum.

He also highly recommends the Good Enough Mine Tour, an underground trip to learn how miners worked and see an actual vein of silver, the metal that built Tombstone.

There's a long list of things to see in Tombstone, but these three shouldn't be missed:

**Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral:**

Every day at two p.m., re-enactors describe what led to the original shoot-out between the Earp and the Clanton factions on October 26, 1881, then let 'er rip with booms and blasts and bona fide dialogue. Other times of the day, the life-sized animatronics, that stand where the fight started, talk about the battle.

**Bird Cage Theatre:**

This dusty, musty, bullet-riddled building on Allen Street is a history buff's delight.

The original box seats still hang along either side of the main theatre. Sporting ladies and their customers could take in the shows from these "cribs, d" or draw the curtains and enjoy some private entertainment.

Don't miss the back room where Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson, Diamond Jim Brady and others sometimes sat in on what has been touted as the longest-running poker game in history, which ran 24 hours a day for eight years, five months and three days.

**Boothill Graveyard:**

Although the markers have been repainted many times over the years, the epitaphs remain the same. Some are quirky: "Here lies Lester Moore. Four slugs from a 44. No Les, no more." Some are infamous: "Billy Clanton, Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury, Murdered on the streets of Tombstone, 1881."

But most markers are simple, somber reminders of just how short and brutal life in a boomtown could be.

There are plenty of other attractions in and around town:

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# Where History Meets the Highway

Tombstone, located in the heart of Cochise County, is a perfect place to begin a long weekend, or more, reveling in the history of the region's bygone mining towns, ranches, Army forts and spellbinding Sky Islands of southeastern Arizona.

Bisbee, like Tombstone, started as a boomtown. Today it's an artist colony, tucked up on the south side of the Mule Mountains about 20 miles southeast of Tombstone.

[DiscoverBisbee.com](http://DiscoverBisbee.com)

In 1900, Warren Earp, the youngest of the clan, was gunned down in Willcox, about 40 miles northeast of Tombstone. His grave is in the town's Pioneer Cemetery.

[WillcoxAZ.WordPress.com](http://WillcoxAZ.WordPress.com)

In 1882, Johnny Ringo, suspected of taking part in the murder of Morgan Earp, was found dead in Turkey Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains, about 45 miles northeast of Tombstone. The official ruling was suicide. For more information on the region, check out the excellent museum at the Chiricahua National Monument, the gateway to the mountain range and its otherworldly geological formations.

[Go-Arizona.com/Chiricahua-Mountains/](http://Go-Arizona.com/Chiricahua-Mountains/)

In 1884, John Slaughter bought 65,000 acres of prime ranch land east of Douglas. The old adobe ranch house and several other buildings on the historic Slaughter Ranch Museum, about 55 miles southeast of Tombstone, were restored in the 1980s.

[SlaughterRanch.com](http://SlaughterRanch.com)

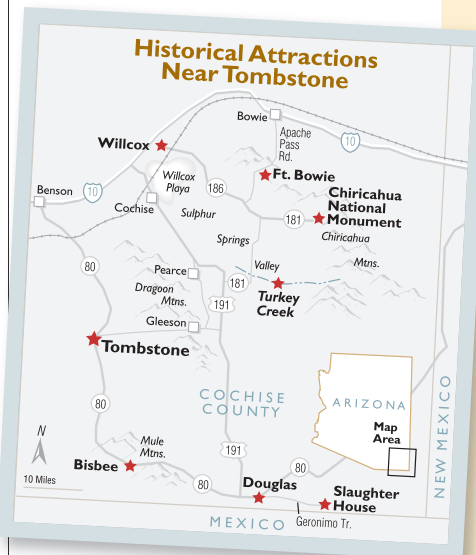
Just days after the Battle of Apache Pass in July 1862, soldiers with the 5th California Volunteer Infantry began building Fort Bowie, which served as the Army's base of operations in southeastern Arizona until 1894. Today's Fort Bowie National Historic Site is about 45 miles northeast of Tombstone.

[NPS.gov/fobo](http://NPS.gov/fobo)

Get an overview of the town and its history with a guided tour. You'll find several fine options—Tombstone Trolley Tours, Old Tombstone Tours (your choice of stagecoach or covered wagon) and, for the more macabre-minded, the Ghost and Murder Tour.

Then mosey on over to the 1882 Tombstone Courthouse and check out a tax license for operating a brothel, read an invitation to a hanging and ponder the (replica) gallows in the courtyard.

The Tombstone Epitaph Museum holds printing presses, type cases and many other artifacts used over the history of the longest continuously published newspaper in Arizona. The *Epitaph*, founded in 1880, still prints a monthly national edition.



You don't have to be a gardener to admire the largest rose tree in the world at the Rose Tree Museum. The Lady Banks Rose, transplanted here in Tombstone in 1886, now covers about 9,000 square feet. The town will celebrate its 130th blooming during the Rose Tree Festival on April 11-13.

See for yourself some of the clothing worn by the well-dressed men and women of the era at Andrea's Museum of Victorian Fashion.

Finally, take a moment to visit the Ed Schieffelin Monument a couple miles northwest of town. Standing by his grave marker, you can't help but wonder what the old prospector would think of his town now.

We think he'd be right pleased.



BY STUART ROSEBROOK



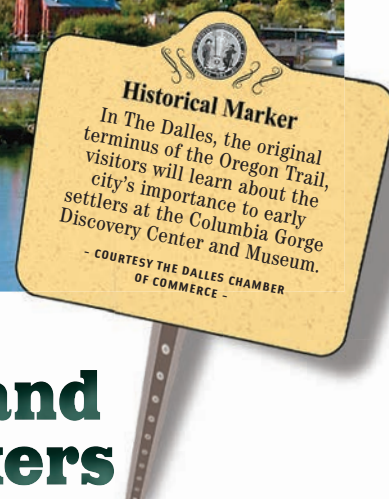
# The Best Historical Roadside Markers You Have to See

Driving America's byways and highways is a personal experience I've enjoyed since I first drove to Arizona with a buddy on a road trip in 1980. I love the highway. My most recent adventure was a 3,000-mile-plus family road trip from Iowa to New Jersey and Maryland that included nine states and the District of Columbia. The summer before, we traveled 4,200 miles on a great journey of discovery out West as far as McCall, Idaho. Both summers we enjoyed stopping and reading the historical markers, whether on a statue or building, along a U.S. highway, old county road, trail or even at interstate rest stops. We always included time to visit a historical site or park that related to the markers that are the touchstones of our nation's history. When I see a road sign announcing a "Historical Marker," my family knows we have a 50-50 chance of stopping, with a 100-percent chance we'll learn something new!

Historical markers await travelers' curiosity at (clockwise from top): Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico; Stanley Idaho Museum, Idaho; Fort Astoria National Historic Landmark, Oregon; Geographic Center of the United States, Belle Fourche Chamber and Visitor Center/Tri-State Museum, South Dakota; Virginia City Comstock Lode Historical Marker, Nevada.

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## Oregon Trail Explorers and Pioneers Historical Markers

**J**oseph L. Meek trapped beaver across the West for 12 years before he made Oregon his home near the historical marker “Joseph L. Meek,” 1.5 miles east of North Plains on U.S. Highway 26. In 1840, he helped lead the first wagon over the Oregon Trail. The future first marshal of the territory was “very popular and as brave as Julius Caesar.”

Begin your coastal tour at a historical marker on U.S. 101 north of Cannon Beach, which tells the story of William Clark trading for whale blubber and supplies with the local Indians. In Seaside, you should visit the Seaside Museum and Historical Society before touring nearby Fort Clatsop National Historic Park, the winter home of the Corps of Discovery in 1805-1806. Originally constructed in 1863 to guard the mouth of the Columbia River, Fort Stevens, a state park and military museum, is the last stop on the coastal highway. Don't miss historical markers for both forts on U.S. 101.

Nearby Astoria is home to the outstanding Oregon Maritime Museum. Enjoy the view from Astoria Tower, a sentinel of history in a park above the town. From Astoria,

U.S. 30 follows the Columbia River to Portland. Pick up I-84 to Troutdale and two historical markers: “Troutdale,” on the way into town, and “Sandy River Bridge,” at Lewis and Clark State Park.

Drive slowly on the historic Columbia River Highway along U.S. 30 and enjoy the stunning waterfalls along the way, and the Vista House at Crown Point State Park, 720 feet above the river. Continue east to Hood River to the History Museum of Hood River, before taking a scenic ride on the Mount Hood Railroad.

From Hood River, I-84 parallels the river gorge to the historic city, The Dalles. Visitors should not miss the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum nor The Dalles Dam Visitor Center. Nearby, a historical marker tells the story of Celilo Falls and the ancient Indian fishing grounds that were flooded by the Dalles Dam.

The “Oregon Trail” route from The Dalles to Oregon City follows a dramatic segment of the Mt. Hood National Scenic Byway through Barlow Pass, around Mount Hood and through the Cascades to the Willamette Valley.



“Cattle herds of early pioneers were driven to the nearby Sandy River from [T]he Dalles while the emigrants rafted their wagons down the Columbia.”

—“Troutdale,” Oregon Historical Marker



Multnomah Falls, along historic U.S. 30 in the Columbia River Gorge, has an excellent interpretive center.

- JANIS MIGLAVS / WWW.TRAVELPORTLAND.COM -

In Oregon City, the state’s first capital and last stop on the Oregon Trail, you should visit the John McLoughlin House National Historic Site and the Museum of the Oregon Territory. In the city’s Mountain View Cemetery is the gravesite of pioneer explorer Peter Skene Ogden.

As you return to Portland, enjoy the historical markers at the Willamette Falls Scenic Overlook. End your trip at the Bridgeport Brewery and Brew Pub, where you can ponder the eternity of Oregon’s natural beauty and the dramatic history that has shaped Oregon the last 200 years.

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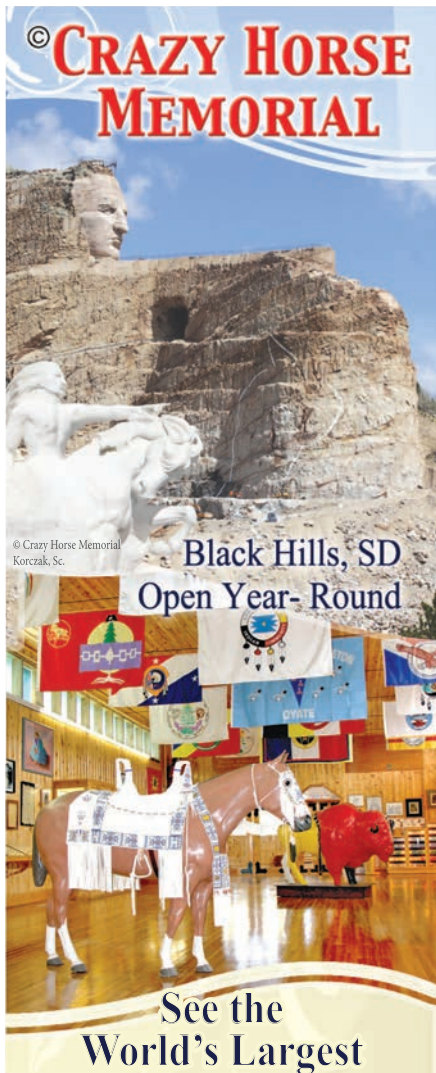
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**Historical Marker**  
The Taos Plaza welcomes visitors with informative historical markers and free maps for self-guided walking tours of the legendary city.  
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**TAOS PLAZA**  
Cernado's expedition arrived here on August 29, 1598, and his companions from the Jarero tribe that the first Indians settled in this valley around 1598 is believed to be an adaptation of the Tewa language and settlers. It is first recorded in history when Don Juan de Oñate in 1598. Don Juan in 1613.

## Old New Mexico Historical Markers

Nearly a century after the founding of Santa Fe, the Spanish “founded the new Villa de Albuquerque (now ‘Albuquerque’), which became the principal settlement of the Rio Abajo” along the Rio Grande, an important buffer between the hostile Indians of the south and the capital city to the north. The “Albuquerque” historical marker in “Old Town” will fuel greater interest in learning more local history from historical markers while walking the historic district of the “Duke City.”

North to Santa Fe, a destination since 1609, take the Highway 14 exit and stop at the “Santa Fe” historical marker for a short history lesson on the city. Start your tour of the capital at the New Mexico History Museum and Palace of the Governors. The museum offers daily walking tours of the best historic sites of Santa Fe.

East on I-25, two key stops are the marker for “Glorieta Battlefield,” at exit 299, and the Pecos National Historical Park. The ranger-led guided

tours of the pueblo ruins and the Civil War battlefield provide an excellent perspective on the history of the region.

In Las Vegas, visitors will enjoy the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center and the City of Las Vegas Museum, with its Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders’ collection. As you drive north, exit at milepost 360 for the “Fort Union National Monument” marker. A tour of Fort Union, strategically





The village of Chimayó, (below) along the "High Road" to Santa Fe, hosts one of the nation's largest annual pilgrimages during Holy Week to the 1816 Santuario de Chimayó.

- COURTESY NEW MEXICO TOURISM DEPT. -



built where the two routes of the Santa Fe Trail intersect, provides an excellent introduction to frontier army life.

At the northbound rest area at milepost 374 off I-25 is the "Santa Fe Trail" historical marker. The site also includes the Daughters of American Revolution's century-old stone tablet commemorating the trail. In Raton, the key city on the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail, visit the Raton Museum and take a walk through the central historic district.

From Raton, scenic U.S. 64 leads to Cimarron. Visit the St. James Hotel, which was at the center of the Colfax County War in the 1870s. Look for a "Santa Fe" marker in the town that is now the gateway to the Boy Scouts' famed Philmont Ranch.

Scenic Highway 64 leads to Taos, where history is as romantic and timeless as Santa Fe's. Start your tour at Taos Plaza and the "Historic Taos Marker." Very informative, the marker on the plaza has a map to the central district and a box of free, walking-tour maps of the famed city.

Enjoy the "High Road" to Santa Fe, stopping in the quaint villages of Peñasco and Chimayó. Back in Albuquerque, head down to historic Route 66 and treat yourself to some local fare at the Frontier, where you can begin planning your next trip in search of history in the Land of Enchantment.

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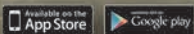
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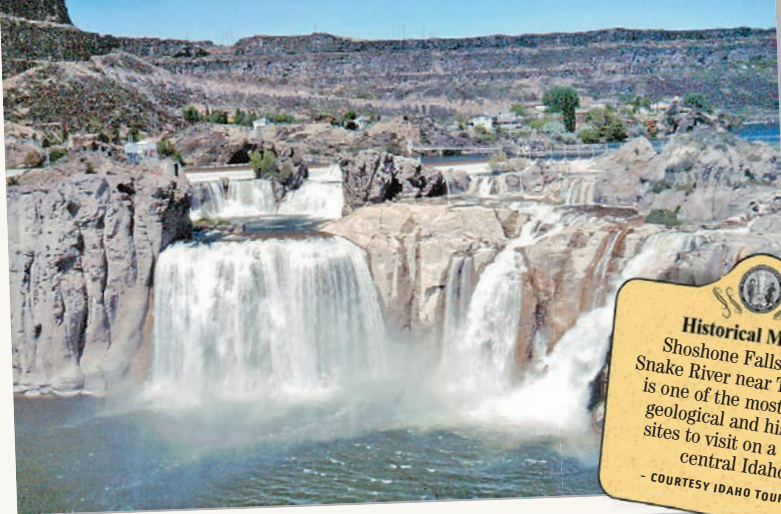
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## Central Idaho's Historic Markers

Crossing southern Idaho, Indian tribes, trappers and emigrants on the Oregon Trail all found refuge along the shady banks of the Boise River in Idaho's Treasure Valley. According to the historical marker at Bonneville Point east of Boise, "a hunting party lead [*sic*] by the explorer Captain Benjamin Bonneville reached this promontory in 1833. They saw the lush river valley below and exclaimed in French, 'Les bois; les bois; voyez le bois!' (The woods; the woods; see the woods!) In this way, Captain Bonneville's party became credited with naming the Boise Valley."

Leaving modern Boise on Warm Springs Road towards Idaho 21, en route to Idaho City, travel slow to read the numerous historical markers including "Oregon Trail," "Beaver Dick's Ferry," "More's Creek," "The Old Toll Road" and "Idaho City."

After a walk on the boardwalks of the boomtown take a tour of the Boise Basin Historical Museum. The Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway never disappoints as it twists and turns its way below the jagged peaks of the Sawtooth Mountains. Stanley is a fun rest stop; a tour of the

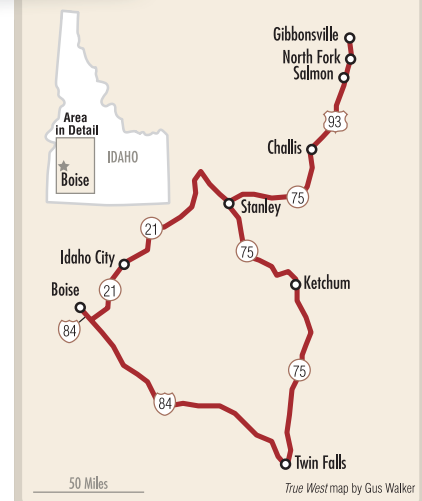
Travelers on the trail of Lewis and Clark on the Salmon River Scenic Byway should visit the informative Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, Educational and Events Center in Salmon, Idaho.

- COURTESY SACAJAWEA CENTER -

museum at the former ranger station is a good introduction to local history.

From Stanley, the tour enters the Salmon River Scenic Byway, first on Idaho 75, to Sunbeam, Clayton and Land of the Yankee Fork. From Challis to Salmon on U.S. 93, the geography changes dramatically as the highway drops in elevation into the Salmon River Valley. Salmon is home to the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, Educational and Events Center on U.S. 93. The "Sacajawea Historic Byway" marker is 1.5 miles southeast on Idaho 28.

Between Salmon and the Montana border are two "Lewis and Clark" markers, one outside of North Fork at milepost 326.1, on the west side of the road, and one at milepost 345 near Gibbonsville, on the east



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O'Farrell Hat Company p. 63  
Western and Wildlife Wonders p. 71

## ART & COLLECTIBLES

Sherry Blanchard Stuart p. 3  
Wigwam Festival of Fine Art p. 13

## EVENTS

Bishop Mule Days Celebration p. 75  
Cochise Cowboy Poetry Gathering p. 58  
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Texas Independence Day Celebration  
& The Virginian Cast Reunion p. 43  
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Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions p. 79  
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## FIREARMS & KNIVES

American Buffalo Knife & Tool p. 44  
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Jackson Armory p. 71  
John Bianchi's Frontier Gunleather p. 57  
Western and Wildlife Wonders p. 71

## HOME

Ruxton's Trading Post p. 71  
Texas Longhorn Mounts p. 72

## LODGING

Apache Spirit Ranch p. 58  
Arizona Inn p. 14  
Crockett Hotel p. 53  
Occidental Hotel & Saloon p. 74

## MEDIA

Dimenovels p. 71  
Dream West by Douglas Brode p. 50  
Guidon Books p. 49  
Hang 'em High: Law & Disorder in Western  
Films & Literature by Bob Herzberg p. 48  
High Plains Press p. 50  
L. Ron Hubbard Western Books p. 51  
Louis L'Amour Trading Post p. 72  
Statehood of Affairs by  
Dr. Daniel R. Cillis p. 63  
The History Press p. 48

## MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

Crazy Horse Memorial p. 62  
Desert Caballeros Western Museum p. 51  
New Mexico History Museum IFC  
Western Antique Aeroplane  
& Automobile Museum p. 61

## PRESERVATION

Mount Moriah Cemetery p. 69

## REAL ESTATE

Old West Property p. 54

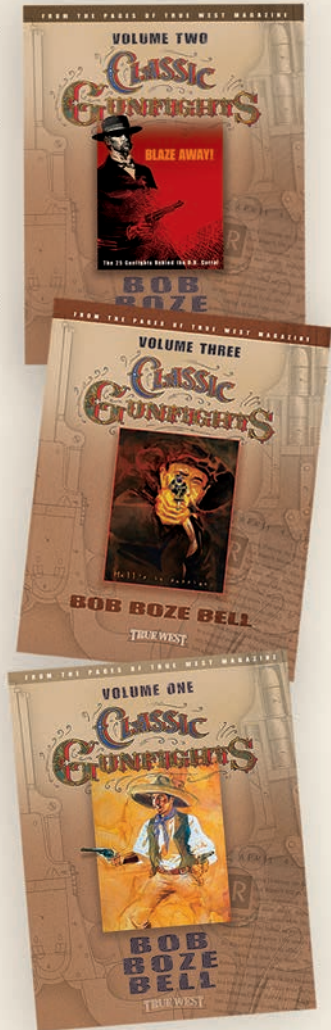
## TOURISM

Amarillo, TX p. 54  
Aztec, NM p. 38  
Bishop, CA p. 75  
Carson City, NV p. 64  
Cheyenne, WY p. 55  
Deadwood, SD p. 69  
Douglas and Glenrock, WY p. 75  
Edmond, OK p. 74  
Eureka, NV p. 39  
Laredo, TX p. 69  
Scotts Bluff, NE p. 44  
Southern Utah, Kanab, UT p. 38  
Taos, NM p. 61  
The Dalles, OR p. 61  
Winnemucca, NV p. 67

## OTHER (no information)

Blevins Manufacturing Co. p. 72  
Bob Boze Bell Books: Badmen p. 72  
Daily Whipouts / BobBozeBell.net p. 52  
True West Authentic Clothing p. 40  
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# South Dakota's Black Hills to Badlands Historical Markers

side of the highway before it switchbacks to a Montana welcome center just across the state line.

Doubling back from Salmon, you will want to return on U.S. 93 to Stanley to pick up the Sawtooth Scenic Byway, Idaho 75, to visit Ketchum (Sun Valley), Hailey, Shoshone and Twin Falls. Both Hailey and Ketchum have excellent local museums. In Shoshone, stop at the "Shoshone Historic District" marker, for an introduction to local history.

Before you return to Boise, don't miss Shoshone Falls on the Snake River, one of the most distinctive geological sites in Idaho. In Shoshone Falls Park in Twin Falls is the informative marker "Shoshone Falls: The History of Shoshone Falls Dam."

In 1876, gold fever brought miners and bonanza seekers from across the country to the Black Hills. "Buckskin" Johnny Spaulding, a buffalo hunter, followed the fever to the gold camps, where he earned a living supplying game meat to the busy miners. When fear spread across the region after the Battle of Little Big Horn, he helped build the "Custer Stockade" in Spearfish. A historical marker on Spaulding's Cabin tells his tale at Belle Fourche's Tri-State Museum.

Leaving Spearfish, take your time driving the twisting and turning back roads of the Black Hills, with its numerous historical markers. Since the discovery of gold in the mountains led to the Great Sioux War of 1876, the Homestake Open Cut Mine marker in Lead on U.S. 85 (West Main Street) is a must stop. Down in Deadwood, visit the Adams Museum and Days of '76 Museum for an introduction to local history. At the Deadwood History and Information Center, daily bus tours glorify the gold's camp's wild past with a pilgrimage to Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok's graves in the Mount Moriah Cemetery.

From Deadwood, drive U.S. 385 to Hill City, the Crazy Horse Memorial

and Custer. Before Hill City, turn on Silver City Road to visit the 1876 mining camp and historical marker tour of the Silver City mining village.

East of Custer, on U.S. Highway 16A, is the state marker: "Campsite of General Custer's Expedition, August 1-6, 1874." During his famed Black Hills Expedition, Custer made his encampment here with over 1,000 men, 110 wagons and more than 2,200 head of livestock.

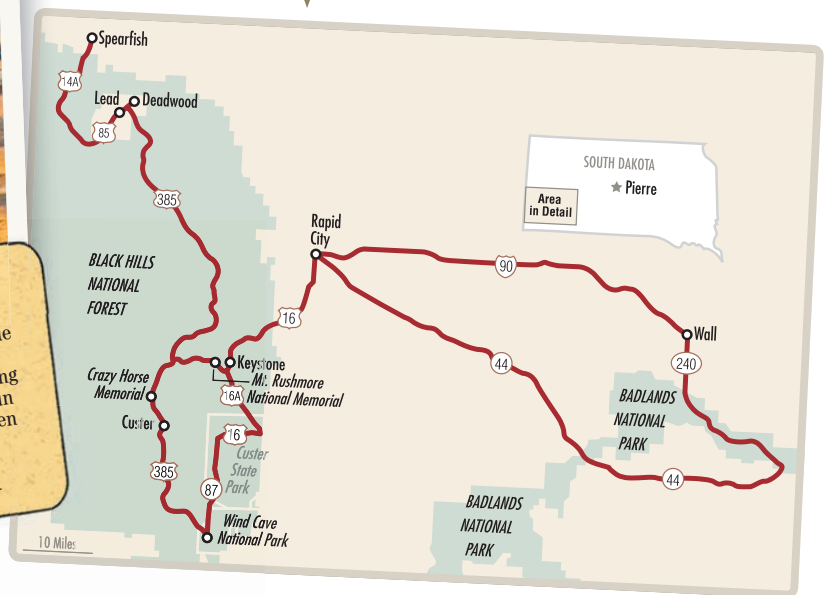
From Custer's Campsite, key stops include Wind Cave National Park and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Nearby, Keystone is a good place to stay while touring the Black Hills, with the Gutzon Borglum Historical Center, Big Thunder Gold Mine Tour and 1880 Steam Train.

Travel north on U.S. 16, a portion of the Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway, to State Highway 44, the beautiful back road to Badlands National Park and the Badlands Loop Scenic Byway. Travelers should give themselves plenty of time to stop and read the informative markers on the 30-mile loop.

Finish your tour in Rapid City at the "Rapid City Founders Camp Site" historical marker at Halley Park, noting that the city was founded on February 24, 1876. You can see where the pioneers camped just a few blocks away at Founders Park. At the Rapid City Visitor Information Center, you may ask about the local walking tours, including the Presidential Statue Tour in the historic district.



**Historical Marker**  
Badlands National Park's 30-mile scenic loop drive is extremely informative and scenic, revealing a landscape starkly beautiful in contrast to the thick, evergreen forest of the Black Hills.  
- BY CHAD COPPES / COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF TOURISM -



# Sierra Nevada Historical Markers

In October 1846, the weary Donner Party, en route to the promised land of California, took refuge near Nevada's Truckee Meadows, unknowing that the horror of starvation, cannibalism and death awaited them in the distant Sierra Nevada. In humble Donner Party Park in Reno, the "Emigrant-Donner Camp" historical marker, at the base of Rattlesnake Mountain, tells the tale. A few miles away, the historical marker "Junction House," on South Virginia Street, marks the key gathering place for emigrant wagon trains and the toll roads that converged at the first settlement in the Truckee Valley in 1853.

When you leave Reno, drive west on I-80 to the Truckee, California, exit to view the



-PHOTO COURTESY OF NEVADA DAY-

"Donner Party" historical marker at the Donner Memorial State Park. Nearby, at the Southern Pacific Depot at 70 Donner Pass Road, view the "First Transcontinental Railroad-Truckee" marker, ironic in its proximity to the site of the Donner Party tragedy just 22 years before.

From Truckee, follow scenic California 89 along the western shore of Lake Tahoe to



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South Lake Tahoe, where the highway leads up and over the mountains to U.S. 395 north of Topaz. Turn south, to Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Inn, founded in 1877, for a good meal and even an overnight stay. Seven miles south, make a stop at “Dog Town 1857” historical marker: “Site of the first major gold rush to California’s eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada.” Continue south and follow the signs to Bodie State Historic Park, where daily tours of the well-preserved, remote mining camp are offered from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

From Bodie, the tour goes north from Bridgeport on California 182 and Nevada 338 through the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to Nevada 208, which reconnects to U.S. 395 north to three places on the National Historic Register: Carson City, Dayton and Virginia City. In Carson City, historical markers await at the Nevada State Capitol and the Nevada State Museum where you can read about the “United States Mint” that opened in 1870 and closed in 1893, but not before minting \$49,274,434.30. Continue north from Carson City to Dayton and Virginia City, both rich in pioneer and mining history, and historic sites, restaurants and hotels.

Back in Reno, round out your tour at the National Automobile Museum. If you visit in late February, cruise north on I-80 to enjoy Winnemucca’s week-long, Great Basin buckaroo celebration, the Ranch Hand Rodeo, Nevada’s largest team rodeo competition.



## South Texas Missions, Ranches and Rio Grande Markers

“Thermopylae had its messenger of defeat. The Alamo had none,” declares “The Defense of the Alamo” historical marker at San Antonio’s “Shrine of Texas Liberty.” While you walk the hallowed grounds of the Alamo, take in the Texas state historical markers telling the tale of the famed mission where Davy Crockett, James Bowie and William Travis met their fate at the Battle of the Alamo in February-March 1836.

Driving south on I-35 from San Antonio to Laredo, the traveler enters the “brush country” of South Texas. Two key historical markers on the way that give insights into the region’s history are placed near the courthouses in Pearsall and Cotulla. In Cotulla, stop a half-mile past the Nueces River Bridge on I-35 for “The Nueces River at Texas Boundary” marker, which boldly states, “Until 1836 this river formed the undisputed western boundary of Texas.”

In northwest Laredo, the historical marker on U.S. Highway 83, “Poblacion de Dolores,” declares quite simply: “Oldest Spanish settlement on north bank of Rio Grande. Founded August 22, 1750....” While on the trail of markers in Laredo, tour the San Agustin Plaza, San Agustin Cathedral, La Posada, the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum and Villa Antiqua Heritage Museum.



A tour of South Texas should begin and end at the Alamo in San Antonio.

- COURTESY KENNY BRAUN -

From Laredo, U.S. 83 is your highway to historical markers along the Rio Grande to Port Isabel. In Brownsville, on E. Elizabeth Street at International Boulevard is "The Chisholm Trail" marker, just one of 14 marking the border town area's importance to U.S. and Mexican history.

Texas ranching history is the theme of the drive from Port Isabel to San Antonio. In Kenedy County, home to the Armstrong Ranch, stop at the "Armstrong Ranch House" marker. In Sarita, a must stop is the Kenedy Ranch



Museum of South Texas. Twenty miles north, 12 historical markers can be seen in or near Kingsville, headquarters for the famed King Ranch and King Ranch Museum.

Circling back to San Antonio, your heritage trail follows a series of blue highways to see historical markers in Alice, Freer and Tilden, including the "San Caja Hill" marker on Texas Highway 16 that recounts the "aftermath of the Turkey Creek Indian Battle." Finish your trip on the Mission Trail of San Antonio to the Alamo, where, for many, Texas history begins and ends.



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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR MARCH 2014



BEYOND BOUNDARIES: VISIONS FROM THE SOUTH UNIT OF BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Rapid City, SD, Opens March 7: Artist Jessica Bryant offers viewers the opportunity to witness the beauty of Badlands National Park with her paintings, such as *Vampire Peak* shown above.

605-394-4101 • [TheDahl.org](http://TheDahl.org)

## ART SHOWS

### LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR

Las Cruces, NM, March 14-16: Presents the work of more than 70 artists, as well as intermittent workshops and children's art activities. 575-523-6403 • [Las-Cruces-Arts.org](http://Las-Cruces-Arts.org)

### MASTERS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Los Angeles, CA, Closes March 16: Exhibits artworks by Howard Terpning, Mian Situ, Bill Anton, Z.S. Liang and 75 more artists. 323-667-2000 • [TheAstry.org](http://TheAstry.org)

### WESTERN MASTERS ART SHOW AND SALE

Great Falls, MT, March 19-22: Nearly 150 artists and galleries showcase their Western art, plus a quick draw, an off-the-wall auction and a concert. 406-781-0550 • [WesternMastersArtShow.com](http://WesternMastersArtShow.com)

### LLANO ART STUDIO TOUR

Llano, TX, March 29: Visit with approximately 20 artists working on Western art, in a wide range of mediums, in their creative work spaces. 325-247-5354 • [LlanoArtStudioTour.Yolasite.com](http://LlanoArtStudioTour.Yolasite.com)

## AUCTIONS

### JAMES D. JULIA FIREARMS AUCTION

Fairfield, ME, March 10-12: Features rare and historical firearms from some of the world's most renowned firearms collectors and dealers. 207-453-7125 • [JamesDJulia.com](http://JamesDJulia.com)

### THE RUSSELL

Great Falls, MT, March 20-23: Western art exhibit and auction fund raiser for the C. M. Russell Museum honors artist Charlie Russell's birthday. 406-727-8787 • [CMRussell.org](http://CMRussell.org)

### MARCH IN MONTANA

Great Falls, MT, March 21-22: The show and auction features Western and historical art, sculptures, firearms and more collectibles. 307-635-0019 • [MarchInMontana.com](http://MarchInMontana.com)

### HISTORIC & COLLECTIBLE FIREARMS

Manchester, NH, March 29: Historic firearms on the auction block could include Winchesters, Colts, sporting rifles and flintlock pistols. 603-627-7383 • [AmoskagAuction.com](http://AmoskagAuction.com)



TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AND THE VIRGINIAN CAST REUNION

Lockhart, TX, Closes March 2: Watch demonstrations of how the pioneers lived during the 1800s, plus view a screening of *The Virginian* with the cast members.

512-227-1389

[TexasIndependenceDayHomestead.com](http://TexasIndependenceDayHomestead.com)

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR MARCH 2014



### COWBOYS REAL AND IMAGINED

Santa Fe, NM, Closes March 16:  
Blends a chronological history of Southwestern cowboys with the rise of a manufactured mystique.  
505-476-5200 • [NMHistoryMuseum.org](http://NMHistoryMuseum.org)

### BOOK FESTIVAL

**TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS**  
Tucson, AZ, March 15-16: Old West authors and historians will be on hand for panel discussions and book signings at the University of Arizona.  
[TucsonFestivalOfBooks.org](http://TucsonFestivalOfBooks.org)



### COWGIRL UP!

Wickenburg, AZ, Opens March 21: Opening gala at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum kicks off the invitational Western Art exhibit by women.  
928-684-2272 • [WesternMuseum.org](http://WesternMuseum.org)

### HERITAGE FESTIVALS

#### SOUTHEASTERN COWBOY GATHERING

Catersville, GA, March 6-8: Take a walk around the gallery with featured artist Martin Grelle and enjoy a chuckwagon cook-off, music and more.  
770-387-1300 • [BoothMuseum.org](http://BoothMuseum.org)

#### KAMLOOPS COWBOY FESTIVAL

Kamloops, BC, Canada, March 13-16: BC Cowboy Heritage Society hosts art and cowboy gear trade show, workshops, dinner theatre and music.  
888-763-2221 • [BCCHS.com](http://BCCHS.com)

#### THE HIGH CHAPARRAL REUNION

Tucson, AZ, March 20-23: Join fans, cast and crew to celebrate the groundbreaking, highly acclaimed NBC Western *The High Chaparral*.  
[TheHighChaparralReunion.com](http://TheHighChaparralReunion.com)

#### ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

Gold Canyon, AZ, Closes March 30: Old West time travelers can take in medieval arts and crafts, jousting tournaments and an outdoor circus.  
520-463-2600 • [RoyalFaires.com](http://RoyalFaires.com)

### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

#### SHOOTING THE WEST

Winnemucca, NV, March 4-9: A photography symposium with distinguished presenters, workshops, participant shows and more.  
877-623-3501 • [ShootingTheWest.org](http://ShootingTheWest.org)

### RE-ENACTMENT

#### GOLIAD MASSACRE RE-ENACTMENT

Goliad, TX, March 29-30: Re-creates the occupation of Fort Defiance and the 1836 Goliad Massacre, with memorial service on the last day.  
361-645-3752 • [PresidioLaBahia.org](http://PresidioLaBahia.org)



#### WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO WEEKEND

Winnemucca, NV, Feb. 26-March 2:  
Ranch hands compete in rodeo events,  
plus cow dog trails, horse and bull sales,  
pee wee matches and a trade show.  
800-962-2638 • [RanchRodeoNV.com](http://RanchRodeoNV.com)

#### RODEOS

##### HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

Houston, TX, March 4-23: Promotes the  
breeding, raising and marketing of better  
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832-667-1000 • [RodeoHouston.com](http://RodeoHouston.com)

##### WRANGLER TIMED EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Guthrie, OK, March 7-9: Since 1985, features  
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events for a cash prize and championship title.  
800-595-7433 • [LazyE.com](http://LazyE.com)



#### CRANE WATCH FESTIVAL

Kearney, NE, March 21-30:  
More than 500,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate  
to the Platte River Valley in order to "fuel up"  
before resuming their northward migration.  
800-652-9435 • [CraneWatchFestival.com](http://CraneWatchFestival.com)

#### TRADE SHOW

##### SILVER SPUR GUN & BLADE SHOW

Lubbock, TX, March 22-23: With more  
than 20 years experience, this gun and  
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806-253-1322 • [SilverSpurTradeShows.com](http://SilverSpurTradeShows.com)

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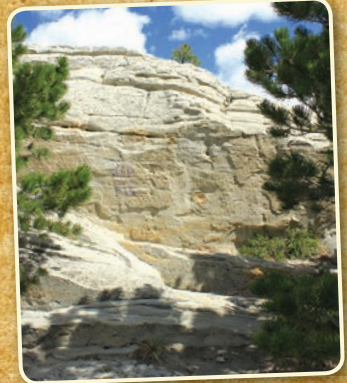
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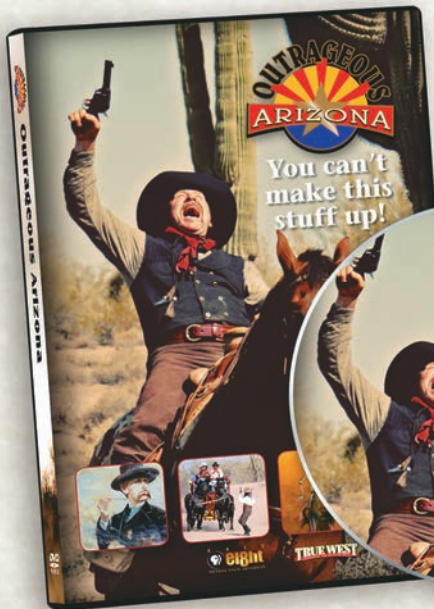
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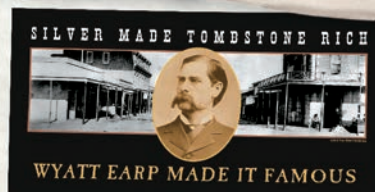
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# Herbal Armor

**I enjoyed reading the November article on Soiled Doves, but nothing was mentioned about contraception. What did they do to prevent pregnancy?**

*Barbara Oline  
Taos, New Mexico*

Pregnancy was a serious problem for prostitutes as it put them out of work for months; they did whatever was necessary to keep from getting pregnant. The madams were usually skilled in the means of contraception.

Women douched with various substances such as alum, quinine, lemon juice and baking soda. Some made concoctions out of Chinese herbs, as well as quicksilver (mercury) and arsenic, and the herbs asafetida, juniper, pennyroyal and squirting cucumber, which date back to Roman times. The effectiveness of these latter herbal potions has been amply confirmed by medical research.

Many ladies of the night might have also used a diaphragm or a cervical cap (known then as a “womb veil”). More rare would be the client who would wear a condom; if he did, early ones were made out of sheep intestines, while rubber versions were available by the 1840s. One option unknown to the client was a method by which a woman would hold the penis between her thighs to simulate intercourse. This tactic was allegedly quite common among soiled doves.

The last resort: abortion. The seeds from Queen Anne’s Lace, wild carrot, was claimed to be an effective abortifacient. During the 1870s, a New York newspaper reported some 200 full time abortionists worked in the city—and abortion safety was quite high. Undoubtedly, some abortionists (frequently women) took their talents westward as well.



Soiled Doves would use any means available to avoid getting pregnant.

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

But anecdotal evidence indicates a fair number of prostitutes did have children. Unfortunately, many of those kids grew up in tough conditions and ended up out on the streets.

## Who were the most dangerous gunmen in the Old West?

*Kerry Creech  
Lake City, Florida*

I don’t doubt some deadly and dangerous gunfighters have been lost to history, but here are six men you wouldn’t want to mess with:

**1. John Wesley Hardin** killed his first man at age 15, and may have killed as many as 50. The “terror from Texas” usually ranks as the number one bad man on every historian’s list.



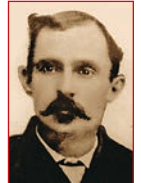
**Ask The Marshall**

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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

**2. Killin’ Jim Miller**, a lawman-turned-assassin who ambushed most of his victims, was related by marriage to Hardin. Miller claimed to have killed more than 50 men, although only about a dozen can be confirmed. A lynch mob rendered him a “suspended sentence” in 1909.



**3. Bass Reeves**, a deputy U.S. marshal in the Indian Territory for more than 30 years, estimated he had arrested 3,000 people and killed 14 men during that time. Anyone with that record had to be good. Not many outlaws trifled with him.



**4. Dallas Stoudenmire** had a deadly reputation in his day. He racked up 10 kills while helping to tame El Paso, Texas, one of the West’s most violent towns. He gained fame for his part in the 1881 gunfight dubbed “Four Dead in Five Seconds.”



**5. John King Fisher**, a Texas rancher, outlaw and lawman, had a knack for getting into fights in which he should have been the victim. Yet he walked away, leaving victims scattered all over the ground—an estimated 15 before he was assassinated in 1884.



**6. John Calhoun Pinkney Higgins** was a rugged Texan with a unique gunfighting style—he quick-fired a Winchester rifle, often shooting from the hip. His tactic worked; Higgins tallied at least four kills.



### What were authentic ranch houses like?

Steve Estey  
LaFayette, New York

Ranch houses on the American frontier were primitive and small, oftentimes just a room or two. Most were more like shacks or cabins, just a place with a roof overhead to protect an occupant from the elements. Since many were bachelor's quarters, they lacked a woman's touch. Today's bathrooms can be larger than entire bedrooms of that period (the ranch bathroom, of course, was generally a privy out back).

### So who really killed Billy the Kid?

Chuck Sawyer  
Phoenix, Arizona



I believe Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid on the night of July 14, 1881, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, just like the history books tell it.

Claims that the Kid didn't die that night appeal to people's fondness for conspiracy and cover-up. Speculating can be fun. Some folks don't want to believe outlaws like Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Jesse James and Billy the Kid could be killed like mere mortal beings—but that's all they were.

For the outlaws, dying young with their boots on was better than living to be old, feeble and forgotten.



The Hartley family poses in front of their sod house on their ranch in Lillian Township on the Middle Loup River in Custer County, Nebraska, in 1886. Notice the antlers attached to the roof.

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# Wild Horse and Burro Program



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**The problem with most people** today is they are not connected in any real way with their geography. They don't appreciate where they live; they don't look up to see the mountains around them, or the plains, or desert. They have been consumed by the great stripmalling of America.

**My Indian name is** Dances With Difficulty.

**Nobody can touch Western writer** Jack Schaefer for the weightier stuff, especially his short stories. As far as genre Westerns go, nobody has ever touched Elmore Leonard. *Valdez is Coming* is probably his best.

**I'm working on** at least three or four things at any given time. Right now, I'm focused on my new studio album for next year; a songbook; and a Western Folk Opera about the ghost town of Bodie, California.

**For my money the best Western ever is** *Monte Walsh* by Jack Schaefer.

**My daddy always told me,** "Nobody likes a whiner. You want something, work for it."

**History has taught me** times and technology may change, but human nature does not.

**Tequila is** proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

**Most people get tripped up on** success. They forget that paradise is often found on the road to paradise. Enjoy the trip.

**The best music audiences are** small and made up of ranch and farm families who appreciate someone who will come and sing their own stories to them.

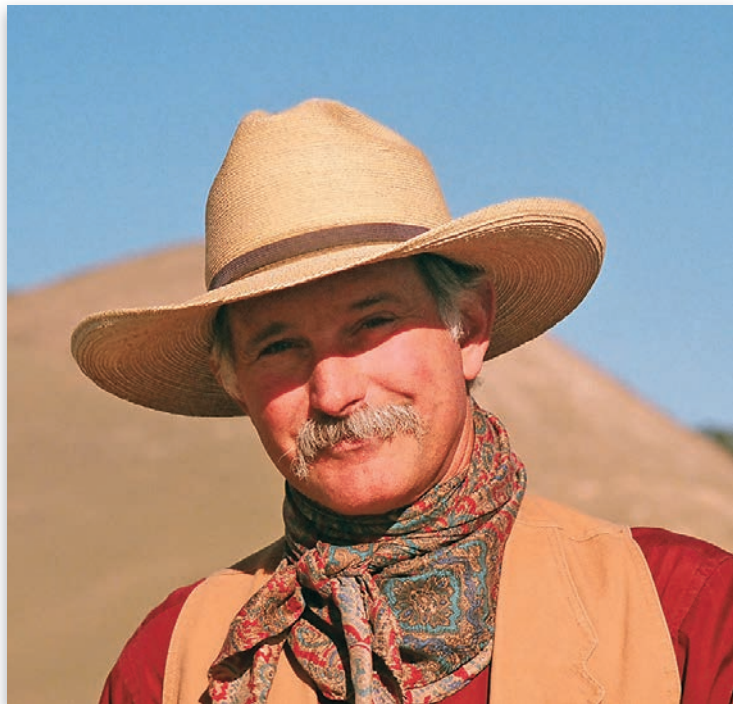
**My biggest influence has been** a pulp writer from the 1940s and '50s named John Henry Reese. He wrote some 40 books and hundreds of short stories. I met him in 1974, and he taught me that if you want to be a writer, you have to put your butt in the chair and words on paper—every day.

**Nobody told me** that time moves so damn fast. Or maybe they did, and I just wasn't listening....

**The best time to create is** 5:00 a.m., with a pot of coffee in front of my Olympia typewriter.



This March, Dave Stamey's tour of California includes the Back Country Horsemen Rendezvous in Norco and the Calaveras Arts Council in San Andreas. Check out [DaveStamey.com](http://DaveStamey.com) for his 2014 calendar dates.



## DAVE STAMEY, MUSICIAN

Dave Stamey is a big star in the Western music world. He just received the "Entertainer of the Year" award from the Western Music Association for the sixth time. He has been voted "Male Performer of the Year" six times and "Songwriter of the Year" four times. "This and five dollars will get you a fancy coffee drink at Starbucks," he jokes with *True West*. This magazine has honored him as the "Best Living Western Solo Musician." All well deserved accolades for the cowboy, mule packer and dude wrangler.

**My only regret is** I took so long to figure out what I was meant to do.

**The best part of being on the road is** the incredibly good people who are out there in rural America, still doing the work, still living the quiet lives, raising their families on and with the land. They have been ridiculed, marginalized and ignored by the mainstream media, but they are the best part of this wonderful country.

**I can't imagine living** anywhere but the West. I need some open space around me. I need to be able to get to a desert or a mountain when necessary.

**The secret to a happy marriage is** communication. Hey, fellas, being a good listener helps, but you have to be willing to chime in now and then.



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