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Death Before Glory

David Payne died before he realized his greatest ambition—that the Indian Territory be opened up for settlement. In 1883, a year before his fatal heart attack, Payne stood with some of his Boomers at Camp Alice on the North Canadian River. The U.S. Army arrested the crew there in an unsuccessful attempt to get them to stop intruding into the territory. The Boomers were back in no time, and Payne's dream came true for others. (Turn to p. 11 for more of the story.) We think Payne might be the third guy from the left, in front of the tent. What's your best guess?

– C.P. WICKMILLER PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY ROBERT E. CUNNINGHAM OKLAHOMA HISTORY COLLECTION 2000.005.9.1907 –



Known photo of Payne, from Stan Hoig's 1980 biography of the Oklahoma Boomer.

TRUE WEST
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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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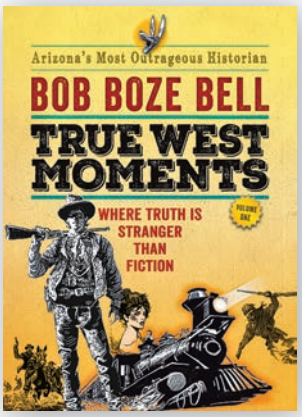
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May 2015 Online and Social Media Content



The mining camp of Deadwood, Dakota Territory, as it probably looked when Wild Bill Hickok arrived in 1876. Find this and more historical photographs on our "Western History" board.

Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag



Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell and learn about his new book, *True West Moments: Volume One* (search for "March 12, 2015").

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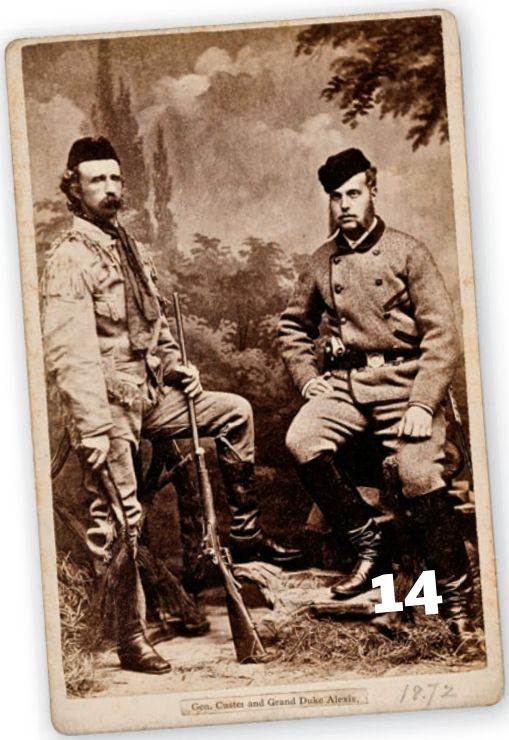
"Real cowboy hats of the late 1800s, not the modern ones we see in movies, with the sides turned up and creases caressed into intricate style. A Boss of the Plains by Stetson was the norm, often with the front folded up."

– F. Ed Knutson of Las Vegas, Nevada



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Cover design by Dan Harshberger; original photo courtesy Dickinson Research Center, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 2003.034

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BUFFALO BILL IN EUROPE

Some years ago, I purchased an original copy of the photograph reproduced on pages 22-23 of your May 2011 issue that the late Robin May and I used in our book, *Buffalo Bill and His Wild West*, University of Kansas Press, 1989.

Some time before publication, I submitted the original print to several members of the English Westerners' Society who were experts on Indians, and we were able to identify all those listed.

The original photograph measures 9.5 by 14.5 inches and on the reverse is penciled "Wm. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and Pawnee Indians." However, the experts confirmed that the original plate was made by Anderson in Staten Island in 1886. On Cody's right are Pawnees and to his left, Sioux chiefs. Left to right are: Brave Chief, Eagle Chief, Knife Chief, Young Chief, Cody, American Horse, Rocky Bear, Flies Above and Long Wolf.

Flies Above, Rocky Bear and Long Wolf traveled to Europe with Cody, and others in the group came over with him in 1887. Long Wolf died in London, England, in June 1892 and is buried in West Brompton Cemetery, not far from Earl's Court in West London, where Cody presented his Wild West to the British public for the first time in 1887. This event was made even more memorable because Queen Victoria was in attendance and rose from her seat and bowed as "Old Glory" was carried past–the first time since the American Revolution that a British Monarch had acknowledged the American flag.

Joseph G. Rosa, *the preeminent Wild Bill Hickok biographer and dear friend to* True West, *who died in Ruislip, England, at the age of 82, on January 17, 2015*



– COURTESY *BUFFALO BILL: SCOUT, SHOWMAN, VISIONARY* BY STEVE FRIESEN –



Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell presented Marshall Trimble with the True Westerner award at White Stallion Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, during the Tucson Festival of Books in March. Trimble has taught Arizona history for more than 40 years, is the official state historian and has written *True West's Ask the Marshall* column since 2000. We are proud that he is part of our *True West* family.

CORRECTIONS

December 2014: In *Unsung*, William S. Hart Sr. was incorrectly credited with acting in *The Great Train Robbery*. In fact, the film and the growing popularity of the Western genre from 1903 to 1913 influenced his eventual move to Hollywood as both a star and director to bring "realism" to Western movies.

March 2015: In *Old West Saviors*, Phil Collins was one of three artists who sold 100,000 albums worldwide as both a solo artist and a principal member of a band (Genesis). For the *Frontier Fare* recipe, please add "orange juice," not "water," to the cornstarch.



– COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, APRIL 5, 2014 –

Maid of Dreams

I was so pleased to see photo #38 "Maid of Dreams" in your January 2015 magazine. Some 25 years ago, I recovered the photo and frame from a trash pile in North Bend, Oregon. It had been in an attic of a house that was being restored.

I advised the new home owner, a retired teacher named Emily Ashworth, that I thought the photo had a value and should not be thrown away. She offered to sell me the collectible for $300. She was a dear friend, and I felt I would be taking advantage at that price.

A recent widow, Mrs. Ashworth visited relatives in California and took the photo to an art gallery in, I believe, Carmel. The gallery priced it at $3,200 and quickly sold it. Mrs. Ashworth's share was $1,600, and she was very pleased.

Some eight or nine years ago, I saw the photo on an episode of *Antiques Roadshow*, owned by a gentleman from somewhere in the Midwest. The value placed then was $8,400. I see from your article that it has now risen to $12,000 [the winning bid at Heritage Auctions on April 5, 2014].

The negatives of Curtis's nude photos were mostly destroyed by sunlight when an ex-wife used them to make a greenhouse; thus, the rarity of this type of Curtis work.

Jeff Manley
Roseburg, Oregon

The End of the West?

Thanks to a ban of cowboy hats and boots, the Brownshirts win one.

If you haven't heard by now, Sublette County, Wyoming, has a new sheriff, and he has banned his deputies from wearing cowboy hats and cowboy boots. His name is Stephen Haskell, and his headquarters is located in Pinedale, which *True West* included as a "Top 10 True Western Town" this year. Ouch!

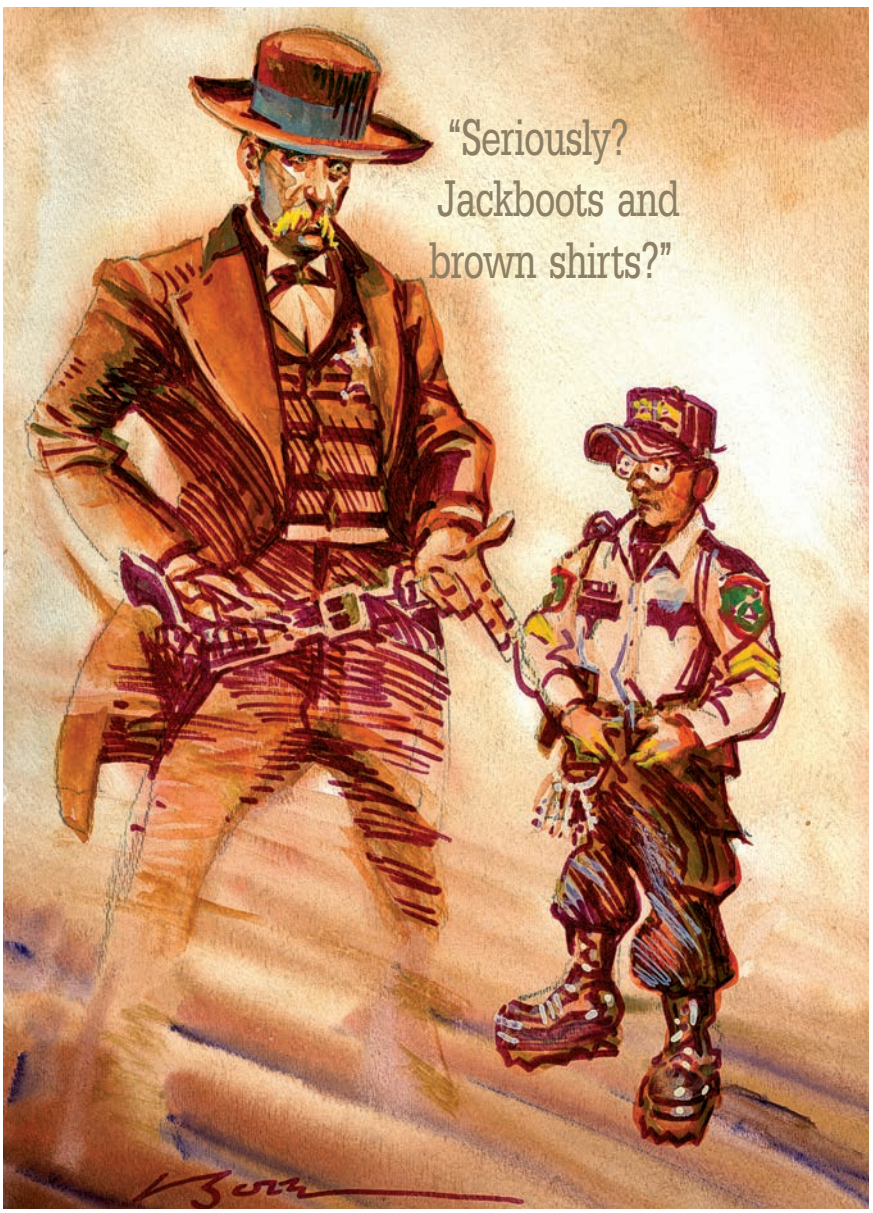
Sheriff Haskell defended his decision, stating that his deputies, who wore different style hats and boots, "looked like the Skittles platoon." He has ordered them to wear black trousers, a tan shirt, black boots and a black ball cap.

Except for the black pants, this is exactly the uniform of the Nazi Brownshirts during World War II. Perhaps Sheriff Haskell is thinking West, as in West Germany?

If you travel abroad—my family has just returned from a trip to South Korea and Thailand—you will encounter more and more foreign law enforcement officers looking more and more like a U.S. SWAT team. In a global economy, uniforms will end up looking alike. Part of it is function and part of it is, "Hey, everybody else is doing it." Even so, I sure don't like seeing something unique, like Western wear, get trampled in the rush to follow everyone else.

Granted, the cowboy hat may blow off in the wind while a deputy is chasing a perp (one of the reasons cited by Sheriff Haskell for banning it), but as a former Texas Ranger told me, "It never hampered us because we just shot them in the legs so we wouldn't have to run."

I'm pretty sure that is not official Texas Ranger policy, but this speaks to something near and dear to me—a regional sense of humor! Don't lose it!



What would lawman Wyatt Earp say about this stink bomb? Oh, I think I know: "Seriously? Jackboots and brown shirts?"

– ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL –

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

Quotes

"Billy the Kid's legend has hovered over the landscape of the American West for 125 years, a Hindenburg of hype and fantasy, always there to nourish those who merely look up. It will never crash and never burn."

– *Leo W. Banks in* Tucson Weekly, April 13, 2006

"Don't be 'consistent,' but be simply true."

– *Poet Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.*

"You just can't beat the person who never gives up."

– *New York Yankee Outfielder George Herman "Babe" Ruth*

"...time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."

– *Marthe Troly-Curtin, in her 1912 novel,* Phrynette Married

"Television is a rat race, and remember this, even if you win you are still a rat."

– *Comedian Jackie Gleason*



"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

– *Actor-turned-U.S. President Ronald Reagan, shown here in 1955's* Tennessee's Partner

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



"As an actor I've played more bandits, thieves, warlords, molesters and Mafioso than you could shake a stick at."

– *Eli Wallach, commenting on his nearly seven-decade acting career*



Old Vaquero Saying



"Ordinary histories estrange us from the past, but works of fine art can bring us near it."

April 2015 Correction: Harry Carey Sr. spoke the line from *Red River* to Montgomery Clift (not vice versa).

A Boomer Sooner Goes South

William Couch and the creation of Oklahoma Territory.





Boomer leader David Payne pitched a camp (top) on what later became Stillwater Creek. To strengthen his cause to open Indian Territory for settlement, he hired C.P. Wickmiller to take this photo, as well as the photo below. Taken in 1884, when William Couch took over as leader, this photo shows followers in front of Couch's house in Kansas, where he printed the Boomer newspaper, *Oklahoma War Chief*.

– COURTESY ROBERT E. CUNNINGHAM OKLAHOMA HISTORY COLLECTION 2000.005.9.1449 (TOP) AND 2000.005.9.1451 (BOTTOM) –

A celebration broke out when Oklahoma Territory became an official entity 125 years ago, on May 2, 1890. But the man who may have been most responsible was not around for the party.

In 1879, William Couch, a 29-year-old businessman in Wichita, Kansas, heard David Payne talk about free land in what is now Oklahoma and joined him in his cause.

In the post-Civil War years, the U.S. government had taken away land from tribes that supported the Confederacy. Payne felt those unassigned lands should be open to settlement. In the early 1880s, Payne led his "Boomer" followers on mounted expeditions to their promised land.

Federal troops and lawmen kept moving the Boomers out of the territory. Boomers were even taken before "Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker in Fort Smith, Arkansas, but the charges were usually dropped.

The effort hit a snag in November 1884, when Payne died from a heart attack. His second in command, Couch, reluctantly took over. He didn't feel he could lead the movement and its roughly 14,000 followers.

Despite his reservations, that December, Couch led about 300 men to a place called Stillwater. After a tense standoff with the Army, Couch withdrew. He and 12 Boomers were arrested for treason in January 1885, but those charges, too, were dropped.

Couch kept up the pressure, however, lobbying federal officials and politicians to open up the lands. He had public opinion on his side. In March 1889, Congress passed a law allowing folks to stake out land in the Oklahoma area. On April 22, about 50,000 people participated in the first Land Rush.

> A sad fate for the Boomer Sooner who had pretty much made the creation of Oklahoma possible.

Couch and his Boomers were part of it—well, sort of. Couch and other "Sooners" went in early to stake out claims, including a burg that they called Oklahoma City. On May 1, Couch became the city's first mayor. He held that position for around six months, before he resigned to work his land.

But he had a problem. At least seven other people also claimed the homestead, and several of them were living on the site until the courts could sift out the owner.

On April 4, 1890, the day after John C. Adams knocked down a fence Couch had built to protect his wheat from Adams's livestock, tempers flared and Adams shot Couch in the knee. Couch died from the infected wound on April 21—just 11 days before Oklahoma Territory became official.

The courts later disavowed the claims of Couch and Adams (then in jail for the shooting), ruling in favor of Dr. Robert Higgins. The good doctor did a good deed—giving some of the land to Couch's widow and five children.

Oklahoma Territory combined with Indian Territory to become Oklahoma state in November 1907. Couch was all but forgotten—a sad fate for the Boomer Sooner who had pretty much made the creation of Oklahoma possible.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Cement Cowboy Nearly Dies

A shindig dinner in Dodge City helps save the day.





Joe Sughrue stands next to the Cowboy Statue he inspired, in front of the new City Hall, in 1929, in Dodge City, Kansas. The town has raised the funds to preserve the statue (inset), and a new distillery saved City Hall from the chopping block.

– COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM; INSET BY CHELSEY DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF MAIN STREET DODGE CITY –

"On the Ashes of My Campfire, This City is Built."

That inscription has graced a 2,000-pound, nearly eight-foot-tall cement statue of a cowboy for 86 years on Boot Hill in Dodge City, Kansas. Some old-timers knew the man covered in cement to make the mold for this statue—cowboy Joe Sughrue, who later became the town's chief of police.

Unfortunately, what most see these days is a statue in terrible shape. It looks like pieces of Sughrue's face are falling off and the brick base is crumbling. It looks like the iconic statue that stands as a beacon to this legendary Western town no longer matters to Dodge City.

Nothing could be further from the truth. A posse of folks has been raising money to restore the Cowboy Statue. "This statue is very important to our heritage, to our sense of place and our culture," says Melissa McCoy, project development coordinator for Dodge City.

The Cowboy Statue was crafted in 1927 by Dodge City's "cowboy dentist," Oscar H. Simpson, who was related to two cattle trailblazers, John Simpson Chisum and (distantly) Jesse Chisholm. Simpson chose Sughrue as his model because he looked like the "epitome of a cowboy," McCoy says. Sughrue almost suffocated as he was covered in cement, with rubber hoses in his nose to let him breathe. The hoses collapsed, but thankfully, the lapse was discovered in time.

> It looks like the iconic statue no longer matters to Dodge City.

The statue was unveiled on November 4, 1929, when Dodge City dedicated its new City Hall during its "Last Round-Up" pioneer celebration. By the 1980s, two decades after the city outgrew that City Hall and moved, the Cowboy Statue began deteriorating. The city covered the statue with a slurry to protect the underlying material, McCoy says. But by 2012, when restoration fundraising began, that slurry was breaking off, giving the impression the statue was crumbling. She says it isn't, but it does need repair, and the town has found a concrete specialist who can do the job.

Other icons nearby also need saving—the Corinthian walkway lampposts, the marker for Ham Bell, the city's pioneer mayor, and Simpson's Oxen-Head Trail Monument. The city needs about $39,000 to restore them all—$21,240 for the Cowboy Statue alone.

Last fall, the city reached the statue's fundraising goal after a shindig chili dinner featuring cocktails from the Boot Hill Distillery that bought the old City Hall. Opening this summer, in time for Dodge City Days, the distillery will make its vodka, bourbon and whiskey using grains grown in southwest Kansas.

McCoy says grants, private donations and city tourism funds have all helped. Winter weather will dictate how soon the statue can be restored. By this summer, though, the oldest cowboy in Dodge City should be back to his original glory.

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

BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

Catherine the Great's Russian Jaeger Flintlock Rifle, ca. 1730. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center. On loan to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, USA. L.373.2012.52

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BY MEGHAN SAAR

Buffalo Bill's Disputed Dagger

Cutting to the truth of a purported Buffalo Bill Cody dagger.

From P.T. Barnum to Buffalo Bill Cody, successful 19th-century showmen knew that a degree of truth was essential to the most potent deceptions. This dance of artifice and sincerity was more than a trick, but a true embodiment of the American frontier experience. In communities seething with humanity, but not much law or order, folks had to discern for themselves what was real and what was not.

Cody constructed a powerful identity by merging his real biography with imagined exploits. That same ambiguity is embodied in a dagger with purported ties to the famous showman behind Buffalo Bill's Wild West, which J. Levine sold on January 22 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The anchor of authenticity is a January 1872 buffalo hunt on the Nebraska plains that Cody guided in his pre-showman days, before his scouting experience in the Indian Wars that spring earned him a Medal of Honor and national acclaim.

Army Gen. Philip Sheridan organized the hunt in honor of Russia's Grand Duke Alexis, who was touring America five years after the nation purchased Alaska from his father, Czar Alexander II. The Grand Duke presented Cody with gifts in appreciation for his service. But was this Western-style dagger among them?

"Regarding the dagger, I could find no historical evidence of Cody receiving such a gift from Grand Duke Alexis," says Jeremy Johnston, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Western American History at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming. He also confirmed that the historical record does not show Cody receiving this gift from the czar either.



The alleged Buffalo Bill Cody dagger (inset) that sold for a $5,500 bid on January 22 has decreased considerably in value since the $12,000 hammer price paid in 2007 at an Arizona auction produced by Bob Greene, who had purchased the knife from the Sharkey Estate. Historical photos of the 1872 buffalo hunt have sold for thousands at auctions: Collectors bid $1,300 each for these shots of Cody, circa 1870s, in his buffalo hunting gear (above left) and Gen. George Custer with Grand Duke Alexis (above right).

– DAGGER COURTESY J. LEVINE, JAN. 22, 2015; PHOTOS COURTESY COWAN'S AUCTIONS (GRAND DUKE: JUNE 11, 2010; CODY: JUNE 13, 2014) –

"In Buffalo Bill's 1920 autobiography, originally published by *Cosmopolitan* as a series of articles, Cody notes the Grand Duke presented him with a stickpin and cuff links, all showcasing bison heads covered in diamonds," Johnston says. "Cody also noted the Grand Duke presented him an elaborate fur coat, which the Grand Duke wore during the hunt. Cody removed the diamond-studded bison heads and made a brooch and two rings for his wife and two daughters."

Steve Friesen, director of the Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave in Golden, Colorado, concurs. He adds, "Even if there was historical evidence that a dagger was presented to Cody by the Grand Duke, the burden of proof would still be on the owner of the dagger to show that it is the one presented to Cody."

The dagger's provenance does not track to Cody himself, but to two museums. A letter from a museum in Nome, Alaska, stated this dagger was given to Cody by the







In gratitude to Buffalo Bill Cody for leading the 1872 buffalo hunt, the Grand Duke Alexis gave him diamond-studded buffalo head jewelry, including cuff links, which Cody converted to a brooch (right inset), and a stick pin Cody converted to two rings (one shown, far right inset); Provenance: Cody's grandson, William Cody Boal.

– ALL ITEMS COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING / CUFF LINKS, STICK PIN & RING: WILLIAM CODY BOAL COLLECTION 1.69.308 / ROBE: GIFT OF SAMUEL REBER 1.69.110 –



Alexis's father, the czar of Russia, also thanked Cody with a gift: a fur carriage robe featuring geometric patterns (far left). The Wild West showman later gave the robe to retired Gen. Nelson Miles, which his grandson, Samuel Reber, donated to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Cody stands in front of a movie theater with Gen. Miles (above, at left) who helped re-enact the Indian Wars for Cody's 1914 docudrama; $2,300.

– COURTESY COWAN'S AUCTIONS, JANUARY 31, 2014 –





During the Royal Buffalo Hunt, the Grand Duke rode Buckskin, a horse Cody had gotten from one of Frank North's Pawnee scouts at Nebraska's Fort McPherson. Descended from the North family, the Winchester Model 1873, serial 291, that Cody gave North bid in at $75,000. Inscribed with his then-new sobriquet "Buffalo Bill," this sporting rifle is the earliest known Winchester presented by Cody.

–COURTESY JAMES D. JULIA, MARCH 15, 2015 –

Czar as a token of thanks for taking his son on the Royal Buffalo Hunt. Which museum that could be is unclear. Josh Levine stated that the gap between this museum and the second museum was in the late 1920s to the early 1950s. Cheryl Thompson, the collections assistant at Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, which opened in 1967 and is Nome's only museum today, asked around to see if Nome had a museum in the 1920s, but she could not locate anybody who had heard of one.

The dagger was next found in Nevada, purchased by Milos "Sharkey" Begovich to display in his Old West museum at Sharkey's Nugget Casino. A first-generation American of Serbian parents who immigrated to Jackson Gate, California, Sharkey may have been drawn to the dagger because of its purported ties to the czar of Russia. His family congregated at the Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church, blessed in 1894 by a Russian bishop who oversaw Alaska and the Aleutian Islands when Russia still owned Alaska. The dagger's alleged link to Cody would have sounded perfect for an Old West exhibit.

But just like the audiences who gathered before Barnum and Cody, a collector today discerns for himself what is real and what is not. If Cody were here, he wouldn't quash any claims about this dagger that sold for a $5,500 bid—he'd encourage them. Historians prefer to honor Cody's real achievements, but he gilded the lily when given the opportunity. For some genuine golden treasures with ties to Cody and the 1872 buffalo hunt, check out the additional collectibles featured here.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

May 1-15, 2015
Old West Collectibles
Witherell's (Online)
Witherells.com • 916-446-6490

May 15-16, 2015
American Indian Art
Heritage Auctions (Dallas, TX)
HA.com • 800-872-6467

May 15-16, 2015
Contemporary Western Art
Western Art Association (Ellensburg, WA)
WesternArtAssociation.org • 509-962-2934

May 21, 2015
American Artworks
Christie's (New York, NY)
Christies.com • 212-636-2000

May 21, 2015
American Indian Art
Sotheby's (New York, NY)
Sothebys.com • 212-606-7000

CARTRIDGE RIFLES

TAYLOR'S & CO., INC.
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1860 Henry Lever Action



1860 HENRY

In October 1860, B.T. Henry was granted a patent for the design of a new gun, a repeating rifle that used metallic cartridges. With it, one man could load 15 cartridges in eight to ten seconds. It was such an important innovation that the gun was named after its inventor. All models feature a walnut stock with 13-round capacity (Henry Trapper holds 10 rounds).

1866 Lever Action



1866 RIFLE

When Nelson King patented his new loading system, he could not have known that his 1866 model would play a prominent part in the winning of the West. The 1866, or "Yellowboy," as it was famously known because of its shiny brass frame, was the successor to the Henry.

1873 Rifle



1873 RIFLE – CHECKERED STRAIGHT STOCK

This rifle is an ideal option for any shooter who enjoys the enhanced grip and look of a checkered rifle. A full octagonal barrel, case-hardened frame and checkered straight stock are featured on this 1873.

Taylor's '92



TAYLOR'S 1892 RIFLE

The 1892 Rifle was mechanically stronger and less costly to produce than the '73. A total of 1,004,675 of the 1892s, in both solid and takedown models, were manufactured from 1892 to 1941. Taylor's & Co. is proud to offer reproductions of these favorites.

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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

Saddle Rifle Extraordinaire

The American Quarter Horse Association celebrates 75 years with a classic 1866 lever-action rifle.

For nearly two centuries, the horse and the gun have been among the most iconic images of the West—and for good reason.

A strong horse and a reliable rifle were considered among the most valuable possessions a frontiersman could have. The American Quarter Horse was a breed that proved a fitting transport for the wide, open frontier, making saddle guns a necessity. The lightweight, easy-to-handle, flat-sided Winchester repeater was one of the most popular saddle rifles of the day.

In this 75th year of preserving the breed and history of America's most popular horse, the American Quarter Horse Association is offering a replica of the classic 1866 Winchester rifle as an iconic and legendary symbol of the Western horseman's rifle.

A strong horse and a reliable rifle were considered among the most valuable possessions a frontiersman could have.

From headquarters in Amarillo, Texas, one of *True West's* Top 10 Towns of 2015, the American Quarter Horse Association contracted with Cimarron Fire Arms to produce a limited run of 500 replicas of the "Yellowboy" for $1,995. American Indians called the sporting rifle by that name because of its shiny yellow brass receiver.

Frontiersman William E. Webb relied on his 1866 Winchester, which "weighed but seven and one-half pounds..." during his horseback trek across the plains in 1868. Explaining the virtues of the rifle for a horseman, he wrote, "Hung by a strap to the shoulder, this weapon can be dropped across the saddle in front, and held there very firmly by a slight pressure of the body...with a little practice, the magazine of the gun may be refilled without checking the horse."



The first rifle to bear the Winchester name, the 1866 model was favored by frontiersmen of all breeds, especially horsemen, due to its relatively light weight, easy handling and slab-sided design that made for comfortable carry in saddle scabbards. Here, famed Arikara scout Bloody Knife, who died with Lt. Col. George A. Custer at the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana, packs his tacked '66 rifle in this 1873 photo.

– COURTESY GLEN SWANSON COLLECTION –

His is but one of the many favorable recollections of Winchester's repeaters, written by men who rode the rough and tumble regions of the Old West. With more than 170,000 model 1866s produced up until 1898, the rifle was a favorite among cowboys, Indians, lawmen, sport hunters and especially anyone who rode a horse.

Original 1866s were made in .44 Rimfire—a round that has not been available for nearly a century—so Cimarron's 75th Anniversary commemorative is chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge, a popular centerfire round with cowboy mounted shooters who compete in the Cowboy





The AQHA wanted to present a rifle that represented the lasting and historical partnership of the horse and rider, and the 1866 model is significant as a classic saddle gun of the Old West. Both sides of the commemorative rifle's brass frame bear 19th-century-style scroll engraving, as found on original Winchesters of the era, and the left side bears an attractive AQHA 75th anniversary logo.

– BY DOUG MCELREATH –

Mounted Shooting Association's Rifle Class, as well as the Single Action Shooting Society's competitors.

Produced in Italy by Uberti, the commemorative is manufactured of industrial grade brass and gun steel, and is machined on state-of-the-art, computer-driven CNC devices. Artisans then hand finish the rifle to produce a polished, nickel plated, 20-inch octagonal barrel (carbine length), lever and hammer.

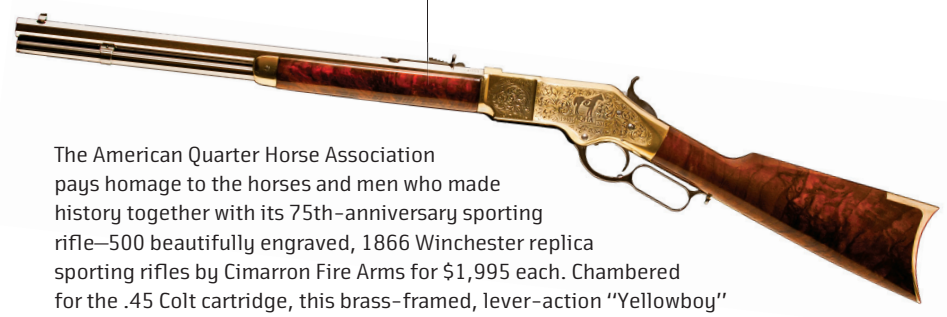
The sporting rifle's enhancements include a receiver styled with laser assisted hand engraving in the elegant Victorian-era scroll design. The handsomely figured select grade, hand finished walnut stock and forearm make the rifle stand out even more.

Topping off this attractive saddle rifle is the "75 Quarter Horse, 1940-2015" logo on the left side of the brass receiver and the unique "American Quarter Horse Association" title on the right side.



This iconic photograph of an 1888 cowboy out West reveals one of the most popular ways a rifle scabbard was mounted on the saddle. It could be placed on either side or behind the saddle, although this forward method was most common.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

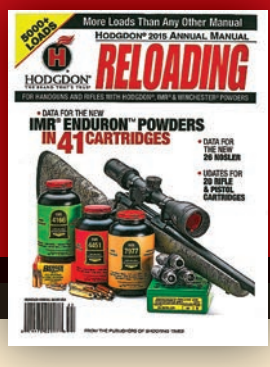


The American Quarter Horse Association pays homage to the horses and men who made history together with its 75th-anniversary sporting rifle—500 beautifully engraved, 1866 Winchester replica sporting rifles by Cimarron Fire Arms for $1,995 each. Chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge, this brass-framed, lever-action "Yellowboy" saddle gun also sports a nickel plated, 20-inch (carbine length) octagonal barrel, lever and hammer, with deluxe wood stocking.

– BY DOUG MCELREATH –

Overall, the American Quarter Horse Association's 75th anniversary commemorative rifle maintains the appearance of a presentation-grade Winchester from the Golden Age of 19th-century firearms. As a firearms lover who appreciates the elegant lines of these classic arms and the Victorian-style scroll engraving, as accomplished by the old master engravers, I can attest that this rifle is a spitting image of a presentation-grade vintage Winchester. If, like me, you have a fond appreciation for the American Quarter Horse and for Old West firearms, this 75th Anniversary commemorative rifle will suit your saddle.

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



TRUSTY RELOADING MANUAL

Hodgdon has been publishing its annual reloading manual for 12 consecutive years. The 2015 volume is packed with Hodgdon, IMR and Winchester powder brands, and reloading techniques. Along with articles by top gun writers, this 170-page softcover manual has the widest variety of pistol and rifle reloading data in the world, sharing more than 5,000 loadings. It also features data on new, eco-friendly IMR Enduron Technology powders, which have a built-in copper fouling reducer, a resistance to extreme temperatures and small-sized grains for easy flow while loading.

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In this circa 1880–90 cabinet card, this frontier type poses with the two marque firearms that later were claimed to have "won the West." The gent holds a Winchester Model 1873 lever-action carbine, while a Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army revolver resides in his open-topped belt holster. (The long-cased cartridges in his belt would fit neither weapon.)

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, RC2006.038 –

BY RICHARD C. RATTENBURY

Armed to Survive

Frontiersmen and the weapons that proved crucial to their survival.

The turbulent environment of the frontier milieu served as a dramatic stage for virtually all of the arms manufactured in America from 1800 to 1900. Successive developments in the firepower of domestic weaponry proved particularly dramatic, advancing from the ubiquitous single-shot arms of 1800, through the multibarreled and revolving-cylinder repeating firearms of the 1830s and 1840s, on to the repeating magazine guns of the 1860s and following. The numerous historical images provide something of a human dimension to the narrative.

In varying degree, all of the evolutionary advances in firearms design, production and function impacted the concurrent advance of frontier exploration and ultimate settlement over the course of the 19th century.

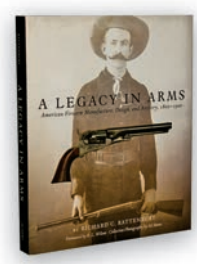
The gradual improvements of the ignition systems, for example, certainly bolstered the resolve of many a frontiersman for whom a rifle's reliability might prove crucial to survival.

The greater facility of loading at the breech instead of at the muzzle allowed an increased rate of fire at a ratio of four or five to one, while the ever-growing availability of repeating arms of revolving-cylinder and magazine design provided isolated frontier parties or individuals with a decided advantage in their occasional confrontations with dangerous game or hostile adversaries.

Steady progress in applying machinery to arms manufacture also guaranteed sufficient output to meet a steadily rising demand from Americans flooding into the West.

Equally important on the other side of the historical ledger, America's advancing frontier provided numerous domestic firearms manufacturers with an ever-expanding marketplace and a sometimes-crucial testing arena for their more innovative creations. The latter condition proved true, for example, of the early Colt-Paterson revolving pistol, which demonstrated its potential for mounted combat on the unsettled plains of Texas in the 1840s.

As cultural historian William Hosley observed in profiling Col. Samuel Colt and his deadly arm during the antebellum era, "Guns, technology, and the campaign of western expansion were overlapping layers of the same progressive tendency. Each fed and enabled the other."



The emeritus curator of history at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, **Richard C. Rattenbury** is the author of *A Legacy in Arms,* published by University of Oklahoma Press. This edited excerpt is from those pages.

"...percussion guns are preferable upon the Prairies.... The winds are frequently so severe as to sweep away both sparks and priming from a flint lock, and thus render it wholly ineffective."

–Santa Fe trader Josiah Gregg



Posed with his faithful canine in this circa 1865–70 tintype, this rustic, pipe-smoking hunter conspicuously exhibits his half-stocked percussion sporting rifle—finished with rather unusual checkering at wrist and extended, handhold trigger guard strap.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2003.268 –



Striking a jaunty pose in this circa 1865–70 carte de visite, these lads wear leather game bags and hold half-stocked percussion sporting rifles. Rifle at left—fitted with double set triggers—appears to be a comparatively fancy specimen for a youth.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2003.196 –



Accompanied by his attentive dogs in this circa 1865–70 tintype, this fellow is armed with a double rifle—or combination rifle-shotgun—with superposed barrels and percussion locks, a Bowie knife and what appears to be a small-cartridge deringer.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2002.113 –

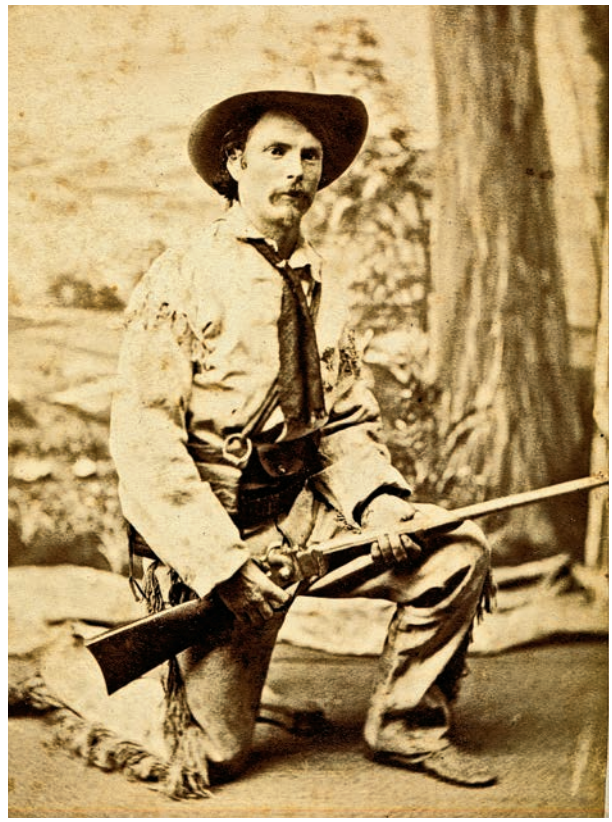
"[My companions] are men who have hunted and trapped all over the west from the Black Hills south to Texas. The gun they swear by is Sharps .44 cal."

–Big-game hunter P.C. Bicknell, writing about the Sharps Model 1874, to an eastern friend in 1876, from the buffalo range north of Fort Concho in Texas



This successful, buckskin-clad sport hunter proudly poses with his ursine trophy. Balanced over the subject's arm is the weapon that no doubt brought the bear to bag—a Sharps Model 1874 sporting rifle made in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Long-cased metallic cartridges for the rifle are arrayed in a belt below the subject's elbow in this circa 1880–85 photo.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 1994.10.1744 –



Garbed in a fringed buckskin costume this "western" poser grasps what appears to be a percussion Sharps New Model 1863 straight-breech carbine without a patchbox. The ignition system, outmoded at the time the photograph was taken circa 1885–95, suggests that the gun most likely served as a studio prop.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2003.111 –



This repaired and altered Sharps Model 1874 rifle was invoiced in June 1874 to gun dealer F.C. Zimmerman at Dodge City, Kansas. Bought by professional buffalo hunter and later-famed peace officer William "Bill" Tilghman, the weapon killed several thousand buffalo between 1874 and 1878. Broken in a horse-fall out on the range, the buttstock was repaired by Tilghman using a strip of raw buffalo hide. Sometime after leaving the range, Tilghman had the octagonal barrel cut down from 32 inches to 24 inches to serve as a convenient saddle gun.

– COURTESY TENCH TILGHMAN, L.85.6 –



An 1875 cutaway drawing illustrating the internal workings of the Colt Single Action Army revolver.

– DRAWING FROM FARLEY, *RULES FOR THE INSPECTION OF ARMY REVOLVERS AND GATLING GUNS*, 1875 –



Defeated and temporarily deported from his native land, this undaunted and stern-visaged Nez Perce man poses in tribal costume and prominently holds a Colt Model 1860 Army, Richards-conversion revolver, in this circa 1880 carte de visite by H Beck of Winfield, Kansas.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2004.015.3 –



Very likely a Wild West show or vaudeville marksman, the theatrical gent in this circa 1895–1905 cabinet card evokes the latter-day frontier with his Western headgear and thigh-high boots à la Buffalo Bill Cody. He models with a .22-caliber Model 1891 Marlin lever-action repeating rifle having a special order, half-octagon barrel and special order checkered stocking with pistol grip.

– COURTESY PRIVATE COLLECTION –

"[It] is the special weapon of the American Cavalry, and of hunters, trappers, cowboys, ranchmen and miners of the frontier, who may be credited with knowing what a revolver should be."

–English correspondent for The Field *magazine, on the Model 1873 Single Action Army Colt Peacemaker*



Standing at the ready and accompanied by his rather mournful hound, this huntsman poses with a standard-grade Winchester Model 1873 lever-action, repeating sporting rifle having a case-hardened frame and an adjustable buckhorn rear sight. Two indistinguishable pocket-sized cartridge revolvers are thrust into the fellow's belt in this circa 1880–85 tintype.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2003.034 –

"...I have tried and used nearly every kind of gun made in the United States, and for general hunting, or Indian fighting, I pronounce your improved Winchester the boss."

–William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, in an 1875 letter to the Winchester firm



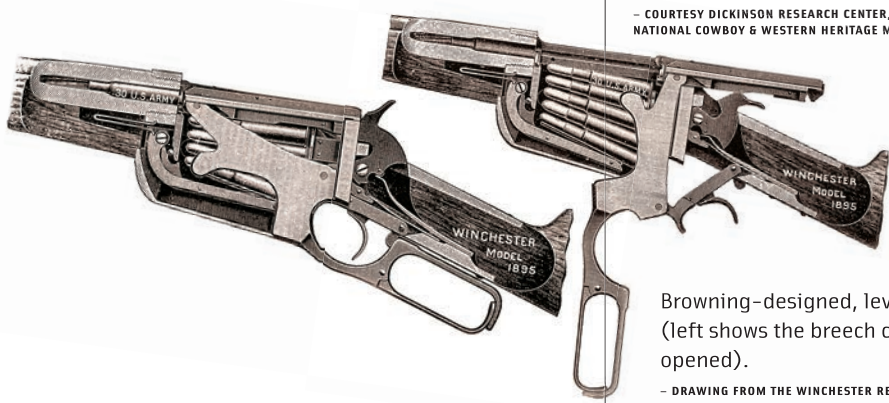
In this circa 1900–1905 cabinet card, this plainly dressed sportsman models with his hunting dog and a cartridge belt full of ammunition for his standard-grade Winchester Model 1895 lever-action, repeating magazine rifle. A John Browning design, this model utilized a box magazine in lieu of the familiar tubular magazine beneath the barrel.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2004.230.02 –



With her standard-grade Winchester Model 1892 lever-action, repeating magazine rifle in hand, this latter-day huntress in wide-brimmed hat, middy blouse and skirt strikes a rather risqué pose for the time.

– COURTESY DICKINSON RESEARCH CENTER, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, 2004.045 –



Cutaway drawing from Winchester Repeating Arms Company's 1899 sales catalog illustrates the internal workings of Winchester Model 1895 repeating rifle and its John M. Browning-designed, lever-actuated box magazine system (left shows the breech closed, and right shows the breech opened).

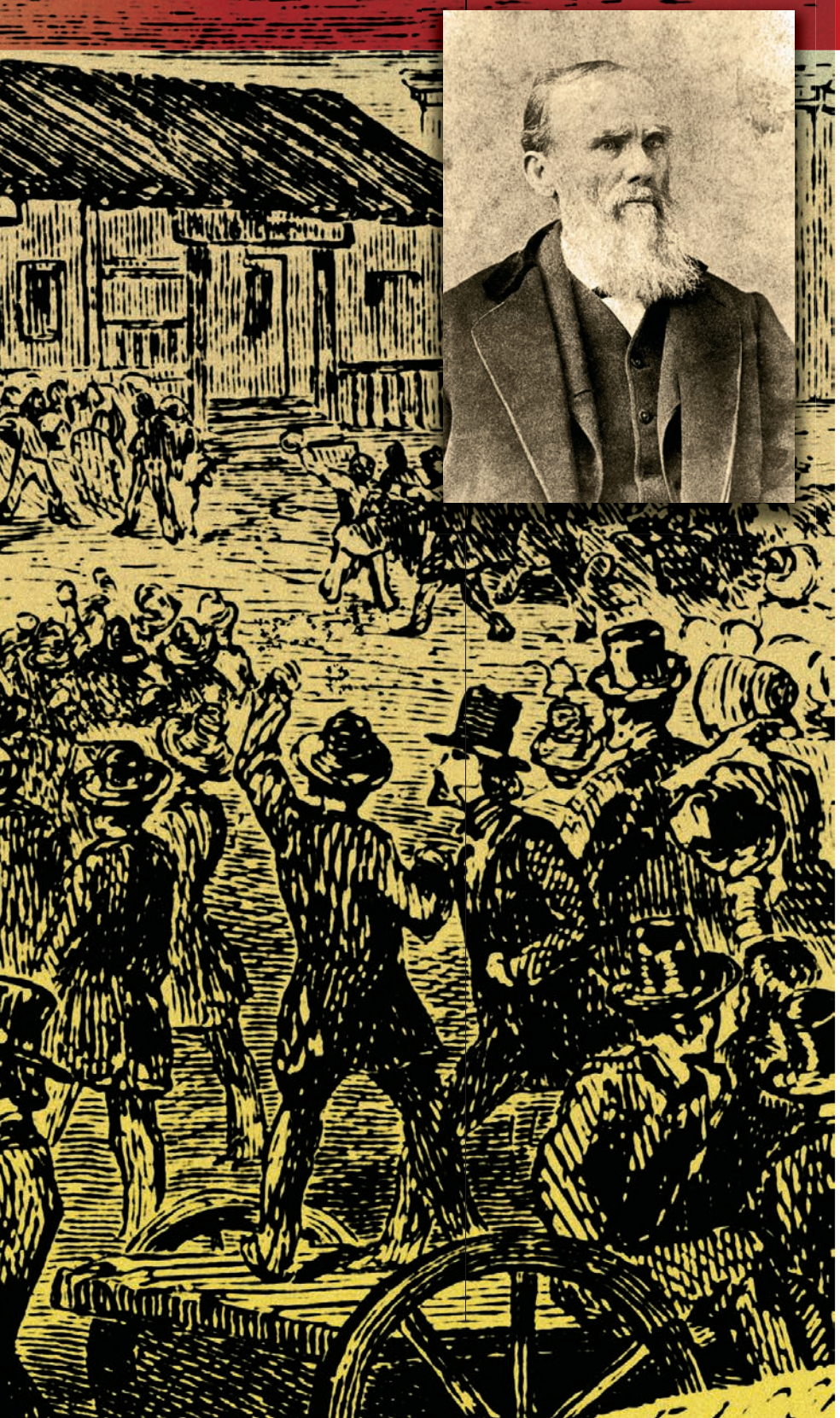
– DRAWING FROM THE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY'S 1899 SALES CATALOG –



BY MARIE BARTLETT

The Prince of Hangmen?

In the shadows of the scaffold, the truth comes out about famous executioner George Maledon.



The executioner for the Western District of Arkansas during Isaac "Hanging Judge" Parker's era, George Maledon (inset) has gone down in history as the "Prince of Hangmen." Historians have credited him with hanging more than 60 of the 79 criminals executed on the gallows in Fort Smith under Parker's tenure. But does he deserve that title?

– COURTESY FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE; FORT SMITH GALLOWS ILLUSTRATION PUBLISHED IN *HARPER'S WEEKLY*, UNKNOWN ISSUE –

The rolling Appalachian foothills of northeast Tennessee, where George Maledon lies peacefully buried, is a long ways away from the 16-foot-long trapdoor at the gallows in Fort Smith, Arkansas. There, between 1875 and 1891, Maledon, a hangman for Judge Isaac C. Parker at the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Arkansas, reportedly sent a record number of men to their own eternal place. But has history gotten that wrong?

The Grim Reaper

A German immigrant born June 10, 1830, Maledon ventured west from Detroit, Michigan, as a young man, working at a lumber mill for the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. Shortly after his move, he secured a position on the police force in Fort Smith, Arkansas. During the Civil War, he served for the Union in the 1st Battery Arkansas Light Artillery. By the 1870s, he was back in Fort Smith, working for the Western District's federal court, first as a guard, then as a deputy sheriff, then as court executioner. He also served periodically as a juror.

Small in stature, about five feet five inches (some reports state he was three inches taller) with a scruffy white beard, stooped shoulders, dark, piercing eyes and a fair

complexion, Maledon faintly resembled portrayals of the Grim Reaper in the few photos that survived.

One newspaper reporter described Maledon as a "wispy little fellow." Another, at the *Fort Smith Elevator*, described Maledon as so composed while performing his hanging duties that "launching a man into eternity appears to have no more effect on his nervous system than castor oil on a graven image."

Newspaper accounts reported that Maledon led 60 (some reports claimed up to 81) men to the gallows, a greater number than anyone else in the nation. The numbers are where much of the Maledon story gets skewed. In 1887, for example, a January 21 article in the *Fort Smith Elevator* reported that he had assisted in the hangings "of about 50 men" up to that date.

Jerry Akins, author of *Hangin' Times in Fort Smith: A History of Executions in Judge Parker's Court*, says 50 hangings sounds like pure exaggeration. Both the Fort Smith National Historic Site and the future U.S. Marshals Museum now underway in Fort Smith consider Akins an expert on Judge Parker's court.

"Maledon's work was difficult to document," Akins says. "He wasn't even an employee of the courts or under the U.S. Marshals' authority for at least 13 of the first hangings that took place. He also didn't serve a continuous period of 22 years as Judge Parker's hangman. In fact, he was a jail guard more often than he was an executioner."

> "...the number of men executed on the gallows here is nothing like so great as he represents."

Career on Record

Some reports have Maledon serving as hangman as early as 1873, which cannot be proven conclusively, since the executioner went unnamed in official court accounts of the first 13 capital punishments.

We know that Maledon was a guard for the U.S. Marshals in 1871, when the court was moved to Fort Smith, but by that December, he was a disgruntled former employee.

In February 1872, Maledon was working as a deputy sheriff in Fort Smith when a local paper reported him shooting two prisoners who had attacked him while trying to escape the jail.

In September 1873, he went back to work as a guard. He participated in the October 10, 1873, execution of Tuni and Young Wolf, under executioner Charley Messler.

In March 1875, Maledon left the marshals and became deputy township constable. That same year, on May 10, Judge Parker held court for the first time in Fort Smith, taking over for his corrupt predecessor William Story.

We do have a newspaper account reporting Parker's first hangings, of six men at one time, that named Maledon as the executioner. Supposedly more than 5,000 people packed the jail yard to witness the executions on a "sturdy platform...six feet above the ground" with a "twelve-by-twelve inch overhead beam [supporting] the noose ropes" and a "slanted roof...in case of rain," reported the *Independent-Extra* in Fort Smith on September 3, 1875. The paper noted, "...George Maledon, the hangman, adjusting the nooses about their necks."

Akins says that account is discredited. Maledon was serving in the petit jury pool at the time of the execution. He wouldn't go back to being on guard detail until October 14, 1878. The year 1878 is also when Fort Smith executions began being conducted privately, which may account for why specific instances of when Maledon served as hangman were not publicly reported.

"Another reason to doubt this 1875 article," Akins says, "is that it has Parker speaking to the condemned before their execution. The only time Parker spoke to these men was from the bench, individually, at their sentencing."

Maledon himself told *The Chicago Tribune* in 1887 that the first man he "ever had anything to do with" was John Childers, executed on August 15, 1873. But even he admitted he might not be recalling the date and year of his first execution accurately.

Later on, in the September 25, 1887, article, Maledon admitted he didn't keep records of the executions: "I pay very little attention to criminal records of any kind…."

INDIAN FEDERAL JURISDICTION PRIOR TO

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831): Supreme Court ruled that Indian tribes are "domestic dependent nations," whose relationship to the U.S. "resembles that of a ward to his guardian." Their existence within the geographical boundaries of the U.S. limited their sovereignty (for example, an Indian nation could not enter into treaties with a foreign country).

Worcester v. Georgia (1832): Supreme Court ruled against Georgia, stating that the federal government, not the states, has jurisdiction over Indian country. Georgia had tried to punish Samuel A. Worcester, a missionary living among the Cherokees who refused to comply with Georgia's law that all whites residing on Indian land must swear allegiance to the state.



Cherokee missionary Samuel A. Worcester

District Court for the Western District of Arkansas (1851): Established on March 3, the Western District oversaw criminal matters in Indian Territory when parties were non-Indians or Indians charged with offenses against non-Indians.

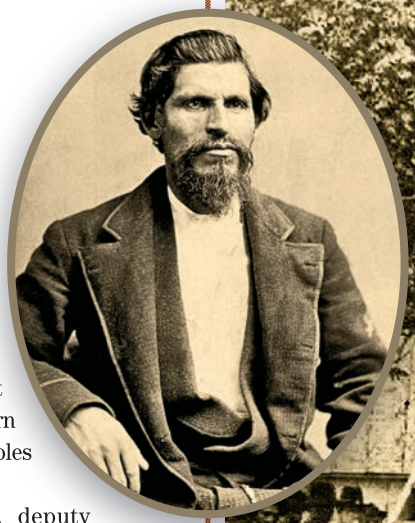


Western District of Arkansas courtroom in Fort Smith, circa 1894

District Court Moves from Van Buren to Fort Smith (1871): Seated in Van Buren, the court of the Western District of Arkansas moved to Fort Smith.

Courts Act (1883): Western portion of Indian Territory previously controlled by Western District of Arkansas was placed under jurisdiction of the District of Kansas (Wichita) and the Northern District of Texas (Paris).

Ex Parte Crow Dog (1883): Supreme Court overturned a federal court conviction of Crow Dog, who had murdered another Lakota, Spotted Tail, on what is now the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Federal courts first stepped in because the Lakota resolved the dispute traditionally, by requiring Crow Dog to provide restitution to Spotted Tail's





The truth, says Jessica Hougen, curator for the future U.S. Marshals Museum, is that much of Maledon's story about his years in the Western District court is full of holes and inconsistencies.

"He was never a deputy marshal, as was widely reported. He also propagated his own myth after retiring as Judge Parker's hangman," she says. "Nobody really knows the truth from fiction when it comes to George Maledon. But at the same time, we do know when he was here in Fort Smith, he took his profession very seriously."

Maledon made that clear to *The Chicago Tribune* in 1887: "I have got the business down fine, and know just how to prepare a noose and how to adjust one to make a complete and successful job. Of course I feel sorry for any man who is so unfortunate as to get himself hung *[sic]*, but at the same time think a larger share of my sympathy is due the other fellow—the one that has been murdered."

Taken to Task

Before Maledon retired in October 1891, due to deteriorating health, his life story got a boost after he met S.W. Harman, a publicity-seeking attorney who convinced the executioner to tour the Indian Territory and Southwest with a tent, showing off relics from the gallows, including handmade nooses and photos of several dead men Maledon had hanged.

From this venture came the 1898 book, *Hell on the Border*, which a few historical sticklers contend is "full of lies." The book tour brought in the crowds, perpetuating Maledon's version of his role as the "chief executioner" in Fort Smith.

The year before the book's publication, an 1897 article took Maledon to task for his "wonderful tales." "He did not hang the

Tiburcio Vasquez (inset) "jerked to Jesus" on March 19, 1875, in San Jose, California. He didn't pull the trigger on the three people killed in the robbery that led to his hanging, Vasquez biographer John Boessenecker says. But the law, then and now, holds everyone involved culpable for murder. Shown above is a photo of the gallows on which Tiburcio Vasquez was hanged.

– GALLOWS PHOTO COURTESY *BANDIDO* BY JOHN BOESSENECKER, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS; VASQUEZ PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

1890 CREATION OF OKLAHOMA TERRITORY





Murderer Crow Dog (at left) and victim Spotted Tail (at right)

family. The Supreme Court reasoned that the Lakotas had the right to hand out their own justice given the tribe's treaty with the U.S.

Major Crimes Act (1885): Supreme Court lists seven major crimes—including murder, manslaughter, kidnapping and rape—committed by an Indian in Indian country, that were placed within federal jurisdiction, regardless of whether the victim of the crime was an Indian.

U.S. v. Kagama (1886): Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Major Crimes Act in this case involving two Indians prosecuted for killing a reservation Indian. This ruling implied that the United States had the right to interfere with tribal sovereignty in order to deal with criminal offenders within Indian country.



Supreme Court Justice Samuel Miller, who authored 1886 decision for "U.S. v. Kagama"

Muskogee Court Established (1889): Major crimes in Indian Territory still referred to Fort Smith court, but minor crimes given jurisdiction to district court in Muskogee in the Creek Nation; except for Chickasaw and Choctaw crimes, which were assigned to Paris, Texas, district court, and Cherokee Outlet, assigned to Wichita, Kansas, district court.

Fort Smith Appeals (1889): Beginning in 1889, cases heard in the Western District of Arkansas could be appealed to another court and that court's decision became final. Before then, only the President of the United States could commute the sentence or pardon the defendant.

Curtis Act (1898): This amendment to the Dawes Act abolished tribal courts and conferred full jurisdiction to the federal courts.

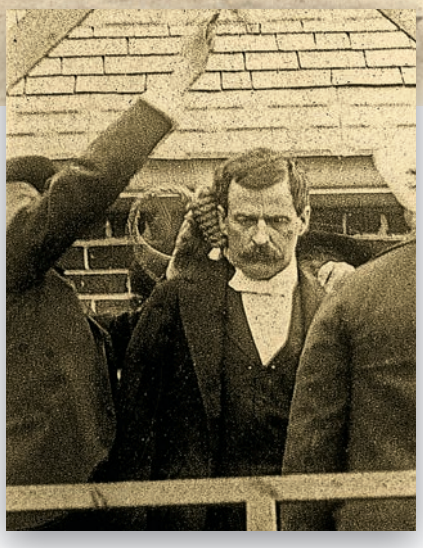






Court officials gathered around the body and severed head of Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum after his botched hanging on April 26, 1901 (top left). Historians suspect the decapitation (above) occurred because the sheriff made the drop too far for Ketchum's weight. Before Ketchum lost his head, a photographer captured the noose being placed around his neck (center left). Ketchum holds the dubious distinction of being the only person ever put to death for the offense of "felonious assault upon a railway train" in New Mexico Territory.

–BOTCHED HANGING PHOTO COURTESY BILL SECREST COLLECTION; DECAPITATION PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES; KETCHUM PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



On June 3, 1898, James Fleming Parker (below) became the last man hanged at the Courthouse Plaza in Prescott, Arizona. The train robber was in the Yavapai County Jail when he shot and killed Assistant District Attorney Erasmus Lee Norris during an escape attempt, a crime that sent him to the scaffold.

– COURTESY SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM –



number of men he claims to have hanged," reported the *Fort Smith Weekly Elevator* on September 24, 1897.

"He did not hang Cherokee Bill, and the number of men executed on the gallows here is nothing like so great as he represents," the paper continued. "Besides, he was not the first executioner of the court here. The first six or eight men who stepped off the gallows here were hung *[sic]* by Charley Messler, a saloon keeper, well remembered by all of the old attaches of the court."

The first man to step off the federal court's gallows in Fort Smith was half-breed Cherokee John Childers, hanged by Messler's noose on August 15, 1873. He had robbed and killed an Indian trader, Reyburn Wedding, in October 1870. He confessed to his crime while on the gallows.

The newspaper went after Maledon even further, by stating that, after Messler, Charles Burns "dropped a number."

As far as Maledon went, the newspaper reported: "Maledon figured to some extent at several of the early executions, but only by tying the wrists and feet of the condemned and putting the black caps on their heads. If the records were looked up closely it would be discovered that only about half the men hanged in the old jail yard met death at his hand."

How Many Did He Hang?

Akins has listened to the newspaper's century-old request and examined the historical records, which are still unclear about how many hangings Maledon presided over. The records don't even indicate which execution was his first.

Parker sentenced 160 people to death from 1875 to 1896, but of these, records show only 79 were executed, stated Michael J. Brodhead in a 2003 biography of Judge Parker. Many of Parker's original cases were commuted. (Prior to Parker's tenure, seven men were executed, for a grand total of 86 men put to death between August 15, 1873, and July 30, 1896.)

If the *Fort Smith Weekly Elevator* is correct that Maledon executed "only about half the men hanged," Maledon executed roughly 39 men. That would mean his notorious hangman death count narrowly beats (or possibly doesn't even beat) that of executioner William Duley for one singular event, hanging 38 Sioux in Mankato, Minnesota, in



These 19th-century photos show hooded men awaiting their ghastly fates. The purpose of the hood was twofold: to prevent the prisoner from seeing the hangman release the trapdoor, and to hide from spectators the agony on the condemned's face.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



A double "twitch-up" gallows was used to hang murderers Francis Gilbert and Merrick Rosengrants in front of a crowd of nearly 10,000 spectators in Denver, Colorado, on July 29, 1881.

– COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WESTERN HISTORY DEPARTMENT –

1862—the nation's largest mass execution.

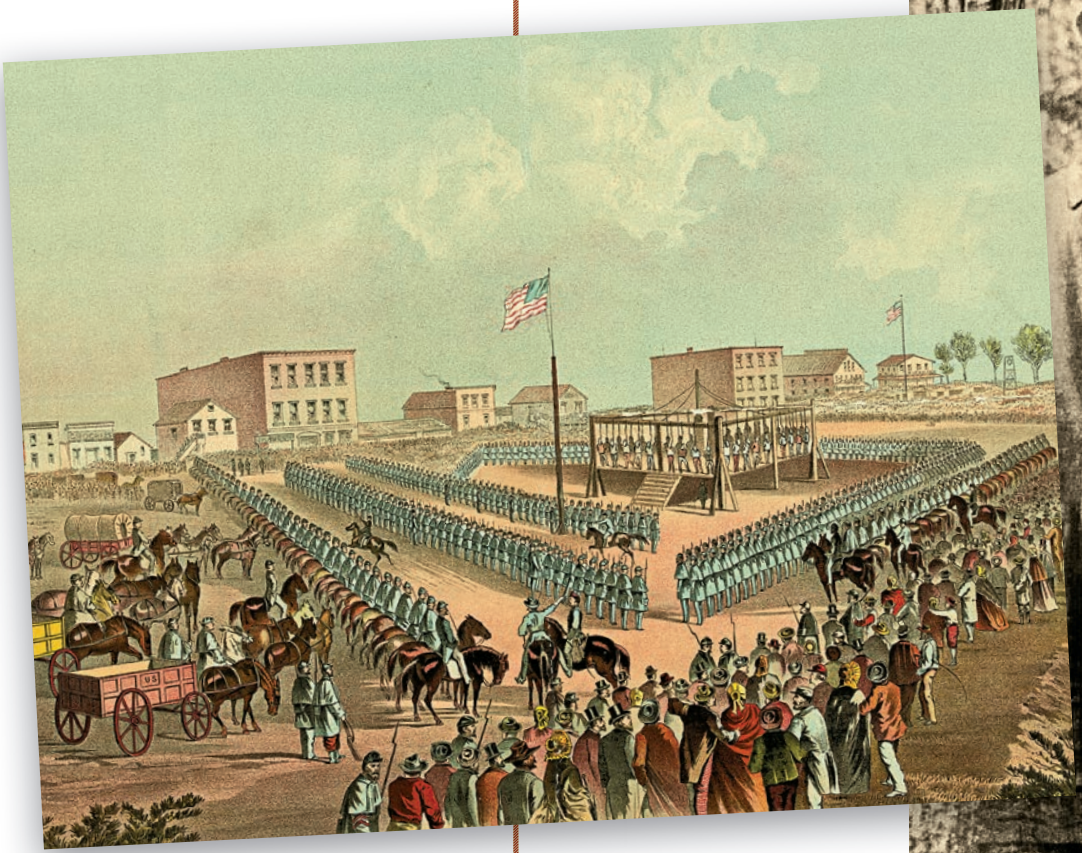
The shroud of uncertainty continues to hang over this "Prince of Hangmen." For a man who has put so many to death, we don't know the specifics surrounding his death, most notably the date he died. The Fort Smith National Historic Site records his death date as June 5, 1911, while other sources state May 6, 1911. His birth and death dates are unlisted on his tombstone at the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Perhaps that's a fitting end to Maledon, who was eulogized as the man who hanged more men "than any known legal executioner of modern times" in America, a claim that this research puts to test.

The clouds of mystery around Maledon's last years may also be why no one knows how and why he ended up in Johnson City, 781 miles from his Arkansas home and the legendary gallows in Fort Smith.

With more than a century's worth of credence placed on the number of hangings credited to this "Prince of Hangmen," Maledon's moniker may remain stubbornly in place for years to come.

Marie Bartlett is a North Carolina-based freelance writer, a former member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and a current member of Western Writers of America. Visit *OnceAWriter.com* for details on her professional background.





The largest mass execution in American history has an additional acclaim: the executioner possibly hanged more than the notorious "Prince of Hangmen." When Captain William Duley dropped the trapdoor beneath the 38 Sioux warriors' feet on December 26, 1862, he did not know if his wife and children taken during the 1862 Dakota War were alive. Two children had already been killed. One more son would die, and Duley's pregnant wife miscarried. She and a son and daughter were rescued.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –



THE LAST MAN EXECUTED UNDER CHOCTAW LAW IN INDIAN TERRITORY

Silan Lewis, a Choctaw convicted of murder, chose his executioner—childhood friend Lyman Pursely. In Wilburton, Indian Territory, on November 4, 1894, Lewis was blindfolded and kneeling on the ground, with two men holding his arms, when Sheriff Pursely fired his Winchester. The lawman missed the heart, though, and Lewis lived for three minutes as the sheriff smothered his old friend to death. This photo of the bungled execution created a controversy among U.S. senators and likely influenced the 1898 passage of the Curtis Act, which abolished tribal courts, like the one in Wilburton, and conferred full jurisdiction to federal courts. Lewis ended up the last man executed by Choctaw Nation.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

A CAMPAIGN



BY MIKE COPPOCK

FROM HELL

Overshadowed by the fame of other Great Sioux War campaigns, the U.S. Army's 1876 horse meat march showed grit and courage.



When the food ran out after 15 days, Gen. George Crook's troops were not only weary and starving, they had to make camp without fires to warm the chill out of their bones. Shown here are Crook's men on the field along Whitewood Creek, in Dakota Territory, at the end of the 1876 starvation march.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

America was celebrating its centennial when word came of George Custer's destruction by the Lakota Sioux at the Little Big Horn (Northern Cheyennes and Arapahos also fought troops in that battle). A devastated nation demanded punishment. Humiliated by the obliteration of the command, the U.S. Army wanted revenge.

General George Crook believed the only way to end the war was to catch the Indians while a tribe was still in one large gathering before the various bands drifted apart. Crook had 1,500 cavalry, 450 infantry, 240 Indian scouts (mostly Arikaras) and 44 white scouts and packers the likes of Captain Jack Crawford, Frank Grouard and Charles "Buffalo Chips" White.

On August 25, 1876, Crook struck out for the Little Missouri River from the Powder River, covering a distance of some 400 miles. He had only 15 days worth of rations, and he had made no arrangements to be resupplied.

Revenge for Custer

The general ignored the many Indian trails leading south. He had one goal in mind—hit a large village before the tribes dispersed. He would let his ration problem "take care of itself."

Crook did not know the Sioux were already breaking up. Hunkpapa and Santee Sioux had crossed the Missouri River at Wolf Point, about 40 miles below Fort Peck, for Canada.

By September 5, Crook's column was on half rations. Winter storms continued to sweep in. Cold rain and hail unwaveringly pelted the hungry troops on their line of march. For a week and a half, beginning on September 4, they found themselves trudging through a sea of gumbo mud that acted as glue on everything. When it wasn't raining, the column marched through the muck in a dense fog.

On September 7, the day before his birthday, Crook sent his last Arikara scout to Fort Abraham Lincoln with dispatches. The only troops who knew the territory well were the Arikaras. The command now was at the mercy of Crook's compass and crude maps of the area.

The weary and starving men deliberately began falling to the back of the column so they could kill a horse or mule, slicing the animals up and eating the meat raw.

Ration Reality

"General Crook ought to be hung *[sic]*," Col. Eugene Carr overheard an orderly say, when soldiers began killing the animals in full view of everyone.

Crook finally accepted the failure of his plan. He gave the go-ahead for the camp cooks to shoot and butcher the worst of the mounts. All the men were to have horse meat.

Thinking he was not going to make it at the men's current pace, Crook sent a flying column with 150 mounted men ahead for Deadwood, Dakota Territory, to bring back food. Captain Anson Mills escorted the flying column, while Crook's chief of the commissary, Lt. John W. Bubb, took charge of 16 packers and 61 pack mules. Grouard and Crawford were assigned as scouts. The men pulled out on September 7.

On the evening of September 8, Grouard spotted a Sioux pony herd, just ahead of the

flying column, at a place called Slim Buttes, near present-day Reva, South Dakota. On the other side of the rise was a small Sioux village.

Mills called for an officers' conference. Though their mission was to bring back food, they had an opportunity to strike the first blow since the Custer fight. Without sending word back to Crook, Mills decided to strike at dawn.

The captain divided his command into three groups. Two groups were to bracket the village, while Lt. Frederick Schwatka and 25 cavalry troops charged into the heart of the village, shooting their way through and then joining the troops on the other side to hold the hostiles in check. But the troops spooked the Indian pony herd. With horses running into the village, Schwatka had no choice but to charge before the others were in position.

Sioux warriors slashed their way out of their tipis, tied down tightly, due to the winter cold. They guided their women and children to safety, while they returned fire.

With his plan of attack in shatters, Mills hurriedly sent couriers riding hard for Crook. The Sioux were rallying and carefully advancing on him. Mills countered with charges of his own, until a Sioux bullet took out the knee of one of the leaders, Lt. Adolphus von Leuttwitz.

Mills dug in just outside the lodges. The Sioux warriors did the same, on the bluffs overlooking the village.

"No Quarter!"

As the sun rose over the hills, Mills sent a patrol into the village. In a matter of minutes, a Sioux sniper hidden in a ravine shot one trooper directly in the head. Mills tried smoking out the sniper, only to have three more soldiers wounded. With one dead and five wounded, he called back the patrols and waited for Crook.

The main column rode in piecemeal until Crook's entire force was before the village by 2 p.m. The general tongue lashed Mills for not sending word of his proposed attack. Crook then ordered the sniper taken out.



Recalling this grueling march, Col. Andrew S. Burt remembered scout Jack Crawford (above) "gnawing at a horse's rib fresh from the coals and glad to get the rib."

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

The men, however, soon discovered that more than one warrior lay hidden in the ravine. A deadly firefight opened up, with both legs of one trooper broken by a single shot. "Buffalo Chips" White tried to locate the shooter, only to take a bullet in the heart.

Crook ordered a skirmish line firing repeated heavy volleys into the ravine. When Sioux women and children ran out of the gulley, the general persuaded one woman to get the others to surrender.

To everyone's shock, only the tall Chief American Horse and one other warrior stepped out. American Horse stood erect, but he was holding his side, trying to keep his entails from spilling out.

Officers could no longer keep discipline. Rain returned. The horses dropped like flies.

Crook's troops shouted, "No quarter!" They knew American Horse had been in the Custer fight, and that he had personally slit the throat of Lt. William Fetterman 10 years earlier along the Bozeman Trail.

Crook, though, was impressed with American Horse's bravery. He asked the surgeon to tend to the chief, but nothing could be done. The famed warrior died a few hours later.

While most of Crooks' men were busy flushing out the Sioux snipers, some found horses, saddles, clothing and a guidon with 7th Cavalry markings from the Custer battle.

When these starving men discovered piles of dried buffalo meat, Crook lost control. The men gorged themselves and then napped from exhaustion. Many of his men had walked to the site because their animals were eaten during the march. Crook himself seemed confused. He posted no sentries and sent out no scouts. His Army seemed to have finally reached the limits of its endurance.

Crazy Horse's Charge

Four hours later, the bluffs around Crook's men erupted in gunfire. Swarms of warriors, led boldly by Crazy Horse, poured over the landscape. Crazy Horse was leading only 300 against Crook's 2,000, but the fury of the Sioux forced the general to place every man he had into the fight. The onslaught was a series of charges and countercharges. Darkness ended the battle. Remarkably, no troopers were killed in the engagement.

The entire point of Crook's march was to engage a large body of Sioux and thoroughly defeat them. He finally met the enemy, but Crook found his men too exhausted to destroy his adversary.

All through the night, the Sioux pressed the perimeter. The popping sound of gunfire in the dark kept the men awake and keyed up. Crook had to get his men out. They were no longer in any condition to fight. His men had devoured the tons of captured food so rapidly that Crook placed a guard on reserve for the ill and wounded.

As dawn approached on September 10, Crook sent four companies of infantry to hold back Crazy Horse. He then prepared his column for the march. Crook pulled out at 8 a.m. When he did, the Sioux swarmed in from all directions, determined to wipe out the rear guard commanded by Col. Carr. Carr's energetic handling by

revolving troop placement saved his men from being massacred during the moving two-mile fight.

Crazy Horse and his Sioux eventually retired from the fight, and Crook's men continued their slow march for Deadwood—again without provisions.

Two days later, Crook's army fell apart.

The Storm Before the Calm

Although they had lost the Sioux warriors and were on track to reach much needed food and supplies, September 12 was not a good day.

Officers could no longer keep discipline. Rain returned. The horses dropped like flies. The column was scattered over the landscape, refusing or unable to form up. Men piled up their saddles and hid the ammunition, refusing to carry it. Many dropped in the mud, sleeping where they fell. Schwatka wrote that Crook's army appeared strung out for 10 miles.

For three days, the column was physically unable to advance. Then word came that relief wagons had just crossed the Belle Fourche River, heading toward them.

The scarecrow soldiers stood up and marched for the wagons. They reached them in the afternoon, just as the sun broke through scattered clouds. Crook's men cooked well into the night, waking up suffering from diarrhea, but alive.

They had marched more than 400 miles while starving. Even more, these courageous soldiers had engaged the Sioux in three pitched battles, lost a few men and gotten out of it alive.

Crook proclaimed victory.

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.



Once relief trains reached the starving, exhausted troops and got them fed, photographer Stanley J. Morrow convinced soldiers to re-enact scenes of the march: fighting over the horse meat (above); butchering the horse and shooting another horse for food (below center and right).

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



The surgeon during Crook's horse meat march, Valentine McGillycuddy (above) would run into Crazy Horse again. When Crazy Horse was stabbed at Nebraska's Camp Robinson, the doctor cared for the chief until he died on September 5, 1877.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –





True West Exclusive

Classic Gunfights

A Dust-Up in Delta

McCarty Gang vs W. Ray Simpson



One man with courage makes a majority.

– ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL & MARK BOARDMAN

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of James K. Wetzel

SEPTEMBER 7, 1893

Not many folks are out and about on this stifling hot Thursday morning in Delta, Colorado.

At 10:15 a.m., fifteen minutes after the Farmers and Merchants Bank opened, Bill McCarty and son Fred are conducting business inside—with guns in hand.

Bill orders cashier Andrew Blachly and his assistant Harry Wolbert to raise their hands. Fred jumps up on the partition, aiming to get behind the counter and grab some cash. But Blachly, surprised, gives out a yelp and puts a hand under the counter. He may or may not be reaching for a gun.

He's told to keep quiet, but Blachly yells again. He is trying to warn lawyer W.R. Robertson, who has an office in the rear of the bank. Blachly is guessing the gang will exit through there when they leave (he is right).

Fred, noticeably uptight, fires twice at Blachly, at point-blank range. The first shot misses; the other hits Blachly in the head, killing him instantly. Fred jumps down, shoves a handful of currency into a sack under his shirt and grabs a bag of coins.

Robertson, who has heard the two gunshots, runs outside through the exit door in his office and meets Tom McCarty—Bill's brother and Fred's uncle—who is holding the horses there in the alley. Tom puts a gun on the lawyer.

Tom also quickly ties the other two horses to the corner post of a coal bin, as the gunshots have indicated to him that his partners will need to make a quick escape. Once Tom sees the other two robbers exit the back door, he mounts his horse and rides off.

The robbers don't much care about the unarmed hostage, as they just want to get out of town alive, hopefully with their loot. When Fred mounts his horse, though, he drops the coin bag. With nearly $700 in cash still on hand, the McCartys leave the coins and ride hell for leather north in the alley.

Hardware merchant W. Ray Simpson hears the commotion from across the street and runs outside with his Sharps rifle in hand. As he crosses Main Street, he sees the robbers about a block away, where the alley crosses Third Street.

Simpson aims at the last man and fires. The bullet blows the top of Bill's head off; his body stays in the saddle for a few seconds before dropping lifeless in the dust.

Simpson reloads his single-shot rifle as he runs to Bill's corpse. Fred is just a few feet from freedom, but he has wheeled his horse around, where the alley ends at Second Street, to assist his father, who he thinks is wounded, not dead. Seeing Simpson, Fred takes three shots at him.

Simpson takes aim at Fred. His second shot of the day—estimated at more than 100 yards—hits the youngster in the head; Fred is dead before he hits the ground.

Tom is luckier. He was ahead of Fred, yelling at him to "come on," when his nephew is killed. Tom spurs his horse just as Simpson takes a bead on him. This time, the sharpshooter misses his man and hits the horse in the hind foot. The outlaw urges his horse on and gets out of town.

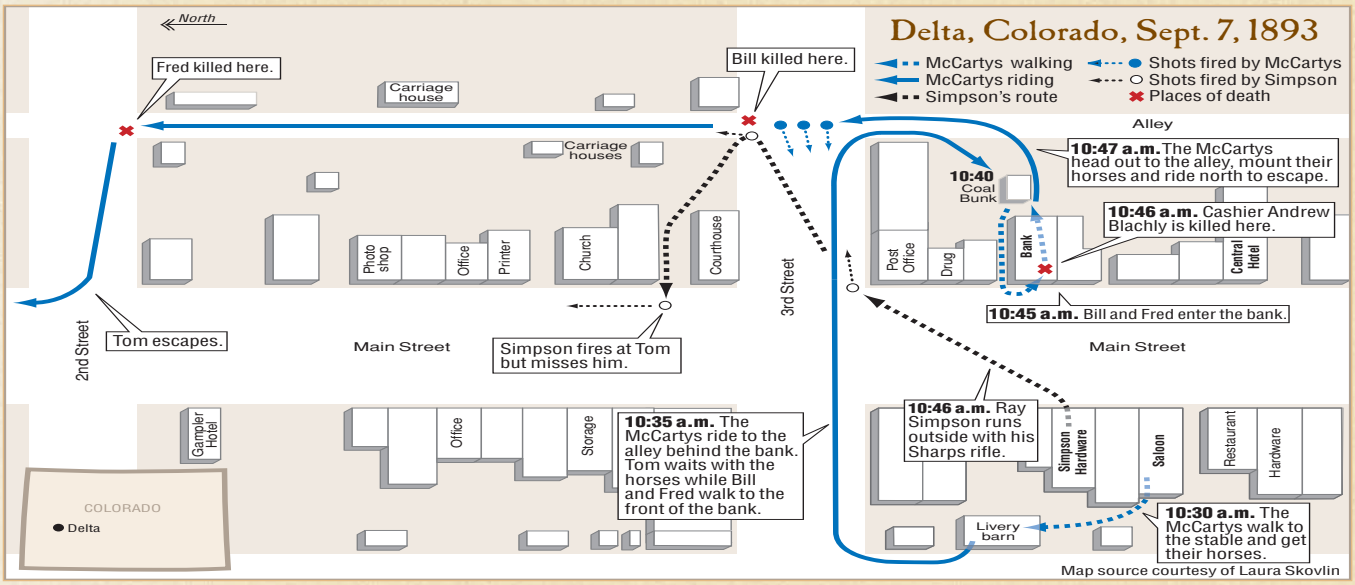
The gang's gallop down the alley is littered by the cash they have dropped along the way.

This fruitless robbery is the end of the McCarty Gang.



– COURTESY SALT LAKE CITY POLICE DEPT. –

Tom McCarty



The Road to the Delta Debacle

Tom McCarty and younger brother Bill have been on the wrong path since the early 1870s. They have graduated from rustling cattle to holding up banks. Both have spent brief periods behind bars.

In 1893, Tom, 43, and Bill, 41, are on the lam after robbing a bank in Roslyn, Washington, the previous September (with the help of Tom's brother-in-law Matt Warner, brother George McCarty and Bill's 20-year-old son Fred). Traveling through western Colorado, they are low on money. A heist seems in order.

They settle on the farming community of Delta, which has two banks. For an unknown reason, they choose the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Perhaps they also plan to rob the second bank, but history does not record that for sure.

On August 20, Tom, Bill and Fred set up camp 10 miles west of Delta. Leading up to the day of the robbery, they visit the town, scout the bank, look over various escape routes and gather local gossip.

On Wednesday, September 6, Bill and Fred rent a room at the Central House Hotel under aliases. The next morning, they meet up with Tom at Steve Bailey's Palace Sampling Room Saloon, located on Main Street, across from the bank. Some witnesses later say the men left drunk.

Around 10 a.m., with the bank finally open for business, a nervous Fred says it is time to go. Bill and Fred walk across the street to the bank. Tom rides his horse and leads the other two horses to the rear of the bank building.



Andrew Blachly



W. Ray Simpson



On September 7, 1893, W. Ray Simpson carries a Sharps Model 1874 single-shot rifle (top); Bill McCarty carries a Colt 1873 Peacemaker Single Action (center); and Fred McCarty carries a Colt 1889 Navy Double Action (above right).

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DELTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

A Family Affair

The McCartys are more than just a cattle ranching family in Oregon. They have made bank robbery a family affair. Brothers Tom, Bill and George are joined by Bill's son, Fred, George's wife, Nellie, and Tom's brother-in-law Matt Warner.

The family's first heist takes place in 1891, at the Wallowa National Bank, in the remote Powder River Valley. Just like Wyoming, Colorado and Utah's wild environs allow outlaws to escape their crimes unnoticed, Oregon offers the perfect country for the McCarty Gang to form its outlaw empire.

In 1891 or 1892, Tom McCarty makes a trip with Matt Warner to visit an old friend of theirs, Butch Cassidy. They knew him when he was 23-year-old Robert Leroy Parker, who helped them pull off a bank robbery in Telluride, Colorado, on June 24, 1889. The two invite him to join their gang, but he is not interested.

Using the money he has made from his Colorado robberies, Tom purchases land so he can have a string of hideouts for the heists. The family goes on a successful robbery spree, unrecognized.

But one family member will turn on all of them—not from the McCarty side, but from the Warner side. Matt's lonely wife, Rose, has brought her sister, Sarah Jane, from Utah to the Warner's 7U Ranch in Washington. But Sarah Jane does not approve of Matt's outlawry, so she tells the authorities in Salt Lake City, Utah, all about the McCarty Gang.

That's how Matt Warner and George McCarty find themselves in jail in Ellensburg, Washington, in April 1893.

But the law has not been able to find Bill, Fred and Tom McCarty. With the authorities hot on their trail in Oregon, the three move on to their Colorado haunts... and make their way to Delta.



A bird's-eye view of Delta, Colorado, circa 1893.

Main Street in Delta, Colorado (shown below in 1893), has two banks at the time of the McCarty heist. Despite the depression that has cleaned out many financial institutions across the country, both banks are solvent. Historians are not sure why the McCarty Gang chose to rob only the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Perhaps the gang planned to hit both banks, until they encountered trouble while robbing the first bank.





Bill McCarty



Fred McCarty

The Fourth Robber

Tom McCarty escapes, thanks to some extra horses he left outside Delta. The McCarty Gang has never robbed a bank without having one or two gang members holding the relay horses at their camp or another designated place.

This is why James K. Wetzel believes at least one additional gang member was at that camp. Wetzel, the director of the Delta County Historical Society Museum since 1998, is the author of *Banks, Bullets and Bodies: A Failed Robbery in Delta, Colorado.* Since the robbers had eight horses, plus a pack mule, Wetzel believes each of the four robbers had a main horse and a getaway horse.

Who does he think the fourth robber could have been? Tom's son, Eck.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Of the $700 stolen from the Farmers and Merchants Bank, about $294.86 was lost to the robbers. The townsfolk recovered the rest of the money.

Andrew Blachly, the murdered cashier, left behind a wife and their eight sons, ranging in age from one to 15. His brothers helped the widow Blachly by financing college for seven of them; three of them went on to earn advanced degrees.

By 1900, Tom McCarty had returned home, to northeastern Oregon, where he worked a variety of jobs, including county road supervisor, justice of the peace and elections official. In 1917, he dropped off the map. His Oregon friends and acquaintances heard nothing more from him.

Bill and Fred McCarty's bodies were laid out and photographed (pictures sold for 25 cents a piece). The bodies were buried, supposedly in one box, in the Delta Cemetery's Potter's Field section. A memorial stone was placed at the grave site in 2001.

Across the country, newspapers celebrated W. Ray Simpson, the hero of Delta. But not long after the robbery, he started receiving threatening letters—from Tom McCarty. He escaped his tormentor by moving to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1899, where he managed the sanitarium's health food company, which developed Grape-Nuts, corn flakes and other Post cereals. After his wife, Mary, died as a result of surgery, Simpson relocated to southern California, where he founded two hospitals. He died aged 78, in 1940.

Recommended: *Banks, Bullets and Bodies: A Failed Robbery in Delta, Colorado*, by James K. Wetzel, published by Delta County Historical Society Museum.

BY TOM AUGHERTON

Erwin E. Smith

A TEXAS PHOTOGRAPHER ETERNALIZED THE WORKING COWBOY WITH HIS KODAK.



One summer between 1908 and 1910, Erwin E. Smith made this magical nighttime portrait of cowpunchers listening to the "Pitchfork Kid," Billy Partlow (standing in center with pipe), famous for his storytelling, on the Matador Ranch, Texas.

– ALL PHOTOS BEQUEST OF MARY ALICE PETTIS AND ERWIN E. SMITH COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, © ERWIN E. SMITH FOUNDATION –

TEXAN Erwin Evans Smith is regarded as one of the greatest photographers of the day-to-day life of the cowboy in the American Southwest.

Smith hailed from north Texas, born in Honey Grove—an area discovered a half-century earlier by Tennessean Davy Crockett—on August 22, 1886. The family relocated 16 miles west to Bonham in 1894 when Erwin was eight. Even as a boy, he was artistic and sketched a romanticized cowboy life, particularly the scenes at his uncle's ranch in Foard County, near Quanah.

In his teens, Erwin was given his first Kodak box camera, which he carried with him as he worked as a cowhand across the Southwest. His images capture an era of the working cowboy, depicting roping, branding, herding, horse breaking, and tools and tack used by the diverse groups of cowboys working together.

In 1904, Smith left Texas for the Art Institute in Chicago to study with master sculptor Lorado Taft. His goal was to make Western bronzes of the scenes in his photographs, but a career as a sculptor eluded him. Two years later, Smith was off to the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts and further instruction from sculptor Bella Lyon Pratt. Whenever he could, Smith went back with his Eastman screen focus #5 Kodak camera fitted with a Goerz lens to his beloved Southwest to work and photo-graph the ranch life he loved.

In 1908, a Boston art salon featured 40 of Smith's photographs. George R. Patullo, the Sunday editor of the *Boston Herald* wrote about Smith, which brought the Texas photographer national attention. Pattullo and Smith became close friends and traveled West together to photograph and write about some of the largest and legendary spreads—the OR Ranch in Arizona's San Rafael Valley, the Three Block Ranch in New Mexico, and the Turkey Track, the Matador and the Spur ranches in Texas. Smith's photos accompanied many of Pattullo's articles in *McClure's* and *Saturday Evening Post.*

In 1911, Smith returned to his father's land in Fannin County to establish his own ranch, but by 1917 he was out of money and bankrupt. He tried to get his photography published but to little profit. In 1932 he moved to outside of Bonham in into the home of his half-sister, Mary Alice White Pettis.

Smith wrote later in life, "From the first time I laid eyes on the sunburnt plains of the West, with its grand scenery, I have been in love with its still, enchanted solitude."

Smith died September 4, 1947, and was buried in Honey Grove. His life was dedicated to honoring the truth of the old-time cowboy—a working man on horseback.

Tom Augherton is an Arizona-based freelance writer. For those who would like to learn more about the life of Erwin E. Smith, Augherton recommends a visit to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, and the museum's website *CarterMuseum.org*, which has an extensive online collection of Smith's photographs.

Western photographer Erwin E. Smith was just 18 years old when he posed for a studio self-portrait in 1904, the same year he went to art school in Chicago to begin his formal training as a sculptor of Western bronzes based on his photography of Southwestern ranch life. In 1986, Smith's half-sister, Mary Alice Pettis, bequeathed her collection to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, and established the Erwin E. Smith Foundation, which supports scholarships to students studying photographic history.













BY CANDY MOULTON

IDAHO CELEBRATES STATEHOOD

The Gem State celebrates heritage and people from the mountains to the valleys.



This historic view of Shoshone Falls demonstrates how the Snake River cut a swath through the landscape, carving the Snake River Canyon.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Idaho marks a century and a quarter of statehood in 2015 and while much has happened to define the state during the past 125 years, the landscape remains much the same. The mountain ranges and rivers that form the northern half of the state mean it can still be a challenge to travel from Bonner's Ferry or Sandpoint to Boise or Pocatello, but the journey on sometimes-circuitous routes is as important as any of the destinations.

The landscapes include river valleys, large natural lakes (that are themselves remnants of Ice Age development), lava flows that create otherworldly vistas such as Craters of the Moon National Monument, and wide open plains that attracted hundreds of thousands of Westbound Overland Trail emigrants.

Idaho is a state of many cultures, from native people including the Nez Perce, Kootenai, Lemhi Shoshone, Western Shoshone, and the Bannock tribes, to the ranchers who found the land productive for raising cattle and sheep. During the 19th century the silver and gold riches of the area attracted miners of all ilk, including a large number of Chinese miners. The grazing opportunities for sheep attracted other immigrants—Basque herders from Spain. These cultures all

Lewis and Clark received great aid from the Nez Perce tribe when the explorers crossed what became Idaho.

remain in Idaho, and any visit to the state will allow you to learn more about them and take part in events and festivals that celebrate the diversity.

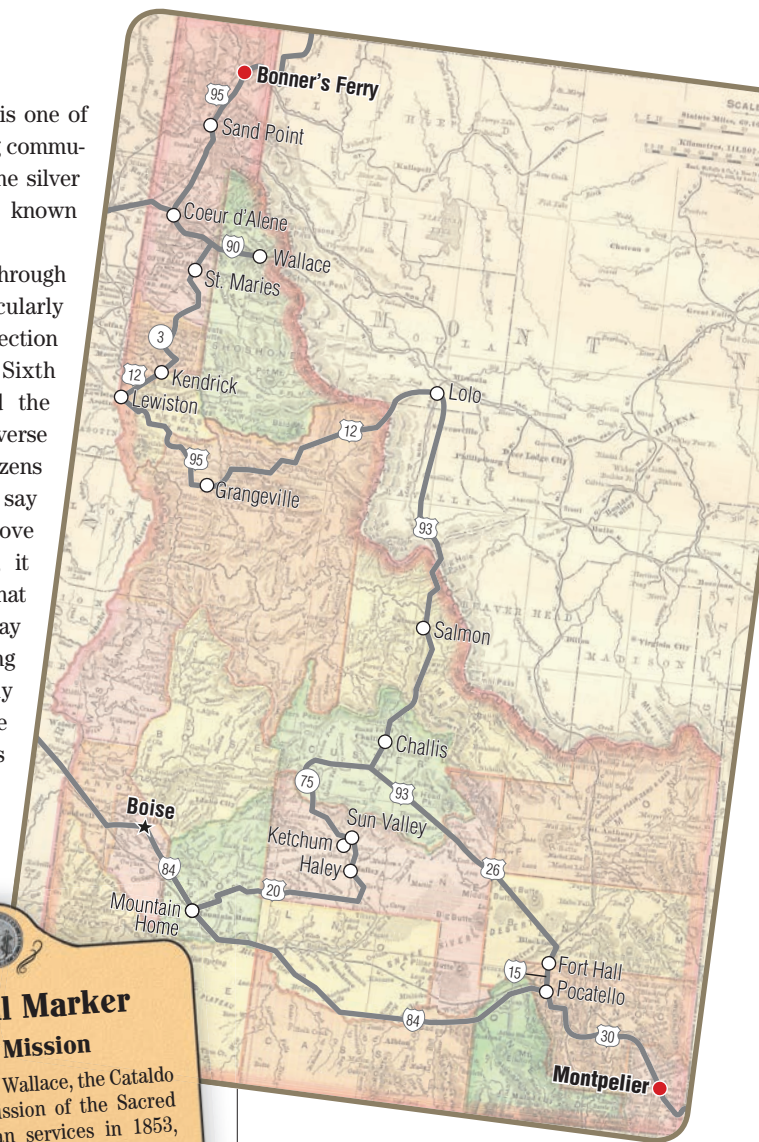
Idaho's Historic Panhandle

A good place to start a journey through Idaho is on the International Selkirk Scenic Byway in extreme northern Idaho. This byway, if followed in its entirety, will take you through the Idaho panhandle into British Columbia, Canada, and west into Washington. But for this trip through Idaho, I'm starting in Bonner's Ferry, a small city bisected by the Kootenai River. This tributary of the Columbia River flows through the ancestral home of the Kootenai Indians. I head south to Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene, both cities that offer activities on the water.

Sandpoint has Priest Lake and Lake Pend Oreille, where you can participate in a variety of water sports, or experience the wooden boat festival. Each summer the Festival at Sandpoint features a variety of musical concerts, held in a family-friendly setting near the shores of Lake Pend Orielle. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the music. Lake Coeur d'Alene, farther south, has its own opportunity for water sports.

I travel east on I-90 to the small town of Wallace. When the interstate highway was built, it was initially slated to go through the town, but doing so would have destroyed dozens of historic buildings. Instead, following protest, a lawsuit, and the inclusion of the entire town on the National Register of Historic Places, the federal and state highway administrators routed the interstate above the town (the four lanes of highway literally pass over the town). Wallace is one of Idaho's great mining communities, gateway to the silver deposits in what is known as Silver Valley.

When you drive through Wallace, be particularly alert at the intersection of Bank and Sixth streets, considered the Center of the Universe (at least by the citizens of Wallace, who say if you cannot prove something is false, it is indeed possible that it is true). You may find people standing at the specially designed manhole cover that verifies their presence at this "significant" location. Among the events at that point have been weddings, coronations of the princesses of the Center of the Universe, and recognitions of "Mr. Hardrock," a nod to the long-standing mining traditions in the community.



Historical Marker

Cataldo Mission

Located just west of Wallace, the Cataldo Mission, or Old Mission of the Sacred Heart, which began services in 1853, is the oldest building in Idaho. The mission started on the St. Joe River, but moved in 1842 to the Cataldo site.

The Nez Perce and the Legacy of Sacajawea

Silver mining forged the communities in this northern part of Idaho, but my route takes me south to the Clearwater River—home of the Nez Perce, many of whom remained in, or returned to, the region around Lapwai following the 1877 Nez Perce War that started farther south, near



Fire destroyed much of Wallace, Idaho, in 1915 but the town recovered, rebuilt and rejuvenated itself.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

White Bird. The war played out at sites in Idaho near the Salmon River and along the Clearwater before the tribe moved on into Montana, Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park, and then was stopped at the Bears Paw Battlefield in northern Montana just short of Canada. There are both Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark sites all along the Clearwater, including Heart of the Monster National Historic Park (a place revered in Nez Perce history as their creation site).

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark received great aid from the Nez Perce tribe when the explorers crossed the land that later became Idaho. The Shoshoni woman Sacajawea also significantly helped the American explorers with her knowledge of the country. Learn more about her role with Lewis and Clark and about the Agai Dika Lemhi Shoshone at the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Educational Center in Salmon. In addition to exhibits, there is a 71-acre park which includes interpretive exhibits.

Mining and Ranching in Idaho's High Country

From Salmon, I head southwest through Challis en route to Sun Valley and Ketchum by following Trail Creek Road, which was a route to the Wood River Valley mining operations, an industry that led to the founding of Ketchum itself. Freighters hauled ore mined in the valley to Ketchum over narrow, poorly developed roads in huge freight wagons drawn by 20-mule







Eagle of Light, Chief Joseph and Smohollah, or The Dreamer, are shown in this photograph taken in 1877, the year the Nez Perce people were ordered onto a reservation at Lapwai. Instead, the Indians fled the region, leading the U.S. military, commanded by Gen. Oliver O. Howard, on a nearly 1,500-mile journey.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

teams that were managed by a teamster using a single line, called a jerk-line.

The Ore Wagon Museum in Ketchum has some of the original Lewis ore wagons. They are on display through most of the year but annually at Labor Day these massive vehicles, which carried more than 18,000 pounds of ore, are pulled out of the collection, again hitched to a 20-mule team, and driven through town as part of the Annual Wagon Days "Big Hitch Parade." This is known as the largest non-motorized parade in the Pacific Northwest, often including more than 100 wagons including buggies and stagecoaches, and attracting thousands of visitors to join the locals.

This event recognizes the time when mining was in full operation in the Big Lost, Wood River and Salmon River valleys. At that time the Lewis Fast Freight lines owned 700 mules and 30 wagons that they used to haul some 700,000 pounds of ore each year to the Philadelphia Smelter in Ketchum. Each of the round-trips on the Ketchum-Challis Toll Road (today's Trail Creek Road) took upwards of two weeks. Be forewarned, the Trail Creek Road is not open year around, but it is a great route to take in the summertime or early fall.

The stories and history of sheep herders is recreated each year at the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, celebrating the movement of great herds of sheep from summer to winter pastures, with hundreds of heads of animals passing through downtown Ketchum.







The Agua Dika Shoshone woman is celebrated at the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Educational Center in Salmon.

– SACAJAWEA CENTER/COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM –

Idaho History and Basque Culture Celebrated in Boise

The sheepherding culture in Idaho is directly linked to the Basque people who settled the area, and the best place to learn about and experience Basque culture is in Boise. The Basque Museum and Cultural Center, just a few blocks from the state capitol, gives a view of the old-world origins and history of Basques in Idaho. The center is located in the 1864 Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga house, which was built for a pioneer family and served as a Basque boarding-house from 1910 until 1969.

Every five years Jaialdi, a major event that attracts Basques from around the world, takes place at the Basque Center in Boise (just down the street from the Basque Museum and Cultural Center). The music, food, dance and sports of Basque tradition are a part of this event scheduled for July 28-August 2 this year.



Jaialdi, a major event held every five years, attracts Basques from around the world. It takes place in July–August 2015 and will feature many cultural programs such as dancing demonstrations.

– PEG OWENS/COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM –



Nez Perce leader Twisted Hair meets explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in this sculpture on the grounds near the Idaho State Capitol. The boy, Lawyer, would become an important Nez Perce leader in his own right.

– CANDY MOULTON –



Each fall sheep growers in the Ketchum area trail their herds off the mountain and through the town as part of the Trailing of the Sheep celebration.

– KAREN BALLARD/COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM –

Crossroads of History at Fort Hall

The Shoshone-Bannock Indian Powwow, held at Fort Hall in early August, is a tradition more than half a century old drawing dancers, singers and drum groups who gather for a variety of dance competitions plus Indian relay racing, art shows, parades, a traditional feast and traditional Indian games for children and adults. The Donzia gift shop inside the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel has authentic beadwork, moccasins and other items made by members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe.

From Fort Hall, head south on I-15 through Pocatello, to visit the re-created Fort Hall, a replica of the trading post that served travelers on the Oregon and California trails (the Oregon Trail crossed the width of Idaho, following the Snake River for much of the route, while the California Trail split and followed the Raft River down into extreme southwestern Utah and Nevada).

To learn more about the overland trails, visit the National Oregon/California Trail Interpretive Center in Montpelier. A series of paintings, the Simplot Art Collection by Gary Stone, provides a rich view of the trail sites all across Idaho and neighboring states. There is often a quilt show on display, and the exhibits and living history interpreters allow you to "experience" the trail for yourself. If you want to know about life on the trail, just ask the director, Becky Smith. She and her husband and children have traveled hundreds of miles with wagon trains in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

No matter your interest—from history to wine tasting, or from desert-like landscape to forested mountains—Idaho really delivers a plethora of places, events and activities to show you what she has become in this quasquicentennial year.

Candy Moulton is the author of *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People*, a Spur Award-winning biography.



The Idaho State Capitol is a focal point in downtown Boise.

– PHOTOS BY CANDY MOULTON –

PLACES TO VISIT, CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Places to Visit: National Oregon/California Trail Interpretive Center, Montpelier; **Idaho State History Museum,** Boise; **Harriman State Park,** Island Park; **Historical Museum at St. Gertrude,** Cottonwood; **Boise Basin Historical Museum,** Idaho City; **Weippe Camas Festival and Weippe Discovery Center,** Weippe.

Celebrations & Events: Jaialdi Basque Festival, July 28-Aug. 2, Boise; **Shoshone-Bannock Powwow,** mid-August, Fort Hall; **Ketchum Wagon Days,** Labor Day Weekend, Ketchum; **Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic,** Labor Day Weekend, Boise; **Trailing of the Sheep Festival,** October 8-11, Ketchum.



GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub: Spud's Waterfront Grill (*Sandpoint*); **Hydra** (*Sandpoint*); **Hudson's Hamburgers** (*Coeur d'Alene*); **The Fainting Goat Wine Bar** (*Wallace*); **Vintage**, (*Ketchum*); **Bar Gernika** (Basque food), (*Boise*); **Bleubird** (*Boise*).

Lodging: Wallace Inn (*Wallace*); **Shoshone-Bannock Hotel** (*Fort Hall*); **Riverside Hot Springs Inn** (*Lava Hot Springs*); **Hotel 43** (*Boise*).

GOOD BOOKS/FILM & TV

Good Books: ***A Chinaman's Chance: The Chinese on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier*** by Liping Zhu; ***The Good Times Are All Gone Now: Life, Death, and Rebirth in an Idaho Mining Town*** by Julie Weston; ***Backcountry Roads: Idaho*** by Lynna Howard with photography by Leland Howard.

Good Films & TV: ***River of No Return*** (20th-Century Fox); ***Idaho*** (Republic Pictures); ***Across the Wide Missouri*** (MGM); ***Bronco Billy*** (Warner Bros.); ***Smoke Signals*** (Miramax); ***Thousand Pieces of Gold*** (Greycat Films and PBS); ***Napoleon Dynamite*** (Fox Searchlight Pictures).

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



The End of the West

Loren D. Estleman's tempered tale of mortality, and sin and salvation in Alaska, a Wild West Russian celebrity, an old-fashioned Western, and an insightful biography of Owen Wister.

Since Owen Wister's *The Virginian* was published in 1902, Western novelists have returned to the era of the transitional West, which, according to New Mexico author Max Evans, is where "the friction occurs, and where there's friction, there's smoke and fire." Master storyteller Loren D. Estleman's 70th novel, *The Long High Noon* (Forge, $24.99), is filled with the smouldering embers of an Old West that novelists have been stoking for poignancy and irony for decades. These authors include Estleman's peer, Larry McMurtry, in his recent recitation of the Earp legend in *The Last Kind Words Saloon*. Like McMurtry, Estleman has mined the West for its soul in search of characters and real Western locations to explore the human condition and the seven sins that follow man through literary eternity. Estleman's dueling protagonists figuratively and literally toil against each other in this Shakespearean saga in which their tragic-comedy of lifelong hatred leads them to their inevitable hell on a former Spanish royal road in the West's most Western city, Los Angeles.

Like McMurtry and Evans, Estleman is interested in sifting

The leading men of *The Long High Noon* would fit as easily in a William Shakespeare tragedy as in a John Ford film...



Loren D. Estleman's latest novel, *The Long High Noon*, is a tragic-comedy portrait of two cowpunchers whose hatred for each other is recounted in an epic journey that zigzags across the West and Western history like a cowboy's map in the sand.

– COURTESY MARY ALICE PETTIS AND ERWIN E. SMITH COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS –



Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West is one of the ironic backdrops for Loren Estleman's *The Long High Noon*, and two cowboys hell-bent for Boot Hill.

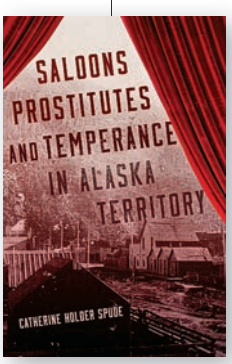
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the embers of the transitional West for allegorical tales and characters who struggle against the Sisphitic fate of time and aging. The leading men of *Long High Noon* would fit as easily in a William Shakespeare tragedy as in a John Ford film, but readers of Western literature will recognize the flaws they carry to their final shoot-out, similar to McMurtry's Gus and Woodrow in *Lonesome Dove*, and Evans's Big Boy and Pete in *The Hi-Lo Country*. Maudlin, melancholy, narcissistic, gluttonous, vengeful, sardonic, and flawed, Randy Lock and Frank Farmer make an epic journey through the detritus of the Western frontier that would make Homer smile as their paths reach a terminal crossroads at Estleman's ironic, multi-faceted subsitute for Charon's crossing—Los Angeles's Cahuenga Pass.

A century ago, Los Angeles was the new capital of the American West. Emerging on the Pacific Coast, a dusty former backwater of the Spanish empire, the city of angels was attracting entrepreneurs and speculators of all ilk in land, oil, subdivisions, urban transportation and entertainment.

In 1913, visionary water baron William Mulholland's first great aqueduct, which directed water from the Owens River Valley on the eastern slope of the Sierras, began pouring into the San Fernando Valley and the L.A. basin. That same year Hollywood became the center of film production in America with Gower Gulch and the upstart studios overflowing with out-of-work cowboys from across the West. Central casting didn't need to invent the movie cowboy—the cowboys came to the city by horse, train, wagon and car. Nationally, the West was in a transition that would only become more rapid with the start of World War I. Like with Estleman's previous Chandler-esque Western, *Ragtime Cowboys*, fans will wonder as they read of his twin Quixotes reaching their fates in the final pages of *The Long High Noon* if the Michigan author's Western tales are nearing their end, too. At least for this fan, I hope not; there are still too many trails to ride.

—Stuart Rosebrook



WILD TIMES ON THE ALASKA FRONTIER

Catherine Holder Spude's latest book, *Saloons, Prostitutes and Temperance in Alaska Territory* (University of Oklahoma Press, $24.95), highlights the enterprising business owners, soiled doves

ROUGH DRAFTS



Over the decades, numerous pundits and pessimists have announced the end of the West, Western films, Western novels, Western music and Western culture. The fact is that the West—and what it was, what it is and what it might be—is in the news every day in film and television, in print, on the radio and the Internet.

On January 30, *Amazon.com* announced that the South Dakota Historical Society Press's December 2014 release, *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, was the number one best seller. Number one! As we went to press, Pamela Smith Hill's edited volume of the Wilder classic, written first in 1929-'30 was still number one in Amazon's U.S. history category. Talk about the West being alive and relevant!

If you like *Pioneer Girl*, I recommend these three highly readable and useful annotated volumes for your library:

Richard C. Rattenbury's *A Legacy in Arms: American Firearm Manufacture, Design, and Artistry, 1800-1900* (University of Oklahoma Press, December 2014). [See cover story excerpt on page 22.]

Berndt Kühn's *Chronicles of War: Apache & Yavapai Resistance in the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico, 1821-1937* (Arizona Historical Society, November 2014).

R. Michael Wilson's *Stagecoach Robberies in California: A Complete Record, 1856-1913* (McFarland Publishing, September 2014).

–Stuart Rosebrook

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The People's Theater in Skagway, Alaska Territory, is one of many notorious saloons profiled by author Catherine Holder Spude in *Saloons, Prostitutes and Temperance in Alaska Territory.*

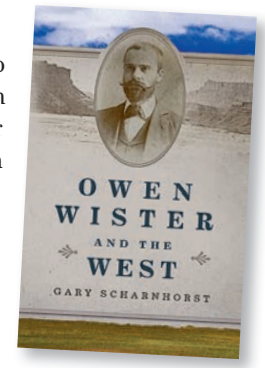
– COURTESY ALASKA STATE LIBRARY, WILLIAM NORTON PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION –

and hopeful gamblers who ventured far north to take advantage of the gold-seekers who flocked to the area in the late 1890s. Spude expertly transports readers beyond the tales of the daring courtesans and charlatans, and examines the effect alcohol had on argonauts who frequented the taverns and houses of ill-repute. The book's details show a great research effort, and Spude uncovers facts not found by other authors. Her writing is exceptional; she never disappoints.

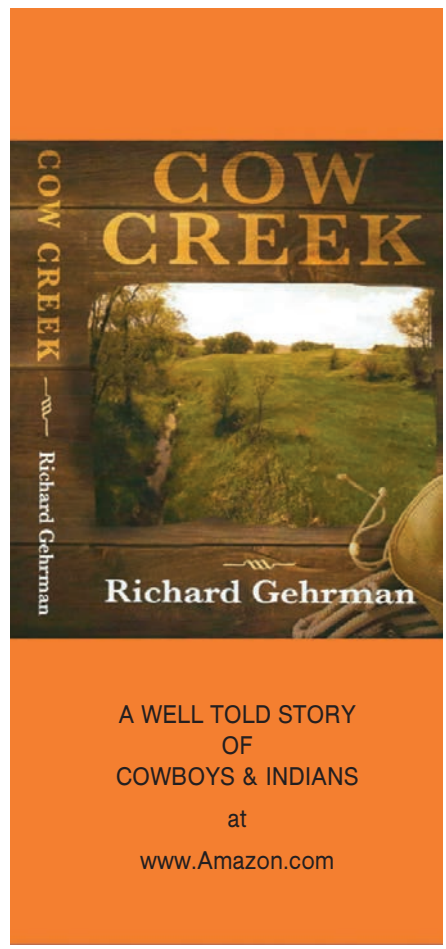
—*Chris Enss, author of* Wicked Women: Notorious, Mischievous, and Wayward Ladies from the Old West

WISTER'S TRAILS WEST

Gary Scharnhorst's *Owen Wister and the West* (University of Oklahoma Press, $24.95) is the most in-depth biography of this Eastern-bred writer who has been credited with creating the template for the 20th-century Western novel with *The Virginian.* The biographer exhaustively tracks Harvard-educated young Wister through his countless journeys around the West to "gather material" for his short stories. Wister stayed at the ranches of friends, hunting and fishing, listening to the cowboys retell their real adventures, which the budding author often reworked into stories published by *Harper's Monthly*, *Cosmopolitan* and, later, the *Saturday*







Evening Post. Wister's characters were based on unusual Westerners he befriended during his travels away from his Philadelphia law practice, which he needed to recover from bouts of nervous exhaustion. Scharnhorst provides a good career-arc biography for wannabe Western writers to study.

—*Miles Swarthout, author of* The Last Shootist



According to Gary Scharnhorst, Owen Wister's travels to and from Wyoming during the 1880s and 1890s brought him face-to-face with the violence of the Johnson County War "invaders," and a warning from friends that his support of the ranchers could lead to his own violent end.

– COURTESY AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING –



A RUSSIAN DUKE OUT WEST

Lee A. Farrow's *Alexis in America: A Russian Grand Duke's Tour, 1871-1872* (Louisiana State University Press $45) is a well researched travelogue detailing Grand Duke Alexis Romanov's whirlwind of feasting at banquets, fancy dress balls and fast-paced buffalo hunts that captured headlines a half dozen years after the Civil War. Most of the book concentrates on the Russian royal's stay east of the Mississippi—but for *True West* readers, his Western trip rubbing elbows with George and Libbie Custer, Philip Sheridan, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Spotted Tail, plus troopers and the band

WILD HORSE AND BURRO
ADOPTIONS

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May 15–16	Florence, SC
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May 15–16	Riverton, WY*
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May 29–30	Cassopolis, MI
May 30	Carson City, NV*
Jun 2–16	Internet Adoption* blm.gov/adoptahorse


Carrie Frazier and her adopted horse, Calamity Jane

*Trained animals available.

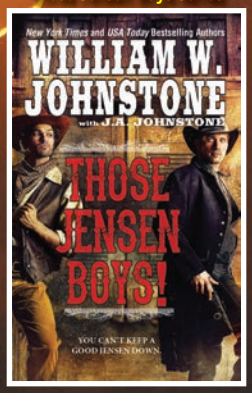
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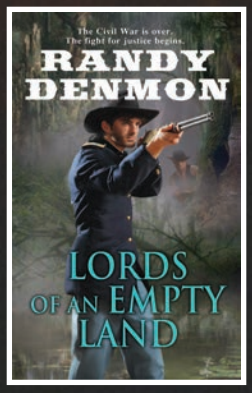
For schedules and directions to these events, and to learn about other adoption and sale opportunities throughout the year, go to blm.gov.

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ON THE TRAIL OF CUSTER: HISTORIAN M. JOHN LUBETKIN



Raised in Manhattan, Spur Award-winner John Lubetkin's first experience of Custer Country was in the early 1950s as a summer camper on a month-long caravan across the West. A history major, he graduated from Union College in Schenectady, New York, served in the military and received a M.A. from New York University. Before becoming a published author, he spent 32 years as a cable TV executive, co-founding two cable companies and the Learning Channel.

While back for a reunion at Union College, Lubetkin visited his fraternity and rediscovered a book he had read while in college. His chance discovery led him to write his first book, *Union College's Class of 1868*. Since then, he has published five books, including his third for the University of Oklahoma Press, *Before Custer: Surveying the Yellowstone, 1872*, and his recently published first historical novel, *Custer's Gold* (Bookstand Publishing). When Lubetkin is not on the research trail out West, he is at home with his wife, Linda, in McLean, Virginia.

He promises you will love these master works of history:

❶ *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull* (Robert M. Utley, Henry Holt & Co.): There are a limited number of books about Indians that are well written, by authors well-versed in the subject, and with thorough and documented research, which the reader subjectively feels is accurate and balanced. One such book is Utley's splendid biography of Sitting Bull.

❷ *Montcalm and Wolfe: The French and Indian War* (Francis Parkman, BiblioLife): If you like mysteries and think Conan Doyle has never been bettered, you'll want to know that that's how I feel about Parkman. I won't claim I've read every word in his sixteen books on the 17th- and 18th-century American-New France frontier, but no author's work is more exciting.

❸ *A Short History of the Civil War: Ordeal by Fire* (Fletcher Pratt, Dover): I first read Pratt's *Ordeal by Fire* in the seventh grade and have re-read it for years. While the book follows the don't-ruin-a-good-story-with-fact school of writing, it remains a graceful masterpiece. After reading it, I was hooked on the Civil War.

❹ *Men of Wealth: The Story Of Twelve Significant Fortunes From the Renaissance to the Present Day* (John T. Flynn, Kessinger): Most *True West* readers may not have heard of Flynn because he wrote about businessmen and businesswomen. When I first read his *Men of Wealth*, I was astounded by how absolutely fascinating robber barons are and how they impacted historical events. There's quite a bit about Jay Cooke in this book, but the real surprise was the essay on J.P. Morgan and how he sold defective Belgian rifles to the U.S. Army in 1861.

❺ *Custer's Luck* (Edward I. Stewart, University of Oklahoma Press): Is there any demonstrably better book on Custer? This gracefully written, meticulously researched and well-documented book was my starting point in writing about Custer for *Jay Cooke's Gamble*.





General Philip Sheridan personally asked that Spotted Tail, chief of the peaceful Brule band of Lakota Sioux, and members of his tribe, join Grand Duke Alexis's hunting party, including Buffalo Bill Cody, Lt. Col. George Custer, and Sheridan near North Platte, Nebraska, in January 1872.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry should be the highlight. The only disappointment is the paucity of photographs to accompany the text.

—*John Langellier, author of* Bluecoats: The U.S. Army in the West, 1848-1897

TWO-FISTED TEXAS RANGER ACTION

This is the sequel to Lodge's 2004 novel, *Charley Sunday's Texas Outfit*. This thriller brings ex-Ranger Sunday's "outfit" together again in 1900 and to northeastern Mexico to chase down Mexican kidnappers who have Sunday's daughter and her husband. His grandson escapes the "bungled" kidnapping, so Sunday now knows who he is after, but he does not know why.



This is a classic chase tale with stumbles, turns, captures and releases, building to a climactic shoot-out at the remote hacienda of a powerful Mexican rancher. The author uses flashbacks and details to flesh out his characters, and has them employ an array of firepower ranging from Walker Colts to Potato Digger machine guns.

—*McKendree R. Long III, author of* Dog Soldier Moon

SOUTHERN SON
THE SAGA OF DOC HOLLIDAY



The epic story of Doc Holliday comes to a dramatic conclusion in The Last Decision.
Coming to bookstores everywhere May 2015

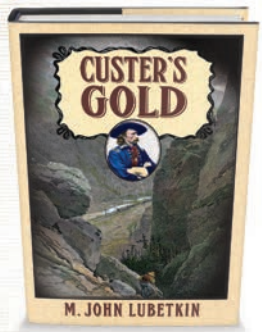
The Story of the West's Most Famous Southern Gentleman

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Visit the world of Doc Holliday at *www.VictoriaWilcoxBooks.com*

CUSTER'S GOLD
M. John Lubetkin

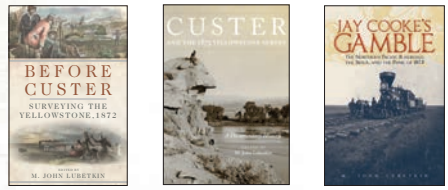


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Louise Barnett *author of "Touched by Fire: The Life, Death, and Afterlife of George Armstrong Custer.*

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BY C. COURTNEY JOYNER

Texas Rangers Epic Event

"The Alamo wasn't the end. It was the beginning," promises the History Channel in a new miniseries that premieres on Memorial Day.

"The script touched something deep inside me, which was how much I'd always wanted to make a Western."

Director Roland Joffé's voice charges with enthusiasm as he describes the emotions he felt during his first reading of producers Leslie Greif and Darrell Fetty's script for *Texas Rising*, the History Channel's eight-hour miniseries event, which airs over four nights beginning on Memorial Day.

After enjoying enormous success with 2012's *Hatfields & McCoys* for the History Channel, Greif cast his creative net on the thundering epic saga of the Republic of Texas, its formation after the 1836 battle of the Alamo and the creation of the legendary Texas Rangers who fought to keep the peace.

He found the ideal collaborator in the British Joffé, who has earned Academy Award directing nominations for his first two feature films (1984's *The Killing Fields* and 1986's *The Mission*), honored for their intensely dramatic, and exquisite, visuals.

"Every Saturday morning, I'd watch Westerns in the cinema, and they became ingrained in one's imagination," Joffé warmly recalls. "What I loved about those movies was the way in which geography played such an important part in forming character, and that, in a way, formed some of my thinking of what to do with *Texas Rising*."

> "The ghost of John Wayne, I often felt on my shoulder."

That thinking included a truly cinematic approach by both producer and director, resulting in a decision to film *Texas Rising* in a widescreen process. "We visualized it as a film," Joffé says, "and didn't want to be restricted by the old television format, because people have bigger screens now. We wanted to capture that open landscape that's such a part of the Western."

Durango, Mexico, the location for 1960's *The Magnificent Seven*, 1965's *The Sons of*



Brendan Fraser, as Texas Ranger Billy Anderson, and Bill Paxton, as Texas Army Maj. Gen. Sam Houston, join forces to face the enemies of Texas.

– ALL *TEXAS RISING* PHOTOS COURTESY HISTORY CHANNEL –



Bill Paxton has climbed from playing Wyatt Earp's younger brother Morgan in 1993's *Tombstone* to star in *Texas Rising*, as Sam Houston, the Republic of Texas's first president.

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Katie Elder and 1969's *The Wild Bunch*, provided the landscape populated by *Texas Rising's* extraordinary cast, which includes Kris Kristofferson, Ray Liotta, Thomas Jane, Jeff Fahey and Brendan Fraser, along with native Texan Bill Paxton as the legendary Sam Houston.

The near-only woman in the piece is Cynthia Addai-Robinson as Emily D. West, the beautiful "Yellow Rose of Texas," who came to symbolize the Texas Revolution, a role that fascinated the actress.

"From the first moment of collaborating with Roland, I knew this was going to be a special experience," Addai-Robinson says. "I also knew that there was going to be a lot of work, and a great director is not only guiding you in what you are already doing, but also pushing you to do better."

One of the challenges she encountered was researching West's mysterious character. "Her story's more like historical folklore," she says. "There are varying accounts of who she may have been and a lot of blanks for me to fill in. My best resource was the library of the African American museum in Los Angeles. I really wanted to develop a fully realized idea of this woman and what her life would have been like in this time period."

Costar Christopher McDonald, who portrays Ranger Henry Karnes, echoes



The "Yellow Rose of Texas" earns her legend in the History Channel's new *Texas Rising* miniseries. Here, Cynthia Addai-Robinson, as Emily D. West, nurses a fallen hero.



The original ragtag of men dubbed the Texas Rangers became heroes and then legends. Some of the actors bringing those stories to the miniseries include *Justified* Emmy winner Jeremy Davies as Sgt. Ephraim Knowles (standing, far right), Jeff Fahey as Thomas Rusk (second from right) and Chris McDonald as Henry Karnes (third from right).

that challenge. Well-known for his comedic turns, he has also tackled real-life characters such as game show host Jack Barry in 1994's *Quiz Show* and politico Harry Daugherty for HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*.

Karnes, though, is a figure few know, making the discovery of his achievements all the more important to the actor playing him. "He died very young, but he was the Ranger who was the great communicator with the Indians, and he brokered all the treaties that were later broken when big business pushed West," McDonald says.

Producer Greif immersed his cast and crew in classic Western films, making more than 100 available for viewing at the hotel.

"I spent a lot of time with Gary Cooper," McDonald says. "It was brilliant to watch all those classics and keep our heads in that space."

John Wayne's Durango ranch, often used for the actor's films in the 1960s, was a filming site for the series. "The ghost of John Wayne, I often felt on my shoulder," Joffé says.

Beyond these Hollywood echoes, the director reminds us that *Texas Rising* is about a great struggle: "This is a fair telling of a story about democracy, and fighting for it, the way Houston did, in a land that wasn't forgiving, facing Santa Anna. This is about a battle, from both sides, and how something new and different was forged, that became Texas."

DVD REVIEW

BUFFALO BILL AND THE INDIANS

(Kino Lorber; $19.95) Robert Altman's "anti-Western" is a beautifully made, but overly cynical look at the legendary William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. A time capsule, this 1976 film reflects more on the era of Watergate than the Old West.



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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A Smatter of Smearcase

The cottage cheese of the 19th century.



– BY SHERRY MONAHAN –

"I sometimes buy 'cottage cheese' of our milkman. My grandmother called it 'smear-case.' I spell it just as she pronounced it. She used to mix it with egg and sugar and spices to make some kind of a pie with a sweet crust that was ever so good." These were the reflections of Zenas Dane that appeared in Dakota Territory's *Bismarck Daily Tribune* in 1886.

Smearcase may be an odd name for a food, but the word is a derivative of the German *schmierkäse*, from *schmieren* to smear and *käse* for cheese. Smearcase was a term for cottage cheese during the 19th century, and a few people still use it today.

The cottage cheese of the 19th century varied in its form and texture from what is known today. When eaten fresh, it resembled the modern version.

Cottage cheese is lower in fat, but when cream was added, it became spreadable. This process gave the pioneers our modern version of cream cheese.

The *Evening Bulletin* in San Francisco, California, reported in 1883, "It is usually made from skimmed milk: and fresh butter or sweet cream is often added to the curds while manipulating and pressing into form. This improves the quality and flavor for many."

The *Territorial Enterprise* in Virginia City, Nevada, had a little fun reporting when a dairy wagon tipped over in 1878. The headline was, "Whey Goin?" and the reporter wrote, "The horse attached to the milk wagon of Mr. Pedroli, proprietor of the Gold Hill Dairy, ran away yesterday morning. The horse started at the turn this side of the Imperial, and brought up at the lumber yard of I.E. Doan & Co. The air was filled with milk and the wagon was left a complete wreck. It was a regular

> "...Pedroli's horse ought to know butter than to act in such a whey...."

smear-case. From the length of time he has been in the milk business Pedroli's horse ought to know butter than to act in such a whey— 'tain't the cheese."

Cream cheese pies and cream cheese sandwiches were the most popular ways to eat cream cheese in the American West. The pioneers got a little more creative as the turn of the 20th century neared. Try your hand at making the adventurous asparagus recipe from Topeka, Kansas.

Sherry Monahan has penned *Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers*; *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.

ESCALLOPED ASPARAGUS

1 bunch of asparagus
3 eggs, hard-boiled, optional
Butter
1 T. flour
½ cup milk
4 ounces cream cheese
½ teaspoon salt
¼ tsp. pepper
¼ cup bread crumbs

Cook the asparagus until tender. Drain and set aside. Chop or slice the eggs and also set aside.

Make the milk gravy by melting one tablespoon of butter in a saucepan and then add one tablespoon of flour, a half teaspoon of salt and a quarter teaspoon of pepper. Cook for one minute and then add the milk. Whisk until thick then add the cream cheese to it and set aside.

Butter a shallow baking dish and add half the eggs and half of the asparagus. Then cover with half the sauce. Add the remaining eggs, asparagus and sauce. If omitting the eggs, just layer the asparagus. Finally top with the bread crumbs and bake at 350 for about 15 minutes or until light brown.

Recipe adapted from
The Kansas Semi-Weekly Capital, June 5, 1900





SURVIVAL OUT WEST

BY TERRY A. DEL BENE

Snowshoeing with the Donner Party

WILLIAM EDDY STRUGGLES TO AVOID CANNIBALISM.

The Donner-Reed Party remains the most famous wagon train in the history of the West. William Eddy and his family from Illinois—Eleanor, James and Margaret—were present when a splinter group of Col. William Henry Russell's wagon train elected George Donner as its captain, with James Reed serving as co-captain. This group followed the Hastings Cutoff, a new shortcut to California that set them upon a longer track largely unsuitable for wagons.

The party bled time and strength building roads and crossing deserts. The social fabric of the group evaporated. Three murders occurred between Fort Bridger and the party's entrapment in the Sierra Nevada Mountains on Halloween 1846. Before reaching the Sierra passes, the wagon train dissolved into family groups, often camping miles apart. Heavy snows pummeled them, and the livestock was soon lost in deep snowdrifts. They faced starvation if they stayed in the mountains. A group failed to break out in late November as the snow piled deeper.

IT WAS THEN THAT EDDY FIRST CONSUMED HUMAN FLESH.

On December 16, 1846, seventeen of the strongest emigrants, deemed the "Forlorn Hope," set out on crude snowshoes constructed by sawing wagon ox-bows into strips tied with rawhide thongs. Among them were Eddy and two Indian vaqueros who had brought in food from Sutter's Fort shortly before the passes closed. The party struggled roughly four miles the first day, with two members turning back. The emigrants who forged ahead camped in the snow, building platforms each night to keep the fire from sinking into the snowdrifts.

The party crossed to the western side of the pass, but the bitter cold took a heavy toll, as sleeping exposed in the snow consumed more calories than supplies could replace.



This "starvation camp" photo shows tree stumps cut by the Donner Party, revealing the snow depth that trapped the emigrants during the winter of 1846–47. California's monument at Donner Memorial State Park has a 22-foot pedestal to represent the maximum height of the snow, but some believe 13 feet is more accurate. Either way, such dizzying heights spelled disaster for families who were merely trying to reach a better station in life.

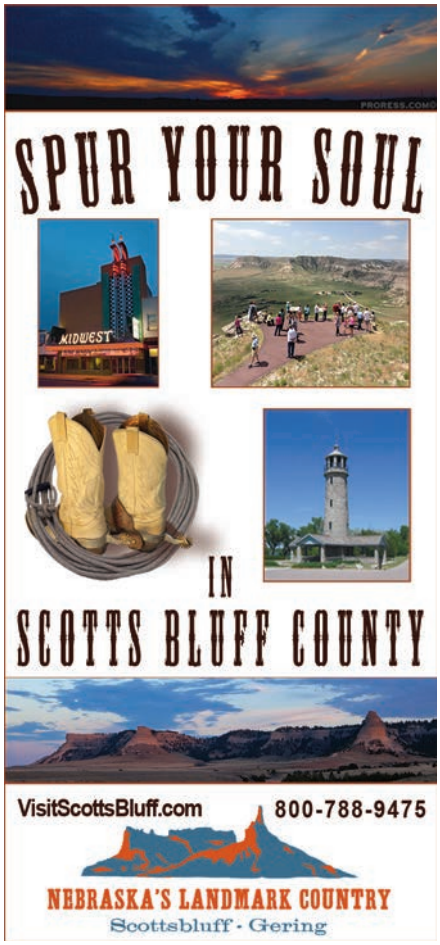
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HISTORY IN ART

BY ILLUSTRATOR ANDY THOMAS

William Eddy and Mary Ann Graves were overjoyed at killing a "skeletal" deer on January 4, 1847. The campers heard the shooting, and Jay Fosdick said he hoped he lived long enough to eat the meat. He didn't. Eddy arrived with deer scraps to find the group had carved up Fosdick's body. This was not the first time the travelers had resorted to cannibalism, but the moment is so tragic. In this artist's concept, I tie all the participants together, even though Graves remained behind to dry out the rest of the deer.









On October 5, 1846, James Reed (above left) got in a quarrel and stabbed teamster John Snyder to death. Banished by his fellow travelers, he left to secure supplies at Sutter's Fort, which he reached on October 28. Deep snow blocked his return to the wagon train. He was not reunited with his wife, Margaret (above right), and their children until the rescue party went out in February 1847.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Hypothermia was evident by day four. On day seven, the group ran out of food.

On Christmas Eve, another blizzard hit. One man who perished on Christmas was butchered for food. The storm pinned the party in place four more days. It was then that Eddy first consumed human flesh.

Madness followed as the desperate snowshoers considered where to find food. They discussed two men dueling and eating the loser. One individual threatened to kill three women, and Eddy had to pull his knife to protect them. When the party's Indian guides overheard arguments about eating them, the vaqueros fled, but were found, murdered and eaten. All who died became sustenance for the living.

With his compatriots finally incapacitated, Eddy struggled forward alone, finding relief from the Miwoks who helped him reach William Johnson's Ranch, just over a month after the beginning of the escape attempt. Eddy sent back help, but only seven of the 15 snowshoers survived. Eddy bravely volunteered to return to the snowbound camps and rescue his family, but that is another survival tale.

Terry A. Del Bene is an archaeologist and freelance writer who worked for many years for the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming before he retired in 2010. He spends part of his year in Florida or California.

SURVIVAL TIPS

CAMPING IN DEEP SNOW

Part of the trick to surviving camping in deep snow is to have a fire going. The heat of the fire will unfortunately melt the snow beneath it and will sink into a slushy depression and go out. Keeping hot coals in a tin plate can extend the life of the fire.

The Donner Party kept its fire going for hours by building a log crib as a foundation for the hearth. The flammable crib caught fire, of course, and the fire went out once the crib was consumed.

As the fire wanes, survival depends upon maintaining body warmth. The Forlorn Hope emigrants successfully utilized a frontiersman's method of huddling together in a circle for warmth, with a blanket beneath them and covering them.

That trick holds true today. A human lying in snow loses more warmth underneath than above. Keep the thickest bedding underneath. Stay out of the wind, as even a gentle breeze draws away body heat.

If your teeth begin to chatter, hypothermia is setting in.

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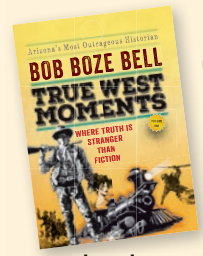
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BY JOHN STANLEY

Hell Paso

The Border Town Too Tough for Wyatt Earp?





El Paso's Concordia Cemetery is the final resting place for 60,000 souls including notorius gunman John Wesley Hardin, whose grave is well-protected and frequently visited.

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH/COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/ TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Everyone knew that John Wesley Hardin was one of the deadliest gunfighters in all the West. Which is why, late in the evening of August 19, 1895, John Selman shot him in the back of the head. And, as Hardin lay dying on the floor of the Acme Saloon in El Paso, Selman fired three more shots—two of them striking the famously ill-tempered gunman.

It wasn't supposed to happen that way. After his release from prison in 1894, Hardin drifted for a year before arriving in El Paso to start a new life. But he quickly butted heads with Town Constable John Selman, who himself had a local reputation as a tough guy and deadly gunfighter. Bernie Sargent, head of the El Paso County Historical Commission (and one of the founders of the Six Guns & Shady Ladies historical re-enactment troupe), tells it like this: "When Hardin came to town, there was a sort of rivalry to see who was the baddest person in town." Selman won.

> "When Hardin came to town, there was a sort of rivalry to see who was the baddest person in town."

Nowadays Hardin is the most celebrated resident of El Paso's Concordia Cemetery, a must-see destination for historically minded visitors. As long as you're there, swing by the grave of Selman, who finished second in another gunfight in 1896. The Concordia Cemetery also holds a Buffalo Soldier Memorial and has a large section dedicated to El Paso's Chinese community, once the largest in Texas.

The first Europeans known to have seen the region were Spaniards in the Rodriguez-Sanchez expedition of 1581. Explorer Juan de Onate arrived in 1598 and, in 1659, Fray Garcia established El Paso del Norte. Over time many other villages sprang up on both sides of the river that became known as the Rio Grande. New U.S.-Mexico borders and Texas-New Mexico state lines were established shortly after the Mexican War.



After the Southern Pacific Railway reached El Paso, Texas, in May 1881, the railroad completed its transcontinental route, the second in the nation. Since 1894, the Sunset Limited has delivered passengers to El Paso en route between Los Angeles and New Orleans.

– PHOTOS COURTESY VISIT EL PASO –

The Butterfield Overland Mail passed through the local settlement known as Franklin in 1858. In 1859, it was renamed El Paso (which caused much confusion until El Paso del Norte changed its name to Ciudad Juarez in 1888).

El Paso became a transcontinental crossroads and a bustling trade center after the railroads arrived in 1881. As usual, the sudden prosperity attracted the unholy trio of saloons, casinos and whorehouses and, long before Hardin's murder, El Paso had earned a sordid reputation. According to Sargent, the community was routinely referred to as "Hell Paso." A Santa Fe newspaper reported the town had one saloon for



The Acme Saloon, where outlaw John Wesley Hardin was killed by gunman John Selman on August 19, 1895, once stood on the corner of Mesa Street and San Antonio Avenue. [*Editor's note:* Historical postcard incorrectly names it Mesa Avenue when it is actually Mesa Street.]



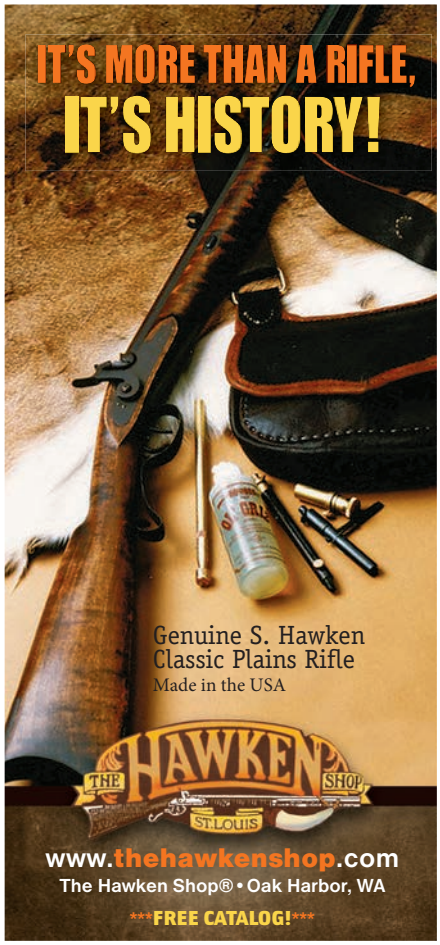




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The colorful Folklorico dancers are part of the annual *VIVA! EL PASO* pageant that began in 1978 and celebrates the city's rich cultural heritage.

– COURTESY VISIT EL PASO –



Although El Paso had fewer than 500 residents at the beginning of the Civil War, the Texas town once known as Franklin, today is a modern, sophisticated Western city of nearly 700,000, with the University of Texas–El Paso anchoring its downtown.

– COURTESY STOCKPHOTO.COM © BWANCHO –

every two and a half residents; and local lore has it that Wyatt Earp once refused the job of city marshal because he thought it was too dangerous. Maybe so—lawman Dallas Stoudenmire, who served as the town's marshal during one especially raucous thirteen-month period, kept his job only after threatening to shoot the entire city council. As marshal, he killed 10 men while on the job, only to lose his badge because of drunkenness, and be killed himself by his enemies, the notorious Manning brothers.

One of the best ways to get an overview of El Paso's history is via the Downtown Walking Tour, a self-guided journey that begins at the southwest corner of San Jacinto Plaza.

Be sure to check out the wealth of historic photos posted on the new DIGIE (Digital Information Gateway In El Paso) wall exhibit at the El Paso Museum of History. The giant array of 3-D touch-sensitive TV screens opened in February.

Need boots? El Paso is home to more than two-dozen boot makers, including such renowned companies as Lucchese, J.B. Hill, Black Jack, Caboots and Rocketbuster.

And, if you're a fan of Marty Robbins, and you're out in the West Texas town of El Paso, you gotta stop by Rosa's Cantina.



WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



O Pass of the North Now the Old Giants Are Gone We Little Men Live Where Heros Once Walked Inviolate Earth by Tom Lea

– CAROL M. HIGHSMITH/COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Start your trip at one of El Paso's three visitor information centers—at the Union Depot downtown, at Fort Bliss, or at the airport.

VisitElPaso.com

El Paso Mission Trail

Learn more about the region's 400-plus years of Spanish heritage with a visit to the mission churches of Ysleta (established 1682) and Socorro (completed in 1691). The original presidio chapel of San Elizario was erected in 1789; today's structure was built in 1877.

VisitElPasoMissionTrail.com

Tom Lea Institute

Tom Lea, born in El Paso in 1907, captured the history, mountains and landscapes of the region like no other artist. After a stint at the Art Institute of Chicago and several years in Europe, Lea in 1936 returned to El Paso, where he spent the remainder of his life.

TomLea.com

Magoffin Home State Historic Site

The 19-room adobe home, built in 1875 for pioneer and civic leader Joseph Magoffin, holds many original family furnishings. You can also see a replica of one of several versions of Fort Bliss here.

VisitMagoffinHome.com

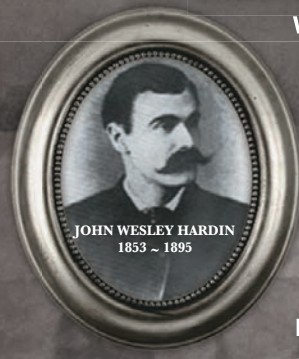
Centennial Museum and Gardens

This University of Texas at El Paso facility holds an astonishing array of exhibits on the rich cultural heritage and diverse natural history of the binational Chihuahuan Desert.

Museum.UTEP.edu

Concordia Cemetery

History To Die For...



Visit one of Texas' most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the state.

Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.

Veterans from the War of 1812 through recent conflicts, as well as "The World's Tallest Man," reside in permanency.

Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia.

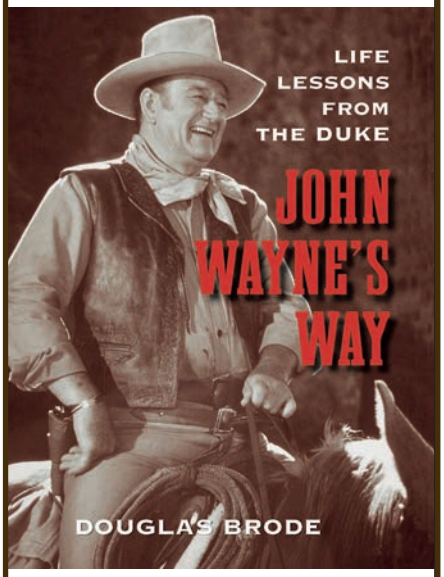
Join the many supporters on August 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise, and on October 17, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., for the annual "Walk Through History."

Monthly Ghost Tours, 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month.
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Get a Room!

Historic Western Hotels and Saloons Recall the Golden Era of the West

by the Editors of *True West*



Western hoteliers and saloon keepers await guests with heritage and grace.

While the American West inspires travelers to visit its boundless historic and natural wonders, Western historic hotels and saloons await the adventurous traveler with the splendid heritage of the past and the marvelous amenities of the present. From Arizona's boomtowns to New Mexico's Hispanic roots, from Wyoming's territorial entrepreneurs to Colorado's railroad barons, the small towns and big cities of the West offer guests experiences in lavishly restored inns, hotels and saloons.

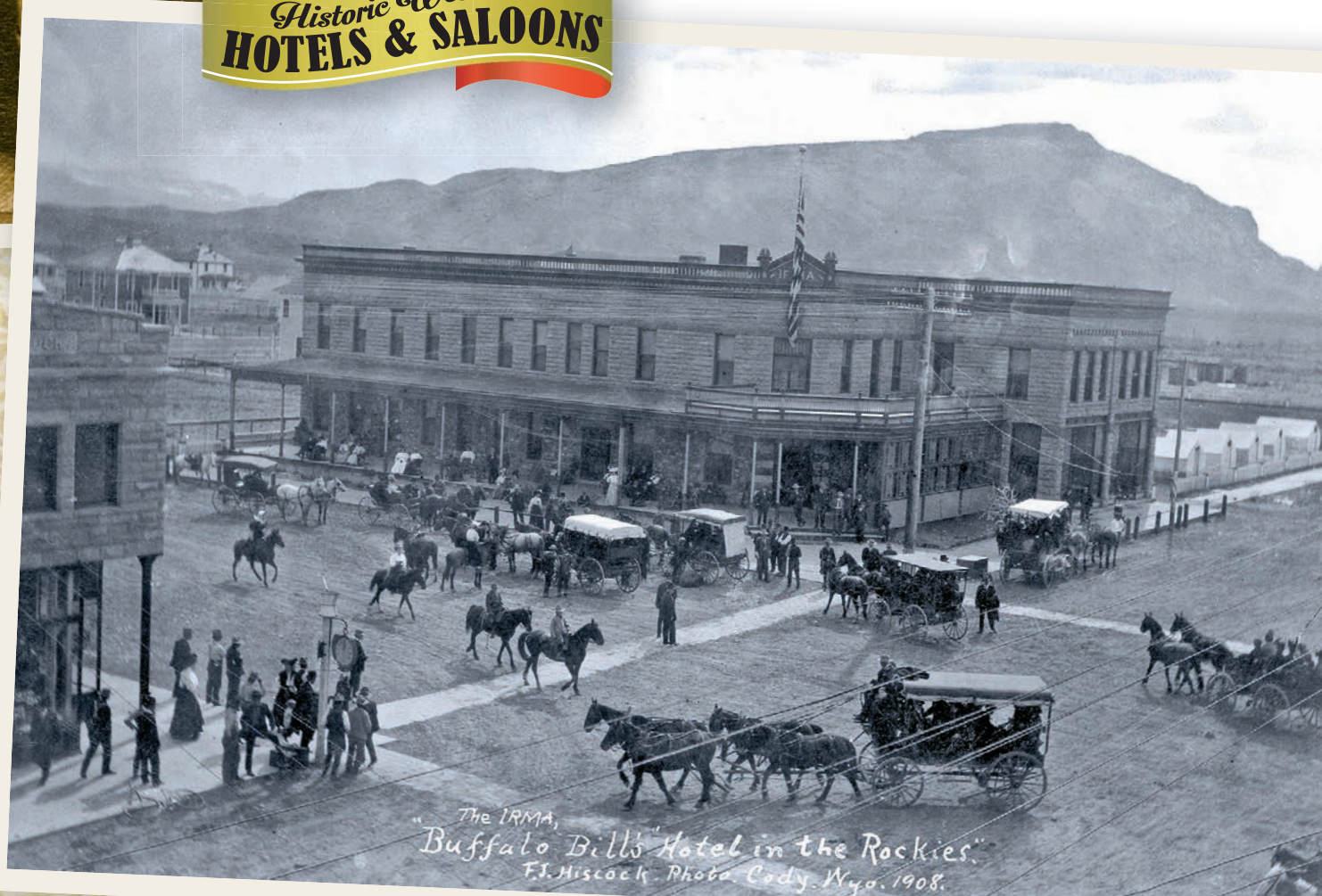
True West's annual guide to heritage hotels provides travelers with a selection of the region's best places to stay, eat and drink while enjoying the sights and amenities of some of the West's most historic towns and cities. Book a room tonight and guarantee yourself a real "Old West" lodging and dining experience that will be one for the ages!

— *Stuart Rosebrook*

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel was built by Cody in 1902 in Cody, Wyoming, and named after his daughter. He founded the town in 1895 as a gateway to Yellowstone National Park. Cody was a regular host at the hotel (below) and saloon (left) with its famous cherry-wood bar, a gift from Queen Victoria.

– PHOTOS BY F.J. HISCOCK/COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING, USA, (SALOON, P.6.726, EXTERIOR, P.6.276) –

Historic Western
HOTELS & SALOONS





The Strater Hotel

Durango, Colorado

Built in 1887, the historic Strater Hotel (Historic Hotels of America Member) is a prominent downtown Durango, Colorado, landmark located two blocks north of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and one hour east of Mesa Verde National Park. Cleveland pharmacist Henry Strater believed Durango would thrive and therefore needed a grand hotel. He opened the Strater Hotel with a $70,000 investment and 376,000 native red bricks and hand-carved sandstone cornices and sills. It became a popular winter retreat for people who would close their homes during the winter months and move into the hotel. The Strater Hotel houses the world's largest collection of American Victorian walnut antiques, which decorate the hotel and its 93 guestrooms, including the Louis L'Amour Room—Literary Landmark. The Strater Hotel is home to the Durango Melodrama & Vaudeville, the Henry Strater Theatre, Diamond Belle Saloon, Mahogany Grille, Strater Catering & Events, and The Office Spiritorium.

The Strater Hotel
699 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
970-247-4431 • Strater.com

Historic Western HOTELS & SALOONS

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Big Nose Kate's Saloon

Tombstone, Arizona



Tombstone's Big Nose Kate's Saloon was once the Grand Hotel, originally built in 1881. On October 25, 1881, the night before the Gunfight Behind the OK Corral, the Clantons and the McLaurys were guests here. This was the place to stay! Nowadays, a number of changes have been made to the structure since it burned down and has been rebuilt. The bar area, housed in the basement of the old hotel, is now located on the main level. In the basement is a gift shop, but the tunnel leading to the mine shafts still exists. The saloon holds the Grand Hotel's original long bar, the only one that survived the fire of 1882 and is still serving thirsty patrons. Imagine setting your elbows down on the very place that the Earps, Doc Holliday, and the Clantons once did!

Big Nose Kate's Saloon
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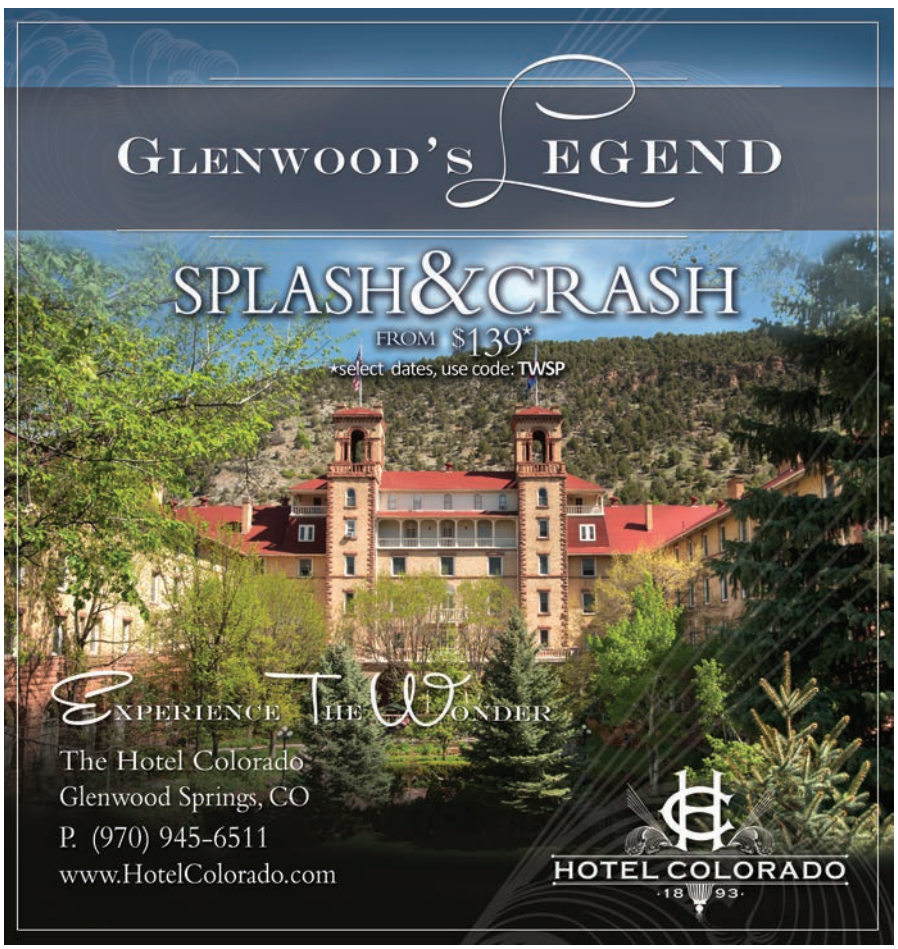
Occidental Hotel

Buffalo, Wyoming

Occidental Hotel was founded in 1879 in a tent on the banks of Clear Creek, at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains in Buffalo, Wyoming, and became a favorite stopping place along the Bozeman Trail. In 1880, a log structure was constructed and hosted many of the most famous people of the Old West. Owen Wister, author of the classic Western novel, *The Virginian*, frequented the Johnson County area and based his characters on gunslingers and cowboys he'd met in Occidental's Saloon. The current brick buildings, constructed between 1903 and 1908, replaced the original log structure. Two restoration projects, in 1990 and 2008, took the Occidental back to those turn-of-the-last-century days with period furnishings but modern conveniences.

Visitors today enjoy the the historic Occidental Saloon, Busy Bee Cafe, and The Virginian Restaurant, which serve fine steaks, gourmet wild game and specialty desserts. Experience an authentic Old West stay in the historic hotel and living museum.

Occidental Hotel
10 Main Street
Buffalo, WY 82834 • 307-684-0451
OccidentalWyomingcom





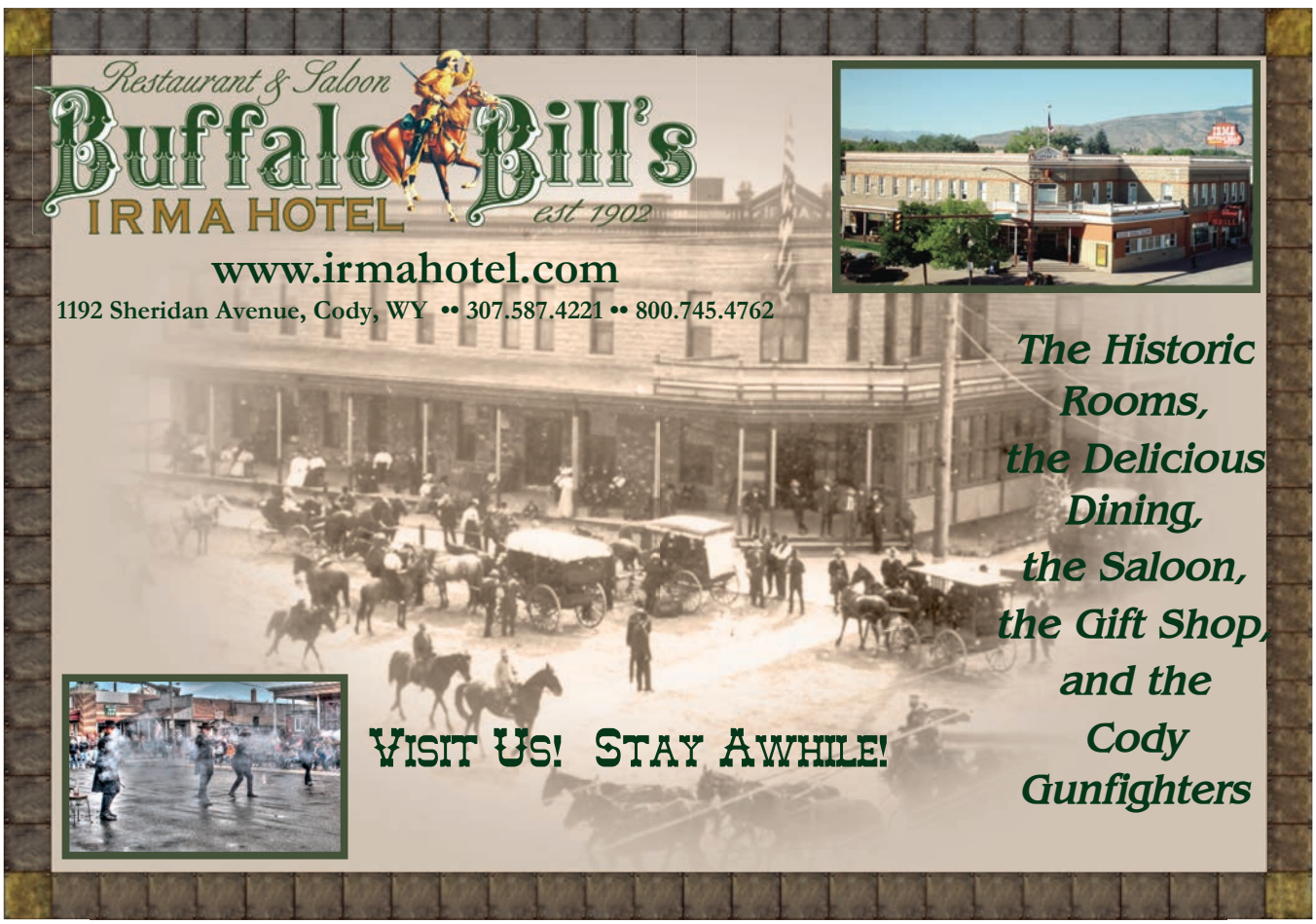
The Hassayampa Inn | Prescott, Arizona



The Hassayampa Inn in the historic district of Prescott offers comforting small-town charm while being closely situated near the sights and sounds of Prescott. This prime location is walking distance to the Courthouse Square, art galleries and unique one-of-a-kind shops, eateries and antique stores.

The hotel was built as a luxury hotel in 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Southwest architect Henry Trost, the Inn features an eclectic mix of Spanish Colonial Revival and Italianate features, with details like the hand-painted wood ceilings, etched glass and embossed copper panels. Guests and visitors can dine under the stars on weekends in the courtyard surrounded by lush greenery. The hotel also features: live music Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays starting on Memorial weekend; High Tea on the fourth Sunday of the month; and the Art Walk on the Prescott Trail every fourth Friday. The historic Peacock Dining Room has been serving the same coffee cake recipe since the 1900s. Stay at the Hassayampa, a must-see Arizona destination hotel!

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The Hotel Colorado

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Enter The Hotel Colorado and travel into a time of late-19th-century elegance and charm. Silver baron Walter Devereux fashioned the hotel after Italy's Villa de Medici. It was considered a "Marvel of the Age." The hotel was the first west of the Mississippi to be electrically lit. The courtyard fountain sprayed more than 100 feet into the air and a dedicated railroad spur was built for the private train cars of Hotel Colorado's visiting dignitaries.

Now, Hotel Colorado welcomes guests into oversized rooms and suites, each with the original high ceilings, spacious closets and updated bedding packages. The Grand Lobby and Baron's Restaurant were restored to reflect their original amenities. Guests may dine beside an interior waterfall or enjoy beverages near the original grand fireplace with a massive two-ton mantle. Summertime welcomes guests to the scenic courtyard displaying views of the Hot Springs and Mt. Sopris.

From the late 1800s to the new millennium, the timeless secrets of extensive journeys are held within the hotel's walls. Join the list of presidents and other legendary figures from the past who have stayed there, while experiencing a part of America's West.

The Hotel Colorado
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The Wortley Hotel

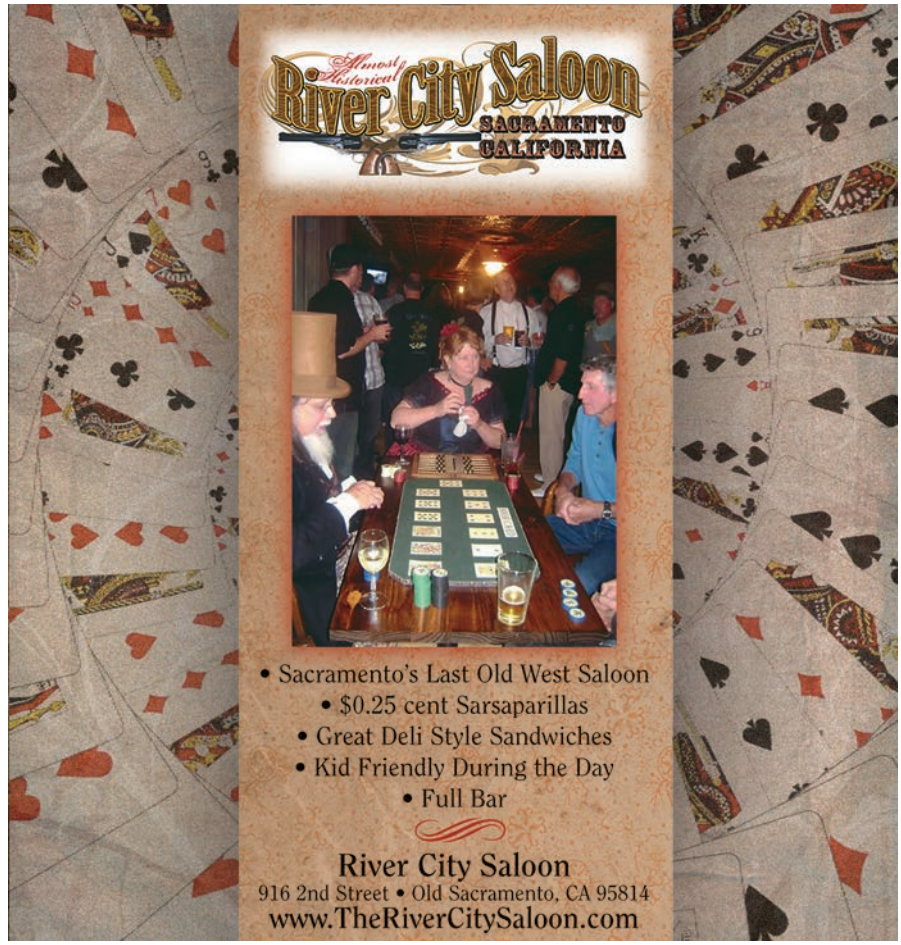
Lincoln, New Mexico





The Wortley Hotel, located in the historic town of Lincoln, New Mexico, was built in 1872 by L.G. Murphy and was once owned by Sheriff Pat Garrett. Sitting in a rocker on the long front porch, it is easy to conjure up images of the Lincoln County wars. Deputy Bob Ollinger took his "last meal" in the Wortley dining room; when he heard the gunshots, he ran across the street and was shot dead by Billy the Kid. Already having killed Deputy J.W. Bell, Billy stole a horse and escaped. The Wortley Hotel is for sale, visit and make your own history.

The Wortley Hotel
U.S. Highway 380
Lincoln, NM 88338
575-654-4200
WortleyHotel.com







Almost Historical River City Saloon

Sacramento, California

River City Saloon, in the historic Old Sacramento district, has had a long history. The building originally was framed-wood, which was replaced with brick in 1857. In 1861, River City Saloon was one of the original houses of ill repute owned by Johanna Heigle. Shortly after, it became Parker French's Saloon.

It was owned by Mr. Parker French, a colorful, Old Sacramento newspaperman who wanted a fun place to go after work. This Old Sacramento saloon was also known at times as an unruly place. Many stories of people being shanghaied there and taken out to sea have been heard. During Prohibition, the saloon was continually raided, as it insisted it was only serving sarsaparilla and alcohol for medicinal reasons.

In 2007, the saloon was remodeled to its original grandeur and renamed the River City Saloon. When visiting Old Sacramento, don't miss the city's last Old West saloon, the Almost Historical River City Saloon.

Almost Historical River City Saloon
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La Posada Hotel

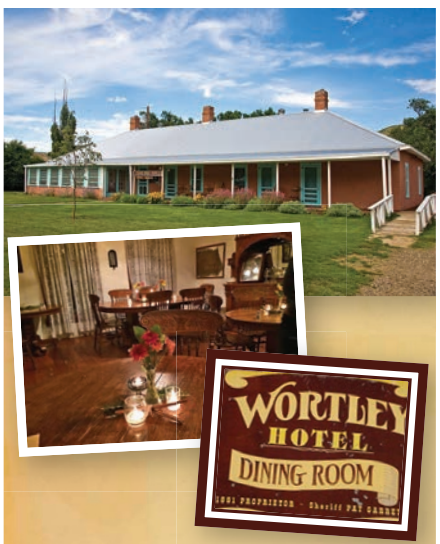
Winslow, Arizona



In 1927 the Santa Fe Railway decided to build a major hotel in the center of Northern Arizona. La Posada was to be the finest in the Southwest. Construction costs exceeded $1 million in 1929. They chose Winslow for the Arizona headquarters for the Railway, and asked Mary Jane Colter to design the new hotel. It was her favorite project, the only time she was allowed to design everything, including furnishings. It was the finest hotel on Route 66. But then 66 was bypassed and La Posada closed in 1957. In the 1960s the railway made it into offices; by 1993 they decided to move out and tear it down.

Allan Affeldt led a group that negotiated for three years and finally moved into the hotel in April 1997. No one would give them a loan so they just started remodeling, room by room, year after year, and people started coming. La Posada has become an icon of the Southwest, a story of redemption and rediscovery. Restoration at La Posada continues—this year a museum will be built in the depot. In 2014, Affeldt also bought the 1898 Castaneda Hotel (under renovation) and the 1882 Plaza Hotel (now open) in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

La Posada Hotel
303 East 2nd Street, Winslow, AZ 86047 • 928-289-4366 • *LaPosada.org*



The Wortley Hotel,
located in the Historic town of Lincoln, New Mexico was built in 1872 by Murphy and once owned by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

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Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel

Cody, Wyoming

Visit the Irma Hotel—a place that Buffalo Bill Cody called "a gem"—just outside of Yellowstone National Park. Cody built the hotel in 1902 and named it for his daughter, Irma. Today, you can stay in historic rooms that housed some of the most famous personalities the world ever has known, including Frederic Remington, Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane. You can even stay in Buffalo Bill's private suite. There are a host of other historic and non-historic rooms, all with up-to-date amenities and air conditioning. While at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, sample the famous prime rib; choose from an expansive selection at breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets; or select from a full menu. Enjoy a drink and friendly camaraderie in the Silver Saddle Saloon. Or sit on the porch where Buffalo Bill and Irma sat, and enjoy a meal while you experience the sites of Cody. Fancy enough for royalty and comfortable enough for cowboys and cowgirls, the Irma Hotel is the heart and spirit of Cody, Wyoming! Visit soon. Stay awhile!



Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel
1192 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414
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Ryan Hotel

Wallace, Idaho



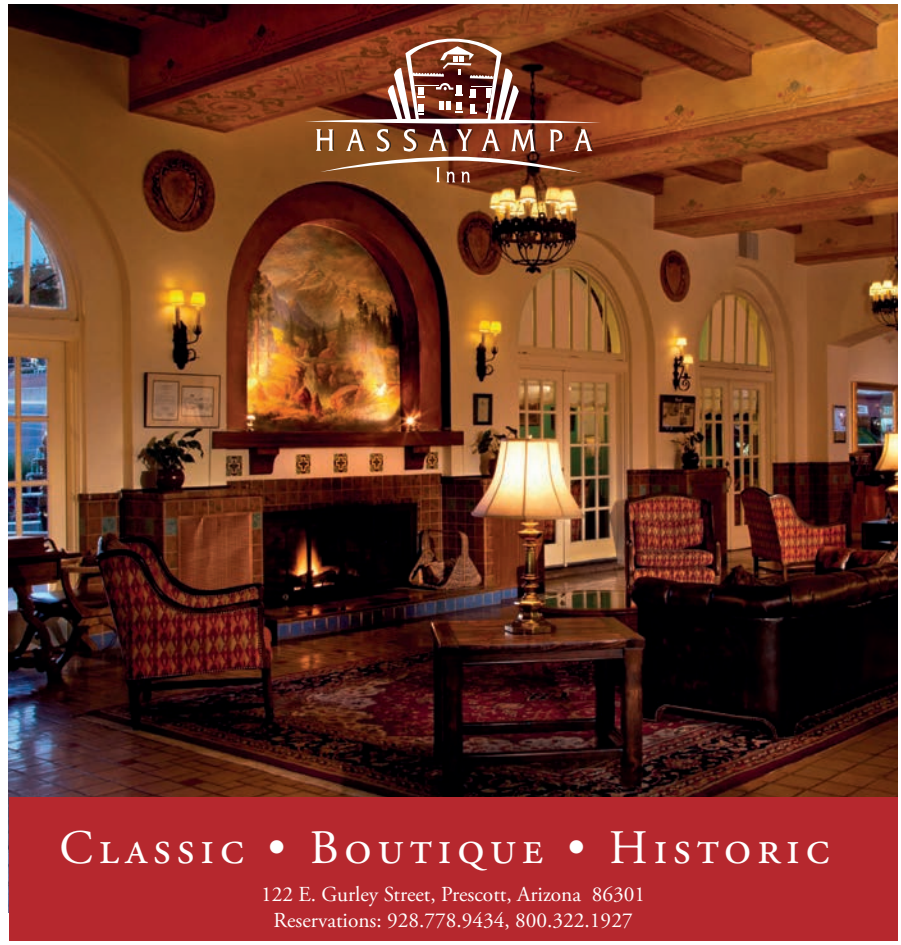
Have you been to beautiful Historic Wallace, Idaho, yet? The quaint little town got its start in 1884 and was booming in the 1890s when Idaho became a state. Located in the Silver Valley and known for its rich mining and brothel history, the town is on the National Historic Register and holds the title of "Center of the Universe."

Today, visitors enjoy Wallace's many fine restaurants and breweries, antique shops, museums, a mine tour, railroad depot, zipline, breweries and festivals.

Make your plans to visit and book early because hotels can fill up quickly at certain times. History buffs will enjoy the 1903 Ryan Hotel, located downtown. Recently renovated for comfort and style, the hotel features 13 rooms and one suite. Its owners also have Lux Rooms, a just-renovated former bordello featuring an elegant madame's suite. Want the perfect wedding? You can rent the entire hotel!

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Hays House

Council Grove, Kansas

Seth Hays, Daniel Boone's grandson, was the first white settler in Council Grove in 1847. In 1857 Hays built a two-story wood-frame building. The site served as a trading post, restaurant, hotel, courthouse, post office, printing office, meeting and social hall, and offered weary traders journeying between New Mexico and Missouri supplies, meals and rooms. Jesse James and General George Armstrong Custer were a few famous patrons of the Hays House.

Today the Hays House Tavern and Restaurant is famous for being the oldest continuously operated restaurant west of the Mississippi. Inside, diners can find historical artifacts, artwork, arrowheads and Native American relics. The business has had many owners and survived a kitchen fire in its 150-plus years. A group of 25 local residents pooled their money together to buy the business after the fire. The Flint Hills Investors reopened Hays House to the public in May 2012.

Hays House • 112 West Main Street, Council Grove, KS 66846
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Eagle Nest, New Mexico

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The Crystal Palace Saloon

Tombstone, Arizona

The Crystal Palace Saloon's history begins in 1879 when the Golden Eagle Brewery was built on the northwest corner of Fifth and Allen streets in Tombstone, Arizona Territory. The Golden Eagle burned to the ground in the May 1882 fire that swept through the business district of Tombstone. The building was rebuilt and reopened as The Crystal Palace on July 22, 1882. In 1915 Prohibition came to Arizona and The Crystal Palace was renovated into a movie theater. After the repeal of Prohibition, it again became a saloon, emptying its first keg of beer in August 1933, and installing the very first neon sign on Allen Street that September. It bears one word: BEER.

August of 1943 saw the local Greyhound bus depot relocated to The Crystal Palace Saloon. Over the years, the saloon has had many owners, all of whom put their own mark on one of Tombstone's most famous landmarks.

The spirit of The Crystal Palace today is in the hands of your hostess Miss Kimmie, her family and her employees, all who strive to keep the spirit of the Old West alive. Sit back, enjoy and feel the history of Tombstone and The Crystal Palace Saloon. Drink in the rich history that once occupied this spot when the sounds emanating from these walls would have been made by miners, ranchers, cowboys, lawyers and marshals.

The Crystal Palace Saloon
436 East Allen Street, Tombstone, AZ 85638
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The Windsor Hotel

Del Norte, Colorado



The Windsor Hotel, established in 1874, is one of the oldest hotels in Colorado. Nestled at the base of the San Juan Mountains in Del Norte, the unique hotel narrowly missed being demolished. As if out of a movie script, a few concerned citizens took action at the last possible moment. The property was purchased, donated and finally established as The Windsor Restoration and Historic Association. Then the painstaking retoration process began, lasting 18 years.

Now, this amazing historically accurate transformation provides guests a look into the Old West while delivering all of the modern-day conveniences one needs to enjoy a luxury hotel experience. The Whitehead family, operators since 2013, provides a one-of-a-kind atmosphere, from amazing culinary to handcrafted cocktails and an elaborate wine list. Allow them to meet your every need during your stay; this will truly become your home away from home.

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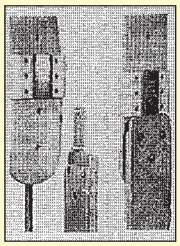
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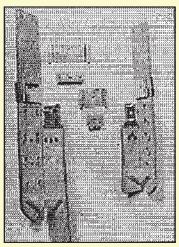
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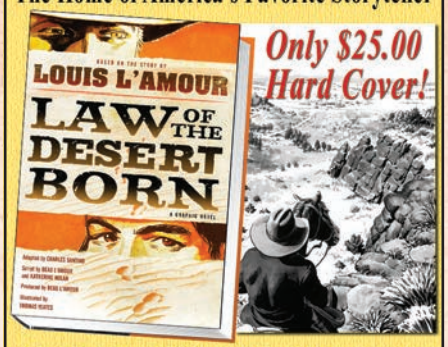
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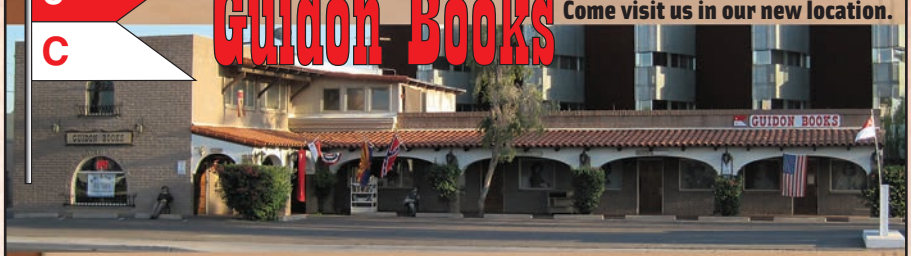
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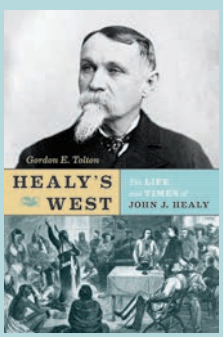


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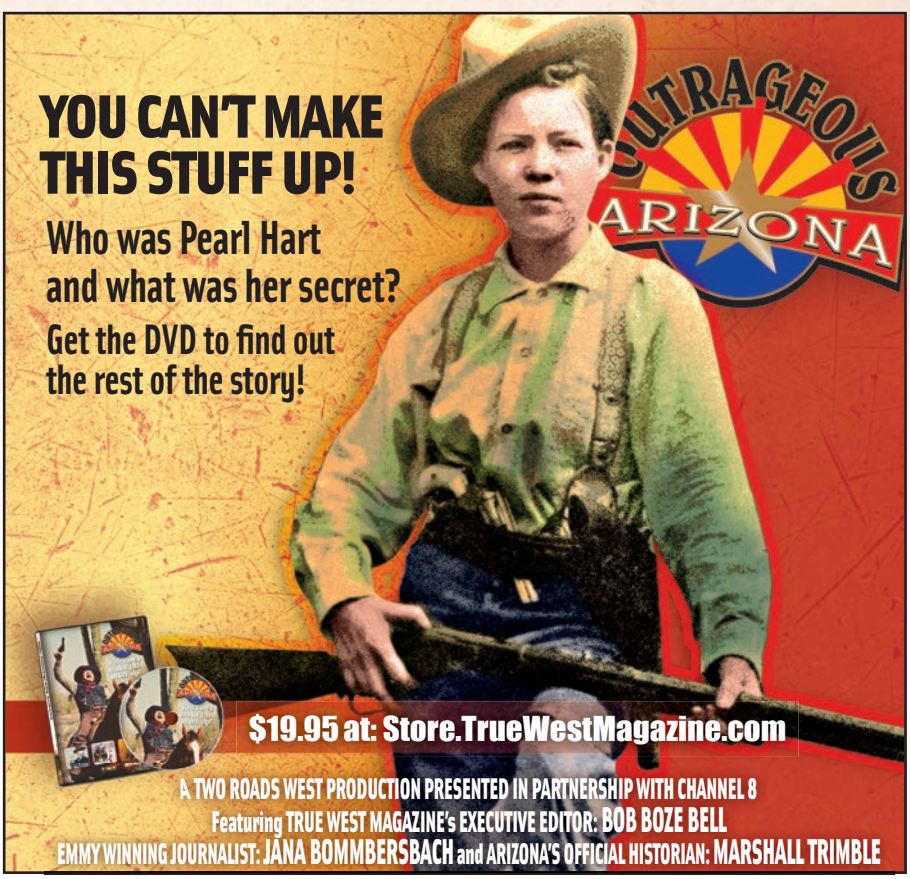
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Western Roundup

FOR MAY 2015



BY KEVIN YOUNGER PHOTOGRAPHY

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970-728-8037 • *DurangoBluesTrain.com*

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

MILES CITY BUCKING HORSE SALE
Miles City, MT, May 14-17: Watch rodeo action originating from southeastern Montana, along with bucking horse sales and street dances.
406-234-2890 • *BuckingHorseSale.com*

AUCTION

WESTERN AMERICANA AUCTION
Online, May 1-15: This online auction offers rare and collectible firearms, bladed weapons, cowboy gear and Western art and memorabilia.
916-446-6490 • *Witherells.com*

FUNDRAISER

FRIENDS OF HAPPY TRAILS BANQUET
Victorville, CA, May 16: This fundraiser benefits the children's foundation formed by classic Westerns actors Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.
760-240-3330 • *HappyTrails.org*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

GENOA COWBOY FESTIVAL
Genoa, NV, April 30-May 3: Cowboys from across the country gather to enjoy live music, poetry, historical demonstrations and workshops.
775-782-0326 • *CowboyPoetryGenoa.com*

PENDLETON CATTLE BARONS WEEKEND
Pendleton, OR, May 8-9: Honors the region's cattlemen and ranchers with bronc riding, a cowboy collectibles auction and more.
541-377-6834 • *CattleBarons.net*

FRONTIER FORTS DAYS
Fort Worth, TX, May 8-9: Experience life at a frontier fort through infantry, artillery and cavalry demonstrations, and military parades.
817-625-9715 • *FortWorthStockyards.org*

FORT KEARNEY OUTDOOR EXPO
Kearney, NE, May 9: Showcases Nebraska's vast outdoor activities, such as shooting, archery and fishing, through demonstrations and contests.
888-444-1867 • *VisitKearney.org*

ELKS HELLDORADO DAYS
Las Vegas, NV, May 14-17: Held since 1934, this festival celebrates Old West history with a pro rodeo, parade and Western art show and auction.
702-870-1221 • *ElksHelldorado.com*

TEMECULA WESTERN DAYS
Temecula, CA, May 16-17: Enjoy live Western music, plus performances from the Temecula Gunfighters and other Old West re-enactors
951-694-6480 • *TemeculaEvents.org*



GRASS VALLEY OLD WEST ANTIQUE SHOW
Grass Valley, CA, May 8-9: This antique show features a vast collection of Old West antiques, cowboy gear and Western memorabilia.
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FOR MAY 2015



– BY JOSEPH ROSE –

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Elko, NV, May 30-31: Discover how settlers lived and survived on the California Trail in the 1850s through historical displays and presentations sharing their journey.
775-738-1849 • *CaliforniaTrailCenter.org*

FUNTIER DAYS

Bandera, TX, May 23-24: More than 75 vendors celebrate Western history and cowboy heritage with a parade and an arts and crafts show.
800-364-3833 • *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*

WYATT EARP DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, May 23-25: Gunfights and hangings re-enacted in the streets of Tombstone, plus a Wyatt Earp look-a-like contest.
520-457-3511 • *TombstoneChamber.com*



MOVIE TRIBUTE

JOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

Winterset, IA, May 22-25: Celebrate the birthday of the Hollywood legend at the grand opening of the new John Wayne Birthplace Museum.
877-462-1044 • *JohnWayneBirthplace.Museum*

MUSIC FESTIVALS

RAMONA BLUEGRASS & OLD WEST FEST

Ramona, CA, May 2-3: Bluegrass performances from across the country, plus a historical re-enactment encampment with Old West music.
760-789-6173 • *RamonaBluegrassFest.com*

KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL

Kerrville, TX, Opens May 21: Singers and songwriters perform at one of the largest folk music festivals in North America.
830-257-3600 • *Kerrville-Music.com*

BLUE BELL & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Llano, TX, May 22-25: Bluegrass musicians from the central Texas area perform,

SILVER CITY BLUES AND BIKES FESTIVAL

Silver City, NM, May 22-24: Features performances by some of the best Blues musicians in New Mexico, such as Tommuy Castro (shown here), plus a motorcycle show.
575-538-2505 • *SilverCityTourism.org*



CHISHOLM TRAIL STAMPEDE PRCA RODEO

Duncan, OK, May 1-2: PRCA rodeo includes competitions in bull riding, team roping, bareback riding and steer wrestling.
580-656-6936 • *OnTheChisholmTrail.com*

plus free Blue Bell ice cream and a car show.
325-247-5354 • *LlanoChamber.org*

RODEO

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC

Abilene, TX, May 7-10: This working ranch rodeo also offers cowboy music and poetry, a fiddler's contest, a parade and a trade show.
325-677-4376 • *WesternHeritageClassic.com*

TRADE SHOW

COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GUN SHOW

Denver, CO, May 16-17: The show offers more than 1,000 tables of antique and modern collectible firearms and cowboy artifacts.
720-482-0167 • *CGCA.com*



BANDERA PRO RODEO

Bandera, TX, May 22-24: This rodeo features PRCA-sanctioned bareback riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and bull riding.
830-522-0054 • *BanderaProRodeo.org*

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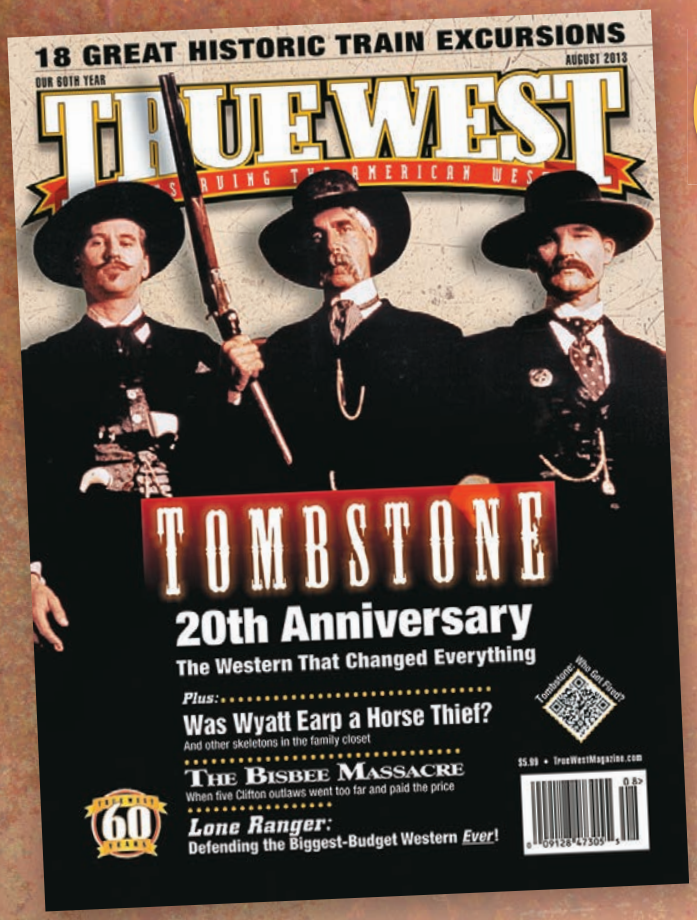
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Mountain Men



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Topless Gunfighter



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Custer



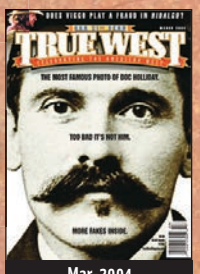
Feb/Mar-2001
Wyatt Earp



Nov/Dec-2002
Butch & Sundance



Jul-2003
Doc & Wyatt



Mar-2004
Fakes/Fake Doc



Sep-2004
Wild Bunch



Jun-2005
Jesus Out West



Dec-2006
Buffalo Gals & Guys



Oct-2006
Tombstone/125th OK Corral



Oct-2007
3:10 to Yuma



Oct-2008
Charlie Russell



Sep-2009
500 Yrs Before Cowboys



Nov/Dec-2010
Black Warriors of the West



Apr-2011
True Grit/Bridges & Wayne



Jun-2012
Wyatt on the Set



Jul-2012
Deadly Trackers



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John Wayne



Mar-2013
Arizona Rangers



Nov-2013
Soiled Doves

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- ☐ Jun: Frontier Half-Bloods
- ☐ Jul: Billy & the Kids
- ☐ Aug: John Wayne
- ☐ Sep: Border Breed
- ☐ Oct: Halloween Issue
- ☐ Nov: Apache Scout
- ☐ Dec: Mountain Men

2001
- ☐ Jan: Topless Gunfighter
- ☐ ~~Feb/Mar: Wyatt Earp~~
- ☐ ~~Apr: Geronimo Smiling~~
- ☐ May/Jun: Custer
- ☐ Jul: Cowboys & Cowtowns
- ☐ ~~Aug/Sep: Wild Bill~~
- ☐ ~~Oct: Redman~~
- ☐ ~~Nov/Dec: Doc Holiday~~

2002
- ☐ ~~Jan: Uncommon Men~~
- ☐ ~~Feb/Mar: Alamo~~
- ☐ ~~Apr: The Scout~~
- ☐ ~~May/Jun: Wayward Women~~
- ☐ ~~Jul: Texas Rangers~~
- ☐ Aug/Sep: Jesse James
- ☐ Oct: Billy On The Brain
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Butch & Sundance

2003
- ☐ Jan: 50 Historical Photos
- ☐ Feb/Mar: 50 Guns
- ☐ Apr: John Wayne
- ☐ Spring: Jackalope Creator Dies
- ☐ May/Jun: Custer Killer
- ☐ Jul: Doc & Wyatt
- ☐ Aug/Sep: A General Named Dorothy
- ☐ Oct: Vera McGinnis
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Worst Westerns Ever

2004
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Six Guns
- ☐ Mar: Fakes/Fake Doc
- ☐ April/Travel: Visit the Old West
- ☐ May:Iron Horse/Sacred Dogs
- ☐ Jun: HBO's Deadwood
- ☐ Jul: 17 Legends
- ☐ Aug: JW Hardin
- ☐ Sep: Wild Bunch
- ☐ Oct: Bill Pickett
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Dale Evans

2005
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Rare Photos
- ☐ Mar: Deadwood/McShane
- ☐ Apr: 77 Sunset Trips
- ☐ May: Trains/Collector's Edition
- ☐ Jun: Jesus Out West
- ☐ Jul: All Things Cowboy
- ☐ Aug: History of Western Wear
- ☐ Sep: Gambling
- ☐ Oct: Blaze Away/Wyattt
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Gay Western? Killer DVDs

2006
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Mexican Insurgents
- ☐ Mar: Kit Carson
- ☐ Apr: I've Been Everywhere, Man
- ☐ May: The Racial Frontier
- ☐ Jun: Playing Sports in the OW
- ☐ Jul/Aug: Dude! Where's My Ranch?
- ☐ Sep: Indian Yell
- ☐ Oct: Tombstone/125th Ok Corral
- ☐ Nov: Gambling
- ☐ Dec: Buffalo Gals & Guys

2007
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Cowboys Are Indians
- ☐ Mar: Trains/Jim Clark
- ☐ Apr: Western Travel
- ☐ May: Dreamscape Desperado/Billy
- ☐ Jun: Collecting the West/Photos
- ☐ Jul: Man Who Saved The West
- ☐ Aug: Western Media/Best Reads
- ☐ Sep: Endurance Of The Horse
- ☐ Oct: 3:10 To Yuma
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Brad Pitt & Jesse James

2008
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Pat Garrett/No Country
- ☐ Mar: Who Killed the Train?
- ☐ Apr: Travel/Geronimo
- ☐ May: Who Stole Buffalo Bill's Home?
- ☐ Jun: The Last Cowboy President?
- ☐ Jul: Secrets of Our Nat'l Parks/Teddy
- ☐ Aug: Kendricks Northern CBs/Photos
- ☐ Sep: Saloons & Stagecoaches
- ☐ Oct: Charlie Russell
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Mickey Free

2009
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Border Riders
- ☐ Mar: Poncho Villa
- ☐ Apr: Stagecoach
- ☐ May: Battle For The Alamo
- ☐ Jun: Custer's Ride To Glory
- ☐ Jul: Am West, Then & Now
- ☐ Aug: Wild West Shows
- ☐ Sep: Vaquero/500 Yrs Before CBs
- ☐ Oct: Capturing Billy
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Chaco Canyon

2010
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Top 10 WesternTowns
- ☐ Mar: Trains/Pony Express
- ☐ Apr: OW Destinations/Clint Eastwood
- ☐ May: Legendary Sonny Jim
- ☐ Jun: Extreme Western Adventures
- ☐ Jul: Starvation Trail/AZ Rough Riders
- ☐ Aug: Digging Up Billy the Kid
- ☐ Sep: Classic Rodeo!
- ☐ Oct: Extraordinary Western Art
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Black Warriors of the West

2011
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- ☐ Apr: Three True Grits
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- ☐ Jun: Tin Type Billy
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2012
- ☐ Feb: Az Crazy Road to Statehood
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- ☐ Apr: Riding Shotgun with History
- ☐ May: The Outlaw Cowboys of NM
- ☐ Jun: Wyatt On The Set!
- ☐ July: Deadly Trackers
- ☐ Aug: How Did Butch & Sundance Die?
- ☐ Sep: The Heros of Northfield
- ☐ Oct: Bravest Lawman You Never
- ☐ Nov: Armed & Courageous
- ☐ Dec: Legend of Climax Jim

2013
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- ☐ ~~Mar: Arizona Rangers~~
- ☐ Apr: US Marshals
- ☐ May: Texas Rangers
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- ☐ Jul: Comanche Killers!
- ☐ Aug: Tombstone 20th Annv
- ☐ Sep: Ambushed on the Pecos
- ☐ Oct: Outlaws,Lawmen & Gunfighters
- ☐ Nov: Soiled Doves
- ☐ Dec: Cowboy Ground Zero

2014
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Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official state historian and the vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen*. 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

Inspection Reflection

Were there brothel inspectors in the Old West?

T.J. Parmele
Herndon, Virginia



"Brothel Inspector" badges (see example at right) have been floating around at antique shows and on the Internet. They're usually billed as the "real thing," but they're anything but—they've been around since the 1960s. In the brothels of the Old West, the madams did their own inspecting (sometimes with the help of a doctor).

After the Homestead Act, how did early settlers stake out their land?

Donald Wade
Sun City, Arizona

Before barbed wire, the cattle grazed on open ranges, which large ranchers often claimed as their own—even without a legal basis. Those land barons eventually filed claims with government land offices (after surveying). In some cases, parts of the claim were denied, with land being granted to other settlers. But in the meantime, only men with bark could protect their lands from interlopers, homesteaders or small outfits who settled on the fringes of their ranches.

Those unofficial claims often led to armed fights between big ranchers and small operators or cattlemen driving their herds through the open ranges. The 2003 movie *Open Range*, although fictional, presents a good idea of how some of those conflicts played out.

What kind of restaurants existed in the Old West?

Rick Green
Scottsdale, Arizona

Frontier Fare columnist Sherry Monahan has researched Old West restaurants for her books, most notably *Taste of Tombstone*. Every town had at least one restaurant, and meals were also served at boarding houses and saloons.

She says many frontier menus in the 1870s were limited to the basics and locally available fare. Meals consisted of meat, breads, syrup, eggs, potatoes, dried fruit pies, cakes, coffee and seasonal vegetables. And beef. Lots of beef, since cattle were plentiful.

By the 1880s, classic French food was all the rage, and restaurants were serving varieties of meats, fish and vegetables, sauces of all kind, fancy desserts, cheese and milk. The big trend was also oysters that were shipped in from the coast.

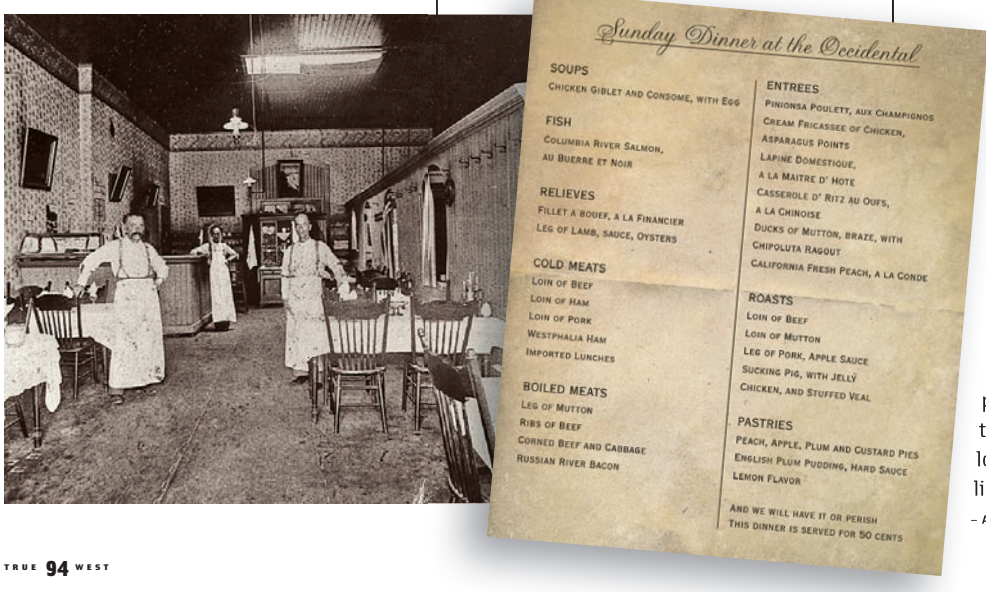
What's the story behind Wild Bill Hickok's gunfight with a couple of soldiers in Hays City, Kansas?

Michael Wharton
Cottonwood, Arizona

On the night of July 17, 1870, two drunken 7th Cavalry troopers from Fort Hays—Jerry Lonergan and John Kile—attacked Deputy U.S. Marshal James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok in Paddy Welch's saloon (some accounts state Thomas Drum's saloon).

The motive is unclear. Hickok biographer Joe Rosa said Kile, a Medal of Honor recipient and deserter who later reenlisted, probably had never met Hickok. Some have suggested Lonergan had a dispute with Hickok when he was county sheriff the year before, although no historical record supports the claim.

Lonergan grabbed and held Hickok from behind as Kile pulled a Remington .44 and stuck it in Hickok's ear—but the pistol misfired. Hickok pulled his pistol and shot Kile in the wrist and then



Dining out in Tombstone, Arizona, at the height of the silver boom could be more sophisticated than in most Old West towns. At left is a replica of a menu Virgil Earp's wife, Allie, saved from the Occidental Hotel. At far left is a circa 1880s photo of the Can Can, which moved to the Occidental Restaurant's old location in 1882. Notice the white linen tablecloths and the skylight.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



The image above is often passed off as being the aftermath of Wild Bill Hickok's fight with John Kile and Jerry Lonergan. The connection is fake, as neither man was killed at the scene (Kile died, but at Fort Hays).

the body, and then shot Lonergan in the knee before leaping through a glass window to escape. Fearing an attack by other soldiers, he armed himself with a Winchester rifle and 100 rounds, and hid out in a cemetery.

Kile died the next day. Lonergan recovered, but he was later killed by another soldier.

The story of the fight grew to epic proportions. Hickok's first biographer, J.W. Buel, told a tall tale that 15 soldiers attacked Hickok; he killed three and was himself shot seven times. He also claimed Gen. Philip Sheridan ordered Hickok brought in dead or alive. Hickok biographer William Connelley changed the story and claimed Fort Hays commanding officer Tom Custer, George's brother, led revenge-seeking soldiers into Hays City to kill Hickok.

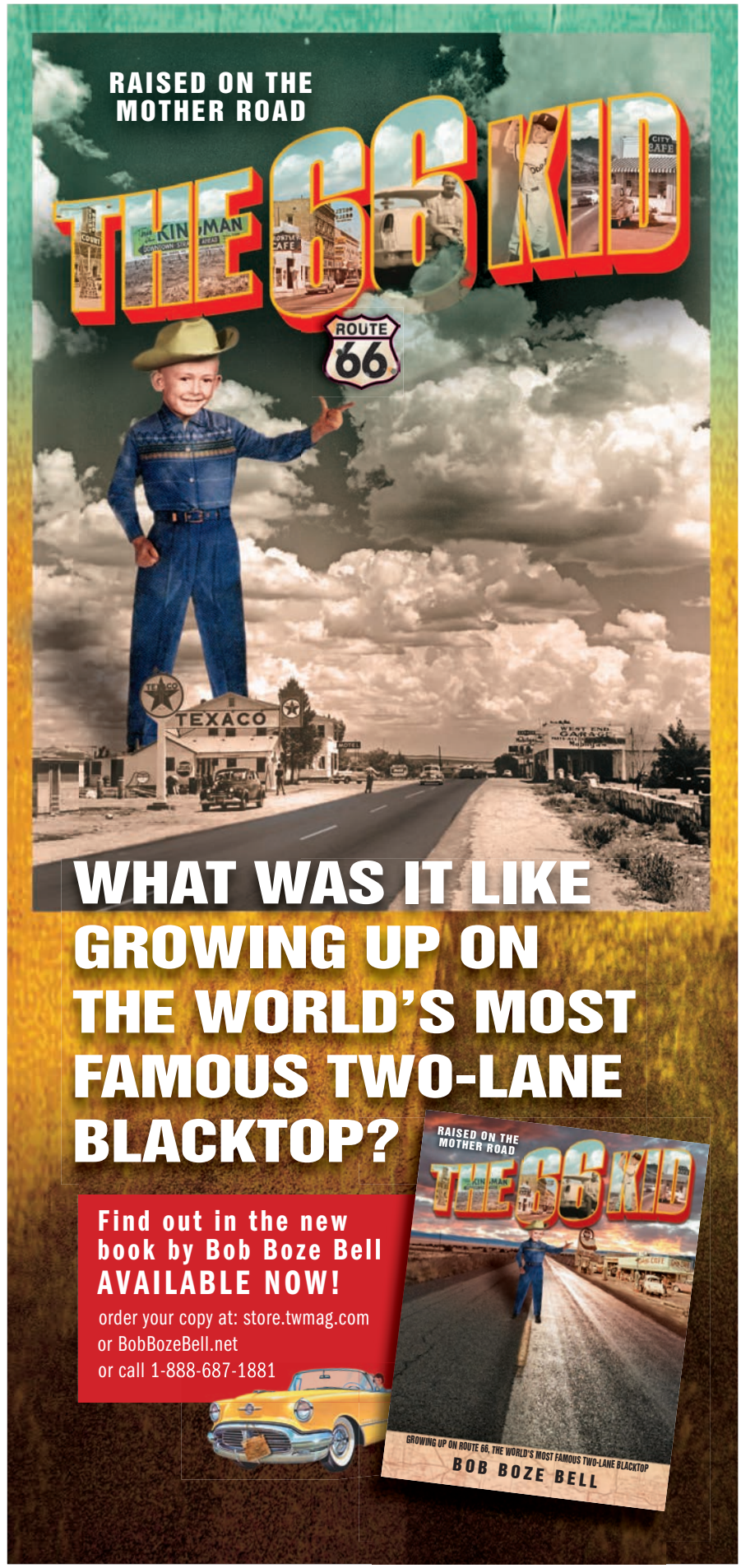
In reality, Hickok left the city, and no further action was taken by Tom Custer, the Army or anybody else.

Did naturally burning coal mines exist in the Old West?

Carl Heyboer
Dimondale, Michigan

Explorers William Clark and Meriwether Lewis noticed burning coal seams along the Missouri River during their journey west in the early 1800s. These could have been ignited by wildfires.

Burning coal mines or coal seams are pretty common today. The Slagle-Bright Diamond coal mine in Colorado has been burning since the 1930s. It's one of 34 active burning mines in that state alone.



What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Art was my first and most consistent love. I realized that because I was an incurable smart aleck, I'd likely make more money in cartooning than fine art.

I got interested in the Old West when I was a kid in the early 1960s. Most of the adventure shows were about the Old West, and I was immediately hooked. I got cowboy boots for my fourth birthday and would not take them off, even to go to bed.

My grandfather was born to a family of Sicilian immigrants and was as in love with the American Old West as I am today. He bought me that first pair of cowboy boots and would have gotten me a pony too, had my father not forbidden it on the grounds that our yard wasn't big enough to house a horse.

My mother taught me to be an individual. If I didn't follow the crowd, I'd likely find the crowd following me.

Before I die, I want to play a cowboy in a Western. I don't expect it to happen, but I'd actually pay for the privilege.

No cartoonist has ever topped B. Kliban. When I was in college, my roommate had a small paperback book of cartoons by B. Kliban, called *Never Eat Anything Bigger than Your Head & Other Drawings.* Since then, Kliban has been my favorite cartoonist and biggest influence in the form.

My biggest complaint about cartoons today is that so few cartoonists can draw. All cartoons have two components: the gag and the illustration. Plenty of cartoons today have funny gags, but few are illustrated by good art. I miss that about the early 20th century—the Golden Age of cartooning.

One of my favorite hobbies is listening to podcasts on science, history and philosophy. Almost nothing gets me more excited than new ways of thinking about things. Many of my cartoons come from my penchant for looking at traditional things and seeing them differently.

The biggest risk I have ever taken was to go to Europe in 1979 when I was a 21-year-old college dropout with little money, no knowledge of foreign travel, nowhere to go and no one to help me. No single experience in my life has done more to shape me and open my mind to the possibilities of life.

One of the great mysteries of my life is how all of my history teachers in school found a way to make history so utterly boring. In reality, history is a never-ending, real-life soap opera with characters that Hollywood can only dream of topping.



A reality show producer buddy of Dan Piraro's got him an audition that landed the cartoonist as the host of Fox's *Utopia*. "*Utopia* only lasted three months," he says, "but the wild ride adds a welcome bit of peculiarity to my resume."



– COURTESY DAN PIRARO –

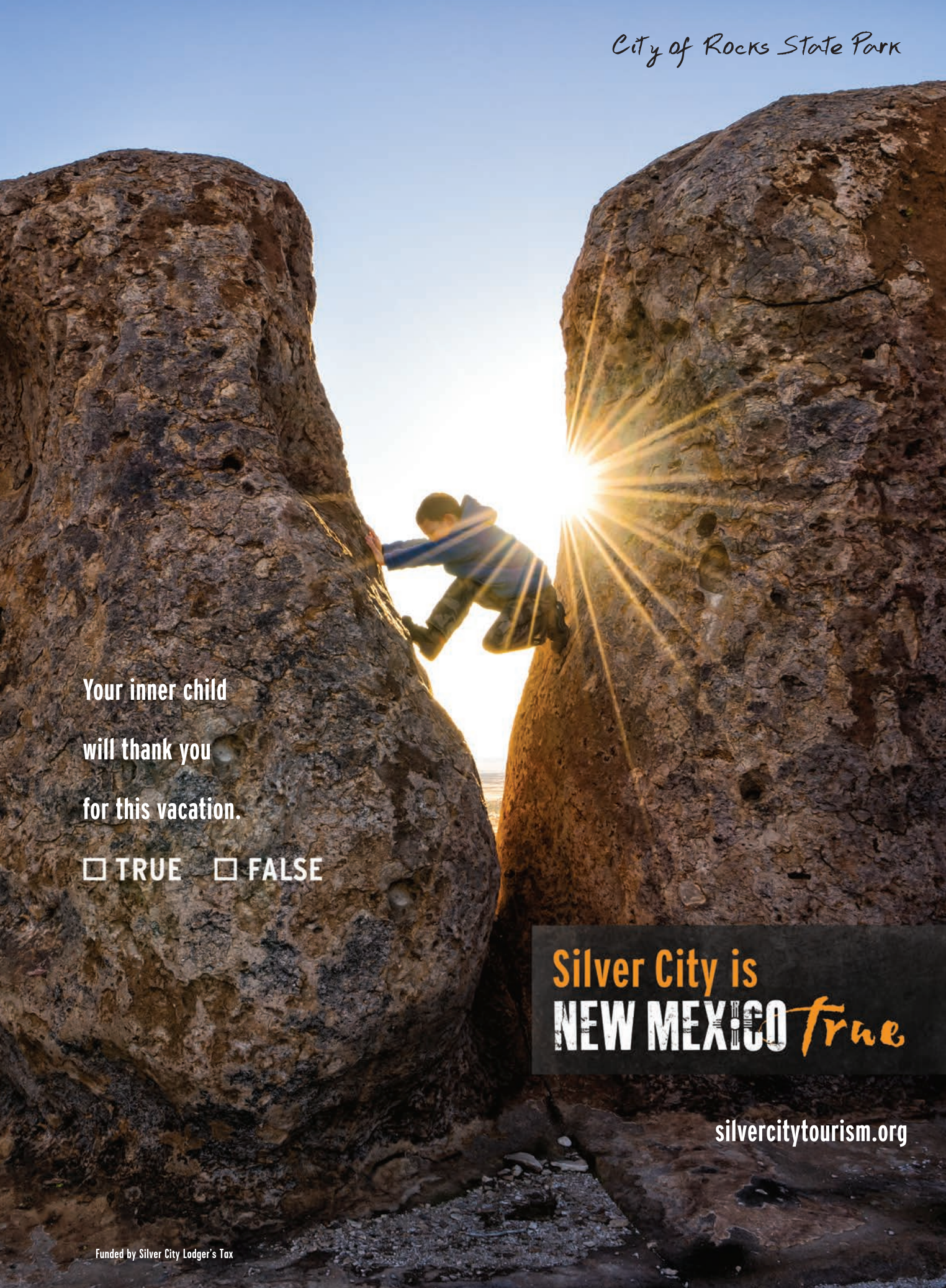
DAN PIRARO, CARTOONIST

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the syndication of *Bizarro*, the single-panel cartoon by Dan Piraro regularly featured in *True West's Truth Be Known.* Piraro has reprinted *Bizarro* in 16 collections. Since 2001, he has traveled the country in an award-winning one-man comedy show. The National Cartoonists Society honored him with its Reuben Award in 2010. His most recent "bizarro" experience was hosting Fox's short-lived reality show, *Utopia*. He continues to work on his cartoons, from his California home in Los Angeles.

I have created more cartoons on two subjects than any other: the Old West and Psychology. The former, because the genre captured my attention as a kid growing up in Oklahoma. The latter, because the punch lines for a person on a shrink's couch are limitless.

My favorite place in the West is Monument Valley. It holds immense romance and power for me, probably thanks to John Ford. As an artist, I can immediately see why so many films were staged there—few spots on earth hold that kind of visual majesty.

I still remember when my dad spotted *Lawman's* John Russell sitting at a diner counter, drinking coffee. My parents encouraged six-year-old me to ask for his autograph, but I was too in awe to move.


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