OUR ANNUAL GUIDE TO HISTORIC WESTERN LODGING AND SALOONS

OUR 64TH YEAR

MAY 2017

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER



CUSTER VS. CODY

A 65-MILE RACE TO THE DEATH?

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BUTCH & SUNDANCE ON JADED MULES

WILD BILL AT ROCK CREEK

HERO OR VILLAIN?

SPECIAL REPORT

THE MIGHTY AMERICAN Mule

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The Birth of the 20-Mule Team

When Francis Smith discovered borax at Teel's Marsh in Nevada in 1872, he found a financier in William Tell Coleman, who had made his riches selling apple pies to California Gold Rush prospectors. Five years later, Smith made the news for shipping a 30-ton load drawn by a 24-mule team. The more famous 20-mule hitch came about when Smith's money man, Coleman, set up his borax operation in California's inhospitable Death Valley in 1883. When Coleman lost his fortune in the 1880s, Smith took over the 20-mule hitch—actually comprised of 18 mules, plus two horses as wheelers closest to the wagon—which ferried borax to the nearest railroad spur in the Mojave Desert until 1889.

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TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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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"Mules are smart, not stubborn; if they seem stubborn, it's the stupid human on their back.... Mules built this country, but were never given their due. There is a reason so many great people in history rode mules."

–Randall Page of Conroe, Texas



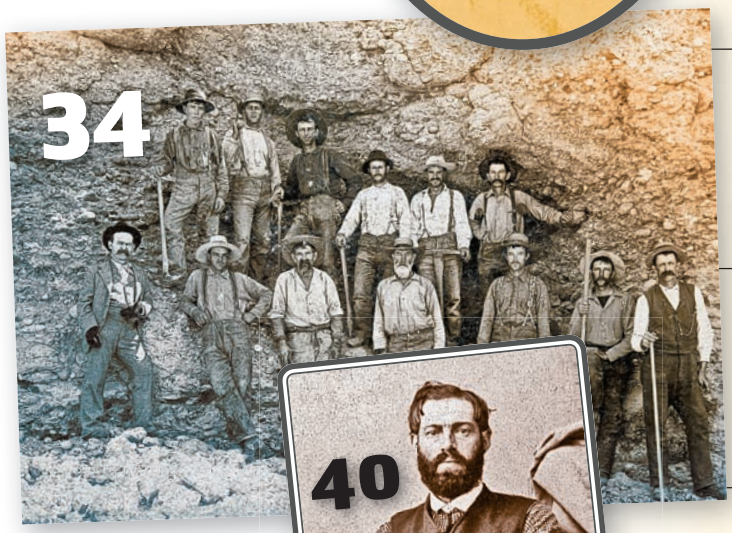
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Illustration by Bob Boze Bell; cover design by Dan Harshberger

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

BIZARRO BATMAN COWBOY

I got a chuckle, as usual, from the *Bizarro* comic in your March 2017 issue, featuring Batman in the Old West. But *here* is what I think he should have looked like. I saw this DC Comics figure online, and the kid in me who loved Batman and cowboys had to buy it (and I'm old enough to be well into retirement). I read that the notion for this figure was that Batman always existed, and the mantle (or his cape) was just passed on through the years.

Mike Goettee
Avondale Estates, Georgia



– COURTESY DC COMICS VARIANT PLAY ARTS KAI TIMELESS SERIES –

BOWIE BREWHAHA

As a charter, life and board member of the Antique Bowie Knife Association, I must write *True West* regarding the article about Jim Bowie's death at the Alamo [March 2017].

I totally disagree with author William Groneman III. Jim Bowie was no "coward" at the Alamo; this is yet another spurious try at changing history. (Jesse James was not killed, Billy the Kid was not shot, William Clarke Quantrill did not die in Kentucky, and on and on.) To even raise the question that Bowie was a coward and committed suicide at the Alamo is an embarrassment to history. Bowie fought to the death at the Sandbar fight above Natchez, on September 19, 1827. He came close to being killed and had a long recovery. That should end the question whether Bowie was a "coward." The article commented: "Or should history remember him [Bowie] dying as a sick, feeble, angry coward?" What an incredible statement.

I submit to Groneman that Bowie died on his cot inside the Alamo from the old age of 105. That is just as silly.

Rick Mack
Salina, Kansas

GREY'S LOVE OF FISHING

Jana Bommersbach's cover article for the "Zane Grey Still Riding High" March 2017 issue told a great story about Grey. I was unaware about some of the things in his early life. She mentioned that he owned four homes and held 13 fishing world records. One of his homes was on Catalina Island in Avalon, California. His house is now a hotel. The rooms each have a name, taken from his books, over the doors. Some of his world records were achieved off the island, where he used to fish for marlin and sailfish.

Jay Schoenherr
Corona, California



Oops!

The "Forty-Niners yucking it up" daguerreotype on p. 41 of February 2017 was actually taken during the Mexican-American War and depicts Capt. William H. Chapman (at left) and Capt. Moses Merrill (at right), who was killed at the Battle of Molino del Rey in September 1847. We thank Edward Garcia of Glendora, California, for sharing his research on this photograph.



SHAVETAIL

The 17th century term "Lingo" was rooted in *lingua*, Latin for "tongue." One of its definitions—"the vocabulary of a special subject or jargon of a class of persons"—seems especially apropos for many groups of Westerners. Cowboys especially had a knack for colorful banter that often found its way into everyday language.

As just one of a litany of examples "shavetail" comes to mind. Win Blevins tells us in his *Dictionary of the American West* that the word referred to "A broke horse in contrast to the broomtails, wild range horses…." The idea was that once a horse had been broken, "it was customary to pluck the tails… to make them easy to distinguish from unbroken critters."

Frontier soldiers placed their own spin on the matter. To troopers a shavetail was a new mule that hadn't been trained to respond to bell commands. Educated, giant-eared, beasts of burden were said to be "bell sharp" while their neophyte four-legged brethren had their tails shaved until they had learned the ropes, although the air might turn blue when a muleskinner, "celebrated for his stubbornness and creativity profanity" according to Blevins, met his match in an equally tenacious braying mule.

It didn't take much of a stretch of the imagination for frontier army veterans to extend the meaning. Experienced troopers applied the appellation to green second lieutenants after being turned out from their cadet days at West Point. The fresh, wet behind the ears Military Academy graduates might have been long on book learning, but to seasoned soldiers these youngsters had much to learn before they could be real commanders. By World War I, when a single gold bar was adopted as the insignia of second lieutenants for the first time in 1917, another term entered the lexicon—"butter bar."



Mules could be used in the remote, rugged West to transport more than goods. U.S. Army Dr. Edgar Mearns was one of many who came up with an ingenious way to move the wounded from the battlefield where terrain prohibited the use of wheeled vehicles.

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BY BOB BOZE BELL

Welcome to Mule Nation

Finally, the mighty American mule gets some long, overdue credit.

My father, Allen P. Bell, was a stubborn Norwegian. And if you believe my wife, the apple didn't fall far from the tree. But still, even with that reputation, when you begin a sentence with, "That old boy is stubborn as a..." the words Bell or Norwegian do not come to mind. No, only one word ends that sentence—mule!

So, it's about time we paid tribute to these stubborn, but sturdy, steeds. Most mule people hate the "stubborn" attribute assigned to their favorite breed, but thanks to our resident equine experts, Lee Anderson and Deb Kidwell, *True West* is giving mules some long overdue respect and credit (coverage starts on p. 32).

Another big tip of the hat goes out to Lynda A. Sánchez, of Lincoln, New Mexico, who regaled me with the local nuance of mule slang (the vaqueros in her family refer to mules as "machos," which, as she points out, is strange since mules are pretty much sterile). She also shared a photo of Dan Thrapp, a compiler of frontier biographies, who had a love for mules.

The biggest takeaway for me from this issue was learning the crazy, different sizes and breeds of donkeys and mules. Check out that American Mammoth Jack standing by Deb. Wow! I can see why she wears her "Jackass Lady" moniker with pride.

The truth is, I have long admired these stubborn steeds (see my avatar next to my signature). Besides, as the old vaqueros are fond of saying, "Until one has loved a mule, part of the soul remains unawakened."

This Memorial Day, I will have the great pleasure of riding a mule as the grand marshal of California's Bishop Mule Days Parade.

See what stubborn love can bring you?

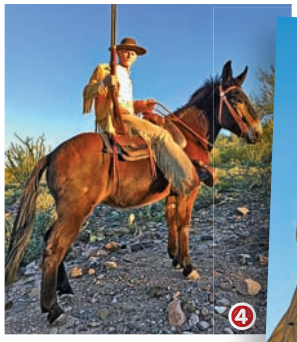


For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at TWMag.com

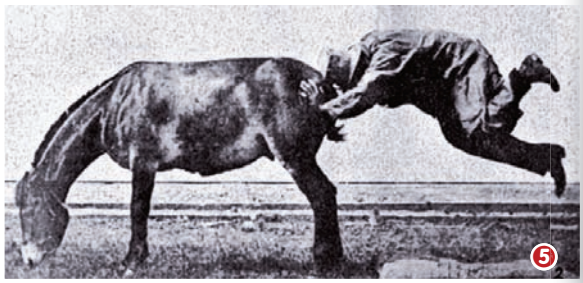












❶ Legendary historian Dan Thrapp, the author of 14 books, including six on the Apache Wars, holds the reins of his mules while crossing the Andes in 1941.

❷ Then-California Gov. Ronald Reagan sits atop his mule as the grand marshal of California's Bishop Mule Days Parade in 1974.

❸ Deb "Jackass Lady" Kidwell, the author of our cover story, stands here with Genesis, her American Mammoth Jack.

❹ Equine historian Lee Anderson raises his Hawken rifle while perched on Zelda. Check out his mule trivia on Christopher Columbus and Alexander the Great on p. 96.

❺ This goofy photo was taken by Eadweard Muybridge during the 1880s.

❻ I will be riding in at the head of a long line of mighty mules, as the 2017 grand marshal of California's Bishop Mule Days Parade on May 31!

– 1) COURTESY LYNDA A. SÁNCHEZ; 2) COURTESY BISHOP MULE DAYS; 3) COURTESY DEB KIDWELL; 4) COURTESY LEE ANDERSON; 5) TRUE WEST ARCHIVES; 6) COURTESY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY MARK BOARDMAN

The Toughest News in the West

The Tombstone Epitaph *lives on...and on.*

The Old West was filled with colorful names—none more so than *The Tombstone Epitaph*, the oldest continuous newspaper in Arizona.

Former Apache agent John Clum, who was just 29, helped found the paper soon after arriving in the silver mining boomtown in early 1880. He'd already owned and operated a publication in Florence, so he was no novice to the business.

When he got to Tombstone, Clum enlisted a couple of partners to put the operation together (the ownership group changed several times over the next two years).

Clum claimed that he came up with the name himself, contrary to stories that others had suggested it. That first issue included a Clum-authored article that trumpeted, "No Tombstone is complete without its epitaph," evidence of the publisher's Eastern education and natural wit.

> "No Tombstone is complete without its epitaph."

Clum, who headed the local vigilante group and became mayor in January 1881, was pro-Republican, pro-business and pro-law 'n' order, and so was his newspaper. He was friends with the Earp brothers and the *Epitaph* made no bones about its opposition to the Cowboy faction. The coverage of the famed 1881 street fight was decidedly one-sided in favor of the Earps and Doc Holliday.

Clum pulled up stakes in 1882 and sold his interest in the newspaper. The owner over the next several years is hard to track, and the newspaper's political stance bounced back and forth. Tombstone began to fade after the silver ran out later that decade. The *Epitaph* continued to publish, but only on a weekly basis by the 1890s.



But it was still vital to the community. Thirty years later, the *Epitaph* helped finance and oversee Tombstone's first Helldorado celebration in 1929. Researchers began using its archives to write books and articles, and the paper itself featured more Old West historical sketches, helping to keep the local heritage alive, even as the town declined.

But the modern foundation was established in the mid-1970s, when Michigan businessman Harold Love entered the picture. Love had a dream of Tombstone as a tourist destination, so he bought up and renovated several Tombstone landmarks, including the O.K. Corral, Schieffelin Hall, the Crystal Palace—and the *Epitaph*.

Love and his associates made a deal with the University of Arizona, whose journalism students would gain real-life experience by putting out two local news issues per week. Meanwhile, a new national and international edition would print history articles on a monthly basis.



In one of our nation's most storied Wild West towns, Tombstone, Arizona Territory, C.S. Fly took this photograph of a crowd gathered in front of the town's newspaper office from the front porch of his photography gallery across the street. The daily *Prospector*, launched in 1887, served as competition to *The Tombstone Epitaph* weekly.

– COURTESY BOB LOVE –

That arrangement has worked well for more than 40 years, with many subscribers to the two editions accessing the papers online. There's no end in sight.

If Tombstone is the "town too tough to die," then the *Epitaph* is the "newspaper too strong to write its obituary."



COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

Quotes

"The adulations heaped on him by a grateful nation for his supposed genius turned his head, which, added to his natural disposition, caused him to bloat his little carcass with debauchery and dissipation which carried him off prematurely."

– General George Crook, in an 1889 diary entry about the much-disliked Gen. Philip Sheridan

"I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself."

– Robert E. Lee, Confederate Civil War general

"...I must say that I shall regret to see the war end. I would be willing, yes glad, to see a battle every day during my life."

–George Armstrong Custer, October 3, 1862

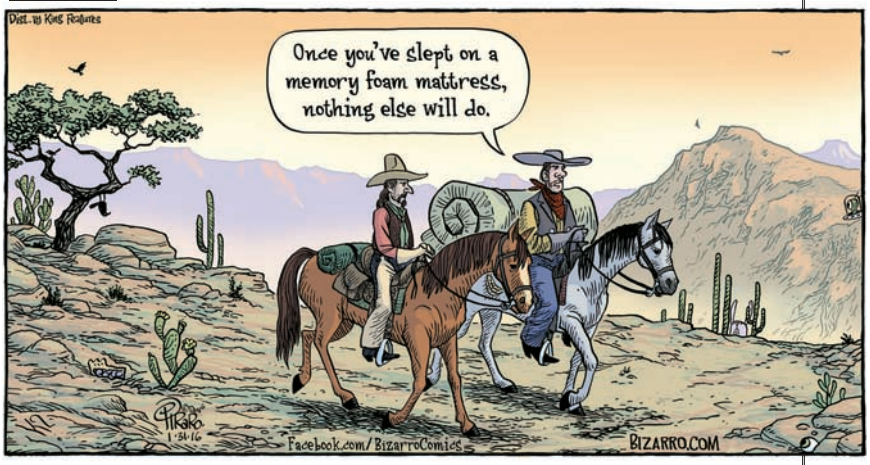
"Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people."

– Socrates, Greek philosopher

"I am not afraid to die like a man fighting but I would not like to be killed like a dog unarmed."

– Outlaw Billy the Kid, in a March 20, 1879, letter to Gov. Lew Wallace

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



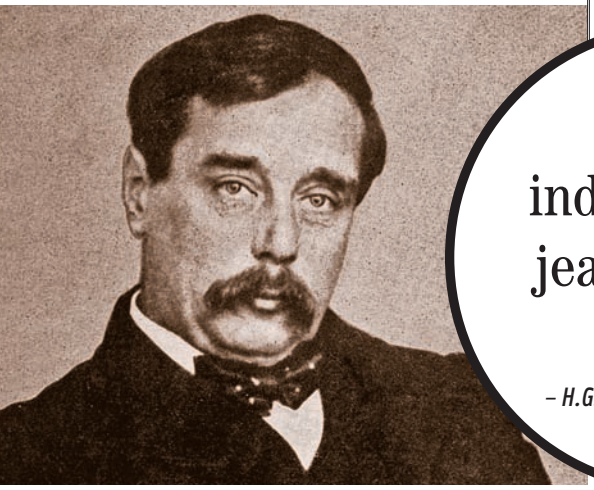
"Faceless, faithful file clerks, not famous historians, are the shepherds of the past. And when an anonymous pastor of fact dozes on watch, a word or image may wander, allowing time's predators to pounce. Often, there is not even a small cry in the dark. Some precious fact voicelessly vanishes, likely forever."

– Don Dedera, in A Little War of Our Own: The Pleasant Valley Feud Revisited

"...some people's idea of [free speech] is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."

– Winston Churchill, former British prime minister, shown in British Army in 1899





"Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo."

– H.G. Wells, English novelist, shown circa 1918

Old Vaquero Saying



"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Rescuing Silver Strike History

One foundation is keeping the Comstock Lode's glittering history away from the bulldozer.



During mine tours, Julie and Al Lucero present the history of the mule barn and mules associated with the Sutro Tunnel from mid- to late 1800s. An engineering achievement in Comstock history, the four-mile Sutro Tunnel, dug through the mountains between Virginia City and Dayton, drained underground mines.

– COURTESY COMSTOCK FOUNDATION FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE –

Talk about the mother lode.

Imagine trying to preserve hundreds of projects in a 14,000-acre district—not only one of the nation's largest historic landmarks, but one of its most important. Here, in these western mountains of Nevada, is where the "Comstock Lode" became America's first major silver strike.

More than 100 mining companies dug these hills from 1859 to 1892, taking out more than $350 million in silver and gold. The lode made Virginia City the richest place on earth and gave America a string of mining towns unlike any it had ever seen—Gold Hill, Silver City, Dayton and the old town site of Sutro.

But that was then, and this is now, and now so much of that glittering history is falling to ruin or ready for a developer's bulldozer.

Stopping that is the job of the Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, first organized in 2010 by Comstock Mining, which committed one percent of its bullion from the Lucerne Pit to preservation. The company turned to the community to form a private nonprofit that would use those funds to save the most endangered historic resources of the district—from legendary mines to churches to homes. But a drop in mining activity dried up those funds.

The foundation's Executive Director Pamela Abercrombie is not sitting back to wait for mining to return—this fast-talking walking history book is seeking grants and organizing fundraisers to keep projects going.

The foundation has already restored the Upper Yellow Jacket Hoist and Ore Chute in Gold Hill—standing above the tracks of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad and seen by tens of thousands annually.

Abercrombie notes the foundation had to move fast, because the chute risked "complete demise." It took about $125,000.

A far bigger project—at least $4 million and counting—is the quest to save the Donovan Mill and transform it into an interpretive center and Silver City museum.

In these parts, no name is more important than Donovan, as in William Donovan Sr., who, in 1912, purchased a mill that dated to the 1860s. With his sons, especially the namesake, William Michael Donovan, the family operated the plant for 47 years—an unparalleled time span for early Nevada milling operations.

So far, the foundation has bought the mill and is raising money for its preservation and restoration. Abercrombie has secured several grants, including $15,000 from local miner Art Wilson, following in the footsteps of his father, who came here to mine the Comstock in the early 1900s.

"If I had a budget of $1 million, we would fund hundreds of projects," Abercrombie says. "We promote history, and we have a rich history to promote."

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



A teamster leads wagons used for hauling ore in this 1868 photo by Timothy O'Sullivan of the Savage Works in Virginia City, Nevada, which depicts the mill workings for processing Comstock ore during the Bonanza era.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

BY MEGHAN SAAR

A Collection of Criminals

An official Wells Fargo highwaymen album, Civil War memorabilia and militaria were among the collectibles once owned by an astute historian of American firearms.

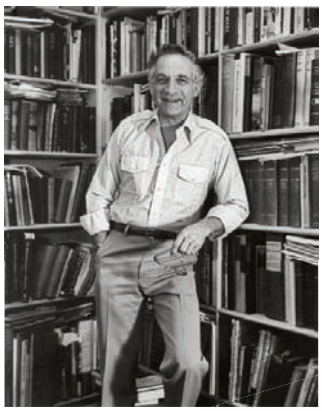
Collectors knew Norman Flayderman as the man behind the bible of American firearms, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms...and Their Values*. That a Kentucky rifle sold as the top firearm of the day at Cowan's Auctions on February 21 was no shocker, seeing that Flayderman had the largest privately owned collection of Kentucky rifles. But many were surprised by his extensive collection of rare Civil War broadsides, which he had gathered for a Civil War book he was working on.

"Norm's collection of broadsides covers everything from the seeds of rebellion through the end of the Civil War," says Katie Horstman, Cowan's director of American History. "Whether rallying Northern and Southern troops, proclaiming Union occupation of Confederate cities such as New Orleans, or calling on soldiers to cast their votes, this fine selection of broadsides documents the events of the Civil War as they unfolded."

More history passed hands in the forms of historical manuscripts that ranged from a diary owned by a Medal of Honor recipient from the Indian Wars to a log book kept by a pioneer Alaskan seaman.

A collection of criminals, however hammered down as the top lot. The faces of Bill Cook and Crawford "Cherokee Bill" Goldsby who terrorized Indian Territory in the 1890s, among other frontier outlaws, are forever preserved in 71 photographs included in an album that the Railway Express Agency attested was the "official office copy kept by Wells Fargo in New York...."

Like many Old West history collectors, Flayderman got bit by the outlaw bug, and he thankfully preserved this album of thugs for the next generation. The Flayderman estate earned nearly $850,000 at the auction.



Norman Flayderman, who died May 23, 2013, a couple months shy of his 85th birthday, served his nation in three branches of the military: U.S. Navy, Air Force and the Army of Connecticut. He founded his antique weapons firm in 1952; two years later, he began publishing his annual guide to antique firearms. Flayderman owned the largest private collection of Kentucky rifles, including this flintlock Kentucky rifle by Nicholas Beyer, which sold as the top firearms lot for a $24,000 bid.





An 1861 letter by John Brown Jr., the eldest son of the abolitionist, plus a presentation knife inscribed to Capt. John Brown Jr. of the 1st Kansas Brigade hammered down at $10,500.



Numerous Bowie knives owned by Norman Flayderman sold at the auction, and the top Bowie sold was this large Bowie by Schmid of Providence, Rhode Island, pictured in Flayderman's *The Bowie Knife*; $8,500.

Notable N. Flayderman Collectibles Included

(All images courtesy Cowan's Auctions)







The highest-selling lot from Flayderman's collection was not one of his firearms, but an album containing carte de visites and cabinet cards of Wells Fargo highwaymen, train robbers and other criminals; $39,000. (Shown from left) Bill Cook, Crawford "Cherokee Bill" Goldsby and Thurman "Skeeter" Baldwin of the Cook Gang that ravaged Indian Territory during the 1890s.

The top-selling Civil War lot sold at the Flayderman auction was this "Men of Color, To Arms! To Arms!" recruitment broadside; $29,000. A rare colored troops broadside, imploring, "Come and Join Us Brothers," sold for a $15,500 bid.









Flayderman researched seafaring pioneers as well, telling their tales in his 1972 book, *Scrimshaw and Scrimshanders*: *Whales and Whaleman*. The log book owned by black Capt. Michael A. Healy, of the U.S. Coast Guard ship *Bear*, documents an important 1892 season in Alaska; $7,000.



Captain George E. Albee's archive features his 1869 Indian Wars journal, including entries from the 1869 Battle at Brazos River in Texas, which earned Albee a Medal of Honor; $9,000.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

May 5-7
Historical & Antique Firearms
Rock Island Auction (Rock Island, IL)
RockIslandAuction.com • 800-238-8022

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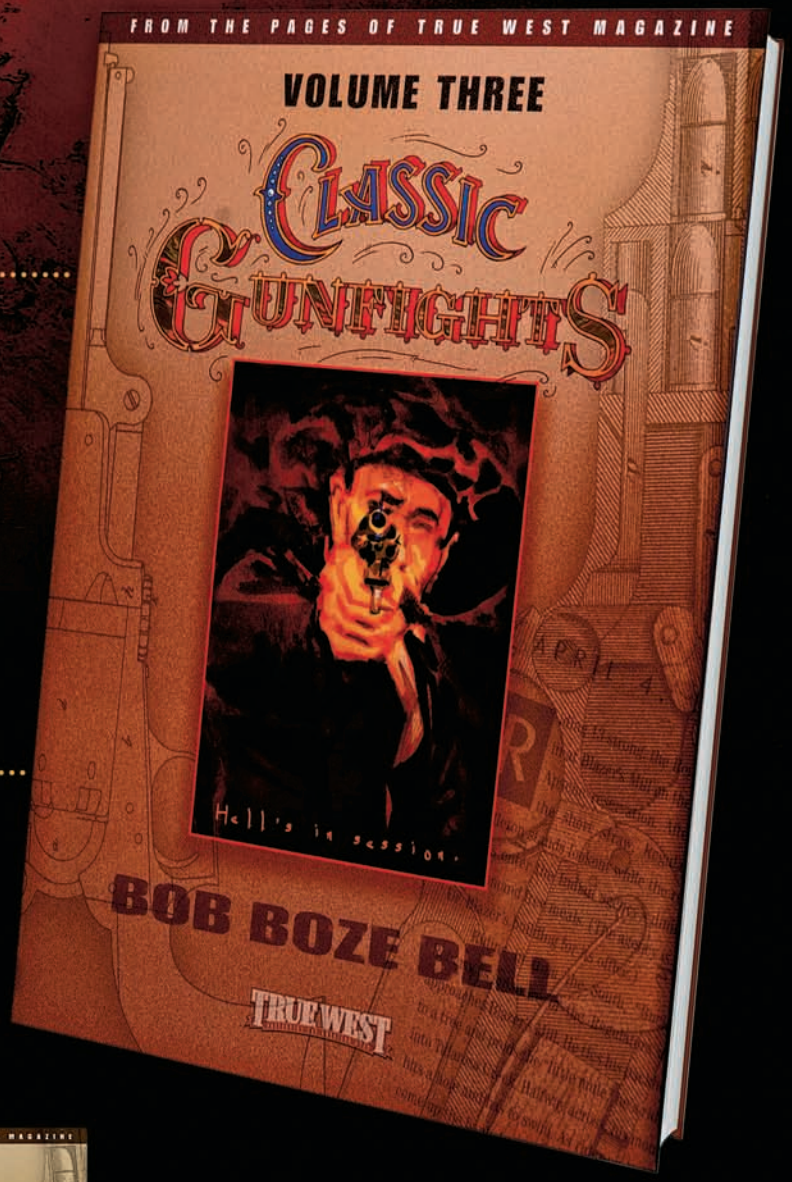
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TRUE WEST

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

Spare the Rod!

Here's the safe way to charge your muzzle-loader without breaking that ramrod.

Here are some muzzle-loading tips aimed at beginning muzzle-loading shooters, however veteran black powder gunners might also benefit as well. Of primary importance with any firearm is safety, no matter what type of arm you're working with.

During the loading (also known as "charging") process, always keep your face clear of the muzzle. Hold the firearm away from your body at a slight angle that allows you to comfortably accomplish the loading. After the black powder (or black powder substitute) charge has been poured into the barrel by using a powder measure—rather than pouring directly from a powder horn, flask, can or other bulk powder container—start your projectile down the barrel with thumb pressure, if the projectile will respond to this. If the slug/bore fit is too tight, use a short starter. This age-old device will allow you to seat the projectile sufficiently enough to insert your ramrod into the gun's muzzle, and obtain the needed pressure to complete seating the load. The last step in charging a firearm is to prime your flintlock or cap your percussion arm. When priming or capping, be sure to keep the muzzle pointed safely downrange.

When ramming a projectile down the barrel of your front-loader rifle, shotgun or handgun, after the powder charge has been loaded—regardless of whether loaded with a patched round ball, conical bullet, sabot or shot load—be sure to hold the ramrod properly. Never hold the ramrod by its tip. Always grasp it from the sides with a firm grip, yet one that allows the rod to slide through your grasp in the event of a premature discharge. This could be caused by a few still-burning embers from a previous shot making contact with the freshly poured powder charge. While this is highly unlikely, such accidents can happen with these primitive-type arms.



Experienced muzzle-loaders who lived in remote areas and hunted for their sustenance, like California mountain man Galen Clark, knew the value of properly loading and handling their muzzle-loader's wooden ramrods. Shown above in this circa 1861 photo, Clark was the first to discover the giant sequoia trees in Yosemite in the 1850s, and helped to save them.

– COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION –



Although military muzzle-loading longarms' metal ramrods, as shown on this replica Brown Bess musket (right), allow for a grip further from the muzzle, a firm grasp closer to the muzzle is still preferred.







An age-old device (right) called a short starter, is handy for getting the projectile down that first few inches from the muzzle. After the load has been started down the barrel (above left), hold the ramrod close to the muzzle and make short, swift strokes to seat it. This gives enough force to push the projectile home without breaking the ramrod.

– ALL PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COOPER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

of a longarm, you should grasp your ramrod about three to five inches away from the gun's muzzle, permitting you to make several short, swift strokes with enough force to push the load home without breaking the ramrod.

In a military-type musket, which generally utilizes a metal ramrod, close-to-the-muzzle grips are preferred



If your firearm is equipped with a wooden ramrod, it is important that the rod be gripped fairly close to the muzzle of the firearm. If you hold it too far from the muzzle, like we generally see in films, where the actors are working with blank charges and are only simulating loading a lead projectile, then you are liable to exert too much pressure on the wood rod and break it. An improper hold on a wooden rod is probably the cause of more busted ramrods than any other reason. In the case



The last step in charging any muzzle-loader—longarm or handgun—is to prime your flintlock's pan (above, left), using a small priming horn or powder measure, or placing a cap on your percussion arm's nipple (above).

for control, although the rod can be gripped safely from almost anywhere, and still allow you to push the projectile downward onto the powder charge and seat it firmly.

These, or fiberglass ramrods, should also be held in the above-described manner. While ramrods are extremely difficult to break, a smoother, easier loading process is obtained through several firm, short strokes. Remember to hold the ramrod safely, close to the muzzle, not at the far end of it. When charged properly and safely, you'll find handling a front stuffer is more fun, and you won't break a wooden ramrod and possibly jam it into your hand or arm. Take my advice and spare the rod and enjoy more muzzle-loading shooting.

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.



– COURTESY DIXIE GUN WORKS –

DIXIE GUN WORKS RAMRODS

Besides using your ramrod properly, it's a good idea to have a spare ramrod or two handy—especially in the hunting field or at the shooting range. Dixie Gun Works in Union City, Tennessee, perhaps the largest supplier of black powder guns, shooting supplies and related firearms and historical and re-enactment paraphernalia, offers a selection of hardwood, hickory, rosewood or fiberglass ramrods, along with short starters for various calibers, ramrod pullers (for a stuck ramrod), and other worthwhile muzzle-loading accessories. Dixie's 656-page catalog is known as the "Black Powder Bible," and can be ordered from *DixieGunWorks.com*. If you can't find it in Dixie's catalog, you probably don't need it!

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BY DEB KIDWELL



THE HISTORY OF MULES

A LONG OVERDUE LOOK AT THESE REAL HEROES OF THE AMERICAN WEST

"There is no more useful or willing animal than the Mule. And perhaps there is no other animal so much abused, or so little cared for. Popular opinion of his nature has not been favorable; and he has had to plod and work through life against the prejudices of the ignorant."

—*Muleskinner Harvey Riley, in his 1867 book,* The Mule

– ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –



THE mule and jackass's role is often misunderstood in the history of the Old West.

Over the years, the mule and his papa, the jackass, have morphed into being portrayed in most Western TV shows and movies as coming from the Jed Clampett side of the equine family tree. The exceptions among these include Ruth, the steadfast mount of *Gunsmoke's* Festus, and Roscoe, ridden by Shotgun Gibbs in *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*. But the truth is, many well-known folks in the frontier West rode mules—and liked them!

In a fictional portrayal of real-life U.S. Army scout Mickey Free, he rides a mule, Tú, portrayed as Free's sure-footed, fearless, intelligent and trusted companion. Tú exemplifies what those in the Old West appreciated about the mule and why so many (Gen. George Crook and "Buffalo Bill" Cody, just to name a couple) chose a mule as their mount over a horse.

What the heck is a mule?

A mule is a hybrid equine created when you breed a female horse to a male donkey.

Why would anyone want to do that? Glad you asked. A hybrid results in "hybrid vigor," which means that the animal created is healthier and, in many cases, bigger than either parent.

That vigor comes at a price though, as 99.9 percent of mules are sterile. Oh, they have the equipment to make babies, just not the capability to do so due to having an odd number of chromosomes. The horse has 64 chromosomes, and the donkey, 62. Thus, the mule ends up with 63, an amount that makes it almost impossible for the mule to procreate on its own.

Some of the earliest writings about the mule that have been translated into English came from Aristotle in 350 BCE. From that time forward, documented cases revealed female mules can breed with a stallion or a donkey jack (and female mules are currently used as surrogate mothers for horse embryo transplants), but I have never found one record of a male mule successfully breeding anything. Thus, male mules must be gelded. They have all the hormones a male should

A JACKASS AND HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILD WILL EAT ANYTHING

"Sage-brush is very fair fuel, but as a vegetable it is a distinguished failure. Nothing can abide the taste of it but the jackass and his illegitimate child, the mule. But their testimony to its nutritiousness is worth nothing, for they will eat pine knots, or anthracite coal, or brass filings, or lead pipe, or old bottles, or anything that comes handy, and then go off looking as grateful as if they had had oysters for dinner."

—Mark Twain, **Roughing It**



George Custer's scouts—(from left) Bill Comstock, Ed Guerrier, Thomas Adkins and Moses "California Joe" Milner—ride horses and mules in this photo probably taken in 1867 during Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock's campaign in Kansas.

– ALL PHOTOGRAPHS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

FATHER OF THE AMERICAN JACKASS



George Washington is often mistakenly referred to as the "Father of the American Mule." He is also credited with being the first to bring a jackass to the colonies and the first to breed mules in said colonies.

Not true.

Almost 100 years before Washington was born, an invoice from the Virginia Company showed that 80 asses were ordered from France. Jacks were offered as studs and mule breeding was taking place from South Carolina to New York for decades before Washington's first large Spanish jack, Royal Gift, arrived at his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia, in 1785, a gift from King Carlos III of Spain.

After a six-week sea voyage on the American ship *Ranger* that endured two hurricanes, Royal Gift and his faithful Spanish groom Pedro Tellez landed, battered and bruised, in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on September 26, 1785. Tellez and the Spanish jack then walked 45 miles to Boston, where word was sent to Washington of their arrival.

Mount Vernon overseer John Fairfax fetched the two and assisted them on their way to Mount Vernon. Fairfax rode a mare, but Tellez walked nearly 500 miles because the jack had to be walked in hand. He also could travel only up to 15 miles a day, so they didn't arrive until December 5.

The following year, the Marquis de la Fayette sent Washington a jack and two jennets from the Southern European island country Malta. Once they reached Mount Vernon, the Maltese jennets were bred to Royal Gift. Both the Maltese jack, named Knight of Malta, and Royal Gift serviced mares to make mules as well. Washington purchased an additional jennet, from the South American country Suriname, by trading fine flour.

Washington *was* the first in America to see the need for larger jacks to produce larger mules. By being the first to cross large donkey breeds from abroad, he is actually the Father of the American Jackass—the American Mammoth Jackstock donkey breed.

—Deb Kidwell





Mickey Free rides his big, bad jack (top), while a vaquero rides a Baja hinny (above), the preferred ride in Baja, Mexico.

have, and they can act like complete boneheads if left intact.

"Still, he has been the great friend of man, in war and in peace serving him well and faithfully," wrote Harvey Riley, who spent 30 years studying mules while overseeing the mules that headed out West for cavalry use during his service as stockmaster in Washington, D.C.

In ancient texts, including the Bible, kings and generals rode mules. This goes back to that hybrid vigor. Since mules were taller than their horse mothers, kings and generals riding mules sat taller than others mounted on indigenous horses, which meant they could see above troops surrounding them. No wonder the mule has been the preferred mount of the powerful for millennia.

What happens if you breed a male horse to a female donkey? The resulting hybrid is called a "hinny" or "hinnie." This match is not as popular as the mare-jackass cross.

Remember that issue with the odd chromosomes? You have a better chance of making a hybrid baby if the mother has the higher number of chromosomes—thus, the horse makes the smarter choice as the hybrid mother.

Another issue is that a stud does not usually breed outside his species in nature; most studs have to be taught to find a female of another species enticing.

LONGEARED LINGO

ASS (*Equus Asinus*): Species commonly known as the domesticated "donkey" in English and "burro" in Spanish. The different sizes of donkeys in the U.S.: miniature, standard and Mammoth. Breeds differ from countries of origin, including, but not limited to, Africa, Spain, France, Italy, Malta and the United States.

JACK: The male of the ass species. "Jackass" and "jack ass" are both acceptable terms. Prior to the 19th century, the term "he-ass" was also used.

JENNET: The female of the ass species. The spelling "jenny" is also accepted. "She-ass" was used prior to the 19th century.

CATTLE: In books on husbandry written prior to and including the 18th century, cattle appears to be the accepted word used to describe any form of draught or draft animal, whether equine or bovine. United States President George Washington referred to his future mules as "cattle."

JACKSTOCK: A larger breed of donkey jacks and jennets. The American breed is known as the American Mammoth Jackstock. This breed should not be referred to as "donkeys" or "burros." "Ass" would be correct, although "Jackstock" is preferred.

MULE JACK OR **MARE JACK:** A jackass used to solely breed mares to produce mules. (Even though a "mule jack" cannot breed mules, he can breed mares to make the hybrid mules.)

JENNET JACK: A jack used solely to breed with the female jennets of the ass species to produce more donkeys or jackstock. Some jacks will service both mares and jennets willingly. Jacks that have bred only jennets will usually not breed mares due to the inter-species breeding, so mule breeders introduce a jack to mares first and will not allow him to breed jennets until he has serviced mares for quite some time.

HINNY OR **HINNIE**: The hybrid offspring of a stallion and a jennet, the hinny is also sterile with 63 chromosomes. The hinny is not as widely bred as the mule. Hinnies are both male and female, and are called a "mare hinny" for the females and a "horse hinny" for the males.

MULE: The hybrid offspring of a male ass and a female horse. The ass has 62 chromosomes, and the horse has 64. The resulting 63 pairing renders the mule sterile. However very infrequently, a female mule serviced by a stallion or a jack can become pregnant and foal. This happens so rarely that the Romans had a saying, "When a mule foals," which is equivalent to "Once in a blue moon."

HORSE MULE OR **JOHN MULE**: The male mule.

MARE MULE OR **MOLLY MULE**: The female mule.

—Deb Kidwell



A fanciful 1875 illustration showing the myriad of sizes and breeds of donkeys and mules.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



One other problem is that most donkeys are much smaller than a horse. (Exceptions include larger breeds of donkeys, such as the American Mammoth Jackstock, which can be taller than a horse. Mickey Free's Tú, for example, was 16 hands high, from the ground to the withers, which is the high part of the back, just behind the neck.)

The probabilities of the female donkey getting pregnant with a horse's baby, and then carrying that baby safely to term, are greatly diminished.

WHOA-HAWS & GOD DAMNS

"The Indian vocabulary in the Humboldt Valley was rapidly enlarged by contact with the white immigrants, for Shoshoni and Paiutes were soon referring to oxen as 'whoa-haws,' and to mules as 'god damns.'"

–Historian's footnote to California immigrant Heinrich Lienhard's 1846 diary

How should mules be handled? Riley knew best. At any given time during his 30-year career, Riley was in charge of more than 5,000 mules—and the young recruits who wanted to be teamsters.

Riley steadfastly advocated humane treatment of mules, writing, "If he could tell man what he most needed it would be kind treatment.... It has indeed seemed to me that the Government might make a great saving every year by employing only such teamsters and wagon-masters as had been thoroughly instructed in the treatment and management of animals, and were in every way qualified to perform their duties properly.

"Indeed, it would seem only reasonable not to trust a man with a valuable team of animals, or perhaps a train, until he had been thoroughly instructed in their use, and had received a certificate of capacity from the Quartermaster's Department. If this were done, it would go far to establish a system that would check that great destruction of animal life which costs the Government so heavy a sum every year."

In 1884, author, artist and explorer Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh, photographed on his mule at Fort Defiance, Arizona Territory. He first visited Arizona in 1871–'73 as a 17-year-old member of Maj. John Wesley Powell's second expedition down the Colorado River.



Why was the mule so popular out West? The mule inherited the best from both parents. The horse mother passed on her athletic ability. From the wise jackass, intelligence, broader range of vision, longer ears that helped cool the animal down in hot weather and a smaller hoof than a horse's that made him more sure-footed.

Donkeys evolved in arid, mountainous regions, whereas the horse evolved on the plains. If something scared a horse, he would try and outrun the threat. If something scared a donkey, he was liable to commit suicide by running off a cliff if he didn't stop to determine whether he should face the threat or take a chance on trying to escape. All those centuries of thinking have resulted in the donkey being the wise equine, and he passed this intelligence on to his hybrid sons and daughters, the mule.

What some may perceive to be stubbornness in the mule is actually a combination of smarts and self-preservation. He will not get himself hurt, which, in turn, means he will not get his rider hurt.

The winner of this genetic mix was the mule, and those smart enough to ride one.

Deb Kidwell breeds American Mammoth Jackstock and mules at Lake Nowhere Mule and Donkey Farm in Martin, Tennessee.

In 1873, Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh photographed his Powell Expedition colleague John Renshawe on Wunupits astride the youthful artist's favorite riding mule in 1872–'73. The mule's name is Paiute for evil spirits or "witches" that prowl camps at night.

– PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY –



High in the Bolivian Andes of South America, Butch Cassidy sits on his mule at far left, while the Sundance Kid fiddles with the bridle of his mule. This is reportedly the last photo taken of the two outlaws.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –





TWO YANKEES ON JADED MULES

On the evening of November 6, 1908, just after an Aramayo mines payroll robbery, "two heavily armed Americanos, on jaded mules," rode into the high altitude village of San Vicente, Bolivia.

Calling themselves James or Santiago Maxwell and Brown, the men had been bouncing around Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, at first ranching, but eventually turning to highway robbery.

Cleto Bellot, the town *corregidor*, or mayor, informed the visitors that San Vicente had no inn and that they could find lodging at a local house, where they cared for their tired mules and sent out for sardines and beer.

Earlier in the day, a four-man posse from Uyuni—two soldiers, a police inspector and a police captain—had warned locals to look out for two Yankees with a stolen mule.

Bellot reported to the visiting lawmen that two *Americanos*, riding mules, were staying nearby.

When the Uyuni posse approached the thatched hut housing the Yankees, a gunfight broke out. One of the soldiers was killed. Multiple shots were fired into the flimsy walls, and then it became deathly quiet.

The next day, policemen warily entered the hut and found two dead bodies. Based on the wounds, the lawmen concluded one of the outlaws was put out of his misery by the other and the remaining one shot himself. The missing payroll and the stolen mule were recovered.

Percy Seibert was the mining engineer who told his tale of those "Americanos, on jaded mules" to Arthur Chapman for the April 1930 issue of *The Elks Magazine.* Seibert knew Robert Parker and Harry Longabaugh from the Concordia tin mines where the men started working in late 1906 or early 1907. His account helped convince most historians that those two Yankees, Parker and Longabaugh, were Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

MULE WISDOM

"It is on the plains, and in the corrals of the far Southwest, that the mule and his master fully understand each other. These desolate lands, with their long and waterless roads, are the fields of his usefulness. The mule is there a popular and aristocratic beast."

—James W. Steele, *Frontier Army Sketches*

"Trouble rides a fast horse. Forgiveness rides a mule."

—Singer Tom Russell

"The horse is a noble animal who performs his service with grace. A mule will wait his whole life for the opportunity to kill a man."

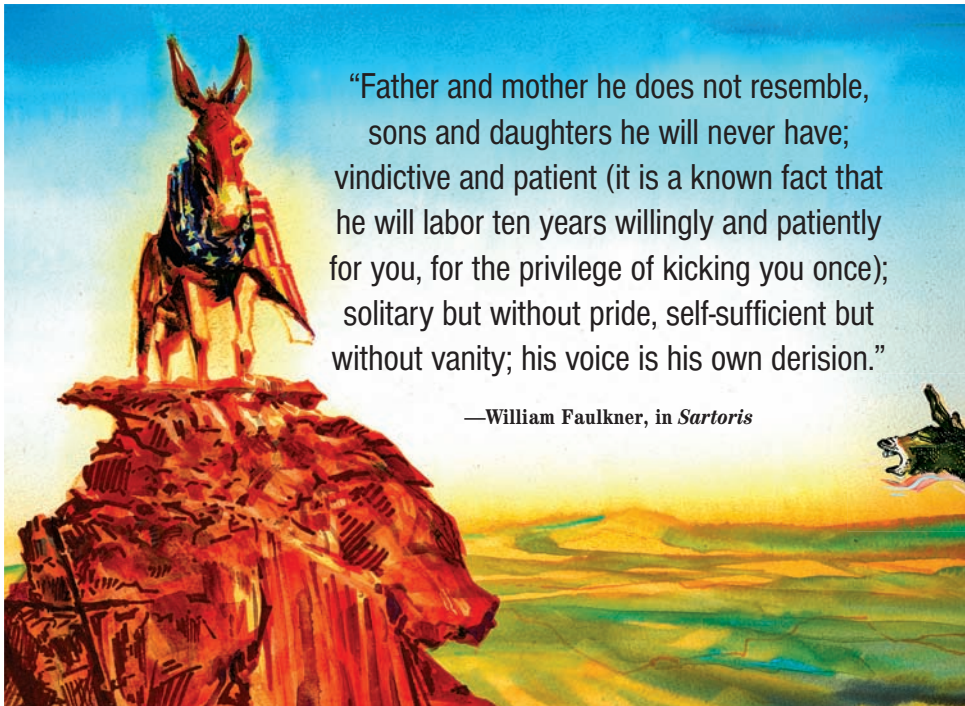
—Author J.P.S. Brown

"There is no education in the second kick of a mule."

—Old Southern Saying

"My favorite animal is the mule. He has more horse sense than a horse. He knows when to stop eating—and he knows when to stop working."

—Harry S. Truman, U.S. President who grew up with mules in Missouri





George Crook's packers were the backbone of the U.S. Army's effort to subdue the highly mobile Apaches.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

Tom Horn, shown in the circle, was a packer and scout under Crook.





General Crook on his favorite mule, Apache. Crook is flanked by Chato, right, and Alchesay, far right. Long a champion of mules, Crook instituted methods and technology that were used in the U.S. Army until 1956, when the last mules were discharged from duty. That is a hell of a record.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



CROOK NAILS THE PACK TRAIN

"The officer who was recognized as first using packtrains to full advantage was George Crook. He took such pains to organize his civilian trains with efficient packers, well-bred, barrel-bellied mules, and properly fitted Mexican packsaddles that other commands initially scoffed at his efforts. Only after his troops performed so well in subduing the Paiutes and Apaches and he was promoted over some forty senior-ranked officers of the line to become a department commander did other envious officers take notice and begin organizing trains of their own based on the Crook model. Until then some had ridiculed him with a little ditty about his mule packers." (See the short song at right.)

—Emmett M. Essin, in *Shavetails & Bell Sharps: The History of the U.S. Army Mule*

I'd like to be a packer
And pack with George R. Crook
And dressed up in my canvas suit.
And be for him mistook.
I'd braid my beard in two long tails,
And idle all the day
In whittling sticks and wondering
What the New York papers say.

—Fairfax Downey, in *Indian Fighting Army*



INDESTRUCTIBLE!

Legion are the stories about pack mules and donkeys surviving tumbles off of mountain trails. Here are a couple noteworthy tales:



DONKEY DYNAMITE

When Norwegian explorer Carl Lumholtz traversed the Sierra Madres with a pack train in 1890, he heard a noise above him on the switchbacks. He looked up to see a donkey come hurtling past him, "turning over and over with astounding speed," he wrote in *Unknown Mexico*.

The donkey sailed over Lumholtz's head and down to a rock pillar below. The donkey hit the base of the pillar, then rolled over twice before coming to a halt. It got up in the midst of its scattered cargo, which turned out to be a case of dynamite.

Two of the Mexican packers scrambled down the slope, repacked the dynamite on the shaken, but perfectly fine, little donkey and led it up the trail. Lumholtz noted that the donkey pushed on "as coolly as if nothing had happened."

I WANT ONE OF THOSE!

A muleteer related his conversion from riding horses to mules: "I was riding horseback on a steep trail when the pack mule in front of me got bumped off the trail and slid toward a 1,500-foot drop. The first thing I noticed was that the mule spread out—flat—which slowed his slide, and then, with his back hooves dangling off the cliff, he literally reached out with his front hooves and grabbed rocks to help him climb back up the slippery slope. When he regained the trail, he shook himself off and went on his way. It was at that moment, I said, 'I want one of those!'"

FREE FALLING

"Mule rolled downhill for five hundred feet, yet was uninjured."

—Charles Preuss, German cartographer on John C. Frémont's first, second and fourth exploratory expeditions, December 16, 1843







DID BUFFALO BILL'S MULE BEAT OUT THE BOY GENERAL'S HORSE?

And did Custer's horse die of exhaustion?

George Armstrong Custer might have chosen a better mount in the spring of 1867 when he rode into Kansas's Fort Hays and asked William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody to guide him to Fort Larned, a distance of 65 miles. Deb Kidwell suggests perhaps an Appaloosa, an American Quarter Horse or even the Morgan would have been a smarter option among the horse breeds available on the Western frontier.

This would be Cody's "first ride with the dashing and gallant Custer," as Cody admitted in his first autobiography, published in 1879.



Buffalo Bill Cody gravitated to horses in his Wild West show, but when he was a scout, he preferred a mule.

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CODY



CUSTER

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

THE RACE IS ON

When Cody rode up on his "mouse-colored mule," the 28-year-old Custer, nicknamed the "boy general" for his Civil War exploits, made a jest: "Cody, I want to travel fast and go through as quickly as possible, and I don't think that mule of yours is fast enough to suit me."

After taking one look at Custer's thoroughbred, Cody felt confident Custer would soon be eating his words.

"'General, never mind the mule," said [Cody], 'he'll get there as soon as your horses.'"

The party proceeded to the Smoky Hill River, where Cody admitted, "'I could hardly keep the mule in advance of the General, who rode a frisky, impatient and ambitious thoroughbred steed; in fact, the whole party was finely mounted. The General repeatedly told me that the mule was 'no good,' and that I ought to have had a good horse.

"But after crossing the river and striking the sand-hills, I began letting my mule out a little, and putting the 'persuaders' to him. He was soon out-traveling the horses, and by the time we had made about half the distance to Fort Larned, I occasionally had to wait for the General or some of his party, as their horses were beginning to show signs of fatigue.

"'General, how about this mule, anyhow?' I asked, at last.

"'Cody, you have a better vehicle than I thought you had,' was his reply."

The story of this mule race grew and grew, so that by the time of Cody's fourth and final autobiography, Custer's horse was more than just slow. It was dead. Although that volume was published posthumously in 1920, the stories shared



Custer (far left) was notoriously hard on horses. One report states he had a dozen horses shot out from under him during Civil War battles.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –





came from a series of articles Cody wrote for William Randolph Hearst, says Buffalo Bill Museum Curator Jeremy Johnston, at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

When Cody rode out to the general's quarters after breakfast, he was greeted with, "'I am not feeling very pleasant this morning, Cody,' [Custer] said. 'My horse died during the night.'

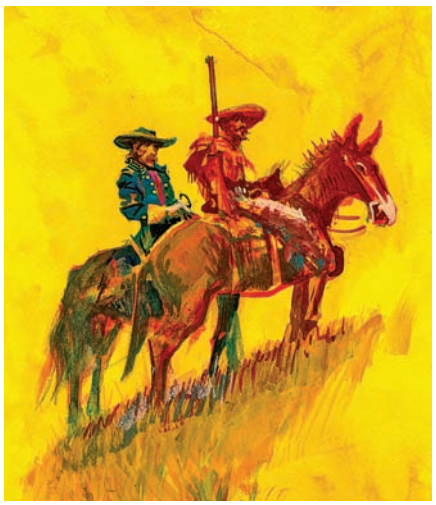
"I said I was very sorry his animal got in too fast a class the day before.

"'Well,' he replied, 'hereafter I will have nothing to say against a mule. We will meet again on the Plains. I shall try to have you detailed as my guide, and then we will have time to talk over that race."

Since the death of Custer's horse after the mule race does not appear in all of Cody's autobiographies, *True West's* Historical Consultant Paul Andrew Hutton theorizes that "some press agent was trying to improve on Cody's original story."

History aficionados may prefer the "improved" tale, but Custer's thoroughbred probably didn't die of exhaustion. Buffalo Bill's mule, though, did claim victory over the Boy General's horse!

—Meghan Saar



A classic "tortoise and hare" tale, George Custer and his horse pranced out front for the first 40-some miles. When those horses got tired, Buffalo Bill Cody's mule just kept on going. Humiliated, Custer, no doubt pushed his horse to the edge of endurance...and killed him.

– PHOTO OF CUSTER'S HORSES, DANDY AND VIC, COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

JACKASS BILL CODY

"Bill Cody (Buffalo Bill), one of our scouts and one of the best shots on the plains... gets $60 per month and a splendid mule to ride, and is one of the most contented and happy men I ever met."

—George Armes, U.S. Army officer

BY ROD MILLER

Utah Bloodbath

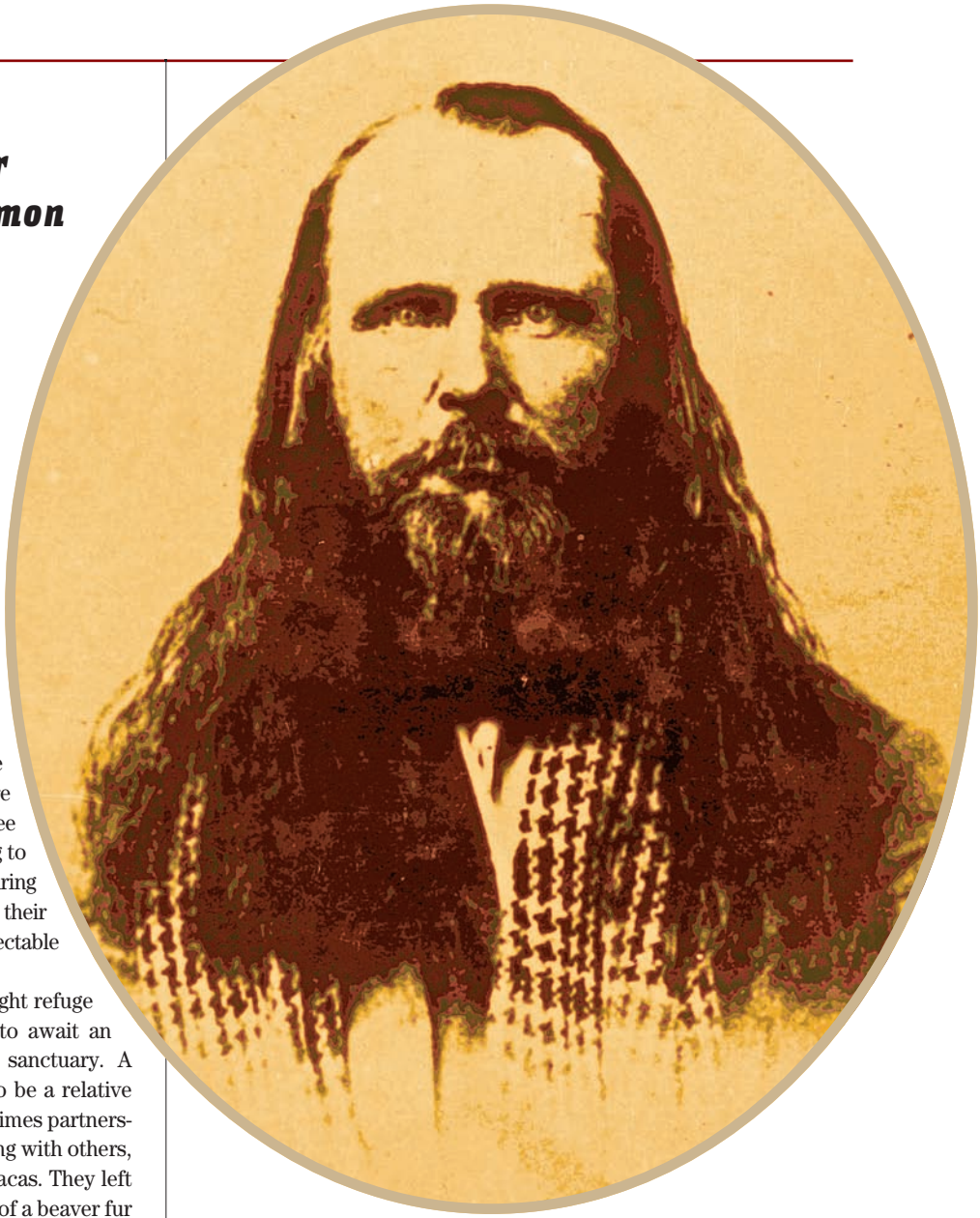
Friendship no longer mattered to the Mormon enforcer during a deadly shoot-out at Faust's Station.

One thing is certain: Porter Rockwell shot and killed Lot Huntington at Faust's Station on January 16, 1862. All accounts agree on that—but not much more.

The debacle started about two weeks earlier, when Lot and a few others beat the hell out of John W. Dawson as he attempted to flee Utah Territory, where he had served as governor for all of three weeks. The politician had done nothing to endear himself to the people of Utah during his brief tenure, but did much to earn their ire—including propositioning a respectable Mormon woman.

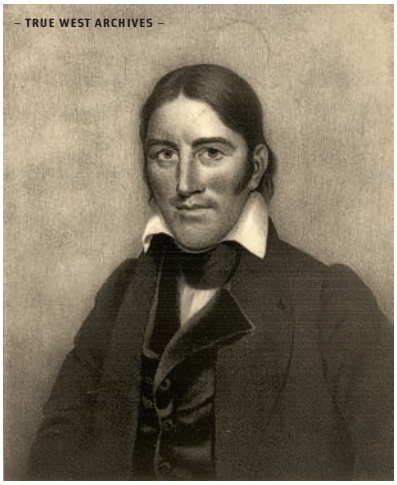
Dawson left Salt Lake City and sought refuge at a stage station at Mountain Dell to await an outbound coach. But he found no sanctuary. A rowdy named Wood Reynolds, said to be a relative of the insulted woman, with his sometimes partners-in-crime Moroni Clawson and Lot, along with others, set upon the governor in a drunken fracas. They left him beaten, without even the comfort of a beaver fur stole, which they pilfered, along with the governor's blankets, before riding away.

The men "began and continued a most serious violence to me, wounding my head badly in many places, kicking me in the loins and right breast



The personal bodyguard of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Latter-day Saints church, Porter Rockwell survived many a gunfight and died of natural causes on June 9, 1878. His bones lie under a sizable monument in Utah's Salt Lake City Cemetery.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –


– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

until I was exhausted..," Dawson stated in a letter to *The Deseret News*, published January 22.

He named his assailants, writing of them that "it should be the unremitting duty of the people of Salt Lake City to bring to speedy trial and condign punishment."

While no one in Utah Territory was much interested in punishing the men who gave Dawson a deserved punishment in their eyes, authorities did issue arrest warrants, but made little effort to serve them.

Then Lot doubled down on his allure to the law when he was accused, with friend John Smith, of lifting $800 from an Overland Mail strongbox at Townsend's Stable. Now he *had* to flee the territory.

Clawson and John Smith joined him in the escape. They might have succeeded if Lot had not stopped in the town of West Jordan and stolen a horse called Brown Sal. Tied to a fencepost by John Bennion, who was attending a late-night meeting, the mare was a prized possession of the family and particularly loved by John's son Sam. When John arrived home in the wee hours, following a four-mile walk through the January night, Sam, angered by the theft of the horse, gathered a posse and launched a pursuit. Leading them was John's friend Porter Rockwell, 48, who was widely regarded throughout the West for his abilities as a tracker and manhunter.

"First be sure you're right, then go ahead."

–David Crockett

"He Had His Little Faults"

A deputy U.S. marshal, Rockwell was considered by many to be an outlaw, as they suspected him of committing numerous murders in service to the leaders of the Mormon church. He was a boyhood friend of church founder Joseph Smith and served as his bodyguard, a role he also filled for Joseph's successor, Brigham Young.

Near the end of the Mormons' sojourn in Illinois in 1845, Rockwell shot and killed Frank Worrell, who led the militia unit responsible for Smith's murder. Rockwell was suspected of—and had been jailed for—the 1842 attempted murder of Lilburn Boggs who, as governor of Missouri, drove the Mormons from the state. While Rockwell was escorting a group of would-be gamblers, led by John Aiken, out of Utah Territory in 1857, they ended up dead. About 20 years later, Rockwell was awaiting trial for that crime when he died. Dozens of other killings were assigned to his account.

Whether outlaw or lawman or both, Rockwell was feared and respected throughout the frontier. Scout, hunter, tracker, rancher, gunfighter, driver—his many skills placed him among the most storied pioneers of his day. He was famous, and infamous, from the Mississippi River to the California gold fields.

"He had his little faults, but Porter's life on earth, taken altogether, was one worthy of example, and reflected honor upon the Church. Through all his trials he had never once forgotten his obligations to his brethren and his God," Mormon Apostle Joseph F. Smith said in his eulogy at Rockwell's 1878 funeral.

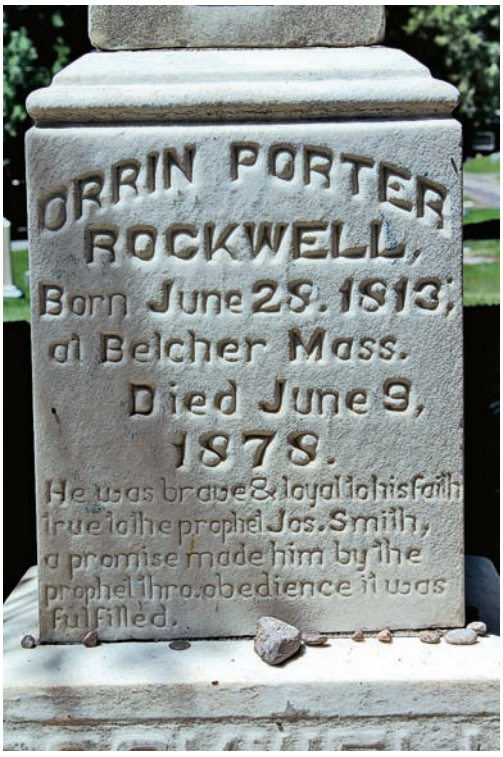
The Salt Lake Tribune offered a different opinion when reporting his death: "Porter Rockwell is another of the long list of Mormon criminals whose deeds of treachery and blood have reddened the soil of Utah, and who has paid no forfeit to offended law.... He killed unsuspecting travelers, whose booty was coveted by his prophet-master. He killed fellow Saints who held secrets that menaced the safety of their fellow criminals in the priesthood. He killed apostates who dared to wag their tongues about the wrongs they had endured. And he killed mere sojourners in Zion merely to keep his hand in."

A Man of Contradictions

But in January 1862, Rockwell was very much alive and was trailing Lot. A long-time associate of Lot's father, Dimick, Rockwell had known the boy all his life. Never mind. He was after the outlaw and meant to have him.

Fiercely loyal to whoever he was working for at the time, Rockwell walked a fine line between outlaw and lawman. As a deputy U.S. marshal, he spent much of his time rounding up lawbreakers in Utah Territory. He was often willing to set aside personal allegiances in pursuit of enforcing the law or accomplishing whatever mission his Mormon leaders assigned him. He would have subscribed to David Crockett's statement, "First be sure you're right, then go ahead."

The trail led south out of Salt Lake Valley, then veered west toward Camp Floyd—recently re-christened Fort Crittenden



The epitaph on Rockwell's grave makes no reference to his bloody history, instead alluding to a prophecy pronounced upon him by Joseph Smith, promising if he did not cut his hair or beard and stayed true to the Mormon faith, "no bullet or blade" could harm him.

– BY ROD MILLER –

when its namesake, Secretary of War John B. Floyd, absconded to the Confederacy. Rockwell and his posse pushed hard, trying to make up the criminals' head start of some 24 hours.

Accounts differ concerning Lot's flight. Some claim all three men were mounted. Others say they had only two horses, with the men taking turns on shanks' mare. They pushed westward on the Overland Trail, past Fort Crittenden. When Rockwell's party arrived there, cold and tired, the leader surmised his prey had pushed on to a stage stop some 20 miles on, to overnight there.

Rockwell borrowed a stagecoach and team to complete the journey in relative comfort. Given his history of recovering property and arresting bandits for the Overland Mail, the company was happy to cooperate. They pushed on to Faust's Station, operated by German native Henry Jacob "Doc" Faust. The Rush Valley layover had served George Chorpenning's "Jackass Mail," the Pony Express as a home station and now the Overland Stage as a stagecoach stop. Rockwell arrived before dawn and secreted his men at strategic points around the station and himself behind a stack of cedar fence posts.

After frigid hours of waiting, Rockwell saw Faust come out for morning chores. He waved the agent over and asked about the outlaws. Faust said they were inside, eating breakfast. Rockwell sent him back with an order to surrender.

A Higher Allegiance

Lot came out alone, pistol in hand, heading for the corral and Brown Sal. The 27 year old was tall and strongly built, and a crack shot. Just more than two years earlier, he had been wounded in a gunfight with "Wild Bill" Hickman, another enforcer for the Mormon church.

Lot fired, and one of his bullets shattered Hickman's hip, leaving fragments of lead that would trouble Hickman for the rest of his days.

As Lot fled, a ball from Hickman's pistol punched a hole in the younger man's backside and lodged in his groin, beyond retrieval.

On this January morning, the now wounded Lot became no match for his father's close friend. Rockwell apparently yelled at Lot to surrender. The outlaw instead mounted Brown Sal bareback and aimed his revolver at Rockwell. The Mormon Enforcer fired, filling Lot with a load of double-aught buckshot.

Or, another account states, Lot concealed himself behind the horse, led it to a pole gate and started dropping the poles. The mare shied away, exposing Lot to Rockwell's fire.

However the shoot-out happened, Lot ended up dead.

"[Lot] Huntington drew his revolver where upon he was shot in the belly with 8 slugs cutting the arteries to pieces. Huntington fell with part of his body in the corral and one leg outside of the corral. He bled to death in four minutes,"



"Wild Bill" Hickman (left), another Mormon church enforcer, felt no loss over Lot Huntington, but even he admitted something shady had happened when Lot's buddies were killed.





Loyalty to one friend superseded Porter Rockwell's loyalty to another. He went after the horse thief because of his friendship with John Bennion (left), but even though he was a close friend to Dimick Huntington (below) and watched his son, Lot, grow up, Rockwell's allegiance to enforcing Mormon law was stronger.

– BENNION PHOTO COURTESY JOSEPH BENNION; HUNTINGTON PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

reported *The Journal History of the Church*, a daily history recorded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Clawson and John Smith surrendered. "Porter and party have just returned with Clawson and Smith. [Lot] Huntington, in attempting to escape was killed. The party will leave here in about half an hour," the *Deseret News* reported from a January 16 wire sent to the Overland Mail agent in Salt Lake City from the Fort Crittenden station.

Rockwell released the prisoners to the Salt Lake City lawmen and left. He had not gotten far when he heard gunfire.

"...the prisoners, supposing probably that the policemen were unarmed, started to run, and were shot at and both killed before getting far away," the *Deseret News* reported.

Here, too, accounts differ. The aforementioned Hickman saw Clawson's and John Smith's bodies. "Both were powder-burnt and one shot in the face," he claimed. "How could that be, and they running?"

How, indeed.

Spur Award-winning author **Rod Miller** writes history, fiction and poetry about the American West. His latest book is a novel, *Rawhide Robinson Rides the Tabby Trail.*

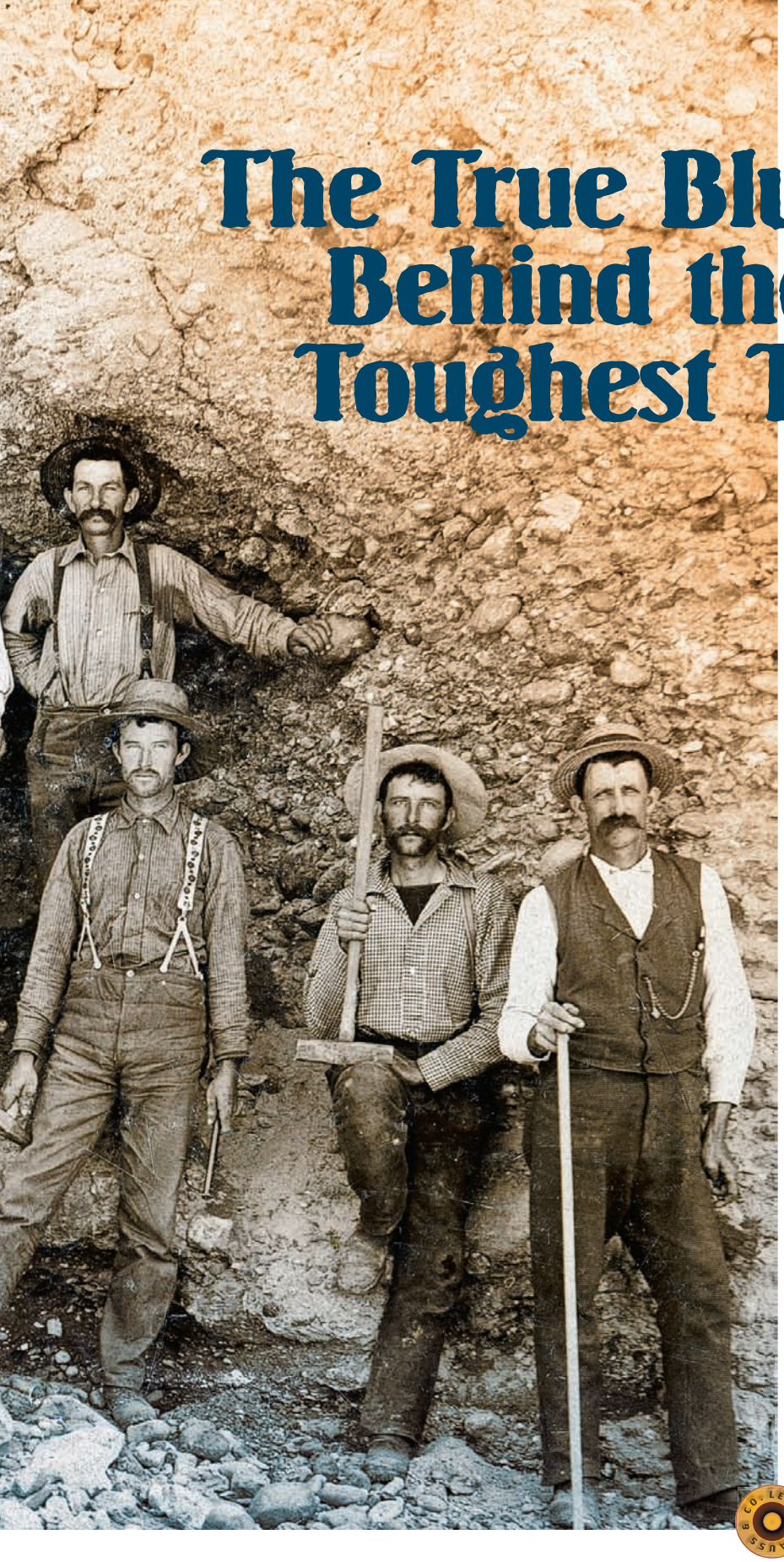
Faust's Station (below) was a Pony Express and Overland Stage stop in Utah Territory. Station keeper Henry Jacob Faust was a German immigrant who dropped out of medical school to prospect for gold in California before he took charge of the station when it began serving the Pony Express. Faust's medical knowledge benefited local Indians and settlers, earning him the nickname "Doc."





These miners used a variety of suspenders to hold up their Levi's jeans in this 1895 photo of them at California's Manzanita gravel mine on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County.

– COURTESY DR. ROBERT J. CHANDLER –



The True Blue Story Behind the West's Toughest Trousers

Digging through the ashes to uncover the tale of the frontiersman who made blue jeans possible.

Everyone knows his name, and everyone thinks they know his story. He's Levi Strauss, the man who made the first blue jeans possible. But he's also a figure of grand myth because the company he founded lost its historical records in the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco, California. The real story was left in the ashes, but after spending 24 years as the company's historian, I can right the historical record.

BY LYNN DOWNEY

The week of December 10, 1894, was drizzly and cold in Benson, Arizona Territory. When the Southern Pacific shrieked into town, the passengers who stepped off the train were bundled up against the chill. Two of them were substantial, bearded men who walked directly into the lobby of the Grand Central Hotel. There, they signed the register: Adolph Sutro and Levi Strauss.

The clerk, no doubt pleased to have such distinguished men as guests, gave them first-class rooms, reasonable rates and the best of meals, just as the Grand Central advertised. The clerk and the hotel's other guests thought they knew the identities of these illustrious visitors. But they were wrong.

The two gentlemen were impostors.

The real-life Sutro and Strauss were in San Francisco, California, that week, attending to their personal business.

Sutro, a Comstock Lode icon who invested his mining tunnel fortune into real estate, had just been elected mayor of the city and was preparing for the upcoming visit of Gen. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. Strauss, the president of Levi Strauss & Co., was a merchant, philanthropist and the man behind the popular copper-riveted denim "Two Horse" work pants. He was in court telling Judge JCB Hebbard why he couldn't serve on the grand jury that term.

Whoever those men in Benson were, the faux Sutro and Strauss had themselves a good time, playing off the recognition of celebrities many thought they knew well.

A Figure of Grand Myth

For decades, the Levi Strauss & Co.'s story about Strauss, the founding of the company and the invention of blue jeans went like this: Strauss was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1829, came to America and worked with his brothers in New York and Kentucky, then took a clipper ship to San Francisco, California, in 1850. There, he noticed that miners' pants kept ripping, so he made a pair out of some tent canvas that he'd brought with him from New York. Later, he worked with a tailor in Reno, Nevada, to put rivets in the trousers and, at some point, dyed them indigo blue.



Even the famous company that Levi Strauss built and founded did not discover his true story until recently. The blue jeans innovator is shown here, circa 1890.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY LEVI STRAUSS & CO. ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

It's a fun story, but it's pure fabrication. Here's how it really happened.

Bavarian-born Strauss emigrated with his mother and sisters to New York in 1848. His two older brothers were already there, and he worked in their wholesale dry goods business.

In 1853, Strauss took the Panama route to San Francisco to open up a West Coast branch of the family business, distributing the fine dry goods that his brothers shipped to him. His customers were general stores and men's haberdasheries, and they served the small villages and growing cities of the frontier West.

In 1871, a Russian immigrant named Jacob Davis, living in Reno, Nevada, started making work pants out of cotton duck and denim material, reinforcing the stress points with metal rivets. He wanted to patent this innovation, but needed a business partner. He turned to his fabric supplier, Strauss, and the two men received U.S. patent #139,121 on May 20, 1873. Within weeks, Levi Strauss & Co. began to manufacture and sell copper-riveted blue denim "waist overalls." These two immigrants had invented the most American piece of clothing: blue jeans.

Strauss had his finger on the pulse of so much that we associate with the West, starting with the riveted pants. He knew that the Western states were filled with workingmen who labored as ranchers, lumberjacks, railroaders, teamsters, cowboys and miners. Those tough trousers were just what the tailor ordered.

But Strauss's interests ranged farther, and his fame brought influence and, sometimes, danger.

Blow His Head Off

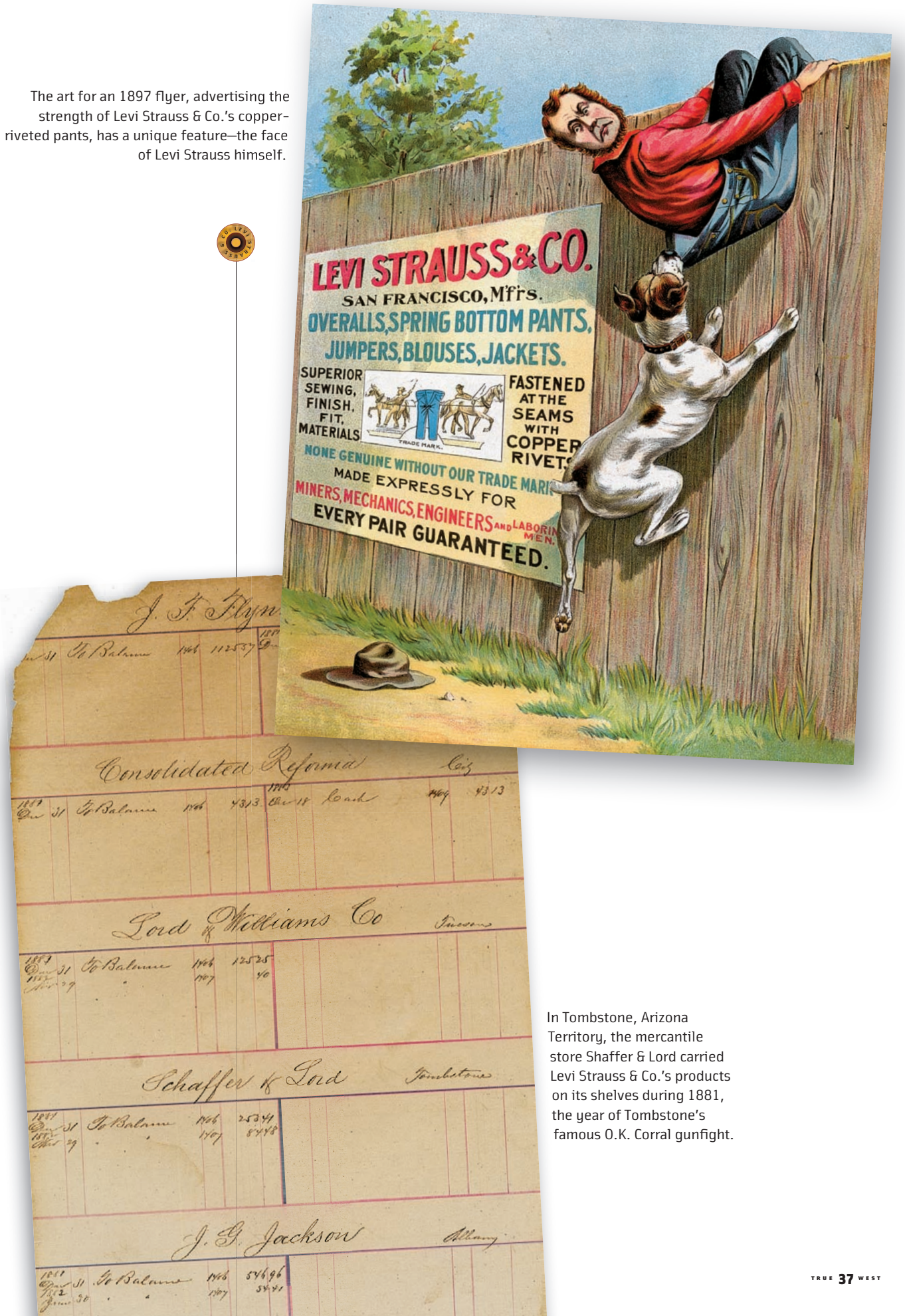
Take the case of Antonio Gagliardo. He was a failed store owner from Calaveras County, California. After declaring bankruptcy in 1885, he took off for Los Angeles. Recalling his former dry goods supplier, the wealthy and well-known Strauss, Gagliardo mailed Strauss a request to find him a store clerking job. Strauss sent him $50 and a kind note, but instead of being grateful, Gagliardo exploded with rage.

He wrote Strauss again and told him he had 10 days to get him a job or he would "blow his head off."

Strauss had friends in San Francisco who knew Gagliardo, and they advised him to call the police, but Strauss said the poor man was simply "overexcited by his troubles."

When Gagliardo showed up in San Francisco, though, Strauss finally paid attention and alerted the chief of police, who had the man arrested and tossed in jail. The case never came to trial because Strauss refused to prosecute. Why?

The art for an 1897 flyer, advertising the strength of Levi Strauss & Co.'s copper-riveted pants, has a unique feature—the face of Levi Strauss himself.



In Tombstone, Arizona Territory, the mercantile store Shaffer & Lord carried Levi Strauss & Co.'s products on its shelves during 1881, the year of Tombstone's famous O.K. Corral gunfight.



These cowboys matched their hardy jeans with their hardy stock. The back of this postcard states, "Burro pack desert travel, taken at Cima, Cal. 9 burros with two men. How would you like to travel like this."

– COURTESY DR. ROBERT J. CHANDLER –

Gagliardo "promised to refrain from carrying his sanguinary promises into execution." He kept his promise.

Infamous Customers

Some of Strauss's customers were famous, and even infamous.

Shaffer & Lord, of Tombstone, Arizona Territory, sold Strauss's riveted clothing and dry goods for many years; who knows how many customers were perusing their shelves as the shots from the O.K. Corral rang out nearby on that October day in 1881?

Joseph Goldwater bought dry goods from the firm in San Francisco and then took off for the "land of the rattlesnake and the tarantula" without paying, turning the goods over to a partner in Yuma named Isaac Lyons. Hearing that the law was on their trail, Goldwater and Lyons barricaded themselves into a store, armed with shotguns. When the U.S. marshal showed up, though, they quietly surrendered.

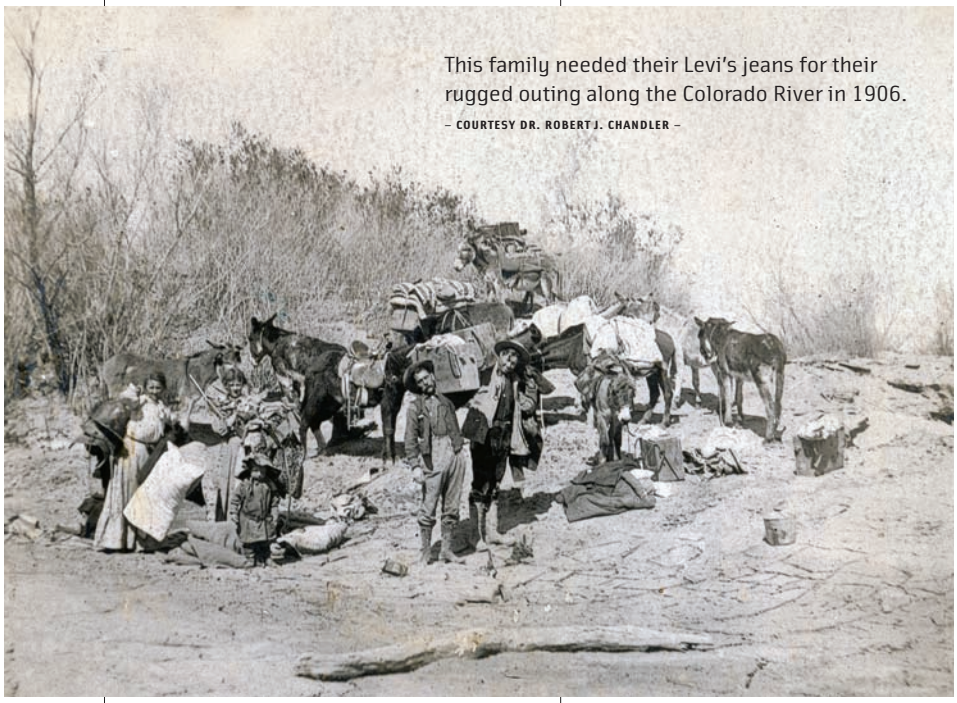
Whoever his customers were, Strauss had a strong pulse on his business. Transportation was key to commercial success for his California merchants, so he was especially interested in improvements in shipping. When he could, he had a hand in these improvements. In 1895, he gave $25,000 to help thwart the "Octopus"—the Southern Pacific Railroad, which had a stranglehold on Western freight rates. Strauss, sugar magnate Claus Spreckels and others founded the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railway, which, for a time, gave shippers, large and small, an alternative to the Southern Pacific, and it was later sold to the Santa Fe Railroad.

Not So Serious?

Strauss was serious about commerce, and looking at his stern face in his surviving photos, you would think he was serious about everything. But the historical record offers hints that he also had a warm and even hilarious side.

In 1888, he let one of his customers use his books to check the credit ratings of mutual store accounts. The customer, dry goods merchant Henry Lash, sometimes sent his 18-year-old son Samuel in his stead. Samuel was always in awe of the famous Strauss and deeply impressed that the great man insisted on being called Levi and not Mr. Strauss. As Samuel later said, "I still remember Levi Strauss as one of the finest, kindest and friendliest gentlemen I've ever met."

Then there's hilarious: in the late 1880s, the company began to print colorful flyers about the riveted clothing, with illustrations demonstrating the strength of the pants. In 1897, the firm put a new flyer into circulation. It featured a man in a red shirt and riveted denim trousers, hanging



This family needed their Levi's jeans for their rugged outing along the Colorado River in 1906.

– COURTESY DR. ROBERT J. CHANDLER –



Mining wasn't the only big business in California when Levi Strauss arrived in San Francisco during the Gold Rush. He and everyone else needed to eat, and farmers were as important to commerce as were dry goods merchants like Strauss. Agriculture workers, like these men in turn-of-the-20th-century Elk Grove, wore Levi's jeans as they manned their machinery.



Before Levi Strauss's patent turned 10 years old, miners could be seen wearing his jeans at the Blue Eyes Mine in Placer County, California, in 1882.



When frontier Texas cowboys wrestled their steers to the ground, they wore their tough Levi's jeans to endure the grit and gore that could result from a day of branding.

onto a fence by his hands and knees, as a large dog grips the man's pants with its jaws. On the fence is a large handbill advertising the Levi Strauss & Co. patent riveted clothing. At the bottom of the flyer are the words, "Never Rip, Never Tear, I Wish They Did Now."

That's funny enough, but here's the best part: the man on the fence is Strauss. This says a lot about the founder's personality and his belief in the power of advertising. It's hard to imagine any of his contemporaries allowing themselves to be a figure of fun in the name of sales.

Toughie with a Soft Spot

When Strauss died in 1902, newspaper headlines called him a merchant and philanthropist. Yes, he had built a multi-million dollar business, but he was also a man of deep compassion. He created scholarships at the University of California in Berkeley that are still in place today. He gave thousands of dollars to disaster relief all over the world. And he left equal amounts in his will to San Francisco charities aimed at children and the elderly.

Tributes to his character filled newspaper columns in the days after his death, and stories were shared at his funeral, all laudatory and heartfelt. But for my money, the comment made years later by one of the women who worked at his blue jeans factory sums him up best.

"He was tough, but a fine fellow."

A member of Western Writers of America, **Lynn Downey** is the historian emeritus for Levi Strauss & Co. and author of *Levi Strauss: The Man Who Gave Blue Jeans to the World,* published by University of Massachusetts Press.

The perils of working in the stagecoach business sometimes hit closer to home.

BY PETER BRAND

The Empty Sleeve Gunfight

When Joseph W. Evans passed away suddenly on May 28, 1902, at his home in Phoenix, Arizona Territory lost one of its most successful businessmen and a distinguished citizen, reported the *Arizona Republican* newspaper, which printed a lengthy and glowing eulogy the day after his passing.

During his lifetime, Evans had worked as a successful stagecoach agent, a Wells Fargo operative and a deputy U.S. marshal. He rode in countless posses, made numerous arrests and knew famous lawmen who included Wyatt Earp and Bob Paul. His eulogy focused on his life after his career in law enforcement, but it left out one fact that made his achievements even more noteworthy—for the majority of his time in Arizona, he had the use of only one arm, courtesy of a gunfight that took place in Prescott in 1875.

Upstaged in Arizona

Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on July 4, 1851, Evans was raised by his mother after the premature death of his father in 1854. Federal census records for 1860 show that the family was comparatively well-off in Fayetteville, prior to the Civil War, with real estate holdings estimated at $4,000. By the 1870 census, however, the family's asset worth had halved. Evans was enumerated on this census as an 18 year old clerk who resided with his mother, sister and grandmother in Cross Creek.

Evans left North Carolina sometime after the 1870 census and, along with many other like-minded young men, headed west. By 1872, he had arrived in Phoenix, Arizona Territory.

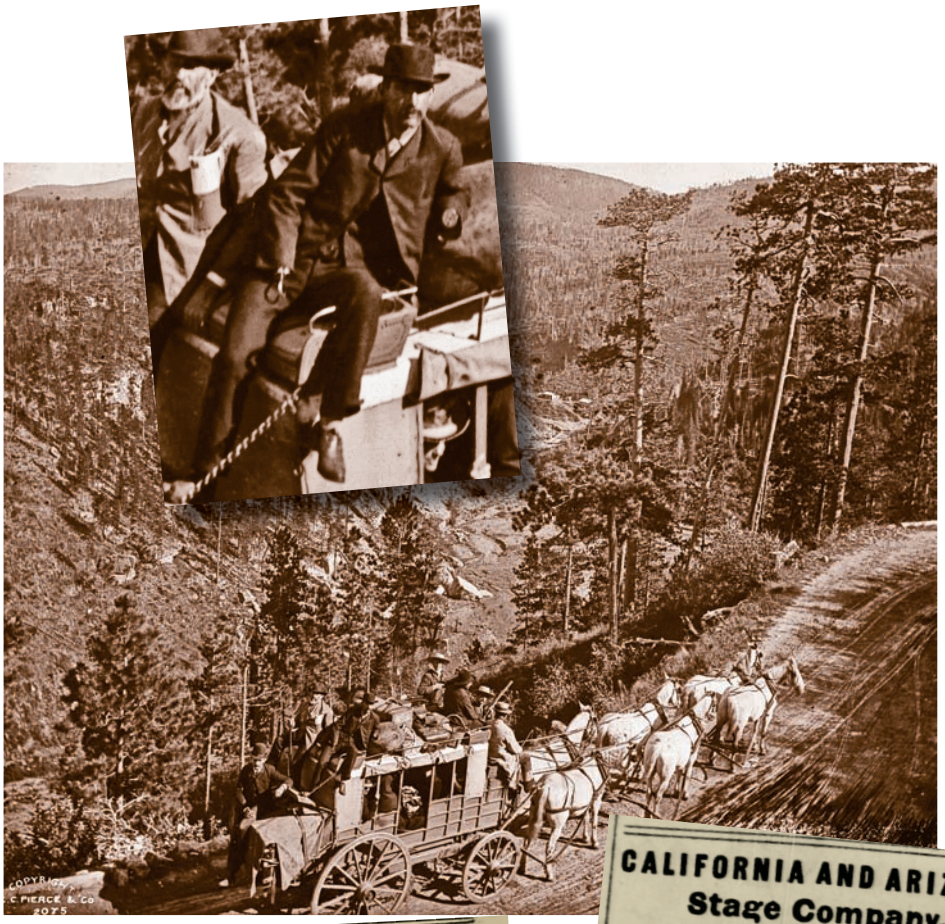
On December 26, 1873, the *Weekly Arizona Miner* newspaper announced that Evans was in Prescott to look after James Grant's stage business, and he was soon appointed as the managing agent there. Grant owned one of the major transport companies in the region, Arizona Stage Lines. The seasoned businessman and stage line proprietor had secured the government contract to carry the mail on the three most important and lucrative routes at the time—including California's rich San Bernardino-to-Prescott run.

The growing business soon became known as the California and Arizona Stage Company. Evans proved to be a good agent, and the local press commended the company's excellent mail delivery, although Grant also received criticism for using buckboards to transport passengers, rather than the more costly, yet relatively comfortable, Concord stagecoaches.

Two of Evans's best drivers were William Reid, who rode the Mohave route, and James Carroll, who drove the Prescott-to Wickenburg-run. In his early 30s, the experienced Carroll had previously worked for stage companies in Colorado. Local press had praised both Reid and Carroll for their ability to drive on dangerous waterlogged roads and keep their stagecoaches upright and their passengers safe. As good as he was with a six-horse team, Carroll apparently clashed with Evans over matters that may have related to Carroll's heavy drinking. Evans and the Prescott postmaster, James Giles, wanted Carroll transferred away from Prescott, and the two men intended to strongly recommend to Grant that he do so.

They never got their chance.

On the evening of February 12, 1875, Reid was hitching a team to a buckboard for the regular mail run from Prescott



Arizona Territory stagecoach agent Joseph W. Evans was just one among other pioneers out West who had to overcame a physical disability, many of them getting their injuries while fighting in wars. This Dakota Territory stagecoach passenger (see close-up in the inset) is missing both his arms!

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ARIZONA STAGE LINES.

Prescott, Tucson & San Bernardino
U. S. MAILS
Leave Prescott and San Bernardino
WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS,
At 7 o'clock A. M.
Leave Tucson and Wickenburg
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS,
At 7 o'clock A. M.,
Connecting at Wickenburg with the Stages from Prescott and San Bernardino.
Parties wishing transportation to Arizona via this route, can be furnished the same in
Four or Six-Horse Stages,
On private contract, by giving one week's notice in advance to Agent of Arizona Stage Line at San Bernardino. The rates for same will be in proportion to the accommodation required.
Office at Wickenburg.
J. H. PIERSON,
Superintendent

CALIFORNIA AND ARIZON
Stage Company.

SEMI-WEEKLY FROM
Prescott, Florence and Wickenburg,
THROUGH TO
San Bernardino and Los Angeles
IN SIX DAYS,
Carrying the United States Mails, and the California and Arizona Express Co.'s Packages and Express, Connecting with Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express at San Bernardino, Cal.

OUR CONCORD COACHES leave San Bernardino daily with Passengers, U. S. Mails and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, connecting with Railroad at Spadra, running through to Los Angeles in Ninety Minutes. Arizona passengers over these routes cross the Gila and Salt Rivers, pass through

Phœnix, Colorado River Indian Reservation, Ehrenberg, Dos Palms, Agua Calliente or Great Hot Mineral Springs, Celebrated San Gorgonia Pass, and Many Places of Interest along the Route worthy of notice.

All particulars apply at our offices, represented b
V. EVANS, Agent.....Prescott.
J. H. PIERSON, Secretary....Wickenburg.
HOWE, Agent.....Phœnix.
OLLINGWOOD, Agent.....Florence.
STARKE, Agent.....Ehrenberg.
HUGHES, Agent.....San Bernardino.
NICHOLS, Agent.....Spadra.
PRIDHAM, Agent.....Los Angeles.
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Joseph W. Evans (right) parlayed his success as a stagecoach agent into a successful lawman career. He didn't need both arms to track down Arizona's territorial criminals.

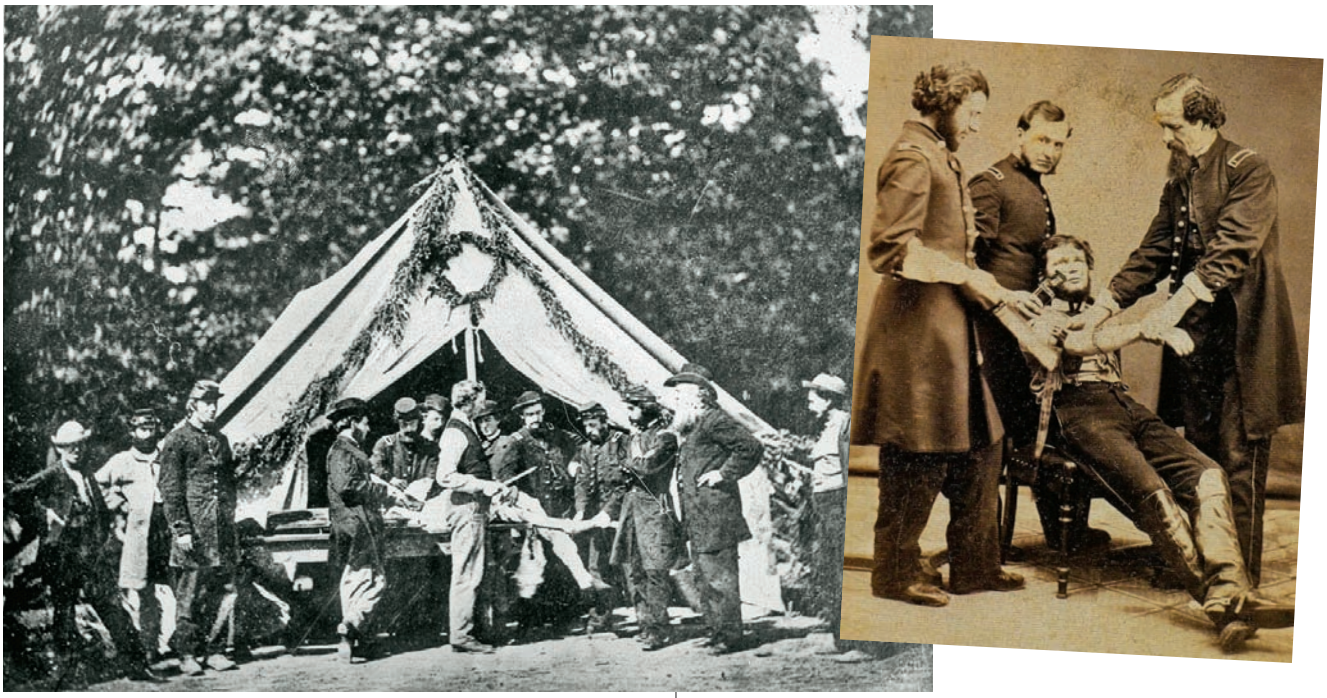
– COURTESY PETER BRAND –

to Wickenburg. Reid was assisting Carroll, who was too intoxicated to round up the horses that were scattered around the corral. When Evans came out of the stage office and saw the situation, he confronted Carroll, telling him that he was too drunk to drive the buckboard. Evans declared that he would drive the buckboard to Wickenburg himself and went back into the office to dress for the night journey.

But after Reid finished hitching the team to the buckboard, Carroll foolishly mounted the vehicle and took the reins. Evans emerged from the office visibly annoyed that his directive had been ignored by the drunken driver.

"If you don't get off, I'll put you off!" Evans told Carroll, to which Carroll sarcastically replied, "You will put me off, will you?" Evans declared, "I will if you don't get off!"

No sooner had he uttered the last word, when Carroll pulled a gun and opened fire on Evans, shooting at least three times. One bullet struck Evans in the left forearm, about three inches below the elbow. Evans managed to



The name "sawbones" was correctly applied to military surgeons behind battle lines. When injuries required amputations, the doctor literally sawed off the patient's bone. These Civil War–era photos show an amputation being performed in a tent (above) and a surgeon about to amputate a soldier's arm (inset).

– TENT PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION; SURGEON PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

draw his gun and return fire before he fell backwards into the office doorway for cover.

As gunshots exploded around them, the horses reared and the two "wheelers" fell. Reid tried to hold onto the two lead horses. As the buckboard jerked, Carroll, who had been grazed on the side of the head by one of Evans's bullets, fell between the horses.

Hearing Carroll's call for a rescue, Reid gathered Carroll into his arms and dragged him clear of the horses. Having just barely escaped a desperate situation, Carroll noticed another one on its way—he saw the wounded Evans emerge from the office doorway, so Carroll raised his gun and opened fire. Evans did likewise, blazing away, and one of his shots drilled Carroll in the head as he was still in Reid's arms. With blood gushing from his second head wound, Carroll collapsed on Reid, who had been grazed in the thumb from a shot fired by one of the shooters.

Reid moved Carroll to the nearby Post Office, where onlookers attended to him as someone sent for medical help. When Dr. George Kendall came on the scene, he found two gunshot wounds to Carroll's head—one of which he deemed fatal. The doctor dressed the wounds as best he could and went to seek further assistance from a colleague. He returned with Dr. James McCandless, who confirmed the grim diagnosis. Carroll died four hours later. The owner of the stage line, Grant, expressed his deep regret at what he called the "unfortunate shooting affray."

Risking Life and Limb

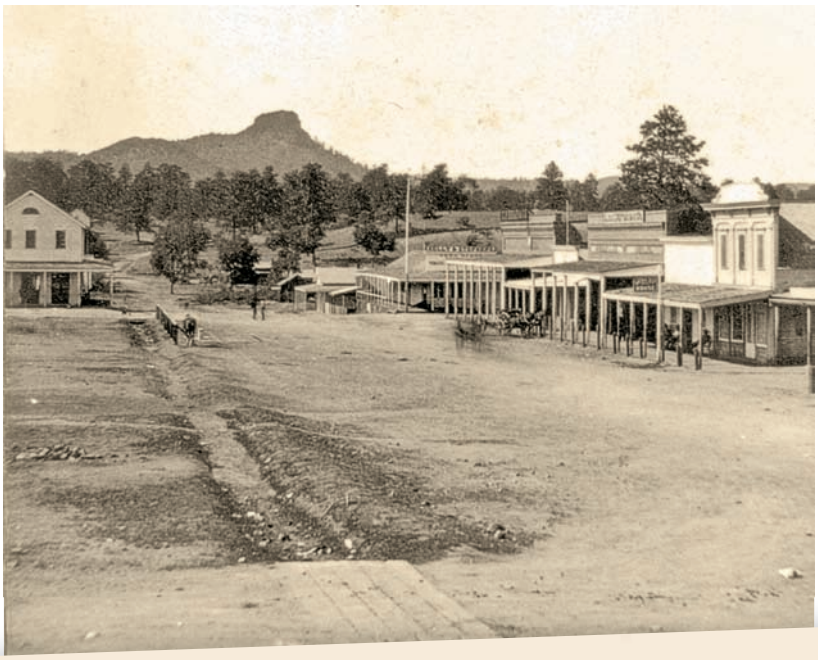
After Evans was placed under arrest for killing Carroll, Dr. McCandless treated his patient's wounded left arm. The bullet had passed between the bones of the forearm and he thought, at first, that the wound was not serious.

Within two weeks of the shooting, however, Evans was in trouble. Infection had taken over, and his left arm, left shoulder and breast were inflamed. The circulation in his damaged left arm was failing and gangrene had set in below the elbow. A U.S. Army surgeon from the nearby post, Dr. Henry Lippincott, was called in to examine Evans. His prognosis was bad—the arm needed to be amputated, just below the left elbow, or Evans would die. The operation on February 27 was a success, with Dr. Lippincott assisted by Dr. McCandless and Dr. Kendall administering the anesthetic, *The Weekly Arizona Miner* reported.

The operation saved Evans's life, but he was not out of danger yet. On the morning of March 12, the wound hemorrhaged badly and Evans lost a considerable amount of blood, leaving him in a weakened condition. His doctors stitched the wound again to stop the blood flow. A week later, *The Weekly Arizona Miner* reported that the patient had "turned the corner" and was on the way to recovery.

By the middle of April 1875, Evans was up and walking about town. He was well enough to appear before Justice Harley H. Carter on a charge of murder, was duly indicted and then released on a $500 bond to await his trial.

When Evans was arraigned in early May, he pleaded "Not Guilty." The trial began on May 20 in the district court in Prescott. On the morning of May 21, the district attorney admitted that the evidence proved insufficient to prosecute Evans, and the judge ordered the jury to find in favor of the defendant. On the same day that Evans was released, his boss, Grant, suffered a suspected heart attack while out



Joseph W. Evans at least escaped with his life. The namesake of Gurley Street, shown here in this circa 1877 photo of Prescott, died before he could take office as the first governor of Arizona Territory. On August 19, 1863, the eve of his departure, John A. Gurley died of a sudden attack of appendicitis.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –



To travel the wilderness west, perfect strangers sat cramped together on the roof or in the crowded coach, among their personal belongings and U.S. mail shipments. Some drank to endure the long hours of overland travel, including sometimes, as the unfortunate case that confronted stage manager James W. Evans revealed, the driver himself.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

scouting a better stage route into San Bernardino. He died before he knew his agent had been acquitted.

A Short-Lived Yet Fearless Life

Evans continued to work for the California and Arizona Stage Company until 1877, when he took up a position as a Wells Fargo operative. The next year, Evans also became a deputy U.S. marshal. His ability to make arrests and handle the rigorous duties of the job in the field, with only one arm, gained him many admirers and earned him a reputation as a fearless and dogged lawman.

One 1878 stagecoach robbery, in particular, highlights his arduous work. After three men robbed a stage 20 miles west of Maricopa Wells on September 2, Evans received a tip that one of the suspects was in Rio Mimbres, New Mexico. Not finding his man, he followed clues to Silver City and from there he rode to Fort Cummings and then toward Clifton, Arizona. At a point 15 miles above Camp Thomas on the Gila River, Evans came upon a herd of cattle and found his man, who was working for the trail boss under an alias. The suspect, James Rhodes, was convicted and sentenced to nine-and-a-half years in Yuma Territorial Prison.

Evans enforced the law until the mid-1880s, when he moved to Phoenix and entered the business world. Evans created a profitable real estate and loan company, became the president of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and the president of the Phoenix Board of Trade.

When he died in 1902, aged only 51, Evans was lauded as one of the most successful and progressive businessmen in Phoenix's short history. He should also be remembered as a man who triumphed over physical adversity and became one of Arizona Territory's most determined and dutiful lawmen.

Peter Brand is a writer and researcher of the American West, who is based in Sydney, Australia. He has written books on the life of Texas Jack Vermillion and on conman Perry Mallon. See *TombstoneVendetta.com* for more details.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

ROCK CREEK KILLFEST

JAMES BUTLER HICKOK VS DAVID MCCANLES

FROM COLD-BLOODED KILLING TO MASTER GUNFIGHT

MYTH HIDES UGLY TRUTH



The Rock Creek gunfight mythologizes into James Butler Hickok fighting 10 men at once, as shown in Alfred R. Waud's woodcut *The Struggle for Life.*

– COURTESY *HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE*, FEBRUARY 1867 –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Joseph G. Rosa

JULY 12, 1861

David McCanles, his 12-year-old son William and two employees ride up to Rock Creek Station, Nebraska Territory. Leaving his two hired hands at the barn, David goes with his son to the main house and demands that the occupants clear out.

Pony Express station keeper Horace Wellman tells David he has no such authority (see "Deadly Deal" sidebar, opposite page). An argument ensues. A frightened Horace retreats into the house, while Jane, his common-law wife, stands outside the doorway and berates David for thrashing her father earlier over an alleged theft.

James Butler Hickok (not yet Wild Bill) appears in the doorway. He tends to the Pony Express station's mules and horses. David advises the stock tender to keep away.

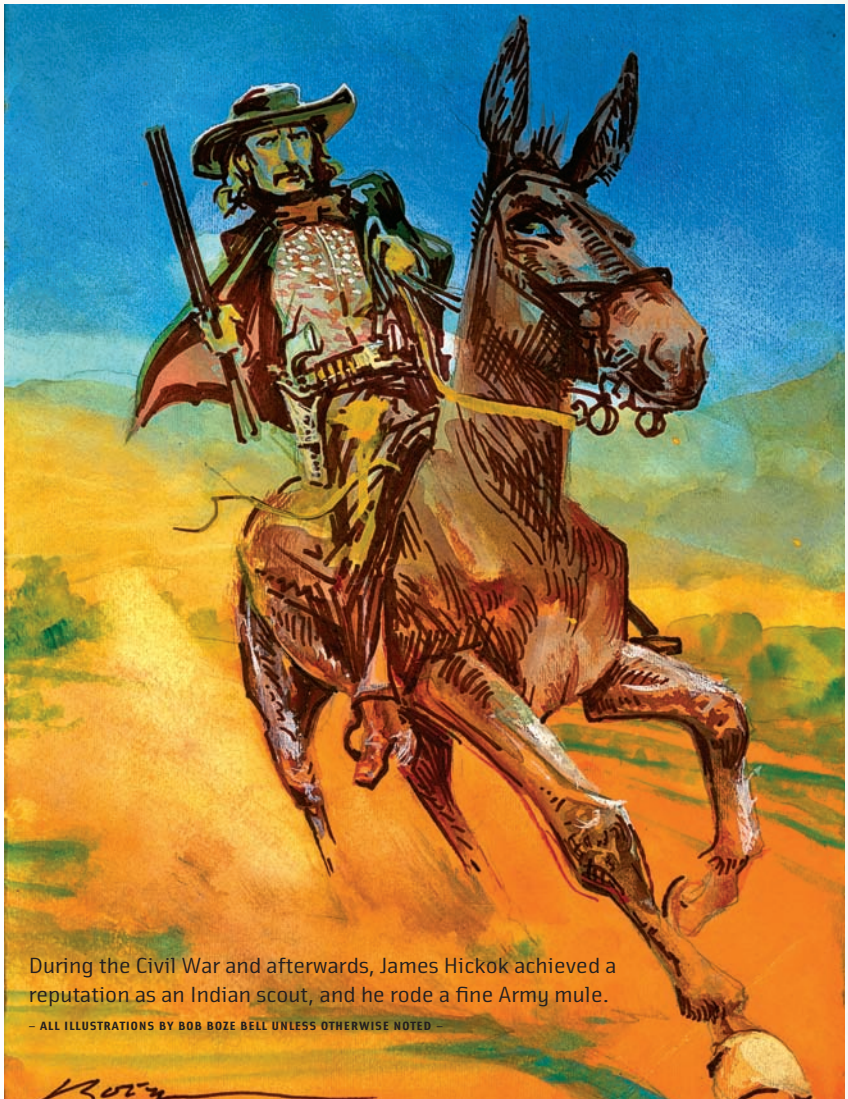
A known bully, David may have been carrying his usual pistol and shotgun that day. To gain time, David asks Hickok for a drink of water. Hickok steps inside to get it.

Moments later, a shot is fired from within the house, and David collapses.

James Woods and James Gordon, David's two employees, rush up from the barn and are both shot, though not fatally. Jane supposedly takes a hoe and smashes Woods's skull, perhaps aided by her still-frightened husband.

Gordon manages to escape into the brush, but his bloodhound follows him, and his pursuers follow his blood and the dog. Gordon is easily found and killed with a shotgun blast, supposedly by James W. "Doc" Brink, a Pony Express rider.

William runs to his father's side, but he's driven away by Jane. The boy escapes into the brush and makes it to safety.



During the Civil War and afterwards, James Hickok achieved a reputation as an Indian scout, and he rode a fine Army mule.

– ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

The Deadly Deal of David McCanles

David McCanles rides over to Rock Creek to evict the tenants that July day not only because of delinquent payments, but also because his station manager Horace Wellman told him some big news on July 11: the Pony Express company renting Rock Creek is bankrupt.

In April 1860, Russell, Majors & Waddell organized the Pony Express and leased Rock Creek as one of its relay stations. Later, the company negotiated a sale to David—one-third down, the remainder to be paid in monthly installments spread over three months.

When David showed up to clear house, he paid the ultimate price. Yet he died no innocent businessman. The ex-sheriff ended up in Rock Creek in 1859 after fleeing North Carolina with his mistress, Sarah Shull, and misappropriated county funds. He bought the overland station and corral, then built a ranch and sent for his family. His wife and kids showed up to find Shull (described as a "domestic" in census returns). A furious Mrs. McCanles put up with the mistress—barely.



David McCanles



Sarah Shull



The mistress may have sounded his death knell. James Hickok was also attracted to Shull, which likely contributed to the friction between him and David. Horace Wellman, though, also could have fired the deadly shot, to avenge David's beating of his father-in-law.

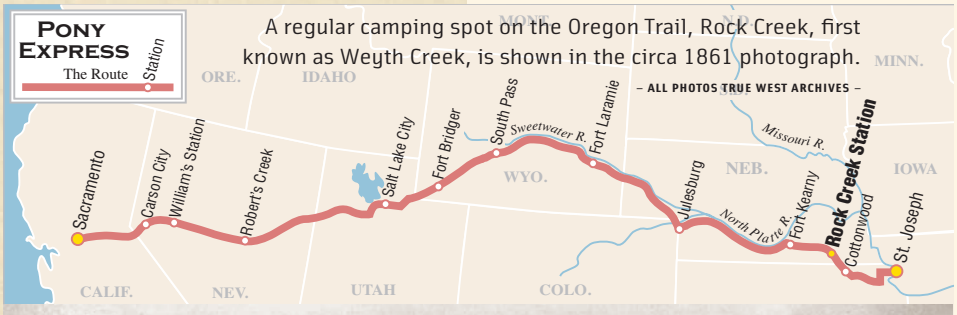
The truth eludes historians to this day.

James Hickok (left), as he probably appeared at the time of the McCanles shoot-out. Until April 1861, he worked for Jones & Cartwright, competitors of Russell, Majors & Waddell, owners of the Pony Express. He arrived at Rock Creek Station in late April or early May, when Horace Wellman employed him as a stock tender.

War Zone by Mule

Hickok's days working with mules at Rock Creek prepare him for his next charge of duty: as a civilian scout for the Union during the Civil War. After he signs up at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, he transports food, guns, ammunition and gear to depots or troops as a wagon master.

"The wagons were usually pulled by mules that were controlled by the teamsters, one of whom rode the lead mule or walked alongside it," Joseph G. Rosa wrote in *Wild Bill Hickok*. "Driving the wagons through a war zone was a hazardous task. The wagon teams were on guard against attack from enemy troops and guerrillas anxious to steal scarce supplies. They also risked severe weather and other natural dangers."



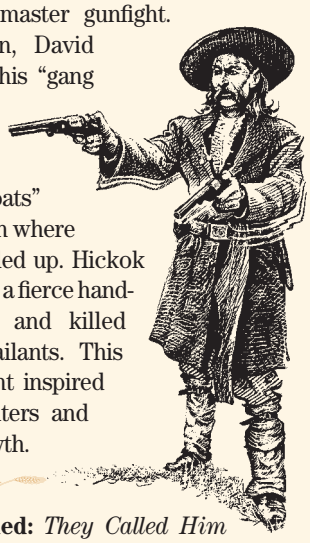
A regular camping spot on the Oregon Trail, Rock Creek, first known as Weyth Creek, is shown in the circa 1861 photograph.



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Three days later, James Hickok, Horace Wellman and James W. "Doc" Brink were arrested and charged with murder on warrants sworn out by the McCanles family. After a preliminary hearing, the defendants were discharged when the judge ruled they were defending company property at the time of the killings.

Six years later, Col. George Ward Nichols wrote a fantasy account of the fight for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, that turned the cold-blooded killing into a master gunfight. In this version, David McCanles and his "gang of desperadoes, horse-thieves, murderers, regular cut-throats" rushed the cabin where Hickok was holed up. Hickok managed to win a fierce hand-to-hand battle and killed all of his assailants. This fictional account inspired subsequent writers and enlarged the myth.



Recommended: *They Called Him Wild Bill* by Joseph G. Rosa, published by University of Oklahoma Press. For a study of Sarah Shull, David McCanles's mistress, an excellent source is *Tales Never Told Around the Campfire* by Mark Dugan, published by Swallow Press.

BY JO BAEZA

LITTLE KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Sheriff With a Deadly Addiction

An Arizona Territory lawman with a penchant for gambling and opium, Frank Wattron crashed and burned.



Frank Wattron entered his lawman career after winning a half-interest in this combined drugstore and saloon in Holbrook, Arizona Territory. He stands in the doorway, surrounded by friends.

– COURTESY ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS, HISTORY AND ARCHIVES DIVISION, PHOENIX, 97-9458 –

Francis Joseph Wattron, born February 5, 1861, in Hermann, Missouri, was a small boy when the town's alarm bells signaled an accident at Stone Hill Winery. His father, a vintner from France, had fallen into a vat of wine and drowned. Then his Swiss-born mother remarried and died in childbirth, leaving the boy orphaned.

His only relative in America was his namesake, Father Francis Joseph Wattron, a Jesuit priest. For six years, starting when the boy was seven, he lived in dire poverty on the Kansas frontier while his uncle established a mission for the Paola tribes.

In the summer of 1874, Frank, age 13, ran away after an unknown assailant nearly killed his uncle by gunshot. While Frank worked as a ranch hand in Texas and Mexico, cowboys taught him a trade that was more to his liking than plowing. He became an itinerant gambler.

His closest call came in a saloon in Glorieta, New Mexico Territory. A drunken Frank was "shooting off his mouth," as he admitted, when another player shot him in the groin under the table. Frank walked with an odd swagger all his life, but he fathered six children.

In Arizona Territory, Frank won a half-interest in a combined drugstore and saloon in Holbrook. At age 23, he owned the business, which gave him a ready supply of laudanum, a tincture of opium, for his constant pain.

In 1885, the Apache County Board of Supervisors appointed Frank constable of Holbrook, primarily to deal with the unruly Hashknife Outfit cowboys who had come in from Texas. After Frank helped Commodore Perry Owens get elected as sheriff the next year, Owens deputized him. They worked together to rid Apache County of outlaws.

Frank's life changed for the better in 1886, when he met Estelle Herstein, Holbrook's new schoolteacher from Tennessee. Their wedding on January 28, 1887, ushered in happy times for Frank in the 1890s. The Elks Lodge member raised funds for an opera house in Winslow and lobbied to preserve the area's petrified wood from mining. At one time, he held seven positions simultaneously. When Navajo County split from Apache County in 1895, making Holbrook the county seat, Frank became the county's first elected sheriff, in 1896. Meanwhile, he ran the drugstore during the days and the gaming tables into the early morning hours.

In 1899, Frank sent out an invitation to a hanging, required by law of Arizona Territory sheriffs, which President William McKinley failed to see the humor in. It stated: "Latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the proceedings cheerful and the execution a success."

The people responded by not electing Frank for a second term as sheriff. By December 1900, Estelle and the children had moved to Los Angeles, California. Frank visited, but could not find anyone to purchase his store so he could move too.

Five years later, Frank's friends found him unconscious on his drugstore cot, an empty bottle of laudanum beside him.

Late in the afternoon of August 2, he told his pals, "I've got a one-way ticket punched straight through to hell with no stops." He died shortly after, at the age of 44.

Stanford graduate **Jo Baeza** is the author of *Arizona: The Making of a State.* Her 1964 book, *Ranch Wife,* published under the name Jo Jeffers, was designated one of the best 100 books about Arizona in 2012.



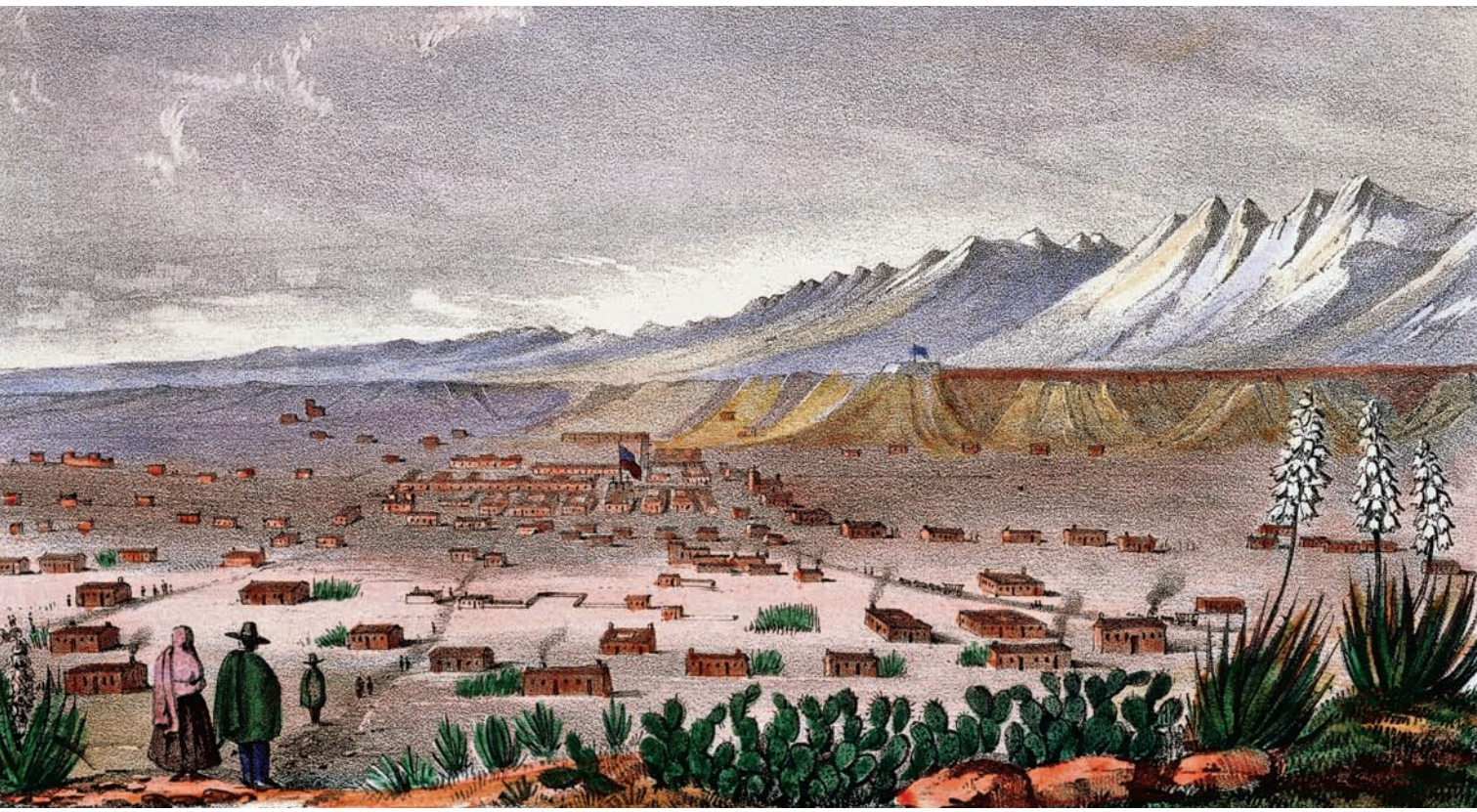
The first elected sheriff of Navajo County in Arizona Territory, Frank Wattron found a happy respite from his chronic pain in his wife, Estelle, shown with him in inset. These photos of Frank were taken by his lifetime friend Louie Ghuey, owner of Holbrook's only café, laundry and photography studio.

– COURTESY NAVAJO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM –

BY BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

When the Hills Bled Blue in the Boom of '92

Discover New Mexico's storied mining past on the historic Turquoise Trail.



After Spanish settlers founded Santa Fe in 1610, New Mexico's territorial capital became the most important economic crossroads and trading center of the region. Almost three centuries later, Santa Fe would become the cornerstone market city for the new mining bonanza: turquoise.

– COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY –

Douglas Magnus, the iconic silversmith in Santa Fe, New Mexico, shows me around the historic turquoise mines he owns in the nearby Cerrillos Hills. The mines aren't commercially viable anymore, but if you look close, you might find semiprecious stones.

I pick one up and show it to Doug.

"That's a very good stone," he says, and slips it into his pocket.

Which, I guess, makes me a professional turquoise miner and adds me to a thousand years of history.

Magnus named his property, which includes the Tiffany mine, the Millennium Mines—not to cash in on the Y2K craze years ago but to honor "the thousand of years of history here." After all, early Pueblo Indians mined turquoise here as early as 900 A.D.

We'll stick to the Wild West era along the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, roughly 50 miles down state Highway 14 south of Santa Fe. There's a lot of Western history packed into these 15,000 square miles before you head west to Albuquerque.

Stone Facts

The real turquoise boom began 125 years ago. In 1892, George F. Kunz, a geologist for New York-based Tiffany & Co., announced that turquoise of the "Tiffany Blue" color was now considered "gem quality." That same year, James P. McNulty arrived in Cerrillos and went to work for the American Turquoise Company, which would sell some $2 million worth of stones to Tiffany to be turned into jewelry.

It helped that, for a while, one of the world's oldest gemstones was thought to be found only in Persia, Egypt and New Mexico Territory.

There's a lot of Western history packed into these 15,000 square miles before you head west to Albuquerque.



During the turquoise boom, a visitor to Santa Fe would undoubtedly encounter wood peddlers and their burros plying their trade door-to-door. Today, visitors to Santa Fe can enjoy a meal on Burro Alley, once a notorious gambling and red light district in the territorial capital.

– COURTESY USC DIGITAL LIBRARY –

Indians sold turquoise long before Tiffany.

In his diary entry of April 22, 1881, Lt. John G. Bourke (of *On the Border with Crook* fame) wrote: "A number of the young men from San[to] Domingo boarded our train to sell specimens of what they called 'chalchuitl' [actually *chalchihuitl*, from an Aztec word for green] (turquoise) of which I purchased three pieces. It is not genuine turquoise, but rather an impure malachite.… The real turquoise, however, is found in New Mexico and is held at an extravagant valuation by *all* the Indians of the South-West."

For a history lesson, start at Santa Fe's New Mexico History Museum. To see what turquoise looks like (and costs) today, visit the myriad shops on the plaza. Then follow Cerrillos Road south as it turns into Highway 14 and the Turquoise Trail.

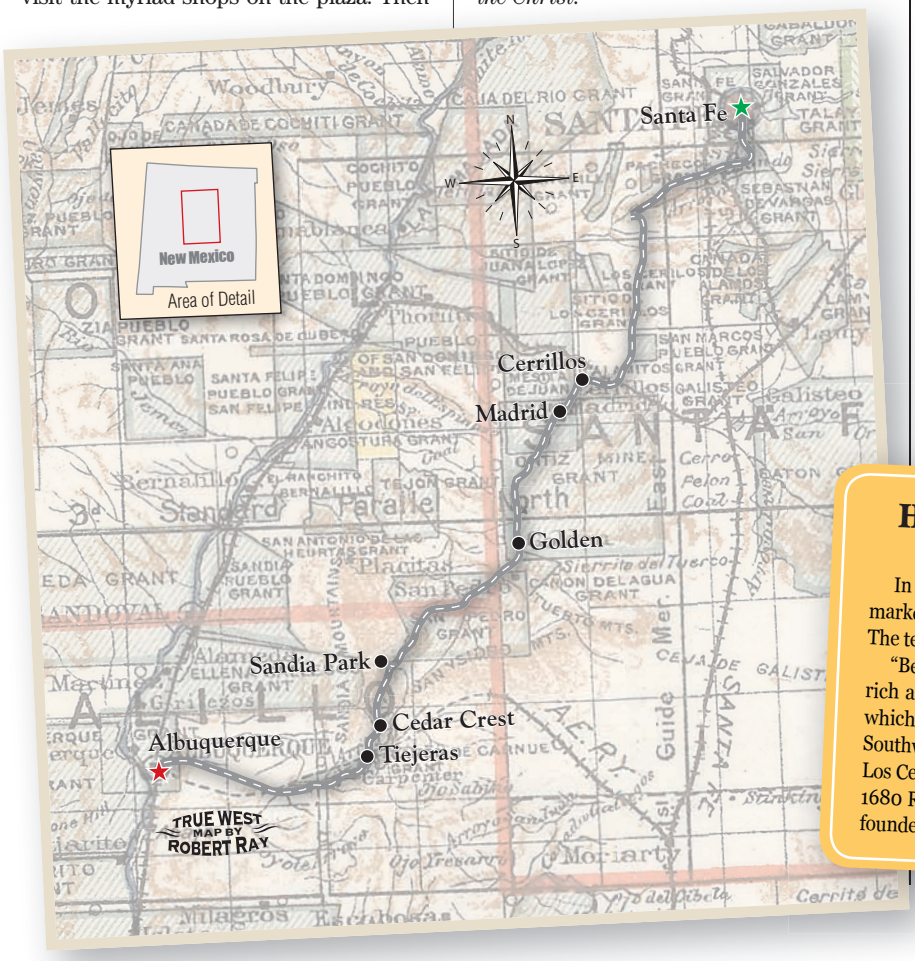
Dusty Cerrillos

The first town of consequence, loosely defined, is Cerrillos, which boomed in 1879 after two miners, unlucky in Leadville, Colorado, traveled south and found silver. Towns and mining camps sprang up. Territorial Governor Lew Wallace invested in a mine in the Cerrillos Hills, and later during a stay at the long-lost Carbonateville Hotel in Carbonateville, he proofed his novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*.

Cerrillos might have disappeared, too, except the railroad arrived in 1881 and the turquoise boom began a decade later. In 1892, $175,000 worth of turquoise was mined in these hills. By 1896, that number was up to $475,000.

It wasn't an easy way to make a living.

"Mining days averaged ten hours, from a little after sunrise to late in the day," Patricia McGraw writes in *Tiffany Blue*. "The tools of the trade were dynamite, pickaxes, shovels, and lots of rope. Large, empty whiskey barrels stood next to the



HISTORICAL MARKER

Cerrillos

In Cerrillos, just off N.M. Highway 14, a roadside marker honors the town's history and turquoise. The text reads:

"Before the arrival of the Spanish, the mineral rich area around Cerrillos produced turquoise, which was broadly traded across the American Southwest and into Mexico. An early settlement of Los Cerrillos harbored Spanish refugees from the 1680 Revolt, but the present community was not founded until the lead strike of 1879."



New Mexico miners pose in front of their shaft during the turquoise boom, hoping their bonanza in the blue stone will be discovered below.

– COURTESY NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY –

shafts, ready to be lowered down, filled with rock, and hauled up by the horse-driven whim, which was a pulley and gear system powered by a horse walking in a circle."

If you were white, you earned $2.50 a day mining turquoise. Hispanics got only $1.50. Indians also got cheated.

As late as the early 1900s, Santo Domingo Indians, who had mined turquoise for years, approached area mines. Mine superintendent McNulty offered them second-rate turquoise, which the Indians refused. Tension eventually evolved into gunfire, arrests and the sentencing of Santo Domingo "raiders" to hard labor at the territorial prison.

According to historian Marc Simmons, McNulty later conceded: "The Indians always thought they had a prior right to those old turquoise mines. And to be truthful, I had a hankerin' notion they did, too."

Cerrillos really boomed during the turquoise craze.

"We have all the saloons here we need," the *Cerrillos Rustler* opined in 1894, "but a good stock of groceries and general merchandise is an absolute necessary."

Don't expect to find groceries today, either, but if you have guts, you can get a cold one at Mary's Bar.

The discovery of turquoise in other Southwestern states, however, led to a decrease in prices. The market, and Cerrillos, crashed in the early 1900s. By the end of 1915, the American Turquoise Company was out of business in Cerrillos.

Turquoise didn't bounce back until interest in Indian and Southwestern jewelry reignited during the 1970s. Cerrillos didn't really bounce back, but it does have a

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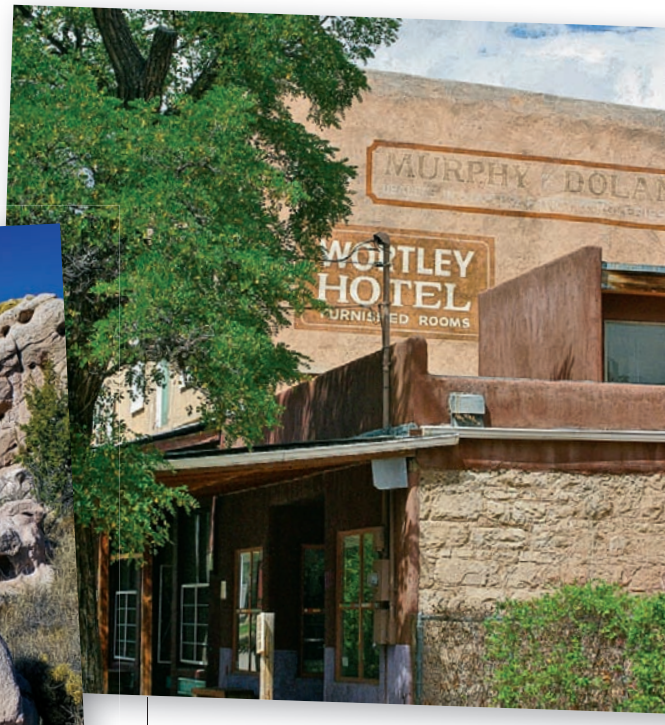
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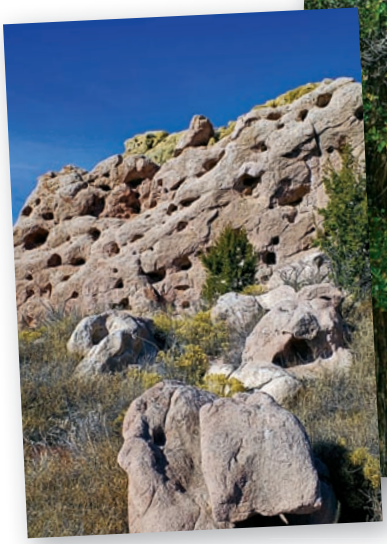
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You did not make a wrong turn on First Street in Cerrillos and wind up in Lincoln, where the real Wortley Hotel can be found. Cerrillos was a stand-in for Lincoln in *Young Guns* (1988).

– PHOTOS BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS –



Little Garden of the Gods is a scenic turnout in the Cerrillos Hills south of Cerrillos on New Mexico 14.

trading post, state park, horseback riding company and a mining museum with, if you dare, a petting zoo. Today, Cerrillos might be best known as an old movie location. It doubled for Lincoln in *Young Guns* (1988).

Funky Madrid

The Turquoise Trail, however, isn't just about bluish-green stones.

Madrid, roughly three miles south of Cerrillos, first existed because of coal. Today it thrives off tourists, artists and society dropouts.

Coal had been mined since the 1830s, and the town started around 1869 (check out the Madrid Old Coal Town Museum). The new railroad needed coal, however, and Madrid boomed in the 1880s. Rivalries developed between Madrid and Cerrillos, including one between the Madrid Blues and Cerrillos's Little Pittsburghs. Cerrillos's baseball team was so bad, however, the manager ordered 3,000 sheets of flypaper to be placed on his players' mitts.

Madrid went on to build a baseball park in the 1920s, reportedly the first west of the Mississippi with electric lights. Baseball,



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Madrid (right) is a thriving town of 300 residents who have transformed the former coal mining town into a funky artists' colony known for its fun blend of historic sites, shops, restaurants, galleries and boutique inns.

– COURTESY NEW MEXICO DEPT. OF TOURISM –



See art (left) by noted Western artist Thom Ross outside of Mostly Madrid in Madrid.

– JOHNNY D. BOGGS –

sometimes loosely speaking, is still played there.

After World War II, coal prices dropped and, if you believe the stories, even lights designed by Thomas Edison and Babe Ruth swinging his bat couldn't keep Madrid going. In 1954, the town was put up for sale. No offers came. By the 1970s, however, hippies, artists and people who wanted to disappear started turning Madrid from ghost town to art town.

A new rush began.

Golden Days

The first rush, however, came farther south near Golden. In the 1820s in the Ortiz Mountains, a man picked up a stone to throw at his mules. The stone's weight caused him to stop and study it. It wasn't turquoise or coal, but gold.

The town of Dolores, later called Old Placers, sprang up, but didn't last long. Other deposits were found around 1840, and by 1880 mining companies were being developed. First known as El Real de San Francisco, Golden boasted 400 people in 1884.

That's when journalist Charles Fletcher Lummis walked through on his way to Los Angeles. When Lummis left Cerrillos in December 1884, somebody told him he had a 12-mile walk to Golden. Three miles



Bandits and rustlers tormented Golden during its heyday, roughly between 1880 and 1884.

– JOHNNY D. BOGGS –



Before arriving in Albuquerque the 2.7-mile ride on the Sandia Peak Tramway to the observation deck atop 10,378-foot summit of Sandia Peak is a spectacular way to conclude a trip on the Turquoise Trail.

– PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY NEW MEXICO DEPT. OF TOURISM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

uphill, two other men told him he was now 14 miles from Golden but on the right road and heading in the right way. One-and-a-half miles later, he heard he had 16 miles to go. A hundred yards down the trail, he learned he was now 18 miles from Golden. He sat down. A bullwhacker came along and told him that Golden wasn't quite 20 miles away.

After finally setting foot in Golden, Lummis wrote, "It is just 20⅔ miles—I measured it that fateful afternoon. And mean miles they are…."

Today, it's closer to 15 miles.

Golden must have looked like the City of Angels when he got there, for Lummis wrote: "This little camp has an 18-karat future before it."

Just like the *Sports Illustrated* curse, Lummis's words spelled the end of Golden. The population dropped, the mines went unworked, and about all you'll find today are ruins, a store and the San Francisco de Assisi Church.

Into Duke City

The rest of the drive takes you to more civilized tourist stops in San Antonio/Sandia Park, Cedar Crest and Tijeras. Then head to Albuquerque, where the Turquoise Museum offers 90-minute guided tours (11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Saturday).

I recommend the chile rellenos at Loyola's Family Restaurant, too. Green if you're not sick of turquoise by then. Red, if you are.

Johnny D. Boggs enjoys the roast beef burrito at the San Marcos Café, Dennis Hogan jewelry at Ortega's on the Plaza and listening to Doug Magnus's stories.



After a multi-day tour of the Turquoise Trail, Old Town Albuquerque's numerous restaurants will welcome the hungry and thirsty traveler ready to relax and plan their next adventure.

Side Roads



Homage to the Burro, Burro Alley, Santa Fe, NM

PLACES TO VISIT/ CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Madrid Crawdady Blues Festival, *The Mine Shaft Tavern, Madrid*, May 20-21; **Cerrillos Art in the Park**, *Cerrillos Hills State Park Visitor Center, Cerrillos Hills*, June 17; **Sorrel Sky**, *Santa Fe*; **Ortega's on the Plaza**, *Santa Fe*; **Broken Saddle Riding Company**, *Cerrillos*; **Cowgirl Red**, *Madrid*; **Henderson Store**, *Golden*; **Tinkertown Museum**, *Sandia Park*; **Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site**, *Tijeras*; **Albuquerque Museum of Art and History**, *Albuquerque*



– JOHNNY D. BOGGS –

Green chile cheeseburger, Santa Fe Bite, Santa Fe, NM

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

BEST GRUB: Santa Fe Bite (above), *Santa Fe*; **San Marcos Café**, *Santa Fe*; **The Hollar**, *Madrid*; **The Mine Shaft Tavern**, *Madrid*; **Burger Boy**, *Cedar Crest*; **Loyola's Family Restaurant**, *Albuquerque*; **Copper Canyon Café**, *Albuquerque*

BEST LODGING: Drury Plaza Hotel, *Santa Fe*; **Java Junction B&B**, *Madrid*; **Cedar Crest Country Cottage & Stables**, *Cedar Crest*; **Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town**, *Albuquerque*

GOOD BOOKS, FILM & TV

BEST READS: *Letters from the Southwest, September 20, 1884 to March 14, 1885* by Charles Fletcher Lummis; ***The Great American Turquoise Rush: 1890-1910*** by Philip Chambless and Mike Ryan; ***Tiffany Blue*** by Patricia McGraw; ***Turquoise and Six-Guns: The Story of Cerrillos, New Mexico*** by Marc Simmons

BEST FILM, MUSIC & TV: *The Nine Lives of Elfego Baca* (Walt Disney, 1958); ***Lonely are the Brave*** (Universal, 1962); ***Young Guns*** (20th Century-Fox, 1988); ***Wild Hogs*** (Walt Disney, 2007)

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Gourmet Glitz at Gateway to the West

The Campbells hosted the most extravagant parties in St. Louis.



Virginia Campbell (inset) provided meals to many dignitaries, from President Ulysses S. Grant to Gen. William T. Sherman, in this dining room at her family home in St. Louis, Missouri.

– COURTESY CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI –

When high society ladies threw a party in the West, they spared no expense. Women living in rural areas had their challenges, but the wealthy ladies in the Gateway to the West, St. Louis, Missouri, had the luxury of almost any item they desired. Residing in a river town, with boats teeming full of imported goods, and a railroad town, where trains transported products of all kinds, made it easy for them to entertain.

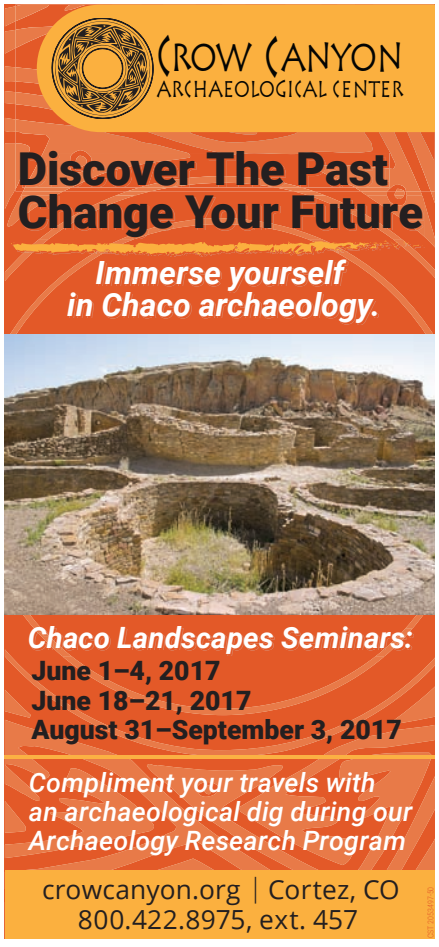
One of the most sought-after social engagements in St. Louis was a party at the Campbells. Virginia Campbell and her husband, Robert, were known for their elaborate parties at their posh Lucas Place home, which they moved into in 1854. Virginia was a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, while Robert was an Irish immigrant who expanded on his fur trade riches to become one of the wealthiest men in Missouri.

Guests at a Campbell party would have experienced fine dining in the form of fresh flowers, fine china, damask linens, tropical fruits, refined sugars, eggs, endless fish varieties, confections, canned goods, fine wines, beer and spirits.

St. Louis had six leading caterers in town who furnished staff for these high society parties. They earned $3 to $5 per event, and they wore their full-dress uniform, which included a spike-tall coat, boiled shirt, a high-worn collar known as a piccadilly and shiny patent leather shoes. In fact, they dressed just like the male guests, except they carried trays, opened doors and hailed coaches.

One visitor to St. Louis in 1861, D. Davis, attended a Campbell dinner party. "I had the honor of taking in to dinner the lady of the house & sitting on her right," he wrote in a letter home to his wife. "...The courses were as follows, soup, fish, then turkey, shin venison, then quail, then ice cream & then nuts, raisins, etc.—everything was got up in the most luxurious style. Such dinners do not suit me. The courses





intensified with all kinds of wine. I cannot drink any wine but champagne."

Virginia died in 1882, three years after Robert had passed away, just as the party scene was making changes. "Flowers as table ornaments at dinner parties are not as much used...as last season, and the florists are very much disgusted. Huge candlesticks of brass are now the popular dinner-table decorations," the *St. Louis-Post Dispatch* reported in 1882.

When flowers were still all the rage at St. Louis dinner parties, Virginia often served guests Trout a la Joinville, which was on the menu at her husband's Southern Hotel in town. In honor of Gen. William T. Sherman, who was often a guest at the hotel and at the Campbell's, serve up this St. Louis favorite for your general!

Sherry Monahan has penned *The Cowboy's Cookbook, Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers; California Vines, Wines & Pioneers; Taste of Tombstone* and *The Wicked West*. She has appeared on Fox News, History Channel and AHC.

TROUT A LA JOINVILLE

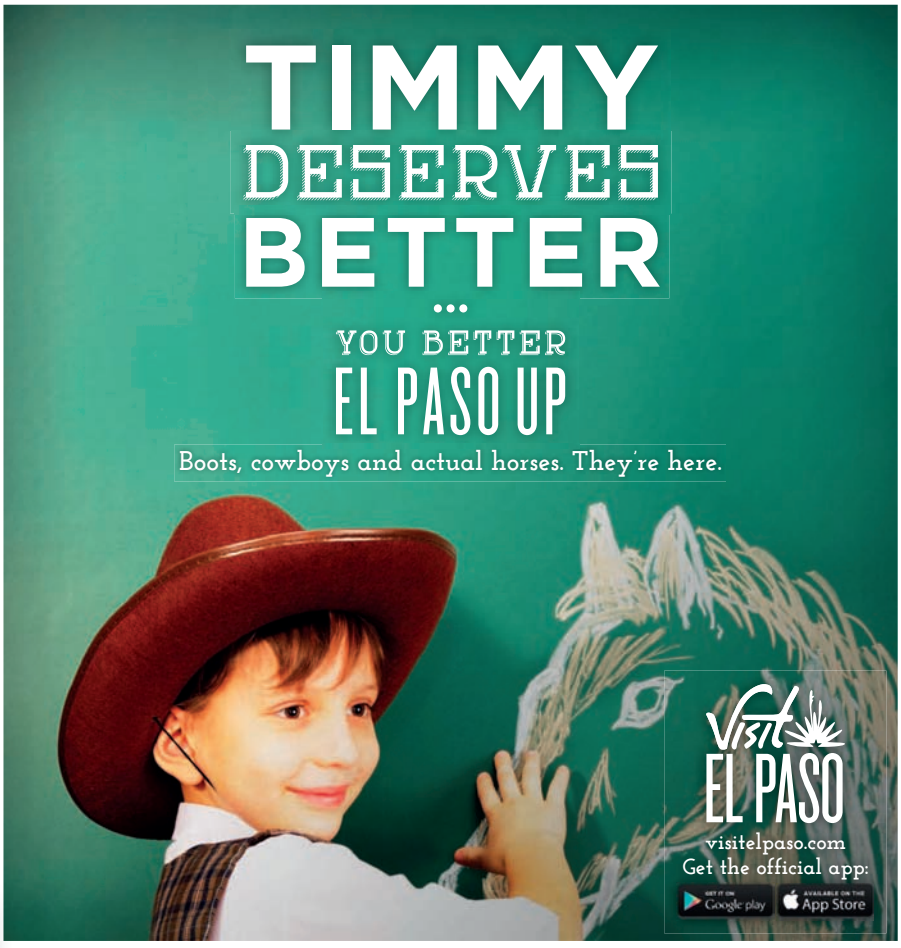
1 lb. trout fillets
½ cup milk
1 bay leaf
Salt and pepper to taste
Dash cayenne
6 tbsp. butter
1 cup shelled shrimp
2 tbsp. flour
1 ½ cups fish or clam stock
Salt and pepper to taste
2 egg yolks
½ cup thinly sliced mushrooms

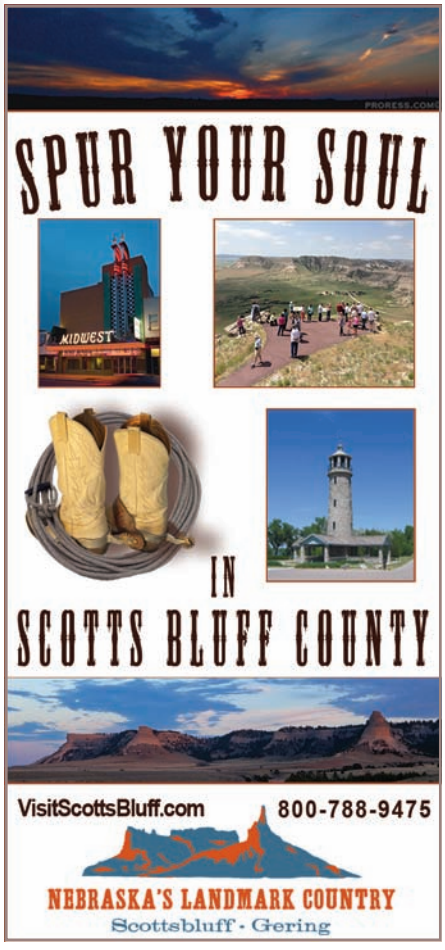
Roll trout fillets and place seam side down on a lightly buttered baking dish. Pour milk around the fish. Add the bay leaf. Lightly salt and pepper, and add cayenne. Cover with foil. Bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until fish flakes.

While the trout bakes, make the sauce. Melt butter over medium heat in a frying pan. Sauté the shrimp and remove from the pan, leaving the butter. Add flour and cook for one minute. Slowly whisk in the stock and cook until thickened. Add salt and pepper. Remove from the heat and slow whisk the sauce into the eggs, stirring constantly. Put back over low heat. Add the shrimp to warm through.

Remove the trout from oven when ready and place on a platter. Cover with the sauce.

Courtesy Campbell House Museum, St. Louis, Missouri

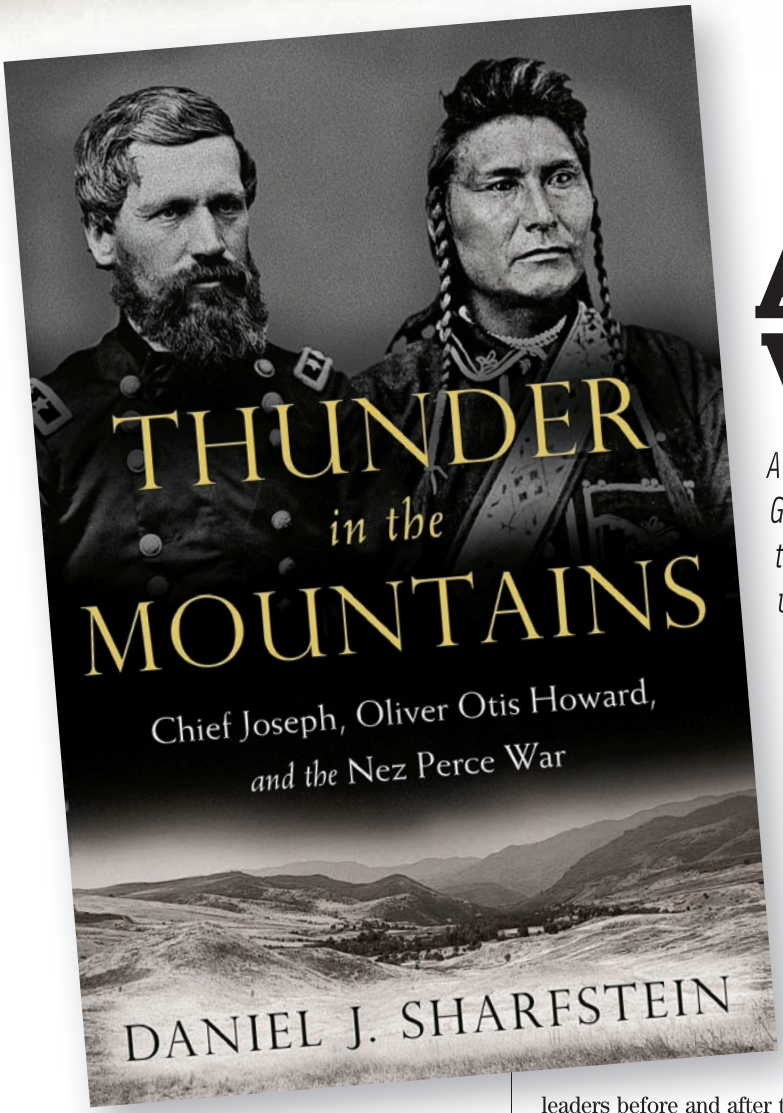






WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



A Trail of Vengeance

A new biography of Chief Joseph and General O.O. Howard, also, an adventure in the Sierras, a history of Texas cavalry, a wild Western and a tale of revenge.

Few conflicts between the United States government and tribes of the Western United States in the 19th century have created as much literature as the Nez Perce War of 1877. The latest epic retelling of the tragic war, and the roles of famous participants' lives before and after Chief Joseph's famous flight for freedom—and immortal surrender speech—is brilliantly synthesized in Daniel J. Sharfstein's *Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard and the Nez Perce War* (WW Norton, $29.95).

A Vanderbilt University professor of law and history, Sharfstein has written a dual biography of Joseph and Gen. Oliver O. Howard that brilliantly integrates the supporting cast of men and women who influenced both leaders before and after the Nez Perce fought the U.S. Army circuitously across the Northwest. As Sharfstein, a 2013 Guggenheim Fellow, notes, "*Thunder in the Mountains* attempts to tell Joseph and Howard's story—the

...the dual story of Chief Joseph and Gen. O.O. Howard is a timeless parable of two pious men who served, led and fought with honor and dignity for their nation's causes.



Daniel J. Sharfstein's dual biography of Gen. O.O. Howard and Chief Joseph chronicles their relationship in war and peace from the time they met in April 1875 to their last meeting, just a few months before Joseph's death, at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania in 1904.

– IMAGES WITH CHIEF JOSEPH ON PAGES 56-57 COURTESY AN EXCERPT FROM *THUNDER IN THE MOUNTAINS: CHIEF JOSEPH, OLIVER OTIS HOWARD, AND THE NEZ PERCE WAR* BY DANIEL J. SHARFSTEIN. COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY DANIEL J. SHARFSTEIN. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF W.W. NORTON & COMPANY, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED –



According to Daniel J. Sharfstein in *Thunder in the Mountains*, Joseph (second from left) never stopped his advocacy for the rights of his Nez Perce bands, including going to Washington, D.C. in 1879 with Yellow Bull (right of center) to meet with Indian advocate Alfred B. Meacham (center), assisted by interpreter Arthur "Ad" Chapman (far right).

story of their world—through the eyes of the people living in it."

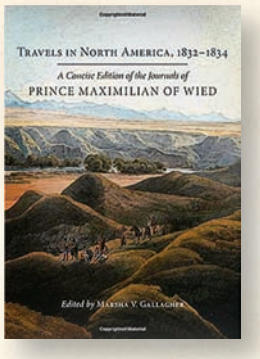
The strength of Sharfstein's expansion of the story beyond the two primary historical figures provides greater knowledge of the roles of numerous Nez Perce and American leaders—Tuekakas (Joseph's father), Ollokot (Joseph's brother), Chief Looking Glass, Yellow Wolf (Joseph's nephew), Willie Andrews (aka Nicky Mowitz, Joseph's adopted son) and Peopeo Tholekt (a key ally of Joseph's before and after the war). Sharfstein also recounts the importance of Gen. Nelson A. Miles in Howard's life before, during and after the Civil War; Indian advocate Alfred B. Meacham; Howard's aide, Charles Erskine Scott Wood, a future friend and supporter of Joseph; Yakima rancher Lucullus McWhorter's oral history interviews of numerous Nez Perce War veterans; and the role and influence of Lizzie Howard, and their family, on the pious Gen. Howard.

In the Acknowledgments, Sharfstein points out that "people have been writing books about the Nez Perce War almost from the moment it ended in 1877." While humbly acknowledging the many chroniclers, oral historians, authors, historians and voices who have created the historiography of the Nez Perce War—and the primary and secondary participants in the conflict between the federal government, settlers and Joseph's bands—the author's six years of research, travel and writing has resulted in *Thunder in the Mountains* being the most comprehensive synthesis to present, as well as the most valuable resource for researchers, thanks to Sharfstein's comprehensive, historiographical acknowledgments and detailed endnotes. The author's passion for his subject matter did not end after visiting numerous archives, but extended into the field, where he rode horseback into Yellowstone along the trail of the Nez Perce, traveled by car and on foot into the heart of the Nez Perce lands and the sacred battlesites on the Nez Perce Trail in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

Beyond Sharfstein's important retelling of the historical record, and his expert synthesis of so many voices and interpretations of the Nez Perce War's participants since 1877, are his conclusions that the dual story of Chief Joseph and Gen. Oliver O. Howard is a timeless parable of two pious men who served, led and fought with honor and dignity for their nation's causes. In 2017, Sharfstein's *Thunder in the Mountains* will resonate loudly and remind its readers that basic human rights in a democracy should never be taken for granted.

—Stuart Rosebrook

ROUGH DRAFTS



Even as a Westerner who has lived most of his life in Southern California and Arizona, I have grown to appreciate the other side of the West, the Mississippi and Missouri River Valley states of the Upper Midwest since moving to Iowa City, Iowa, six years ago. For many who study and travel the West, the history and heritage of the Great Plains is as vague and amorphous as the region is defined and grand. Iowa is as much a Western plains state as it is an Eastern prairie state, straddled by the Missouri to the west, and the Mississippi to the east. Most of the states in the Midwest have such dual personalities of heritage and culture, especially those cleaved nearly equally in half by the 100th meridian, the so-called line of aridity.

So, as you prepare your summer adventures across the Western United States, consider reading one of these new books to prime the pump of a transcontinental sail across the Plains:

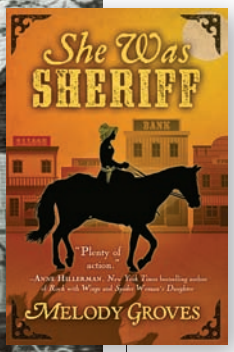
Driving across Kansas, A Guide to I-70, Revised and Updated Edition, by Ted A. Cable and Wayne A. Maley (University Press of Kansas)

Great Plains Geology: Guide to the Region's Natural History, by R.F. Difffendal Jr. (University of Nebraska Press)

Travels in North America, 1832–1834: A Concise Edition of the Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied (above) by Prince Maximilian Alexander Philipp, edited by Marsha V. Gallagher (University of Oklahoma Press)

–Stuart Rosebrook





In Melody Groves's *She Was Sheriff*, heroine Maud Overstreet is pressed into duty as a law officer in California's frontier Sierra Nevada.

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LADY OF THE LAW

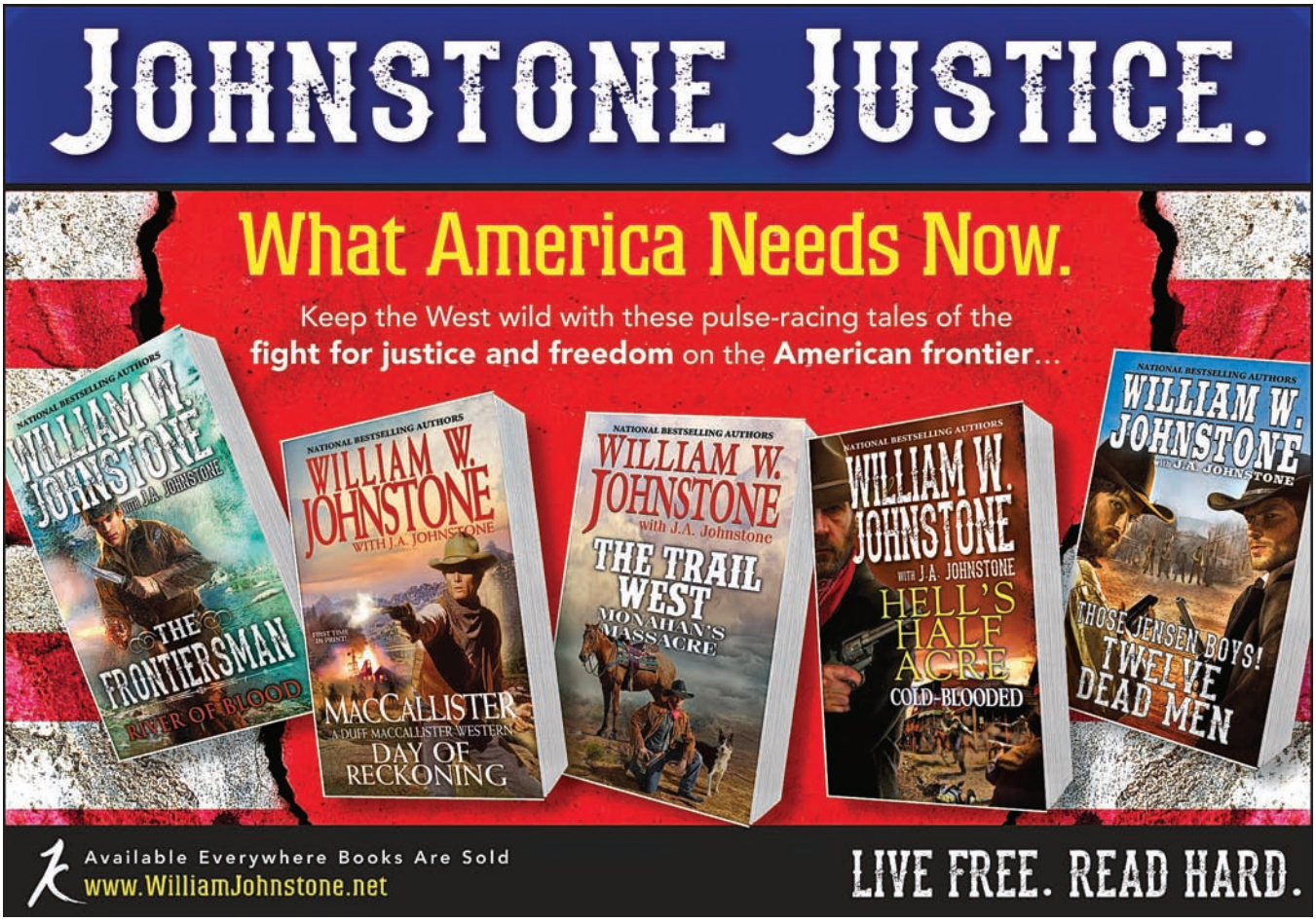
I'm of the opinion that, even in today's society, the women of the frontier are not given all of the credit that is their just due. Wilting violets, women of the frontier were not. They helped fight outlaws, Indians and natural disaster to protect themselves and their families. Melody Groves clearly shares this view and even expands on it in her novel, *She Was Sheriff* (Five Star Publishing, $25.95).

Maud Overstreet agrees to accept the job of Sheriff in Dry Creek, California. Along the way, she learns to shoot a gun, handle a horse and sack up a band of bank robbers. Well written, action packed, *She Was Sheriff* spins an entertaining yarn of the Old West.

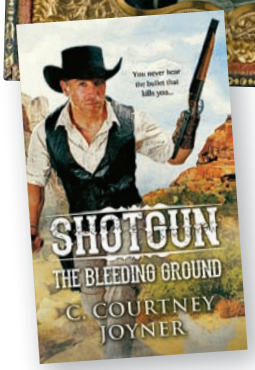
—Jim Wilson, senior field editor for NRA Publications

THE VENGEANCE TRAIL

C. Courtney Joyner's *Shotgun: The Bleeding Ground* (Pinnacle Books, $6.99) is the follow up to Joyner's *Shotgun*, the novel that introduced us to Dr. John Bishop, who lost his wife, son and most of an arm to vicious outlaws. Now, outfitted with an ingenious rig that makes the missing part of his arm a lethal shotgun, Bishop rides the vengeance trail.







Heavily armed and dangerous is how C. Courtney Joyner's Dr. John Bishop pursues his enemies in *Shotgun: The Bleeding Ground*, the author's second volume in his Old West series for Pinnacle Books.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

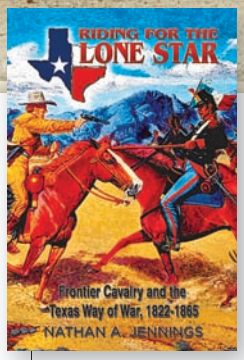
The Bleeding Ground is a spaghetti Western of a novel that mixes colorful and bizarre characters (red-hooded Fire Riders, a dandy of an assassin, Bishop himself) with historic figures (John Chisum, Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid) and enough death-dealing action for a half-dozen ripsnorter Westerns. In this novel, the echoes of the last gun battle barely fade before the next one erupts.

—Ollie Reed Jr., an editor of and a contributor to Max Evans & a Few Friends

FRONTIER TEXAS

In Nathan Jennings' *Riding for the Lone Star: Frontier Cavalry and the Texas Way of War, 1822-1865*, (University of North Texas Press, $32.95), readers get the San





Nathan Jennings' Riding for the *Lone Star: Frontier Cavalry and the Texas Way of War, 1822–1865* is a comprehensive history of military operations in Texas through the end of the Civil War, including the strategic role of the famed Texas Rangers.

– COURTESY NORTH TEXAS UNIVERSITY PRESS –



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BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY

JOHN T. WAYNE: "A MAN'S DREAMS MUST EXCEED HIS FEARS"



– COURTESY THE AUTHOR –

The Arkansas author who shares a likeness and the name of the famous Western actor was born and raised in Missouri. He grew up not knowing who his earthly grandfather might be, but by the end of 2012, Wayne had become certain of one thing. He was the Duke's biological grandson. Of course just looking like the man doesn't make him John Wayne's grandson, but all the information he has learned confirm his heritage. His upcoming autobiography will share the facts that prove he is the Duke's grandson.

After serving two tours in the Marine Corps, Wayne began writing his stories in 1985 while attending the University of Oregon. His Gaslight Boys series, six historical novels to date, is based on the orphans created by the Civil War.

His recommended books list comes straight from his personal library, and four of them tie to the Indian assimilation that took place during and after the Civil War in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. *Pistol Pete*, the only exception, is tied to the Reconstruction Era.

❶ ***The Last Frontier*** (Howard Fast, World Publishing): This straight-up telling details Indian assimilation in old Oklahoma, the chiefs who refused the white man's handouts and the battles that followed—an excellent education on post-war Indian affairs in the Old Southwest.

❷ ***Picketwire Vaquero*** (James D. Crownover, Five Star Press): I find this book very interesting because the tale begins in old Arkansas, but moves quickly across the territory. There will be more great work from this author, who understands how pivotal a role Indians played in settling the Old Southwest.

❸ ***The Bugles are Silent*** (John R. Knaggs, Sunridge): One of my favorites, this book is as good as it gets when reading about the Alamo, the struggle for Texas independence and the men who went to battle. This is a must-have for any serious collector of the Old Southwest.

❹ ***The Confederate Cherokees*** (W. Craig Gaines, Louisiana State University Press): Gaines digs deep into the heart of the Cherokee Nation at the onset of the Civil War. Two factions struggle for supremacy and the ability to control the tribe. One group joins the Confederate cause and the other joins with the Federals.

❺ ***Pistol Pete: Veteran of the Old West*** (Frank Eaton, Signet): This book is my one departure from the history of the old Southwest. Anyone who hasn't read the story of Pistol Pete is missing one of the greatest tales ever told. Frank Eaton's autobiography, this book gets better with every subsequent reading. I find this book incredible. My guess is more than one Western writer used Frank Eaton's stories as plot ideas for their own works. The book details many events in Frank's life. I find the stories amazing, true old West folklore, straight from the horse's mouth.



Jacinto campaign, Comanche raiders, Texas Rangers and the Mexican and Civil wars, all in one volume. With a cast of legendary Western characters such as John Coffee Hays, John Salmon Ford, Ben McCulloch and Edward Burleson, and supporting players who include Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, Sam Houston, Zachary Taylor, Winfield Scott and even Robert E. Lee, the author weaves a tale of frontier violence largely around the origin and operations of the Texas Rangers before it became primarily a law enforcement agency. Jennings' strongest argument is that the Rangers' success against Indians, Mexicans and Yankees was due to employment of superior weaponry (Colt revolvers and American long rifles) and mounted mobility.

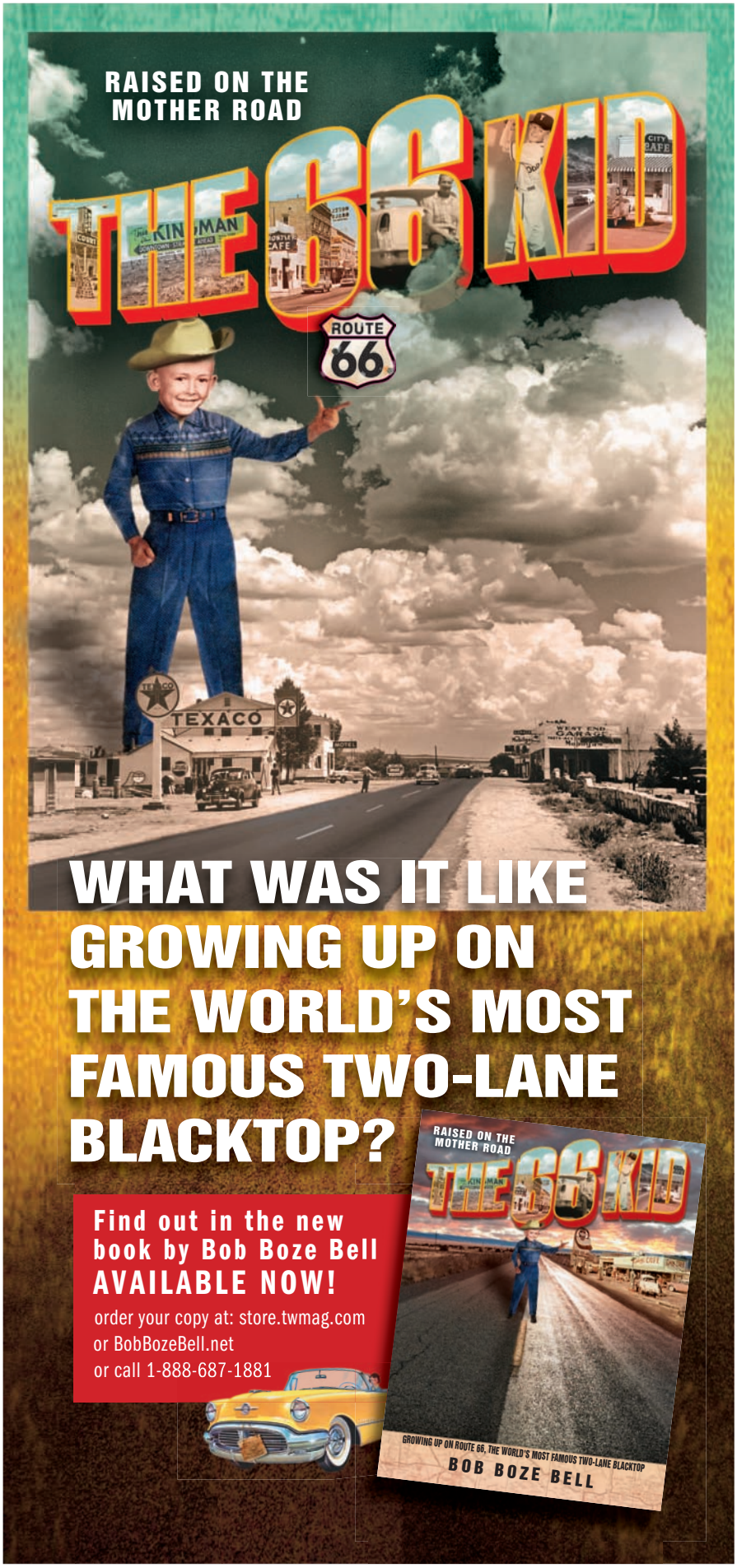
—Blaine P. Lamb, author of
The Extraordinary Life of
Charles Pomeroy Stone: Soldier,
Surveyor, Pasha, Engineer

HERO ON THE RUN

In Matthew Mayo's *The Outfit: To Hell and Back* (Five Star, $25.95) Rafe Barr, Civil War hero, wrongfully convicted of murdering his wife and son, is serving a life sentence in Yuma Territorial Prison. The warden makes a deal with Rafe to release him if he will rescue the daughter of the Governor of California from a Dakota Territory Deadwood brothel run by the infamous Al Swearengen. The warden sends a band of cutthroats to trail Rafe. After he rescues the girl they are to take her from him and bring her to the warden, and do with Rafe as they please. Along the trail, Rafe meets a cast of characters who help him in his task. The book builds to an explosive ending between good and evil. Mayo writes a darn good yarn you won't want to put down.



—Bill Markley, author of
Deadwood Dead Men



BY HENRY C. PARKE

The Son Rises on AMC

A calculating pioneer patriarch shifts his family fortune from steers to crude in AMC's newest Western.



The transformation of a wild frontier boy (Jacob Lofland, left) into a family patriarch (Pierce Brosnan, far left) sets Eli McCullough on the path to building one of the most powerful family dynasties in Texas.

– ALL PHOTOS BY JAMES MINCHIN III/AMC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



On April 8, a new series, *The Son*, will premiere on AMC. Starring Pierce Brosnan, the four-time James Bond who rode West in 2006's *Seraphim Falls*, *The Son* chronicles the rise and fall of a family and its cattle and oil empires.

Based on the critically acclaimed bestselling novel by Philipp Meyer, the series starts with a bang! We are taken to 1849, in lush, green Central Texas, where teenager Eli McCullough's turkey hunt has been spied by Comanches. They attack Eli's family cabin, rape and slaughter his family, and drag off Eli, to be killed or made a slave.

Eli McCullough's quest to assemble his wealth through ranching and oil triggers consequences that span generations.

Suddenly, it's 1915, and the adult Eli (Brosnan), now the wealthy patriarch of a large family, is trying to shift the family fortune from steers to crude. Eli, his son Pete (Henry Garrett) and granddaughter Jeannie (Sydney Lucas) are trucking to town when they pass a tree with a lynched man hanging from a bough, the first fatal blow in a coming war between the Spanish gentry and the wealthy whites. Grandfather and granddaughter are each the most important person in the other's life—much to Pete's fury. Is Eli sheltering Jeannie or corrupting her? Is Eli involved in the lynching?

Each powerful story line can stand alone, but juxtaposed, they are enthralling. "The

Child is father of the Man," as Wordsworth wrote. How will one existence lead to the other? We go from the terror of younger Eli to the confident swagger of older Eli, entertaining guests with a sanitized version of the tale. Is he brave or horribly cynical? Is he a visionary or a swindler?

We know that beneath the charming Southern exterior beats the heart of a man taught survival by a Comanche war chief, lessons that have guided his life and will rule his descendants' lives.

Adapting *The Son* into a series has been a long commitment for Meyer, who sold his first bestseller, *American Rust*, outright to Universal. "But for the second book, I'd gotten a big enough paycheck that I thought, what if we adapt it ourselves and maintain creative control," Meyer says.

The book behind that five-year development process was a new type of novel for Meyer. Like Louis L'Amour before him, he traveled to all the settings for his story, but took his adventure further, learning historical Comanche ways, skinning buffalo and drinking their blood.

The only cast member he had in mind was for the part of young Eli—Jacob Lofland, from 2012's *Mud*. "He's amazing. This guy dropped out of school in 7th grade; he's had no acting training, but he's a natural artist," Meyer says.



Meyer taught Lofland and other cast some of the skills he'd acquired. "I've never really shot with a longbow much," Lofland says. "Philipp Meyer took me on two days of lessons. We practiced for a couple of hours each day, 'til we got to where we were both happy. He likes hunting and fishing. We get along really well. We're like the two rednecks on the set."

Playing Toshaway, young Eli's Comanche captor, is Zahn McClarnon, of 2015's *Bone Tomahawk* and Officer Mathias on Netflix's *Longmire*. "It starts off as a pragmatic relationship. He's captured for a reason—to work. Eli's a young, strong kid. And it grows into more of a father-son





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Zahn McClarnon (left), who is Lakota, stars as young Eli's Comanche captor. "Comanche is probably the hardest language I've had to learn," he admits. "It's difficult to memorize a language that you do not speak fluently. Unfortunately, [many people] think we speak 'Indian.' There are thousands of different native languages!"



Eli's ruthless quest for power pits him against his wealthy neighbor, Pedro Garcia (played by Carlos Bardem, right).

relationship, where Toshaway sees the potential in the kid and starts to care for him as his own son. Even more than old Eli, Toshaway is the patriarch of the series," McClarnon says.

In the 1915 story line, Madrid-born Carlos Bardem plays Pedro Garcia, the leader of an old and proud Tejano family, trying to keep a grip on his power as the more recently arrived whites, including Eli, try to squeeze him and his people out. It doesn't help, Bardem says, that Garcia has a willful daughter (played by Paola Nuñez), "who is the apple of his eye," and sons-in-law willing to rustle McCullough cattle for the revolution.

"It is a balancing act," he adds, and with the utter contempt that Eli shows Garcia, "it is hard to keep his dignity."

Executive Producer Henry Bronchtein, who won two Emmys for *The Sopranos*, sees a similarity between Eli McCullough and Tony Soprano. "They're alpha males," Bronchtein says. "One thing they have in common is that they get away with doing bad things, and people still love them. That's a charismatic thing that Pierce brings to the role, and yes, I think audiences will come to love Eli."

Brosnan charms everyone—even his horse has a crush on him, says Line Producer and writer Kevin Murphy, who explains: "Whenever Pierce goes somewhere, his horse wants to be with him, so you have to tie the horse up. They once neglected to tie the horse, and Pierce went into our ranch house to use the bathroom. We turned around, and the horse was walking up the steps of the porch, into the house, to follow Pierce to the bathroom."

How long could *The Son* series continue? "As the 1849 story line moves on over the seasons, we're going to be telling Civil War stories," Murphy says. "And in the 1915 story line, we're going to be telling stories about the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and working our way up to WWII."

DVD REVIEW

THE MARK OF ZORRO

(Kino Lorber; $29.95) In this Blu-ray release of the 1940 classic, Tyrone Power stars as Diego, outwardly the effete son of the ousted Los Angeles *alcalde*, but secretly the masked swordsman and champion of the peons, Zorro! The best-ever talkie telling of Johnston McCulley's tale, this exuberant movie boasts Rouben Mamoulian's hearty direction, a thrilling Oscar-nominated Alfred Newman score, beautiful Linda Darnell, wicked Gale Sondergaard and Hollywood's two master swordsmen, Power and villain Basil Rathbone, in the best sword fight on film.



Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: *HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*

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BY HENRY C. PARKE

Rustled for Hollywood

The never-before-published truth behind Francis the Talking Mule.



Donald O'Connor, who only had good things to say about his mule costar, wasn't sorry when he made his last *Francis* film, saying, "When you've made six pictures, and the mule still gets more fan mail than you do..."

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

In the 1950s, Universal Pictures hit on an absurd premise that would delight millions and make millions: the Francis the Talking Mule military comedies. Audiences never guessed that Francis's true identity was a more guarded secret than the technique that made him appear to talk.

The inspiration for Francis came during WWII, in 1943, when David Stern III was stationed in Hawaii, co-editing a U.S. Army paper, *Midpacifican*. "To pass the time,

I wrote four pages of dialogue between a second lieutenant and an Army mule," he says. "I had no intention of writing more. But that little runt of a mule kept bothering me."

Those pages became a short story, then a string of them for *Esquire* Magazine. The basic premise was that, while at war, an inexperienced soldier is aided by an experienced Army mule.

After Stern combined three of the stories into the book *Francis* in 1946, Universal snapped up the film rights. Director Arthur Lubin, whose Abbott and Costello comedies had made Universal a fortune, was an ideal talent to direct the series. The studio chose acrobatic star comedian Donald O'Connor to play the soldier. As the gruff, but lovable voice of Francis, former Minsky's Burlesque comic and George O'Brien sidekick Chill Wills perfectly filled the bill, although without billing, to maintain the illusion.

The most crucial casting was the role of Francis. Universal claimed Francis was played by a female mule, Molly, purchased from Jake and Jenny Frazier of Drexel, Missouri, for $350. The truth, published here for the first time, is that the mule who played Francis was, well, rustled.

> Francis's true identity was a more guarded secret than the technique that made him appear to talk.

As 93-year-old Tansy Smith tells *True West*, Francis, actually Judy, was the pet mule of her stepfather Archie Dean, who ran a mule pack train for tourists in Independence, California. "It was quite a popular place because Archie, as a young man, had worked for the studios," she says.

Dean regularly supplied horses and mules to the studios. Initially, Universal had bought a mule named Billy for $100, but returned him as unsuitable. Universal wanted Judy. Dean was reluctant. "Archie'd raised her, and she was a favorite," Smith says. "Judy was a very pretty color, a bay mule with black points. She was very calm, affectionate. She roamed free around the pack station."

But the studio wore Dean down. While he would not sell her, "for love or money at any price," he agreed to loan her out, as long as she was returned for pack season in May. "But," Smith says, "that didn't happen."

After repeated requests for Judy's return, Dean was told by a studio representative, "Oh, you don't want her back: we have taught her to kick." He replied, "Yes I do. I've taught her practically everything she knows, and I can unteach her how to kick."

Archie hired an attorney to get Judy returned. "Universal just dug in their heels," says Petrine Day Mitchum, author of *Hollywood Hoofbeats* and daughter of actor Robert Mitchum. "Judy had become very famous and was worth a lot of money, and they just

weren't going to let her go. He didn't want to sell her: he had made that very clear. Universal's ultimate position was they had bought Billy, he was unsuitable, and they exchanged him for Judy."

Archie never got Judy back. The statute of limitation for the theft had already passed.



You can see the thread attached from Judy's bridle to her lips to get her to "talk" in the *Francis* films.

So how did Hollywood get its rustled mule to talk? That job fell to Lester Hilton. "Les was a protégé of Jack 'Swede' Lindell, who was very well known for training Rex, King of the Wild Horses," the biggest equine movie star of the silents, Mitchum says. "He taught Judy to climb stairs, untie a rope and wink. She flatly refused to sit, so another mule was brought in for those scenes. Les tried different ways to make her talk—chewing tobacco, gum—but nothing worked. So he devised a bridle or halter with a heavy filament thread running under her top lip, so that when the thread was pulled, she'd wiggle her lips."

When Francis made a rare live TV appearance on *What's My Line*, Hilton stood beside Francis, tugging the cord from the bridle. Theories abounded about how the mule talked, from the plausible—peanut butter under the lip—to the upsetting—electric shocks—but the trick was in the thread.

While the *Francis* films were a favorite with audiences, they weren't with Universal contract players; they certainly added no prestige to the résumés of Tony Curtis, Piper Laurie and David Janssen.

Blonde bombshell Mamie Van Doren, who costarred in 1954's *Francis Joins the WACs*, remembers, "I adored Francis more than any other actor on the set—believe me! But I really didn't want to play opposite a mule.

The *Francis* movies and the *Ma and Pa Kettle* movies were the ones you tried to escape. But when you're under contract, you have to do what you're told. Clint Eastwood was under contract, but I was further up the ladder. Clint asked me if I could get him into the movie. I said no, I was trying to get out of the movie. When they did the next one, *Francis in the Navy*, he was in it."

After six *Francis* films, the team disbanded. One more film was made, in 1956, *Francis in the Haunted House*. The original cast was replaced with top talent: Charles Lamont directed, Mickey Rooney starred and Paul Frees voiced the mule. But even with Judy still in her role, the movie didn't have the magic, marking the end of *Francis* films.

Yet talking equestrian comedy was not finished. Lubin developed *Mister Ed* for television, with Hilton using his same technique to make the horse speak. Alan Young starred as Ed's befuddled owner, while Allan "Rocky" Lane, the former Red Ryder star for Republic Pictures, provided the horse's voice, like Wills, in secret.

Eastwood turned up in an episode of *Mister Ed* too.

Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: *HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*



Chill Wills (inset) finally got billing for his role as Francis the Talking Mule for the 1950 album release by Capitol Records.

– COURTESY CAPITOL RECORDS –



My Mule Don't Like People Laughing

Unlike other Universal contract players, Clint Eastwood actually *wanted* to appear in a movie with Francis the Talking Mule. He must have enjoyed his experience in 1955's *Francis in the Navy* (he is shown in the center of poster); when he went on to earn his star status in Westerns, some featured a mule in a major role.

"My mule don't like people laughing" was a famous scene in 1964's *A Fistful of Dollars*, in which Eastwood's "Man With No Name" character tells the sheriff's family that they better apologize to his mule—just before he guns them down.

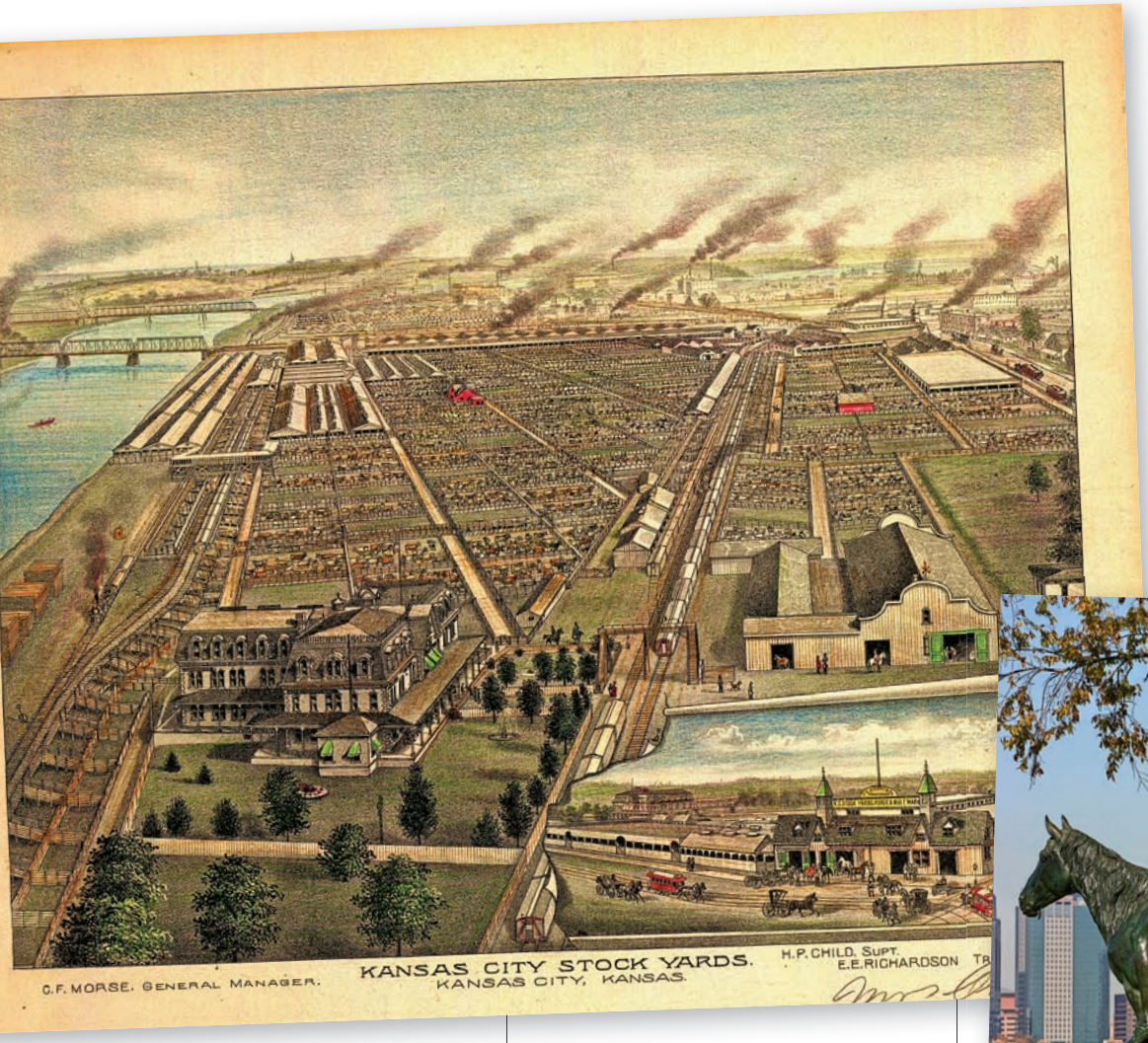
Eastwood graduated from the film series that made the actor famous to 1970's *Two Mules for Sister Sara*. The Universal film costarred Shirley MacLaine as a less-than-holy nun working with Mexican revolutionaries who convinces Eastwood's mercenary character to accompany her to camp. Despite the title, Sister Sara's second mule was actually a burro. Apparently, the burro got written into the story because MacLaine had trouble staying on the mule.

To this day, movie fans will never forget the moment they saw Eastwood ride in on his mule, in the first scene of the first film that initiated the popularity of Spaghetti Westerns and concluded with the critically acclaimed 1966 Italian epic, *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly*.

BY LEO W. BANKS

Across the Wide Missouri

The "Mighty Mo" defines Kansas City.



Kansas City's location on the bluffs above the confluence of the Missouri and Kaw rivers made it a strategic crossroads and campsite of Native peoples and European and American explorers before it became a key frontier port and gateway city to the West in the 1830s.

– COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY –



Cyrus E. Dallin's famous statue, *The Scout*, depicting a Sioux Indian, was first displayed at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, and dedicated in 1922 at Penn Valley Park as a permanent memorial to local American Indian tribes.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY *VISITKC.COM* UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

History credits Missouri River trader John Calvin McCoy with founding Kansas City in 1838. The story, possibly legend, says he and his partners met to discuss a name for their new township. The list included Rabbitville and Possum Trot.

Though future humorists would've been eternally grateful, they rejected those and chose Town of Kansas, after the Kansa Indians. It officially became Kansas City in 1889.

The city today, the Midwest's sixth largest, has a vibrant history to showcase and does it well. The Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum tells of a key 1864 Civil War fight, often called the Gettysburg of the West.

Visitors can overlook the battlefield in the Big Blue River Valley and take a self-guided tour past cannon placements and along Rebel wagon trails. Participants included William Cody, serving with the 7th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He later became world-famous as Buffalo Bill Cody. James



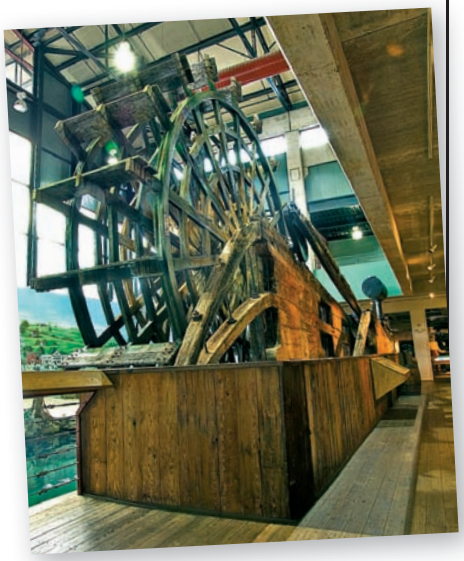
Kansas City's Union Station welcomes visitors to a city that celebrates its Western heritage throughout the year in cultural festivals, museum exhibits and its world-famous barbecue restaurants.

Butler Hickok—Wild Bill—served as a scout for the union commander.

Two living history museums offer fine re-creations of the pioneer experience.

Staffers at Missouri Town 1855 dress in period costumes as they explain farm living on a site with more than 25 buildings, dating from 1820 to 1860. The Shoal Creek Living History Museum has a village made of log cabins and homes relocated from surrounding counties, set on 80 beautiful acres.

The *Arabia* Steamboat Museum tells of a steamboat that ran into a fallen tree on the Missouri River and sank, *Titanic* like, in 1856. The river relocated over time, and in the 1980s searchers found the boat a half-mile east—and 45 feet underground.



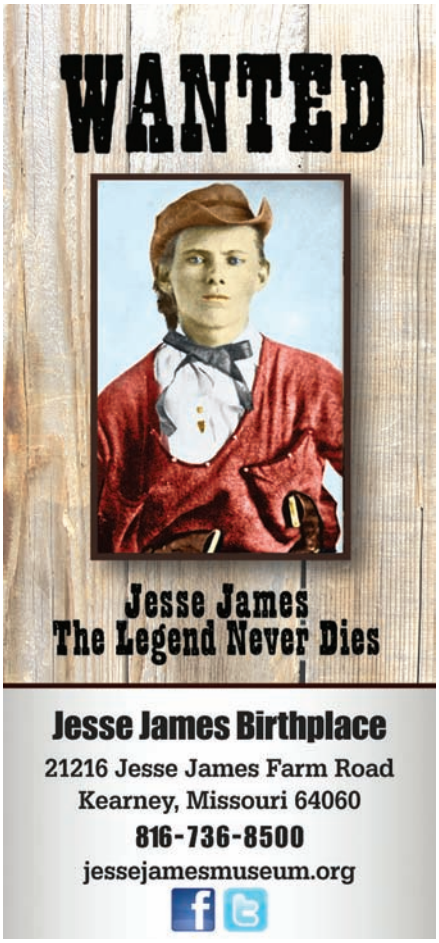
The 1987 discovery of the *Arabia*, which sank in the mud of the Missouri River in 1856 has provided historians and archaeologists a window into early American frontier history. The salvaged paddle-wheeler is the displayed at the *Arabia* Steamboat Museum.

The story of the *Arabia* stayed alive because of the legend that it carried Kentucky bourbon. Explorer David Hawley told a reporter that many "searched for the treasure, believing it to have aged to perfection in the oak barrels lost deep in the river mud."

The steamboat actually carried 200 tons of supplies for Western towns, and the massive haul offers a surprising look at items used on the frontier. These include champagne, French perfumes, 4,000 pairs of shoes and boots, three million Indian trade beads, fabrics, tobacco, matches that still lit, edible fruits and pies, even two prefabricated homes.

Be sure to visit the 1858 John Wornall House. It has 25-foot Greek columns and was used as a field hospital by union and Confederate troops during the Battle of Westport.

The ornate Alexander Majors House, likely built by slaves in 1856, sat along a path leading to the original Santa Fe Trail.







A working blacksmith shop stands on the site, as does an 1850s Conestoga wagon. The plaster walls were made of white lime and hog hair.

In nearby Independence, the National Frontier Trails Museum explains the westward march of Americans in the early- and mid-1850s, on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

Also in Independence, ten miles away, visit Harry Truman's home, tour the historic Truman courthouse built in 1838, and the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum. The home's second floor has a bedroom for the marshal and his wife, two more bedrooms for his 12 children, and six cellblocks, all along the same hallway.

"Tourists are amazed that family and prisoners lived so close together," says Caitlin Eckard, operations manager for the Jackson County Historical Society. At various times, jail guests included Confederate guerrilla William Quantrill and bank robber Frank James, who read books during a six-month hitch.

Don't leave Kansas City without trying its famous barbecue, at Jack Stack or Arthur Bryant's. Bryant proudly described his restaurant as a "grease house," but writer and Kansas City native Calvin Trillin called it "possibly the single best restaurant in the world."

Bryant's secret? Add molasses to the sauce. Soooo good!

Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. He has written several books of history for *Arizona Highways*.





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The *Arabia* Steamboat Museum

The museum is a virtual showcase of the *Arabia*'s historic tenure on the Missouri River before its sinking—and amazing rediscovery, recovery and restoration.

1856.com

Patee House Museum & Jesse James Home Museum

In nearby St. Joseph, visit Patee House Museum, built in 1858 as a luxury hotel. It became headquarters of the Pony Express in 1860-'61. Visit Jesse James's home a block away. Bob Ford murdered James there on April 3, 1882.

StJoMo.com

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art holds 34,000 pieces. The second floor displays the American Collection with major pieces by Missouri artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, and the outstanding American Indian Art Collection, from pre-European contact to the present.

Nelson-Atkins.org

Lecompton, Kansas

One hour west of Kansas City is historic Lecompton, the Kansas territorial capital from 1855 to 1861. The living history center is known as the "Civil War Birthplace – Where Slavery Began to Die." Lecompton is part of the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in Kansas and Missouri, and is a key historic site in the Kansas-Missouri Border War.

LecomptonKansas.com

Jesse James Farm

Until 1978, the James Farm was owned by descendants of the famed outlaw Jesse James. Today, the historic site in Kearney, Missouri, is a Clay County Museum dedicated to the James Family, the history of the region, the Border War, and the Jesse and Frank James years as outlaws. The Visitors Center and Museum is in the restored 19th-century family home.

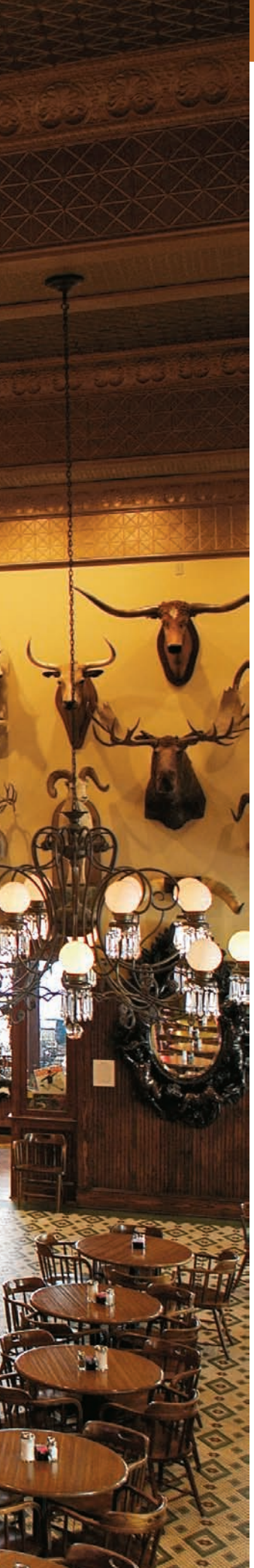
JesseJames.org





In 1881, Alfred Friedrich founded the Buckhorn Saloon on San Antonio, Texas's, Main Plaza across the street from the Southern Hotel. Today, the Buckhorn is also home to two museums, the Buckhorn and one dedicated to Texas Ranger history.

– KENNY BRAUN, COURTESY TEXAS TOURISM –



Historic Western LODGING & SALOONS

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

Luxury service and fine dining await patrons of heritage hotels and restaurants across the West.

BY SHERRY MONAHAN



At the height of the silver boom in 1887, pharmacist-turned-hotel entrepreneur Henry Strater, with the assistance of his family, built the elegant Strater Hotel in Durango, Colorado, which quickly gained a reputation as as one of the most elegant hotels in the West.

– COURTESY STRATER HOTEL –

Enter a 14-foot double glass Victorian door, turn a brass knob to enter a hotel room, or have a cocktail at a behemoth back-bar and you'll experience what many pioneers did. These historical gems transport visitors to a time when the West was still wild and dreamers of a new life populated the landscape.

One of those dreamers was a Cleveland pharmacist who built a grand hotel in Durango, Colorado. The Strater Hotel was constructed with 376,000 native red bricks and hand-carved sandstone cornices and sills that remain today. Today's guests are treated to luxurious rooms that would have looked very familiar to their 19th-century counterparts. The attached Diamond Belle saloon offers visitors 21st-century-style entertainment with a nod to its history.

As early as the 1500s the Ojo Caliente mineral springs in New Mexico were used for healing. But it wasn't until 1868, when Antonio Joseph built a bathhouse, that Ojo Caliente became one of the West's first natural health resorts. Pioneers enjoyed soaking in the healing waters, getting a Milagro wrap or a private soak in the bathhouse. By 1895 a hotel was erected and guests could linger at the health resort. Today's visitors can stay in the 1917 Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort & Spa that's now a national landmark. No one knows for sure if legendary mountain man Kit Carson soaked here, but he did buy supplies nearby.

Columbia, California, also has a saloon that has stood the test of time. Wander into the What Cheer Saloon and the City Hotel, which opened back in 1854. Then it was called Morgan's City Hotel and the English Ale House and Porterhouse saloon. From its beginning, miners, businessmen and gamblers have imbibed here. In 1857 its owner, George Morgan, built a two-story brick building, moved his alehouse there and renamed it the What Cheer House. Today, patrons sit at the original cherrywood back-bar, but back in the day, it was standing only. Have a drink, look





Developed in the 1860s by New Mexico pioneer Antonio Joseph, Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort & Spa (left and below) north of Santa Fe is believed to be one of nation's oldest health resorts.

– COURTESY OJO CALIENTE MINERAL SPRINGS RESORT & SPA –

around and know that the What Cheer Saloon of 1857 was the foundation for the new City Hotel that still stands today.

Be transformed from 2017 to 1882 when you stay at the Grand Union hotel in Fort Benton, Montana. Today and back then, guests appreciate the three-story brick hotel and its dining room of carpeted floors, china and crystal. Back in the day the hotel boasted nine elegant brass chandeliers, window shades and carpeting. The parlor had elegant curtains, rugs and a piano, and the dining room served lobster, roasts, a variety of vegetables, elegant desserts and beverages. The hotel has been restored to its original splendor.

Stop by the original 1893 Buckhorn Exchange saloon in Denver, Colorado, where William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody enjoyed his favorite cocktail—the Stone Fence. The saloon was owned and operated by Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, who was a lifelong friend of Buffalo Bill. Bill's favorite drink is still served there today, but it's now called the "Buffalo Bill."

Deadwood, South Dakota, was notorious for its lawlessness, but by the 1890s, law and refinement replaced the rowdiness. Deadwood's first sheriff, Seth Bullock, opened a hotel that displayed that change. An 1896 newspaper wrote, "The new Bullock hotel at Deadwood, under the



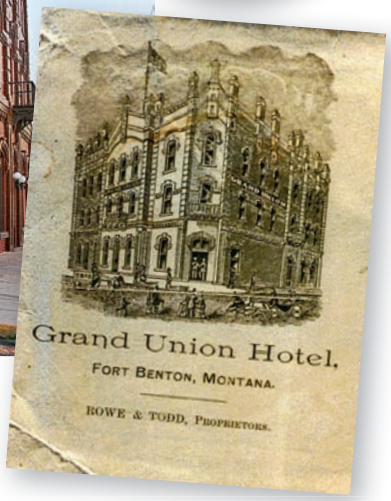


Visitors to Columbia, California, can stay, dine and drink in the City Hotel (above), first opened in 1854, and then rebuilt three years later in brick as the What Cheer Saloon, which is still serving patrons today, inside the City Hotel (above, right).

– PHOTOS COURTESY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS –







At the zenith of steamboat traffic on the Upper Missouri, the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton, Montana, was opened in 1882. Closed in the 1980s, the "Grand Dame" was reopened in 1999 after preservation efforts restored the hotel to its 19th-century glory.

– PHOTO OF HOTEL COURTESY GRAND UNION HOTEL; PHOTO OF MEDALLION AND ILLUSTRATION, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

management of Fred T. Evans, Jr., is not surpassed anywhere in the West for pleasing accommodations, elegant service, handsome furnishings, and convenient location…Visitors in the Hills find it a delight to spend a few days at Deadwood at the Bullock hotel." Reports from the hotel today claim that Bullock keeps an eye on the staff and kindly reminds them when they're not up to his standards.

The Grand Hotel in Tombstone, Arizona, welcomed patrons as early as 1880 and this establishment afforded two saloons. One was the bar in the actual hotel, while the other was a saloon in the basement. The Grand Hotel Bar was first presided over by Jack Allman and W.W. "Tink" Tinker, formerly of Virginia City, Nevada, who advertised mixed drinks were a specialty and ice cold drinks were made from the best-imported liquors. The underground saloon in 1881 was called the Grotto and was run by Charles "Otto" Eschman and William Alderson. In April 1882, Eschman left and Alderson and Gratton splashed open with elegant food and a three-piece orchestra at the new Fountain saloon. Today, visitors can stop in Big Nose Kate's and enjoy a cold beer at the original Grotto bar that was brought upstairs. They can also step down into history to the former Grotto, which served many miners who walked through a tunnel to take their drink or have lunch.

Portland, Oregon, has a rich history and you can still enjoy a beverage and have some Prohibition turkey at its oldest restaurant. The business began



In 1895, Sheriff Seth Bullock expanded his interests in the Black Hills boomtown of Deadwood, South Dakota, with his first-class Bullock Hotel; today, it has been fully restored to its renowned elegance.

– STUART ROSEBROOK –



Fire was the scourge of frontier Western towns and in Tombstone the conflagration of May 25, 1882, destroyed most of the city (right), including the not quite two-year-old Grand Hotel, current site of Big Nose Kate's Saloon.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



At 17 East Allen Street, Big Nose Kate's Saloon (left) is a fixture of Tombstone's historic district. Constructed on the site of the original Grand Hotel, patrons can enjoy a drink at the only bar still in service that survived the 1882 fire.

– COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM –





Restored and updated a decade ago, the Tallman House (above) in Upper Lake, California, first opened for business in the 1870s. It was a popular resort destination then, and remains one now, due to the local hot springs and mountain recreation.

– PHOTOS COURTESY TALLMAN HOUSE –

The Tallman Hotel's Blue Wing Saloon Restaurant (above, right) is a historic replica of the Upper Lake, California, pre-Prohibition tavern was popular with locals, stagecoach travelers and tourists.

as the Bureau Saloon in 1879 when Louis Eppinger hired Frank Huber, a very dapper dresser, to tend bar. In 1891 he hired Chinese immigrant Way Fung Louie as the cook. The business was renamed Huber's in 1895 by the two men. Their policy was if you bought an alcoholic beverage, you received a free turkey sandwich and a little ramekin of coleslaw. Huber's kept the saloon afloat by serving Louie's turkey and other viands. Today, you can once again imbibe and enjoy Louie's original turkey that kept Huber's going through Prohibition.

In the 1860s Upper Lake, California, was a lumber mill town, but because of Clear Lake and the hot springs, the entire county was becoming a resort destination. Jerry Ridgway noticed that and bought a hotel there in 1875. In the 1880s, he sold it to Rufus Tallman and his wife, Mary, who changed the name to the Tallman House. The original house was destroyed by an 1895 fire, but it was quickly rebuilt. In 1900 the Tallmans advertised, "Home cooking. Reasonable Rates. Headquarters for tourists and commercial travelers." The hotel stayed in the family until the 1940s and then changed hands. It sat dormant for years, but today guests can once again enjoy this historic hotel.

The Blue Wing Saloon Restaurant is a replica of the town's old saloon and captures the spirit of the 1880s bar before it was torn down during Prohibition. Patrons can see how local craftsmen created the black walnut bar and dining tables from a century-old tree harvested from the property. Old-growth redwood wainscoting, found hidden behind layers of paint and wallpaper during the hotel's renovation, was rescued and reused in the saloon.

Let your senses drift back to the Western frontier as you eat, drink and be merry at these establishments.

Cheers!

Sherry Monahan, *True West*'s "Frontier Fare" columnist, has penned *The Cowboy's Cookbook, California Vines, Wines & Pioneers, Taste of Tombstone* and *Frontier Fare*.



– PHOTOS COURTESY WIND RIVER HOTEL AND CASINO –

Wind River Hotel and Casino

Riverton, Wyoming

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime event, "The Great American Eclipse," at the Wind River Hotel and Casino on August 21, 2017. The Wind River Indian Reservation will be in the direct path of the total solar eclipse. To celebrate this event, we are inviting visitors to make Wind River their Great American Eclipse Destination. Highlights include:

Storytelling has been essential to the survival of Native American culture, languages and traditions. The transfer of knowledge is passed down from generation to generation using stories that have meaning, humor and life lessons. Working with local tribal members, we are excited for our eclipse visitors to hear the stories that make our history and culture rich, diverse and captivating. For a preview of the stories you will hear, please visit *ArapahoLegends.com*.

Singing has a special purpose. It is used during times of celebration, to honor an achievement or to bring prayers and healing. When the voices of Native people come together to create a song, it's a moment you will never forget. Considered the heart of the people, drumming is a vital part of the song that gives it a powerful sound. Singers care, protect and respect the drum since it plays a pivotal role in not only the music but the tribe. To go along with the dancing, local singers will provide the music to help celebrate the eclipse.

Dancing is more than an expression. For Native people, dancing has always been a vital part of our lives. Over the years, the style of dancing has changed but its purpose has always been the same. Wyoming is home to various pow wows, including Ethete Celebration and Eastern Shoshone Indian Days. Every Tuesday evening you can also catch the Northern Arapaho Experience Song and Dance at the Wind River Hotel and Casino. During the eclipse, local dancers are honored to welcome this special event with performances just for our guests.

We also have adventure packages that will help you explore all the options Wind River can provide. With our Dinosaur dig package, you can spend your day unearthing



Guests of the Wind River Hotel and Casino will enjoy the Northern Arapaho Experience Song and Dance show (above) every Tuesday, as well as major pow wows held at the resort during the year.

the bones of a T-rex, Triceratops or a Supersaures. This is an activity the whole family will enjoy, especially after they see the Wyoming inspired Disney/Pixar film, *The Good Dinosaur*. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis is also home to over 300 skeletons, various dig sites and a gift shop.

For the really adventurous, join us on a whitewater rafting trip through the scenic Wind River Canyon. Also, Wind River Canyon Whitewater & Fly Fishing is a Native American-owned business based in Thermopolis. Guiding the canyon for 20 years, they offer a variety of trips from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Looking for something more low-key? Take in two rounds of golf at the highly rated Riverton Country Club, and enjoy a day with your friends or partner.

We look forward to seeing you celebrate the eclipse with us and providing you with an experience that only Wind River can provide. For a complete list of our eclipse events please visit *EclipseCelebration.com.*

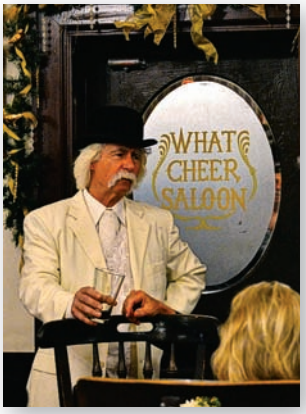


For centuries, storytelling (right) has been at the heart of American Indian oral history tradition, and visitors to the Wind River Hotel and Casino during the eclipse celebration will enjoy hearing the legends of the Arapaho people.

Wind River Hotel and Casino • 10269 State Highway 789 • Riverton, WY 82501
307-855-2600 • *WindRiverHotelCasino.com*

City Hotel & Fallon Hotel California State Historic Park

Columbia, California



– COURTESY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS –

Columbia's old Gold Rush-era business district has been preserved with shops, restaurants and two historic hotels—the City and the Fallon. Visitors have a chance to "time-travel" to the 1850s, when gold miners rubbed shoulders with businessmen and other residents in Columbia. They experience a bygone era by watching proprietors in period clothing conduct business in the style of yesterday. There are opportunities to ride a 100-year-old stagecoach, pan for gold and explore the real working businesses of Columbia. The California State Historic Park was once known as the "Gem of the Southern Mines." Between the 1850s and 1870s, over one billion dollars' worth of gold (at today's value) was mined in the area. For a time, Columbia was the second-largest city in California. Visitors can relax at one of two comfortable hotels, listen to music in historic saloons, including the What Cheer (above) inside the City Hotel, and take in a performance at the Fallon Theater.

City Hotel
22768 Main Street • Columbia, CA 95310
• 209-532-1479
VisitColumbiaCalifornia.com





– PHOTOS COURTESY THE BUCKHORN EXCHANGE –

The Buckhorn Exchange

Denver, Colorado

1000 Osage Street • Denver, CO 80204-3918
303-534-9405 • *Buckhorn.com*

Denver's most historic eating and drinking establishment, The Buckhorn Exchange, is now in its second century of operation. A city and county historic landmark, the restaurant has liquor license Number One in the State of Colorado. Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, easily recognized as one of the most colorful figures of the Old West, founded the famous restaurant on November 17, 1893. The Buckhorn Exchange brims with a 125-piece Old West gun collection, historic artifacts, legends and notable moments. Its walls display a rare 575-piece collection of taxidermy, including deer and moose, giant buffalo, mountain goat and bighorn sheep, dozens of indigenous fowl, and even a two-headed calf. Yes, a great deal has changed at the Buckhorn since 1893, yet much is as it was in the days when the clientele packed six-guns, silver barons rubbed elbows with roustabouts, and miners shook dirt out of their clothing along with gold dust.





Almost Historical River City Saloon

Sacramento, California



— PHOTOS COURTESY ALMOST HISTORICAL RIVER CITY SALOON —

River City Saloon, in the historic Old Sacramento district, has had a long history. The building originally was framed-wood, then replaced in 1857 with brick. 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 have been told of people being shanghaied there and taken out to sea. 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 • 916 Second Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • 916-443-6852 • *RiverCitySaloon.com*



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– COURTESY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY/STRATER HOTEL –

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 need 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 it and its 93 guestrooms, including its Louis L'Amour Room—Literary Landmark. The Strater Hotel is home to the Durango Melodrama & Vaudeville, 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*



– PHOTOS COURTESY OCCIDENTAL HOTEL –

Occidental Hotel

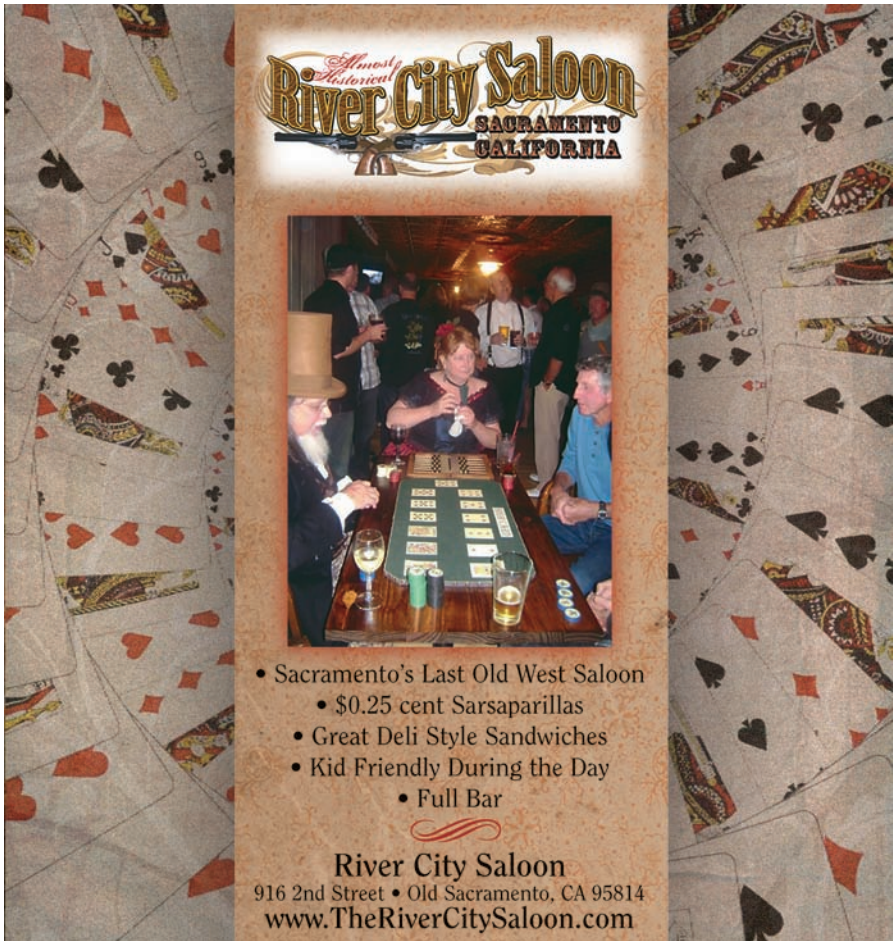
Buffalo, Wyoming

Occidental Hotel was founded in 1879 in a tent before the log structure was constructed in 1880. The hotel hosted many of the most famous people of the Old West. Owen Wister, author of *The Virginian*, frequented the region and based his characters on gunslingers and cowboys he'd met in the Occidental Saloon. The current hotel, built between 1903 and 1908, guarantees today's visitors an Old West experience at its historic Occidental Saloon, Busy Bee Cafe and The Virginian Restaurant.



Occidental Hotel
10 Main Street • Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-0451
OccidentalWyoming.com







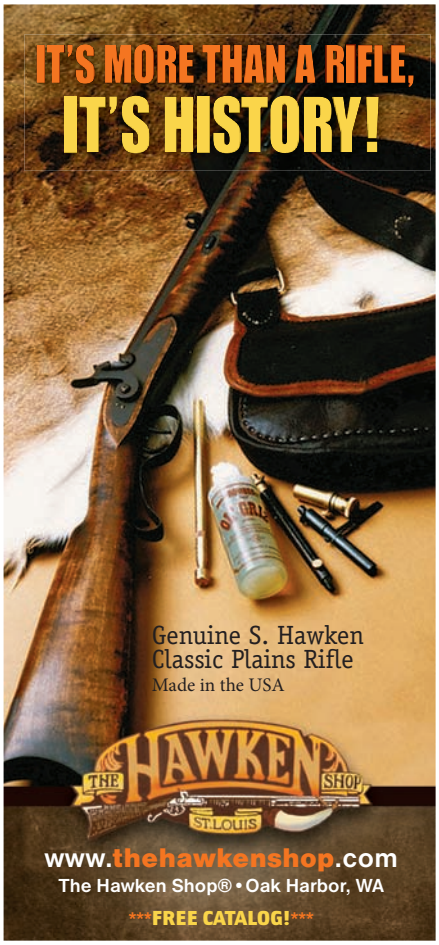
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Bill Bond Wild Game Exhibit
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Trappers Lake Lodge & Resort

Meeker, Colorado

Trappers Lake Lodge & Resort is located one-eighth of a mile from the Flat Tops Wilderness boundary in the White River National Forest. Trappers Lake is the third largest natural lake in Colorado. We are 50 miles to the nearest town of Yampa to the north and Meeker to the south. Established in the 1880s, Trappers Lake Lodge is known for being rustic, remote and rich in history. Enjoy our rustic, clean and cute log cabins with exceptional views of the Flat Tops. At night look skyward and revel in the Milky Way, the unbelievable stars and planets that shine over us each night.

Guests can walk out their cabin door each morning for a quick five-minute walk to the lake and hiking trails. Come enjoy our wonderful home-style meals in our restaurant from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Trappers Lake is a known for its exceptional fishing and beauty. Paddle, row, hike, fish, run, ride horseback, hunt, camp in our wilderness camps, picnic, and explore, all with a backdrop of pristine blue water and 240,000 acres of wide-open beauty. Home to moose, deer, elk, bears, mountain lions, coyotes, marmots, badgers, and beavers. Not to mention feathered friends, including hummingbirds, purple martins, woodpeckers, hawks, bald eagles, osprey, grouse and mallards. So don't forget your camera or your binoculars!

Schedule an exciting horseback ride to the top of the Flat Tops for a day of fishing in Alpine Lakes or just sight seeing. This is a trip not to be missed.

Come and enjoy the unique experience of Trappers Lake Lodge & Resort.



– COURTESY TRAPPERS LAKE LODGE AND RESORT –

Trappers Lake Lodge & Resort
7700 Trappers Lake Road • Meeker, CO 81641
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COURTESY HOTEL COLORADO

Hotel Colorado

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Enter the Hotel Colorado and travel into a time of late 19th-century elegance and charm. Outside, the electrically lit courtyard fountain sprays more than 100 feet into the air, while inside, ladies and gents enjoy the bar and cigars. Polo's Lounge is reminiscent of the hotel's founder, an award-winning polo player. Today, Polo's welcomes guests for beverages and light dining. Guests may also dine beside an interior waterfall at Baron's. In the summertime, beverages are served at the Coppertop Bar beside the scenic courtyard, displaying views of the Hot Springs and Mt. Sopris.

Hotel Colorado welcomes guests into oversized rooms and suites, each with the original high ceilings, spacious closets and updated bedding packages. From the late 1800s, to the new millennium, the timeless secrets of extensive journeys are held within the hotel's walls.

Join Presidents and legendary figures from the past, in experiencing one of the most famous hotels of the Rocky Mountain West.

Hotel Colorado
526 Pine Street • Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-945-6511 • *HotelColorado.com*





– COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

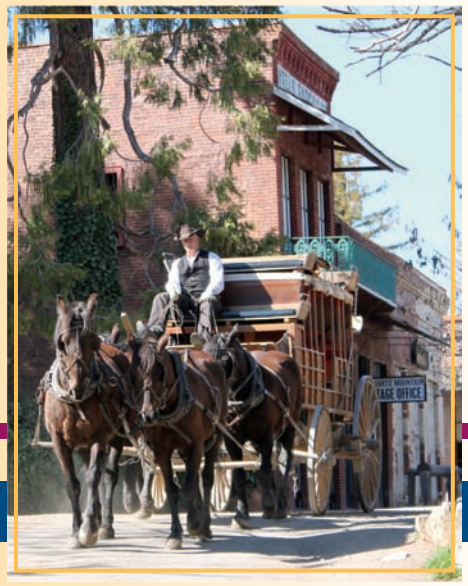
Big Nose Kate's Saloon

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!

17 East Allen Street • Tombstone, AZ 85638 • 520-457-3107 • *BigNoseKates.info*

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Eureka, Nevada



COURTESY THE JACKSON HOUSE

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The Jackson House • 11 South Main Street • Eureka, NV 89316 • 775-237-5247 • *EurekaGoldHouseInn.com*

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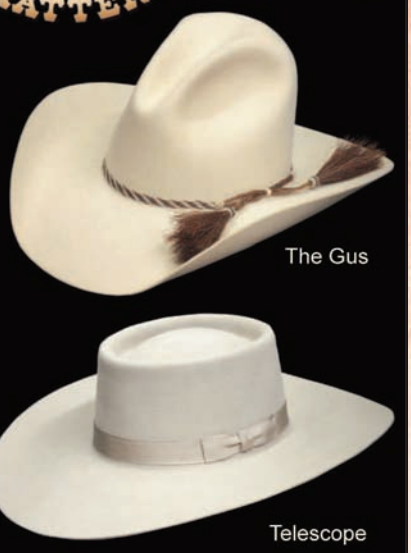
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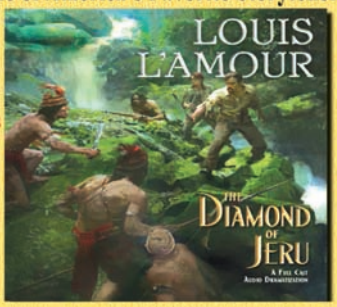
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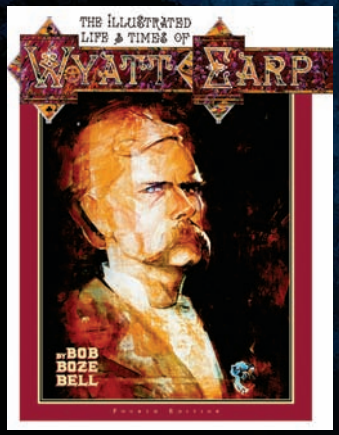
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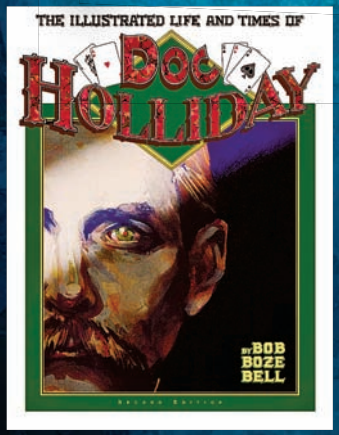
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FOR MAY 2017



BISHOP MULE DAYS

Bishop, CA, May 23-28: *True West's* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell will lead the parade down Main Street during this mule celebration showcasing mule trainers, riders and packers competing on about 700 mules in nearly 200 shows.
760-872-4263 • *MuleDays.org*

ADVENTURE

NARROW GAUGE DAY
Durango, CO, May 5: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad celebrates continuous operation between Durango and Silverton since 1882.
888-872-4607 • *DurangoTrain.com*

UTE MOUNTAIN MESA VERDE BIRDING FESTIVAL
Cortez, CO, May 10-14: Observe the local bird population with regional wildlife specialists volunteering as tour guides and guest lecturers.
970-565-1151 • *CortezCulturalCenter.org*

AUCTION

WITHERELL'S WESTERN AMERICANA AUCTION
Grass Valley, CA, May 2-16: Bid on collectibles that range from saloon advertising to gambling devices to gold rush, cowboy and Indian artifacts.
916-764-5257 • *Witherells.com*

FUNDRAISER

FRIENDS OF HAPPY TRAILS BANQUET
Victorville, CA, May 20: This fundraiser benefits the children's foundation formed by classic Western actors Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.
760-240-3330 • *HappyTrails.org*

FRONTIER FARE

FLYING J RANCH OPENING DAY
Alto, NM, May 26-31: An evening of chuckwagon cooking and Western music much like cowboys would have enjoyed after a long day on the trail.
575-336-4330 • *FlyingJRanch.com*

GUN SHOW

COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GUN SHOW
Denver, CO, May 20-21: Firearm aficionados can browse the more than 1,500 tables of antique and modern firearms, as well as cowboy artifacts.
720-482-0167 • *CGCA.com*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

RAINS COUNTY FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL
Emory, TX, May 4-6: Paying tribute to pioneer founder Emory Rains, this festival offers up historic building tours, gunslinger show and more.
903-473-2465 • *EmoryTX.com*

WEST TEXAS HERITAGE DAYS
Uvalde, TX, May 5-6: Military drills and demonstrations featuring Buffalo Soldiers and American Indians bring Fort McKavett to life.
800-588-2533 • *VisitUvalde.com*

SMOKEY BEAR DAYS
Capitan, NM, May 5-6: The danger of forest fires is promoted at this celebration featuring a chainsaw carving auction, parade and arts and crafts.
575-257-7395 • *NewMexico.org*

THE COWBOY WAY FEST 2017
Gene Autry, OK, May 5-7: The spirit of singing cowboy Gene Autry illuminates this event of cowboy music, poetry, celebrities and food.
580-294-3335 • *GeneAutryOKMuseum.org*

TRUE GRIT WALKING TOUR
Ridgeway, CO, Opens May 5: Fans of the *True Grit* movies may enjoy this walking tour of the film locations every Friday through October.
970-626-5181• *RidgwayColorado.com*

ELKS HELLDORADO DAYS
Las Vegas, NV, May 11-14: 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*

FRONTIER FORTS DAYS
Fort Worth, TX, May 12-13: Experience life at a frontier fort through infantry, artillery and cavalry demonstrations, and military parades.
817-625-9715 • *FortWorthStockyards.org*

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON FOLK FESTIVAL
Huntsville, TX, May 12-14: The Sam Houston Memorial Museum's grounds are transformed into a bustling frontier settlement.
936-294-1832 • *GSHFF.com*



THE WESTERN: AN EPIC IN ART AND FILM

Denver, CO, May 21 - September 10: Explores the myths of the West in the context of approximately 160 paintings, photography, prose and film from the mid-1800s to present.
720-865-5000 • *DenverArtMuseum.org*

FORT KEARNY OUTDOOR EXPO
Kearney, NE, May 13: Outdoorsmen can enjoy shooting, archery and fishing demonstrations and contests.
888-444-1867 • *VisitKearney.org*

ASPENCASH MOTORCYCLE RALLY
Mescalero, NM, May 18-21: A $10,000 poker run is the highlight of this AMA Signature Series trade show.
575-937-4977 • *NewMexico.org*

PIONEER FAMILY FESTIVAL
Oregon City, OR, May 19-21: The first incorporated city west of the Rockies celebrates pioneer history with a parade and live entertainment.
503-875-4756 • *PioneerFamilyFestival.com*

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CELTIC FESTIVAL
Albuquerque, NM, May 20-21: A kaleidoscope of Celtic song, dance, traditional clothing, food, stories, poetry, humor and history.
505-768-6050 • *NewMexico.org*

WYATT EARP DAYS
Tombstone, AZ, May 27-29: Gunfights and hangings are re-enacted in the streets of Tombstone, plus a Wyatt Earp look-alike contest.
520-457-3511 • *TombstoneChamber.com*

MUSIC & POETRY

KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL
Kerrville, TX, Opens May 25: Singers and songwriters perform at one of the largest folk music festivals in North America.
830-257-3600 • *Kerrville-Music.com*

DOLLYWOOD'S BARBEQUE & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
Pigeon Forge, TN, May 26- June 4: Dollywood's master chefs will serve new barbeque recipes while local Bluegrass musicians perform.
800-365-5996 • *Dollywood.com*

RE-ENACTMENTS

PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD LIVING HISTORY
Brownsville, TX, May 7: Celebrate Texas history with demonstrations of Mexican-American War-era weapons, tactics and soldier life.
956-541-2785 • *NPS.gov*

BATTLE OF ROGUE RIVER MATCH
Grants Pass, OR, May 19-21: Hosted in a re-created Old West town, this Cowboy Action match draws shootists from all over the United States.
541-582-4144• *MerlinMarauderCowboys.com*



TUCUMCARI RAWHIDE DAYS

Tucumcari, NM, May 5-6: Celebrate the Old West with a parade, live music, wagon rides, gunfights, chuckwagons and a blacksmith competition.
575-461-1400 • *TucumcariRawhideDays.com*

RODEOS

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC
Abilene, TX, May 11-14: 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*

PENDLETON CATTLE BARONS WEEKEND
Pendleton, OR, May 12-13: Honors the region's cattlemen and ranchers with bronc riding, a cowboy collectibles auction and barbecue.
541-377-6834 • *CattleBarons.net*

BANDERA PRO RODEO
Bandera, TX, May 26-28: This rodeo features PRCA-sanctioned bareback riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and bull riding.
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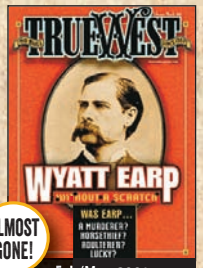
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Wild Bill


ALMOST GONE!
Jan-2001
Topless Gunfighter

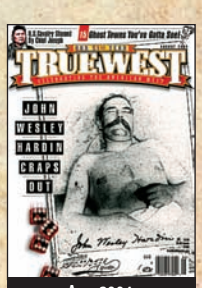

ALMOST GONE!
Feb/Mar-2001
Wyatt Earp


SOLD OUT
Aug/Sep-2001
Wild Bill


Aug/Sep-2002
Defeat of Jesse James


Jul-2003
Doc & Wyatt


ALMOST GONE!
Feb-Mar-2003
Guns that won the West


Aug-2004
John Wesley Hardin


SOLD OUT
Jan-2003
Historical Photos


ALMOST GONE!
Dec-2006
Buffalo Gals & Guys


Oct-2006
Tombstone/125th OK Corral


Jan-2007
Cowboys ae indians


Nov/Dec-2008
Mickey Free


SOLD OUT
Sep-2009
500 Yrs Before Cowboys


Nov/Dec-2010
Black Warriors of the West


Apr-2011
True Grit/Bridges & Wayne


Aug-2012
Butch and Sundance


Aug-2013
Tombstone-The Walk Down


Dec-2014
Women Who Left Their Mark


Dec-15
First Mountain Man


Apr-2016
Lonesome Dove

WHILE THEY LAST!

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2000
- ☐ Jan: Buffalo Bill
- ☐ Mar: Richard Farnsworth
- ☐ May: Samuel Walker
- ☐ 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
- ☐ May/Jun: Custer
- ☐ Jul: Cowboys & Cowtowns

2002
- ☐ 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 Western Towns
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Sweethearts of the Rodeo
- ☐ Mar: 175th Anniv Battle of the Alamo
- ☐ Apr: Three True Grits
- ☐ May: Historic Ranches
- ☐ Jun: Tin Type Billy
- ☐ Jul: Viva, Outlaw Women!
- ☐ Aug: Was Geronimo A Terrorist?
- ☐ Sep: Western Museums/CBs & Aliens
- ☐ Oct: Hard Targets
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Butch Cassidy is Back

2012
- ☐ Feb: Az Crazy Road to Statehood
- ☐ Mar: Special Entertainment Issue
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Jan: Best of the West/John Wayne
- ☐ Feb: Rocky Mountain Rangers
- ☐ Apr: US Marshals
- ☐ May: Texas Rangers
- ☐ Jun: Doc's Last Gunfight
- ☐ Jul: Comanche Killers!
- ☐ Aug: Tombstone 20th Annv
- ☐ Sep: Ambushed on the Pecos
- ☐ Oct: Outlaws, Lawmen & Gunfighters
- ☐ Nov: Soiled Doves
- ☐ Dec: Cowboy Ground Zero

2014
- ☐ Jan: Best 100 Historical Photos
- ☐ Feb: Assn. of Pat Garrett
- ☐ Mar: Stand-up Gunfights
- ☐ Apr: Wyatt Earp Alaska
- ☐ May: Tom Horn
- ☐ Jun: Custer Captured
- ☐ Jul: 50 Historical Gunfighter Photos
- ☐ Aug: Bigfoot Wallace/Train Robberies
- ☐ Sep: New Billy Photo/Top Museums
- ☐ Oct: Charlie Russell/Movie Hats
- ☐ Nov: Wild Bills's Last Gunfight
- ☐ Dec: Olive Oatman-Branded

2015
- ☐ Jan: 100 Historical Am. Indian Photos
- ☐ Feb: Mountain Man-First Survivalists
- ☐ Mar: Mickey Free/Severed Heads
- ☐ Apr: Jack Stilwell-Forgotten Scout
- ☐ May: Armed to Survive
- ☐ Jun: Billy the Kid-Special Report
- ☐ Jul: 50 Historical Photos-Panco Villa
- ☐ Aug: Luke Short-Dodge City War
- ☐ Sep: Crossing America-Lewis & Clark
- ☐ Oct: Wyatt Earp in Hollywood
- ☐ Nov: 22 Guns that Won the West
- ☐ Dec: The First Mountain Man

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The Old West Stinks?



Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen;* History Press, 2015. 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



Whatever class of ticket these pioneers had, they faced a tough journey while traveling on this stagecoach from Deadwood, Dakota Territory, circa 1880.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

How bad was body odor in the Old West?

Michael C. Westlund
Clarkdale, Arizona

Body odor was pretty bad. Pioneers had no deodorant, shampoo or commercial toilet paper. They didn't bathe often, and they rarely changed clothes. Women didn't shave their armpits or legs. Bad breath and rotten teeth were prevalent. Hollywood sanitizes almost everything, and, in this case, I'm sure glad they do.

Did stagecoach travel have different classes of ticket?

Roger M. Dillingham
Hackney, London, United Kingdom

Some stagecoach companies had three classes. First class rode all the way; second class had to get out and walk on steep grades; third class passengers not only had to walk, but also push on the hills. Crossing the sand dunes west of Yuma, Arizona Territory, passengers had to ride the hurricane deck of a mule, hence the name "Jackass Mail." Regardless of class, all had to endure the lack of sleep, bad food and the elements.

How far did a telegraph signal carry?

Rich Gorman
Littleton, Colorado

Wires allowed an electric current to flow as far as the wires stretched. However, they were usually broken at stations or towns, where message recipients were located. The message was forwarded on from that point.

Morse Code advanced communication by light years. Sam Morse used electromagnets to develop his code in 1837 to communicate with the telegraph. His code of dots and dashes corresponded to letters of the alphabet.



Samuel Morse

The advent of the telephone in 1877 eventually brought about the decline of the telegraph. The Morse Code, though, opened the door to electronic and digital mass media revolutions. No other development since printing has impacted our daily lives as much.

Did Tom Horn kill Willie Nickell?

Brian Madison
Venice, Florida

That's one of the great mysteries. Tom Horn confessed to the 1901 ambush killing of the 14-year-old boy, for which he was hanged in 1903.

But he was drunk when he confessed to lawman Joe LeFors, who had hidden stenographers recording Horn's words—today, his confession would be tossed out of court. In 1993, a mock trial acquitted Horn.

Horn was a hired assassin in the Johnson County War, probably responsible for dry gulching at least three men. He had the disposition to kill Nickell—either by accident or on purpose.

Some of the most respected Horn biographers disagree on the murder. Dean F. Krakel, author of *The Saga of Tom Horn*, believed Horn shot Nickell in a case of mistaken identity. In *Tom Horn: Blood on the Moon*, Chip Carlson argues that Horn was railroaded and most likely didn't kill the youth. But Larry D. Ball, author of the recent *Tom Horn in Life and Legend*, believes he did kill Nickell.

The fact that we lack definitive answers on so many topics makes Old West history so fascinating.

How prevalent were bounty hunters?

Tom Betts
Anaheim, California

In 1872, the Supreme Court ruled that bounty hunters were a part of law enforcement. Bounty hunters had more leeway when pursuing a fugitive;

they didn't have to follow the rule of due process that lawmen did. They could pursue outlaws across state or territorial lines, and they could break into and enter his house. Jack Duncan, a former Texas Ranger who helped capture John Wesley Hardin, was one of the best known back then.

But peace officers or detectives were the ones who commonly collected bounties, to supplement their meager incomes. For instance, in New Mexico Territory, Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett collected the reward for his 1881 killing of Billy the Kid.

What is the 19th-century version of a photographer's flash powder?

Mike Colaizzi,
Gold Canyon, Arizona

Early photography didn't use flash powder—photographers exposed a glass plate to the light, allowing the image to be produced on that plate.

In 1887, Germans Adolf Miethe and Johannes Gaedicke mixed fine magnesium powder with potassium chlorate to produce Blitzlicht (translated as "flashlight"). This was the first ever widely used flash powder. Blitzlicht gave photographers the ability to produce instant photographs at night at a high shutter speed. Variations of this method were used until flashbulbs were developed, again in Germany, in the late 1920s.



This photographer uses flash powder, an invention not available until 1887.

Best Photos of the Old West
Collector's Set



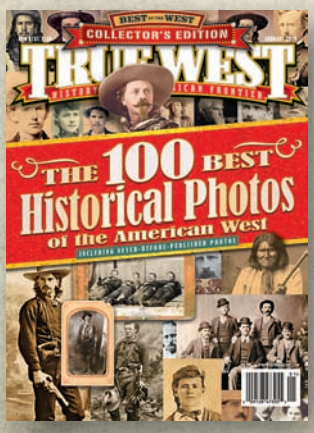












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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

My wife rides a mule, and I occasionally give her a bit of a good-natured hard time about it. I tell her, "Your mule has a horse for a mother and a donkey, or an ass, for a father. That makes it a half-ass horse." I wonder if mules might be responsible for the term "half-ass" when describing something that is kind of unconventional.

Confederate rebels captured 40 mules and an Army general. When President Abraham Lincoln heard the news, he reportedly said, "I sure am sorry to lose those mules."

You should saddle mules with a britchin.' This strap, which goes around the rump and above the hocks, keeps the saddle from sliding up the neck on account of their low withers.

A few naturally bred wild mules can still be found on some Western land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management today.

The high price of mules in Arabia was due to their being ridden by the rich, novelist George Orwell stated in his diaries. They were considered a badge of wealth.

The average mule is able to handle a daily work load more than double that of the average horse.

The Bible makes no comment on the stubbornness of mules, but does mention it of people.

Mules were introduced into the chariot races in the Olympiad 70, or 500 years before the time of Jesus Christ.

When two people pick up a mule's front foot and opposite hind foot, the mule can still stand on its other two legs; horses just plain can't (or won't) stand on two legs.

Thousands of mules served the Allied Armies in WWI and WWII.

Mules are sterile because reproduction requires an even number. Mules have 63 chromosomes compared to 62 for donkeys and 64 for horses.

Dan Thrapp's saddles (on p. 7) intrigue me. The stirrups and stirrup leathers look to be made by South American saddlemakers who used double-rigged Texas-style trees.



The Romans have historically placed a high value on mules. Q. Axius, a Roman senator, paid 400,000 sersterces (more than $510,000 today) for a male ass so he could breed mules.



LEE ANDERSON, EQUINE HISTORIAN

A retired aerospace engineer living in Waddell, Arizona, Lee Anderson has spent more than 60 years studying equine training methods and traditions of the Spanish Colonial vaqueros of 1750-1800, the Mexican cowboys of 1850-1900 and the American cowboys of 1880-1920. He shares his research in his book, *Developing the Art of Equine Communication*, published by Moonlight Mesa Associates. Anderson also teaches living history in period performances with his horse, Concho, or his mule, Zelda (shown with him above).

Napoléon rode a mule when the French military leader and his Army crossed the Alps, starting the journey on May 15, 1800, to surprise the Austrian Army in Italy.

Alexander the Great rode a mule into battle, and 12 mules pulled his war chariot. After the Ancient Greek king's death in 323 BCE, 64 mules decked out in gold harnesses pulled his funeral bier.

Mules mature both physically and mentally later than horses. Horses mature between the age of four and five, while mules do around six.

Considered dangerous and unreliable because they were extremely hard to control, male mules, or jacks, were nearly always gelded. They usually behaved worse than stallions.

I once heard that if you chew gum while riding a mule, you will be exercising every muscle in your body.

Tails of the Old West

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