

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

BILLY THE KID: JUST FOUND!

New photo of the Kid surfaces at auction... compare it with the original tintype

p. 29

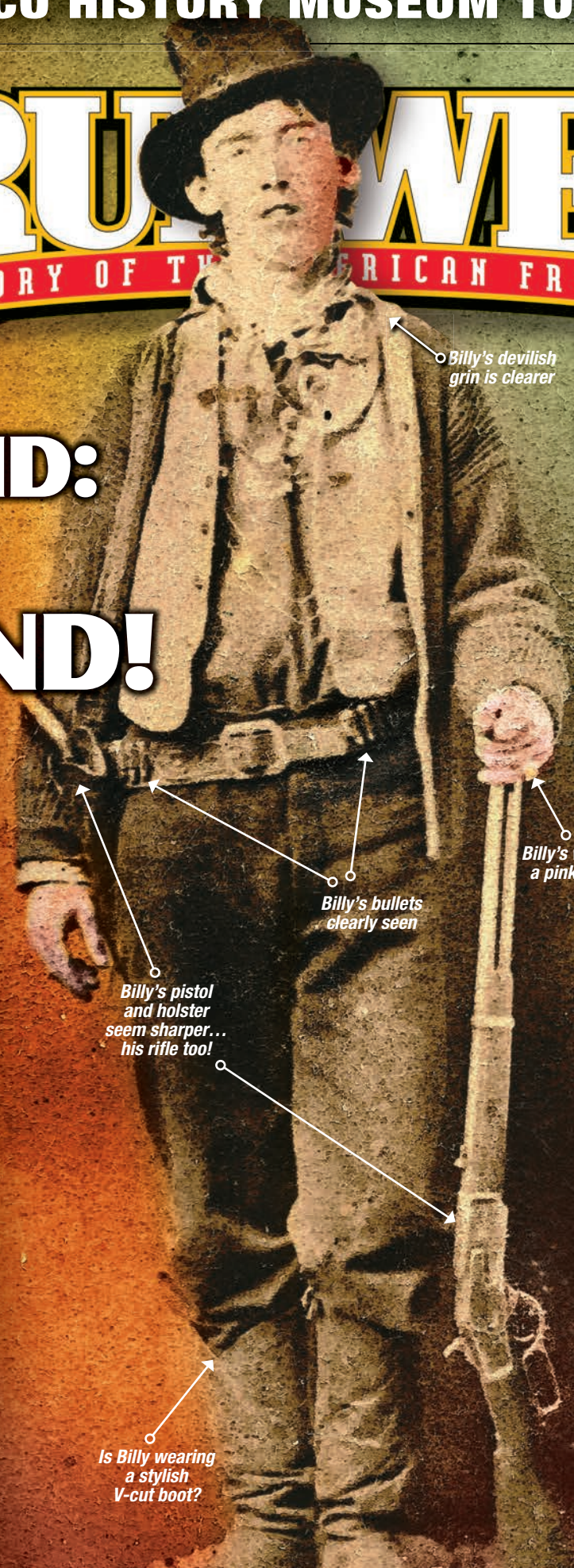
Long-lost article on Kid's death shoots down conspiracy theories

by Mark Lee Gardner

Jim Bowie's Blade Slashes its Way into History

Guts and Grit on the Mogollon Rim

Ghost Dance at Wounded Knee



Billy's devilish grin is clearer

Billy's bullets clearly seen

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Billy's wearing a pinkie ring

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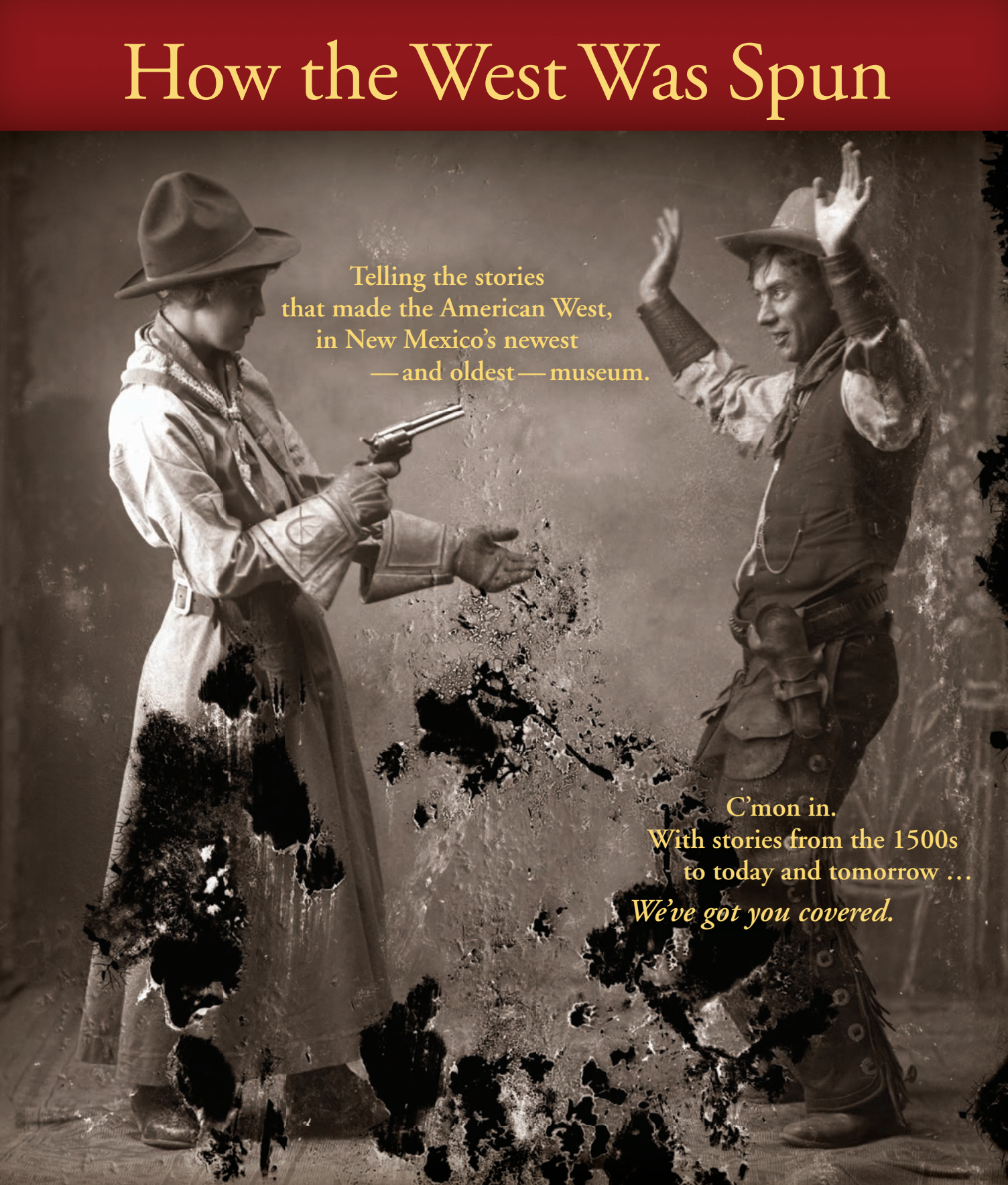


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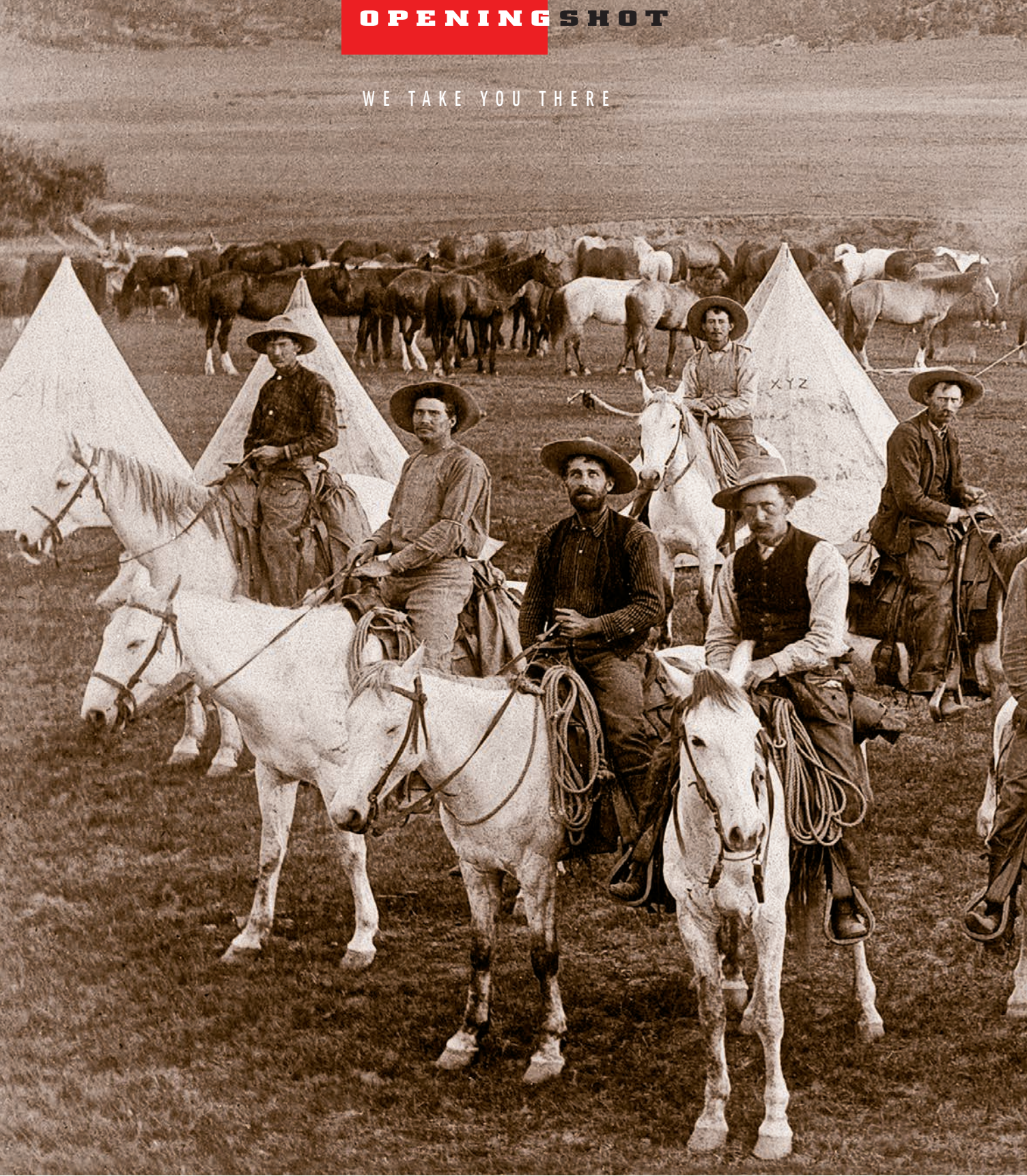
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CROWFOOT CATTLE RANCH COWBOYS

Will Jack (fourth man from front left), owner of the Crowfoot Cattle Ranch, was so important in New Mexico, his name marked his land on an 1889 map of Mora and Colfax Counties printed by the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Jack's "Dutch Crew" of herders helped carry the expenses of the job in exchange for a share of the profits once the cattle were sold. The crew herded cattle from Mexico by way of El Paso, Texas, in a journey that averaged six months. The cattle fattened up in the Capulin Mountain region of New Mexico during the summer before being herded to rail lines in Kansas. The coming of the railroad to the region shortened the trip to the Folsom tracks, north of Capulin. This photo is a favorite from this spring's "Cowboys Real and Imagined" at New Mexico History Museum.



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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John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Daniel Buck,

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PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Robert G. McCubbin

TRUE WEST FOUNDER: Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

PRESIDENT & CEO: Bob Boze Bell

PUBLISHER & COO: Ken Amorosano

CFO: Lucinda Amorosano

GENERAL MANAGER: Carole Compton Glenn

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Dave Daiss

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR: Ken Amorosano

REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS

Greg Carroll (greg@twmag.com)

Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas,

Nevada & Washington

Cynthia Burke (cynthia@twmag.com)

Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma,

South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming

Sheri Riley (sheri@twmag.com)

Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon,

Tennessee & Texas

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sally Collins

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September 2014 Online and Social Media Content



This historical photo of a tent camp in Prescott, Arizona, reveals how the territorial capital has more history to share outside of Whiskey Row's rowdy saloons. Find this and more historical photography on our "Travel to the Old West" board.

[Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag](https://www.pinterest.com/TrueWestMag)



Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell to see this and more of his Daily Whipouts (search for "June 23, 2014").

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com



Join the Conversation

"Both my wife and I had ancestors in the Texas Rangers; we were surprised when we found out that two of them were in the same company at the same time."

-Ron Kelley of Fresno, California

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A long-lost newspaper account shoots down conspiracy theories and reveals how the notorious outlaw Billy the Kid actually died.

—Mark Lee Gardner

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Bloodthirsty struggles divulge how James Bowie's famed fighting knife has become the knife supreme of the American West.

—Phil Spangenberg

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The little-known story of a Pleasant Valley War survivor whose Arizona adventures on the Mogollon Rim led him to Africa.

—Mike Coppock

42 THE ARMS OF A WOMAN

Courageous shooters hold their own with the ultimate equalizers on the American frontier.

—Chris Enss

78 THE TOP 10 WESTERN MUSEUMS OF 2014

Despite some controversies in the past year, Western history and art still bring the frontier experience alive at these top museums.

—The Editors/Written by Johnny D. Boggs

Watch our videos!

Scan your mobile device over any of the QR codes in this magazine to instantly stream original *True West* videos or be transported to our websites.



Design by Dan Harshberger



True West to the Rescue

Doc Holliday told Wyatt Earp in *Tombstone* that Wyatt gave him hope. That's the way I feel about your magazine and Old West efforts. The June issue arrived just when I needed it most, giving me renewed hope.

Rico "Trader Doc" Nance
Homeland, California

WAR OF WORDS

I have been an on- and off-again subscriber to your magazine. Your ability to make the West come alive again serves notice to your creativity and love for the subject. Those traits make you, as well as me, search for truth in reporting. I once was a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. Truth is everything, then and now. That is why I am writing.

The last Custer edition, which I enjoyed, did rub me with some cactus spines. As an amateur historian and gunslinger, I strive for truth. I have spent a lot of time in Texas, and I reside here in Austin. I work about 30 feet from Round Rock, where Sam Bass (and Seaborn Barnes) were shot while casing a bank. Why so much wind to get to a point? I take exception to the liberal, P.C. and overuse of the term "Civil War" in that Custer issue.

If you were reporting from a Northern perspective, I would understand, however, there are more historically correct terms. One I prefer is "War of Northern Aggression." The truest of terms. How about your wife deciding to absolve your "Union," and you beat her back into submission, only to lie, saying it was not only for her own good, but also to free the gardeners who work for her. "War Between the States," "War of Succession" are also acceptable.

I think it is time for *True West* Magazine to quit being a puppet of the North/P.C. crowd and to be fair in its reporting and storytelling. Please stop with the omnipresent "Civil War."

David Curran
Austin, Texas

"HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE VICTORS"

—Attributed to U.K. Prime Minister Winston Churchill, but of unknown origin

Hold On to Your Horses

Remember this item from our May 2014 issue? One observant reader wrote in to comment: "Another perspective—the driver is holding lines not reins. A rider on horseback is holding reins."

—Dennis Hensley of Bennington, Kansas



Wyatt "Erp"?

I'm reaching out to you to settle an argument.

When no one's around, I enjoy setting down my copy of *True West* just long enough to watch reruns of TV Westerns I watched as a child. One of those is *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*. My wife says that when she was growing up on the plains of Wauconda, Illinois, Wyatt Earp loomed large enough in her schoolyard culture that the kids sang a song about him.

She came home early from work one day and caught me watching that program. I saw her coming in the driveway so I had enough time to stuff my cap guns and hat under the couch cushions, but she heard the theme song to the show. She said that her schoolmates sang the words, "Wyatt Earp, why did you burp, all over Jesse James" in place of the real words, "Wyatt Earp, Wyatt Earp, brave, courageous and bold." My question: Is there any historical evidence that Wyatt Earp ever burped on Jesse James?

Larry Fisher
Waukegan, Illinois

Bob Boze Bell responds: No.



Knott Funny

I am a big *True West* fan. It's the only magazine I have ever read cover to cover. But I have never been so disappointed as when I read the article about Comedy Westerns in your July issue. How can anyone even have a conversation about Comedy Westerns without saying something about Don Knotts and *The Shakiest Gun in the West*? I think you should punish your writer and make him watch the movie—just kidding.

Don Magers
Saltville, Tennessee

C. Courtney Joyner responds: I love *The Shakiest Gun in the West*, but since it's a remake, I referenced *The Paleface* instead. In my defense, I did talk to Ed Faulkner, who played Marshal Sam Huggins, quite a bit about *Shakiest Gun* in my book.



Billy the Bedwetter?

Poor Billy the Kid gets saddled with some incredible claims.

“ He was a sociopath and a thug, nothing more,” says a certain family therapist (full disclosure: we’re married, and she gave birth to my children). Harsh words about one of my favorite outlaws, but the abuse of Billy the Kid doesn’t end there.

An old *National Enquirer* headline wondered, “Was Billy the Kid actually a girl?” This angle started early.

A nationally known forensic expert declared Billy was actually “endomorph,” with wide hips and narrow shoulders, citing Civil War diets as a possible explanation for the seemingly pear-shaped body that appears in the only known photograph of the Kid.

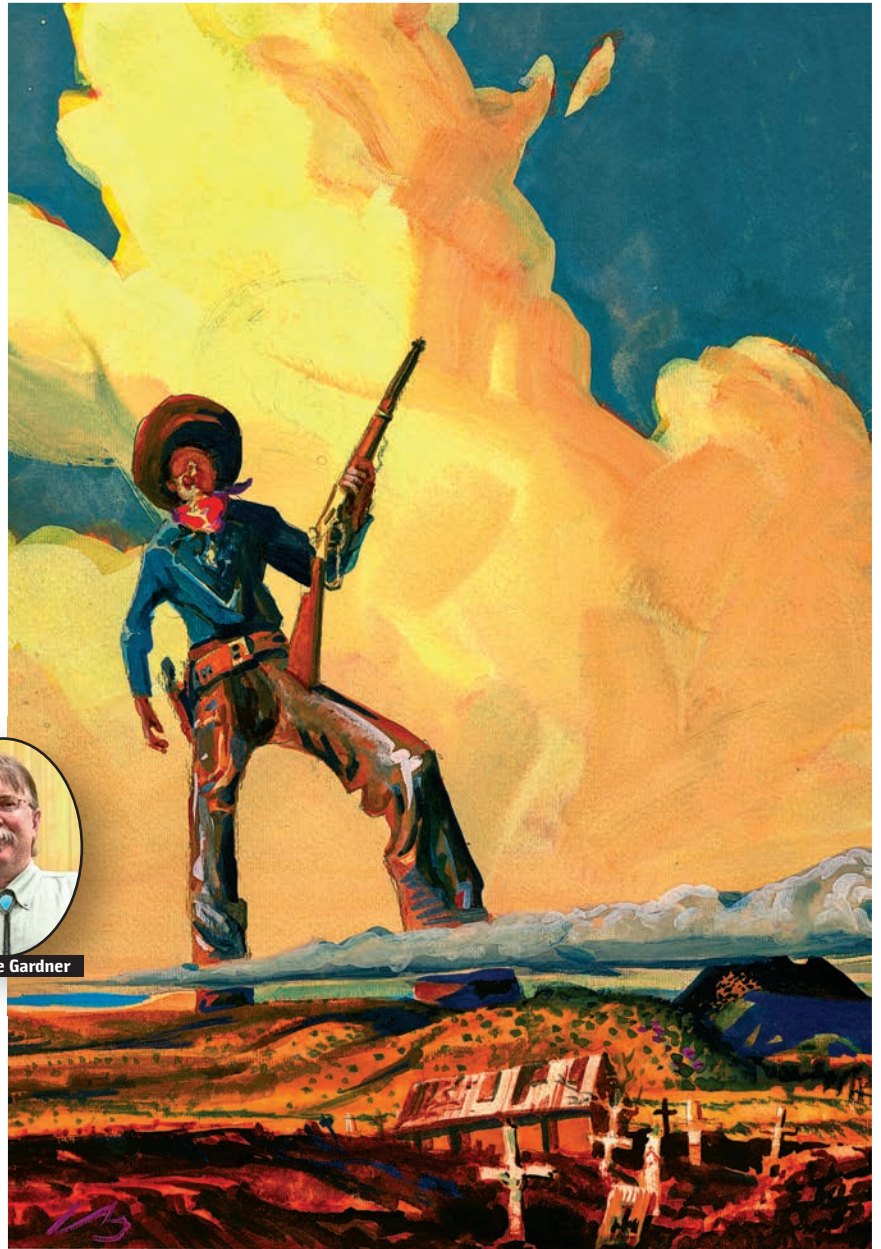
The great-great-grandson of Emil Fritz, whose insurance policy set in motion the Lincoln County War, claimed the Kid “wet the bed” when he stayed at the Fritz ranch. Add these vicious slanders to the usual spurious claims: He killed a man for insulting his mother. (Not true.) He killed a man for every year of his life. (How’d you like to be with the Kid on New Year’s Eve, and he hadn’t made his quota for the year?)

For this issue, I had the pleasure of discussing our theories with one of the foremost experts on the Kid, Mark Lee Gardner, who shares a new find (p. 22) and his opinions about how the Kid died (p. 46). Mark doesn’t let the wild theories get to him (he jokes that it’s not Brushy Bill’s body that’s buried in Hico, Texas). One thing remains clear: after 60 movies and hundreds of books (our own included), the Kid remains a worldwide phenom.

Not bad for a pear-shaped, cross-dressing bedwetter.



Mark Lee Gardner



In spite of all the claims and all the theories, Billy the Kid still stands tall.

— ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL —

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



Quotes

“If you don’t know history, you don’t know anything. You are a leaf that doesn’t know it is part of a tree.”

– Michael Crichton, *paraphrased from Timeline*

“You don’t need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight.”

– Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater

“Very little is known about the War of 1812 because the Americans lost it.”

– Canadian humorist Eric Nicol

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by all his friends.”

– Oscar Wilde, *on fellow Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw*

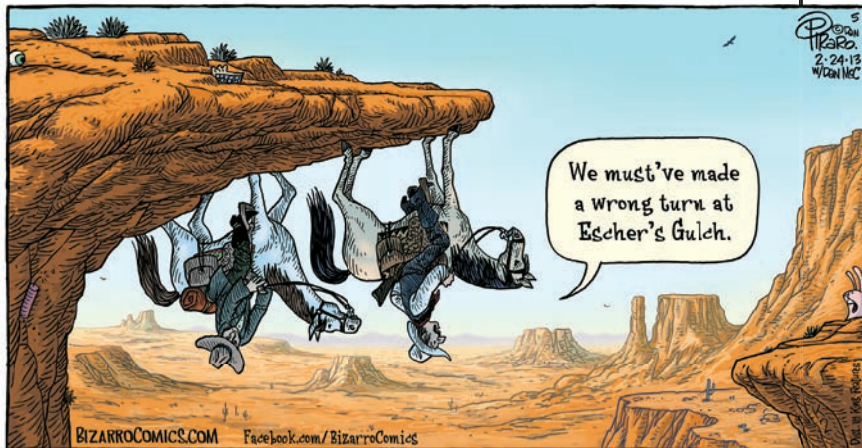
“When a reservation-raised Native American dies of alcoholism it should be considered death by natural causes.”

– Sherman Alexie, *in his book Blasphemy*

“Don’t stay in bed, unless you can make money in bed.”

– American comedian George Burns

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



“Which brings us to that pretentious question on which history has hung breathless for more than a century. At what point did Custer with Indians to the front, Indians to the left, Indians to the right and Indians to the rear, at what point did he look around and say, ‘Oh shit!’”

– American West historian Robert M. Utley

“History is a combination of reality and lies. The reality of History becomes a lie. The unreality of the fable becomes the truth.”

– Jean Cocteau, *in Diary of an Unknown Man*



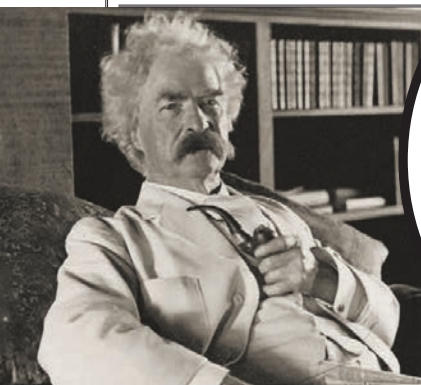
“Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.”

– Mark Twain, *in his final novel, The Mysterious Stranger*

Old Vaquero Saying



“It is pretty hard to tell what does bring happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed.”



CARTRIDGE RIFLES



1860 Henry Lever Action



1860 HENRY

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

1866 Lever Action



1866 RIFLE

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

1873 Rifle



1873 RIFLE – CHECKERED STRAIGHT STOCK

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

Taylor's '92



TAYLOR'S 1892 RIFLE

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

A Deadly Vision

Wovoka's Ghost Dance dream turned bad at Wounded Knee.



J.E. Meddaugh photographed these Lakota Sioux ghost dancers on the Pine Ridge Reservation, probably circa 1890. Misinformation about Wovoka's Ghost Dance movement led to the Wounded Knee Massacre on December 29, 1890.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION —

On January 1, 1889, the Northern Paiute medicine man Wovoka was recovering after nearly dying from scarlet fever. As a total solar eclipse darkened the skies, Wovoka had a grand vision of renewal and success and glory.

It would all go terribly wrong.

Born in Nevada around 1856, Wovoka learned at the feet of his medicine man father. At the age of 14, in 1870, he was sent to live with rancher David Wilson. The youngster, adopting the name Jack, chopped wood (*wovoka* means “wood cutter”) and learned about Christianity.

As he grew to manhood, Wovoka began incorporating Christian theology—especially the messiah, resurrection and salvation—into his native beliefs. He developed a reputation as a miracle worker. He brought rain to parched areas. He healed people. Stories circulated that shotgun blasts to the chest could not kill him. Paiutes believed

his recovery from scarlet fever was responsible for bringing back the sun after that total eclipse.

His words had power among several tribes. They listened when he said God had told him of big changes coming in the spring of 1891. Indians would gain power, and the whites would disappear. The buffalo and

game would return. The dead would come back to life. The old ways would flourish. All they had to do was dance the Ghost Dance, which Wovoka would teach them.

It was a message of hope to people who had been beaten down and demoralized. Within months, some 30 tribes had come to learn from Wovoka. Whites mockingly referred to him as an Indian Jesus.

The Ghost Dance message spread, but some Indians didn't listen to everything

Wovoka had preached. Wovoka said that the Indians should live in peace with the whites until God's apocalypse wiped them out. But some, believing that wearing a

Wovoka's peaceful movement had gained momentum so quickly, he could no longer control it.

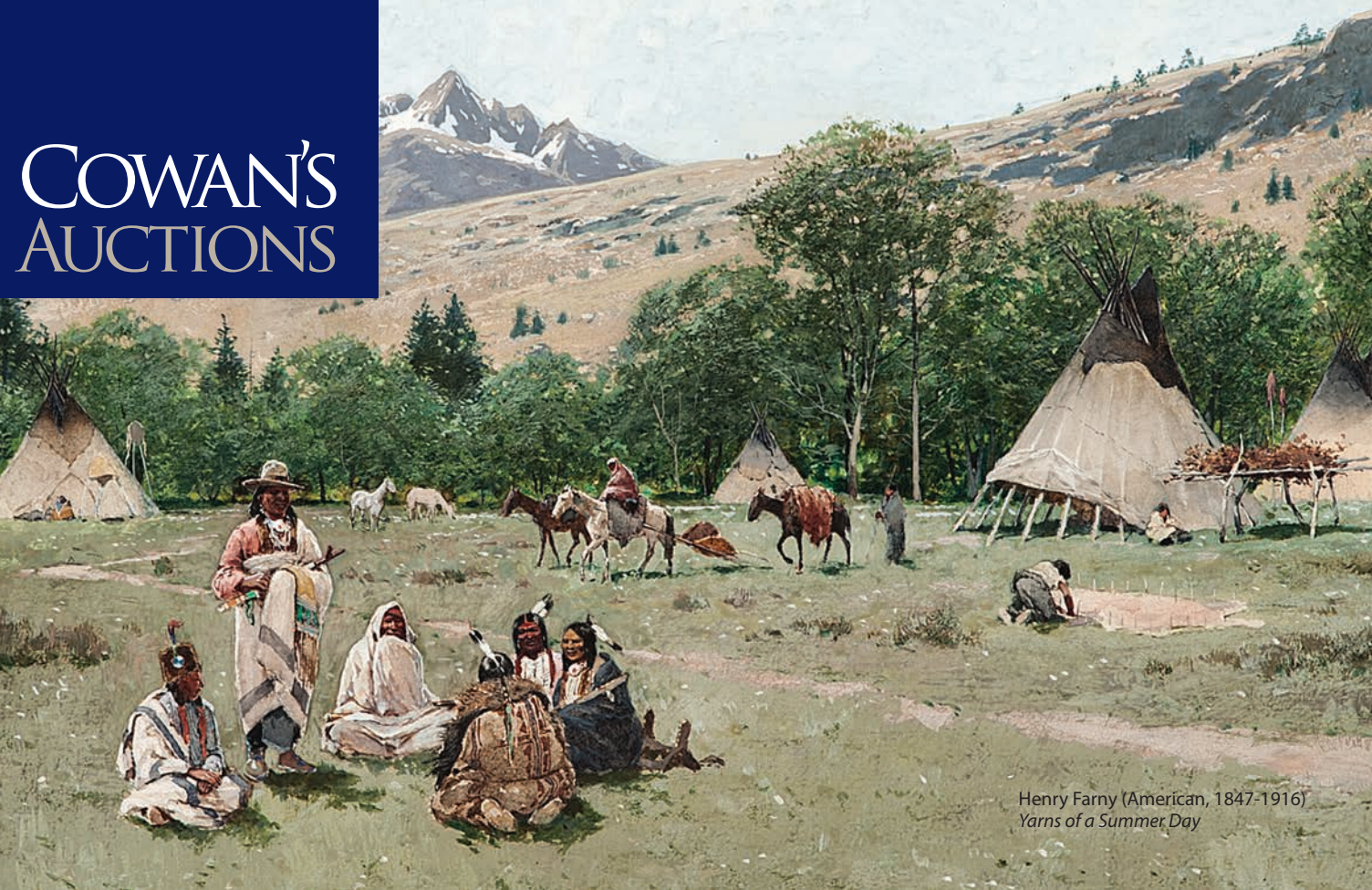
Ghost Dance shirt made them invincible (Wovoka called the claim a joke), thought they could push things by taking up arms. As confrontations between Indians and U.S. military personnel escalated, especially among the Sioux in the Dakotas, the Army began thinking that the Ghost Dance was bringing on war. Wovoka's peaceful movement had gained momentum so quickly, he could no longer control it.

Tensions heightened on December 15, 1890, when Sitting Bull (an adherent of the Ghost Dance) was killed during a botched arrest at the Standing Rock Agency in Dakota Territory. Two weeks later, the Army tried to disarm a group of Miniconjou Lakota Ghost Dancers at Wounded Knee Creek. The soldiers opened fire, killing somewhere between 150 and 300 Lakota.

A few months later, the appointed time came—spring of 1891—when the ghosts would return and the whites would disappear. Nothing happened. Yet Wovoka remained a figure of honor for the next 41 years of his life. He traveled the West, speaking and performing miracles. He made a good living from selling personal items associated with the Ghost Dance (hats were popular, going for \$20 each).

Wovoka died on September 29, 1932. A Paiute tribal member said, at the time, that many Indians believed he would return, a messianic second coming that would bring back good times for his people. They're still waiting.





Henry Farny (American, 1847-1916)
Yarns of a Summer Day



Mort Kunstler (American, b. 1931)
Oklahoma Land Rush, April 22nd, 1889



Howard Terpning (American, b. 1927)
Yellowstone Fall



James Boren (American, 1921-1990)
Heading for Dodge City

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One woman's fight preserved pioneer architecture in Texas's oldest town.



Lera Millard Thomas

“You people are crazy.” Those who knew Lera Millard Thomas can still hear her scold the city council of Nacogdoches, Texas, with those words.

Lera wasn't a woman afraid to speak her mind. Born in this town in 1900, she lived here until she and her high-school-sweetheart husband moved to Houston. Her husband, Albert, served 29 years in Congress—helping to nab the space program for Houston. When he died in 1966, Lera ran in a special election to fill his 15th term. She won more than 74 percent of the vote and became the first woman to represent Texas in Congress. Nine months later, the term was up, and she eventually moved home.

But her hometown was being torn apart. Stephen F. Austin State University was expanding, making Nacogdoches attractive to new businesses. Yet those firms sought to relocate near the university, in the most established part of

town, and wanted to tear down century-old homes and buildings to make way for modern buildings.

“Here we are, the oldest town in Texas, and you're letting it be destroyed,” Lera told city leaders.

“So she said, ‘If I don't do something, who will?’” recalls David Young, who is executive director of what her something was: Millard's Crossing Historic Village.

“She started buying up old buildings and moving them to her family's land,” says Young, noting the Millard holdings north of town once covered 600-700 acres.

“She was a collector: furniture, historic documents, paintings, jewelry, glassware. And now she was collecting an entire village,” Young says. “She thought, ‘every town always had a country store,’ so she went out and built one. She thought, ‘every town always had a church,’ so she bought the abandoned Free Methodist Church that

“Here we are, the oldest town in Texas, and you're letting it be destroyed.”

On family land where Lera Millard Thomas grew up, her restoration project began with a single Victorian home and grew into a village. One highlight is a circa 1837 double house built by her great-grandfather Robert Millard, who came to Nacogdoches, Texas, from his birthplace of Mississippi as a merchant during the 1830s.

— COURTESY MILLARD'S CROSSING HISTORIC VILLAGE —

was built in 1905 on the south side of town and moved it here.”

By the time her building collecting was done, she had moved 15 structures onto five acres of her family's land. She filled the buildings with antiques and hosted her friends in these guest houses.

By the early 1980s, though, she and her family decided to transform her collection into a public site that interpreted east Texas settlement between 1830-1930. “We started an education program because we want to put adults and children back in the shoes of the pioneers,” Young says.

The historic village is open seven days a week, year round, excepting a few holidays. In summer, it sponsors camps, including one titled “Five Days in the Life of a Pioneer Child.”

“We've become a treasure for East Texas,” Young says, adding that the village is enjoyed not only by tourists, but also as a site for weddings and music festivals.

Lera died in 1993, but her grandson and his family still live in the village. “We're a homage to Mrs. Thomas and her family history,” Young says. “The historic village lets us get into the minds of the pioneers of Texas.”



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

**BUFFALO BILL
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OF THE WEST**

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

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Signing Off On the Holy Grail

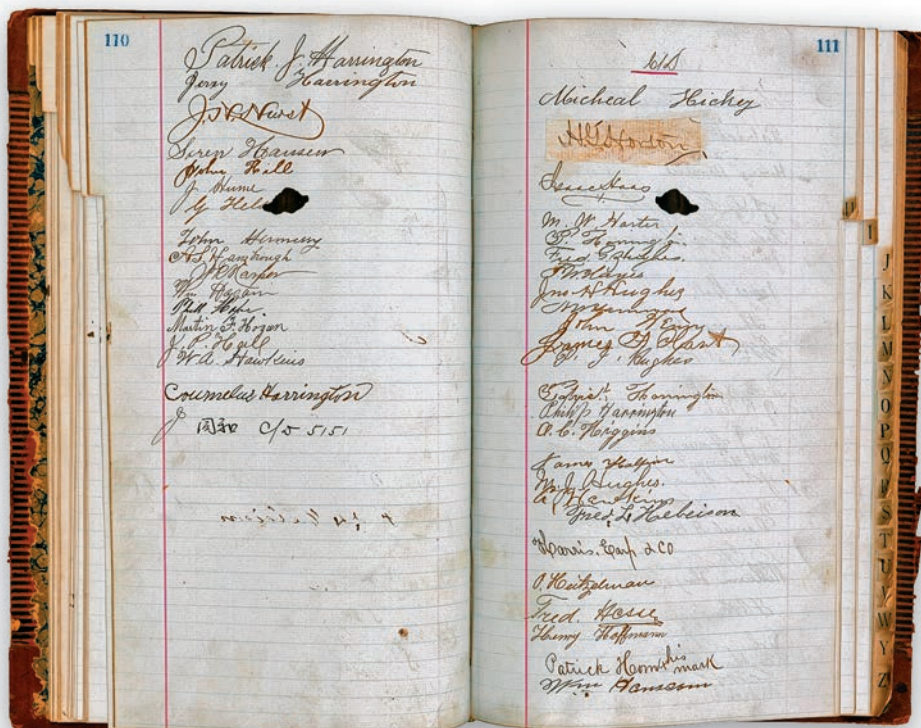
When it comes to Old West signatures, Heritage Auctions just sold one book that has got the goods.

Selling as the top lot, for \$55,000, the 1880–81 Pima County Bank signature book contains the handwritten scrawls of notable Westerners from the O.K. Corral era, including the only known signature of the woman popularly called Big Nose Kate (inset). She is depicted here in a photo seated next to her sister, Wilhelmina, circa 1865, roughly a decade before she met her love, Doc Holliday.

Inspired by the Arthurian quest to acquire the chalice of the Last Supper that received Jesus Christ's blood from his crucifixion, collectors use the term "Holy Grail" to refer to a hard-to-find or rare piece that they must own to complete their collection.

The autographs of hundreds of Tombstone citizens inscribed during the era of the Wild West's most famous gunfight.

In the Old West arena, just three years ago, photo aficionados went wild for their Holy Grail, the original tintype of Billy the Kid that sold at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction (see p. 28). For the philigraphists in this circle, theirs has just sold: an 1880–81 signature book of the Pima County Bank in Arizona that preserves the autographs of hundreds of Tombstone citizens inscribed during the era of the Wild West's most famous gunfight, the battle behind the O.K. Corral.



To cite the signatures included is mindboggling, especially in a world where if something seems too good to be true, it probably isn't. When said item is also linked to Tombstone collector John Gilchriese, skepticism rises even more. Although some items the field historian acquired have been called into question, this book is the real deal.

So here goes, prepare to have your mind blown. The top lot sold at Heritage Auctions on June 14, for a \$55,000 bid, contains the signatures of notable characters who include: Wyatt and Virgil Earp, Ike and



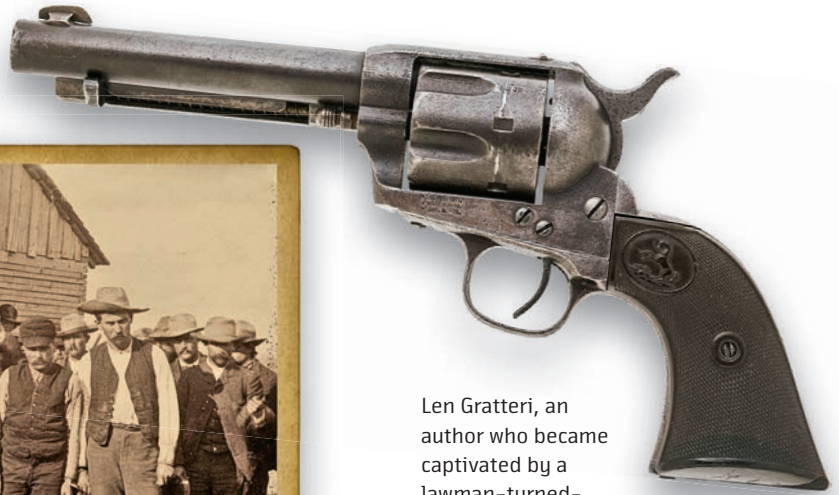
Kate Holliday

N.H. Clanton, J.H. Behan, J. Hume and Fred J. Dodge. Distinguished from his brother Tom McLauray's signature, Will signed "Fort Worth" after his W.R.; the attorney had come to Tombstone from Texas to become a member of the team prosecuting the Earp gang after the shoot-out behind the O.K. Corral on October 26, 1881. Even more, this book features the only known signature of Doc Holliday's paramour, Kate.

Collectors collectively earned more than \$450,000 on notable Old West treasures at the Legends of the West auction.

Notable Old West Lots Included

(All images courtesy Heritage Auctions)

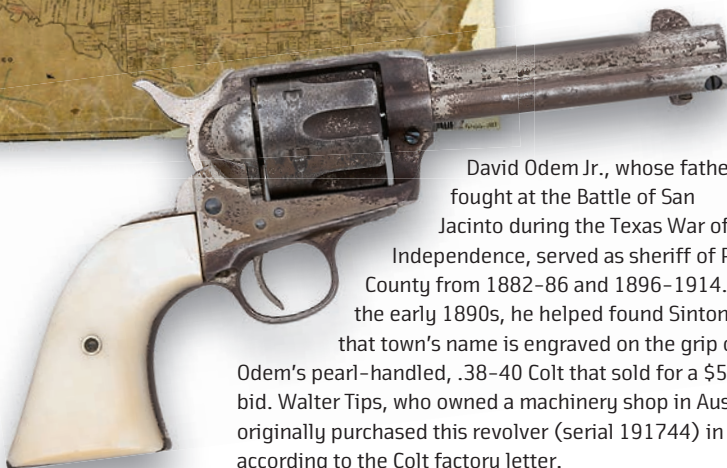


Len Gratteri, an author who became captivated by a lawman-turned-outlaw bank robber from Caldwell, Kansas, named Ben Wheeler, sold the assistant marshal's .44 caliber Colt Single Action Army revolver, serial 98216, he had purchased at Christie's New York in 1998 for \$12,650. He roughly made back his investment, with the gun bidding in at \$12,000 at Heritage.



Gratteri also sold other items tied to Wheeler, including a photograph taken after the Medicine Lodge bank robbery he participated in on April 30, 1884; \$2,200. The posse surrounds the robbers (from left) John Wesley, shackled to Caldwell City Marshal Henry Brown, and William Smith, handcuffed to Wheeler.

An 1888 cabinet photo of the famed Texas Ranger Company D, passed down through the family of J. Walter Durbin (front row, fourth from left), hammered down for \$13,000.



David Odem Jr., whose father fought at the Battle of San Jacinto during the Texas War of Independence, served as sheriff of Patricio County from 1882-86 and 1896-1914. In the early 1890s, he helped found Sinton, and that town's name is engraved on the grip of Odem's pearl-handled, .38-40 Colt that sold for a \$5,000 bid. Walter Tips, who owned a machinery shop in Austin, originally purchased this revolver (serial 191744) in 1899, according to the Colt factory letter.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

September 12-14, 2014

Antique & Modern Firearms
Rock Island Auction (Rock Island, IL)
RockIslandAuction.com • 800-238-8022

September 13, 2014

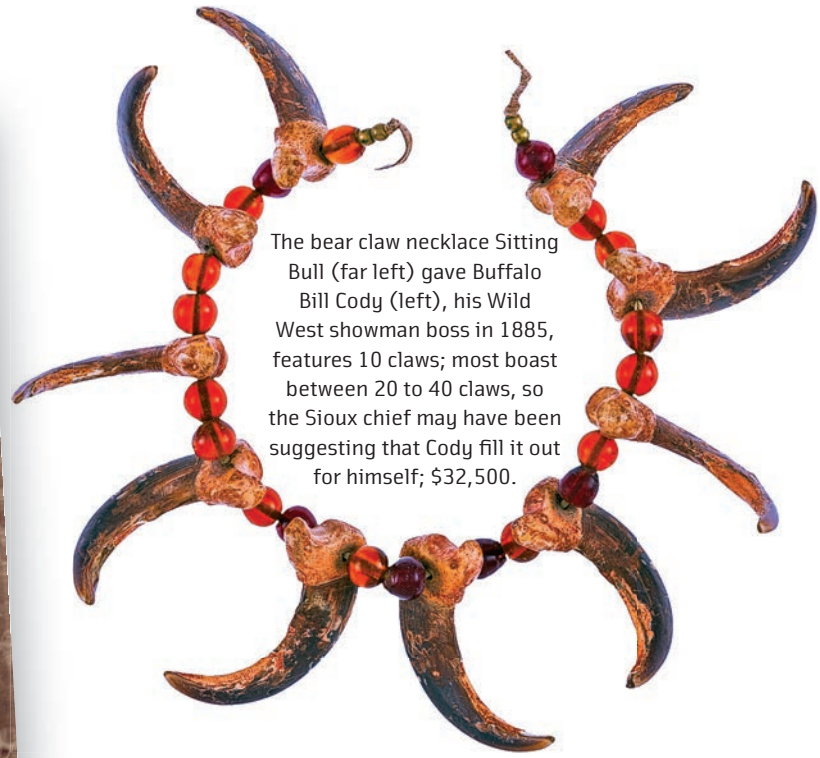
Art of the American West
Jackson Hole Art Auction (Jackson, WY)
JacksonHoleArtAuction.com
307-732-1600

September 19, 2014

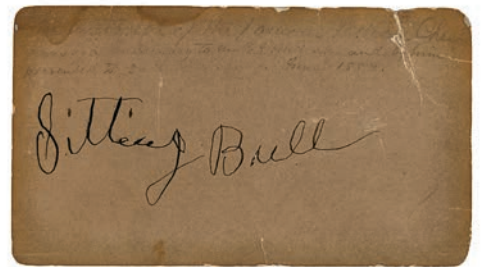
Art of the American West
Buffalo Bill Art Show (Cody, WY)
BuffaloBillArtShow.com • 307-587-5002



Sitting Bull's autograph, on the back of an advertising card for the Randall House Hotel at Fort Randall in Dakota Territory, features a pencil notation dated 1882 by Maj. G.L. Andrews, who served at the post during Sitting Bull's captivity; \$6,000.



The bear claw necklace Sitting Bull (far left) gave Buffalo Bill Cody (left), his Wild West showman boss in 1885, features 10 claws; most boast between 20 to 40 claws, so the Sioux chief may have been suggesting that Cody fill it out for himself; \$32,500.



Originally acquired from Julia Goodman, the sister of Buffalo Bill Cody, this cased, Cody-owned, Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army revolver, serial 77234, bid in at \$32,500.

Described as exceedingly rare by Paul Fees, retired curator of the newly named Buffalo Bill Center of the West, this 1915 lithograph poster for Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World bid in at \$5,500.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

September 26, 2014

American Indian and Western Art
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
Cowan.com • 513-871-1670

September 27, 2014

Historic Firearms
Amoskeag Auction Co. (Manchester, NH)
AmoskeagAuction.com • 603-627-7383

September 27, 2014

Old West Signature
Heritage Auctions (Dallas, TX)
HA.com • 877-437-4824



From December 1893 to April 1894, William Weigel commanded these 17 Apache scouts and one white soldier in San Carlos, Arizona Territory. He is seen in the center, wearing the kepi with 11th Infantry insignia. The photo, which identifies each man, hammered down for \$2,800.



The six-pointed star badge of Texas Ranger Phillip Cuney Baird, who was elected sheriff of Mason County in 1888 and served through 1896, hammered down at \$3,500.

- P.C. BAIRD PHOTO COURTESY JAMES BAIRD FAMILY -



George Armstrong Custer's personal Indian War-era lambskin gauntlets, with family provenance, sold for a \$12,000 bid. The famous cavalry commander is shown wearing similar gauntlets in the photo.



A pair of .41 Colt Single Actions, consecutively numbered 158425 and 158426, attributed to Texas Ranger Capt. Roy Aldrich, plus a Ranger badge, bid in at \$7,500. Heritage earlier sold a photo of Aldrich (far left) for a \$150 bid on September 21, 2013. Given his service from 1917-47, excepting a two-year break, Aldrich is credited as having the longest tenure of any Ranger.



FORT SUMNER AND MAXWELL HOUSE, 1882

Taken on the same day, a year after Billy the Kid's death, these photos show good views of Fort Sumner's parade ground and Pete Maxwell's house (the man standing next to the horse is believed to be Pete). Historians disagree as to whether the house had the second story when the Kid was killed. Deputy John W. Poe, in his version of the Kid's death, claimed the dwelling was a "very long, one-story" building, which was how all the post buildings looked when Lucien Maxwell bought the property in 1870.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -





BY MARK LEE GARDNER

A long-lost account from the *Las Vegas Daily Gazette* shoots down conspiracy theories and reveals how the notorious outlaw actually died.

“THE TERRITORY IS BETTER FOR HIS DEATH”

Early on the morning of July 18, 1881, mail contractor Michael Cosgrove pulled into Las Vegas direct from Fort Sumner with the biggest news ever to hit New Mexico Territory: Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett had shot dead Billy the Kid.

Las Vegas, a town of roughly 6,000, had two daily newspapers, the *Las Vegas Daily Optic* and the *Las Vegas Daily Gazette*, and these were the first to publish the sensational details of how the West's most elusive outlaw finally met his end. Unfortunately, copies of the *Gazette* from that date do not seem to have survived, leaving historians only the coverage provided by the *Optic*—until now.

Excerpts of the *Las Vegas Daily Gazette's* July 19 story on the Kid's

demise—based in part on an interview with Sheriff Garrett himself—were published in various regional newspapers. One paper, however, copied the article in its entirety: the *Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette* of July 23, 1881. The reprinted article was discovered through a recent search using the website *NewspaperArchive.com*.

As is to be expected, the article is not without factual errors, but it is interesting how some of these had already become cornerstones of Kid lore, such as the story that Billy's first victim was a man who had insulted his mother. This article also refutes stories concocted by Billy the Kid pretenders Brushy Bill Roberts, John Miller and others claiming the Kid had somehow

dodged death. Much more fascinating and historically valuable, though, are the article's specifics about the Kid's demise; his physical appearance, including the clothes he was wearing; the identification of the woman he was staying with in Fort Sumner; the inquest over his body; and the Kid's burial place and simple headstone in the Fort Sumner cemetery.

The *Las Vegas Daily Gazette's* account follows in full.

Mark Lee Gardner is the author of *To Hell on a Fast Horse: Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and the Epic Chase to Justice in the Old West*. His most recent book is the award-winning *Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape* (William Morrow, 2013).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL



“... if anyone ever killed ‘the Kid’ it was acknowledged that the nery Sheriff of Lincoln county would be the man to get in his work on the young terror.”

Irish-born mail contractor Michael Cosgrove had been one of Pat Garrett's guards when he transported Billy the Kid, Dave Rudabaugh, Billy Wilson and Tom Pickett from Fort Sumner to Las Vegas, New Mexico, in late December 1880. Cosgrove took a liking to the four prisoners and presented each of them with a new suit of clothes in Las Vegas, saying he wanted “to see the boys go away in style.” The Kid liked Cosgrove, too, and asked that his revolver be turned over to the mail contractor for safekeeping. Yet the Kid never had a chance to retrieve the weapon; according to an article in the *Santa Fe Weekly Sun*, it was still with the Cosgrove family in 1891.

Manuel Brazil, who co-owned a ranch 12 miles east of Fort Sumner, had also been one of Garrett's guards that December. Brazil had bravely helped Garrett capture the Kid and his gang at Stinking Springs, and he figured that the young outlaw was gunning for him. He had every reason to put Garrett back on the Kid's trail.

HOW “THE KID” DIED.

Circumstantial Account of His Shooting by Sheriff Garrett.

Some Particulars About “The Kid's” Life and Adventures.

The Las Vegas Gazette of the 19th inst. contains the following circumstantial report of the killing of Billy “the Kid”: “The last buckboard from Ft. Sumner brought news of the killing of the redoubtable Billy “the Kid.” When this intelligence was noised abroad yesterday morning, there was intense excitement throughout Las Vegas. Many were inclined to doubt the truth of the report, but a half dozen business men and citizens produced letters from people resident in that country in support of the report. The statement that Pat Garrett had killed the young desperado went far towards confirming the report, for if anyone ever killed “the Kid” it was acknowledged that the nery Sheriff of Lincoln county would be the man to get in his work on the young terror.

Late in the forenoon Pat Garrett and several men from the neighborhood of Sumner arrived in the city. The tall, silent Garrett was the hero of the hour and was lionized for the killing that was confirmed by the personal testimony of him who has forever rid the Pecos country and Lincoln county of the intrepid outlaw.

From an interview with Mr. Garrett, advice from our special correspondent, M. Cosgrove, the mail contractor and other authentic sources we are able to give the Gazette readers a full story of the death of the desperado, who, while living under numerous aliases has been known the length and breadth of the country as “Billy the Kid.”

Sheriff Garrett was written to by Mr. M. S. Brazil, who stated that Billy was in the neighborhood of Ft. Sumner. He immediately left Lincoln with two men, John W. Coe and Kit McFlaney, to hunt down the outlaw. They arrived at Sumner about midnight on Tuesday last.

Without any delay Pat and party after dismounting went directly to the house of Pete Maxwell. Knowing where he slept, Pat stepped up to the door of his bed room and



THE BRAZIL-WILCOX RANCH

Located about halfway between Fort Sumner and Stinking Springs in New Mexico, Manuel Brazil and Tom Wilcox's ranch, photographed here after the turn of the 20th century, was the rendezvous for Billy the Kid and his cohorts during Pat Garrett's snowy campaign.

- COURTESY MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO -



PAT GARRETT, SHERIFF OF LINCOLN CO., N. M.

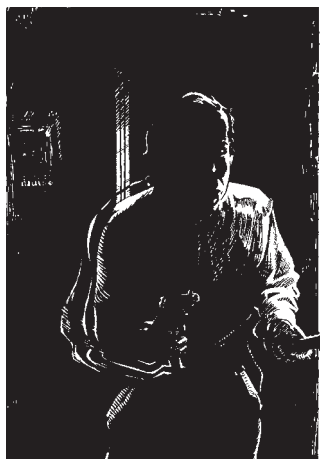
Drawing of Garrett that appeared in his book, *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*.

- ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

Garrett's deputies were 30-year-old John W. Poe and 25-year-old Thomas “Kip” McKinney, whom Garrett described as “men in whose courage and sagacity I relied implicitly.” Reflecting 40 years later on the strange circumstances of the Kid's death, Poe wrote that, “To me it seemed that what occurred in Fort Sumner on that night had actually been foreordained.”

Pete Maxwell was an old acquaintance of Garrett's. Maxwell, part owner of Fort Sumner, had hired the lawman as a cowhand in 1878, when Garrett first arrived at the fort from the Texas plains. Pete's sister Paulita was the Kid's sweetheart. His love for her is the generally accepted reason why the Kid returned to Fort Sumner after his escape from the Lincoln County jail on

April 28, 1881.



Most accounts have the Kid staying at the residence of Saval and Celsa Gutierrez at the time of his death. Paulita Maxwell told biographer Walter Noble Burns that Celsa (sister-in-law to Garrett) was the Kid's lover. A sworn affidavit from Celsa's son, Candido, states that he saw the Kid pick up the butcher knife belonging to his mother before making the fateful walk to Pete's home. Yet evidence also links the Kid to Charlie Bowdre's attractive widow, Manuela.

Charles Siringo, who was infatuated with Manuela, wrote that he walked her home from a Fort Sumner fandango a few weeks after the Kid's Lincoln escape. He begged her to let him come in, but she refused. Manuela later told Siringo that she did not let him in because the Kid was hiding inside.

McFlaney, to hunt down the outlaw. They arrived at Sumner about midnight on Tuesday last.

Without any delay Pat and party after dismounting went directly to the house of Pete Maxwell. Knowing where he slept, Pat stepped up to the door of his bed room and found it open. There were three windows in the room, all of which were raised. Through the open door and windows the moonlight streamed into the room, and after posting Coe and McKinney as guards outside, Pat walked into the room. He saw Mr. Maxwell lying on the bed in the southeast corner of the room and Garrett took a seat at the head of the bed. He asked Mr. Maxwell if he knew the whereabouts of the man he was searching for. Mr. Maxwell informed him that he was in the neighborhood.

At the left of the bed, on the same side as the door, and between it and the door was a window. The moonlight streamed in through the open window, but by sitting at the head of the bed Pat was able to partially hide himself in the shadow. He was talking with Mr. Maxwell when some one came to the door.

The figure advanced to the bed with a butcher knife in his hand. Pat did not recognize the midnight visitor, who kept on advancing till he stood at Mr. Maxwell's bedside and near by Garrett. He put his hand on the supposed sleeper to rouse him, and on Maxwell's rising up he asked, having noticed the strange figure, "who is that?"

The sheriff knew that voice instantly, but not then did he have any idea that the fellow whom he was after was so near by.

Receiving no answer to his query, Billy jumped away from the bed at the same time drawing his self-cocking revolver. He had not got far from the bed when Garrett, who is always cool, no matter how trying the circumstances, rose up and fired. The shot struck "the Kid" in the heart and he fell on his back, a dead man.

Billy, who had been in hiding, had crept in to Ft. Sumner that night. He had gone at once to the house of Manuela Bowdre, a woman with whom one of Billy's old *compadres*, Charlie Bowdre, who was shot when "the Kid," Rudabaugh, Tom Pickett and Billy Wilson were "rounded up" at Stinking Springs, had lived with for two or three years up to the time of his death. "The Kid" had been there frequently after making his escape from Lincoln, and on this fatal night had gone there very hungry. There was no meat in the house, and he had gone to Mr. Maxwell's to secure some fresh mutton. This explains why he should have appeared there at that unseasonable hour and also explains how he happened to have the knife in his hand. Since his escape he had allowed his beard to grow and had attempted to disguise himself as a Mexican by darkening his skin by the use of some sort of root. When shot he was dressed for hot weather, in a white shirt, drawers and his stocking feet.

After all the misses he has made, and has eluded death by the closest of close calls, the desperado did not die with his boots on.

An inquest was held the next day, and as he was known to all the country, there was no doubt that "the Kid" was really dead. The foreman of the jury in a timely manner



A most interesting contradiction between this account and those written by Garrett and Poe is that here, the Kid did not draw his revolver until after he saw the stranger in the shadows next to Maxwell. Garrett and Poe wrote that the Kid already had a revolver in his hand when he entered Maxwell's bedroom. The Kid's pistol, a .41 caliber Colt Thunderer (not the same weapon he placed with Cosgrove), was later auctioned by Garrett and sold for \$13.50.

If the Kid did disguise himself as a Hispano, and that's a big "if," one wonders why he felt it necessary to do so. Those Fort Sumner residents who were not his friends were generally terrified of the outlaw. Garrett did not mention the beard nor the dark skin in his July 15, 1881, report to Gov. Lew Wallace, and he made no reference to a disguise in his 1882 biography of the Kid. Brushy Bill Roberts fans use the story about the disguise to argue that Garrett killed someone other than the Kid that night.



Bloodstained photo of Charlie Bowdre with wife Manuela that Charlie had in his pocket when killed.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -

The foreman of the coroner's jury was Milnor Rudolph, the postmaster at the nearby settlement of Sunnyside and a friend of Garrett's. Deputy Poe had visited Rudolph a few hours before the Kid was killed, seeking information on the outlaw's whereabouts, but Rudolph was too frightened to help him.



The Kid reportedly killed four men single-handedly ("Windy" Cahill, Joe Grant, James Bell and Bob Olinger) and, with the help of others, as many as nine men.

The Kid's name appears as Henry McCarty on the 1873 Santa Fe marriage record of his mother and William Antrim, but it's possible that his full name was William Henry McCarty, given that he used William H. Bonney as an alias.

dressed for hot weather, in a white shirt, drawers and his stocking feet.

After all the misses he has made, and has eluded death by the closest of close calls, the desperado did not die with his boots on.

An inquest was held the next day, and as he was known to all the country, there was no doubt that "the Kid" was really dead. The foreman of the jury, in a timely communication to the Gazette, says: "This news is true, for I was foreman of the jury of inquest, and know it was 'the Kid's' body that we examined."

He was buried just outside the gate of the cemetery in Sumner and a plain head board marks his grave, bearing only the words: "Billy the Kid."

The brave man who has put out of the world this fugitive from justice, cattle thief and murderer, is deserving of great praise, and recognition in a material way for his daring. Numerous times has the daring officer taken his life in his hands and gone forth campaigning against "the Kid" and his band. He led the party who rounded up the desperadoes at Stinking Springs on the 22d of December last. This implacable pursuer of the fellow who has terrorized the stockmen to the east and south of us, in killing him has won the gratitude of the people of the entire Territory. Bad as "the Kid" was individually, and he had become desperate, there were other dangers than from his unerring aim with either six-shooter or Winchester. Possessed of great personal magnetism, he was to be feared, for he could and did attract to him other lawless spirits. His superb marksmanship, and fine horsemanship made him a leader among such fellows, and "he dared to lead where any dared to follow."

In hunting him down, Sheriff Garrett will deserve to be treated royally, for the paltry \$500 offered for "the Kid," by the territory, is no compensation at all for his searching for Billy when he had been given to understand that he would shoot at sight. A subscription paper is in circulation for a testimonial to Sheriff Garrett, and it should receive many signatures and the total foot up a handsome sum.

"Billy the Kid" was in his twenty-fourth year. He has been accused of innumerable murders from the first when he shot a man for insulting his mother, closing the list with Deputy Sheriffs Bell and Olinger, whom he killed to regain his liberty, when under sentence of death, in Lincoln on May 6th. There is no knowing how many men he has killed, but at any rate, eleven is a small estimate. His career is too well known to the people of this territory to be dwelt on.

He was comely in appearance, about 5 feet 7½ inches tall, slight, muscular figure, blue eyes, that had a searching look, and mirrored in their piercing intensity, when he was roused, the devilish spirit within him. He was a native of New York City, of Irish parentage, and his real name was William McCarty, although he had been known as Henry Antrim, Billy Bonney, etc. He lived in Silver City for a time and was engaged in several capacities as a small boy, but once lodged in jail for petty larceny, after his escape he kept growing from bad to worse. He was mixed up in the Lincoln county war, and was one of the most fearless of all those who participated in that trouble. One incident, that will be recalled by many, that is an index to his daredevil career, was his escape from the McSween mansion in Lincoln during the Lincoln war. Billy and companions were forced to take refuge in the residence of Lawyer McSween. A detachment of colored troops

Historians have long questioned whether or not the Kid lies buried at the foot of the "Pals" monument in the Old Fort Sumner Cemetery—that headstone was placed in 1931, decades after the original wooden marker disappeared. This account places the Kid's final resting place far from the grave site tourists visit today. As for the Kid's buddies, Tom Folliard and Charlie Bowdre, they might not rest near the "Pals" headstone either. Francisco Lobato, who helped bury Folliard and Bowdre, said that these two were buried just to the left of the cemetery entrance and next to the graveyard's adobe wall. Pointing to the spot in 1935, Lobato said, "Somewhere by the side of this fence they were buried."



Due to lack of documentation, most historians go with November 23, 1859, as the date of the Kid's birth, a date that comes from Garrett's 1882 *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*, partially ghostwritten by Ash Upson. Thus, the Kid would have been 21 when he was killed.



In 1879, Gov. Lew Wallace did promise the Kid a pardon in exchange for his testimony before a Lincoln County grand jury, but this account is wrong about the Kid failing to keep his word. Putting himself in danger, the Kid did indeed testify. In an 1881 interview, however, Wallace claimed that an additional condition of the pardon was that the Kid had to lead a "different life," which gave Wallace a justification for not honoring his promise to the outlaw.

As far as we know, the Kid did not have a sister. He did have a brother, Joseph Antrim, who became a noted faro dealer and died destitute in Denver, Colorado, in 1930.

most fearless of all those who participated in that trouble. One incident, that will be recalled by many, that is an index to his daredevil career, was his escape from the McSween mansion in Lincoln during the Lincoln war. Billy and companions were forced to take refuge in the residence of Lawyer McSween. A detachment of colored troops surrounded it, but even in the face of that he refused to surrender. The house was set on fire, and then filling up his Winchester, he started out on a dead run pumping forth a stream of fire from his rifle. He was unharmed by the bullets that fell fast and thick about him, and jumping on a horse made his escape.

Gov. Lew Wallace once made an appointment with him, and Billy met him at midnight in an out of the way place in Lincoln county. The governor offered him clemency if he would testify against several men then in custody, who are supposed to have been one of the James boys and several noted outlaws. Billy promised to appear against them, his testimony being just what was needed, but he failed to keep his word.

After his arrest at Stinking Springs, he was confined in the Santa Fe jail for three months, till taken to Mesilla for trial for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Wm. Brady during the Lincoln county war. He was convicted and sentenced to be hanged in Lincoln, May 13th, and was taken there under a strong guard. But he managed a week before the time appointed for the execution to in some way gain possession of Deputy Sheriff Bell's revolver and killed him. He then shot Bob Olinger, his other guard, "stood out" the whole town, and forced a man to harness a mule for him, and rode out of town. From that time till his death he had hidden about Ft. Sumner.

He was probably the best shot in the west, and he had an all-abiding faith in his Winchester and six-shooter. The territory is better for his death, and no more will he depredate and lead others to commit depredations. His step-father resides in Silver City and he has a sister in Santa Fe, but he was bound to no one by ties however slight, and died as he has lived these past few years with his hand against everyone.

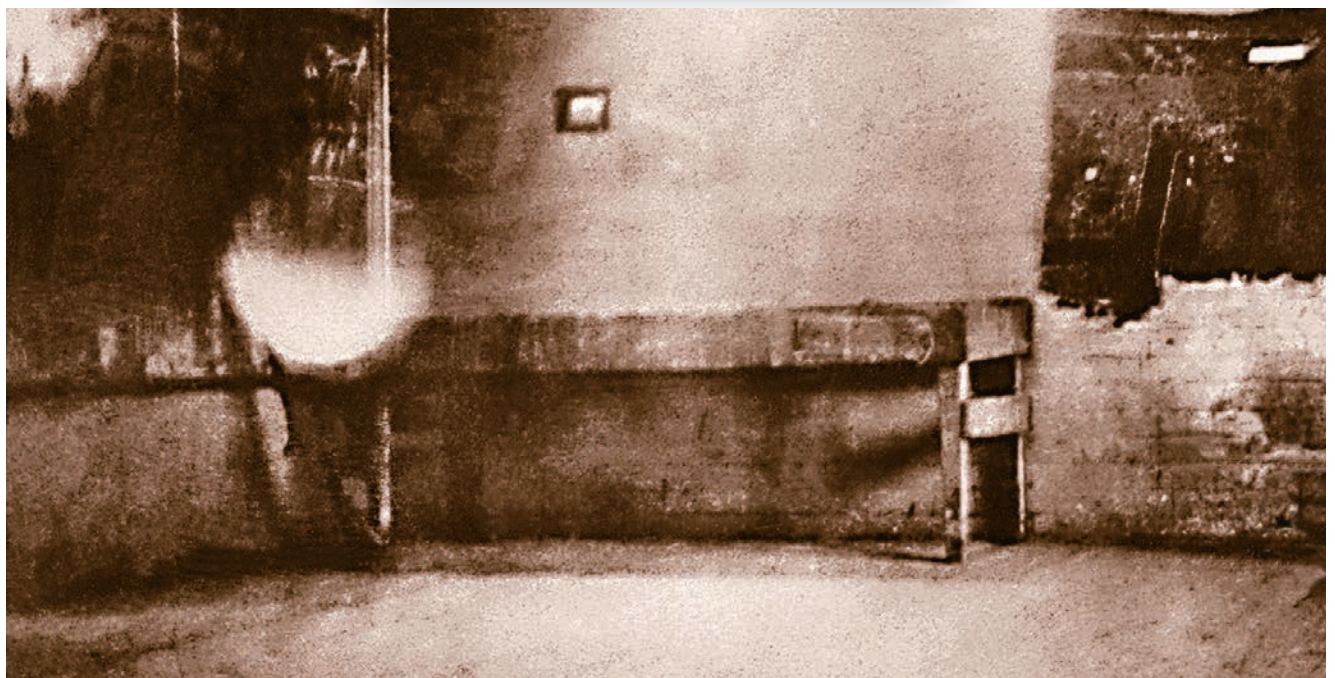


The True Life of Billy the Kid, a dime novel that hit newsstands on August 28, about six weeks after the Kid's death, based much of its story of a cold-blooded killer on newspaper accounts of the Kid's death.

William Brady was the Lincoln County sheriff, not the deputy sheriff. He was gunned down, along with Deputy George Hindman, by the Kid and several other "Regulators" on April 1, 1878, during the Lincoln County War. The Kid was the only shooter to be prosecuted for the sheriff's death.

CANDLE-LIT CORPSE

Billy's body was taken from the Maxwell house and laid out on a bench (below) in the old carpenter shop. Candles were lit and placed around the corpse. Jesus Silva stated that "a large number of Billy's friends" gathered at the wake.



COMPARE BIL

Decide for yourself if the carte de visite reveals more about the Kid than the tintype does.

Late last year, our publisher emeritus, Robert G. McCubbin, received a phone call from a gentleman, whose family had formerly lived in Silver City, New Mexico, asking if McCubbin would take a look at a photo of Billy the Kid that the family had owned for a long time. The man and his wife brought the photo to Santa Fe. McCubbin took a good look at it and assured them, "It is the real thing." The family's carte de visite (CDV) was probably made no earlier than after the Kid escaped from the Lincoln County Courthouse jail on April 28, 1881, when news of his jailbreak hit the press, McCubbin says. Afterwards, the Kid was on-the-run, hiding out, until his death on July 14. The CDV may not have been made until after he was dead.



This photo of Billy the Kid was printed in the 1907 book *History of New Mexico*. The discovery of the family's CDV (opposite page) confirms McCubbin's long-held suspicion that a CDV was used for publications of the Kid's photo in this 1907 book and other works through the 1930s, when Noah Rose's terribly corrupted version began being used, as early as 1928.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



This is a photograph of the original Upham tintype that William Koch bid \$2 million for at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction on June 25, 2011. The original tintype was likely made before the Kid was captured in December 1880. Engravings of the tintype appeared in Pat Garrett's 1882 account, *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*. Real photos of the tintype were not available until the Upham tintype surfaced at auction. Read more about the Upham tintype on page 64.

- COURTESY WILLIAM KOCH COLLECTION -

LY T O B I L L Y



The New Mexico family's CDV is rare, but does it show us anything different about the Kid than what we can already see in the tintype? "I don't believe it changes what we know of the way the Kid looked," McCubbin says. Take a look and decide for yourself. The perfect collectible to ring in the 25th anniversary for Brian Lebel's Old West auction, the CDV bid in at \$15,000 on June 28.

- COURTESY BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION -

FIGHTING BLADES



OF THE FRONTIER

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF JIM BOWIE'S KNIFE IN THE 1820S, THE BOWIE HAS BECOME THE KNIFE SUPREME OF THE AMERICAN WEST.

*"They say my bowie knife is keen to sliver into halves
The carcass of my enemy, as butchers slay their calves."*

These two bloodthirsty lines satirized American society in the "American Ballads" section that introduced the 1845 British *Book of Ballads*. Nine rhymes in this section mentioned the Yankee fondness for the bowie knife, then

considered a necessary part of dress in America's early 19th-century frontier.

James Bowie's famed fighting knife, the origin of which remains shrouded in controversy,

has been woven into the colorful fabric of

American folklore.

But what exactly is a bowie knife?

If these fellows aren't related, they certainly think alike when it comes to guns and clothes. Their long-barreled 1849 Colt Pocket revolvers are backed up by the two flanking gents' menacing looking clip-point bowie knives. Only the gent in the middle—the odd man out—has shown a bit of individuality in his selection of his spear-point bladed bowie (and lack of a hat)!

— COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION —



FIGHT I

Some arms students feel that a bowie can be any sheath knife with a clipped point, regardless of size. Others deem it to be any large knife, regardless of blade shape. The rest feel that virtually all sheath knives produced from around 1830 through the end of the 19th century qualify as bowies. Serious collectors seek out vintage knives with a clip-point blade, recognized as the classic form of a bowie knife.

While historians may argue whether James Bowie, his older brother, Rezin, or knife maker James Black actually produced the first true bowie blade, James deserves credit for bringing the edged weapon to the forefront. While no one knows for certain if his original knife had a clipped point, we do know James carried a large, single-edged knife with a sharp, false edge at the back of the point, allowing for an effective backstroke.

In the early 1800s, virtually every frontiersman packed some sort of edged weapon, largely because of the limitations and lack of surefire reliability of the firearms of that period. Regardless of whether one packed a pocket-sized folding knife, a medium-length hunting blade or a full-sized fighting weapon, a knife of some sort was essential to survival. Long before the advent of the bowie, blades of all sizes and shapes were commonly carried and were variously called long knives, rifleman's knives, scalping knives, belt or sheath knives, dirks or the all-purpose butcher knives. Knives were quite simply a part of one's everyday experience.

THE BOWIE KNIFE'S BLOODY ENTRANCE

The infamous Sandbar Fight along the Mississippi River on September 19, 1827, catapulted James and his knife to fame. The affair, which started out as a duel between two men, ended up as a bloody brawl between the aggrieved combatants, their seconds and comrades. James killed one opponent and badly wounded another, despite being seriously wounded in the chest, thigh and head.



By the early 1880s, the time this photo was most likely taken, the bowie knife had been reduced in necessity as a fighting weapon and in size. However, despite packing a Colt Peacemaker, a Merwin, Hulbert & Co. revolver and a Sharps-Borchardt rifle, this Leadville, Colorado, man obviously still didn't feel completely dressed without his bowie.

- COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION -

The murderous clash was reported in the local papers and picked up by others throughout the country, eventually spreading as far as Great Britain. Before long, James's heavy bladed weapon became known as the fighting knife of the West. Both man and blade achieved such notoriety from this fight that the name "bowie" became a household word. The moniker was recognized as early as 1830, as evidenced by the December 24-30, 1830, advertisements for bowie knives in

the Washington D.C. newspaper *Daily National Intelligencer*.

James's fight was one of countless violent incidents involving knives in the years before the advent of reliable repeating firearms. From the Louisiana swamps to the "Bleeding Kansas" prairies and from the "Big Muddy" Mississippi River to the California gold fields, such blade-wielding affairs weren't relegated just to backcountry campsites, bawdy saloons, gaming houses or riverboats. Knife fights

O F T H E F R O N T I E R

even occurred in the state legislatures and the halls of Congress. Period accounts of those hardy souls who traveled the antebellum frontier offer evidence of the bowie's popularity as a weapon of choice. For example, an 1836 issue of the *Red River Herald* of Natchitoches, Louisiana, published a couple months after James's death at the Battle of the Alamo, declared that, quickly following the Sandbar Duel, "all the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into bowie knives."

Further proof of the popularity of edged weapons in the untamed regions of America comes from Col. Edward Stiff, when he cited the lawless nature of the frontier and the prevalence of such weaponry in his 1840 guidebook *The Texan Emigrant*. "Perhaps about 3,000 people are to be found at Houston generally, and among them are not exceeding 40 females. Here may be daily seen parties of traders arriving and departing, composed too, of every variety of colour, "from snowy white to sooty," and dressed in every variety of fashion, excepting the savage Bowie-knife, which, as if by common consent, was a necessary appendage to all," he wrote.

One attempt to utilize the "best of both worlds" theory was a single-shot percussion pistol with a large knife blade attached. Patented by its inventor, George Elgin, and manufactured from 1837 to 1838, the Elgin Cutlass pistol, sometimes called the Bowie Knife pistol, was likely inspired by James's famous fighting knife. Although only a few hundred were ever made—including 150 under contract to the U.S. Navy—this unusual pistol-and-knife combination is worthy of mention here since a few undeniably made their way west. Their presence was confirmed

This rough and tumble hombre, armed with an 1843 Hall-North carbine, a dragoon-type revolver and a D-Guard bowie, looks like he could either be an argonaut on his way to the California gold fields or a Southern partisan ranger. Either way, he's ready to take on all comers!

- COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION -



FIGHTING BLADES

in a St. Louis, Missouri, advertisement in the December 3, 1838, *Republican* that reads: "Life Guards—Just rec'd two dozen of Elgin Patent bowie knives with pistol attached which will shoot and cut at the same time. For sale by L. Deaver."

For those heading to the gold fields of California, the January 25, 1849, edition of the *Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register* proclaimed the bowie as among the necessary items for a wagon trek across the plains, in an article taken from Edwin Bryant's popular book published the year before: "Every man should be provided with a good rifle, and, if convenient, with a pair of pistols, five pounds of powder and ten pounds of lead...[and] a hunter's or a bowie-knife."

This was certainly good advice, since California's wicked Barbary Coast and hastily created towns in the Mother Lode boasted more than their fair share of lawlessness and raucous behavior, where the bowie and pistol were often judge and jury. In his 1900 memoir of the gold rush, *Life of a Pioneer*, argonaut James Brown recalled witnessing several high stakes card games in 1850: "Sometimes thousands of dollars would change hands in a few moments...when the strong, with revolver and bowie knife, were law, when gamblers and blacklegs ran many of the towns in California."

EVOLUTION OF THE "IRON MISTRESS"

Regardless of who actually made the first bowie knife, by the early 1830s, James's "Iron Mistress" existed as a distinct blade type, with great numbers produced with and without the famed clipped point. Possibly, both James and brother Rezin were the foremost proponents of the blade. Early on, they gifted a number of their knives to friends and dignitaries, while working on improvements and design changes.

At first, these so-called bowies were hand forged by local blacksmiths supposedly copying the original. These were large knives, from around nine to 15 inches or more in length, with heavy blades that ranged from around one to two inches

or more in width. Though ruggedly constructed, they lacked the fine finish of later mass-produced bowies. Further, they were fitted with a simple cross-type guard, often with S-curved quillons or with an iron or brass plate, to keep an opponent's blade from sliding onto the hand of the wielder. Sometimes a fighting notch would be added to the choil, to catch the blade of an opponent. (Some researchers contend

the notch has a more mundane role, of assisting in sharpening the blade.) Grips were usually wood, bone or stag.

One early feature of these American blacksmith-forged bowies was a hardened brass strip along the back of the blade designed to catch the edge of an adversary's knife during a parry, thus preventing his blade from sliding up past the guard and injuring the hand. While varying in subtle



Always the dapper Westerner during his ranching days in the Dakota Territories, Theodore Roosevelt wears his buckskin hunting outfit, complete with his favorite 1876 Winchester and his fancy table cutlery-handled bowie.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

OF THE FRONTIER

differences, such as blade shape and size, these knives were produced throughout the frontier until after the Civil War.

Knife makers of Sheffield, in Yorkshire region of England, who had been conducting business in America as far back as our colonial period, almost immediately recognized the popularization of the bowie knife in the U.S. and were quick to produce bowies as early as the 1830s. This entry of the British cutlers brought about a secondary and much more ornate breed of bowies. While many of these import blades carried the classic lines of the large-bladed, clip-point American bowies, other styles were introduced, such as the spear point, with blades ranging from six to 15 inches or more in length. Bowies later evolved from a false edge on the clipped point with a sharp cutting border, as found on the early American knives, to a vestigial beveled clip with a dulled edge—although some knives still included the sharpened clipped point.

Other variations, too, were incorporated into these newer bowies. They sported fancier hilts fashioned with German silver, brass, coin and sterling silver mountings, and fitted with one- and two-piece grips made from exotic materials such as horn, ebony, ivory, Mother of Pearl, tortoise shell and German silver. Decorated blades became de rigueur, featuring stamped or etched motifs, animals, patriotic emblems and mottos—some designs were even accented in richly blued or gilt finishes. Fanciful slogans featured on some of these knives included “California Knife,” “Self Defender,” “I’m a Real Ripper,” “Hunter’s Companion,” “I Can Dig Gold from Quartz,” “Texas Ranger” and “Genuine Arkansas Toothpick.”

FROM OBSCURITY TO CLASSIC

By the mid-1870s the earlier success of percussion revolvers and the decade-old self contained, metallic cartridge repeating firearms relegated the fighting bowie to semi-obscure. Nonetheless, with frontiersmen still in need of a serviceable blade, the bowie remained an indispensable tool, although it was gradually replaced by smaller versions that were often fitted with synthetic handle materials of celluloid, simulated bone and ivory, hard rubber and thermoplastic.

The practice of carrying a revolver—even a percussion model, which remained popular throughout the 1870s, until that ignition

system became gradually obsolete—did not immediately spell the end for the bowie. Despite the effectiveness of cartridge revolvers, many still considered a hefty bowie as their primary defensive weapon or utility tool. None other than famed lawman Wyatt Earp revealed in a 1920 interview by his biographer Stuart Lake, while discussing Kansas City on the Missouri/Kansas border in the early 1870s, “Bowie knives were worn largely for utility’s sake in a belt sheath back of the hip; when I came on the scene, their popularity for purposes of offense was on the wane, although I have seen old timers who carried them slung about their necks



The Civil War years were a profitable time for cutlers in America and Sheffield, in Yorkshire region of England, especially those who provided troops from both sides with formidable fighting bowie knives. This Johnny Reb soldier is ready for the fray with his musket, a brace of 1851 Navy Colts and a heavy bladed bowie knife.

—COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION—

and who preferred them above all other weapons in the settlement of purely personal quarrels.”

Bowies continued to see usage by outdoorsmen such as buffalo hunters, scouts, soldiers, Indians, lawmen and others who found a big knife handy for defense as well as utilitarian purposes up into the early 1880s. Regardless, by the end of that era, the popularity of the bowie knife faded. Although far fewer than in the mid-19th century, cutlers continued to make bowie knives, both domestically and in other countries, despite stiff duties imposed on imported blades (and any other import item) by the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890. The famed British bowies, along with those from other countries,

“...I HAVE SEEN
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—Wyatt Earp

FIGHTING BLADES

continued to enter the United States, albeit with the proper country designation, stamped or otherwise marked on the blade, as required by the legislation. Bowies found today with no such markings are quite likely to have been manufactured prior to 1891 when the act went into effect.

More than a half century after the bowie's decline in popularity, the knife enjoyed resurgence in the 1940s, as a personal-defense weapon and field utility tool by American G.I.s slugging it out in the jungles of the Pacific during WWII. Because of its favor with these island-hopping warriors, the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps eventually issued a bowie-type knife. Interestingly, the issue of bowie-style knives was not

new, as, through the years, the U.S. military had issued a variety of knives for use by our troops—many inspired by the bowie—including blades such as the 1849 Ames Rifleman's knife, the Model 1880 Army hunting knife, the Model 1887 Hospital Corps knife, the 1900 Krag Bowie and other blades issued up to and including present day.

Shortly after WWII, the Office of the Chief of Ordnance conducted a study of the use of knives and bayonets by American soldiers, finding that the issuance of a knife had not only been a morale builder, but also that the simple blade was most likely to be retained after discarding all other equipment. Further, the study revealed the knife's effectiveness in numerous incidents in combat areas where the use of an edged weapon not only eliminated enemy soldiers who penetrated our defense lines, but also saved the lives of many a fighting man.

Today, the bowie, whether vintage or new made, is ranked among the most captivating and collectible of edged



WEB EXTRA

View some incredible collectible bowie knives when you read this article on *TWMag.com*

Coffin-hilt bowie knives, where the handle has the general shape of a coffin, were extremely popular in the mid-19th century. This Mississippi River "tough" from the area of Memphis, Tennessee, posed for this 1850s ambrotype with a pair of belt-sized derringer pistols and his ivory-handled coffin-hilt bowie, showing all that he's not to be messed with, or they might wind up in a coffin!

— COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION —



This daguerreotype, believed to be taken by photographer C.P. Moore in September 1842 when he visited Washington, Arkansas, allegedly depicts Judge Jacob Buzzard (at left) and his friend James Black, holding pistols and "guardless coffin"-style bowies. Despite much controversy among historians, Black is generally credited as creating the knife James Bowie made famous or, at the very least, one of his knives.

— COURTESY HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM —

OF THE FRONTIER



Although the development of repeating arms spelled doom for big fighting bowies, some Westerners still clung to the formidable blades. This circa late 1870s frontiersman looks like he's ready for anything—check out his Winchester rifle, Colt tucked in his cartridge belt and big, heavy bladed spear-point bowie.

— COURTESY ERICH BAUMANN COLLECTION —

weapons. Rare or fine examples fetch well into the five- and six-figure price range at auctions and arms collector's shows. Handsome and authentic replicas are also being turned out by some of today's finest custom knife makers, as are various versions of bowies commercially produced in limited quantities. Like the Kentucky rifle and the Colt revolver, the bowie knife is truly an American classic.



For further reading, **Phil Spangenberg** recommends the following works: *Firearms, Traps, & Tools of the Mountain Men*, by Carl P. Russell (University of New Mexico Press) and *The Bowie Knife: Unsheathing an American Legend*, by Norm Flayderman (Mowbray Publishing).



This intriguing, scientifically tested, circa 1830 bowie bears the initials "JB." On the back of its 13 ¾-inch-long, hand forged cemented steel blade, the maker soldered six-pointed stars on the brass crossguard and an overlaid sheet brass strip. This style of knife has been described by the late arms scholar Harold Peterson as the classical bowie in its purest form.

— COURTESY JOSEPH MUSSO COLLECTION —

Scout for Two Continents

The little-known story of a Pleasant Valley War survivor whose Arizona adventures led him to Africa.

The harsh winter of 1882 was finally melting away as both the kid and his horse resembling starved scarecrows made their way down the snow packed Mogollon Rim in Arizona Territory.

Frederick Russell Burnham wondered if he was going to make it. Only five foot four, with piercing blue eyes, 21-year-old Burnham had already been forged by the West. After being raised on a Sioux reservation in Minnesota during Little Crow's uprising, he decided to fend for himself in California by age 12 after his father died.

He had always wanted to see Arizona. When his horse was stolen outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico, he walked the 500 miles to Prescott, Arizona, traveling at night to avoid the Apaches. From there, he scaled the Mogollon to winter in and search for gold.

Burnham would end his life's journey a frontier legend in both North America and Africa. In Africa, his exploits led to him becoming one of the templates for the literary figure Allan Quatermain. In America, he was one of the gunmen Zane Grey wrote about in his account of Arizona's Pleasant Valley War.

Guts and Grit on the Mogollon Rim

Burnham made it as far as the snows of the Mogollon Rim. Rabbit and lizard kept him alive as he roamed the Mogollon. Even in his desperately lost state, the

young man kept an eye out for anything that looked like gold or silver.

An unusually hard winter cost Burnham all his supplies and nearly himself. He staggered down the southern side of the Rim into the Tonto Basin. Starving to the point where he might have to eat his horse,



War followed Frederick Burnham into South Africa. After Burnham and Bonar Armstrong assassinate spiritual leader M'Limo in his cave in 1896, the two soldiers are depicted riding away from Matabele warriors in hot pursuit.

— COURTESY ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS —

he resembled a collection of bones in leather bags when he came across a lone homestead.

Heavy snow had also forced the Wells family off the Mogollon Rim after losing most of their cattle. Burnham and his horse were in such shocking physical shape that elderly Fred Wells took him in, feeding him from what little the family had.

An old-time buffalo hunter, Fred began instructing Burnham how to shoot. Burnham practiced firing his Remington Model 1875 with both his right and left hands, as well as off a horse at full gallop.

Burnham practiced shooting all the time. By 1884, after roughly two years of clashes due to rustling accusations on both sides and an undercurrent of racial prejudice against the half-Indian Tewksburys, a feud was heating up between cattlemen led by the Graham family and Jim Stinson and sheepmen led by the Tewksbury family. Isolated shootings were causing people in the basin to pick sides, something the Wells family was trying to avoid.

Then the cattlemen faction bought Fred's bank note for money he had borrowed to build up his herd, as well as his IOUs at stores in Globe.

"I soon became conscious of a strange undercurrent of mischief at the round-ups or in the dance halls of Globe," wrote Burnham, who was working in one of the area mines at the time.

The Dog Fight

Fred's creditors let the rancher know he either sided with the cattlemen or lost his herd in foreclosure. But the old man would not bend.

Burnham offered Fred what money he had been able to save from working in the mines. Fred took it, yet the young man's contribution barely made a dent into what the rancher owed. Fred then decided to drive his cattle up the Rim and hide them.

Burnham and Fred's son, John, rode point and flank with the main herd, while Fred's three daughters led the older stock. Sporting a double-trigger, long range buffalo gun, Fred rode into the brush, zigzagging while he scouted the area and kept his daughters covered.

Two deputies riding hard and fast out of Globe caught up to the daughters.



Shortly before King Edward VII gave Frederick Burnham the cross of the Distinguished Service Order, the major stood for this photograph taken after the death of Queen Victoria (notice his black armband worn in mourning).

- ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

It was “not winner take all —but winner take on all.”

They had come to seize their cattle. The young women shouted back that the cattle belonged to them and not their father. The tension caused a barking frenzy from the girls' dogs, which alerted Burnham and John. They rode down, and when they saw what was going on, they also shouted at the deputies that they had no right to take the girls' cattle.

One of the deputies dismounted, and one of the dogs bit him. The injured deputy drew down, shooting the dog dead. The unexpected gunshot surprised the three Wells girls, brother John and Burnham, who all drew on the lawmen. One shot was fired, and the deputy dropped dead.

The kill shot was from Fred, up in the rocks at a range of 800 yards. He had been trailing the deputies ever since he spotted their dust. "...yet it was in all likelihood a chance shot with his black-powder rifle," Burnham wrote.

The other deputy threw his hands up in the air, surrendering. Old man Wells immediately grasped the situation. He did not want his children hunted down for the murder of a lawman. He convinced the deputy to tell the authorities that he had no idea who fired the kill shot. In exchange, the deputy could take some of the cattle back to Globe and the Wells would ride for the cattlemen when called upon.

Pleasant Valley Gunfighter

Inside the whirlwind of the Pleasant Valley family feud, Burnham found himself either in raiding parties shooting up sheep camps or on patrol riding heavily armed over open range. Men he encountered during the battles were slowly being picked off on the range or assassinated in Globe. The Pleasant Valley War would claim anywhere from 20 to 34 men killed in gunplay.

During a meeting in Globe, sheepmen pointedly discussed eliminating Fred and John, and the "unknown gunman" with his "Remington six-shooter belt." They meant Burnham. Bounties for their capture were placed on all three.

Meanwhile Burnham delivered messages between the cattle barons, who were coordinating their raids, and various local

politicians. He took precautions never to ride the same horse from one area to the next by keeping outfits in several Arizona towns, including Prescott, where he stopped to rest from time to time.

Burnham also gathered intelligence on the sheepmen. The gunman found himself portraying various roles—teamster, miner, big game hunter or prospector—as he spied out the open range.

He toyed with the idea of joining up with a hard-riding Kansan who had a plan to get out of Arizona and the feud altogether. The Kansan wanted Burnham to help him rustle cattle and horses from local mining camps for them to sell to the Curly Bill Brocius outfit in Tombstone. (At this time, Brocius and Ike Clanton were engaged in their famous feud with Wyatt Earp and his brothers.) His partner-to-be boasted that within six months, they would earn enough to leave Arizona in style.

Although tempted, Burnham turned down his friend. Shooting other gunmen as the feud progressed was one thing, but becoming a horse thief was crossing the line.

As the death toll mounted, Burnham found that every man he killed created a new feud. It was "not winner take all—but winner take on all," as author Craig Boddington noted.

On the Run

Burnham wanted out of the war. He headed to Globe to seek counsel from a friend, Judge Aaron Hackney, the editor of the *Silver Bell* newspaper. When he rode into Globe, though, he did not realize bounty hunter George Dixon was trailing him. Dixon caught Burnham asleep in a cave, putting his Colt .45 against the young man's temple and ordering him outside.

But Dixon, too, had been tracked. A White Mountain Apache named Coyotero

shot Dixon through the heart as the two men emerged from the cave. Burnham took the opportunity to grab his Remington and fired back, killing Coyotero.

Burnham reached Hackney, who dressed him up in a disguise before turning him over to noted prizefighter Neil McLeod, who was willing to spirit Burnham to Tucson. The judge may or may not have known that the charismatic McLeod was one of the top smugglers in the Southwest.

Burnham fell under McLeod's spell and began running coded messages for him between operatives, which forced Burnham to cross hostile Apache country. While riding for McLeod, Burnham went to meet John Wells at Dripping Springs and discovered one of his sisters there instead.

He found her there, with a swollen leg from the stub of a pine that had run itself through her calf when a bear had charged her mount. As Burnham treated her wound, she told him her father had died and that brother John had been sent off to serve time in Yuma Territorial Prison. Burnham flagged down a passing stagecoach. A couple dance hall girls from Tombstone's Bird Cage Theatre were on board, and they said they would look after her.

Sensing that he was still being tracked, Burnham disguised himself as a freighter and made his way back into Globe. When he slipped into the judge's house, he got a tongue lashing. Meeting the Wells girl had given away his presence in the Globe area. Burnham had to get out for good.

The judge sent Burnham to stay with friends in Tombstone. Before his arrival, Burnham had written, "Now my mind began to clarify. I saw that my sentimental siding with the young herder's cause was all wrong.... I realized that I was in the wrong and had been for a long time, without knowing it."

The Pleasant Valley War continued until 1892 with the murder of cattleman Tom Graham. Sheepman Edwin Tewksbury was the sole survivor of the feuding families. He and Burnham were among the last survivors of the range war to live into the 20th century, along with other notable participants who included Tom Horn, Commodore Perry Owens and Jim Roberts.

Burnham made good his escape by marrying his childhood sweetheart, Blanche, in Iowa. Yet his romance with Arizona was not over. He returned to scout for Gen. George Crook against the Apache and serve as deputy sheriff of Pinal County.

The Next Continent

In 1893, Burnham, believing the West had lost its adventure, took his wife to South Africa where he scouted for Cecil Rhodes in his conquest of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia) from Matabele tribesmen. He returned to North America to participate in the Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon Territory and to lead archeological digs on the Mayan civilization in Mexico.

Two South Africa friends made Burnham a legend in his own time. Novelist H. Rider Haggard used Burnham as his template for his hero Allan Quatermain for the 1885 novel *King Solomon's Mines* and dedicated three books to Burnham's daughter. Robert Baden-Powell wrote down Burnham's scouting techniques to be used by his newly formed Boys Scouts organization.

After a rich adventurous life scouting for two continents, Burnham died at age 86 at his home in California in 1947.



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



After his adventures in South Africa, Burnham went on an expedition in Mexico's Yaqui Valley where he excavated the Esperanza stone in 1909. *Scientific American* wrote up his discovery, reporting the stone had what looked to be Mayan carvings.

The Remington Model 1875, serial no. 11, that Burnham purchased in Prescott, Arizona, was his sidearm not only in the Pleasant Valley War, but also on his adventures in South Africa and Mexico.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF RHODESIA —



Annie Oakley, who earned worldwide notoriety for her shootist skills while touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West, holds a Stevens tip-up target rifle and displays three of her arena guns—a double-barreled shotgun, a Spencer slide-action shotgun and a long-barreled Stevens pistol—in this circa 1886 cabinet card.

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, DECEMBER 11-12, 2012 —



The Arms of



Emigrant wagon trains carried “about one ‘gun’ to a wagon, those being mostly Western rifles, some few being shotguns,” an observer in 1856 Kansas noted. Since a frontier woman might be called on to help defend those around her, learning how to handle weapons was in her best interest; this pioneer, serious about her marksmanship, is testing her proficiency with a Stevens Ideal Ladies Model rifle.

— COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY —

**COURAGEOUS
SHOOTERS
HOLD THEIR
OWN WITH
THE ULTIMATE
EQUALIZERS
ON THE
AMERICAN
FRONTIER.**

BY CHRIS ENSS

“

The only kind of heroine worth knowing about is the Western woman who hit the far trail holding a Springfield rifle and traveling with her kids and settled down on a homestead and worked hard to make her little outfit independent.”

The author of the 1896 *Washington Post* article, G.E. Chapman, wanted readers to know there was nothing unfeminine about women “toting artillery” into an unsettled territory. Chapman’s report continued, “She can milk cows, mend a wire fence, wash dishes, throw a diamond hitch, sew a dress,

and braid a good rope any top hand would want to throw, and she has to know how to shoot while doing all those things. Otherwise she runs the risk of being killed.”

Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane were some of the most popular armed women of the West, but they were not the only shooters of note. Homesteader’s wives such as Elinore Stewart carried a Winchester, ranchers such as Frances Mullin carried a Colt Single Action, hunters and trappers such as Gertrude Raines used a carbine and lady gamblers such as Eleanora Dumont used

a Woman



Ladies on the trail to the West traded in their petticoats for rifles and learned to shoot game needed to sustain themselves and their families. In this romanticized illustration, this pioneer has cut a single buffalo out of a large drove so she can sell it. The hindquarters of a buffalo, weighing from 75 to 100 pounds, sold for \$2.50! Sharps's Model 1874 rifles were one of the most popular guns used to hunt American bison to near extinction in the late 19th century.

- COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY -



Nothing goes better with a pair of woolly chaps and a bullwhip than a six-shooter. Exhibition or trick shooters, like the sharp dressed woman in the studio photo, performed for audiences throughout the West, wowing fans by shooting aerial targets and dimes tossed in the air. Colt's New Army and Navy double-action revolvers were a favorite for professional shooters with considerable skill.

- COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY -



No self-respecting stagecoach robber would be caught without the right firearm for the job. Here, lady bandit Pearl Hart poses with a Winchester Model 1873, a Colt Single Action and a Model 1877 Lightning.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -

Remington double derringers. Armed women on the frontier were not uncommon. It was important to be able to defend oneself and one's family and, if necessary, to signal for help or dispatch incapacitated livestock.

Courageous defines the character of the thousands of women who left the town and cities of the East for the unknown dangers of the Western territories. Setting up housekeeping in wild, unsettled lands, risking their lives on the journey and bearing children under primitive conditions tested their mettle daily. Many faced these rugged circumstances carrying a firearm. For many armed ladies on the American frontier, owning a gun and knowing how to use it was not only a point of pride, but also a great equalizer. Shared here are a few of their stories.



Chris Enss is a *New York Times* best-selling author who has written more than 20 books on the subject of women in the Old West. Her most recent title is *Love Lessons from the Old West: Wisdom from Wild Women*.



Shown here with her six-gun on her hip, Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary found freedom to live an unconventional

lifestyle when she masqueraded as a man and secured employment as a muleskinner. This hard-drinking woman found a home in Nicholas Kappes's beer saloon in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

He recalled her days frequenting the rougher saloons in nearby Green River, playing with her gun and bragging aloud, "When this dog barks, somebody drops!"

- COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, MAY 21, 2011 -



Already subdued on the reservation by the time of this illustration, given the 1873 Winchester this Navajo woman holds, along with her Colt Single Action Peacemaker, the Navajo also models naja pendants. Other world cultures have worn najas to protect the wearer from the "evil eye," yet Navajos usually wore the inverted crescents for decorative reasons.

- COURTESY DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY -

Armed mothers, sisters and wives kept their families safe from wild animals, hostile Indians and ruthless highwaymen determined to harm their loved ones. No record of the settling of the West would be complete without the mention of the dedicated women homesteaders who stood between a successful life on the plains and anything threatening to interfere with their livelihood. The 1901 portrait of an unidentified young woman, holding a muzzleloading, half-stock plains rifle, represents the lengths a woman would go to protect everything she held dear.

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TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

A SHOT IN THE DARK

BILLY THE KID VS PAT GARRETT

DID THE KID HAVE A GUN,
OR NOT?



As early as June 1881, reports indicated Billy the Kid was hiding out at the Segura sheep camps north of Fort Sumner, disguised as a Mexican shepherder. But the Kid gets careless and catches a bullet in the heart.

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

BY BOB BOZE BELL
& MARK LEE GARDNER

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Mark Lee Gardner and Gregory Smith

JULY 14, 1881



t about nine p.m. Sheriff Pat Garrett and two deputies, John Poe and Tom “Kip” McKinney, ensconce themselves within a peach orchard on the northern boundary of Fort Sumner, New Mexico. A full moon looms above.

As the lawmen creep toward the buildings, they hear voices. Stopping, they realize someone else is in the orchard. “Soon a man arose from the ground,” Garrett later remembers, “in full view, but too far away to recognize. He wore a broad-brimmed hat, a dark vest and pants, and was in his shirt sleeves.”

“Since his escape he had allowed his beard to grow and had attempted to disguise himself as a Mexican by darkening his skin by the use of some sort of root.”

—A newspaper account, published a week after the Kid was shot dead by Pat Garrett

The dark figure says something (indiscernible to the officers), jumps the fence and walks into the compound. (Garrett later learns that this was Billy the Kid; the inference is that Billy had just finished making love in the green grass.)

By now it is nearly midnight. Garrett and his deputies back out of the orchard and approach Pete Maxwell’s house. The three men slip silently onto Pete’s south porch.

Garrett posts his two deputies at the front gate and goes inside. Poe sits on the edge of the steps in the open gate, and McKinney squats just outside. Both immediately notice a lone figure approaching on the inside of the fence. He is hatless and in his stocking feet. In the moonlight, Poe notices he is buttoning his trousers.

Neither Poe nor McKinney recognize him. Both are from Texas and new to the area. Poe assumes the figure is a Mexican employee of Pete’s.

Inside the house, Garrett has awakened Pete and is asking him the whereabouts of the Kid.

As the Kid mounts the porch, he sees the two deputies for the first time. Alarmed, he brandishes a butcher knife and a self-cocking, .41 caliber Colt Thunderer. Springing around like a cat, he demands in Spanish, “¿Quien es?” [“Who is it?”]

Poe rises and tries to calm the agitated stranger.

“¿Quien es?” demands the dark figure again.

Receiving no reply, he backs into Pete’s room through an exterior door and directs his question to Pete, “¿Quien es, Pete?”

Garrett, engulfed in the dark corner, freezes. He recognizes the Kid’s voice immediately. Garrett dares not speak, because his own gun is in his holster, and he is sitting on it!

“He came directly towards me,” Garrett later recounts. “He came close to me, leaned both hands on the bed, his right hand almost touching my knee.”

“The Kid must have seen or felt the presence of a third person at the head of the bed. He raised his pistol, a self-cocker, within a foot of my breast.”

The Kid jumps back, but instead of firing, he demands in Spanish one more time, “¿Quien es?”

Big mistake. Garrett draws his revolver and fires twice.

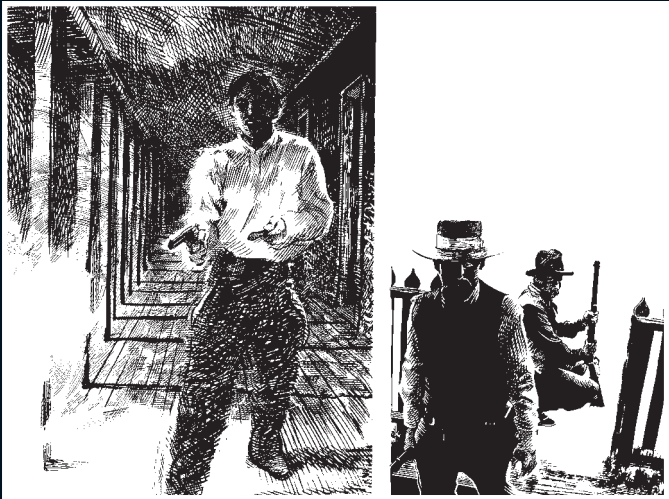
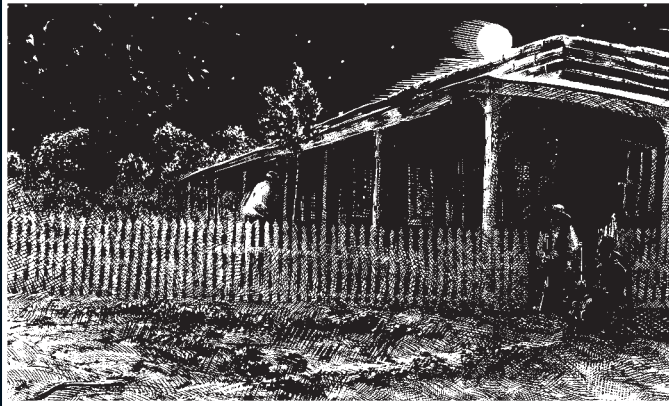
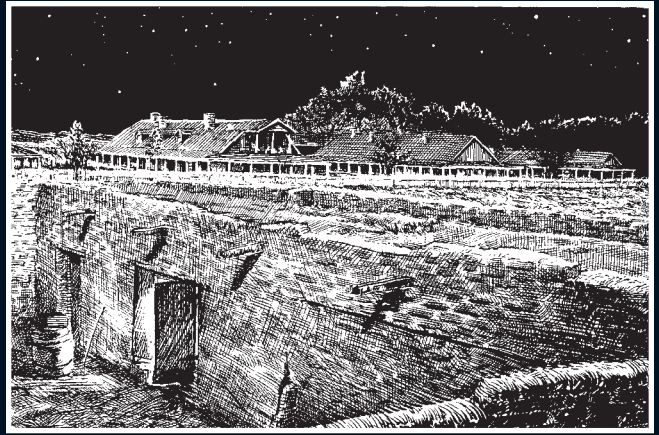
“The Kid fell dead,” Garrett recalled. “He never spoke. A struggle or two, a little strangling sound as he gasped for breath, and the Kid was with his many victims.”



The Kid lies on his back in the moonlight and strangles on his own blood.

Garrett's Version of the Killing

Based on Pat Garrett's "official" version of the events leading up to the shooting, the doubters believe the sheriff attempted to do two things: get Billy the Kid out of Pete Maxwell's house to protect the honor of Pete's sister Paulita, and make it seem like the officers were at Pete's house by accident, rather than having been summoned there by Pete. To this speculation, author Mark Lee Gardner says, "If Billy was staying with Paulita, or, say, had his own quarters in the Maxwell house, then that makes Garrett, Poe, Paco Anaya, Candido Gutierrez and others all liars regarding the Kid's movements before he was shot. As far as I know, there is no contemporary account that has Billy in Paulita's room or staying in the Maxwell house."



Mark Lee Gardner Confronts the Main Conspiracies

Garrett-Shot-Wrong-Guy Theory

If the person killed in Fort Sumner had dark hair and a dark beard and was not Billy the Kid, someone else in love with Paulita Maxwell was in her bedroom that night.

Mark Lee Gardner Responds:

Well, first, even though the *Las Vegas Daily Gazette* reported on July 19, 1881, that Billy the Kid had grown a beard and dyed his skin, that doesn't make it true. Pat Garrett made no mention of any change in the Kid's appearance in his written accounts. But even if the Kid did have a beard, multiple eyewitnesses—and let's not forget the statement of Milnor Rudolph in the *Gazette* piece—identified the dead man as the Kid.

Billy-Was-Smarter-than-That Theory

No way would the Kid, as wary as he must have been, boldly walk by complete strangers and into Pete Maxwell's bedroom at night.

Mark Lee Gardner Responds:

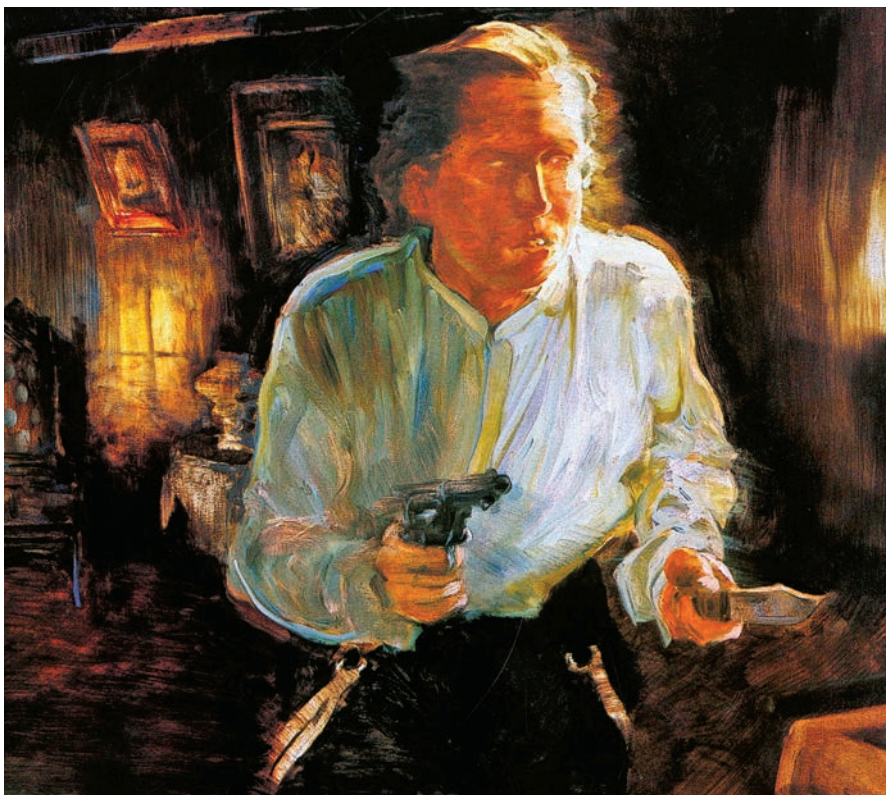
The problem with assuming what someone in the past would or would not do is that not only is it pure speculation, but also we often fail to taken into account that, just like today, people make mistakes. The most skillful gunslinger can let his guard down—and many have (see Jesse James, John Wesley Hardin, Wild Bill Hickok, etc.). Remember, even John Poe couldn't make sense of the Kid's actions that night. If a guy who was only a few feet away had trouble with what happened, our chances of explaining it satisfactorily are slim.

Tie-and-Gag-the-Girl Theory

Garrett simply used an old tactic that had worked many times on outlaws. He staked out the "girlfriend's" place. He did this before, with the ambush of Tom Folliard and crew in December 1880. Garrett got there early, tied and gagged Manuela Bowdre, and waited for the gang to show, which they did. The same thing happened at Pete's.

Mark Lee Gardner Responds:

It is very telling that Garrett makes no attempt to smooth over or glorify those episodes that don't necessarily present him in the best light. He and his posse ambush the gang when they arrive in Fort



Sumner. He and his posse shoot Charlie Bowdre without warning. Garrett shoots the Kid without giving him a chance to surrender. Garrett admits he wasn't going to give Billy a chance, because the Kid let it be known it was going to be one or the other when they met. So, if Garrett indeed staked out the Maxwell house, I think he would have readily admitted it.

Billy-Was-Unarmed Theory

Garrett's claim that the Kid was armed with a pistol and a knife, and that Garrett was caught unaware, sitting on his scabbard, and had to quickly draw to defend himself, seems highly embroidered, making the sheriff seem courageous. Is there any proof the Kid even had the knife or the pistol?

Mark Lee Gardner Responds:

To me, the whole gun or no gun debate is more about vilifying Garrett than anything else. Garrett haters like to believe he shot an unarmed man. But put yourself in Garrett's shoes. Should he have asked Billy if he was armed before pulling the trigger? Remember, the Kid was the most wanted and notorious outlaw in the Southwest. He had murdered two of Garrett's deputies and had had a hand in the deaths of another Lincoln County sheriff and deputy. He had threatened the life of New Mexico Gov. Lew Wallace and also Garrett. In my opinion, Garrett did the only thing he could do—and he was celebrated at the time for doing it.

BY TOM AUGHERTON

Little Robe

SOUTHERN CHEYENNE LEADER WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST INDIAN DIPLOMATS FOR PEACE.

BORN in 1828 to the Southern Cheyenne tribe, Tak-kee-o-mah, or Little Robe, was raised a warrior, his skills honed in combat with traditional enemies, the Ute and the Pawnee tribes. In his twenties, Little Robe survived a battle with the Pawnees on the Beaver River of Kansas where many of their braves and Chief Alights-on-a-Cloud were killed.

But the seminal event in Little Robe's life, after becoming a chief in 1863, was the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29, 1864.

Cheyenne elders crafted a peace offer to the U.S. military, conveyed by Black Kettle, and then turned in their arms at Ft. Lyon, believing the government was seeking peace. The Cheyenne also accepted the government's suggestion to camp at Sand Creek as Colorado Territorial Governor John Evans reviewed their offer.

Sand Creek convinced Little Robe that Indian survival was impossible without appeasement to the U.S.

The government did not talk peace. The whites' response to the weaponless



tribe was a dawn attack on the isolated reservation by the 1st and 3rd Colorado Cavalry and a company of First New Mexico Volunteers led by Col. John Chivington. The Cheyenne camp displayed an American flag and Chief Black Kettle met the troops with a white flag of peace. But the soldiers followed specific orders to "kill and scalp all, big and little; nits makes lice."

The ambush was brutal, chasing and slaughtering around 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho, most of whom were unarmed women and children. The women were raped; their corpses mutilated. Indian body parts were paraded through the streets of Denver, where Col. Chivington appeared on stage entertaining audiences with embellished stories of the culling, while displaying 100 Indian scalps.

Word of the atrocity reached Congress. Members expressed outrage, offered an

After the Civil War, Gen. Phil Sheridan (second from left) fought a war of attrition against the Plains Indian Tribes. His generals included (l. to r.) Wesley Merritt, George Crook, James William Forsyth and George Armstrong Custer, who fought and negotiated with Little Robe.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

investigation, and in the end, failed to take any punitive action, other than delaying Colorado's entrance into the Union for ten years.

After Black Kettle's death during the Battle of Washita in 1868, Little Robe concluded that warfare with whites was fruitless and he became the principal chief of the peace faction.

Little Robe visited the East, meeting with President Ulysses S. Grant and Congressional leaders. The searing memories and lessons of battles like Sand Creek convinced him Indian survival was impossible without appeasement to the U.S.

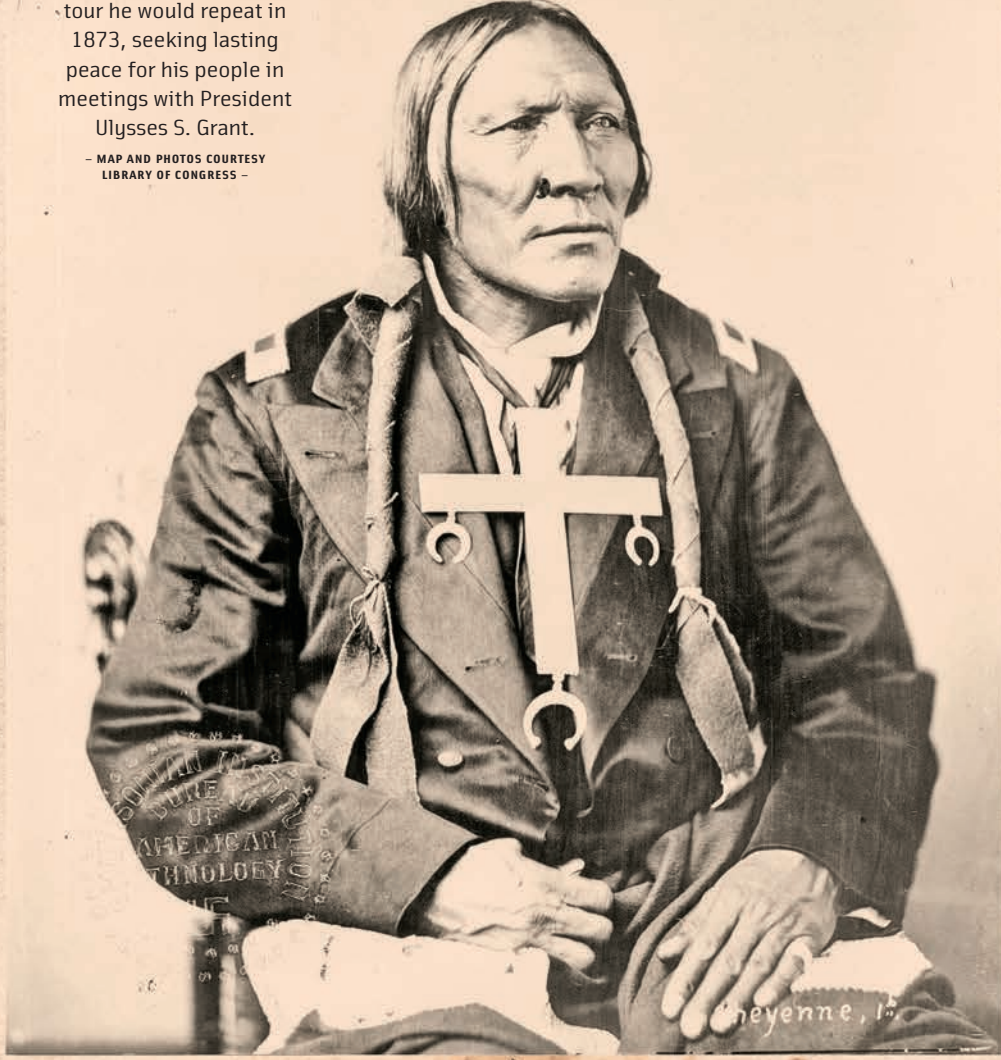
Chief Little Robe lived in Indian Territory on the North Canadian River until his death in 1886. He worked for peaceful joint existence, protecting the Cheyenne culture, and refusing federal orders to take Indian children from their parents to off-reservation schools. ❏

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

COLORADO TERRY

Southern Cheyenne Chief Little Robe was in New York City in June 1871 on a Southern Plains Indian delegation tour of the East Coast, a tour he would repeat in 1873, seeking lasting peace for his people in meetings with President Ulysses S. Grant.

- MAP AND PHOTOS COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



INDIAN TERRITORY

with part of the adjoining State of KANSAS

Prepared from the Map of Don C. Major U.S. Asst. showing the Boundaries of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, the Creek, Seminole, and Ioway Indian Country established by authority of the Comm. Affairs in 1858-59; and from Lieut. Col. J. E. Johnston's Map of the Southern Boundary of Kansas in 1857. of the Creek Country, by Lieut. L. C. Woodruff Top. Eng'r, in 1850-51.

Engineer Bureau War Dept.
October 1866.

No. 2. Dist. Div. Indian
Engineer Office
Official:
J. E. Nimick
Maj. Eng. 1st Lt. Col.
Feb. 185 1868

BY CANDY MOULTON

Hail, Columbia!

On the trail of Lewis and Clark from Lewiston, Idaho, to Astoria, Oregon.



After leaving the Dalles, Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery carefully paddled their way down the Columbia River Gorge through numerous rapids, including the dangerous Cascades, camping on the Washington state side (north bank) of the river.

— COURTESY VANCOUVER USA REGIONAL TOURISM OFFICE —

All across the Pacific Northwest are reminders of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06, although no tangible physical evidence remains. There are rivers, schools,

universities, a wildlife refuge and other features named for the exploring party including the two captains.

In Oregon, interest in the pioneering expedition to the western sea came a hundred years after the original journey—in 1905, when Portland hosted the Lewis

and Clark Centennial Exposition. That was the first World's Fair held on the Pacific Coast, and it celebrated the role Lewis and Clark played in extending American territorial claims and the opening of a commercial passage into the far West.

The Nez Perces provided great aid to Lewis and Clark's expedition, giving them food, rest and, most of all, information.

The Journey Begins

Let's begin following the Lewis and Clark route in the two cities located across the Snake River from each other that bear their names. The Snake River separates Lewiston (in Idaho) and Clarkston (in Washington). From Lewiston, a jet boat trip up the Snake toward Hells Canyon should not be missed, while in Clarkston, a tour of Chief Timothy State Park with its interpretation of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition is worth the visit.

I'm not much for rivers and boat rides, but the journey on the Snake is exhilarating and shows you the rugged landscape the exploring party traveled. If you go far enough you will get to Dug Bar, the place the Nez Perce Indians with Chief Joseph crossed in 1877 when they left the Wallowa Valley just prior to their flight across the Rockies to Montana in an effort to stay off the reservation at Lapwai, Idaho.



A boater rows the Columbia at Cape Horn, near Vancouver, Washington, circa 1900.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

The Nez Perces provided great aid to Lewis and Clark's expedition, giving them food, rest, and, most of all, information. The expedition force camped with the Nez Perce people on both their east and westbound trips.

Westward Down the Columbia

From Clarkston, continue west on Highway 12 to Tri-Cities—Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Washington. Lewis and Clark reached the confluence

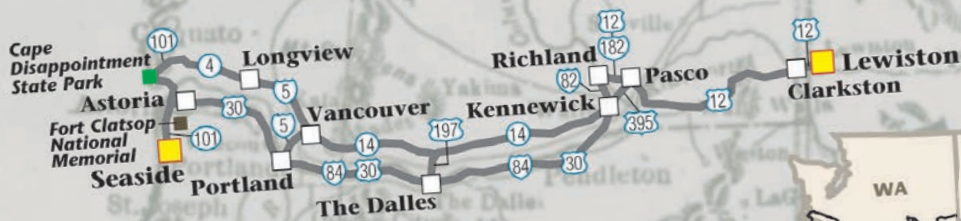
of the Columbia and Snake Rivers here on October 16, 1805. They spent a couple of days meeting with local Indians and recording information about their customs as well as the regional flora and fauna.

In Pasco, overlooking the confluence of the Snake and Columbia, visit Sacajawea Park, with an interpretive center that has information about the expedition. To

learn more about the wildlife and plants of the region, schedule a stop at the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center (slated to open in early July in Richland). The new museum has numerous exhibitions about the geologic forces that formed the region, the massive floods that carved the landscape, and the birds, plants, mammals and other critters that live along the Columbia River.

From the Tri-Cities continue south on I-82 and follow the Columbia River west. You can travel either on the Washington side of the river (State Highway 14) or cross into Oregon and take I-84. Either way you will enter the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, and should plan to stop at The

On the Trail of Lewis and Clark From Lewiston, Idaho, to Astoria, Oregon



Historical Marker Deer Island

Lewis and Clark camped March 28, 1806, at an old Indian village the Indians called E-Lal-Lar, or Deer Island (Oregon), a location where the Corps of Discovery hunters were successful in killing seven deer.



Dalles, Oregon. This site had been used as a trading location for native people for generations before Lewis and Clark got here. The Celilo Falls was an important tribal fishing area, and tribal traders from the Pacific Northwest gathered to exchange goods with traders who came

from as far away as Mandan Village (where Lewis and Clark over-wintered in 1804-05) and even present-day southern Wyoming and New Mexico.

This was a pivotal point for Lewis and Clark, as well as later Oregon Trail travelers. Today, the Columbia Gorge

The Dalles was a natural place of trade and fishing for American Indians along the Columbia River Gorge. Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery made camp both coming and going from the Pacific in this natural bowl of rocks, "Rock Fort," in October 1805 and April 1807.

— COURTESY THE COLUMBIA GORGE DISCOVERY CENTER AND WASCO COUNTY MUSEUM —

Discovery Center features an exhibit about the gear and goods Lewis and Clark packed on their journey.

One tangible artifact of the expedition is a branding iron Captain Meriwether Lewis carried. While the full story of the branding iron is not known, it may have been made in 1804 at the armory at Harpers Ferry, or perhaps by iron worker and expedition member Private John Shields. The branding iron may have been traded when the expedition was camped near The Dalles. A resident of Hood River, Oregon, found the artifact near Memaloose Island on the north shore of

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the Columbia River in the 1890s. He gave it to *The Oregon Journal* (the former Portland afternoon newspaper) publisher Philip L. Jackson, who later donated it to the Oregon Historical Society.

Lewis most likely had used the iron to mark expedition goods such as wooden packing crates, barrels and leather bags. The captain also marked trees as the expedition journeyed west. On June 10, 1805, the party had cached a pirogue on an island located near the mouth of the Marias River in Montana. Captain William Clark wrote in his journal that Lewis “branded several trees.” The tree blazes also served to mark territory as imperial claim markers under the Doctrine of Discovery. This European legal theory

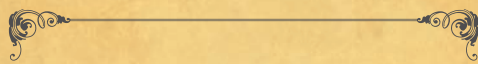


held that the first European nation to “discover” a previously unexplored area could colonize it, a practice that played an important role in justifying American claims to the Oregon Country.

You can cross the Columbia at The Dalles, to continue your westward journey, either in Oregon traveling on the interstate or in Washington on the state highway. Both

After leaving The Dalles, Lewis and Clark’s expedition through the Columbia River Gorge was fraught with numerous challenges, dangerous rapids and geologic wonders they named and recorded, including Beacon Rock.

— COURTESY VANCOUVER USA REGIONAL TOURISM OFFICE —



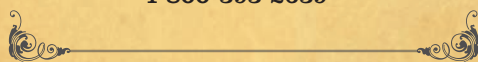
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Visitors today to Washington's Cape Disappointment State Park can explore the area of the Corps of Discovery's first winter camp of 1805, with an excellent hike from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center to the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse and an extraordinary view of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean.

- COURTESY OF THE LONG BEACH PENINSULA VISITORS BUREAU -

routes give you much the same view as they follow the river. Lewis and Clark were north of the river in this location and I much prefer the Washington highway, although (or perhaps because) it is the slower route.

"Ocean in view! O! the joy."

Captain William Clark wrote these words in his journal on November 7, 1805, and he must have believed he truly had reached the Pacific Ocean. He actually was at the Columbia River estuary and it would take another two weeks of traveling to make it to the Pacific, a place they had "been so long anxious to see."

Once at the ocean, at what is now Cape Disappointment State Park south of today's Long Beach, Washington, the expedition quickly found that the coastal climate was challenging as

continual storms swept the area. Within 10 days of arriving on the coast, Lewis and Clark decided to leave their storm-bound camp on the north shore and cross the river, where elk were reported to be plentiful.

Lewis, with a small party, scouted ahead and found a "most eligible" site for winter quarters. On December 10, 1805, the men, now in what would become Oregon, began to build a fort about two miles up the Netul River (now the Lewis and Clark River), not far from the present town of Astoria, Oregon. They had their quarters pretty well complete by Christmas Day, naming it Fort Clatsop, for the local tribe of Indians.

John T. Disney worked at the Warm Springs Indian Agency in Oregon and in 1903 wrote to an Oregon City novelist, providing details from members of the Warm Springs



When traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail, see some of the rugged country along the Snake River by taking a jet boat tour from Lewiston, Idaho.

- PHOTO BY PEG OWENS, COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM -

Sacajawea and her baby Baptiste Charbonneau (Pomp) made the journey with Lewis and Clark, and they are memorialized with this statue at Fort Clatsop.

— PHOTO BY CANDY MOULTON —



Fort Clatsop National Memorial is a living history museum, with reenactors regularly demonstrating the rigors of day-to-day life in the winter camp near the Pacific shore.

— COURTESY AWACC —

Tribe about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Among the oral stories handed down for most of a century was one about the man so black they gave him “the name of the raven’s son.” While these Indians recalled the presence of York, Captain Clark’s slave who accompanied the expedition, they handed down no stories of an Indian woman. Perhaps the presence of the Shoshone woman Sacajawea was less remembered because she did not seem so different to the Warm Springs tribal members.

There is a sculpture of Sacajawea carrying her young son Baptiste Charbonneau on the grounds of Fort Clatsop National Memorial. There is nothing original left of this post, and indeed the National Park Service replica you can visit now is not even the original replica—that one burned down during a reenactment when some hot coals sparked a middle-of-the-night blaze.

Even though it is not authentic, nor the first replica, Fort Clatsop is a great place to visit because you can still get a sense of the conditions the Lewis and Clark Expedition endured while they

were here for that three-month winter period in 1805-06. It is in the forest, which always seems to be dripping with rain. In addition to touring the replica fort and small interpretive center, you can hike along trails in the area and attend the interpretive programs that take place most days.

While over-wintering here, the expedition members no doubt rested. They wrote in journals, and some men established a salt-making camp near the ocean (which is often reenacted by modern-day interpreters near Seaside, Oregon). The captains began organizing their scientific information and they traded with local Indians. Then, in early March 1806, they departed the area en route back to St. Louis.

Their expedition to the Pacific Northwest was the harbinger of American exploration, as they would be followed by the mountain men, and later emigrants, who took a different route to the Oregon country, ultimately claiming it for the United States.



Road warrior **Candy Moulton** hangs her hat near Encampment, Wyoming, when she makes it home on occasion.



Astoria Maritime Museum

— COURTESY AWACC —

PLACES, CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Hanford Reach Interpretive Center, *Richland, WA*; **U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Hanford Reach National Monument, Wildflower Tours**, annually in April, *Hanford*; **Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center**, *Toppenish*; **Maryhill Museum of Art**, *Goldendale*; **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**, *The Dalles, OR*; **Cape Disappointment State Park and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center**, *Ilwaco, WA*; **Columbia River Maritime Museum**, *Astoria, OR*; **Fort Clatsop National Memorial**, *Astoria*.

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS:

Best Grub: Monterosso’s Italian Restaurant (*Richland, WA*); Spudnut Shop (*Richland*); Cousins’ Restaurant (*The Dalles, OR*); Original Pancake House (*Portland*).

Best Lodging: Holiday Inn Express (*Lewiston, ID*); Cousins’ Country Inn (*The Dalles, OR*); Hotel Elliott (*Astoria*).



GOOD BOOKS

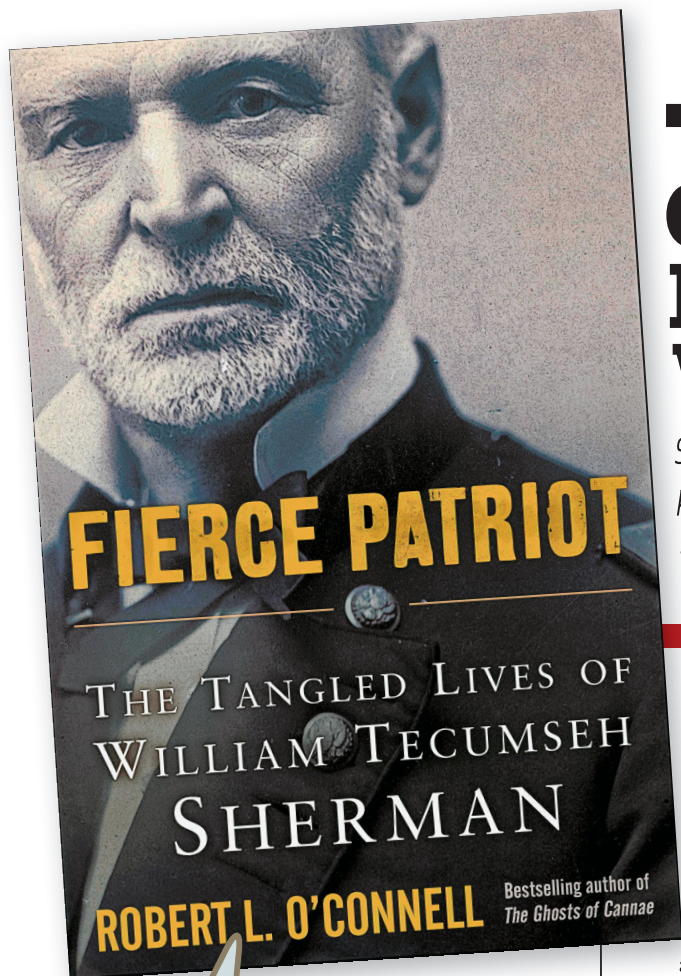
Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes by Alvin Josephy Jr.; *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose; *Following Lewis and Clark’s Track: The Story of the Corps of Discovery: An Educational Activity Book* by William E. Hill; *In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark* by Gerald S. Synder; *In Search of York: The Slave Who Went to the Pacific with Lewis & Clark* by Robert B. Betts.

GOOD FILMS & TV

The Far Horizons (Paramount Pictures); *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery* (PBS); *Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West* (National Geographic).

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



"A continent for the taking brought forth people like Sherman, and they in turn produced us."

The Gilded General's Eternal March West

Sherman's complex legacy of war and peace revealed, plus death and adventure on the Barbary Coast, a mining town thriller, the annotated life of an Army surgeon and Western border politics.

Robert O'Connell's brilliant biography, *Fierce Patriot: The Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman* (Random House, \$28), is a well-researched study of one of America's most iconic and eternally recognized military leaders. O'Connell's study of the Yankee-born West Point graduate reveals—and reveals—the lighter and darker characteristics and personality traits of possibly the most influential post-Revolutionary American general in history.

O'Connell, a renowned military historian and a Naval Postgraduate Intelligence Center visiting professor, has created an extremely accessible—and insightful—study of Sherman, whose legendary Civil War career gilds our memory of him as the liberator of slaves and apocalyptic destroyer of the South. O'Connell weaves a dynamic portrait of Sherman, who had a transcendent career that spanned the majority of the 19th century and the rise of the American Empire. His five years astride, with his terrible swift sword scything through the South, maybe how he is memorialized astride

Author O'Connell's portrait of Sherman is an insightful, multifaceted study of the great American general's iconic status, which is perpetuated in Augustus Saint-Gaudens' gilded bronze near New York's Central Park.



— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, DETROIT PUBLISHING COMPANY COLLECTION, [LC-D4-16684] —



General William Tecumseh Sherman, near Atlanta in 1864, may be best remembered for his destructive March to the Sea, but Robert O'Connell's biography, *Fierce Patriot*, clearly reveals a military leader whose life and career shaped a nation from coast to coast, especially his Western Indian policies of 1865 to 1883.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, [LC-DIG-CWPP-02943] —

his gilded horse adjacent to New York City's Central Park, but Sherman's coast-to-coast military career that shaped America, before and after the War Between the States, is how he should be remembered. As O'Connell states so succinctly, "He played a significant role in defining us—dimensionally, in the nature and spirit of our fighting forces, and our ethos, or at least the celebrity version of it. Historically, he was one of the ingredients for what we became. A continent for the taking brought forth people like Sherman, and they in turn produced us."

With the simultaneous commemoration of the American Civil War and World War I occurring for the next two years, O'Connell's biography of Sherman provides us a perspective that is both poignant and reflective of two wars interconnected by the carnage of battle, the killing and maiming of a generation of men, and the absolute terror brought to the citizens whose lives and lands intersected with the horror of war. Interpreters of the Civil War can easily focus the outcome of Sherman's leadership and actions in terms of his

Eastern campaigns, but, with greater delineation, as O'Connell so expertly points out, Sherman's enormous energy for war did not end with his victory march on Pennsylvania Avenue. Sherman did not lay down his arms in 1865, but redirected his fighting skills, with his well-honed general staff, to the Indian Nations of the American West. His legacy, of winning at all costs, a precursor of modern 20th century warfare (not overlooking his colleague Gen. Phil Sheridan's advising the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870), must be considered in greater context to the American-Indian Wars from 1865-1890. I am hopeful that O'Connell might return to the complex—and complicated—life of Sherman, or as he likes to call him (as did his soldiers) "Uncle Billy," and provide a follow up volume that provides an even more insightful and more detailed understanding of Sherman's post-Civil War career. As O'Connell states so emphatically: "by the time he retired from the U.S. Army in 1884, Sherman had become virtually a human embodiment of Manifest Destiny."

—Stuart Rosebrook

ROUGH DRAFTS



Looking for love? A romantic at heart? How about an Old West Romance!?

As editor of the Western Books Department, I am fortunate to receive advance reading copies from a broad palette of publishers, including Old West Romance novels.

Yes, Romance, one of the fastest-growing genres in Westerns. While I grew up reading the Old West classics of Max Brand (*Silvertip*), Louis L'Amour (*Hondo*) and Zane Grey (*Nevada*), someone wiser and older than me pointed out that great Westerns (in print, stage, film and TV) always had a romance, or it wouldn't be a great Western!

So, as you're putting your summer reading list together, here are some Westerns from Bethany House, with plenty of romance to bring a smile to your face, some warmth to your heart and maybe even a little blush to your summer tan!

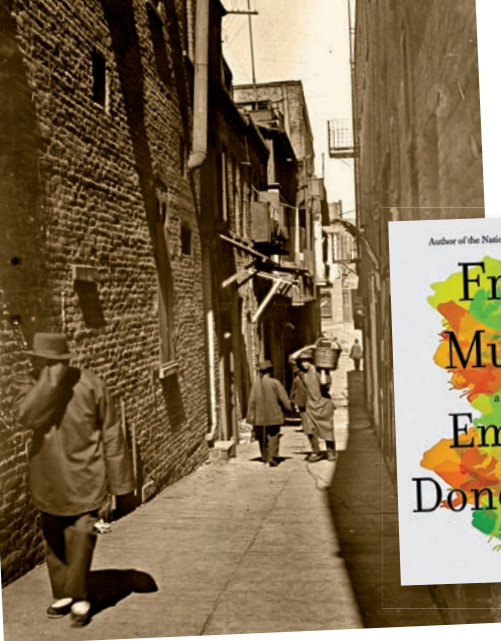
Eastern Nebraska rancher/author Mary Connealy takes readers out to the Idaho frontier in her new "Wild at Heart" series: *Tried & True*.

Abilene, Texas, author Karen Witemeyer's sixth Western, *Full Steam Ahead*, is an 1850s Texas page-turner with plenty of Gulf Coast action in 1850s Galveston.

Summer brides (and grooms) will enjoy *A Sensible Arrangement*, Tracie Peterson's 100th book, the first in a new Romance series, "Lone Star Brides."

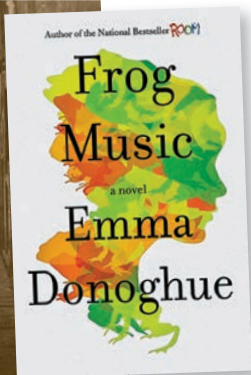
—Stuart Rosebrook





Irish author Emma Donoghue's gritty, novelization of a real-life murder mystery in 1870s San Francisco, California, reveals the dark side of life for women living on the margin—and alleyways of Chinatown.

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the story centers on Blanche Beunon, a popular burlesque dancer and soiled dove who befriends Jenny Bonnet, an eccentric young free-spirit who wears men's clothing and makes her living catching frogs. When her new friend is murdered, Blanche devotes herself to tracking down the killer, but in the process she finds that her slain friend had some secrets of her own. Bawdy, raucous—and unforgettable.

—Patrick Millikan, editor of Phoenix Noir

ROLICKING WESTERN FILLED WITH ADVENTURE

Mojave (Pinnacle, \$6.99), one of the better Western novels to come along in years, is proof that author

Johnny D. Boggs is indeed one of the top writers of this genre.

Johnny D. Boggs' latest Western, *Mojave*, is set in Calico, California, which today is a historic park near Barstow.

— PHOTO BY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



BACK-ALLEY BARBARY COAST MURDER MYSTERY

Set in 1876 San Francisco, California, against the backdrop of a smallpox epidemic and seething racial tensions, Emma Donoghue's exquisitely crafted literary thriller, *Frog Music* (Little Brown, \$27), vividly captures the post Gold-Rush frontier town's tumultuous transition to modern city. Based on a real unsolved murder case,

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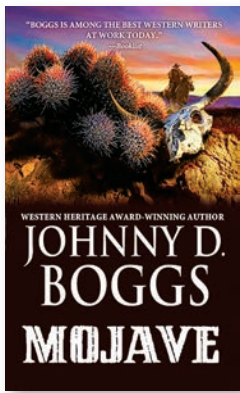


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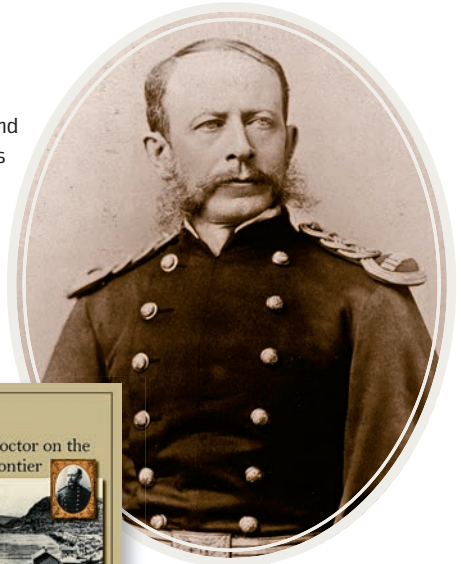
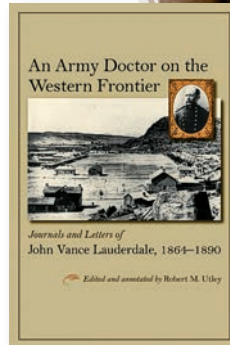
From the opening chapter, *Mojave* lures the reader into this skillfully crafted tale filled with memorable characters such as the evil Whip Watson, the scheming Candy Crutchfield, and our hero, Micah Bishop. In a delightfully original plot, Watson transports thirty mail-order brides to the mining town of Calico, California, where he expects to sell them. Crutchfield, who intends to offer them as prostitutes, kidnaps the women. Attempts by Bishop to rescue the ladies are replete with adventure, humor and surprise. —*W.C. Jameson, author of The Silver Madonna and Other Tales of America's Greatest Lost Treasures*

Historian Robert M. Utley's annotated volume of Captain and Assistant Surgeon John Vance Lauderdale's diaries and letters reveals the complexities and tedium of his lengthy military career on the Western frontier from 1864 to 1890.

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AN ARMY DOCTOR'S FRONTIER REVELATIONS

Robert M. Utley, editor and annotator of *An Army Doctor on the Western Frontier: Journals and Letters of John Vance Lauderdale, 1864-1890* (University of New Mexico Press, \$29.95), has created a superb, primary resource on frontier life. For 25 years, Dr. Lauderdale kept a journal and wrote countless letters to his sister in upstate New York. His detailed notes emphasize life on officer's row, and the daily events and discussions with the visitors to the Army post he served as medical doctor. He wrote about



many prominent historical figures he met, including Gen. William T. Sherman at Fort Wingate in 1878. His observations were revealing and insightful, especially his criticism of soldiers and officers who were drunkards. —*Edwin Sweeney, editor of Cochise: Firsthand Accounts of the Chiricahua Apache Chief*

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GRITTY REALISM INSPIRES WESTERN AUTHOR MICHAEL ZIMMER'S LOVE OF THE WEST



Author Michael Zimmer was raised in Colorado, where he learned to break horses at a young age. Later, after his family moved to Indiana, he dreamt of returning to the West, which he and his wife did when they moved to Utah three-decades ago. And like many writers, he held many jobs as he pursued his dream of being a full-time author. Determined to see his dreams to fruition, Zimmer kept writing about what he loved—the gritty, real West, filled with characters whose living and dying inspire our love of the American West. A

great believer in research before writing, he admits he can spend months and months researching a topic, like he did on the buffalo hunters and traders, for his latest from Five Star Publishing, *The Poacher's Daughter*. The Utah writer is also not afraid to stretch our understanding of where the West begins and ends, with another Five Star Western, his 12th novel, *Miami Gundown*, a Florida Panhandle Western, based on the real-life adventures of Boone McAllister's 1937 W.P.A. interview.

❶ *The Last Hunt* (Milton Lott, Houghton Mifflin): I like gritty realism and flawed heroes, and this character-driven story of the waning days of the buffalo hide trade fills that bill nicely. Lott paints a mural as big as the Montana sky, and as intricate as the workings of a fine watch.

❷ *Treasure of the Black Hills* (John Prescott, Dell): Another book that neatly sidesteps the easily recognizable clichés of a traditional Western, Prescott's tale of gold-seekers venturing into the harsh Black Hills of the Southwest (not to be confused with those of Dakota fame) explores a variety of characters in-depth. It's gritty, tough and satisfying.

❸ *The Winding Stair Massacre* (Douglas C. Jones, NAL Trade): A well-written and expertly researched novel, set in the Indian Nations of Eastern Oklahoma in the 1890s. *Winding Stair* also has the distinction of introducing to the world U.S. Deputy Marshal Oscar Schiller, a hard-nosed cop who will pop up in several of Jones' later novels.

❹ *Wildwood Boys* (James Carlos Blake, Harper Perennial): When it comes to grit, Blake's especially good with this tale of Missouri Bushwhacker Bloody Bill Anderson. He explores the guerrilla fighter's life from boyhood on up through his death in 1864. Violent and disturbing, it's also damn fine writing, and a fascinating exploration of psychopathic behavior before the term was even coined.

❺ *A Road We Do Not Know: A Novel of Custer at Little Bighorn* (Frederick J. Chiaventone, Simon & Schuster): The title pretty well sums it up—a novel of the Little Bighorn Battle, as told through the eyes of numerous participants, both white and Indian. Footnotes in a novel are always a good sign, in my opinion, enhancing the story without distracting from the narrative, and Chiaventone's descriptions of both the men and the cultures benefit from the obviously extensive research that went into the retelling of this complex story.



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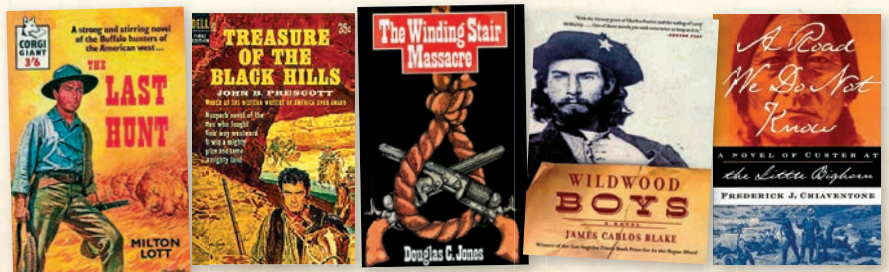
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In Derek Everett's *Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands*, readers will discover the numerous disputes on how the borders of Western states were created, and that if surveyor John Wesley Powell's suggested map of 1890 had greater influence, the borders in the West would have been based on hydrologic drainage basins (above), instead of politics.

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THE WESTERN EMPIRE OF GEOGRAPHY—AND GEOMETRY

In 1877 the *New York World* opined that “the western states and territories occupy vast tracts, empires in themselves, and their rapid settlement will yet see divisions and subdivisions, changes that ... may blot out all the territories and cut them up into well-peopled states.” Derek R. Everett, in his innovative and well-written volume, *Creating the American West: Boundaries and*

Borderlands (University of Oklahoma Press, \$29.95), explains and interprets how boundaries have shaped the trans-Mississippi West from the colonial era to the present. In the end, according to Everett, geography played a secondary role to geometry in transforming the West, and that fact has impacted every dimension of life in the American West: social, cultural, economic and political.

—Jack L. August Jr., author of *The Norton Trilogy*



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THE BILLY THE KID PHOTO AT A GLANCE



HAND HOLDING A REFLECTOR

X-LARGE OVERBITE

SWEATER X-LARGE

.44 COLT?

1873 WINCHESTER

LEG OF STAND



ACTUAL SIZE

- His teeth appear to confirm what a contemporary said about the Kid: "He could eat pumpkins through a picket fence."
- The photo assistant's hand can be seen holding the light reflector.
- Photo experts think the design on the Kid's bib front shirt is an anchor.
- His sweater is at least two sizes too large. Some see a name tag sewn into the lining with the initials "PM." Could the Kid have borrowed the sweater from Pete Maxwell?
- Billy wears a gambler's pinkie ring.
- He carries an 1873 Winchester, which was popular with cowboys and outlaws because it chambered the same bullets as the .44 Colt, making it easier to carry spare shells.



- Behind the Kid's right foot can be seen the leg of a stand used for stability during long exposures. Also check out his boots. Are these V-cut?
- On his head is an inexpensive slouch hat with a side crease.
- While developing the wet plate, the photographer handled the bottom corners, leaving his thumbprints. Four exposures were on the tintype, and the image was reversed as shown at top. This leads to the erroneous assumption that Billy the Kid was left handed.



How the tintype looked with four exposures of the Kid.

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Taking Aim at *Gunslingers*

This historical docudrama series blows away earlier dramatizations of Old West outlaws.

In the “Wyatt Earp: The Tombstone Vendetta” episode of *Gunslingers*, a weathered Kurt Russell states, “The O.K. Corral is the greatest gunslinger moment of all time.”

Like the other on-camera commentators in the show, the actor knows of where he speaks. His performance as the lawman in *Tombstone* is considered the signature Wyatt Earp of modern Westerns, and his passion for the real man, and his history, is very much on display in this interview.

In fact, a passion for history and its accurate re-creation is at the heart of this new historical docudrama series that debuted in July on the American Heroes Channel. The series tells the stories, warts and all, of the Old West’s famed gunfighters,

and their battles, but with a genuinely different dramatic approach that separates *Gunslingers* from other documentaries on the West and its outlaws.

Gunslingers uses a first-person point of view, with voice-over narration that goes into the motives and darker moments of the men who became Western legends, bringing a new perspective to even the most oft-told stories. This device has its risks, but the rewards are greater.

“Wyatt Earp: The Tombstone Vendetta,” the first episode, sets a fine standard, by dramatizing Earp’s perspective of the events that led up to October 26, 1881. The actor who supplies Earp’s voice sounds too young, especially in contrast to Russell, whose interview is a major

part of this episode, but the narration works well with the views offered by Earp experts.

Besides Russell, Tombstone re-enactor Jay Clark, playwright Craig Oldfather, our own executive editor Bob Boze Bell, *Tombstone Epitaph* contributor Drew Gomber and Wyatt Earp biographer Casey Tefertiller discuss the reputation of the Earp boys, the famous shoot-out and the vendetta that followed.

Paul Hutton, the distinguished professor of history at the University of New Mexico, shares the impact of Stuart N. Lake’s famous biography of Earp, *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, which became Hollywood’s favorite, and distorted, version of the O.K. Corral conflict, as well as the basis for a

American Heroes Channel takes on Old West legends like the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday in its six-part *Gunslingers* docudrama series. The network does a bang-up job on dramatizing the stories, but falls flat at times on historical accuracy. For instance, the Earp brothers did not wear holsters at the O.K. Corral gunfight, yet these actors do.

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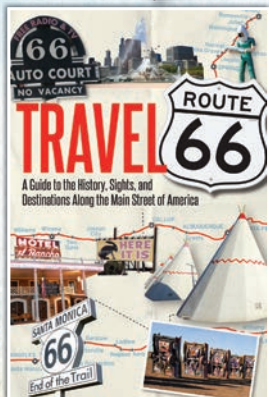


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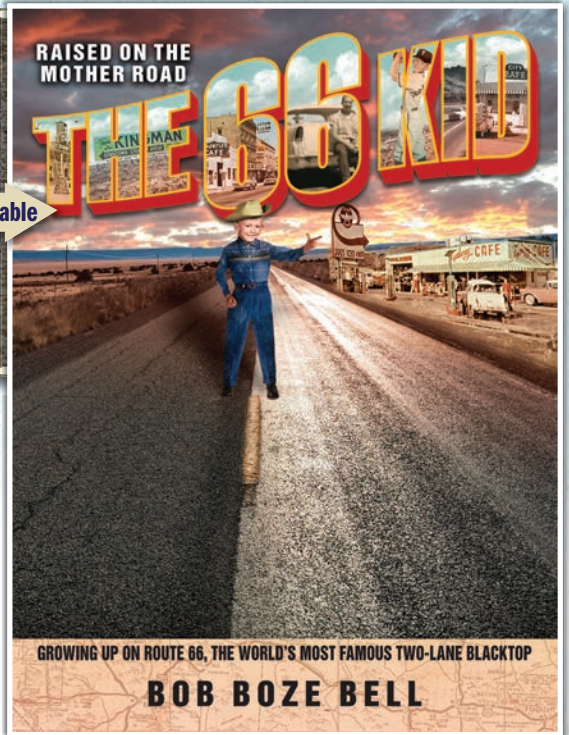
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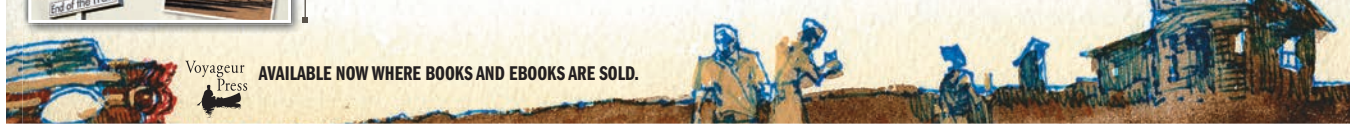
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number of films, including John Ford's 1946 classic, *My Darling Clementine*.

All these varied voices give viewers the chance to form their own opinions about the famous lawman. Even more, *Gunslingers* raises the bar in its re-creations. We've seen these done many times before, usually in clumsily staged, badly shot vignettes, with dinner theatre locals playing historical figures—these can be the kiss of death for a documentary.

Yet series director Christopher Cassel wisely took a cinematic approach to these scenes, spending time on coverage and staging. The re-creations have a big look, and they feature well-chosen faces for the Earps and Clantons. In his expert shoots of these scenes, Tim Metzger shows off his fine ability with night photography.

The next episode, "Billy the Kid: The Phantom of Lincoln County," traces William Bonney's childhood, exploring his true birthplace, and then segues into his life as Billy the Kid—his involvement in the Lincoln County War, his rides with the Regulators and, ultimately, his death at the hands of Sheriff Pat Garrett.

Gunslingers reveals a new path down timeworn trails.

The narration feels too formal; it lacks the intimacy of conversation provided in the Earp narration. However, if the Earp narrator's voice felt too young for the lawman, the actor here is absolutely age appropriate for the Kid.

Drama explodes in the portrayals of famous moments in the Kid's life, including his killing of "Windy" Cahill, his escape from Garrett's jail and his final moments before being shot dead.

Nonfiction author Mark Lee Gardner and historians and writers Hutton, Bell, Kirk Ellis, Johnny D. Boggs and Will Courtney are among those providing commentary, with each one superbly examining the myths and truths of the young gunslinger who inspired "more than a thousand books and 60 movies."



The next Western for our favorite Wyatt Earp, Kurt Russell (above), will be S. Craig Zahler's Horror-Western *Bone Tomahawk*.

- TOMBSTONE PHOTO COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES -

The show ends with dramatic flair when the Kid is buried in a grave that is surrounded by a cage, to keep vandals out and, just maybe, keep the Kid in. This haunting image lingers long after the episode's end, highlighting the filmmaking abilities of Cassel and company.

August brings examinations of the deadly lives and careers of "Jesse James: The South's Last Rebel," with insights from *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* author Ron Hansen, "Wild Bill Hickok: Marksman... and Marked Man," with *Deadwood* creator David Milch, "John Wesley Hardin: The Dark Heart of Texas" and concludes with "Tom Horn: Grim Reaper of the Rockies."

Gunslingers reveals a new path down timeworn trails, thanks to fine direction and first-rate research. The stories will not be unfamiliar to many *True West* readers, but the series offers you the chance to see some of the Old West's heroes and villains in a new light—the first-person perspective of the men behind the guns.

DVD REVIEW

BLAZING SADDLES—STILL BLAZIN'

(Warner Bros. Blu-ray; \$24.98) *Blazing Saddles*, the 40th Anniversary edition, marks more than the return of Mel Brooks's incredibly successful Western

farce—it reflects the changes the U.S. has seen since the movie's 1974 bow. The release is well timed, as Seth MacFarlane's *A Million Ways to Die in the West* has inspired some to seek out Brooks's Comedy Western.

In a new interview, Brooks talks openly about how his wild lampoon of racism could never be made in today's "politically correct" atmosphere, saying studio heads would have been terrified of the film and its message. Brooks couldn't be more right, and watching the film in this incredibly beautiful transfer only highlights his points.

Blazing Saddles is the tale of how Black Bart (Cleavon Little) becomes the sheriff of Rock Ridge, befriends timid outlaw Waco Kid (Gene Wilder) and takes on the town's wildly racist attitudes and its sneering villain (Harvey Korman).

But so much more is going on here than Brooks's belly laughs, if we want to see it. The language, the situation and the points that Brooks makes with his film still rattle our cages, as they should.



With film stills in its slip case, the 40th anniversary release shares a new Mel Brooks interview, plus director's commentary and a cast and crew reunion that includes the Oscar-nominated Madeline Kahn.

— COURTESY WARNER HOME VIDEO —

Maybe you have to have a certain number of candles on your birthday cake to get every Western movie reference, like the townsfolk's stunning reaction to "Randolph Scott," but the movie's greatest laughs are universal.

Silly and outrageous, with a true human core, *Blazing Saddles* is what Brooks calls his greatest achievement. The Western is prime Brooks, and it has never been better presented than in this 40th anniversary release.



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

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A TWISTED BIT OF HISTORY BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Finding Daniel Boone in a Cornfield

TRACKING THE OLDER, WISER, WITTIER FOLK HERO.

Daniel Boone might have held court under two “judgment trees,” the first in present-day Matson from 1800 to 1804, and the second, on his son Nathan’s property, after 1804. This site was located in 1987.

— ALL PHOTOS BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

It’s not the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., nor Judge Isaac Parker’s courthouse in Fort Smith, Arkansas. It’s not even here anymore, but standing near a cornfield on a clear summer morning, I cannot help myself. I sing:

*Daniel Boone was a man
Yes, a big man
With an eye like an eagle
And as tall as a mountain
was he.*

No, I’m not in Kentucky. I’m in Missouri. And I’m not lost, although I have been, well, as Dan’l reportedly told artist Chester Harding: “No, I can’t say as ever I was lost, but I was bewildered once for three days.”

Having finally escaped suburban St. Louis congestion, I discovered this park in Matson—which is near, er, nothing—and I stand by a “courthouse” that should be revered by jurists everywhere. Here, from 1800 to 1804, Dan’l held court as syndic of the Femme Osage District when the Spanish controlled Missouri. Under the shade of an elm, the “judgment tree,” Dan’l the judge passed sentences and settled arguments.

Alas, the tree no longer stands at the Daniel Boone Judgment Tree Memorial. Lightning struck it in the late 1920s or



early ’30s, and a storm blew it over in 1951, after which it was cut up and removed from the field.

The stories, however, remain of Boone, sitting underneath that tree, likely holding a copy of *Gulliver’s Travels* rather than

He kept his coffin underneath his bed, but pulled it out from time to time to make sure he still fit in it.

Sir William Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, and meting his own sense of justice. Nathan Boone said that his dad “governed more by equity than law.”

Maybe those “Judgment Tree” tales are more apocryphal than historical, but they ring true. Of course, I also believed everything I saw on that

1960s NBC series starring Fess Parker as the frontiersman.

Dan’l made a mark in Missouri, and Missouri remembers him well. Boone’s Lick is where Nathan ventured in salt

making (Dan'l didn't like the idea). The Boone burial site is near Marthasville (he probably didn't care much for that idea either). The University of Missouri's main campus is in Boone County, and Daniel Boone Elementary School is in Wentzville (Dan'l learned from the school of hard knocks). But I'm off to the Daniel Boone Home & Heritage Center in Defiance.

The massive home built by Nathan is the centerpiece of a village featuring about a dozen 19th-century buildings moved from within 50 miles of the area. Dan'l arrived in Missouri in 1799 when he was nearly 65 and died in this house on September 26, 1820.

Another story I like about Dan'l in Missouri: He kept his coffin underneath his bed, but pulled it out from time to time to make sure he still fit in it. He probably loved scaring his grandkids that way too.

Of course, everybody identifies Dan'l with Kentucky. I have seen his grave in Frankfort and traipsed across Fort Boonesborough State Park, so I will give Kentucky its due. After all, the state is also home to the Louisville Slugger factory and good bourbon. But I'm a Missouri Boone-head. Give me Missouri's older, wiser, wittier Dan'l than young Dan'l chasing Shawnee and Cherokee Indians.

Besides, Missouri also has better baseball and barbecue. ❏

Fess Parker might be Davy Crockett to many, and Daniel Boone to others, but to **Johnny D. Boggs**, he'll always be the airplane pilot from *Them!*—and a vintner whose winery makes a dynamite vignier.

A portrait of Daniel Boone hangs in the parlor of the Boone home in Defiance, Missouri. Artist Chester Harding painted the original in June 1820, while Boone was living in Missouri.



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Olive a Good Joke

A frontier California olive farmer pulled a fast one on Easterners.

Olive trees made their way to California by way of the Spanish Missions run by Franciscan priests who imported the trees in the 1700s. By the mid-1800s, these olives were sold, in glass jars or by the keg, but Spanish and French olives were more popular. Most mercantiles in the 1860s sold Italian and French olive oil, much to the dismay of American horticulturist A.J. Downing.

In December 1860, the *California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences* reported Downing's viewpoint: "It is not improbable that the time will yet come when the United States, instead of annually paying millions of dollars to Europe for the single article of olive oil, will not only produce this article plentiful enough for domestic consumption, but in such quantities as will make it one of the permanent exports of the country."

By March 1869, Downing's vision was coming true as California produced its own olive oil, first used as sickness remedies for rashes, burns, earaches and headaches. By the early 1870s, California

orchard farmers were shipping large amounts of their olive oil around the U.S. Americans had to adjust from thinking of olive oil as medicine to food.

This demand for a native product may have been spurred by 1870s reports of fake French olive oils. Rumors had spread that U.S. olive oils were being exported from Ohio, shipped to France and then shipped back to the U.S. as imported French olive oil.

To make olive oil, cooks crushed the fruit and extracted the oil, allowing it to settle. "At the old Catholic mission

...the delusive fruit
are nearly as puckery
as persimmons."

in Santa Barbara, there is oil that has been kept for years without losing any of its original virtue. We have been in the habit of getting very little of this 'virgin oil' from abroad,"

wrote Mary Cone, in her 1876 book *Two Years in California*.

In a second crushing, when pits were cracked and the pulp more finely mixed, an inferior oil was produced. Additives also lowered the quality. In the 1880s, California olive oil was adulterated by using cottonseed and sunflower seed

oils. The doctored olive oil fell out of gastronomic fashion by the 1900s.

One southern California olive farmer had fun with Eastern visitors as they arrived at a nearby train station. He knew many people from the East falsely assumed olives from the tree tasted just like they did from the jar. He put up a box, filled it with fresh-picked olives and nailed up a sign that read, "Fine, fresh, ripe olive. Free. Help yourself."

Passengers rushed to the free olives and bit into them. "Then there is a combined howl and a great deal of expectoration and disgust, for the delusive fruit are nearly as puckery as persimmons," reported North Dakota's *Grand Forks Daily Herald*, in an 1894 article with the headline, "How a California Planter Amuses Himself at the Expense of Innocent Travelers."

The planter watched from a hidden summer house near the station and called the spectacle a sure cure for the blues.

For a tasty dish that pays homage to California's olive oil heritage, try the 1883 recipe from San Francisco. ❖

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

COURT BOUILLON DE FISH A LA CREOLE

- 1 lb. fish, such as sea bass or halibut
- ½ c. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 T. butter
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 T. flour
- Cayenne pepper, to taste
- ½ c. Claret or red wine
- 1 small can chopped tomatoes

Cut fish into one-inch cubes. Place cubes with olive oil in a bowl, and salt and pepper the fish. Refrigerate. In a large stockpot, melt the butter over medium heat and add the onion, cooking it until golden, about five minutes. Add the flour and cook for one minute. Add the cayenne, wine and tomatoes. Stir until blended. Add the fish. Stir and then cover. Simmer for 30-45 minutes. Do not stir or the fish will break. Garnish with chopped parsley. Serves two.



Recipe adapted from *Evening Bulletin*,
San Francisco, California, June 30, 1883

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Invaders in the Big Horns

Buffalo, Wyoming, the seat of Johnson County. And the War.

Nearly two dozen Texas gunmen rode a specially outfitted railroad car into Casper, Wyoming, on April 5, 1892. They disembarked well before sunrise, along with 30 or so cohorts—cattle barons, local politicians and even a couple of newspaper reporters. Well-armed and toting a “Death List,” the mob rode north toward Buffalo, cutting telegraph lines to keep their invasion a secret. The Johnson County War had begun.

“An insurrection exists in Johnson County”

Their mission, organized and paid for by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, was simple—kill all 70 or so of the men on their hit list between Casper and Buffalo, under the pretense of restoring law and order to Johnson County. The hired guns had been told they were after thieves and rustlers, and had been promised \$5 a day, plus a \$50 bonus for every “outlaw” they killed.

While it’s true that some folks in the northern Wyoming area had a somewhat casual attitude toward the law, there was a lot more to the War than ranchers taking on a few rustlers. Patty Myers, former president of the Wyoming Historical Society, cited a number of factors that led up to the War—several bad winters and a weak stock market had investors shying away from



Once the Plains Indian Wars concluded in 1890, the rich grasslands of Wyoming became a battleground between ranchers and homesteaders vying for control of limited resources.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

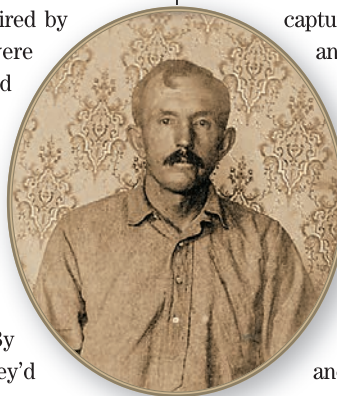
the big cattle operations. But what really steamed the WSGA was that more and more small ranchers, inspired by the Homestead Acts, were moving into the area and grazing their cattle on the open range land that the rich and politically well-connected men in the Stock Growers Association had come to regard as their own personal domains. By the spring of 1892, they’d had enough.

The Invaders (also called the “Regulators”) headed for the KC Ranch, where they’d heard a

bunch of rustlers had holed up. On arrival, though, they found just four men. They captured two, but killed Nick Ray and Nate Champion.

Then they headed for Buffalo, which they regarded as a hotbed of renegades and rustlers. But by the time they stopped at the TA Ranch a few miles south of town, the people of Buffalo had gotten wind of the invasion and mounted a counterforce, which surrounded the Invaders and demanded their surrender.

One man escaped the siege and got word



Tom Horn, a Johnson County War gunman, convicted in 1902 for killing a sheepman’s son, Willie Nickel, in 1901, was hanged in 1903.

— COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

to Governor Amos Barber, who was sympathetic to the WSGA. Fortunately for the Invaders, the telegraph lines they'd cut had been repaired and Barber sent a desperate telegram to President Benjamin Harrison: "An insurrection exists in Johnson County. ... I apply to you on behalf of the state of Wyoming to direct the United States troops at Ft. McKinney to assist in suppressing the insurrection."


The Invaders surrendered to the federal troops, but you can still see bullet holes from the siege in the old barn at the ranch. Although they were defeated in Buffalo, the Stock Growers had enough political clout to make sure none of the group ever faced trial.

Buffalo was founded in 1879, on a buffalo trail that forded a tributary of the Powder River. Today the town, nestled at the base of the scenic Big Horn Mountains, serves as the seat of Johnson County. Historically minded visitors will



Walk through history on Main Street in downtown Buffalo, home to numerous restaurants, bars, outfitters, antique shops, coffee shops and historic places, such as the Occidental Hotel and the Busy Bee Cafe.

- PHOTO BY STUART ROSEBROOK -



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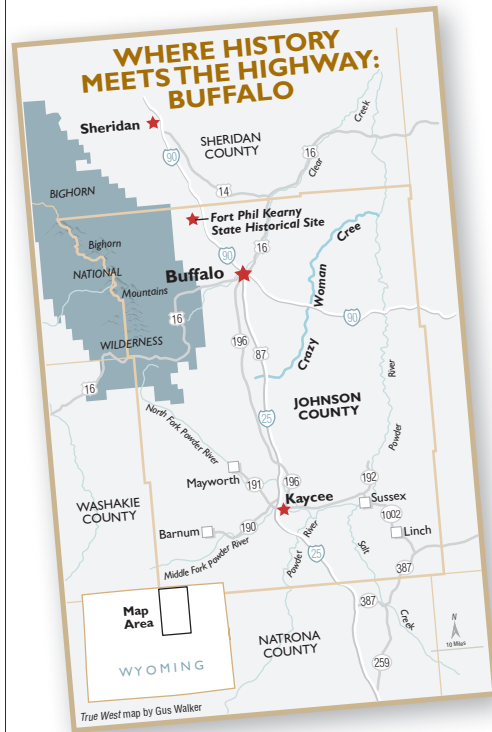
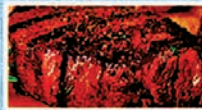


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want to stay at the Occidental Hotel. Furnished throughout with antiques, the venerable hotel still reflects the splendor of the 1880s. Author Owen Wister spent many an evening relaxing in the saloon of the hotel, and based many of the characters in his classic Western novel, *The Virginian*, on people he'd met there.



John Stanley, the Arizona Wildlife Federation's 2007 Conservation Media Champion, is a former travel reporter and photographer for *The Arizona Republic*.



Folks have been bellying up to the bar of the Saloon at the Occidental since 1880. Renovated in 1908, and again in the 1990s (along with the hotel and the café next door), the watering hole stills exudes the Old West elegance admired by such former customers as Theodore Roosevelt and Buffalo Bill Cody.

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BuffaloWyo.com/JimGatchell.com

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WyoParks.State.Wy.US

KAYCEE

In addition to a dandy collection of artifacts, the Hoofprints of the Past Museum offers tours to the site of the Dull Knife Fight, the TA Ranch Historic District and many other points of interest.

HoofprintsOfThePast.org

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One story says this spectacular canyon got its name from a pioneer woman who went insane after witnessing her husband's death and scalping. Another version says the name came from a deranged Indian who lived here. Either way, the scenery is crazy beautiful.

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SHERIDAN

King's Saddlery has been an institution in the West for nearly 70 years now. The shop sells all kinds of Western tack, while the Don King Museum holds a huge collection of saddles, firearms, Indian artifacts, wagons and other items.

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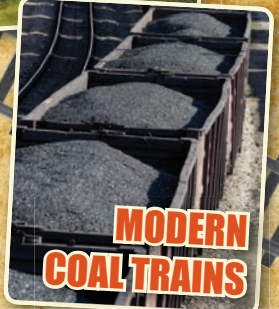
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The background of the entire page is a detailed oil painting. It depicts a wide river flowing through a valley. In the foreground, a group of people on horseback are crossing a sandy bank. The middle ground shows a small settlement with several white tents on the opposite bank. The background is dominated by a massive, layered canyon wall with warm, reddish-brown and orange tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dramatic, textured brushstrokes in shades of blue, grey, and white, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere.

THE TOP 10 Western Museums of 2014

We explore hands-on history from coast to coast.

By Johnny D. Boggs



What we learned over the past year is this: Communication is important, even in museums. In August 2013, History Colorado Center closed its exhibit on the Sand Creek Massacre after complaints from Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians because those tribes had not been consulted.

Of course, that Denver museum is still a great place to learn about Colorado history. Perhaps the state, museum and tribes can come to an understanding and re-launch that important exhibit about an ugly incident whose wounds have not yet healed 150 years later.

Thanks to museums, we also learned about cowboys and kids, guns and weather, and even a little bit about barbecue sauce. In short, despite some controversies, it was a fabulous year for Western museums—and museum patrons.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's Western art collection includes masterworks including, Thomas Moran's 1882 oil painting, *Cliffs of the Upper Colorado River, Wyoming Territory*.

— SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, BEQUEST OF HENRY WARD RANGER THROUGH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN [1936.12.4] —

"FRAUD AND CORRUPTION ARE FREELY EMPLOYED BY THE RING WHICH NOW CONTROLS THE TERRITORY TO FURTHER THE DESIGNS."
GRANT COUNTY HERALD, NOVEMBER 21, 1879

THOMAS CATRON

When New Mexico attained statehood, Catron was the wealthiest man in the territory. He was a member of the state legislature and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was also a member of the U.S. Senate.



BILLY THE KID

He is the most famous outlaw in the American West. He was a member of the Dalton Gang and the Coffeyville Gang. He was also a member of the Lincoln County Regulators.



New Mexico History Museum

Santa Fe, NM

"Cowboys, Real and Imagined," which closed this spring, gave us a fantastic look at cowboys, tracing their roots while also heading into the 21st century. Not only did the museum give us great displays—in state-of-the-art fashion—and a honest-to-goodness chuckwagon, it interspersed lectures and movies (from *Cowboy to Lonely Are the Brave* to *City Slickers*). Best of all, the exhibit made cowboys—and history—interesting to today's youth. And this year? "Toys and Games: A New Mexico Childhood" runs through February 1, while the long-term exhibit "Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now" is always intriguing.

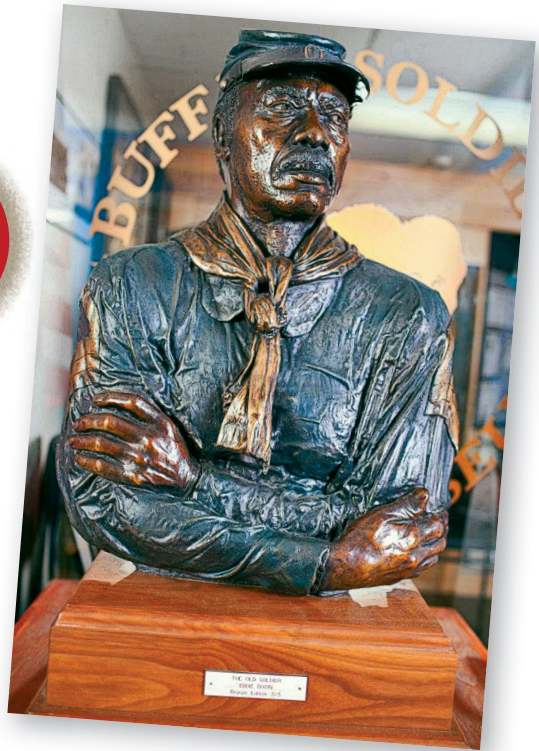
The New Mexico History Museum, well known for its creative exhibitions on the state's history, including "Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now," (top) and "Toys and Games: A New Mexico Childhood" (middle), recently won an Award of Merit for Leadership in History from The American Association for State and Local History for its exhibit "Cowboys, Real and Imagined" (bottom).

- PHOTOS BY BLAIR CLARK, NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, COURTESY NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM -

2

The Buffalo Soldiers Museum Houston, TX

Founded in 2000, the only museum dedicated to honoring the black soldiers in American history has continued to excel, particularly after moving to its new location. The museum's collections chronicle the history of black soldiers from the American Revolution to today. And, Buffalo Soldiers Barbecue Sauce and Buffalo Soldiers Hot Sauce are tasty ways to do museum fund-raising.



Visitors to the Buffalo Soldiers Museum will enjoy an excellent art collection, including Eddie Dixon's sculpture, *The Old Soldier*, of 1st Sgt. William Moses, a recipient of the Medal of Honor in 1881.

- COURTESY BUFFALO SOLDIERS MUSEUM -



3

Boot Hill Museum Dodge City, KS

From the outstanding "Guns That Won the West" exhibit to the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame to the dinner shows and shootouts on Front Street, Boot Hill is

one entertaining place to be educated on Old West history. We tip our hat to the marshal, Brent Harris, the archives staff and all the volunteers who keep history alive. The same can be said about Dodge City itself. The Home of Stone, Kansas Heritage Center, Dodge City Public Library, Fort Dodge and the trail ruts west of town are wonderful.

Boot Hill Museum provides informative and entertaining exhibitions on the wild and dangerous cattle-drive years in Dodge City.

- COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM -



4

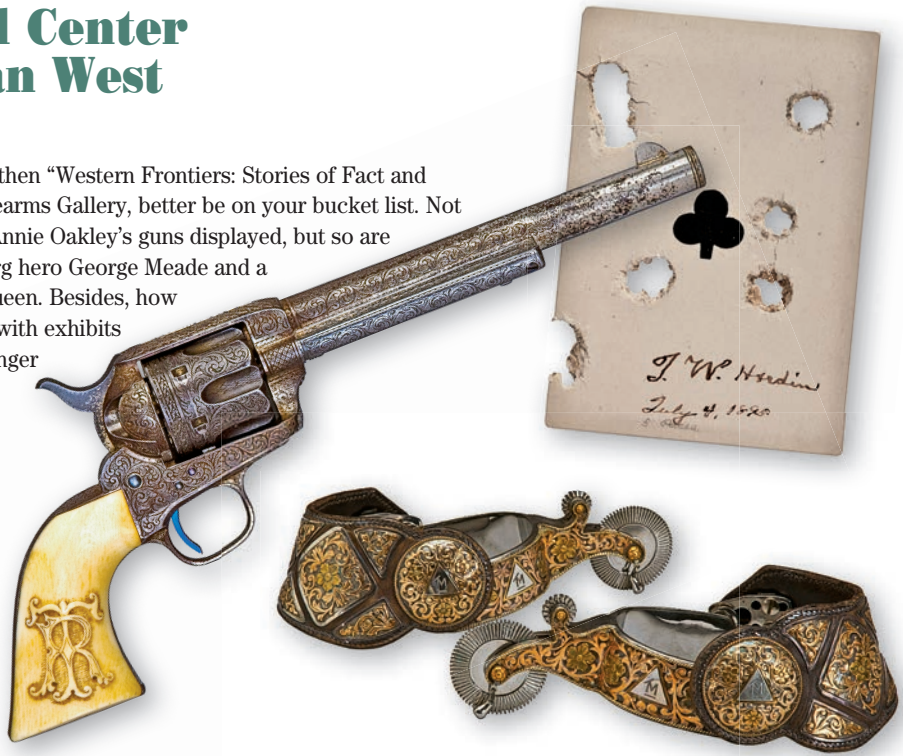
Autry National Center of the American West

Los Angeles, CA

If you're a fan of Old West firearms, then "Western Frontiers: Stories of Fact and Fiction," showing in the Gamble Firearms Gallery, better be on your bucket list. Not only are Theodore Roosevelt's and Annie Oakley's guns displayed, but so are the Remington revolver of Gettysburg hero George Meade and a gun belt owned by actor Steve McQueen. Besides, how many museums transcend the West with exhibits on Route 66, Tonto and the Lone Ranger and Michael Jackson?

Dedicated to preserving and interpreting all aspects of American Western history, the Autry National Center of the American West's collection showcases unique items including President Teddy Roosevelt's 1883 Colt Single Action Army, film-star Tom Mix's custom Bohlin spurs (1925) and a farrow card shot multiple times by outlaw John Wesley Hardin in 1885.

- COURTESY AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAN WEST -



5

Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave

Golden, CO

After paying your respects to William F. and Louisa Cody, and enjoying the view atop Lookout Mountain, make sure you visit the museum, too. The permanent exhibits are outstanding, but we are especially charmed by the temporary exhibit "Folk, Fine and Funky: Buffalo Bill in Art," which closes January 25. Bring your kids to Buffalo Bill's Western Roundup on September 23.

The Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave in Golden, CO, which includes William F. Cody's grave on Lookout Mountain and permanent exhibits chronicling his life and career, currently displays the a special exhibit, "Folk, Fine and Funky: Buffalo Bill in Art," which runs through January 25, 2015.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM AND GRAVE -



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Your Involvement:

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For more information please visit:

www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com or call (713) 942-8920

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6

Cody Firearms Museum

Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

Got a question about how many rounds an 1886 Winchester musket in .50-100-450 caliber holds in the tube? Inquire at this museum. Already the world's most comprehensive collection of American firearms, the museum got even better with the exhibition "Journeying West: Distinctive Firearms from the Smithsonian," which runs through the fall of 2015.

Cody Firearms Museum, one of five museums at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, has an extraordinary and unique collection of firearms, including Samuel Colt's personal set of Colt Model 1851 Navy revolvers.

- COURTESY CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM, GIFT OF JAMES H. WOODS FOUNDATION, BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING, USA -



7

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Oklahoma City, OK

Always a winner, with exhibits honoring cowboys (rodeo

and real), performers (singers and actors), Indians, firearms and history, this museum is especially known for its art. And the William S. and Ann Atherton Art of the American West Gallery showcases the museum's permanent art collection in 10 newly reinstalled exhibition spaces.

Oklahoma City's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's world-class art collection will inspire awe when viewing the "End of Trail," and curiosity when touring the "Cowboy Traditions in the American Cowboy Gallery."

- COURTESY NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM -

Living History Museums



— COURTESY THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK —

Proof that history is a living, breathing thing—especially at these museums.

- 1 **Pend Oreille Prairie County Museum** (Newport, WA): Enjoy a pioneer logging and mining village, with a recreated Kalispel Indian encampment.
- 2 **Calico Ghost Town Regional Park** (Yermo, CA): Living history reenactors create a fun-filled 1880s atmosphere for visitors to the San Bernardino County boomtown that once boasted 500 mines.
- 3 **El Rancho de las Golondrinas** (Santa Fe, NM): Participate in amazing annual events dedicated to 18th and 19th century New Mexico along the Camino Real.
- 4 **Nevada City Museum & Music Hall** (Nevada City, MT): Gold Rush days come alive in this 1860s ghost town with 100 buildings.
- 5 **Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site** (La Junta, CO) Join trappers and traders at the reconstructed 1840s adobe fort on the Santa Fe Trail.
- 6 **The Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park** (Houston, TX): Explore 10 historic structures on 10 acres in the downtown of one of the nation's largest cities.

Discover Treasures of the American West



Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *Mojave Wall* (detail), 1915, oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in., Stark Museum of Art. 31.18.18.



William Herbert Dunton (1878-1936), *McMullin, Guide* (detail), c. 1934, oil on canvas, 60 x 56 in., Stark Museum of Art. 31.21.222.

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Museums to Know



National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Fort Worth, TX



Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR

1 Northfield Historical Society (Northfield, MN): The 50-caliber Smith carbine (on loan from owners Gerry Groenewold and Connie Triplett) used by Henry Wheeler against the James-Younger Gang during the 1876 bank robbery was on temporary display. This museum always is first-rate, and the annual Defeat of Jesse James Days is entertaining and accurate.

2 The Durham Museum (Omaha, NE): From Abraham Lincoln to a T-Rex named Sue, this Omaha institution covers the region, plus everything else with a healthy dose of traveling exhibits. History, culture, science are all realized inside Union Station.

3 Charles Goodnight Historical Center (Goodnight, TX): Charlie Goodnight's Panhandle home has been restored, giving travelers along U.S. 287 a great reason to stop southeast of Amarillo. Here's another reason: The neighboring J. Evetts Haley Education and Visitor Center opened this spring.

4 Jesse James Farm and Museum (Kearney, MO): Not only is the boyhood home of Jesse a great place for tourists, the museum remains a great place for researchers. The purchase of Robert and Zerelda James' letters and the Robert James essays from Wilbur Zink's collection increases the museum's value.

5 National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame (Fort Worth, TX): Any museum

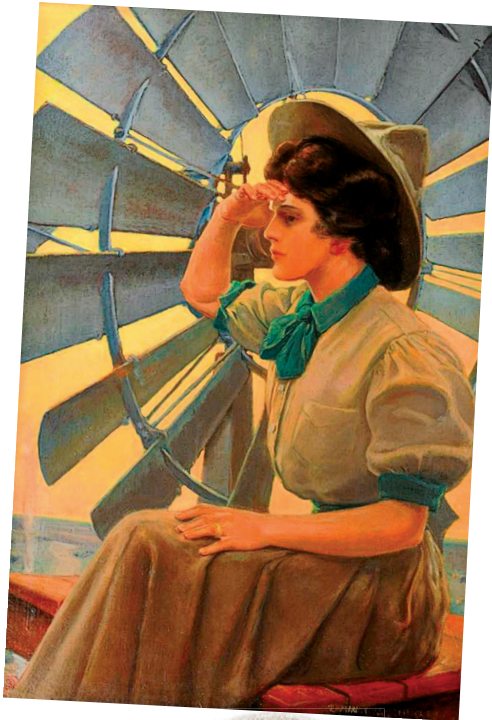
that shows how tough cowgirls are gets our vote. If "Tough by Nature, Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women of the American West" didn't win us over, then "Hard Twist: Western Ranch Women," an exhibit of Barbara Van Cleve's photography that runs through September 11, certainly did the job.

6 Old State House Museum (Little Rock, AR): Housed in the original state capital built in 1836, the museum has some excellent exhibits on the state's Old West past, including the outlaws and lawmen made famous by *True Grit*. Check out the new exhibit, "Lights! Camera! Arkansas!" that highlights the history of film and filmmakers in Arkansas.

7 Union Pacific RR Museum (Council Bluffs, IA): The entire first floor is dedicated to the Transcontinental Railroad, but "Building America" isn't alone. Exhibits on "American Travels by Rail" and "The Lincoln Collection" are also worthwhile.



Northfield Historical Society, Northfield, MN
- COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY -



Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Canyon, TX

As one old-timey Texan once said of the Panhandle: "It's the only place where you can stand hip-deep in mud and have dust blow in yer eyes." So it's fitting that this jewel gave patrons "Weather Photos" and "Wild and Wacky Weather on the Panhandle Plains" last year. And this year? How about "Madonnas of the Prairie: Depictions of Women in the American West"? Another fun exhibit, "High Fashion on the High Plains," runs through January

Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, TX, has a dynamic collection reflecting the past and history of the Panhandle region, with history and art exhibitions, including the recently displayed *Madonnas of the Prairie* (above).

- COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM -



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MUSEUMS TO WATCH



Stockyards Museum,
Fort Worth, TX



The Paris Museum,
Georgetown, CO



High Desert Museum, Bend, OR

- 1 **Hotel de Paris Museum** (Georgetown, CO): Celebrating its 60th anniversary.
- 2 **High Desert Museum** (Bend, OR): One hundred and thirty-five acres of animals, exhibits and history.

3 **Yuma (AZ) Territorial Prison State Historic Park**: The West's definitive "Crime Doesn't Pay" history lesson.

4 **Navajo County Historical Society Museum** (Holbrook, AZ): A treasure trove found in a historic courthouse.

5 **Tucson (AZ) Rodeo Parade Museum**: Buggies, wagons, surreys, coaches, artifacts and a recreated Western town's Main Street.

6 **Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum** (Walnut Grove, MN): Family heirlooms, dolls, artifacts, buildings and TV show memorabilia.

7 **Red River Valley Museum** (Vernon, TX): Excellent blend of history, art and science.

8 **Pendleton (OR) Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame**: A great history of one of the West's most historic rodeos. Let 'er buck!

9 **Stockyards Museum** (Fort Worth, TX): Traces stockyards, packing plants, cowboy history, and a 100-plus-year-old light bulb that's still burning.

10 **Fort Bridger (WY) State Historic Site**: Restored historic buildings, including Jim Bridger's trading post.

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North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum

Bismarck, ND

If the first two galleries—"Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time" and "Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples"—don't blow you away, just wait. This museum is getting a new look. The Great Plains Theater is all new; the children's exhibit area, "The Treehouse," was scheduled to open this spring. "Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today" and the "Governors Gallery" are set to open on November 2, in conjunction with North Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood.



The 125th anniversary of statehood in North Dakota will include numerous new exhibitions at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum on the history and heritage of the "Peace Garden State," including the "Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples."

— COURTESY NORTH DAKOTA TOURISM —

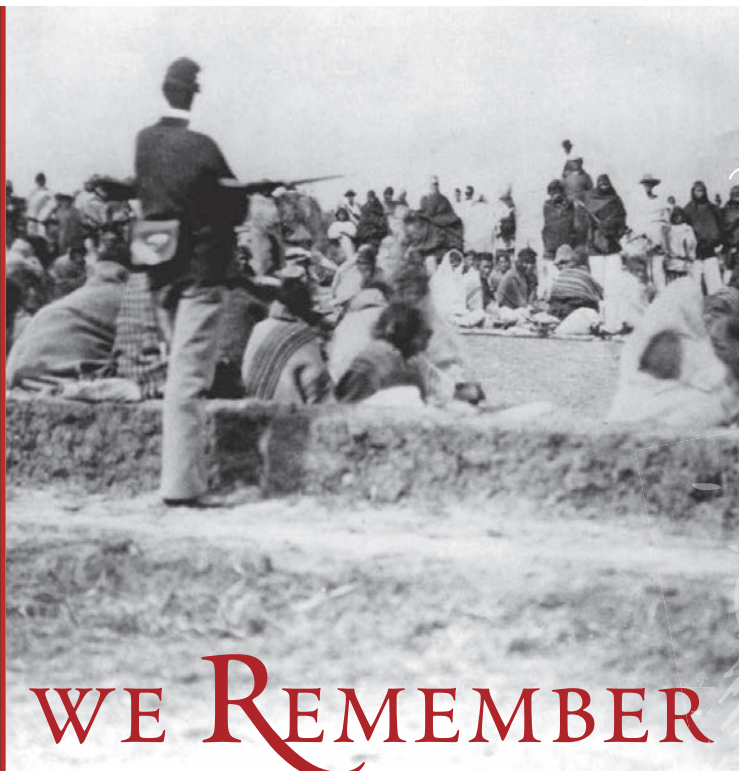
California Trail Interpretive Center Elko, NV

Between 1841 and 1869, roughly 250,000 people made a 2,000-mile trek to California. This Bureau of Land Management interpretive center tells their story, but also examines impact on the land and explores the culture of the Shoshone Indians.



Travelers across northern Nevada should not miss the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, where visitors will enjoy the permanent exhibits on the history of the California Trail and the local Shoshone Indians, as well as numerous annual living history events.

— COURTESY NEVADA COMMISSION OF TOURISM —



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Hastings Museum

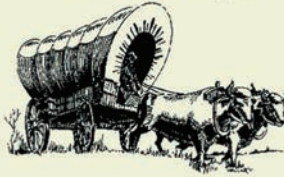


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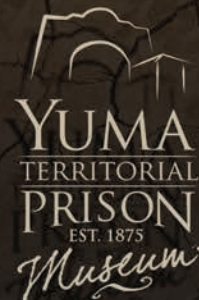


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6 Top Art Museums of 2014



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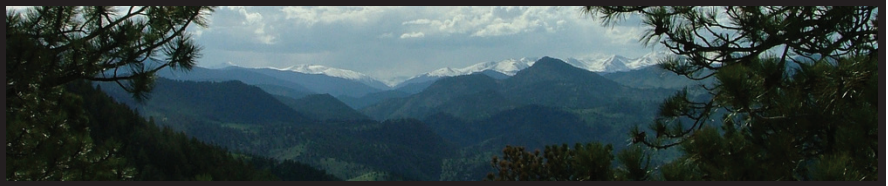
COURTESY BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM

Briscoe Western Art Museum
 San Antonio, TX



Located on the Riverwalk, San Antonio's newest museum opened last fall. The Night of Arts Art Sale & Exhibition is becoming a player, but we especially admire the museum's goal to blend art, artifacts and history. Executive director Steven M. Karr explains: "The Briscoe seeks to embrace a broad Western perspective that looks at a host of different artistic mediums, whether it's painting, sculpture, whether it's an artifact or a contemporary piece." Spend some time strolling the one-and-a-half-acre grounds—with exhibits housed in the main building, San Antonio's historic first library, the new pavilion and the McNutt Courtyard and Sculpture Garden. You can view new works by top artists, study Pancho Villa's last known saddle and be wowed by a fantastic diorama of the Alamo battle.

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Just a year old, San Antonio's Briscoe Western Art Museum is dedicated to exhibiting the art and craftsmanship of the American West in innovative exhibitions that showcase a wide interpretation of traditional and contemporary art, as well as the artisanship of the West, such as saddle making.

- COURTESY BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM -

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The Phippen Museum

Prescott, AZ

With a permanent collection of paintings, etchings, drawings, bronze sculptures, photography, artifacts and jewelry, dating from the late 19th to the early 21st century, what else could you want? Well: two studio replicas, four galleries, a research library, special events and exhibits like “Through Navajo Eyes” and “National Parks of the West.” Psst: Bob Boze Bell will be doing a lecture, “Stories of the True West,” on November 20.



The Phippen Museum in Prescott, AZ, annually provides visitors with creative exhibitions interpreting Western art, including the recent “Through Navajo Eyes” exhibition (above).

- COURTESY THE PHIPPEN MUSEUM -

Top Art Museums of 2014

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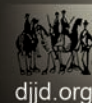



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The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art
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“Wild West,” which closed in February, showcased original posters printed between 1890 and 1950 celebrating Wild West shows from Buffalo Bill to the 101 Ranch. Beginning October 24, check out “Behind Closed Doors: Art in the Spanish American Home, 1492–1898,” the first major U.S. exhibition to explore the private lives and interiors of Spain’s New World elite from 1492 through the 19th century.



Visitors to Saratoga, Florida’s John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art will discover a museum that is an architectural wonder and showcases the Ringling collection while annually hosting unique exhibitions. The recent “Wild West” exhibit featured “Buffalo Bill & Pawnee Bill: A Glorious Cavalcade,” a 1913 poster.

– COURTESY TIBBALLS DIGITAL COLLECTION, THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART –

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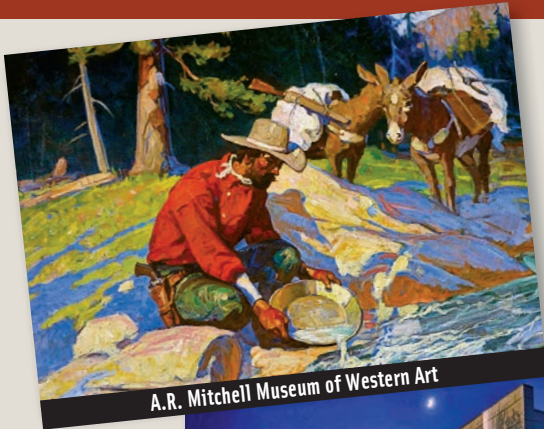


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NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ART MUSEUMS TO WATCH



A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art



Booth Western Art Museum



Desert Caballeros Western Museum

- ❶ **Desert Caballeros Western Museum** (Wickenburg, AZ): Always intriguing, always fun, this museum in one of the West's great towns is worth the visit.
- ❷ **Pasadena Museum of California Art** (Pasadena, CA): You'll find abstract art, photography, regional, historical artifacts...something for everyone.
- ❸ **Heard Museum** (Phoenix, AZ): Changing exhibits are great, but "Home: Native People in the Southwest" is still the reason to visit.
- ❹ **Tacoma Museum of Art** (Tacoma, WA): Western art wing scheduled to open November 16.
- ❺ **Booth Western Art Museum** (Cartersville, GA): Events for historians and art lovers of all ages make this a perennial favorite.
- ❻ **A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art** (Trinidad, CO): Not just paintings, but antique saddles, Navajo rugs, and plenty more are displayed here.

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- Presented by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco from August 29 to January 11
- Exhibiting over 20 works of art from Lee Herring, 2007 State of Texas Artist
- 40% of the sale price is donated to the Texas Ranger Bicentennial Fund
- A full list of artworks is online



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4

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Washington, DC

William Koch, who spent a lot of dough on the tintype of Billy the Kid, brought his collection to our capital. "The Western Frontier," which closes August 24, features more than 1,000 pieces of art, from paintings by Charles Russell and Frederic Remington to photographs of Annie Oakley and Wyatt Earp.

A permanent exhibition of early Western American artist George Catlin's artwork, including *Os-ce-o-la, the Black Drink, a Warrior of Great Distinction*, an oil painted in 1838, can be viewed on a tour of the second floor of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

- COURTESY SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF MRS. JOSEPH HARRISON JR. [1985.66.301] -



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5

Stark Museum of Art Orange, TX

The museum showcases an outstanding collection of 19th and 20th century Western

art and artifacts, but you'll also find decorative art of glass and porcelain, plus rare books and manuscripts.

The Stark Museum of Art's broad collection of Western art includes masterpieces such as William Herbert Dunton's *McMullin, Guide*, an oil on canvas painted circa 1934.

- COURTESY STARK MUSEUM OF ART, ORANGE, [TX 31.21.2222] -

Railroad Museums



- PHOTO BY STUART ROSEBROOK -

Had the Reno boys, Jesse James or the Dalton brothers stepped inside these gems, they might have reconsidered their career paths.

1 California State Railroad Museum (Sacramento, CA): The more than 225,000 square feet of exhibit space houses 21 restored locomotives (above) and cars.

2 Colorado Railroad Museum (Golden, CO): Tour the grounds to view a wide array of locomotives and rolling stock.

3 Oklahoma City Railway Museum (Oklahoma City, OK): A hands-on railway museum features exhibits for all ages with train rides, first and third Saturday's, April to August.

4 Nevada Northern Railway Museum (Ely, NV): Yes, you can take train rides, but even better is a tour of the East Ely Yard Complex.

5 Museum of American Railroad (Frisco, Texas): We can't wait until the Age of Steam Railroad Museum moves here from Dallas' Fair Park.

6



University of New Mexico Art Museum

Albuquerque, NM

The museum launched a new biennial show that features an established or up-and-coming Native artist. The first show, featuring Navajo Melanie Yazzie, was a rousing success.

A new biennial exhibition dedicated to current Native artists, including a recent exhibition featuring Navajo Melanie Yazzie, reflects one of the major missions of the the University of New Mexico Art Museum.

- COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO ART MUSEUM



True West Contributing Editor **Johnny D. Boggs** is an award-winning novelist who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His favorite museums, by the way, are the International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Ireland—not necessarily in that order.



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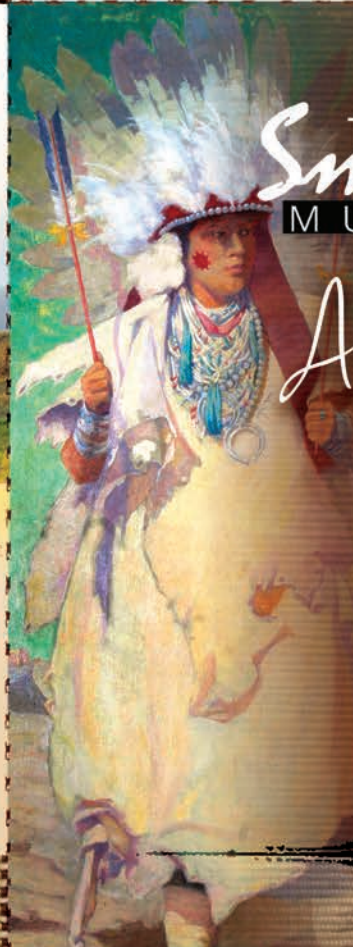
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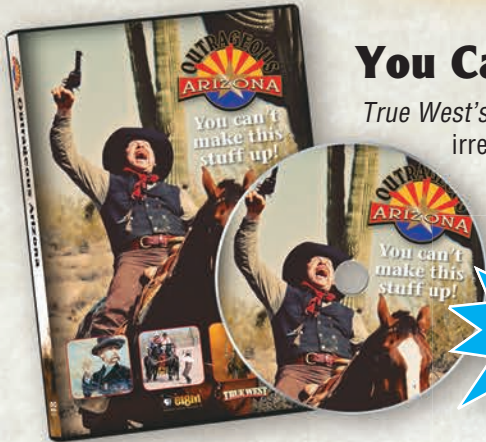
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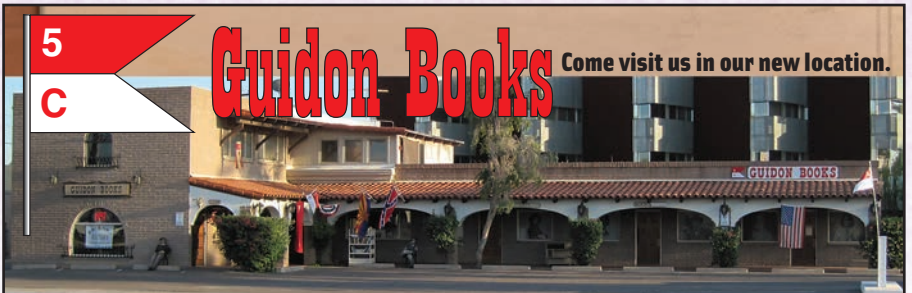
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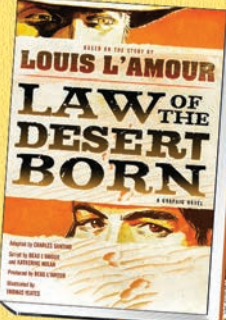
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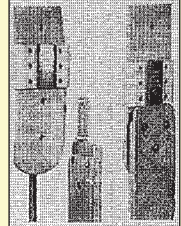
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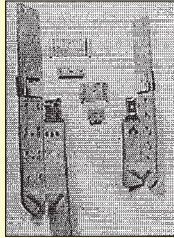
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JACKSON HOLE ART AUCTION

Jackson Hole, WY, September 13: Western art, such as *Major North and the Pawnee Battalion* by Howard Terpning (above), will be up for bid at one of the biggest Western art events in the country. Other cowboy artists whose artworks you can buy include Frederic Remington, John Clymer and E.S. Paxson. 866-549-9278 • JacksonHoleArtAuction.com

ART SHOWS

QUEST FOR THE WEST ART SHOW AND SALE

Indianapolis, IN, September 5-7: Features 50 of the nation's top Western artists at Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. 317-636-9378 • Eiteljorg.org

BUFFALO BILL ART SHOW AND SALE

Cody, WY, September 19-20: Buffalo Bill Center of the West benefit features contemporary Western artworks, plus honors Western artist Jim Wilcox. 888-598-8119 • BuffaloBillArtShow.com

TRAPPINGS OF THE AMERICAN WEST EXHIBITION & SALE

Flagstaff, AZ, Opens September 26: Held since 1985, this exhibition and sale at Museum of Northern Arizona showcases Western art and functional cowboy gear. 928-774-8861 • DryCreekArts.com

AUCTIONS

ANTIQUE & MODERN FIREARMS

Rock Island, IL, September 12-14: Firearms enthusiasts bid on antique and modern firearms, edged weapons and military artifacts. 800-238-8022 • RockIslandAuction.com

AMERICAN INDIAN & WESTERN ART

Cincinnati, OH, September 26: Collectors bid on Western art, sculptures, woven baskets and more by American Indian artists and artisans. 513-871-1670 • CowansAuctions.com

HISTORIC ANTIQUE FIREARMS

Manchester, NH, September 27: Historic firearms on the auction block could include Winchesters, Colts, sporting rifles and flintlock pistols. 603-627-7383 • AmoskeagAuction.com

COMPETITIONS

MEEKER CLASSIC SHEEPDOG CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS

Meeker, CO, September 3-7: Held since 1987, this sheepdog competition refines the skills required of a dog and rancher to manage a sheep ranch. 970-878-0111 • MeekerSheepDog.com

IRON COWGIRL

Somerset, WI, September 5-7: Fourteen competitive cowgirl events test the strength, athleticism and skills of horsewomen. 952-473-6422 • IronCowgirlEvent.com

NATIONAL CAVALRY COMPETITION

El Reno, OK, September 17-20: Thundering hooves, gleaming sabers and the call of the bugle charge return to the 1875 post, Fort Reno. 405-262-3987 • FortReno.org



FIESTA DE SEPTIEMBRE

Wickenburg, AZ, September 6: Hispanic pioneer heritage celebration features stories and photos, Mariachi music and folklorico dancers. 928-684-5479 • WickenburgChamber.com



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806-798-7825 • Cowboy.org

FILM FESTIVAL

TRIBUTE TO WESTERN MOVIES DAY

Montrose, CO, September 27: See memorabilia from about 50 Westerns filmed in Colorado, plus a watch Tom Mix's *The Great K & A Train Robbery*.
970-240-3400 • MountainWestMuseum.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

WAGON DAYS

Ketchum, ID, Aug. 28-Sept. 2: Features one of the largest non-motorized parades in the Pacific Northwest, plus wagons and stagecoaches.
208-726-2777 • WagonDays.org

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Sacramento, CA, Aug. 29-Sept. 1: Go back in time to 1850 Sacramento, where you can pan for gold, gamble and drink homemade sarsaparilla.
800-292-2334 • SacramentoGoldRushDays.com

DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

Northfield, MN, September 3-7: Celebrate the town heroes who stopped the Jesse James Gang during an 1876 bank raid.
800-658-2548 • DJJD.org

HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS

Enterprise, OR, September 5-7: This mule show and sale features an Old World Oxen living history camp, plus cowboy music, poetry and art.
888-323-3271 • HellsCanyonMuleDays.com

NAVAJO COUNTY FAIR

Holbrook, AZ, September 10-14: Since 1931, fair includes a rodeo, a little buckaroo rodeo, a demolition derby, live music and much more.
928-524-4757 • NavajoCountyFair.com

OGALLALA INDIAN SUMMER RENDEZVOUS

Ogallala, NE, September 11-13: Celebrates the end of the summer with live music and entertainment in downtown Ogallala.
308-284-4066 • VisitOgallala.com

SPIRIT OF THE COWBOY FESTIVAL

McKinney, TX, September 12-14: Trail rides and live music, featuring RJ Vandygriff, plus more celebrity appearances at Chestnut Square.
972-979-2354 • SpiritOfTheCowboy.net

OKLAHOMA INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL

Bartlesville, OK, September 18-21: Honors American Indian heritage with storytelling, an intertribal powwow and an arts market.
918-397-2125 • OKIndianSummer.org

RAIL TOWN USA RAILFEST

North Platte, NE, September 19-21: This community celebration pays tribute to the history of the Union Pacific Railroad.
308-221-6104 • NPRailfest.com



OLD WEST SIGNATURE AUCTION

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877-437-4824 • HA.com



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800-341-2235 • *StJo.org*

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Gering, NE, September 20-21: Parades and demonstrations honor the agricultural history of Nebraska at Legacy of the Plains Museum.
308-436-1989 • *LegacyOfThePlains.org*

BUFFALO BILL'S WESTERN ROUNDUP

Golden, CO, September 23: Buffalo Bill Cody and Annie Oakley re-enactors share their stories of the West, plus learn how a Civil War cannon works.
303-526-0744 • *BuffaloBill.org*

WESTERN HERITAGE WEEKEND & TOM MIX FESTIVAL

Dewey, OK, September 27-28: Celebrate Oklahoma history with the Tom Mix festival, a parade, a Wild West show and live music.
918-534-1555 • *TomMixMuseum.com*

MUSIC FESTIVAL

WALNUT VALLEY FESTIVAL

Winfield, KS, September 17-21: Bluegrass flatpickers gather for a live showcase of the National Guitar Flatpicking contest.
620-221-3250 • *WVFest.com*

RE-ENACTMENT

RENDEZVOUS OF THE GUNFIGHTERS

Tombstone, AZ, Aug. 30-Sept. 1: Watch gunfighter groups from across the U.S. compete for the title of best gunfighter in Tombstone.
888-457-3929 • *Tombstone.org*

RODEOS

PENDLETON ROUND-UP

Pendleton, OR, September 10-13: A PRCA rodeo with cowboy concerts, Indian relay races, the Happy Canyon festival and a rodeo parade.
800-457-6336 • *PendletonRoundup.com*

AK-SAR-BEN'S RIVER CITY RODEO & STOCK SHOW

Omaha, NE, September 25-38: This PRCA rodeo and stock show includes a barbecue contest, heritage parade, trail rides and family activities.
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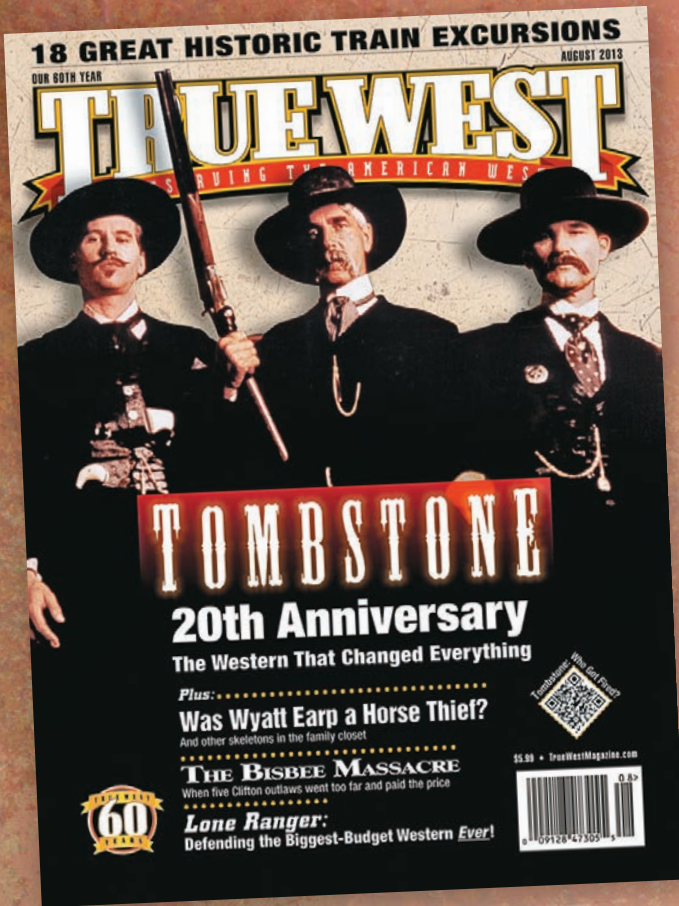
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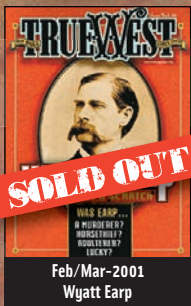
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- Nov: Apache Scout
- Dec: Mountain Men

2001

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- Feb/Mar: Wyatt Earp
- Apr: Geronimo Smiling
- May/June: Custer
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- Aug/Sep: Wild Bill
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- Nov/Dec: Butch & Sundance

2003

- Jan: 50 Historical Photos
- Feb/Mar: 50 Guns
- Apr: John Wayne
- Spring: Jackalope Creator Dies
- May/June: 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/Wyatt
- 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
- Mar: Arizona 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 Phtoos
- Feb: Assn. of Pat Garrett
- Mar: Stand-up Gunfights
- Apr: Wyatt Earp Alaska

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Star Power

Why do some sheriff's and marshal's badges have five points or six points?

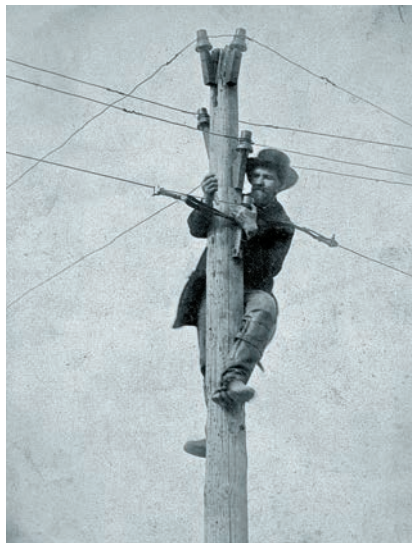
Pam Stockton
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Peace officers, then and now, can design their own badges. In frontier towns, they often made badges out of materials at hand that ranged from silver coins to lids off tin cans, hence "tin star." Although the five-pointed star is the most common of these designs, some agencies had six-, seven-, eight- or nine-point stars for badges. Historically, a five-pointed star supposedly imparted magical powers that deflected evil. A soldier wore one around his neck, believing it would protect him from enemy arrows. Of course, that didn't always work.

To what extent did telegraph companies help open the West?

Patrick Edwards
Monson, Massachusetts

Long-distance telegraphs first exchanged complex messages in line-of-sight forms, such as smoke signals



A lineman repairing telegraphs around 1862 had skills akin to a circus performer.

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This post-WWI, seven-pointed star exemplifies one of the variations of star points used in law enforcement badges.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

and flag semaphores. But electrical telegraphs eliminated the need for a direct observer and allowed messages to be communicated across the continent, virtually instantaneously.

Before the completion of the overland telegraph on October 26, 1861, a stage took about 25 days to deliver the mail from St. Louis, Missouri, to San Francisco, California. The Pony Express, which ended that October, took about 10 days to deliver the mail. Its high cost of \$5 (about \$136 today) made sending mail out of the reach for most. Released at a fractious time for our nation, the telegraph helped ensure the loyalty of the Western territories to the Union during the Civil War. (Western Union came up with its name in 1856 to signify the union of western lines with eastern lines into one system.)

In 1871, a decade after the telegraph brought instant communication from the East Coast to the West Coast, Western Union introduced the money transfer, which boosted individual and business buying power in the West.

Where does "Arizona" come from?

Daniel Welsh
Madrid, Spain

Some claim the Southwestern state's name comes from the Spanish *zona arida*, translated as "arid zone."

Another version states it comes from a Tohono O'odham village about 25 miles southwest of Nogales, called Ali-Shonak, meaning "Place of the Small Spring." Ali-Shonak didn't easily roll off Spanish tongues, so the Spanish corrupted it to *Arizonac* or *Arisona*. When the Americans arrived more than a century later, following the 1854 Gadsden Purchase, they corrupted it again to *Arizona*.



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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

The late Don Garate, chief of interpretation and historian at Tumacácori National Historical Park, disputed that claim. He stated the name originated from the Basque term *arizonac*, translated as the "good oak trees."

In 1736, when boulders of silver, some reportedly as huge as 4,000 pounds, were discovered near Ali-Shonak, a legion of miners or *gambusinos* converged there. Given the region's abundant oak trees, Basque residents called the place *Arizona*.

Garate noted at least a dozen other places in the New World with the name *Arizona*, including in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras and Columbia. Large numbers of Basque lived in all those areas, among the oak trees, which provided the acorns the Basques fed to their pigs, as they had done in their home country of Spain.

Who is buried behind the Tunstall store in Lincoln, New Mexico?

Steven Kretschmer
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

Lincoln County historian Drew Gomber says, "No one knows how many people are buried in Susan McSween's impromptu graveyard (which is actually *not* where the markers are, but about 20 feet to the east on private property). The bodies of Lincoln County warriors Alex McSween, John Tunstall, Frank MacNab, Daniel Huff and possibly a couple of children lay there." Gomber estimates somewhere between seven and 11 bodies were placed in the graveyard. "No one knows for certain," he says, "There is, of course, no official record."

Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Bat Masterson remained fairly loyal to each other over the years. Considering their self-serving natures, how did that happen?

Jim Gaines
Orangevale, California

Those men lived by a code that demanded a mutual respect and loyalty among the like-minded, which is why famous gunmen seldom faced off against each other. As the axiom went, "One man was scared, and the other was glad of it."

Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp hung out in a society of unsavory characters who included prostitutes, gamblers, gunmen, drifters and cowboys. Their mere presence could prevent trouble among the lawless element. The three were not plaster saints, though; once the danger had passed, the "good" citizens wanted them gone too.



Wyatt Earp



Doc Holliday



Bat Masterson

In a photo of six cowboys, two of them smoke pipes with the bowls turned upside down. Why?

*Irv Ferguson
Coolidge, Arizona*

Cowboys smoking with the bowl inverted was not an uncommon practice. Pipe smokers tell me they do it in windy or wet weather (they say lit tobacco won't spill). The cowboys in your photo, likely holding clay pipes in their mouths, with the bowls upside down, were sucking away at the empty pipes, almost as if they were chew sticks, to satiate their appetites.

Where were Belle Starr and Jim Reed married, and did Frank and Jesse James attend the wedding?

*Ed Kunkel
Muldrow, Oklahoma*

According to the couple's marriage record, researched by the late Oklahoma author Glenn Shirley, Belle Starr (Myra Maybelle Shirley) and Jim Reed were married on November 1, 1866, in Collin County, Texas. As far as I know, the James boys did not attend the wedding.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

I collect art because it surprises me.

The same painting can look different every day. It's always changing.

I've lived a lot of places, but, by far, my favorite is where I go next. The best part of being on the road is finding a great place to eat. It used to be finding a great antique store, but the Internet changed all that.

In the history of the Old West, I wish I could have gone on Teddy Roosevelt's trip to Gates Camp Lucky.

The problem with consignment is taking the bad with the good.

The one that got away...after 35 years, quite a few have gotten away. Maybe the real Annie Oakley trunk at the Brimfield collectible's show when I was flat broke.

When the Billy the Kid tintype sold for \$2.3 mil, in 2011, I was not surprised, but I was thrilled. They don't call it the "Holy Grail" of Western collecting for nothing. (Notice anything different about the tintype at far right?)

It was a lucky day when I met Melissa (and when the Uphams, who owned the Kid tintype, called).

When I first started, I didn't know much about anything. You learn as you go in this business.

When we left Cody, Wyoming, for Denver, Colorado, I was a little nervous at first, but I never doubted the necessity of the move. The event outgrew Cody. Everybody used to say that if you wanted to be a new dealer at Cody, somebody had to die first.

What I love about this business is the people. The material is great, of course, but without the people, it's pointless.

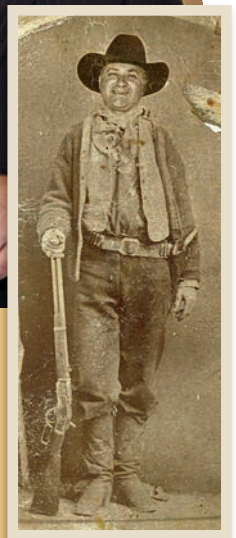
The hardest part about getting people to put their stuff up for auction is helping them to get realistic about values, and explaining that their pieces are maybe not quite as important as grandpa told them they were.

Don't get me started on people who call with questions like, "What color are the black boots?" or "How big is the five-foot-tall sign?"

The best Western ever is *Lonesome Dove*.



Johnny Crawford made a guest appearance at this year's show. "I thought 'Donna' was the most romantic song when I was young. I only liked girls named Donna," Lebel says. During his Billboard top hits, Crawford (at top) played the *Rifleman's* son.



BRIAN LABEL, FOUNDER OF OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

Believing that Western Americana collectibles would appeal to a broader public if they knew about them, Brian Lebel launched his Old West Show & Auction 25 years ago. A sought-after appraiser himself, Lebel has dedicated his career to bringing authenticated, fascinating artifacts of Old West history to collectors. Melissa McCracken, whom he married in 2012 and is shown with him in the above photo, helps him spread the news of the collectibles you may someday own...and the ones you wish you did!

Most people get tripped up on provenance. Real provenance proves something, but most of what people want to call provenance are just stories and tales.

Tequila is equal to a broken nose.

My daddy always told me to get out of the way of the TV.

History has taught me that there are no absolutes.

The first collector's show I ever did was the gun show in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1969.

I fell in love with the West when I was eight years old. Somewhere I have a copy of that black-and-white photo that all of us men of a certain age have of ourselves all dressed up in our cowboy outfits with our plastic six-shooters.



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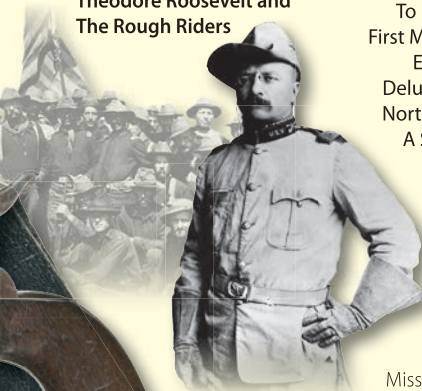
Scarce Deluxe New Haven Arms Co. Volcanic Lever Action Carbine with 25 Inch Barrel

Rare and Historic "Rough Rider" Colt Artillery Model Single Action Army Revolver with Holster and Factory Letter

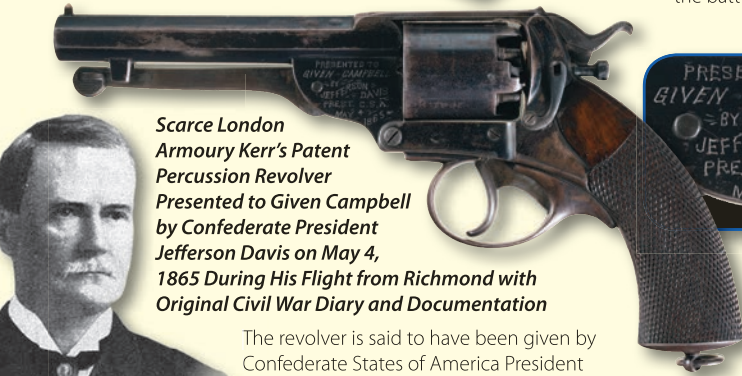
The Rough Riders commanded by Col. Theodore Roosevelt, the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry included cowboys, soldiers of fortune, Native Americans and Ivy League graduates.



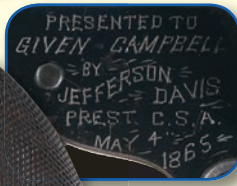
Theodore Roosevelt and The Rough Riders



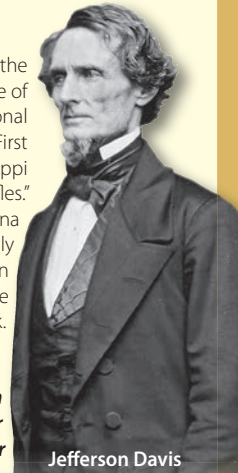
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Framed Historic Jefferson Davis' Mexican-American War Commission with Research Folder

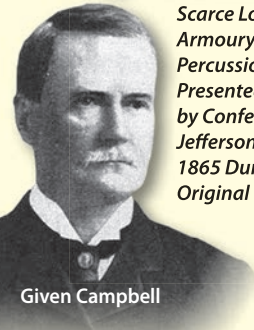


Jefferson Davis

Two Extremely Rare Artifacts Attributed to Jefferson Davis



The revolver is said to have been given by Confederate States of America President Jefferson Davis to his personal escort and noted Confederate officer Captain Given Campbell during Davis' flight from Richmond.



Given Campbell

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