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JANUARY 2018

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WE TAKE YOU THERE

Identified Participants

(1) Ex-Kansas Gov. Samuel J. Crawford, (2) Cheyenne Secretary Leonard Tyler, (3) Little Bear (Cheyenne), (4) Oklahoma City's first mayor, William Couch, (5) Little Chief (Cheyenne), (6) Deputy U.S. Marshal George Thornton, (7) Ex-Indian Agent John D. Miles, (8) Cloud Chief (Cheyenne), (9) Postmaster George A. Beidler, (10) Row of Lodges (Arapaho), (11) Left Hand (Arapaho) and (12) Cheyenne Interpreter George Bent.

Cheyenne and Arapahoe Delegates Sell Unused Cherokee Outlet

Taken in June 1889 in Oklahoma City, two months after its founding in Indian Territory, this photo portrays a faction led by Little Chief (Cheyenne) and Left Hand (Arapaho) meeting with federal officials in front of the post office to negotiate the sale of surplus land in the Cherokee Outlet, which would ultimately be opened to settlers on April 19, 1892. Notice the white man, with a peace pipe, holding hands with a stoic Indian (front row, center); the man in the seersucker suit (13) is the piano player from a local saloon. No one looks happy, and one man is asleep.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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

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Join the Conversation

"Zane Grey was an angler first and foremost. That he wrote dimestore Westerns is ancillary. *Riders of the Purple Sage* was a decent Western Romance novel, but pales in comparison to his books on fishing. A true fishing legend!"
– Jeffrey Todd Nielsen of Berthoud, Colorado

Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see his painting, *The Assassin*?, and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts (Search for "October 25, 2017").
Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com

Lieutenant Col. Teddy Roosevelt stands (center) with his Rough Riders at the top of the hill they captured during the decisive 1898 Battle of San Juan Hill. Find this and more historical photography on our "Western History" board.
Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag

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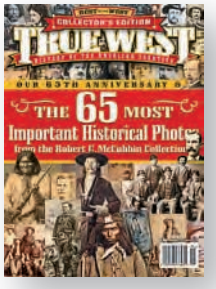

Cover design by Dan Harshberger

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OUR 65TH ANNIVERSARY &

THE 65 MOST Important Historical Photos from the Robert G. McCubbin Collection

22 In honor of *True West's* 65th Anniversary, we are proud to present 65 favorite photographs from the world-class collection acquired by Robert G. McCubbin, our publisher emeritus.

—By TW Editors & Robert G. McCubbin

TRUE WEST

BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN

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COWBOY HAT ETIQUETTE

I just love the magazine. You folks do a great job. I was a little taken aback by the "Do not touch my hat" rule in your "Cowboy Hat Etiquette" feature in November 2017, as if only cowboys would kick your butt if you touched their hat, on or off their head. My father, a Brooklyn-born, first-generation Sicilian American, always wore a Homburg when dressed and would probably have gone to jail if someone touched his hat, especially if he was wearing it. Hat etiquette do's and don'ts apply to almost any person who wears a beloved cover.

Ben DiGregorio
Ojai, California

One cowboy hat rule you forgot was: A "True Cowboy" will never lay his hat on a bed. That's bad luck. Ask any South Dakota old-timer.

Sandi Anderson
Redding, California

SIDESADDLE STARR

My thanks for that great article and the great photos of women riding sidesaddle into the 1900s in your November 2017 issue. Loved that photo of Belle Starr sitting sidesaddle and wearing her pistols (below).

I'm so tired of the old Westerns that put women in tight pants. I blame the directors for wanting to see so much of their figures, but that look was never true. If women ever had to ride astride, it would have been in skirts and unladylike.

Lee Martin
Vacaville, California

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Oops!

November 2017: *In* Unsung, *Capt. James Tevis was born in Virginia in 1837, as West Virginia was not a state until 1863. In* Renegade Roads, *the photograph on p. 51 is misidentified as the Cheyenne leader Roman Nose, but the Minneconjou Lakota Sioux leader, also named Roman Nose. Ephriam Dickson III, deputy chief of the U.S. Army Center of Military History, tells us that photographer James H. Hamilton took this photo at the Spotted Tail Agency in Nebraska in the fall of 1877, shortly after Roman Nose and his Minneconjou band surrendered.* ***December 2017:*** *In* Collecting the West, *Edgar Alwin Payne's painting was indeed the highest Western art lot at the Jackson Hole Art Auction; the auction house wishes to point out its highest bid went to a wildlife artwork, Bob Kuhn's* Closing the Distance.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

CART TALK

Just a quick thank you for using my question about the Red River cart in the December 2017 issue of *True West*. My copy arrived today and not only did you describe the cart, but also provided a picture (above). The picture helped me understand how the cart looked, especially when I read that it contained no iron. Talk about craftsmanship!

Ask the Marshall is the first item I read when *True West* arrives—it is an informative and interesting column, and my personal favorite part of the magazine.

Bob Fuller
Vermillion, South Dakota

SHOOTING FROM THE SADDLE

Love your magazine! In December 2017's *What History Has Taught Me*, you feature a photograph of Reba McEntire on a gray horse, all rigged up for Cowboy Mounted Shooting (below). It has become a popular equestrian sport nowadays, with lots of women competing in Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association matches. The World Finals were just held in Amarillo, Texas.

Carol Mathews
Dunnellon, Florida

– COURTESY REBA MCENTIRE –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

With a Little Help from My Friends

When True West *was young, and so were we.*

As we head into our 65th year, I have to look back on a few of the wonderful people who make *True West* Magazine what it is today: the best publication on the history of the American frontier.

Some of my "classmates" have been standouts. Not only did Robert G. McCubbin stick his neck out and help me buy *True West* when the magazine was on the verge of going out of business, in 1999, Bob also was a charter subscriber when *True West* hit the newsstands in April 1953. He was only 16, but he knew a good thing when he saw it! In addition, Bob also has spent a lifetime compiling the largest collection of outlaw and lawman photographs in the world. We thought it high time to share 65 of his favorites (p. 22), as well as honor him as our 2018 True Westerner. We will confer this honor on him at Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale, Arizona, on January 18. All of you are invited to attend.

Another classmate is Dan "The Man" Harshberger, who, in addition to being our art director for the past 18 years, is featured in this issue's *What History Has Taught Me* (p. 112).

The other classmates, at right and in our masthead, have spent a lifetime honing their skills. Without them, this magazine might still be around, but it would be a pale shadow of what it is today.

Thank you!

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

ROBERT G. McCUBBIN

MARSHALL TRIMBLE

MEGHAN SAAR

DAN HARSHBERGER

HENRY C. PARKE

ROBERT RAY

PHIL SPANGENBERGER

STUART ROSEBROOK

JANA BOMMERSBACH

The *True West* Class of 2018

If you added up the years of experience these fine youngsters have spent working on their craft, you would be amazed. For more information, go to my blog at *TWMag.com* and learn some of the stories behind these wonderful photos.

TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

Quotes

"I asked a man in prison once how he happened to be there and he said he had stolen a pair of shoes. I told him if he had stolen a railroad he would be a United States senator."

– Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, cofounder of the Industrial Workers of the World

"...anxiety is the dizziness of freedom...."

– Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher

"The basis of optimism is sheer terror."

– Oscar Wilde, Irish author

"Eighty percent of success is showing up."

– Woody Allen, U.S. filmmaker

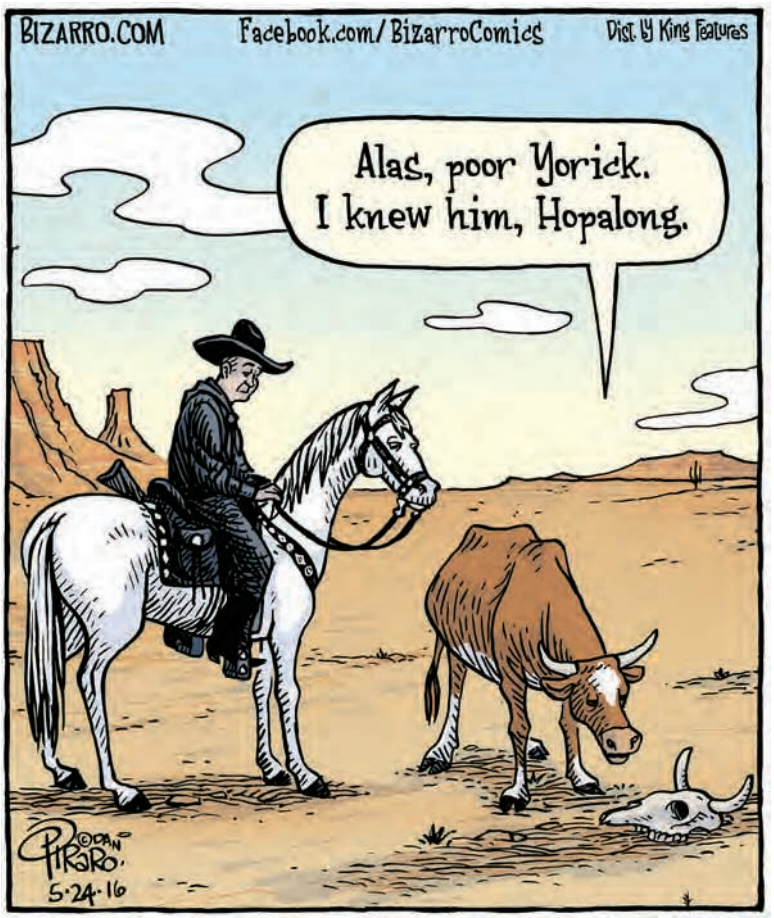
"I can only note that the past is beautiful because one never realises an emotion at the time. It expands later, & thus we don't have complete emotions about the present, only about the past."

– Virginia Woolf, English novelist

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear."

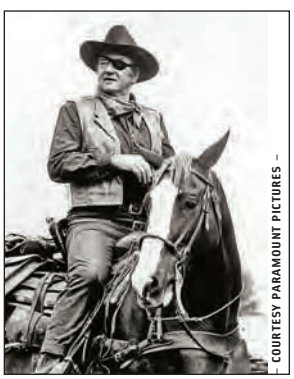
– Mark Twain, U.S. author

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO

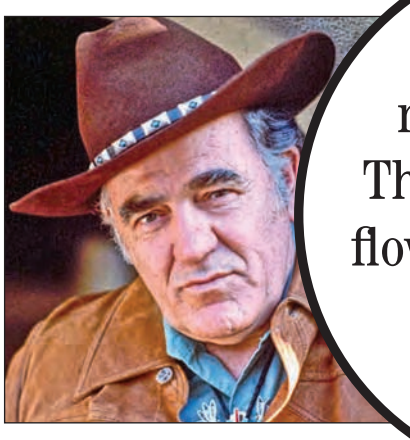


"It's kind of a sad thing when a normal love of country makes you a super patriot."

–John Wayne, shown in 1969's True Grit



– COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES –



– BY ROGER RESSMEYER / BANTAM BOOKS –

"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

– Louis L'Amour, U.S. novelist

Old Vaquero Saying

"Why worry about history being erased when you're so busy repeating it?"

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

The Size of an Assignment

Looking back is a tall order.

Tom McLaury (far left) and Frank McLaury (left) look much shorter than the six-foot-tall journalist Ed Finerty in the center. To be clear, unknown provenance has some historians doubting if this is a photo of the brothers; it was so identified in Jack Ganzhorn's 1940 book *I've Killed Men*.

– COURTESY PAUL LEE JOHNSON –

In this 65th anniversary year for *True West*, on assignment to report my favorite *Investigating History* columns, I wrack my brain and only two come to mind. Both go back a few years and cover the same basic topic: size.

This short and sweet tale starts in April 2010. Ben Kilpatrick, famed for his appearance in the "Fort Worth Five" photo, has gone down in history with the moniker the "Tall Texan." Yet when I consulted Wild Bunch experts, I learned that Kilpatrick was a Texan, but he wasn't so tall.

When Wild Bunch member Kilpatrick was arrested in 1901, he measured at about six feet one—big at a time when most men were around five feet seven, but certainly not as tall as Pat Garrett or Bob Paul, who stood at around six feet four and six feet seven, respectively. What the heck?

Then five years later, prison officials recorded Kikpatrick's height at just under six feet. Shrinkage? Or did they use a different tape measure than the one used during intake?

A police chief in St. Louis, Missouri, may be guilty of bestowing that poor nickname. On November 14, 1901, William Desmond said that Kilpatrick fit the description of a "tall Texan." A San Antonio newspaper grabbed his words for a headline two days later: "Identified as the Tall Texan." The nickname stuck—even as people failed to check on the guy's size.

Another column reached new heights (or lows) in June 2012. Tom and Frank McLaury were on the losing side at Tombstone's Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral. In the Westerns, all of the participants appear to be about six feet tall. That was true of the Fighting Earps, though their pal "Doc" Holliday came in at about five feet eight, but even he dwarfed the McLaurys.

Paul Lee Johnson, the biographer of Frank and Tom McLaury, says the McLaury brothers were shortchanged; Frank was about five feet three; Tom was around five feet five. Granted, these numbers are guesstimates based on looking at the coffin photos of the boys and Billy Clanton (who was about six feet two).

A disputed photo of Frank and Tom, deemed authentic by Johnson, "shows the pair standing on either side of journalist Ed Finerty. He's around six feet. They are nowhere near that size. In fact, Finerty's head reaches near Frank's shoulder." (I'm quoting my own column here. That's my prerogative.)

The Earps had a couple of run-ins with the McLaurys before the famous gunfight on October 26, 1881. Maybe Tom and Frank, intimidated by the tall lawmen, felt the only way they could protect themselves was to go heeled.

So that's the long and short of my *Investigating History* columns. Maybe you have your favorite. If so, let me know. I won't shortchange your thoughts. And you can cut me down to size. About five feet seven.

Wild Bunch expert Dan Buck rounded up mug shots of the Tall Texan, with one listing Ben Kilpatrick at six feet one and the other (above), recorded five years later, at five feet 11.

– COURTESY DANIEL BUCK –

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

An Angel and the Train Man

Jana Bommersbach shares her favorite Old West Saviors from her 10-year journey.

Jana's favorite saviors range from train aficionado Jim Clark (far left) to Fort Stanton's Angel Lynda Sánchez (left, shown assessing the condition of the 1855 stables).

– CLARK PHOTO COURTESY NORTHERN NEVADA RAILWAY FOUNDATION; SÁNCHEZ PHOTO BY JEAN FULTON –

Along with *True West's* 65th birthday, this column celebrates a landmark too—my 10th anniversary of exploring the people and groups who are saving pieces of the Old West.

When I began writing this column in 2007, I was admitted to a wonderful new world I didn't know existed—the hundreds of people throughout the nation whose hearts and souls are dedicated to preserving our history and honoring our heritage. How great to interview people who keep the faith when the odds are stacked against them; who won't let anyone tell them, "No;" who face setbacks and never let anything set them back—just like the American Indian, Mexican, Mormon and white pioneers they celebrate.

Writing this column has been one of the most joyful experiences of my career. It didn't hurt, of course, that my first column began with such a winner.

FORT STANTON'S ANGEL: "The 'Savior of Fort Stanton' was too modest to claim that title for herself, but anyone who has watched the reversal of fortune at one of the West's most enduring forts knows that Lynda Sánchez deserves it.... 'We aren't going to have much of the West left if we don't draw a line in the sand.... This is where I drew the line.'" (August 2007)

The fantastic people and stories continued, with these topping my list:

CROOKEDEST RAILROAD TURNS NEW BEND: "Model railroads didn't do a thing for Jim Clark when he was a kid growing up in Milwaukee and California in the 1940s and 1950s, but the real thing blew his whistle." (March 2008)

HOOP DANCE DYNASTY: "Thanks to the pull of love, one of today's most acclaimed hoop dancing families in the nation helped to revive the native dance that had all but died by the 1980s.... Ken and Doreen Duncan of Mesa, Arizona, now have children who hold a fistful of world championships in the art that uses from one to 50 hoops in a most athletic dance." (February 2012)

THE LAST BONANZA FARM: "Perhaps the greatest example in the Old West of making lemonade out of lemons is what happened in Dakota Territory in the 1870s." The birth of these "Bonanza Farms" is epitomized by the Frederick A. Bagg farm, a National Historic Landmark designation. (March 2014)

THE BURDEN BASKET STRUGGLE: "Just 81 words tell the story—but they're powerful enough to represent the struggle and courage of the Yavapai-Apache people of Arizona's Verde Valley." These words inspired a lasting monument to commemorate the exodus. (January 2015)

SAVING A PIECE OF *TRUE WEST*: "More than 30 years passed before four citizen groups and multiple city councils saved a 'precious jewel in Austin's crown'.... While they were at it, they saved a jewel in the crown of *True West* Magazine." That precious jewel was the home where our founding editor, Joe Austell Small, operated this magazine. (September 2015)

IDAHO'S MORMON MIRACLES: "When the people of Preston, Idaho, decided to save the Oneida Stake Academy, they weren't just preserving a magnificent historic building. They were honoring a little-known time in Mormon history—a time of determination and defiance." (March 2017)

If I'm lucky, this magazine will let me keep discovering fabulous people like these. Happy Anniversary to us all!

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

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Postcard (L-R): Fannie Nampeyo (Hopi, 1900-1987) and Nampeyo (Hopi/Tewa, c. 1860-1942). Ceramics (L-R): Rainy Naha (Hopi/Tewa, b. 1949), *Jar*, 2008; Nampeyo (Hopi/Tewa, c. 1860-1942), *Polychrome Storage Jar with Appliqué*, c. 1905; Nampeyo and Annie Healing Nampeyo (1884-1968), *Bi-lobal Jar*, 1900-1905. Foreground: Nathan Begaye (Hopi/Navajo, 1958-2010), *Polychrome Water Canteen*, 2000. Gifts of The Allan and Judith Cooke Collection. Photo by Bill Dambrova. Bottom photo: *The Rennard Strickland Collection of Western Film History* exhibition; Loren Anderson Photography. Collection is jointly owned by Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West and the Arizona State University Foundation.

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Cheering Our Culinary Journey

From a trouser-eating cow to a prisoner's last meal.

One of our favorite *Frontier Fare* photographs is one tied to our columnist. Sherry Monahan's Great Aunt Ivan Elliott and her family are shown above, enjoying a picnic near their home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

– COURTESY SHERRY MONAHAN –

As I reflect on my years writing *Frontier Fare*, I'm reminded of the wonderful historical and literary food journeys I've taken. This column has transported me, and hopefully you, to some fun and interesting frontier locales. We've met fantastic characters, learned that candied cherries were a popular choice for poisoning someone and found out that cows eat trousers!

We've experienced fine dining in hotels across the West, eaten along the trails, drank signature cocktails created by pioneers and discovered that vinegar was an acceptable substitute for lemon in pies—yuck!

We've seen men steal baked goods, only to get caught because they couldn't wait to satisfy their sweet tooth, and learned about the dining habits of the famous and infamous, from Black Bart to Jesse James to Wyatt Earp to Mark Twain.

Standing in the same places so many pioneers enjoyed has been amazing. Places that include Fred Harvey's restaurant at the Union Depot in St. Louis, Missouri; Palace Hotel in San Francisco, California; Grand Union hotel in Fort Benton, Montana; Huber's Café in Portland, Oregon; Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado; and El Charro Café in Tucson, Arizona.

Some of the same frontier fare eaten by pioneers have passed the test of time and can be enjoyed on our dining tables: Royal Baking Powder, Ghirardelli Chocolate, Baker's Chocolate, Lea & Perrins worcestershire sauce, Colman's mustard, Quaker oatmeal, Underwood's deviled ham, Heinz pickle relish, Durkee's dressings, Sweetheart candies and Arbuckles' coffee.

What was eaten during the Old West era has also been intriguing and sometimes surprising. May be hard to imagine cowboys dining on lobster, oysters or fancy French food, but we know they did. While many pioneers dined on traditional food, we learned they came to enjoy

Chinese, Mexican, American Indian and other ethnic cuisine. I was most surprised to learn that pioneers enjoyed pizza, sun-dried tomatoes and hamburger patties long before I thought.

The stories have been funny, strange and sometimes curious. We learned that cake was prisoner Tiburcio Vasquez's last meal, bread could supposedly cure baldness, lizards found their way into coffee mugs as a joke and that snakes climbed into flour barrels, which was no joke. One pioneer wife used a rolling pin to beat her husband after he came home drunk; another tried to poison hers with a strychnine-laced apple pie! One distracted cook made pudding for his troops, but accidentally used cement. Dung tea was a popular home remedy that supposedly cured many ailments; tell that to the children who worried about burnt buffalo chips falling into their food along the trail.

I have felt honored and pleased to share the wide-ranging details of food and beverages from the frontier. Of all the historical recipes I have made for this column, I honestly love most of them... just not the vinegar pie! My favorites to prepare were pizza, kolache, sourdough anything, coconut cake and pie, of any kind, because who doesn't love pie?

Cheers to continuing our culinary journey!

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

BLACKBERRY PIE

½ cup sugar
3 cups blackberries
1 tablespoon flour
2 piecrusts, unbaked
Milk

Mix sugar, berries and flour in a bowl. Line a pie pan with one piecrust, and pour in the berries. Cover with the second piecrust, and brush with milk. Bake at 350°F for about 35–40 minutes or until the crust is golden.

Recipe adapted from Iowa's *Sioux City Journal*, May 28, 1895

True West Exclusive

Classic Gunfights

Don't Look Back

Wild Bill vs Billy Mulvey

"Don't shoot him in the back; he's drunk!"

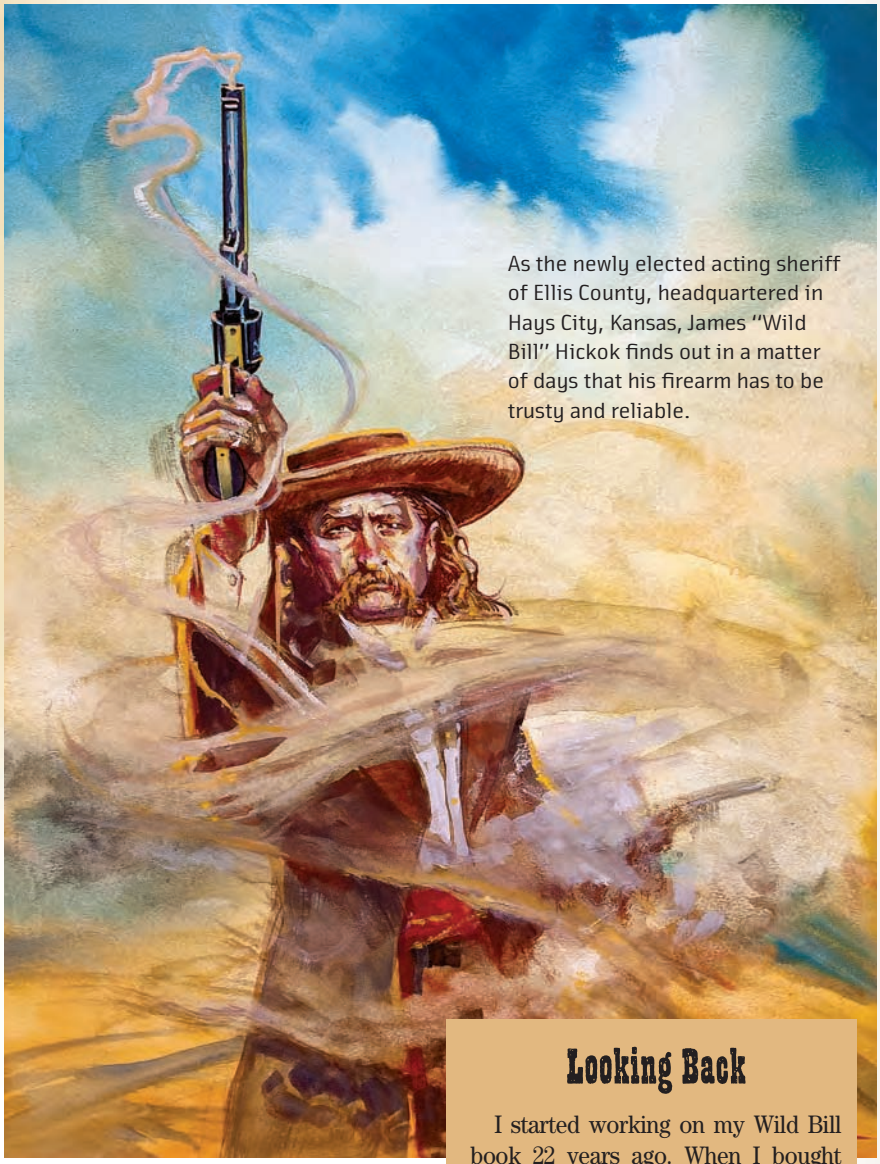
As a lawman, Wild Bill Hickok uses his speed and his wits to survive on the violent streets of the frontier's roughest cowtowns.

– ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Bob Boze Bell, with special thanks to "Wild Bill" Hickok biographer Joseph G. Rosa

AUGUST 24, 1869



As the newly elected acting sheriff of Ellis County, headquartered in Hays City, Kansas, James "Wild Bill" Hickok finds out in a matter of days that his firearm has to be trusty and reliable.

In office for only one day, acting Ellis County Sheriff James "Wild Bill" Hickok is making his rounds in the Kansas cowtown during the height of cattle season, with a town full of Texas cowboys looking to let off steam.

Rounding the corner of Fort Street, Wild Bill comes face to face with Billy Mulvey (also styled as Mulrey) who levels two pistols at the lawman. According to local tradition, Wild Bill looks past the drunk cowboy and yells, "Don't shoot him in the back; he's drunk."

Mulvey turns to see who is behind him, and, in a flash, Wild Bill draws his pistols and shoots the bad man in the head. Mulvey dies the next day.

Looking Back

I started working on my Wild Bill book 22 years ago. When I bought ownership in *True West* Magazine in 1999, I put the book on hold.

Old West gunfights have always been a part of the magazine's 65-year history. I made it a regular feature when I came up with the idea of *Classic Gunfights* on March 7, 2000.

My first gunfight (July 2000) featured Wyatt Earp at Mescal Springs. In the next issue, I featured Wild Bill's gunfight with Dave Tutt. Over the next nearly 200 issues, I have covered several other Wild Bill gunfights. Finally, thanks to prodding by our publisher, Ken Amorosano, I took another run at the book. With major help from Robert Ray and Meghan Saar, my Wild Bill book is finally here.

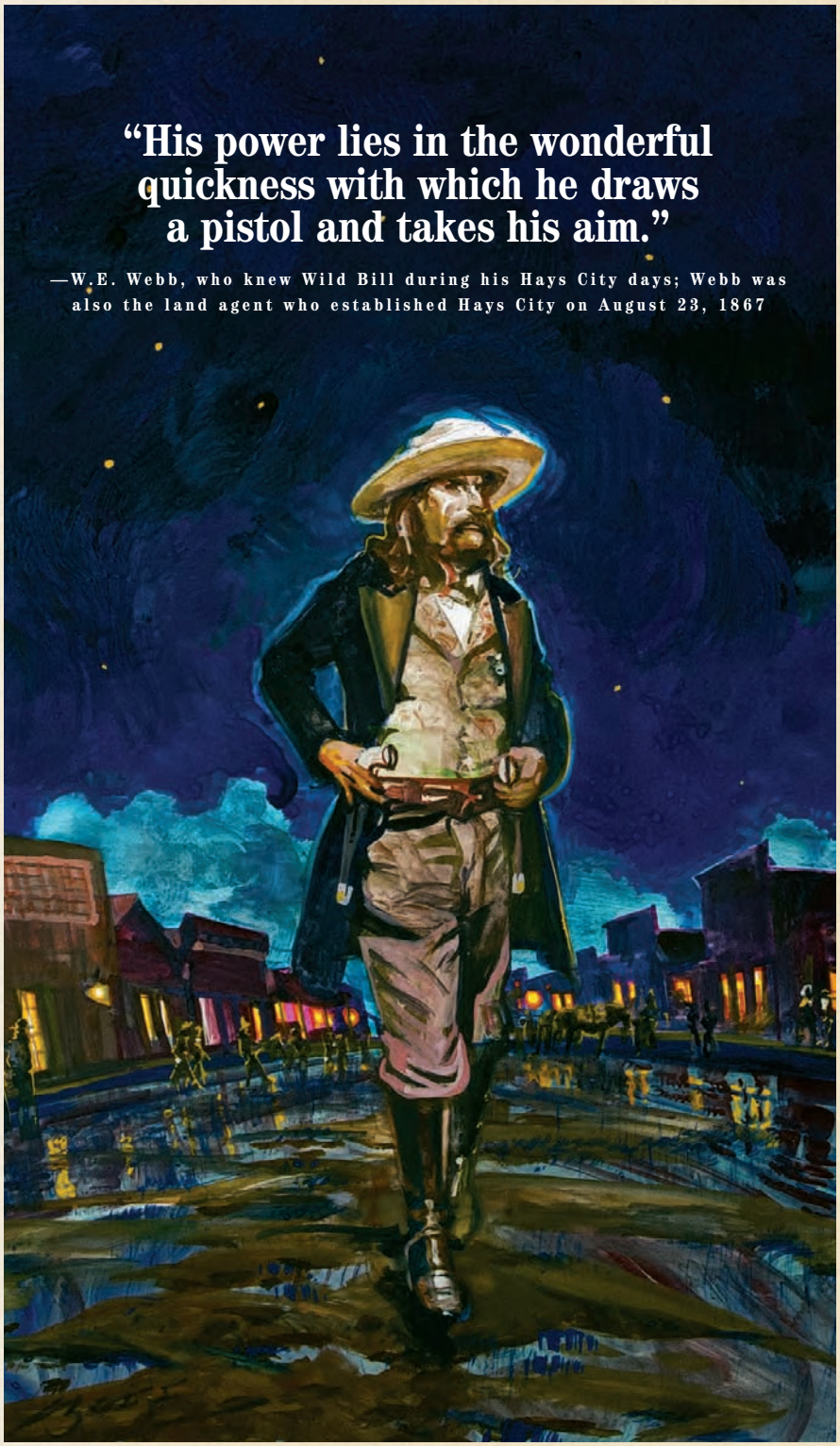
Hope you read it and share your thoughts with me!

The Town Tamer

The lawmen who police the Kansas cowtowns are a special breed of cat. They have to be. Wild Bill has many attempts on his life while enforcing law and order as a deputy U.S. marshal in Kansas and as acting sheriff of Ellis County, headquartered in Hays City; he was appointed acting sheriff the day before the gunfight.

After escaping several assassination attempts, he cautiously patrols the streets of the roaring cowtown. He avoids the sidewalks and especially the dark alleys. He allows no one to get too close or to approach from the rear.

He takes to walking down the center of North Main Street, eyes scanning the saloons for potential trouble.



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Less than a month later, on September 27, Wild Bill ordered drunk Texas cowboy Sam Strawhun to cease destroying Oderfeld's Saloon on Fort Street. When he advanced with a weapon instead, Wild Bill killed him. At an inquest on the shooting, the evidence was deemed "very contradictory," yet the verdict returned as "justifiable."

On November 2, 1869, Wild Bill lost his bid for re-election as sheriff, 86 votes to 114. After bouncing around Kansas, Deputy U.S. Marshal Wild Bill landed back in Hays City. On July 17, 1870, he got in a fight inside Paddy Welch's saloon with two members of the 7th Cavalry. He killed one of them and escaped.

Wild Bill took part in his last gunfight on October 5, 1871. The town marshal of Abilene, he shot Texan Phil Coe dead, but also killed a friend, local jailer Mike Williams, who had rushed in to assist the marshal. Distraught and grieving, Wild Bill never again worked as a lawman.

In the last year of his life, Wild Bill suffered vision problems that exacerbated his slide into oblivion.

After a failed career on the theatre stage, Wild Bill gravitated to the new boomtown of Deadwood, Dakota Territory, where he was shot from behind by the scoundrel Jack McCall on August 2, 1876.

Recommended: *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok* by Bob Boze Bell, published by Two Roads West.

BY GREG BAILEY

LITTLE KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Mining the Optics

The California Gold Rush merchant's son whose passion earned him the Nobel Prize.

The grammar school in Murphy's Camp, California (above), Albert Michelson attended as a boy was built in 1860 and is California's oldest school building in continuous use.

– ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

Four-year-old Albert Michelson reached the California Gold Rush town of Murphy's Camp in 1856, after a voyage that took him from his native Prussia (Poland today) to New York to Panama and on to San Francisco. His family had traveled across the world to start a miner's supply store in Calaveras County, a time and place immortalized by author Mark Twain.

Fueled by riches of the gold claims, the ramshackle town rocked with gunfire, saloons and dance hall girls. Fire destroyed Murphy's Camp in 1859, but the Michelsons rebuilt their home over the first-floor shop.

At age 13, Albert was sent to high school in San Francisco. By his graduation in 1869, his family had moved from the played out camp to the silver mining town of Virginia City, Nevada. When local Congressman Thomas Fitch announced he would appoint a state student to the U.S. Naval Academy, also known as Annapolis, on the basis of a written exam, Michelson almost secured the spot; he had tied with two others for first place. Yet Fitch appointed another candidate, who would later drop out of Annapolis.

Fitch pleaded with President Ulysses S. Grant to reserve one of his 10 Annapolis appointments for Michelson, writing that the boy's father was a "member of the Israelite persuasion" as a positive factor, debunking a myth portrayed in *Bonanza* that Michelson experienced anti-Semitism. In that episode, Ben Cartwright helped Michelson get into Annapolis by overcoming the prejudice against Jews. Cartwright then assisted the teenager in building a device out of wagon wheels to measure the speed of light. The story is pure Hollywood, but it is based on real history.

The Transcontinental Railroad had only been completed the previous month when Michelson left for Washington, D.C. He was given the sad news that the President had already made his 10 choices. Yet after meeting with Michelson at the White House, President Grant ended up bending the rules to make room for Michelson.

At Annapolis, Michelson excelled in science and boxing, and graduated ninth in his class. He returned to Virginia City in 1873 before he reported for two years of sea duty. After several tours, he was assigned to teach physics at Annapolis, where, in 1878, he began his research that would lead him to become the first to accurately measure the speed of light.

The *Virginia City Chronicle* reprinted *The New York Times* story on his discovery, predicting "it would seem that the scientific world of America is destined to be adorned with a new and brilliant name."

The local boy had made good. In 1907, he became the first American to win the Nobel Prize in physics, for his precision optical experiments. He continued to refine his measurements of the speed of light for the rest of his life, but died in Pasadena, California, at the age of 78, before the experiment concluded; the final figure was announced, posthumously, in 1933.

You can toast Michelson with a glass of wine at his childhood home, now housing Hovey Winery, in the heart of Murphys.

Greg Bailey is a journalist, playwright and former attorney based in St. Louis, Missouri. His work has been published in *The Economist, American Heritage* and *Time*.

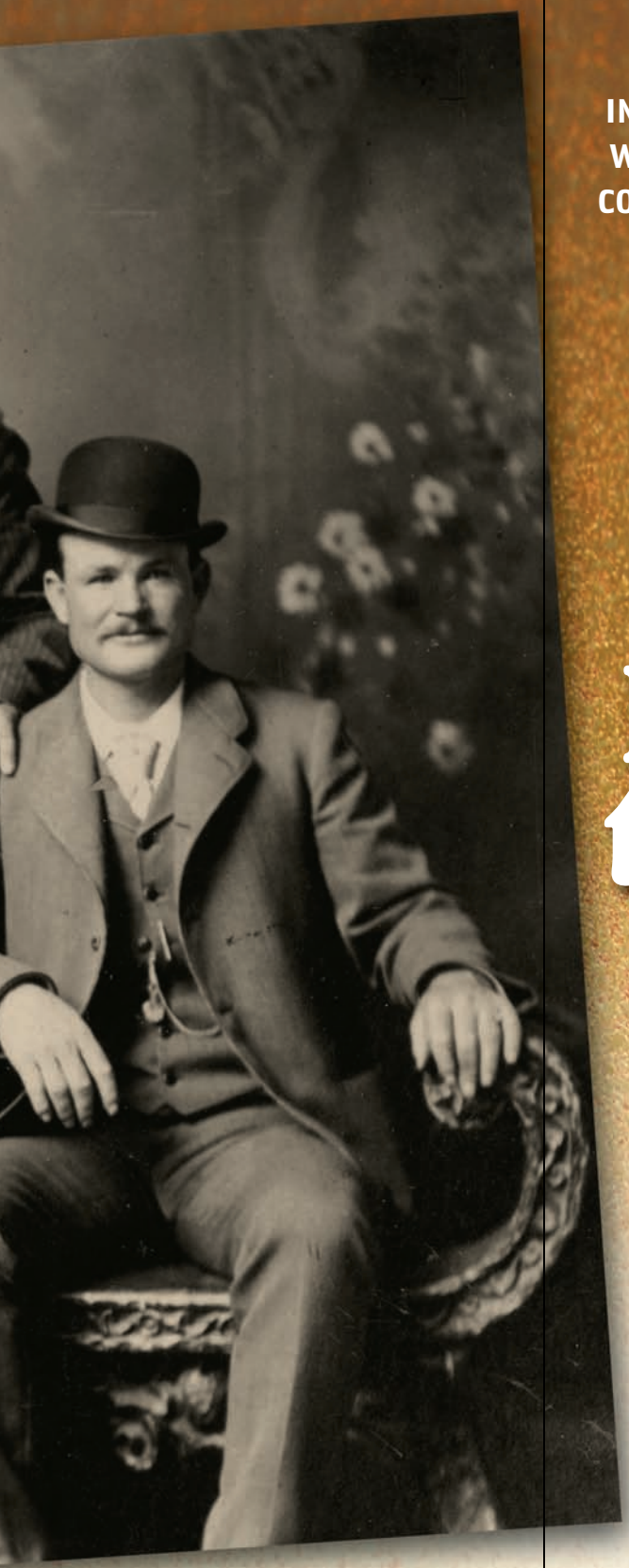
Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to win a Nobel Prize in any category, in 1906, for helping to broker the end of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. A year later, Albert Michelson (shown at right at his desk) grabbed the prize as the first American scientist to win. The physicist also enjoyed painting, and the above photo shows him sketching his own portrait during his U.S. Naval Academy days

– INSET COURTESY U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY –

Fort Worth Five

The "Fort Worth Five" photograph became a part of history when a lawman recognized the wanted men in a photograph hanging at picture taker John Swartz's gallery in Fort Worth, Texas. When the Pinkerton National Detective Agency got wind of this Wild Bunch Gang photo, taken in 1900, the Pinkertons printed the mugshots on wanted posters that circulated across the West: (from left) Harry "Sundance Kid" Longabaugh, Will "News" Carver, Ben "Tall Texan" Kilpatrick, Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan and Robert "Butch Cassidy" Parker. This photograph not only helped immortalize the frontier desperados, but also helped bring about the gang's downfall.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



IN HONOR OF *TRUE WEST'S* 65TH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT THE WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION ACQUIRED BY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN, OUR PUBLISHER EMERITUS

The 65 Most Important Historical Photos From the McCubbin Collection

BY *TRUE WEST* EDITORS & ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN

A charter subscriber to this magazine, which first hit newsstands in 1953, Robert G. McCubbin has been collecting original photographs ever since. He bought his first photograph, of "Black Jack" Ketchum, in the same year (for $50). Over the past 65 years, he has amassed the largest collection of Old West outlaw and lawman photographs in the world. Here, for your viewing pleasure, are his favorite 65 from his collection, which extends beyond to cover all the pioneers who blazed trails on the frontier.

From the McCubbin Collection

Courageous Comanche Jack

(Opposite page) Simpson "Comanche Jack" Stilwell was better known in his own time, but he never reached the heights of other celebrity scouts "Buffalo Bill" Cody or "Wild Bill" Hickok. Stilwell famously slipped through American Indian lines at the 1868 Battle of Beecher Island and walked through cactus needles to get a rescue crew. He stands (left) with James N. Jones (far left), a fellow scout at Fort Sill in Indian Territory in this circa 1874 cabinet card by W.P. Bliss.

Buckshot Bill

Bill Doolin became Oklahoma Territory's most notorious outlaw, beginning his life of crime with the Dalton Gang and missing out on death during the Coffeyville shoot-out. This 1896 cabinet card by W.B. Dougherty of Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, shows Doolin's body riddled by buckshot, courtesy of Deputy U.S. Marshal Heck Thomas.

Drover to Murderer

John Wesley Hardin is shown at age 18, from his personal photograph album, having finished his cattle drive up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas, in 1871. His path had been bloody. While on the cattle trail, he killed four Mexicans. In Abilene, his murder spree continued. While staying at the American House Hotel, he shot a man in the next room, possibly for snoring too loudly. By the time he died in 1895, he killed between 27 to 42 men

Pinkerton Cowboy Detectives

This albumen shows Pinkerton detectives on the trail of the Wild Bunch, around 1899–1900. Charlie Siringo (at left), a cowboy in Texas and New Mexico Territory, became a lawman with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency in 1886 and wrote a book published in 1912 about his exploits, *A Cowboy Detective*. On the back of this photo, Siringo made a notation identifying his partner as William B. Sayers (at right); Siringo protected his partner's identity in his book by calling him "W.O. Sayles."

Those No-Good Lawdogs

"...one often hears the expression, 'no good exists in, or can come from Oklahoma,'" *The Guthrie Daily Leader* reported in 1896, the same year U.S. Marshal Patrick S. Nagle replaced E.D. Nix. With such distrust in the law, field deputies faced cuts. Those who survived included (front row, from left) Deputy U.S. Marshals Heck Thomas of Guthrie and Morris Robacker of Pawhuska; Robacker also served as Osage chief of police. Behind them are two Osage scouts: Spotted Dog Eater and Howling Wolf. In the back row sits clerk of Pawnee County district court John H. Havighorst and Assistant U.S. Attorney Roy Hoffman. This undated cabinet card was taken at the Pawnee Gallery in Pawnee.

Law West of the Pecos

Roy Bean, shown in this circa 1895 cabinet card, famously proclaimed himself the "Law West of the Pecos" and dispensed frontier justice from a Texas saloon.

No Equal in Merciless Cruelty

Satanta wears a peace medal likely given at the signing of the Medicine Lodge Treaty in 1867 in this carte de visite dated August 18, 1868. *The New York Times,* on November 9, 1867, wrote of the Kiowa chief: "Satanta... has no equal on the Plains in cunning or native diplomacy...in boldness, daring and merciless cruelty...." In 1871, he, Big Tree and Satank became the first American Indians tried for raids in a U.S. court, for attacking Henry Warren's wagon train.

Geronimo

Photographer A. Frank Randall is credited with taking the first photographs of Chiricahua Apache Medicine Man Geronimo, in 1884, at the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona Territory, including this menacing one of Geronimo kneeling while holding an 1873 Springfield carbine.

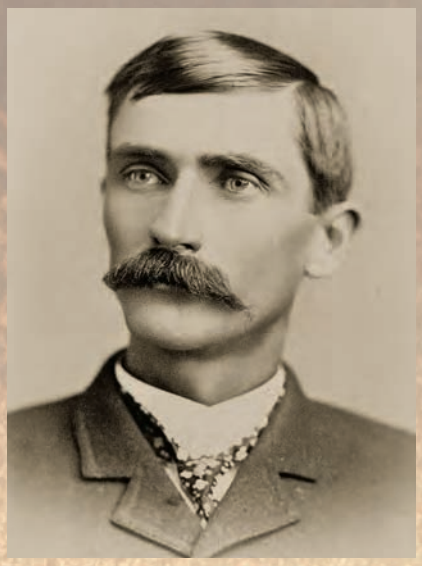
When C.S. Fly Shot Geronimo

In March 1866, C.S. Fly, of Tombstone, Arizona Territory, followed U.S. Army Gen. George Crook just across the border into Mexico to negotiate a surrender with Geronimo and his Chiricahua Apache band. When Fly whipped out his camera at the Cañon de los Embudos surrender site, he saved for posterity the only known images taken of American Indians during wartime. Included in those was this photo, showing Chiricahua Apache men, women and children, with mounted men in the back row.

From the McCubbin Collection

Custer's Last Photograph

One of the most recognizable names in the annals of the Old West, George Armstrong Custer sat for this cabinet card taken by William R. Howell in New York City in April 1876, two months before he was killed with his men at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. A vain man, the U.S. military leader posed for more than 150 photographs during his lifetime, but this was from his final photo session.

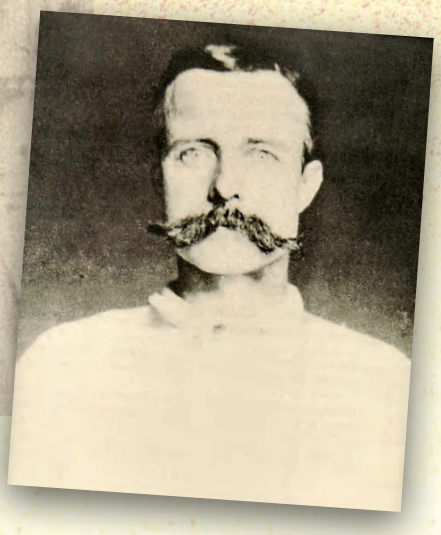


Billy the Kid's Killer

McCubbin's first original historical photograph was of Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett, one of the most famous lawmen of the Old West because he killed the frontier's most famous outlaw, Billy the Kid, on July 14, 1881. This portrait of Garrett was taken by James N. Furlough of Las Vegas around 1880–81, after the lawman arrested the Kid at Stinking Springs in New Mexico Territory on December 23, 1880.

Tarantula Dancer

Lola Montez, shown in 1853, the year she arrived in California, became famous for her Tarantula Dance. She captivated her spellbound audience with her suggestive dance, in which she revealed her petticoats while vigorously shaking her gown to rid herself of supposed spiders hiding in the folds.



Authentic "Buckskin Frank" Leslie

– COURTESY JAMES D. HORAN COLLECTION –

"Buckskin Frank" Leslie?

McCubbin is known for collecting photographs with provenance, but he admits this one does not have a direct tie to the gunfighter to verify it is of "Buckskin Frank" Leslie. He believes it is him based on an authenticated headshot (see right). Buckskin Frank earned infamy after killing Billy Claiborne, a survivor of the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral, in an 1882 gunfight outside the Oriental Saloon in Tombstone, Arizona Territory.

Doc Holliday's Graduation Photo

At the age of 20, John Henry Holliday graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, and this 1872 carte de visite of him taken then, by O.B. Morat, is one of two adult photos of the dentist who would become one of the West's most famous gunfighters, due to his role in Tombstone's Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral. This photo was passed down through the family from Holliday's favorite cousin, Mattie.

New Mexico Territory Rustlers

These outlaw cowboys are identified only as "New Mexico Rustlers" on this circa 1880 cabinet card. Historians suspect the man standing could be John Kinney, who led a gang of horse thieves and cattle rustlers in New Mexico Territory during the 1870s–80s.

From the McCubbin Collection

Texas Rangers

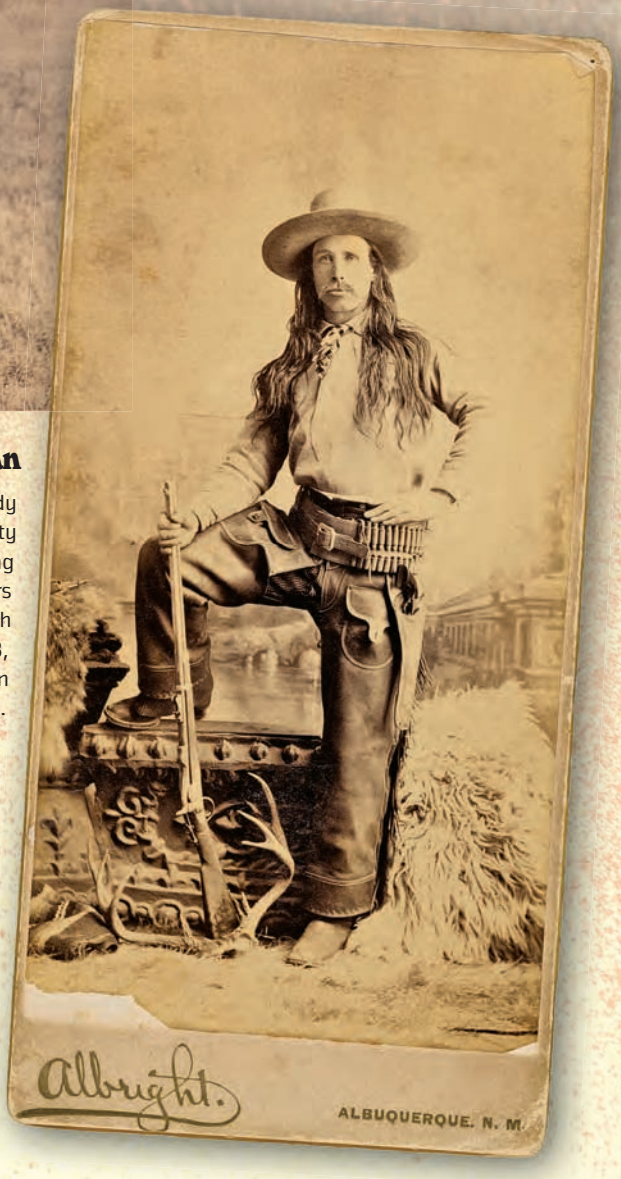
The first truly national and state police agency in America, the Texas Rangers date to the days of the Texas Republic, before its entry into the United States. The Frontier Battalion consisted of six Texas Ranger companies, organized in 1874, and this excellent cabinet card shows Company F, circa 1885.

The First Gunfighter

Arguably the first and greatest gunfighter of the Old West, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok broke on the scene in an 1876 face-to-face duel against Dave Tutt—a gunfight so classic, it has become the prototype for almost every Hollywood gunfight ever filmed. Hickok is shown with his cross-draw Navy Colt revolvers in this circa 1865 carte de visite by Charles Scholten of Springfield, Missouri.

Elusive Cowboy

The copyright issued for this John C.H. Grabill photograph taken in 1887 identifies this cowboy on horseback as "Fred Pierce, a noted cowboy of Wyoming." Pierce has proven an elusive character, not found in 1880 or 1890 censuses for Wyoming, in period newspapers or associated with a brand in the Wyoming Territorial brand book.



Longhaired Lawman

While attempting to serve a warrant on horse thief Andy Cooper in Holbrook, Arizona Territory, Apache County Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens got in a shoot-out during which he killed three outlaws—Cooper, along with brothers Samuel Blevins and John Blevins—and wounded a fourth Blevins brother, John. Less than a year later, in 1888, Emma Albright photographed the longhaired lawman in Albuquerque, New Mexico Territory.

Bashful Bat

Many folks hard pressed to name a famous Old Westerner would find the name "Wyatt Earp" on their lips, and that may all be thanks to Bat Masterson (left). A former U.S. Army scout who gained renown as a tough sheriff, Masterson worked with and greatly admired Wyatt. He told President Teddy Roosevelt that only Wyatt could tell the real story of the Old West, which press aide Stuart Lake overheard. Lake sought out Wyatt and wrote the highly fictionalized 1931 biography that turned Wyatt into a legend. Some of the first-person accounts as a gunfighter, buffalo hunter and lawman Lake attributed to Wyatt were actually Masterson's own experiences.

From the McCubbin Collection

Mixed-Blood Frontiersman

The identity of the man in this circa 1850s portrait is unknown. The extremely rare daguerreotype shows the mixed-blood frontiersman, likely Métis, armed with a knife and tomahawk.

Mixed-Blood Mountain Man

One of the earliest photographs taken of a fur trapper, this circa 1850s daguerreotype of James P. Beckwourth appeared in his biography, first published in 1856. Born in Virginia in 1878 as the son of a slave mother and Irish overseer, he roamed the West from 1824 until his death in 1866.

Rare Buffalo Hunter Photo

Despite the prevalence of buffalo hunts during the Old West era, surprisingly few photographs of buffalo hunters are known to exist. This circa 1880 cabinet card shows one with his Sharps rifle, taken by Payne & Stockdorf of Leadville, Colorado.

Captured Northfield Robbers

One of the most sensational robberies in the history of the Old West was the attempted bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota, by the James–Younger Gang. Typical of photographs taken of captured and dead outlaws, this 1876 carte de visite by Ira E. Sumner would have been sold by the thousands, but is rare today.

Falling for Fallon

Semantha (or Samantha) Fallon owned the San Jose House hotel and a millinery shop in Tombstone, Arizona Territory. Shown in this circa 1879 cabinet card by C.S. Fly, Fallon was reportedly a girlfriend of Tombstone founder Ed Schieffelin, but ended up tying the knot with Zachary Taylor, on December 14, 1880.

From the McCubbin Collection

The Apache in the Three-Piece Suit

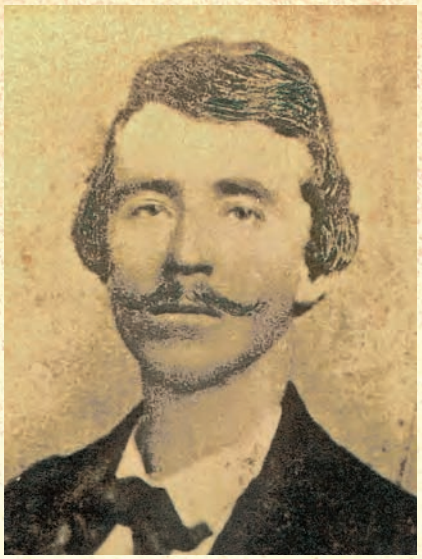
At the March 1886 talks between Gen. George Crook and Geronimo, photographer C.S. Fly captured for posterity an Apache wearing a natty three-piece suit. Either C.S. or his wife identified the man as the Apache Kid, a claim backed up by William Sparks, who knew the warrior scout, although historian Granville Stuart claimed, "This is not the Kid."

Last Photo of Butch and Sundance

The last-known photograph of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid is this circa 1907 image, in the Bolivian Andes, showing Butch Cassidy astride his mule and the Sundance Kid tending his.

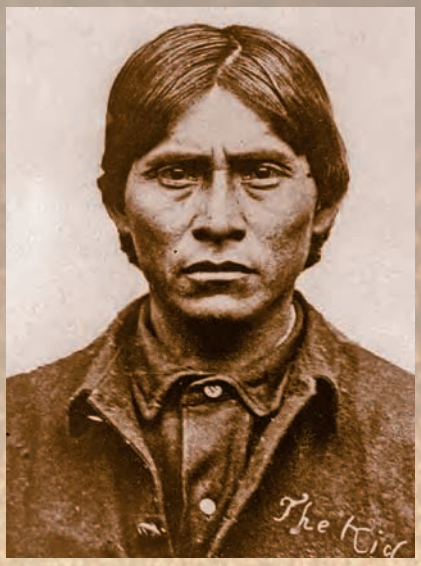
Cattle King

This portrait of cattle king John Simpson Chisum appeared in 1907's *The Story of the Outlaw* by Emerson Hough. Engaged in the cattle business since 1854, Chisum would, in 1866-67, form a partnership with Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving to drive herds of cattle to New Mexico Territory. His ranch became a sanctuary for Billy the Kid and other Regulators during the Lincoln County War.



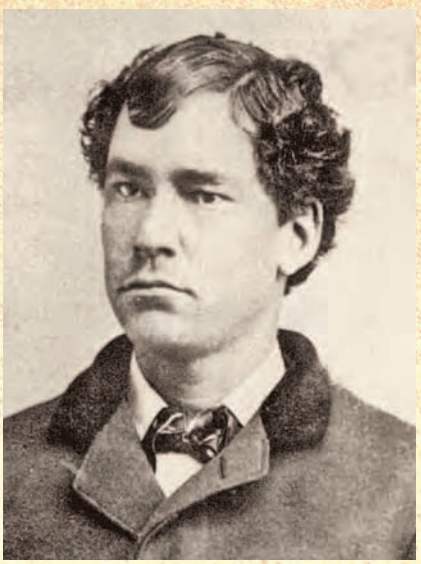
James Brothers' Tutor

William Clarke Quantrill is known for leading his Quantrill's Raiders on brutal guerrilla attacks against Union troops during the Civil War. The Union got the better of him, killing the leader in May 1865, during one of the last engagements of the Civil War. His tutelage, however, made a lasting mark on two of his men, Frank and Jesse James, who applied his lessons on the outlaw trail.



Apache Kid

Compare this headshot of the Apache Kid to the alleged photograph of him on the opposite page. Erwin Baer, of Arizona Territory, is attributed as the photographer for this image.



New Mexico's Most Famous Lawman?

Pat Garrett may be the name that comes to mind for some folks out there, but ask a Hispanic New Mexican, and the answer is usually "Elfego Baca." He deserves more recognition too. Garrett's claim to fame was killing an outlaw in a darkened room. Baca's was holding off roughly 80 white cowboys and surviving an estimated 4,000 rounds of gunfire and even some dynamite. The atrocities in Socorro stopped after he walked away, unscathed, from that 1884 gunfight.

One of the Midnight Men

The Kentucky-born John W. Poe spent his 1870s in Texas, first as a buffalo hunter and then as a lawman. In 1881, the Canadian River Cattle Association hired the 31 year old as a detective to hunt down Billy the Kid and his gang. He delivered the goods, accompanying Sheriff Pat Garrett on his final Fort Sumner journey, on the night of July 14, that left the Kid dead.

"Hands Up!"

Ezra Allen Miner, better known as Bill, served jail time in the states first for horse theft and later for a stagecoach robbery. After he got out in 1880, the robber renewed his bandit ways and picked up the nickname "Grey Fox." In 1904, he pulled off the first successful train robbery in Canada. Popular lore claims Miner coined the command, "Hands up!"

From the McCubbin Collection

Badman Brooks

A lawman turned bad goes Billy Brooks's story. He worked as a marshal in Newton, Kansas, and then in Dodge City, but left town after some questionable shooting incidents. When he switched gears to drive a stagecoach for Southwestern Stage Co. in 1874, the company lost a mail contract, and Brooks was out of work. He teamed up with others to steal the rival company's stock so that his company could get back the contract. Brooks got caught, and an angry mob hanged him on July 29.

The Outlaw Who Started the Collection

As a youngster, McCubbin began his photograph collection by purchasing a print of "Black Jack" Ketchum for $50; he later bought this original photograph of the outlaw. Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum is shown here after he was captured and his right arm amputated, and shortly before he was hanged in 1901 for attempted train robbery. The citizens of New Mexico Territory were so mad at the daring of train robbers that they made Ketchum pay with his life, marking him as the only person who suffered capital punishment for "felonious assault upon a railway train," a law later deemed unconstitutional.

California Gold Miner

Images from the California Gold Rush are among the most sought-after photos of the Old West. Even studio shots of the miners, like this one, are popular. "You can scarcely form any conception what a dirty business this gold digging is and of the mode of life which a miner is compelled to lead," one prospector wrote home. "We all live more like brutes than humans."

The Fake Mrs. Wyatt Earp

The most famous photograph of Wyatt Earp's wife Josie (above) probably does not depict her. This lady in a see-through silk garment appeared on the cover of Glenn Boyer's 1976 book, *I Married Wyatt Earp*. He claimed the image was taken around 1880, but the photogravure appears to date to 1914, the year it was given a copyright under the title "Kaloma."

Not the Chief You Think

"'Mangas,' Chief of Warm Spring Apaches" is a label that has confused some people into thinking this photo is of Mangas Coloradas, who many historians regard as one of the most important American Indian leaders of the 19th century. Yet this photo is actually of his son and namesake, taken by A. Frank Randall, around 1884 –86. The Smithsonian also owns an albumen print of this, from Gen. Nelson A. Miles's personal collection.

Crippled Chief of Scouts

Apache Wars authority Dan Thrapp immortalized Al Sieber in his 1964 biography, *Al Sieber: Chief of Scouts*. The German-born fighter served as chief of scouts for Gen. George Crook during the Apache Wars and ended up crippled after a shooting incident in 1887 involving the Apache Kid.

From the McCubbin Collection

Santa Fe Trail Traders

Opened in 1821 by Missouri trader William Becknell, the storied Santa Fe Trail was the first international pathway connecting the Mexican province of New Mexico with the western frontier of the United States. The above busy street scene of Santa Fe traders personifies all those countless traders, soldiers, settlers and freight wagon caravans that made their way to Santa Fe. By the early 1880s, though, the advent of the railroad made this well-worn trail obsolete.

Slaughter's Cowboys

Considered the best group photograph of real working cowboys, this circa 1885 cabinet card was taken by Charles S. Baker and Eli Johnston of Douglas, Arizona Territory. The cowboys worked for "Texas John" Slaughter on the San Bernardino Ranch near Douglas.

Roping on the American Stage

(Below) John Burwell Omohundro Jr. was better known as Texas Jack, for his years driving cattle up the Chisholm Trail. He went on to act in plays with scouts he met during the Indian Wars, "Wild Bill" Hickok and "Buffalo Bill" Cody. He is credited as the first performer to introduce roping acts to the American stage. In 1877, Texas Jack organized his own show, the Texas Jack Combination. He died of pneumonia, a month shy of turning 34, while visiting Leadville, Colorado. His old pal, Buffalo Bill, noticed in 1908 that Texas Jack's grave had fallen into disrepair and commissioned a granite grave marker. He made an error in his good deed; he mistakenly listed Texas Jack's age as 39.

Notorious Hispanic Outlaw

Photographed circa 1865, Tiburcio Vasquez is probably the American West's most notorious Hispanic outlaw, given his roughly 20 years of crimes that included stage holdups, robberies and rustling. A newspaper reporter, George Beers of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, shot and wounded the outlaw in 1874, and Vasquez hanged from the gallows in San Jose, California, the next year.

Triumvirate in Old West Photographs

Among the most sought-after collectibles of Old West outlaws and lawmen are original photographs, autographs and relics documented as having belonged to them. This cabinet card of Ben Thompson fits all three. Even more exciting, the card is tied to another Old West gunfighter—Thompson inscribed it to his pal, John King Fisher, on the day both of them were killed. Inscribed by one, and with the blood of the other.

The Genuine Cow Boy Captured Alive

Titled "The Genuine Cow Boy Captured Alive," this 1880s cabinet card shows "Cottonwood Charlie" Nebo (at left) with Nicholas Janis, a French-American homesteader in Nebraska Territory and a descendant (or possibly brother) of Joseph Antoine, an interpreter at Fort Laramie in Wyoming Territory. Nebo drifted into the Texas Panhandle cattle trade at the age of 27, in 1869, and, for 40 years, drove herds of cattle in New Mexico Territory, Dakota Territory and all over the West; he died in Oregon in 1926.

Sharpshooter Celebrity

Pointing his Model 1888 Remington, with another slipped in his waistband, Peter Bogardus was born into a famous sharpshooting family. Under his father, billed as "Captain Bogardus," he and his brothers Eugene, Edward and Henry performed shooting acts for Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

Savage Scalp Hunter

Forty-Niners or former Texas Rangers found a profitable enterprise in the human scalp industry. Between 1835 and 1885, in Mexico alone, the government paid private armies to provide protection against marauding Apaches and Comanches. Scalp hunters, like the mercenary shown above, got paid based on the victim's age and sex: $100 for a warrior's scalp; $50 for a squaw's scalp; and $25 for the scalp of a child under the age of 14.

Bullwhacker Bottom Dweller

This bullwhacker holding his whip in the circa 1850s photograph exemplifies those men—and sometimes women—who kept their freight wagons moving by cracking their bullwhips at their yoked oxen. Rough, resolute and stubborn, these teamsters bolstered the economy by hauling goods by wagon in the pre-railroad days, yet rated on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

Bowdre's Blood-Stained Photo

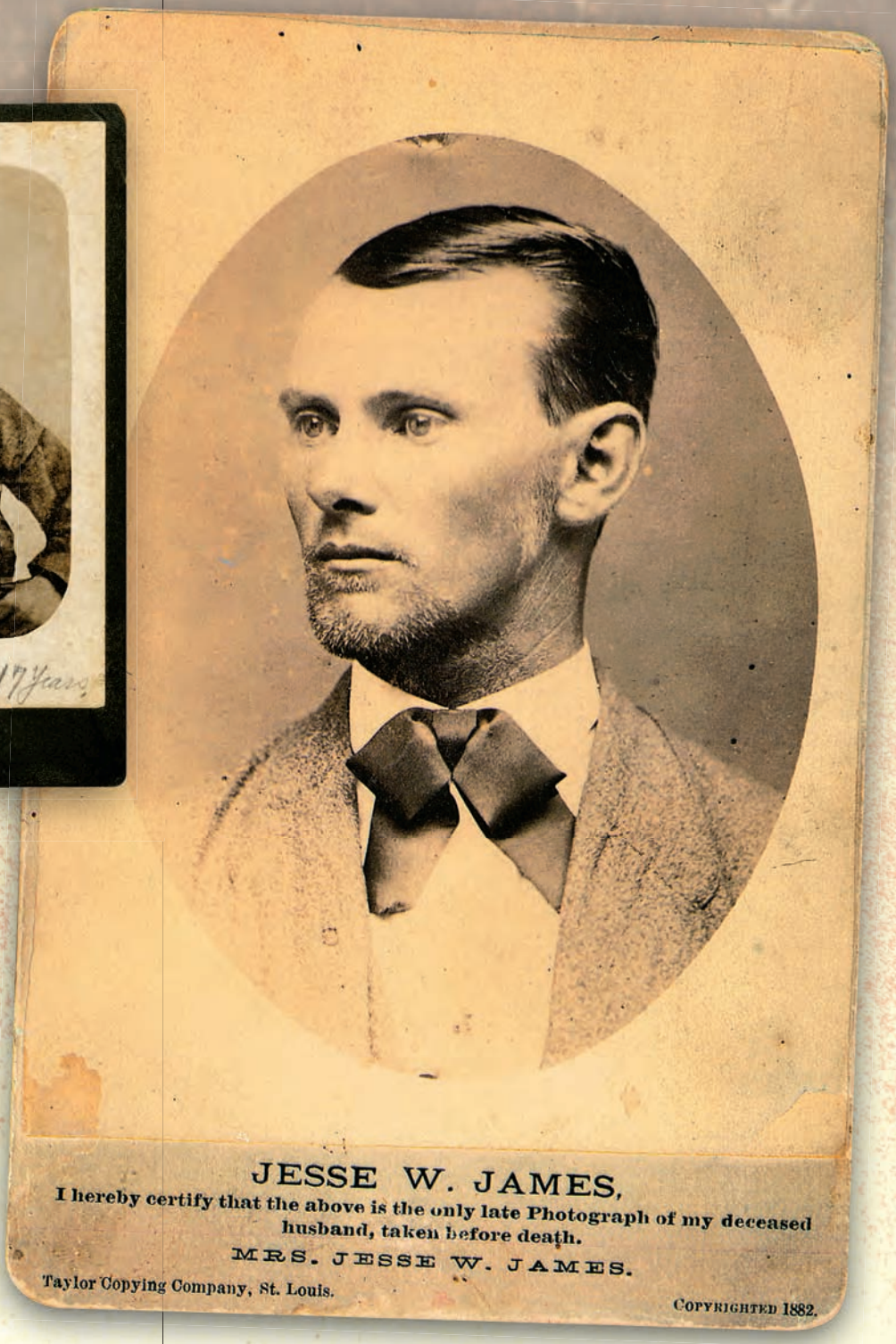
This blood-stained 1878 carte de visite of Charles Bowdre with his wife, Manuela, was taken from Bowdre's body when Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett and his posse shot him at Stinking Springs on December 23, 1880; Garrett captured Billy the Kid during this same shoot-out.

Armed for Death

Accused unfairly of killing a deputy U.S. marshal in 1887, Ned Christie was killed by a posse in 1892. The lawmen tied his body to a door (below) and posed with their Cherokee trophy in another photograph.

Bounty Hunter in Jail

Tom Horn went down in the pages of history as an Apache Wars scout and packer, a prize-winning steer roper, a Pinkerton operative and a stock detective—or, more accurately, a bounty hunter—during Wyoming's range wars. He got caught shooting 14-year-old Willie Nickell (he likely mistook the teenager for his father, Kels), and this 1903 print by W.G. Walker shows Horn making horsehair riatas from his jail cell in Cheyenne while awaiting his hanging.



Birth of an Outlaw

Jesse James got his hands bloody in 1864, at the age of 17 (see above photo), when he and his brother Frank joined Confederate rebels in killing any Union soldiers they could fight. He wouldn't live to see the age of 35. He was betrayed by one of his own gang members, Robert Ford, who shot Jesse in the back of the head inside his own home, on April 3, 1882. The cabinet card at right was taken in Nebraska City, Nebraska, circa 1875, and issued by Taylor's Copying Company in St. Louis, Missouri, after Jesse's sensational murder.

The Bandit Queen

Born in 1848, Myra Maebelle Shirley became better known as the outlaw Belle Starr. She consorted with the Younger Gang and married outlaws Jim Reed and Sam Starr. In this 1886 cabinet card by Roeder Brothers of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Belle sits sidesaddle next to Deputy U.S. Marshal Benjamin Tyner Hughes. The lawman arrested her at Younger's Bend in May 1886 and was bringing her to Fort Smith for arraignment on a theft charge. She escaped conviction, but her life as the "bandit queen" abruptly ended when her husband Sam died in a gunfight that December 17.

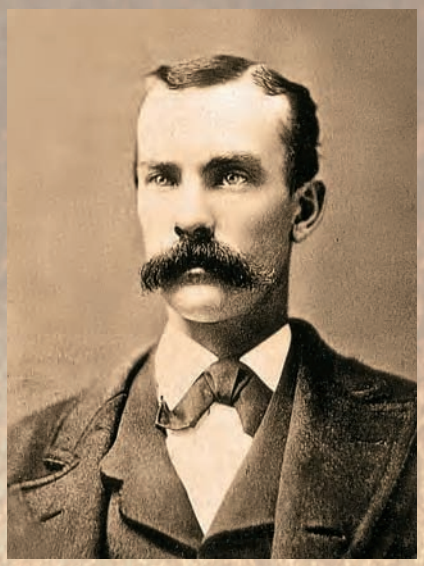
Calamity Jane in Buckskins

Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary did wear dresses like other frontierswomen out West. But this 1895 cabinet card by Henry Robinson Locke & Charles F. Peterson, taken in Deadwood, South Dakota, is how most remember her: in buckskins. She claimed to have scouted for the U.S. Army, but was probably nothing more than a camp follower. She so successfully inserted herself into "Wild Bill" Hickok's narrative that she ended up buried next to the gunfighter.

New Direction for *True West*

When McCubbin located this never-before-published photograph of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, this prized image became the cover of the January 2000 issue, titled "New Owners and a New Direction for *True West*!" Taken in the early 1870s, the photograph was published in that issue with this caption: "Youthful, cocky and clear-eyed, Cody seems to dare the world to give him his best shot."

From the McCubbin Collection

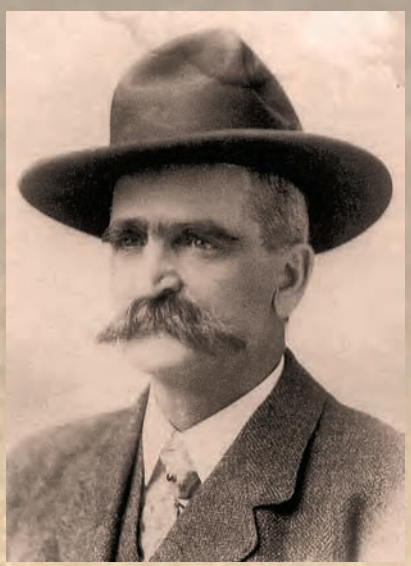


Mystery Death

Johnny Ringo's death has become a part of Arizona Territory lore. Did the Tombstone gunfighter die by his own hand in 1882, or was he murdered? Wyatt Earp and "Buckskin Frank" Leslie are among those who claimed to be his assassin. A copy of the original photograph tipped in a book written by Johnny Ringo's mother, *The Journal of Mrs. Mary Ringo*, and owned by Mary's grandson, the shown image is far sharper than any other that has surfaced of Johnny; Texas historian Chuck Parsons says, "You can count the whiskers in his moustache."

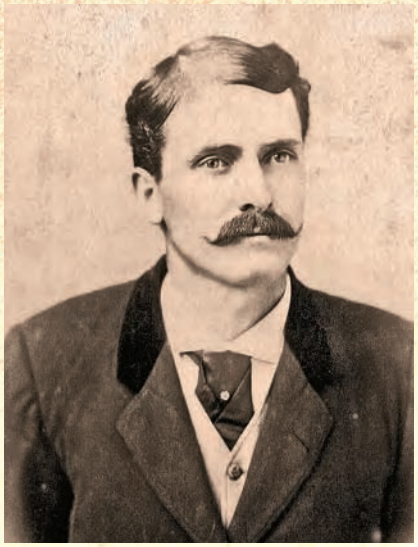
Outlaw Reality Star

Real-life robber Henry Starr (shown) played himself in a re-creation of bank robberies in the 1919 silent film, *A Debtor to the Law*. A member of the Starr family of criminals, he was distantly related to Belle Starr's husband Sam. He famously gained a pardon from President Teddy Roosevelt, after he helped disarm Crawford "Cherokee Bill" Goldsby during an attempted prison outbreak, only to return to bank robbery and end up back in jail. He made the movie the year he got out. Acting did not take hold; he died while robbing a bank in 1921.



Deadwood's Civilizer

Seth Bullock's family owned this photograph of the first sheriff of Deadwood, Dakota Territory. He and Sol Star moved to the gold rush town in 1876 to set up a hardware store. Bullock brought law to the rowdy mining camp after Jack McCall murdered "Wild Bill" Hickok on August 2, the day after Bullock arrived in town.



Doolin's Captor

Famous for his single-handed capture of Bill Doolin in 1895, Bill Tilghman is shown years earlier, when he took part in the bloodless 1883 Dodge City War in Kansas.

Death to the West

Richard "Little Dick" West, who robbed banks with Bill Doolin's gang and bungled up train robberies with Al Jennings's gang, met his end on April 13, 1898, when a posse headed by Deputy U.S. Marshals Bill Tilghman and Heck Thomas shot him dead outside Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory.

Caught in the Crossfire

Born in Texas in 1853, 100 years before our magazine was first published, John King Fisher worked as a cowboy, served time for horse theft and ended up the leader of an outlaw gang aimed at killing Mexican bandits. On March 11, 1884, while watching a play with his gunfighter friend Ben Thompson, Fisher got caught in the crossfire between Thompson and those feuding with him over his killing of a popular theatre owner in San Antonio. Neither made it out alive.

The Sioux and the Showman

In 1885, William Notman took a series of photographs in his studio in Montreal, Canada, of Sitting Bull and "Buffalo Bill" Cody, including this one. The Sioux leader had agreed to join the Wild West showman for a four-month tour with Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

Free at Last

Kidnapped from his family in Arizona Territory by the Apaches at the age of 12, Felix Telles may not seem the ideal candidate for a good story about the Apache Wars, but he emerged a warrior and joined the U.S. Army's Apache scouts, serving during 1874 and 1878, and earning his nickname, Mickey Free. He lived out his life as an Apache, on the White Mountain Apache reservation, before dying in 1914. This circa 1888 color studio shot may have been taken by Daniel Francis Mitchell and Erwin Baer of Prescott.

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN

Our 65th Anniversary Celebration of the Absolute Best of the West!

In *True West's* 65th anniversary year, the magazine is proud to announce the 2018 Best of the West winners!

Since 1953, this pictorial publication has taken readers on a voyage of the American West frontier. In this special issue, the editors feature 65 historical photographs from the world's largest outlaw and lawman photograph collection. The tribute to the best the West has to offer continues with a collectors' roundup celebrating top-selling pieces of history, plus a showcase of last year's best Old West-themed books, movies, firearms and Western wear. The journey goes on, leading you to the premier places to experience the frontier in our Best of the West Heritage Travel Guide.

Everyone honored this year has played an important role in keeping our Old West history alive, and we thank you for supporting each one's efforts. Enjoy your exploration of the best the West has to offer you!

The magazine's Publisher Emeritus Robert G. McCubbin not only acquired an impressive array of Old West outlaw and lawman historical photographs, but also frontier photographs in general. This cowboy photograph of his documents a mid-1880s roundup on the VV Ranch. Bankrolled by Scottish whiskey merchant James Cree, the ranch introduced Angus cattle to the region surrounding Ruidoso, New Mexico Territory.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Bit by the Collecting Bug

When "Old Hosstail" Joe Austell Small founded *True West* Magazine 65 years ago, in 1953, he could not foresee that his pictorial publication dedicated to the history of the American West would itself become a collectible. Many, including President Dwight Eisenhower and his gold-bound set, kept their issues to re-read.

This year's True Westerner, and the magazine's publisher emeritus, Robert G. McCubbin first got bit by the collecting bug because he loved to read and wanted to own the books, not return them to the library. His book collection began with the Hardy Boys, and his most prized book is a rare 25-cent novel published in 1889 that put Belle Starr on the map—*Belle Starr, the Bandit Queen or the Female Jesse James.*

His love of reading led McCubbin to discover *True West*—he's a charter subscriber—and he became intrigued about all these real-life pioneers he was reading about, particularly those with ties to his native state of Oklahoma. From there, he developed a passion for

The Holy Grail of Old West Photographs

The original owner of this only known photograph of outlaw Billy the Kid, rustler buddy Dan Dedrick, told his nephew Frank Upham that the Kid had this photo taken of him outside Beaver Smith's Saloon in Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, in 1879 or 1880. The tintype stayed in the Upham family until 2011, when the hammer fell at $2 million on Bill Koch's bid at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction.

– COURTESY WILLIAM KOCH COLLECTION –

Ed Trumble's art collection from his Leanin' Tree Museum will go on the auction block this January. The veteran art collector stands next to the Frank McCarthy oil, *Headed North,* which will be among the artworks up for bid at Arizona's Scottsdale Art Auction.

– COURTESY SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION –

collecting outlaw and lawman photographs.

"My first original photograph was a cabinet card of Pat Garrett, given to me by his son Jarvis," he says. "It made me aware of what an 'original' photo is and made me want more."

McCubbin's favorite historical photograph is the "Fort Worth Five" photo of the Wild Bunch because it not only features five of the American West's most famous outlaws, it also became a part of history itself when a Pinkerton detective saw the photograph hanging in a Texas photographer's gallery. What luck! Before long, wanted posters featuring mugshots from the photograph circulated the West.

The collectible that got away from McCubbin is the original Billy the Kid tintype, the only known image of the outlaw. Art collector William Koch successfully bid a cool $2 million for the 25-cent tintype at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in 2011.

Koch says his love of collecting the West began with his father, who made sure his four sons worked summer jobs on the family's cattle ranches. A former feeder trail for cattle herded along the Great Western to Dodge City, Kansas, is where the family's trail starts in the U.S., when their grandfather emigrated from the Netherlands and, in 1890, ended up in Quanah, Texas, where he took charge of the ranch town's weekly newspaper.

Koch added the rare tintype to a Wild West collection that included Gen. George Custer's rifle, Bob Dalton's six-shooter, Frederic Remington's cowboy bronzes and C.M. Russell paintings. Although we know that he owned the top three Russells in private hands as of 2004, we don't know if, the next year, he purchased *Piegans*, which broke the world auction record for the artist when the 1918 oil hammered down at $5 million at the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction.

Another avid Western art collector built a museum to house his collection! In 1949, Ed Trumble founded a greeting card company, Leanin' Tree, in Boulder, Colorado, and his passion for American West art led to his Leanin' Tree Museum. Now 93 years old, Ed Trumble is letting go of his museum collection, which will be auctioned off by the Scottsdale Art Auction in Arizona this January 19-20, so the next generation can give the artworks loving care in a new home as he has for all these years. "Many of these works will be offered for sale for the first time," auction publicist Janell Grady says.

The hundreds of artworks will include original paintings that became legendary Leanin' Tree greeting cards, as well as scenes of Western life by noted Cowboy Artists of America painters Charlie Dye, Joe Beeler and Melvin Warren, among other nostalgic views and elegant sculptures.

You don't have to live on Billionaire's Row to collect the American West. Those lucky few may grab some of the top prized and rarest collectibles to preserve and make sure they are not lost to history, yet the rest of us can grab valuable items off the auction block too. Just take a cue from one schoolboy who attended an auction at Christie's New York on June 15, 2017, selling from the collection of Eric C. Caren, who has earned this year's honor as the Best Western History Collector. Dressed in his school uniform, this young boy underbid the room and took home rare collectibles that included one tied to explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The year 2018 is already shaping up to offer collectors some incredible opportunities to own a piece of history. Along with the Leanin' Tree auction, January will bring an auction known to many in the past as "High Noon" that is now part of Brian Lebel's Old West Auction house. On January 20, the auction block in Mesa, Arizona, will highlight a beaded hide outfit owned by Geronimo's treasured nephew and chosen successor, Asa Daklugie.

Even in Geronimo's day, folks recognized the value of his signature and mementos. Because of these early-day collectors and others who saved pioneer relics, out of respect and appreciation for the history they conveyed, we all get the chance to experience and own a remnant of the Wild West.

Best of the West History Collector Eric C. Caren parted with these Paper Americana collectibles at the most recent auction, held by Cowan's of Cincinnati, Ohio. The top lots were (from left): Mathew Brady's original photograph maquette of Union Cavalry leaders and raiders, including George Custer ($11,500); Cabinet card of the *Scouts of the Plains* actors, "Wild Bill" Hickok, "Texas Jack" Omohundro and "Buffalo Bill" Cody ($6,500); and a "Two Bills" Wild West show poster showing Pawnee Bill and Buffalo Bill ($5,500).

– COURTESY COWAN'S AUCTIONS, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 –

BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

Cowan's Auctions, Cincinnati, OH

In this highly competitive category, Wes Cowan's auction house took the lead in 2017, showcasing some pretty impressive offerings. The historical photographs appeals to lovers of Old West history, and last year saw a shocking sale of photographs when a Wounded Knee photograph album hammered down at $22,000. Cowan's particularly shined last year by highlighting two incredible American history collections: antique firearms expert Norman Flayderman's American history collectibles and Eric C. Caren's Paper Americana. The year also saw the debut of its first prehistoric art auction. Cowan's continued commitment to American history shines particularly in its selection of Old West collectibles. *Cowans.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

BEST OLD WEST ART AUCTION

Christie's, New York City, NY

Christie's is world renown for offering incredible Old West artworks in its American art auctions. Its prestige among collectors hit a new high in 2017, when four charging gunslingers on horseback galloped off with a new worldwide auction record for artist Frederic Remington. *Coming Through the Rye*, a bronze cherished by U.S. Presidents, sold for a $9.8 million bid and is one of eight cast before Remington destroyed his model. *Christies.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale, AZ

BEST OLD WEST FIREARMS AUCTION

Rock Island Auction, Rock Island, IL

The firearms world knows collector Robert M. Lee. The conservationist famously headed a 1980 scientific expedition into China that resulted in the "rediscovery" of the Marco Polo sheep, but firearms aficionados know him for his fine collection of antique firearms, featured prominently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and for coauthoring, with R.L. Wilson, the five-book series *The Art of the Gun*, along with *Magnificent Colts*. Since the 88 year old's death on January 28, 2016, collectors could find his weapons on the auction block, and on May 6, 2017, Rock Island Auction made one of its top firearms auction sales to date. A Model 1866 deluxe Winchester lever action rifle, serial number 79862, which the auction house reported as the "only known factory-engraved panel scene piece by [John] Ulrich that is placed with a figured maple stock," hammered down at $520,000. Dubbed as "On the Rocky Mountains" for its engraved bear hunting and mule deer scenes, the rifle is a treasure in the firearms collecting arena. *RockIslandAuction.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

(Tie) James D. Julia, Fairfield, ME, and Brian Lebel's Old West Auction, Mesa, AZ

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTION

Sid Richardson Museum, Fort Worth, TX

Born in Athens, Texas, in 1891, collector Sid Richardson preferred action-oriented Western art, such as Charles M. Russell's 1917 oil, *Buffalo Bill's Duel with Yellowhand*. When the lifelong bachelor died in 1959, he left behind a foundation that continued his philanthropic efforts. The Fort Worth museum opened in Sundance Square in 1982, and the free art museum offers everyone the chance to view incredible Western art that include works by Oscar E. Berninghaus, Frank Tenney Johnson and Charles Schreyvogel.
SidRichardsonMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE:
(Tie) Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX, and Stark Museum of Art, Orange, TX

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION

Plains Indian Museum, Cody, WY

If you had to pick one month to visit the Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, June is the best time. Every June, the museum hosts dancers, drum groups and artists from Northern Plains tribes in a powwow celebrating cultural traditions and histories. The museum's newest offering, though, can be enjoyed online. Generous funding from the Brown Foundation of Houston, Texas, added an interactive Plains Indian Map to the museum. The map shows more than 45 Indian cultures and their movements across the Plains over 230 years.
CenterOfTheWest.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ

BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX

This Texas museum highlights artifacts tied to all the varied pioneers who occupied and built the frontier West. A top prize in its collection is a shield likely acquired by a Comanche from a Spanish soldier at the battle of Yellow House Canyon near Lubbock. The Comanche covered the original Spanish decorations with a piece of bison hide, marking this shield as the oldest known Comanche-Spanish hybrid artifact. In 2017, the museum utilized its collection of weapons, uniforms and photographs to tell the stories of various soldiers from the Panhandle-Plains region who served in WWI. Visitors also experienced the pioneer era in the museum's

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Prussian Model 1843. Enlisted Man's *Garde du Corp* Helmet.
Starting Bid: $5,000

Cased Colt Whitneyville-Hartford Transition Dragoon Serial No. 1166. Inscribed and presented to John Coffee Hays. The only known original casing (also inscribed) with accessories, this is the first known presentation from Samuel Colt.
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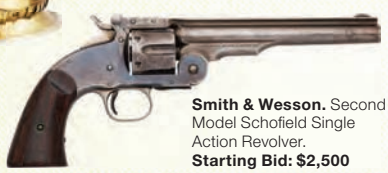

Smith & Wesson. Second Model Schofield Single Action Revolver.
Starting Bid: $2,500

Normandy Invasion Flag. Flown Aboard the S.S. *Charles Willson Peale* and the Uniform of Crewman Petty Officer Ralph H. Dunwoodie.
Starting Bid: $10,000

Civil War Officer's Cap. Embossed "Green and Green, Louisville, Kentucky".
Starting Bid: $6,000

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ART AND COLLECTIBLES

The artistry of the American West can be found on engravings of historical firearms, including this cased Winchester Model 1866 factory display lever action rifle, which hammered down for $520,000 at Rock Island Auction, honored as this year's Best of the West Old West Firearms Auction. The above "On the Rocky Mountains" engraving shows the left side, featuring a bear hunting scene, attributed to John Ulrich by Winchester engraving expert R.L. Wilson.

– COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION, MAY 6, 2017 –

rebuilt Pioneer Town; the museum demolished the original one built in 1969 and built a new town that allows for interactive activities that include tapping out a telegraph message at the depot.
PanhandlePlains.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott, AZ

BEST WESTERN COLLECTIBLES GALLERY

Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

After touring the collectibles highlighted at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, you may want to head around the corner to feast your eyes on artifacts of the 1840s through the 1940s that you could bring home with you. Bill Welch has lent his expertise on Old West history to shoppers ever since he opened the store in 1966. Step back in time to view the shop's high-end saddles, bits, spurs, chaps and cowboy art.

READERS' CHOICE:
R.C. Gorman Navajo Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

BEST TREASURE HUNTING DEVICE

AT Max Metal Detector by Garrett Metal Detectors, Garland, TX

The professional Old West treasure hunter now has a device that utilizes wireless technology to enhance detection depth. You can cut the cord with Garrett's wireless, all-terrain AT Max metal detector that is six times faster than Bluetooth speed and guarantees zero interference from other wireless devices. This innovative seeker of treasure honors founder Dr. Charles L. Garrett, who grew his 1964 garage business into the worldwide leader in metal detection technology.
Garrett.com

READERS' CHOICE:
TreasureMaster by White's Electronics, Sweet Home, OR

BEST WESTERN PAINTER

C.M. Russell (1864-1926)

Known as the master cowboy artist, C.M. Russell painted his greatest masterpieces in a rustic log cabin studio that the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, extensively restored and reopened in 2017, with a gallery addition. On the eve of that reopening, biographer John Taliaferro told KRTV in Montana: "Charlie Russell was the master; he was the father of Western art. Every Western artist who's come since has paid homage to him, so this is a holy site we're in. And so what Great Falls has, no other place in the country has."

The art and life of Russell was also celebrated in 2017 at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with talks that ranged from discussing the artist's life in California (by Byron Price, director of the C.M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma) and Charlie's wife, Nancy, who memorialized her husband by working to conserve the C.M. Russell house and studio that first opened to the public in 1930—the first museum dedicated to Western art in the United States (by Michael Duchemin, executive director at Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas).

READERS' CHOICE:
A.R. Mitchell (1889-1977)

BEST WESTERN PAINTER (LIVING)

Glenna Goodacre

After nearly 50 years of sculpting, Glenna Goodacre retired, which ushered in the auction of her personal collection in 2017—Arizona's Scottsdale Art Auction broke the artist record, when the top bid, $350,000, went to her six-foot-tall bronze *Puddle Jumpers*. The second-highest bid, $95,000, went to a bronze celebrating an iconic Western woman for which Goodacre is most known among collectors: *Sacagawea and Jean Baptiste*.

The artist created the sculpture in 2001, after the U.S. Mint accepted her coin relief pattern for the $1 golden coin featuring Lewis and Clark Expedition guide Sacagawea carrying her infant son Jean Baptiste on her back.

The artist retired with a bang at the auction, selling her art for nearly $1.15 million. Her accomplishments are beautifully expressed in her own words, in a book edited by Daniel R. Anthony, *Glenna Goodacre: Sculpture*.

READERS' CHOICE:

(Tie) Sherry Blanchard Stuart, Scottsdale, AZ, and Andy Thomas, Carthage, MO

BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY

Whitney Western Art Museum, Cody, WY

As part of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's 100th anniversary celebration in 2017, the Whitney Western Art Museum showcased an impressive gallery of 19th-century masters, including a symposium on Western American sculpture in June. Even more, guests viewed glimpses of the creative process through studio collections of personal objects owned by Frederic Remington, Alexander Phimister Proctor and Joseph Henry Sharp.

American Indians finally get their due in a film history exhibition at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, featuring the Rennard Strickland Western Film Collection, which opened in June 2017 and closes on September 30, 2018. Scholars and historians can access the collection jointly acquired by the museum and ASU.

COURTESY WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST –

AMERICANA & POLITICAL AUCTION
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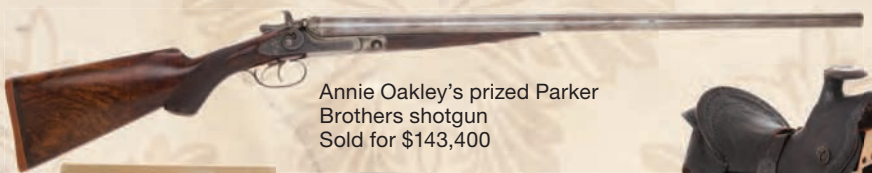
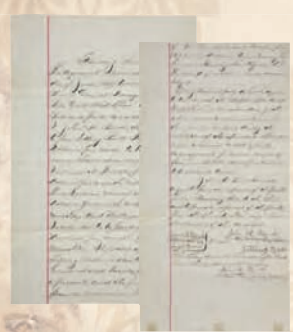


Annie Oakley's prized Parker Brothers shotgun
Sold for $143,400

Superb "Wild Bill" Hickok cabinet photo
Sold for $17,925



Sitting Bull's signed contract for Buffalo Bill's Wild West
Sold for $155,350

George Armstrong Custer's personal Indian Wars era saddle
Sold for $113,525

Readers of *True West* have presented Heritage with *The Best Old West Collectibles Auctions* 'People's Choice Award' for six consecutive years!

Whether you have a collection or just one special item, we are ready to help you achieve optimal results at auction. To discuss consignment opportunities, please contact Tom Slater at TomS@HA.com or 214-409-1441.

Shown here are just a few of the great "Old West" items we have presented.

View all auctions at HA.com/Historical

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TRUE WEST

Frederic Remington's *Coming Through the Rye* saw a lot of action in 2017. The above bronze hammered down at Christie's New York for $9.8 million, setting a new auction record for the artist. While another cast, owned by the Whitney Western Art Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, was filmed for a three-part series that will highlight American art achievements for Londoners.

– COURTESY CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK, MAY 23, 2017 –

Folks in London are going to get a chance to view the gallery's most treasured works, thanks to ZCZ Films, which visited in 2017 to film for a three-part series that will share wide-ranging achievements of American art. The crew's main focus was Remington's iconic *Coming Through the Rye* sculpture, the same gravity-defying work that brought Christie's auction house a Best of the West honor this year, but a different cast gifted by Barbara S. Leggett. *CenterOfTheWest.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, WY

BEST WESTERN MUSEUM
Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

The Buffalo Bill Memorial Association formed a century ago, on the eve of the death of Wild West showman William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The group's educational mission grew into a complex of five museums and a research library dedicated to sharing the culture and history of the American West. The center celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2017 by sharing images and tidbits about all the folks who turned the center into the incredible anchor of Western history it has become today. *CenterOfTheWest.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Scottsdale, AZ

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTOR
Rennard Strickland

The Osage and Cherokee expert on American Indian law Rennard Strickland sold his collection of Western film images and illustrations to ASU and Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West in November 2016, and, ever since, his collection has revealed particular insights into this popular genre of American film.

Dating from the early 1900s, the posters, lobby cards, film stills, press books and movies help dispel stereotypes and misconceptions of Indians. Largely forgotten and nearly wiped out, Indians found a resurgence in the advent of Westerns. Part of the American narrative again, Indians were first sidekicks and then started to become main characters during the 1960s and 1970s.

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

Scholars and researchers were granted access to the collection starting in 2017. Western film historian Charlie LeSueur says Rennard's 5,000-piece collection "outshines any film poster collection out there," including those held at the Autry Museum of the American West and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Exhibit closes September 30, 2018: *ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org*

BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR

Eric C. Caren

Eric C. Caren began collecting when he was five—the typical schoolboy favorites of baseball cards, stamps and coins. A fan of baseball sports hero Babe Ruth, 11-year-old Caren rescued a 1913 newspaper featuring the future New York Yankees outfielder. His first purchase was an 18th-century newspaper, bought for $4.95, and the collecting began: photographs, manuscripts, newspapers, letters, diaries.

His goal is to collect paper ephemera that relates to major events in American and world history. Acknowledged as one of the largest private collections of Paper Americana in the United States, his documents revealing how history unfolds on paper showed up in 2017 at Christie's and Cowan's auctions. Notable lots included two tied to George Custer: an on-the-spot account of the discovery of his body after the Battle of the Little Big Horn (Christie's) and a Mathew Brady maquette that included Custer among a group of Union Cavalry leaders and raiders (Cowan's).

Caren has been selling off a portion of his collectibles because he wants to invest in new material. He carefully chose the auction items by making sure he still kept something for every major event in history. Caren's endless collection is a true tribute of love for American history. *TheCarenArchives.com*

WESTERN BOOKS

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Time of Transition

In 2017, Western history and fiction thrived in a dynamic publishing environment.

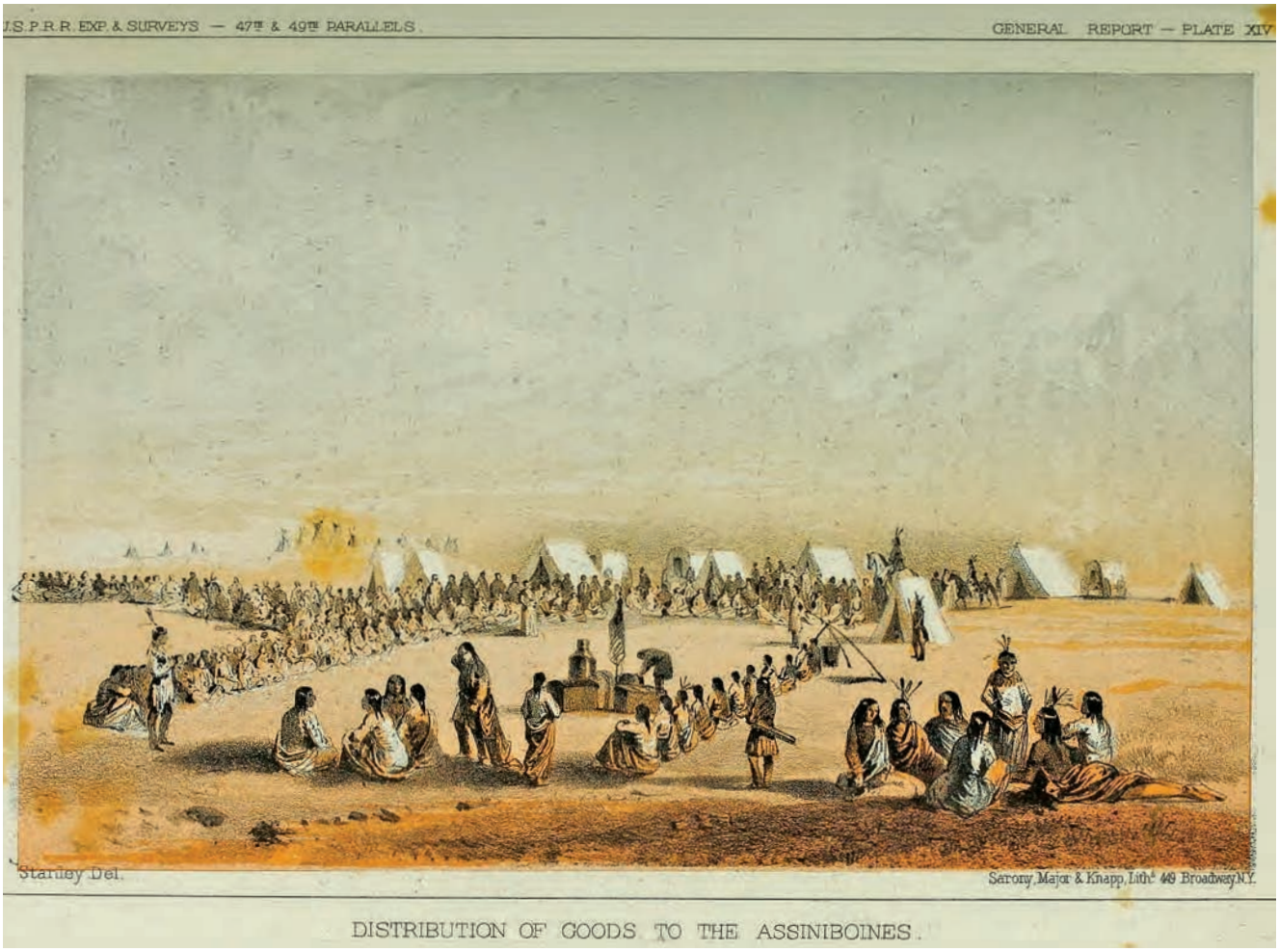
In 2013, I started managing and writing the "Western Books" column for *True West*. In those five years, I have received between 400 and 600 books a year from a broad swath of American and international publishers and authors. From a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography from one of the largest New York publishers to the self-funded, self-published first Old West novel, I have read and reviewed hundreds of books, and been grateful for each one sent my way. I have perused dozens of catalogs annually, scanned through thousands of pages of Internet research on authors and their topics, and had the pleasure to correspond, talk with and meet hundreds of men and women who write, edit, design, publish and market Western books.

From 2013 to today, many prognosticators have written columns on the demise of the book and booksellers, the omnipotent power of Amazon, the transformative power of the e-book and the coming age of the audiobook. Many in the hallowed halls of wacademia scoff at the ever-growing trend of self-publishing, but in a nation in which the First Amendment is revered as the foundation of our Republic, authors who are self-publishing are actually following in the footsteps of such early American scribes as Thomas Paine and Benjamin Franklin. For those who love the West, its culture and people, its natural wonders and communities, I believe the trend foretells a positive future. All of us who love to read, write and publish about the Old West, in whatever format or formats we enjoy, now have choices. From your locally owned book-seller to *Amazon.com*, *E-Bay.com*, *AbeBooks.com*, access to the catalog of books on Western history and fiction has never been greater. Embrace it; we are the beneficiaries of one of the greatest revolutionary moments in communications and publishing in history.

So what does this mean for the current state of Western books and the past year in publishing? Publishers are sending to the presses fewer history books that are just about 19th-century or earlier topics. We are seeing more history books

The West's violent post-Civil War era of transition that transformed the nation's culture, settlement, transportation, environment and American Indian lands was the subject of many of the best Western books in 2017, including Christopher Knowlton's *Cattle Kingdom: The Hidden History of the Cowboy West*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

– PHOTO OF BISON SKULLS COURTESY OF THE BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION, DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY –



In Larry Len Peterson's *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West*, the author examines in-depth over 500 years of cultural interaction between Euro-Americans and Native peoples in the North American West, including the use of treaties—and the consistent violent breaking of treaties—to secure access, use and control of the continent from the indigenous tribes.

– ILLUSTRATION DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS TO THE ASSINIBOINES FROM THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS' REPORTS OF EXPLORATIONS AND SURVEYS, TO ASCERTAIN THE MOST PRACTICABLE AND ECONOMICAL ROUTE FOR A RAILROAD FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN (1855), COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY –

that bridge the transitionary era of 1880 to 1920 and well past the midpoint of the 20th-century, or begin their chronicle after 1900 and conclude it in the present. Larry Len Peterson's *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer and the Spirit of the West*, my choice for the best author and history book of the year, is probably the greatest example of this depth and breadth in Western writing in 2017. Authors and publishers determined to make their 19th-century topics relevant to 21st-century audiences are more prevalent in 2017 than they were five years ago. Pick up any university publisher's catalog and you will notice fewer and fewer 19th-century centric volumes of history. And the same goes for New York publishing houses—just look at the huge success of David Grann's *Killer of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

What about fiction? I am a huge fan of what is happening in Western fiction. From self-publishing to mystery publishers such as Poisoned Pen Press in Scottsdale, Arizona, and traditional New York publishers like Pinnacle and Forge to fast-growing Old West and Frontier fiction houses like Five-Star in Waterville, Maine, and print-on-demand e-book specialist Wolfpack in Las Vegas, Nevada, Western authors have many excellent avenues to publishing their novels and reaching their readers.

Lovers of Old West and Western fiction should also tip their hats to television and film producers who are filling the airwaves, streaming networks and screens with traditional and modern interpretations of the Western, especially the mystery and law and order genres. The simpatico relationship between genres and mediums is good for everyone who enjoys an Old West story, whether it is set in 1867 or 2017.

So, what is my advice to *True West* readers writing out New Year's resolutions? Indulge your passion for Western books, new and old, electronic or audio, collectible or mass-market, and share your passion with a friend. We always need more readers of the Old West and *True West* Maniacs.

WESTERN BOOKS

BEST AUTHOR AND NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West by Larry Len Peterson (Sweetgrass Books)

Dr. Larry Len Peterson's *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West* is the most philosophical book written about the history of the American West since Henry Nash Smith's *Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth* (Harvard University Press, 1950; reissued, with a new preface, 1970) and Vine Deloria Jr.'s *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1969; reissued, with a new preface, 1988). At the heart of Peterson's *magnum opus* on the American West is his search for the historical meaning and a record of race relations between European-Americans and the Native peoples of North America—and how a truthful reckoning of the past can provide clarity for an improved collective future.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Cattle Industry**: *Cattle Kingdom: The Hidden History of the Cowboy West* by Christopher Knowlton (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

❷ **Trail Drives**: *The Shawnee-Arbuckle Cattle Trail 1867-1870: The Predecessor of the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas* by Gary and Margaret Kraisinger (Mennonite Press)

❸ **U.S. History**: *The Republic for Which it Stands: The United States During Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896* by Richard White (Oxford University Press)

❹ **Military**: *Regular Army O!: Soldiering on the Western Frontier, 1865–1891* by Douglas C. McChristian (University of Oklahoma Press)

❺ **Overland Trails**: *The Best Land Under Heaven: The Donner Party in the Age of Manifest Destiny* by Michael Wallis (Liveright)

BEST BIOGRAPHY

Grant by Ron Chernow (Penguin Press)

National Book Award-winning author Ron Chernow's latest biography, *Grant*, sets the new standard for the embattled American general and president whose career and legacy in the West began in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1843, and concluded with the Great Sioux War of 1876-77.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Law and Order**: *Dodge City: Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, and the Wickedest Town in the American West* by Tom Clavin (St. Martin's Press)

❷ **Indian Wars**: *Tom Jeffords: Friend of Cochise* by Doug Hocking (TwoDot)

❸ **Frontier**: *Mudeater: The Story of an American Buffalo Hunter and the Surrender of Louis Riel* by John D. Pichach (University of Regina Press)

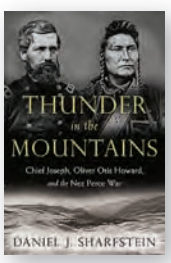
❹ **Western Culture**: *Blood Brothers: The Story of the Strange Friendship between Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill* by Deanne Stillman (Simon & Schuster)

❺ **Film & TV**: *Hank & Jim: The Fifty-Year Friendship of Henry Fonda and James Stewart* by Scott Eyman (Simon & Schuster)

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY

Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War by Daniel J. Sharfstein (W.W. Norton)

A masterful dual biography of two of the most important leaders in post-Civil War Indian history, Daniel J. Sharfstein's *Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War* is a must read for anyone interested in the broader context of Joseph and Howard's roles in Indian relations before and after the Nez Perce War.



BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Indian History**: Tie: ***Spirit in the Rock: The Fierce Battle for Modoc Homelands*** by Jim Compton (Washington State University); and *The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America's Gilded Age* by Robert Aquinas McNally (Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press)

❸ **Old Northwest**: *Rainy Lake House: Twilight of Empire on the Northern Frontier* by Theodore Catton (Johns Hopkins University Press)

❹ **Memoir**: *Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight: Indian Views* edited by John H. Monnett (University of Oklahoma Press)

❹ **Warfare**: *The Three Battles of Sand Creek: In Blood, in Court, and as the End of History* by Gregory F. Michino (Savas Beatie)

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PIONEER GIRL PERSPECTIVES
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Nancy Tystad Koupal, editor
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An even-handed treatment "of Wilder's life & writing, not glossing over views she held that clash with modern sensibilities."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"A must read for any and all book lovers everywhere."
—Goodreads Review

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WESTERN BOOKS

Silent Westerns were just one many genres of art and film that editors Mary-Dailey Desmarais and Thomas Brent Smith examined in detail in *Once Upon a Time.... The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film*.

– WILLIAM S. HART (CENTER) IN THE GUN FIGHTER, 1917, GELATIN SILVER PRINT, COURTESY LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, SEAVER CENTER COLLECTION –

BEST LAW AND ORDER HISTORY

The Pinks: The First Women Detectives, Operatives, and Spies with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency by Chris Enss (TwoDot)

Few authors are producing as much original history about women in the West as Chris Enss. The California historian's latest law and order book, *The Pinks: The First Women Detectives, Operatives, and Spies with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency*, breaks new ground in law and order history, revealing the dynamic role women played in frontier peacekeeping.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Mining**: *Frank Little and the IWW: The Blood that Stained an American Family* by Jane Little Botkin (University of Oklahoma Press)

❷ **Texas Rangers**: *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legends and Legacy* by Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice (University of North Texas Press)

❸ **Criminal**: *Graham Barnett: A Dangerous Man* by Jim Coffey and Russell M. Drake and John T. Barnett (University of North Texas Press)

❹ **Law & Order**: *Death on the Lonely Llano Estacado: The Assassination of J.W. Jarrott, a Forgotten Hero* by Bill Neal (University of North Texas Press)

❺ **Prostitution**: *Selling Sex in the Silver Valley: A Business Doing Pleasure* by Dr. Heather Branstetter (The History Press)

BEST FICTION

The Ballad of Black Bart by Loren D. Estleman (Forge)

Loren D. Estleman has written more than 80 novels since 1976. His latest Western, *The Ballad of Black Bart*, is the rollicking literary tale of one of the West's most enigmatic and legendary outlaws Charles E. Bolton.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Old West**: *Adobe Moon: Wyatt Earp, an American Odyssey* by Mark Warren (Five Star)

ROUGH DRAFTS

WESTERN BOOKS ROUND-UP 2017

10 FAVORITES

In 2017, I was encouraged by the growth in all genres of Western fiction–especially mystery–from New York houses to self-publishing authors. The biggest trend in Western history publishing was a paradigm shift in university press publications away from 19th-century history but toward 19th-century history volumes with theses that arc well into the 20th century.

Ten books and authors I recommend:

FICTION

Mass Market: *A World of Hurt: A Wilkie John Western* by Tim Bryant (Pinnacle)

Frontier: *Ezekial's Journey: Book One* by Johnny Gunn *(Wolfpack Publishing)*

Mystery: *Burials: a Faye Longchamp Mystery* by Mary Anna Evans (Poisoned Pen Press)

Old West: *Smoke Wagon* by Brett Cogburn (Five Star)

Western Crime: *Double Wide* by Leo W. Banks (Brash Books)

NONFICTION

Biography: *Forty-Niner: The Extraordinary Gold Rush Odyssey of Joseph Goldsborough Bruff* by Ken Lizzio (The Countryman Press)

Empire & Exploration: *Mountain Man: John Colter, The Lewis & Clark Expedition, and the Call of the American West* by David Weston Marshall (The Countryman Press)

Overland Trails: *Jersey Gold–The Newark Overland Company's Trek to California, 1849* by Margaret Casterline Bowen and Gwendolyn Joslin Hiles (University of Oklahoma Press)

Western Culture: *Out Where the West Begins, Volume 2: Creating and Civilizing the American West* by Philip F. Anschutz with William J. Convery (Cloud Camp Press)

Western History: *The American West: A New Interpretive History, Second Edition* by Robert V. Hine, John Mack Faragher and Jon T. Coleman

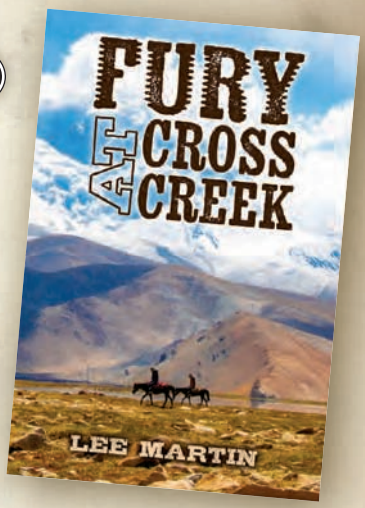
BONUS BOOK: I highly recommend Western historian Paul Horsted's new book on the national parks: *Treasures of the National Parks: Yesterday and Today* (Golden Valley Press)

–Stuart Rosebrook

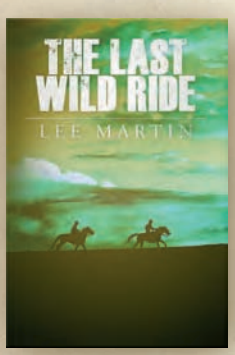
LEE MARTIN

FURY AT CROSS CREEK

NEW!



In 1876, when Laredo learns his true identity, he becomes a living target as he and the old scout who raised him charge north into the same deadly feud with the Harrington clan that had killed his family. They try to learn who was on the murderous raid. When the Harringtons discover who he is, they launch a continued round of assaults that will either erase their murderous history or lead to their downfall.



THE LAST WILD RIDE

"In 1877, a bitter ex lawman is roped into escorting a fugitive widow and her mute son through the badlands with the help of old scouts and a gambler, while her vengeful in-laws are hot on their trail."

The story is full of suspense and adventure. It is an easy, fast read that I strongly recommend. It will keep your interest, encouraging you to keep reading to find out what happens next." Lowell F. Volk, Author of the Luke Taylor and Trevor Lane series

*— **TRUE WEST**, July 2017*

GRANT CONSPIRACY
Wake of the Civil War

In 1880 Colorado, a young lawyer, an angry newspaperwoman and a black veteran stumble on an evil law firm's plot to assassinate Grant, not for the Civil War but for Black Friday, when he tours the Rockies by wagon.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLOAK & DAGGER: In the decades following the War between the States, there are old wounds yet to be healed. Lee Martin's The Grant Conspiracy plays out like a game of checkers with bodies piling up and the surviving characters vying for the final position.

*—**TRUE WEST** April 2016 by author Eric H. Heisner.*

Don't miss Lee's *SHADOW ON THE MESA*, from which Lee wrote the highly rated movie with Kevin Sorbo.

Look for all of Lee Martin's 21 Western Novels at AMAZON or wherever books are sold. Many can also be found on audio at Books In Motion.

TRUE WEST BEST of the WEST TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN

BEST HISTORICAL NONFICTION AUTHOR

Editors' Choice
Larry Len Peterson

Readers' Choice
Paul Andrew Hutton

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST

Editors' Choice
Loren Estleman

Readers' Choice
Zane Grey

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER

Editors' Choice
The University of Oklahoma Press
Norman, OK

Readers' Choice
TwoDot, New York, NY

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

Editors' Choice
Guidon Books, Scottsdale, AZ

Readers' Choice
Sheridan Stationary , Sheridan, WY

BEST WESTERN HISTORY UNIVERSITY PRESS

Editors' Choice
University of Oklahoma Press

Readers' Choice, Tie
University of Nebraska Press
Lincoln, NE

Texas Tech University Press
Lubbock, TX

BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

Editors' Choice
Five Star Publishing
Waterville, ME

Readers' Choice
Pinnacle Books, New York, NY

WESTERN BOOKS

❷ **Traditional**: *Silver City* by Jeff Guinn (G.P. Putnam)

❸ **Literary**: *Savage Country, A Novel* by Robert Olmstead (Algonquin Books)

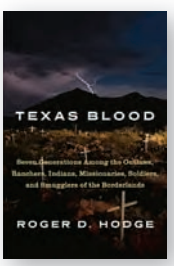
❹ **Frontier Fiction**: *Grizzly Killer: The Making of a Mountain Man, Vol. 1* by Lane R. Warenski *(Wolfpack Publishing)*

❺ **Mass Market**: *Hell Hath No Fury* by Charles G. West (Kensington)

BEST CULTURAL WEST

Texas Blood: Seven Generations Among the Outlaws, Ranchers, Indians, Missionaries, Soldiers and Smugglers of the Borderlands by Roger D. Hodge (Alfred A. Knopf)

Roger D. Hodge's epic family history of the American Southwest is an extremely thought-provoking multi-generational, autobiographical history of the West.



BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Cowboys**: *A Cowboy of the Pecos* by Patrick Dearan (Lone Star Books)

❷ **Literature**: *Ernest Haycox and the Western* by Richard W. Etulain (University of Oklahoma Press)

❸ **Ranching:** *Cowboy Up! Life Lessons from the Lazy B* by H. Alan Day with Lynn Wiese Sneyd (Morgan James Publishing)

❹ **Western Culture**: *Dodge City and the Birth of the Wild West* by Robert R. Dykstra and Jo Ann Manfra (University of Kansas Press)

❺ **Western Film**: *High Noon: The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic* by Glenn Frankel (Bloomsbury)

BEST ART/ ILLUSTRATED BOOK

Once Upon a Time....The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film edited by Mary-Dailey Desmarais and Thomas Brent Smith (5 Continents)

The Denver Art Museum and Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' exquisite catalog of its 2017 exhibition *Once Upon a Time…The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film* sets the standard for exhibiting and studying the interconnectedness of two of the most influential mediums on Western American and Canadian culture: art and film.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Historic**: *Smoke Over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George* by August J. Veenendaal, Jr. (University of Oklahoma Press)

❷ **Cultural**: *Lakota Performers in Europe: Their Culture and the Artifacts They Left Behind* by Steve Friesen and François Chladiuk (University of Oklahoma Press)

❸ **Regional**: *Bodie: Good Times & Bad* by Nicholas Clapp, Photography by Will Furman (Sunbelt Publications)

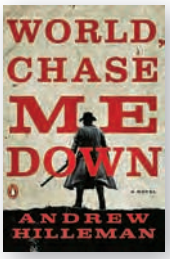
❹ **Western Art**: *Paul Pletka: Imagined Wests* by Amy Scott with contributions by Paul Pletka (University of Oklahoma Press)

❺ **Photography**: *Mountain Ranch* by Michael Crouser, foreword by Gretel Ehrlich (University of Texas Press)

BEST NEW WESTERN AUTHOR

World, Chase Me Down: A Novel by Andrew Hilleman (Penguin)

The debut of first-time novelist Nebraska native Andrew Hilleman is based on the timeless true story of Pat Crowe, a nearly



forgotten Western outlaw. Born and raised in Omaha, Hilleman based his thrilling anti-hero's chronicle on Crowe's kidnapping for ransom of a meat-packing executive's son from Omaha, and the subsequent nationwide manhunt that in 1900 was called "the crime of the century."

BEST WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHER

The University of Oklahoma Press

The University of Oklahoma Press has set the standard for publishing the history of the North American West for over 90 years, and its current Western history catalog continues to be unequalled among 100 university imprints in the United States.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **National**: W.W. Norton; New York, NY

❷ **University**: University of North Texas Press; Denton, TX

❸ **Regional**: South Dakota Historical Society; Pierre, SD

❹ **Old West History**: McFarland; Jefferson, NC

❺ **Trade**: TwoDot/Rowman & Littlefield; Lanham, MD

BEST WESTERN FICTION PUBLISHER

Five Star Publishing

Five Star Publishing, an imprint of Gale Cengage Learning in Waterville, Maine, is currently publishing more traditional hardback Westerns than any other publisher. Under the editorial direction of Tiffany Schofield, Five Star has built a stable of authors who are responsible for creating one of the most entertaining catalogs since the halcyon days of Bantam, Dell and Signet.

5 C
Guidon Books

The largest collection of new and out of print Civil War & Western Americana books.
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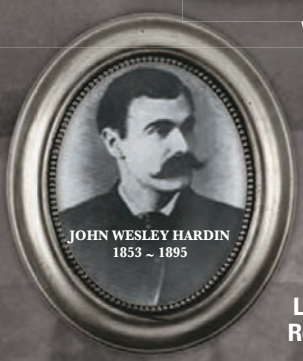
Concordia Cemetery
History To Die For...



Visit one of Texas' most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the state.
Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.
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BEST OF THE REST

❶ **National**: Forge; New York, NY

❷ **University**: Texas Christian University Press; Fort Worth, TX

❸ **Electronic**: Wolfpack Publishing, LLC; Las Vegas, NV

❹ **Regional**: Poisoned Pen Press; Scottsdale, AZ

❺ **Mass Market**: Pinnacle; New York, NY

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❶ **Large**: Powell's City of Books; Portland, OR; *Powells.com*

❷ **Medium**: Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse; Santa Fe, NM; *CWBookstore.com*

❸ **Small**: Sheridan Stationary Books & Gallery; Sheridan, SD; *SheridanStationary.net*

❹ **Specialized**: The Poisoned Pen Bookstore; Scottsdale, AZ; *PoisonedPen.com*

❺ **Writer's Haven**: Hooked on Books; Colorado Springs, CO; *HookedOnBooksCo.com*

BEST OF THE BEST ROUNDUP

TRAVEL HISTORY

Travel is a strong segment of Western publishing. Current and classic Western travel writing provides a great personal window into the West's present and past. Some selections from the past year:

Ghost Towns of the West by Philip Varney and Jim Hinckley (Voyager Press)

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

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

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

First Impressions: A Reader's Journey to Iconic Places of the American Southwest by David J. Weber and William deBuys (Yale University Press)

SPAIN AND MEXICO IN THE WEST

The role of Spain and Mexico in the history of the American West from the time of conquest to the present is at the foundation of our collective understanding and interpretation of North American history. Some selections from the past year:

Arredondo: Last Spanish Ruler of Texas and Northeastern New Spain by Bradley Folsom (University of Oklahoma Press)

Thornton's Luck: How America Almost Lost the Mexican-American War by Lamont Wood (Lone Star Books)

Franciscan Frontiersmen: How Three Adventurers Charted the West by Robert A. Kittle (University of Oklahoma Press)

Orozco: The Life and Death of a Mexican Revolutionary by Raymond Caballero (University of Oklahoma Press)

The Blood Contingent: The Military and the Making of Modern Mexico, 1876–1911 by Stephen B. Neufeld (University of New Mexico Press)

Andrew E. Masich's *Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands, 1861–1867*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, was one of the most extraordinarily researched military history volumes of the West published in 2017.

– PHOTO OF CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT, SAN FRANCISCO PRESIDIO, JUNE 1865, COURTESY HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA –

WOMEN AND RACE IN THE WEST

Gender and race remain two strong topics in Western fiction and nonfiction published in 2017. Some selections from the past year:

The Coming Man from Canton: Chinese Experience in Montana, 1862-1943 by Christopher W. Merritt (University of Nebraska Press)

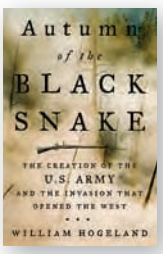
The Journal of Sedona Schnebly by Lisa Schnebly Heidinger (Cider Press)

The Trials of Annie Oakley by Howard Kazanjian and Chris Enss (TwoDot)

America's Best Female Sharpshooter: The Rise and Fall of Lillian Frances Smith by Julia Bricklin (University of Oklahoma Press)

Women of Empire: Nineteenth-Century Army Officers' Wives in India and the U.S. West by Verity McInnis (University of Oklahoma Press)

WAR IN THE WEST



The history of warfare in the West remains a hot topic for academic as well as popular history publishers. Some selections from the past year:

Autumn of the Black Snake: The Creation of the U.S. Army and the Invasion that Opened the West by William Hogeland (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Why Custer was Never Warned: The Forgotten Story of the True Genesis of America's Most Iconic Military Disaster, Custer's Last Stand by Philip Thomas Tucker, Ph.D. (Universal Publishers)

Wars for Empire: Apaches, the United States, and the Southwest Borderlands by Janne Lahti (University of Oklahoma Press)

Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands 1861-1867 by Andrew E. Masich (University of Oklahoma Press)

Ordered West: The Civil War Exploits of Charles A. Curtis edited with an introduction by Alan D. Gaff and Donald H. Gaff (University of North Texas Press)

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS IN THE WEST

The history of firearms and weapons in the West remains a popular topic for historians and aficionados of the Old West. Some selections from the past year:

The 41 Short Rim-Fire: Deadliest Round in the West by Brendan Michael Murphy (self-published)

Sharps Firearms, Early Metallic Cartridge Firearms and Model 1874 Sporting Rifles, Vol. II by Roy Marcot, Ron Paxton, DeWitt Bailey II and Richard Labowski, M.D. (Northwood Heritage Press)

Colt Single-Action Revolvers by Martin Pegler (Osprey Press)

Winchester Lever-Action Rifles by Martin Pegler (Osprey Press)

Guns of the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum by Jim Supica (Chartwell Books)

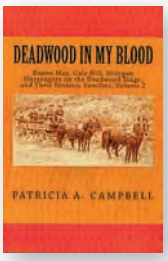
WESTERN BOOKS

SELF-PUBLISHED AND SMALL PRESS

Western authors are using all available platforms and venues, especially print-on-demand, e-books and book fairs, to sell their stories to a global readership. Some selections from the past year:

Black Star Over Hollywood by John W. Ravage (XLibris)

Deadwood Stage and Their Historic Families, Volume 2 by Patricia A. Campbell (self-published)



Lost Roundup by Phyllis de la Garza (Silk Label Books)

The Prisoner of Orchard Bend by Patrick Lemieux (Across the Board Books)

The Shots at Iron Mountain: A Story of Two Men—Tom Horn and Geronimo by Jiri Cernik (Dorrance Publishing)

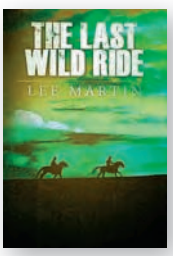
E-BOOKS AND PRINT-ON-DEMAND

With the Western one of the most popular formats worldwide, the e-book is bringing the Old West to audiences around the globe like the paperback did 80 years ago. Some selections from the past year:

1881 by Daniel Fludgate (FeedAReadPublishing.com)

California Bound by Frank Kelso and John O'Melveny Woods (Intellect Publishing)

Revenge of the Damned by Larry Martin (Wolfpack Publishing)



The Last Wild Ride by Lee Martin (Amazon Digital Services)

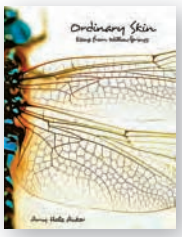
The Walker: The Untold Story of Black Bart by Bruce Bradley (self-published)

BEST WESTERN ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

Essayists and short-story authors remain key contributors to the genre of Western literature and our mutual understanding of the West. Some selections from the past year:

❶ *Gathering from the Grassland: A Plains Journal* by Linda M. Hasselstrom (High Plains Press)

❷ *Headlights on the Prairie: Essays on Home* by Robert Rebein (University Press of Kansas)



❸ *Ordinary Skin: Essays from Willow Springs* by Amy Hale Auker (Texas Tech University Press)

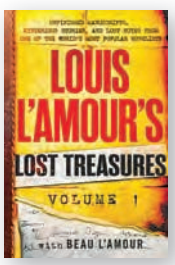
❹ *Rants from the Hill: On Packrats, Bobcats, Wildfires, Curmudgeons, A Drunken Mary Kay Lady & Other Encounters with the Wild in the High Desert* by Michael R. Branch (Roost Books/A Division of Penguin House)

❺ *The Saints of Rattlesnake Mountain, Stories* by Don Waters (University of Nevada Press)

BEST CLASSIC WESTERN AUTHOR COMPILATIONS/REISSUE

Classic Western fiction fans were the beneficiaries of numerous re-releases of classics, including the majority of the Jack Schaefer library by the University of New Mexico Press, plus reissues or new compilations of previously unpublished material by some of the genre's greats. Some selections from the past year:

Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures, Volume 1: Unfinished Manuscripts, Mysterious Stories, and Lost Notes from One of the World's Most Popular Novelists by Louis L'Amour with Beau L'Amour (Bantam Books)



Thalia: A Texas Trilogy by Larry McMurtry (Liveright Publishing)

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance by Dorothy M. Johnson (Riverbend Publishing)

Wild West: Short Stories by Elmer Kelton (Forge)

20TH- TO 21ST-CENTURY WESTERN FICTION

In 2017, the mystery genre dominated Western fiction. Some selections from the past year:

Beyond Reason by Kat Martin (Kensingon)

Cold Hearted River by Keith McCafferty (Viking)

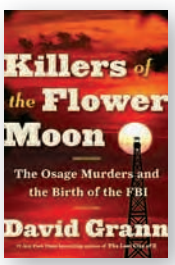
Song of the Lion by Anne Hillerman (HarperCollins)

The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo: A Novel by Ian Stansel (Houghton Mifflin)

The Western Star by Craig Johnson (Viking)

20TH- TO 21ST-CENTURY WESTERN NONFICTION

In 2017, publishers of Western nonfiction are trending their catalogs more toward 20th- and 21st-century history than 19th-century Western topics. Subjects that dominate the past year's publications included the environment, race, urban and cultural history. Some selections from the past year:



Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann (Doubleday)

A Land Apart: The Southwest and the Nation in the Twentieth Century by Flannery Burke (University of Arizona Press)

Wonderlandscape: Yellowstone National Park and the Evolution of an American Cultural Icon by John Clayton (Pegasus Books)

Morta Las Vegas: CSI and the Problem of the West by Nathaniel Lewis and Stephen Tatum (University of Nebraska Press)

The Mountains that Remade America: How Sierra Nevada Geology Impacts Modern Life by Craig H. Jones (University of California Press)

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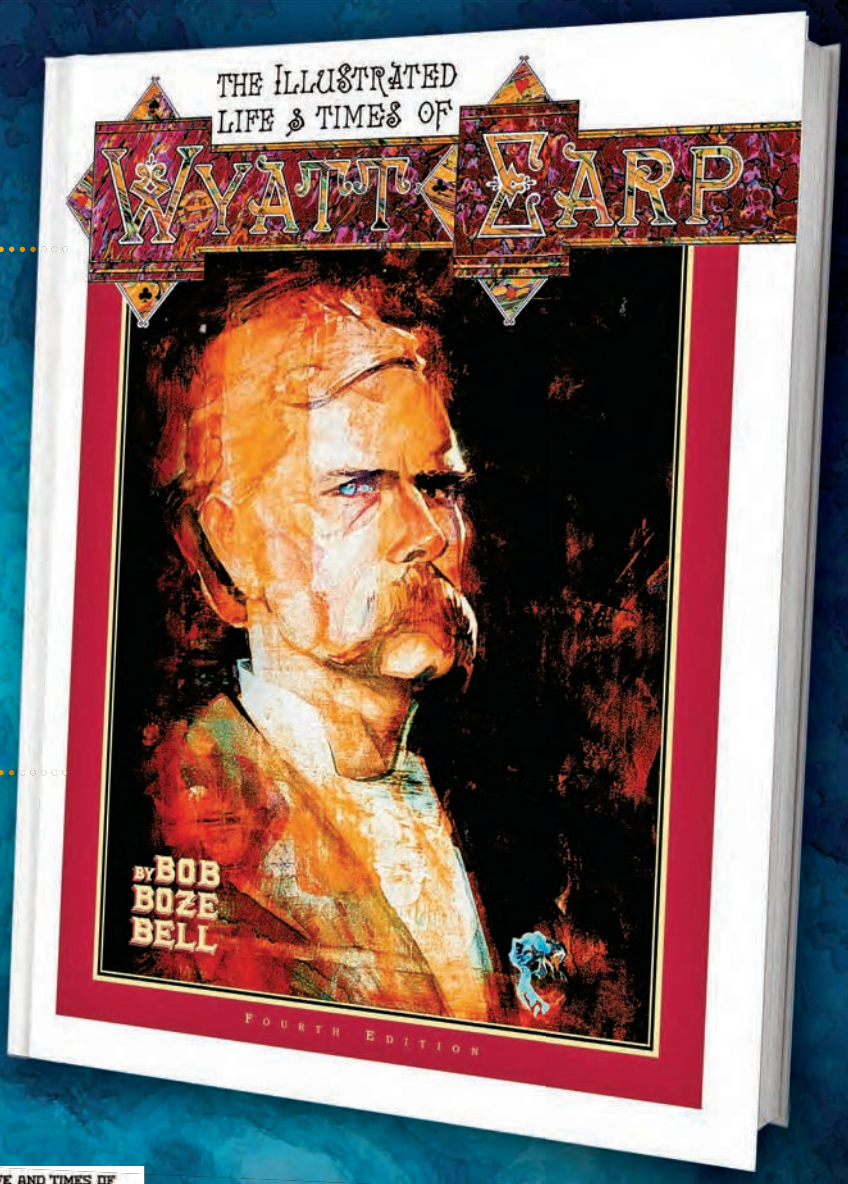

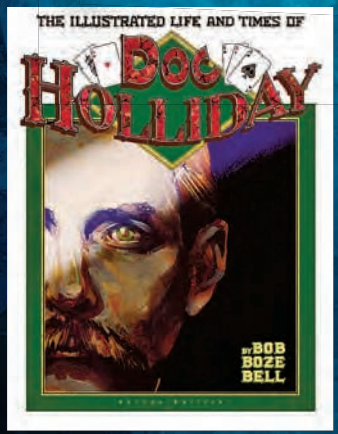

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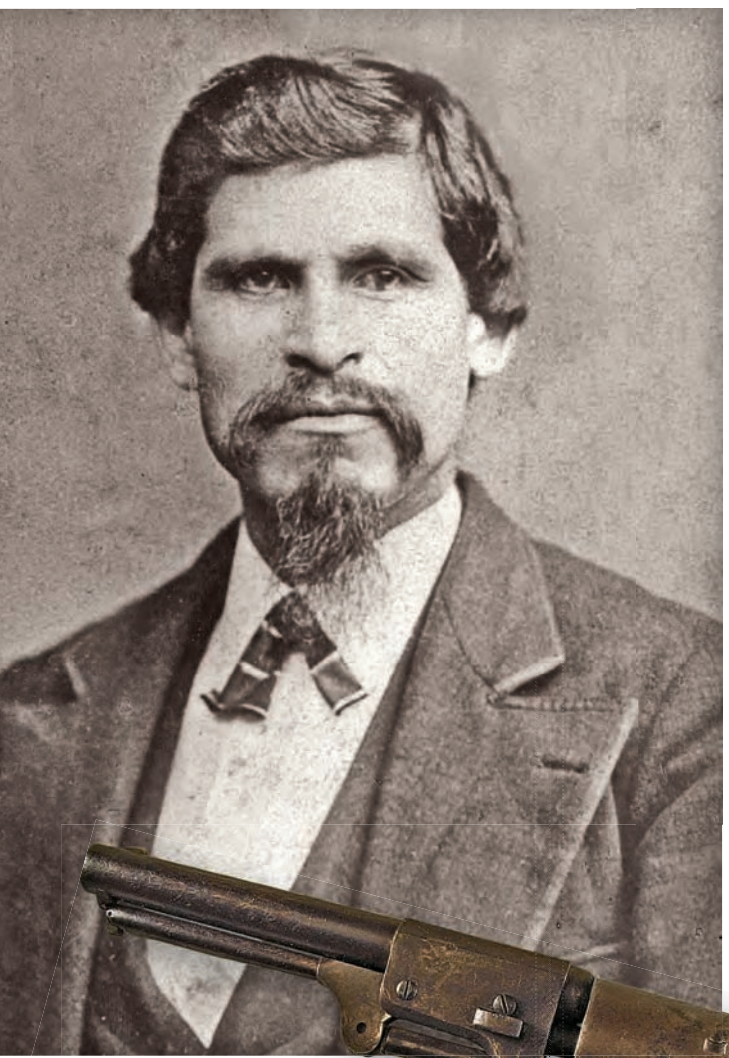
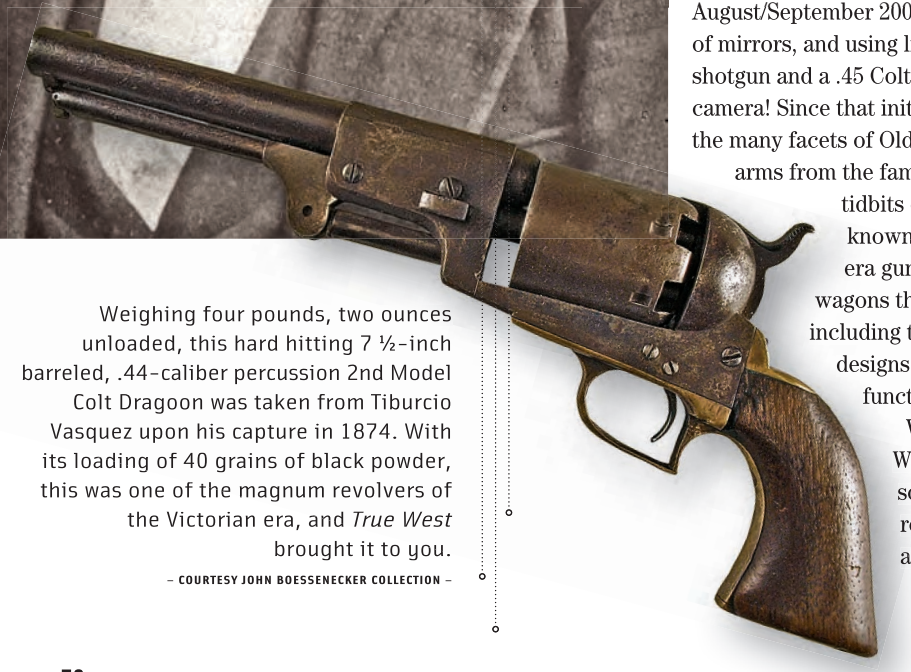
TRUE WEST

FIREARMS

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER





Weighing four pounds, two ounces unloaded, this hard hitting 7 ½-inch barreled, .44-caliber percussion 2nd Model Colt Dragoon was taken from Tiburcio Vasquez upon his capture in 1874. With its loading of 40 grains of black powder, this was one of the magnum revolvers of the Victorian era, and *True West* brought it to you.

– COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER COLLECTION –

True West's Tales of the Gun

Through the years, True West *has been at the forefront of covering the "hardware" of the American frontier.*

From its earliest issues 65 years ago, *True West* has consistently recognized the importance of firearms in taming the American West—covering the shootin' irons used by the good, the bad and the ugly. I'm pleased to have been able to continue this tradition through my monthly columns and various features. Saddle up with me as we ride the back trails of my endeavors to keep these pages loaded with the latest facts of the "hardware" of the Old West.

My first "Shooting from the Hip" writings back in the August/September 2003 issue revealed how, through the use of mirrors, and using live ammunition, a double-barreled shotgun and a .45 Colt revolver was fired—straight into the camera! Since that initial column I have attempted to cover the many facets of Old West guns, gunleather, and related arms from the famous to the infamous, along with sharing tidbits of information that you may not have known about the most recognizable frontier-era guns. I've also inked about several smoke wagons that are perhaps somewhat unknown, including those representing the most successful designs to gimmicky guns whose design and function left much to be desired.

We've showcased firearms from the real West—and how to safely enjoy shooting some of them—along with those from the reel West. We've offered pieces on the actual guns of such colorful characters as

John Wayne's first silver screen six-gun wasn't a Peacemaker Colt, rather it was this nickel-plated, cartridge conversion, New Model 1861 Remington Army revolver, with its distinctive diamond-cut pattern on each side of the octagonal barrel. It was packed by a young Duke in the 1930 epic film *The Big Trail*. *True West* was the first magazine to report on this historic revolver.

–COURTESY AL FRISCH, HOLLYWOOD GUNS & PROPS –

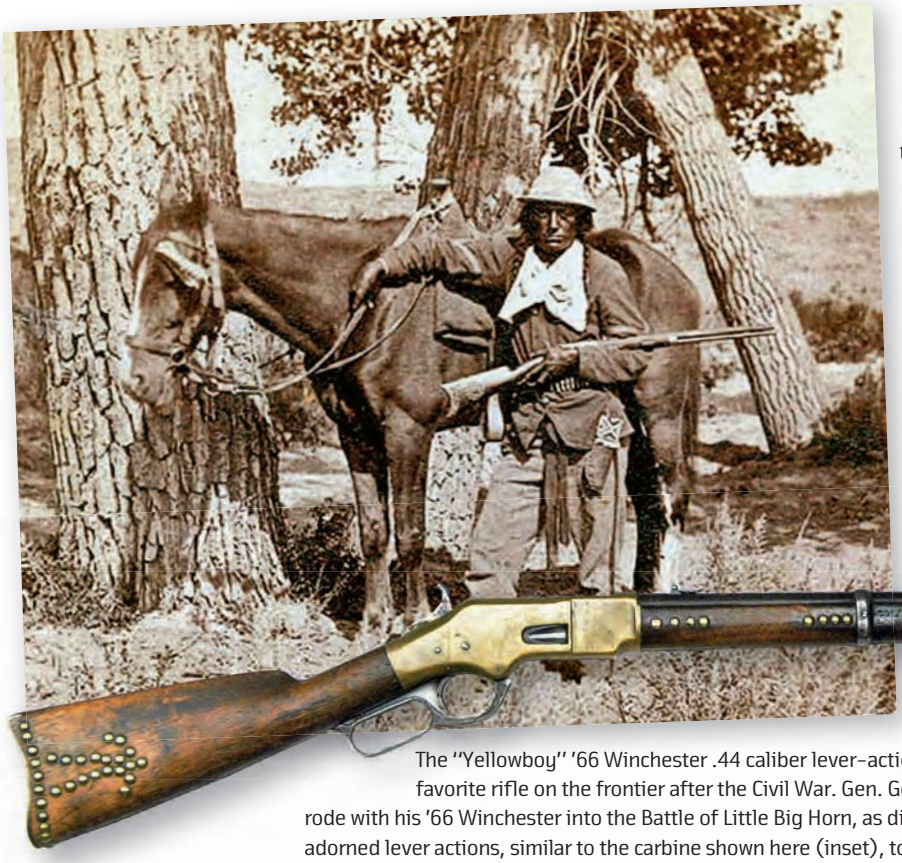
Although outlaw Frank James started riding the "owl hoot trail" with percussion black powder revolvers, in his later years he packed a Colt 1903 Hammerless .32 ACP Pocket Auto, similar to the one shown here, to defend his life. *True West* told its story.

–FRANK JAMES PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, COLT 1903 COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION –

Californio bandito Tiburcio Vasquez's Colt Dragoon (August 2011 issue), the April 2012 coverage of John Wesley Hardin's arsenal, and Frank James's last pistol (February 2017)—to name a few. We went to the movies, and looked at the guns used in such hit films as *Hidalgo* (March 2004), the classic 1950 film *Winchester '73* (June 2006), and in the May 2011 issue, we visited the replica guns of the remake of *True Grit*. Speaking of true grit, we shared information on John Wayne's first silver screen six-gun in his 1930 oater *The Big Trail*, in the May 2016 issue. Back in April 2014, Fess Parker's "Ol' Betsy," the flintlock actually used by the actor in the Disney movie and TV series about Davy Crockett, was featured. We've even shared interesting trivia about some of the famous movie guns yours truly played outlaw with in the DVD Western *Vengeance Trail* (January/February 2007).

This column has trekked beyond those arms that burn powder to cover edged weapons, such as Bowie knives (new and old: September 2013 and September 2014, respectively), Indian arms such as tomahawks and bows (June and October 2015, respectively), even tacked firearms (January 2015), while also relating stories of the use of frontier weaponry. For example, the August 2015 issue tells how a replica of the minuscule Remington-Elliot Single Shot Derringer saved the day for a modern-day undercover law-enforcement officer and put down a bad guy for keeps! More recently, in the April and September 2017 issues of *True West*, we told of the hardships of life on the buffalo range, and how frontier cavalrymen employed the 1873 Colt and the 1875 S&W Schofield six-guns.

This column has also shown guns as art in unique uses, as in the likeness of the 1851 Navy Colt revolver decor used



to embellish the Colt workmen's entrance to Hartford, Connecticut's Church of the Good Shepherd, built by Elizabeth Colt in honor of her late husband, Samuel Colt (April 2004).

I'm especially proud to have shared these stories with other *True West* readers and am grateful that the editors have given me an open range on which to write about the fascinating guns and gear of our frontier past. We've got lots more in store for you, so keep reading *True West*. We'll be shooting a lot more gun stories in your direction...and, rest assured, I'll be shooting from the hip!

The "Yellowboy" '66 Winchester .44 caliber lever-action succeeded the Henry rifle as a favorite rifle on the frontier after the Civil War. Gen. George Custer's Arikara scout Bloody Knife rode with his '66 Winchester into the Battle of Little Big Horn, as did his Indian enemies, who used tack-adorned lever actions, similar to the carbine shown here (inset), to help defeat the 7th Cavalry.

– PHOTO & FIREARM-COURTESY GLEN SWANSON COLLECTION –

TRUE WEST'S BACK ISSUES

If any of the stories mentioned in this column caught your sights, or perhaps you are a new subscriber, you may want to order one of our back issues. Besides the articles cited above, each issue contains exciting true stories of the Old West and the West of today, where the heritage of our frontier past is celebrated in towns throughout the country. We're proud that *True West* is one of the most collectible history magazines in the world, with back issues selling for as high as $300. See the complete collection of available back issues online at the *True West* store. As of this writing, copies of the cited issues are in stock.

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READERS' CHOICE:
Old West Reproductions, Florence, MT

BEST FIREARM ENGRAVER

Jim Downing, The Gun Engraver Springfield, MO

For 35 years, Jim Downing has built an international reputation of excellence in hand work with his gravermeister tool on metal blades and firearm metals from his shop in the Commercial Street National Historic District of Springfield, Missouri. Downing's philosophy of artisanship defines the excellence of the artisan's work: "The art of gun engraving will take a lifetime to master but I have time, patience and perseverance, and look forward to being an old-timer among this very elite group of artisans." *TheGunEngraver.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
A&A Engraving, Rapid City, SD

BEST COWBOY ACTION PISTOL

Taylor's Smokewagon, Winchester, VA

Taylor's & Co.'s exclusive second generation stagecoach-style, single-action revolver, The Smoke Wagon, has a blue finish with a case-hardened frame, and a thin, richly detailed, checkered grip for comfort and improved aim. The Smoke Wagon is an

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The 1873 Winchester (inset, owned by Comanche leader Quanah Parker) became a weapon of choice for lawmen and outlaws, including Cherokee statesman/outlaw Ned Christie (above), who died in a shootout with lawmen in 1892.

– FIREARM-PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM/PHOTO-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

exclusive, trademarked sidearm of the Winchester, Virginia, firearm company. The deluxe Smoke Wagon includes custom tuning, a custom hammer and base pin springs, a trigger pull set at three pounds, jig-cut, positive angles on all triggers and sears for crisp, reliable action, and a wire bolt spring.
TaylorsFirearms.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Ruger's Vaquero, Fairport, NY

BEST COWBOY ACTION RIFLE

Uberti's 1873 Winchester, Accokeek, MD

Known worldwide as "the rifle that won the West," the Winchester 1873 Rifle and Carbine is manufactured by Uberti in seven distinctive models, including an Uberti 1873 Carbine, Uberti 1873 Special Sporting Rifle, Uberti 1873 Trapper and Uberti 1873 Half Octagon Rifle.
Uberti.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Marlin's 1895 Cowboy, Madison, NC

BEST ACTION SHOTGUN

Cimarron Firearms' 1887 Lever Action Terminator, Fredericksburg, TX

Modeled after an original in the Cimarron Firearms private collection, the five-shot smoothbore 1887 Lever Action Terminator repeating shotgun first went on sale in the spring of 1888. The shotgun quickly became a favorite of law-enforcement officers across the West.

FIREARMS

Today's Cimarron 1887 Lever Action Terminator is available in either a 22-, or 28-inch round blued barrel, a color case hardened receiver, in 12 gauge and capable of handling 2¾-inch shotshells. *Cimarron-Firearms.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Century Arms' 1887 Lever Action Shotgun, Delray Beach, FL

BEST SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

Shiloh Sharps' 1874 Long Range Express, Big Timber, MT

The Shiloh Sharps 1874 Long Range Express is one of nine models of 1874 Shiloh Sharps rifle reproductions offered by the company. Every model can be customized individually, in several calibers, four grades of wood, multiple wood finishes, barrel length, weight and features—every minor detail and accessory a gun owner could want or imagine. *ShilohRifle.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Uberti's 1885 High Wall Rifle Accokeek, MD

BEST COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE

Navy Arms' 1873 Winchester Martinsburg, WV

To celebrate its first century of excellence, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West is proud to partner with Navy Arms and Winchester Firearms to re-create the famed Winchester "Centennial Model" 1873 lever-action rifle. Navy Arms—the company that launched the replica- firearms industry—worked with Winchester, the original maker, for the production of just 200 exhibition models and 1,000 presentation models. One hundred percent of the profits from the sale of these two models will go to the mission of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and the Cody Firearms Museum.

CodyGun.com/NavyArms.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Navy Arms' 1873 Winchester Martinsburg, WV

WESTERN MOVIES
DVDs & TV SHOWS

BY HENRY C. PARKE

The Aging Tough Guy

The one notable theme that has emerged from this year's short list of Westerns is the tale of the aging tough guy or, less sentimentally, the "Geezer Redemption Story."

The aging screen cowboy is not a new phenomenon. Yet for years, he was treated with far too little dignity. Many of the bit players in the 1930s and 1940s B-Westerns had been stars during the silent days. This dishearteningly common trend continued during the 1950s, when fans saw childhood heroes, including Bob Steele and Tom Tyler, play uncredited henchmen and stagecoach drivers. Of course, these roles allowed sentimental filmmakers to throw a little money their way; but when recognized in the bit part, the faded star felt humiliated in front of his fans.

Then came Sam Peckinpah's *Ride the High Country* (Warner Archive), in 1962, where 60ish stars

The Western Star

Sam Elliott made a name for himself as a Western star—debuting in the classic *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and playing a grizzled frontiersman in the period Western *Tombstone* and in the modern-day *The Big Lebowski*. *The Hero* plays off Elliott's real-life acting career, about an aging cowboy whose glory days are behind him, except he is not relegated to barbecue sauce ads like his character: he still lands major roles. His latest is in a musical remake starring Lady Gaga, due out in 2018, and you can catch Elliott on Ashton Kutcher's comedy Netflix series, *The Ranch*.

– COURTESY THE ORCHARD –

Joel McCrea and Randolph Scott, at the end of their careers, not only carried the picture handsomely, but also established the underlying theme of all such movies: a character sets out to make things right before he dies, often with a willingness to die to accomplish this feat. The appeal to an older actor is irresistible, offering a chance to play a part that values age and experience, instead of a throwaway role. For mature movie audiences, these films offered a cast with familiarity and shared—if imagined—experience, and the vicarious thrill of not feeling marginalized themselves.

Though an acknowledged classic today, critics overlooked *Ride the High Country* in its own time, and the theme lay dormant, except when played for laughs as in 1969's *The Over-the-Hill Gang*, until it was revived magnificently in 1976, in Don Siegel's *The Shootist* (Paramount), in which John Wayne, then 69, closed his career playing a dying lawman.

In 2012, Ernest Borgnine, then making what would be his final film, *The Man Who Shook the Hand of Vicente Fernandez*, told *True West*, "It's a Western, but it takes place in a nursing home."

Borgnine played a man recovering from a stroke, and having to stare down a gang of assisted-living scooter-riding thugs, the lead villain played by Western stalwart Barry Corbin. Remarkably, the story shaved years off Borgnine's age, putting him in his 80s, instead of his true age of 95!

In 2017, the Westerns genre featured a bumper crop of these films. In *The Hero*, the in-demand 73-year-old movie icon Sam Elliott plays fictional Western movie icon Lee Hayden. He's been reduced to narrating barbecue sauce ads when he receives two pieces of life-changing news: he has cancer, and he's getting a lifetime achievement award from a fan organization. His stoned acceptance speech goes viral, creating a chance for a comeback, a romance and a possible reconciliation with his neglected daughter (Krysten Ritter). Elliott's restrained, but raw, performance has earned him serious talk of an Oscar win.

San Antonio native and Comanche Gil Birmingham graduated from his Texas Ranger role opposite Jeff Bridges in 2016's *Hell or High Water* to playing the grieving dad, wearing a face-painted death mask (at right), as his friend and wildlife tracker Cory (played by Jeremy Renner, at left) attempts to find the killer in the modern-day reservation mystery Western *Wind River*.

– BY FRED HAYES / WEINSTEIN COMPANY –

"Realism is a thing," insisted 91-year-old Harry Dean Stanton, as the title character in the modern-day cowboy Western *Lucky*. The ancient realist lives in a small desert town, surrounded by numerous casual friends, but no close ones or family, and he's growing to fear his slow-coming demise.

Much of the story and character comes from Stanton's life, even the fact that he was a Navy cook in the Pacific during WWII. Although the setting looks like Arizona, only two days were shot there; the rest was in Los Angeles, California, to avoid making Stanton travel.

With a strong supporting cast, including James Darren, Ed Begley Jr. and Tom Skerritt, the movie is an amusing and moving character study that might just earn a posthumous Oscar for Stanton, who died shortly before the film's September release.

In the only period film of the group, and a more direct descendant of *Ride the High Country* and *The Shootist*, Lance Henriksen stars in *Gone Are the Days* as Taylon, a one-time bank robber who hopes one more score will allow him to make things right for a young woman who doesn't know she's his daughter.

"Taylon is dying, but he's not giving up," Henriksen tells *True West*. "He'd done it all, and he regretted every minute of it, on the one hand. And on the other hand, he prided himself that he was still around. When I read the script, I said, 'Oh my God, this has an element of Buster Keaton in it—it's so physical.' Because of the long passages where I'm all alone. There's that feeling of being trapped in a great silence."

WESTERN MOVIES
DVDs & TV SHOWS

A star for decades, Henriksen also feels, like Taylon did, the sting of age. "I'm 77, and I don't feel no 77. The only thing that's changed is my hair got grey. And suddenly, people dismiss you. They're not interested; there's nothing to gain from talking to you."

Looking ahead, coming sometime in 2018, 81-year-old Oscar winner Robert Redford will star in *Old Man and the Gun*, playing a real-life outlaw who busted out of San Quentin and, at 79, robbed banks near his retirement community.

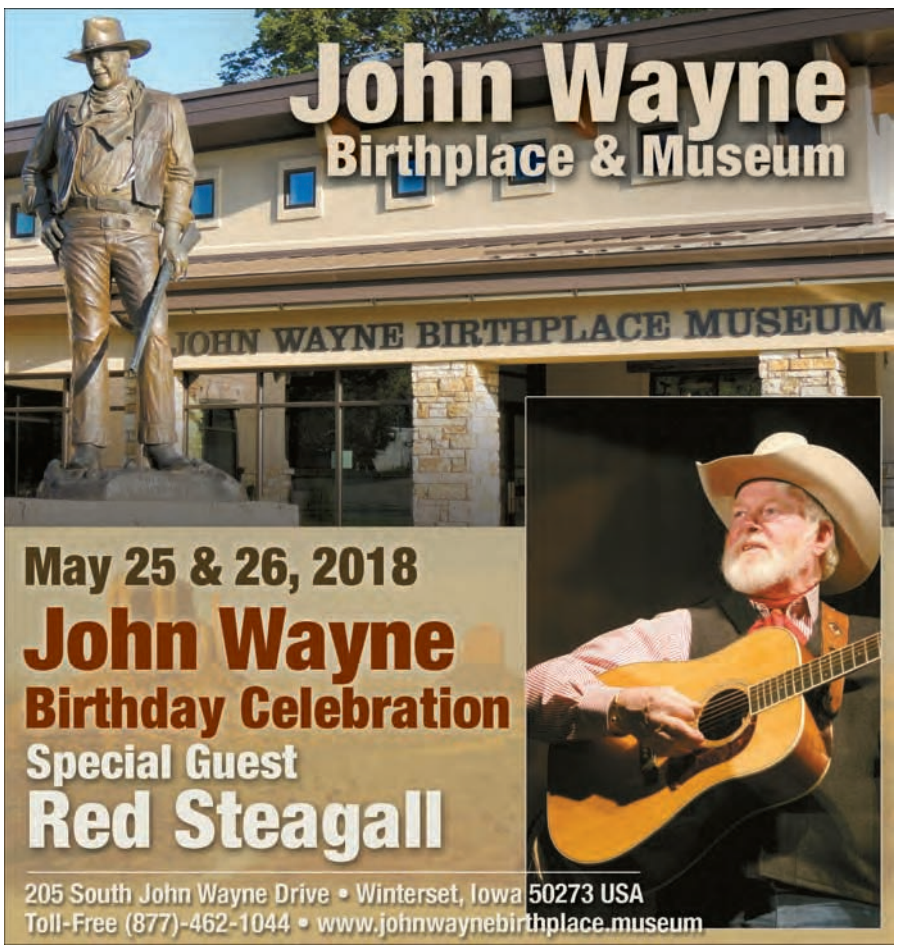
The film industry's change of heart about its aging actors is heartening for fans and critics to see. Rather than just charitably throw old hands a bone, filmmakers throw them roles that, as with *Ride the High Country*, provide elegant cappers to fine careers.

Like all years, 2017 was also a year of losing incredible people in the Western movie community, including, as noted in the pages of *True West*, Powers Boothe and Sam Shepard. Singer, guitarist and *True Grit* star Glen Campbell also died, after sharing his battle with Alzheimer's disease more publicly than any prominent figure since President Ronald Reagan. With the support of his family, he played and performed, magnificently, until the end of his ability.

Also silenced was Alessandro Alessandroni, the composer and guitarist best remembered as the whistler in the theme of 1964's *A Fistful of Dollars* and 1968's *Once Upon a Time in the West*, among his so many other Euro-Western scores.

Bill Paxton died unexpectedly, from complications due to surgery, at the age of 61. He embraced the frontier West in his roles as Frank James (1994's *Frank and Jesse*) and Morgan Earp (1993's *Tombstone*), and more recently, the native Texan set foot in 1836 Texas as the legendary Sam Houston in 2015's *Texas Rising*. He understood the true heartbeat of Hollywood, saying, "I don't care how much hardware you throw at an audience. If they are not emotionally invested in the thing, it's zero."

Taking a cue from Paxton, here are the best Westerns of the year that elevated the story to the next level and got us all emotionally invested.



BEST WESTERN MOVIE

Wind River

Taylor Sheridan, who wrote *Hell or High Water*, which won *True West's* award for best Western movie last year, wrote and directed this year's *Wind River* (Weinstein Company). When a particularly brutal rape-murder is discovered in the snowy recesses of the "rez," urban FBI agent Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen) joins forces with tracker and predator-hunter Cory Lambert (Jeremy Renner). Grim, but with brains and heart, the film features a fine cast of indigenous actors, including Graham Greene, Tantoo Cardinal and Gil Birmingham.

BEST TV WESTERN

The Son

Philipp Meyer's bestselling novel about the building of a Texas ranching and oil dynasty, seen through the eyes of patriarch Eli McCullough (Jacob Lofland as a boy and Pierce Brosnan as a man), first as a captive, then as a titan, is by turns a beautiful postcard and a visceral assault on the viewer. Wonderfully written, directed and performed, this AMC series is the most original TV Western since *Lonesome Dove*. Season Two is in the works!

READERS' CHOICE:

Underground *(WGN America)*

BEST TV REALITY WESTERN

The Cowboy Way: Alabama

Returning for Season Two on January 4, 2018, this INSP series about three Alabama cowboy ranchers is an unassuming and unexpected charmer. Bubba, Cody and Booger each have their own specialties—carpentry, rodeo and horse-training respectively—and are partners in a cattle company. Contrasted by obviously staged "reality" shows, the naturalness of the trio and their families is striking, and the day-to-day struggles of their work is educational and highly entertaining.

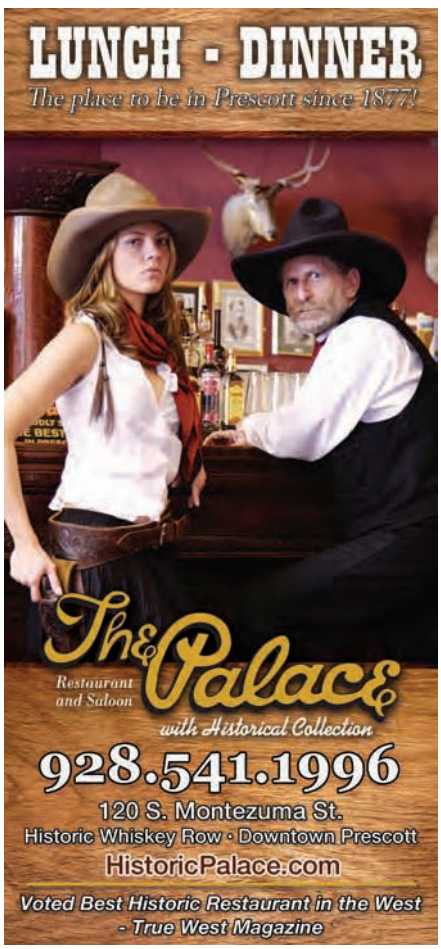
READERS' CHOICE:

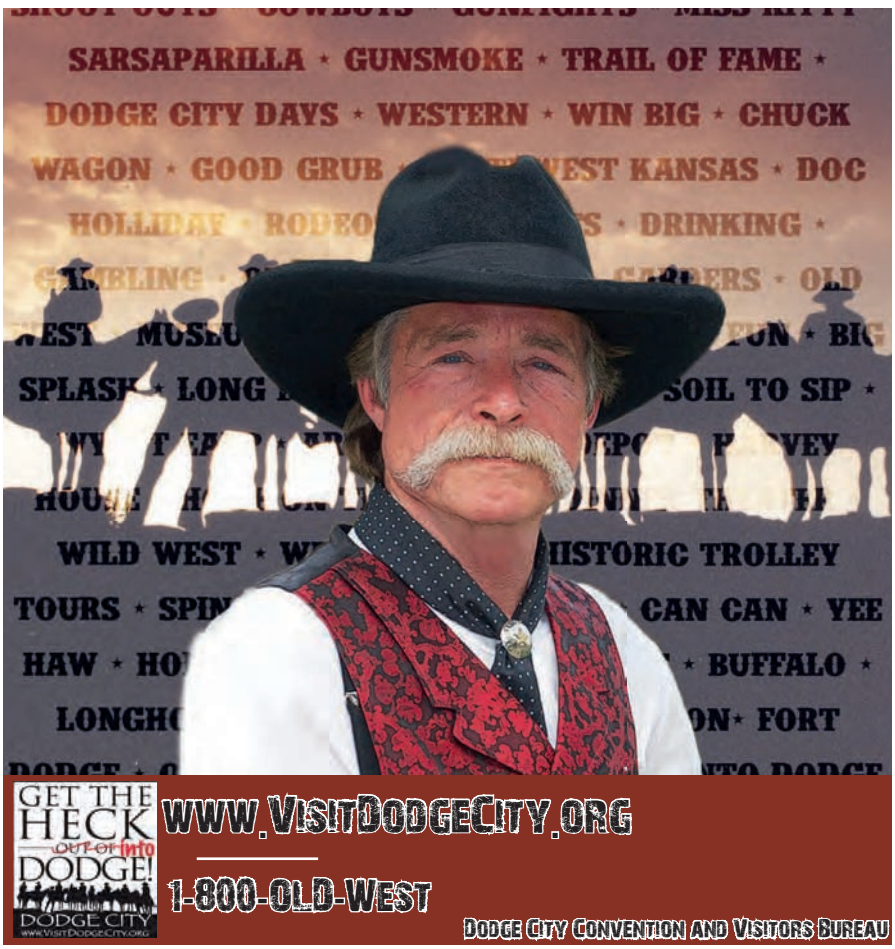
Gold Fever *(Outdoor Channel)*

BEST WESTERN MOVIE BLU-RAY

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Everything you could possibly want related to this final film in Sergio Leone's "Man With No Name" trilogy is found on these two discs released for the 50th anniversary by Kino Lorber, including the theatrical cut, the 17-minute extended cut, deleted scenes, composer Ennio Morricone featurettes, three commentaries and a slew





Audie Murphy's vengeful deputy turned around the thinking of Dan Duryea's depraved gunslinger in 1954's *Ride Clear of Diablo*.

– COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES –

of documentaries, including reminiscences by Producer Alberto Grimaldi and stars Clint Eastwood and Eli Wallach.

READERS' CHOICE:
Hannie Caulder
(Olive Films)

BEST WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

Audie Murphy Westerns Collection

In honor of Universal finally jumping on the Technicolor bandwagon 75 years ago, the win for 2017 goes to this collection of gorgeous Technicolor Universal Oaters. The set showcases Audie Murphy's development into a convincing and enjoyable actor in the Jimmy Stewart-Henry Fonda-Gary Cooper mold. Murphy's acting talents were rarely appreciated; since he was one of the most decorated American hero of WWII, folks assumed that's why he got the part. Of course, they're right. These Westerns will convince you he deserved the parts. As a horse breaker falsely accused of murder in 1950's *Sierra*, an American Indian hater-turned-peacemaker in 1954's *Drums Across the River* and as an on-the-lam bank robber impersonating a lawman in 1958's *Ride a Crooked Trail*, Murphy shines. Each film has strong supporting casts, and his byplay with costar Dan Duryea, in 1954's *Ride Clear of Diablo*, is a particular pleasure.

READERS' CHOICE:
Monogram Cowboy Collection, Volume 9: Johnny Mack Brown
(Warner Archive)

BEST TV DVD

The Westerner

Viewers who only know Brian Keith from pablum like CBS's *Family Affair* will be amazed to see how tough he could be in Sam Peckinpah's series that aired on NBC in 1960. Spun off of *Zane Grey Theatre* (and the pilot is included), the 13-episode series, on this DVD released by Shout! Factory, sets the tone for Peckinpah's features and contains some of Western TV's finest half-hours. Even better, four Peckinpah biographers provide excellent commentary!

READERS' CHOICE:
Paradise: The Complete First Season (Warner Archive)

BEST SILENT WESTERN RELEASE

The Cowboy and the Flapper

Handsome, muscular William Fairbanks, a largely forgotten leading man of silent Westerns, stars in this breezily entertaining story about a lawman who infiltrates a notorious gang, but must risk blowing his cover to free a woman (Dorothy Revier) who has wandered into their midst. The Library of Congress doesn't have a record of any surviving copies, so kudos to Grapevine Video for finding what must have been a collector's copy to allow all of us to enjoy this 1924 silent Western that provides a rare chance to see Fairbanks and Revier in action.

READERS' CHOICE:
Something New
(Alpha Video)

BEST WESTERN DOCUMENTARY

Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation

Lacrosse, the game invented by the Iroquois to entertain the creator, is the "Spirit Game" of the title. The film released by XLrator Media exuberantly tells the story of the 1980s creation of the Iroquois Nationals, the group's struggle to be recognized as a national team and, in 2014,

WESTERN MOVIES
DVDs & TV SHOWS

This year's best Western documentary, *Spirit Game*, dramatizes reuniting a sport with one of its tribal creators. The game of lacrosse was memorialized (above) by artist George Catlin, who witnessed the Choctaws playing this ball game in Indian Territory in 1834.

– COURTESY SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF MRS. JOSEPH HARRISON, JR., 1985.66.428A –

the accomplishment of hosting the first-ever International Lacrosse Championship on a reservation. Although the film centers on an Eastern tribe, the Iroquois, lacrosse is a 500-year-old sacred contest that historically conditioned American Indian warriors for battle and helped settle intertribal conflicts. Full of triumph, frustration and hope, this film proves you don't need to know the game to love the story.

READERS' CHOICE:
Dawson City: Frozen Time (Kino Lorber)

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

WILD BILL HICKOK AND THE O.K. CORRAL

Fresh takes on an iconic real-life Westerner and an iconic Western gunfight were added to the annals of the Cinematic West in 2017.

Luke Hemsworth took on the role of legendary gunslinger "Wild Bill" Hickok, opposite Kris Kristofferson's fictional Mayor George Knox.

Before filming *Hickok*, the Australian-born Hemsworth knew outlaw Ned Kelly better than the Westerner he came to identify as a "dirty cop." To bring Hickok to life on the screen, Hemsworth tried to find "his humanity, what drove him, and the parts that held him back–his foils."

Meanwhile, filmmaker Alex Cox set out to explain the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral. He took inspiration from Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, 1952's Best Foreign Film Oscar winner. "It's one story told several times from different perspectives, the idea being that you don't know which one is the truth," Cox says.

For his *Tombstone: Rashomon*, the perspectives come from newspaper interviews, letters and "transcriptions of the coroner's report and of Judge Spicer's hearing: [saloon owner Roderick] Hafford, Wyatt Earp, Ike Clanton and Johnny Behan all gave testimony," Cox says.

The premise of his movie is explained in the film's opening title: "On 27 October, 1881, a time-traveling video crew arrived in Tombstone, Arizona, to film the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Realizing they were a day late, they started interviewing the survivors."

As with the Kurosawa film, *Tombstone: Rashomon* provides no final answers, but the Western does give the viewer a wide array of testimony to sift through.

I've watched it three times: I still don't know who's telling the truth, but I know which ones are liars.

Hickok is already out on DVD, while Cox's film is due out on DVD in 2018.

– COURTESY ALEX COX –

The anti-Earp Cow-Boy faction in *Tombstone: Rashomon*.

WESTERN WEAR

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

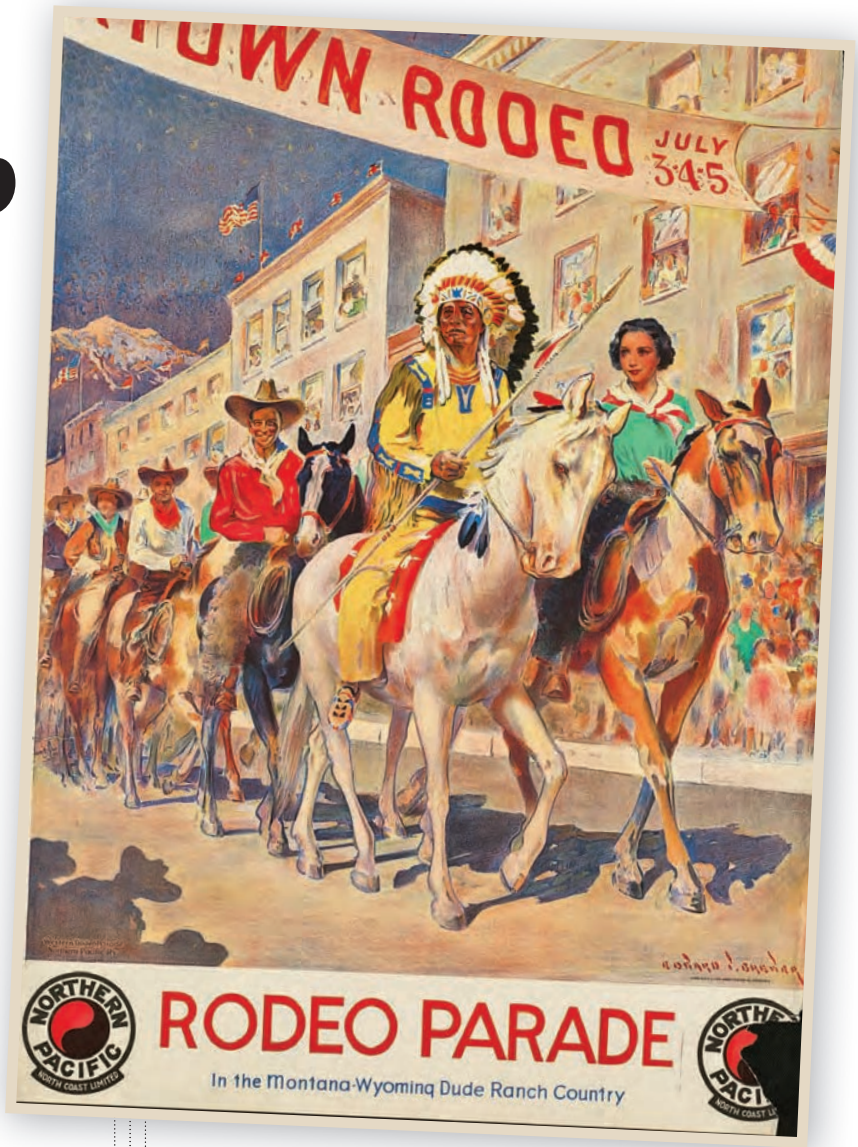
Time to Cowboy Up

Artisans keep the spirit of the Old West alive in their custom clothing, tack and jewelry.

For 65 years, *True West*'s editors and contributors have written about the men and women across the country who work hard every day to keep the spirit of the Old West alive, including the artisans of Western wear and tack.

From small towns to big cities, artisans of hats, boots, clothes, saddles, leather gear, spurs and silver have shared their expertise and been profiled in the pages of *True West*. Many of these artisans are multi-generational family operations and have been making and selling gear for a century or more. The businesses they have managed are cornerstones of their communities, and *True West*'s editors consider them "Old West saviors." Without these dedicated men and women, who pass on their knowledge and traditional arts and crafts from generation to generation, many of the traditions of our Western past—and the skills and gear working cowboys and cowgirls depend on to ranch and farm—would be lost to time.

At *True West*, we honor and celebrate Western artisans who have worked the past 65 years to keep the spirit of the Old West alive through their Western wear stores, trading posts, custom tack, boot and hat shops. We encourage our readers to support these small business owners, and whether you shop on Main Street while traveling the great byways of the American West, or you stop by on the Internet, please take a moment to say thanks to those whose artisanship keeps the Old West alive.



When towns across the West host Fourth of July parades it is time for participants and attendees to get duded up and wear their finest Western wear, hats, boots and gear. Rail line companies such as the Northern Pacific played a major role in maintaining the romance of the Old West by encouraging travel and tourism to Western states.

– COURTESY BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH COLLECTION –

In 1908, a model posed as what Tin Pan Alley considered a typical Western cowgirl in all her finery, including six-shooter and gun belt, to illustrate the lyrics sheet "Yonkle, the Cow-Boy Jew" by Will J. Harris (lyrics) and Harry I. Robinson (music).

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

BEST WESTERN BOOTMAKER

Lucchese Boots, El Paso, TX

The citizens of San Antonio must have cheered when the Lucchese brothers hung up their boot shop shingle in the Mission City in 1883. The Luccheses' custom boots were affordable and of high quality, and their line of boots quickly gained a superior reputation. Almost 135 years later, Lucchese boots have an international reputation for excellence, style and custom-made affordability.
Lucchese.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Lucchese Boots, El Paso, TX

BEST WESTERN HATMAKER

O'Farrell Western Hats, Santa Fe, NM

For 30 years, O'Farrell Western Hats has handcrafted custom fur felt hats for satisfied customers around the world. With 100 hat styles to choose from, O'Farrell uses Old World techniques in crafting, fitting, styling and shaping each hat with the finest materials available.
OFarrellHatCo.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Tie: Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX *and* **Knudson Hat Co., Golden Gate, CA**

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WESTERN WEAR

In 1900, a Wyoming cowgirl posed on her horse and Western saddle in her finest riding skirt, blouse and hat. She was most likely saddled up to ride in the parade or grand entry of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, which began in 1897.

BEST WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Miller Ranch, Denver, CO

In 1918 Philip Miller traveled to the Great American West on the advice of his doctor, and to sell hats for his family's New York City-based Miller Bros. Hat Company. Phillip Miller's temporary stint in Denver evolved into a much greater journey—a lifelong love of the West and the creation of a Western wear business that survives to this day. The items they now bring to the marketplace are based on the traditions and values that made the Miller name a significant part of the history of the American West.
RockyMountainClothing.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Texas Jacks, Fredericksburg, TX

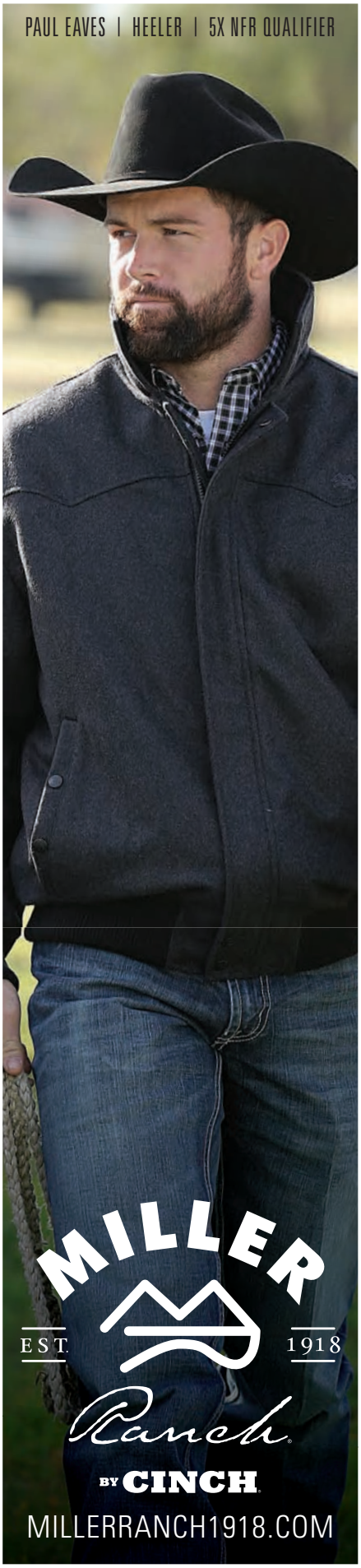
In 1905, an Oklahoma cowboy in his finest "woollies" shows off his trick rope skills for the crew and the photographer.

BEST PERIOD WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Recollections, Hawks, MI

Recollections is a fashion design and manufacturing company located in Hawks, Michigan. The business opened in 1981, concentrating on Victorian era-inspired fashions. Today, Recollections offers more than 1,000 garments and accessories spanning the Victorian era through the 1960s, including styles reflecting the American Old West.
Recollections.biz

READERS' CHOICE:
Michael J. Guli Designs, Bellvue, CO



B. Hall
SEE AMERICA
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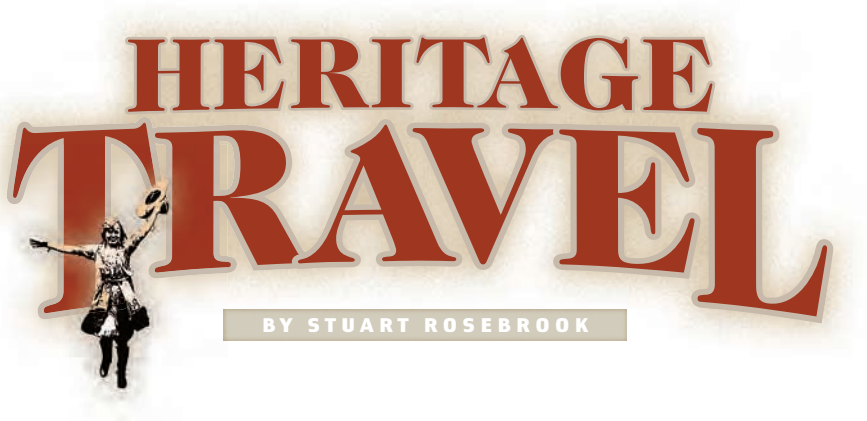
MADE BY WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION - FEDERAL ART PROJECT NYC



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

The Horizon of Adventure

The American West beckons travelers to experience its expansive landscape, diverse history and welcoming people.

Driving across the endless grasslands and cultivated fields of the prairie and plains of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado to the Rocky Mountains, a traveler can let his or her imagination wander and wonder about the days gone by, when the Great Plains were home to millions of bison. Driving between Oakley, Kansas, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, on U.S. Highway 40 and Colorado State Route 94, one can imagine great nomadic Comanche, Cheyenne and Kiowa people trailing the herds with the seasons. With Pike's Peak looming high above the peaks of the now-visible Rockies, the highway climbs up through the foothills into the mountains where byways, back roads and trails lead deep into the legendary, historic range. Without a doubt, adventure awaits those willing to take the road less traveled across the West.

Since 1953, *True West* has honored the men and women in communities, large and small, across the Western United States who have dedicated themselves to preserving history and promoting travel to experience the West firsthand. In honor of our 65th anniversary, the editors of *True West* encourage readers to patronize our Best of the West travel partners and head out West. Take a drive down a blue highway into the heartland of small-town America. Park on Main Street, stroll along a town's historic avenues, visit its museums, explore nearby parks and monuments, dine at its local restaurants and spend the night in a historic hotel.

Between 1936 and 1939, the WPA's New York City Federal Art Project employed Richard Halls and other artists to create the "See America" poster series for the U.S. Travel Bureau to use to promote travel across the United States during the Great Depression.

– SEE AMERICA: WELCOME TO MONTANA BY RICHARD HALLS, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

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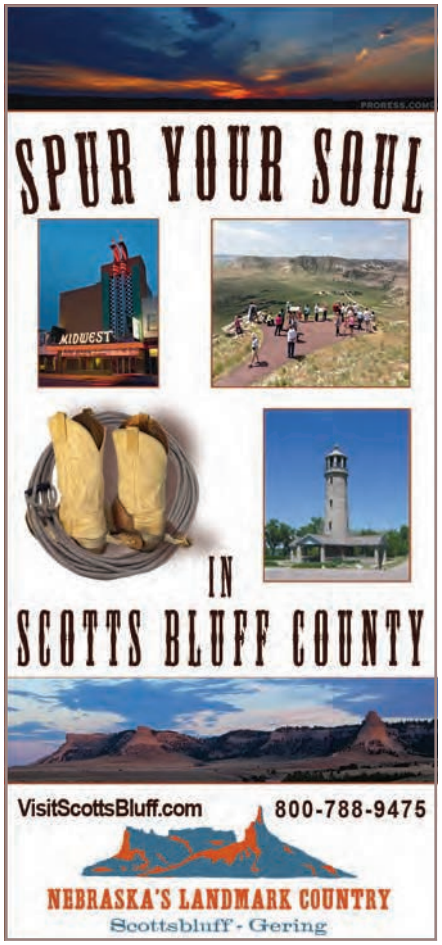


HERITAGE TRAVEL

Winter residents of Fort Worth, Texas, will enjoy the twice-a-day longhorn cattle drives, restaurants, shops and sites in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District.

– CAROL M. HIGHSMITH, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

BEST PLACE TO LIVE LIKE AN OLD WEST COWBOY (WINTER)

Fort Worth, TX

With over 232 days of sunshine and mild temperatures most of the winter months, Fort Worth is a great city for cowboys and cowgirls to hang their hats December to March. A visit or an extended stay to Fort Worth should include tours of the Amon Carter and Sid Richardson museums and the famous Fort Worth Stockyards, as well as a few nights at the world-famous Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, January 12 to February 3, 2018.
FortWorth.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Prescott, AZ

Summer time is a great season to enjoy Sheridan's historic downtown, including the Mint Bar, which has been hosting ranchers and cowboys, tourists and travelers since 1907.

– COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM –

BEST PLACE TO LIVE LIKE AN OLD WEST COWBOY (SUMMER)

Sheridan, WY

In 1882 John D. Loucks founded Sheridan, which he named in honor of his commanding officer in the Civil War. The gateway city to the Big Horn Mountains and Little Big Horn country of Montana, Sheridan became an economic center for the bi-state region after the railroad arrived in 1892. Today, visitors can stay at the fully restored Sheridan Inn, stroll historic downtown and tour the Brinton, Sheridan County and Bozeman Trail museums.
SheridanWyoming.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Deadwood, SD

A WEEKEND AWAY IN SHERIDAN, WYOMING

EXPERIENCE SHERIDAN'S HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS IN 48 WHIRLWIND HOURS

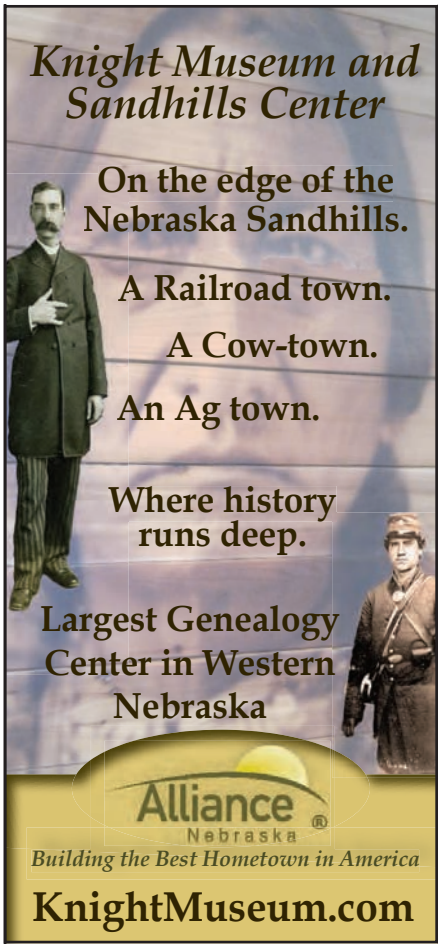
Day 1. Rise and shine in either the "Sitting Bull Room" or "Wild Bill Hickok" suite at the **Sheridan Inn (1) (sheridaninn.com)**, Buffalo Bill Cody's former stomping grounds. Each room at the Inn is unique and named for important figures in Buffalo Bill's life. After breakfast, take a drive to the Little Bighorn National Monument, the site of the crucial 1876 battle between George Armstrong Custer and the Sioux. After, return to town and enjoy the old west marvels at the **Don King Museum (2) (kingssaddlery.com)**. Housing everything from horse-drawn hearses, an incredible old west photo archive, a remarkable collection of saddles, and Indian artifacts, the Don King Museum offers a glimpse at life in the Old West through the years. Before dinner, take a tour of the **Trail End State Historic Site (3) (trailend.co)**. Built in Flemish Revival style, the Trail End mansion provides an elegantly different aspect of Wyoming's rich and colorful history.

Day 2. Rise to beat the crowds of history buffs and tour Indian battle sites and former military posts, including the **Rosebud and Connor Battlefields**, the site of the **Wagon Box Fight**, and finally picturesque **Ft Phil Kearny (fortphilkearny.com)**, located on the historic **Bozeman Trail (5)**. After lunch, plan to spend a few hours exploring **The Brinton Museum (4) (brintonmuseum.org)** in Big Horn for a look at one of the most robust collections of Indian and western artifacts in the West, then shop for a new pair of cowboy boots in **Historic Downtown Sheridan. The Sheridan County Museum** boasts a robust archive of historical images, artifacts and letters, and serves as an excellent exclamation point on your tour. After dinner, kick up your boots on the porch of the Historic Sheridan Inn the way Buffalo Bill once did, and watch the sun set on your time in Sheridan. For more on these, and other adventures in Sheridan, please find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and visit us online at **www.sheridanwyoming.org.**

WYOMING'S EMERALD GEM, SHERIDAN BLENDS QUINTESSENTIAL COWBOY CULTURE, MODERN WEST ALLURE, AND COUNTRY CHARM.

CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF THE SHERIDAN INN

Constructed in 1892 as part of a railway extension program, the Sheridan Inn was the first building in the area furnished with electrical power and bathtubs, giving adventurous travelers a taste of Eastern luxury in the West and was considered the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco. Buffalo Bill Cody frequented the Sheridan Inn as part owner and held auditions for his Wild West Show from the iconic front porch of the Inn.



HERITAGE TRAVEL

The Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska, is one of the state's best living history centers. Costumed docents greet visitors as they tour the park, which includes Henry Fonda's childhood home.

– G. RYAN, COURTESY NEBRASKA TOURISM –

BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN

Tombstone, AZ

Discover legendary Tombstone, known internationally for its stormy and storied past, where walking the streets of Wyatt Earp and "Doc" Holliday and the infamous Gunfight Near the OK Corral is a unique step back into the Old West—a true encounter with history in "The Town Too Tough to Die."

TombstoneChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Dodge City, KS

BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN RE-CREATED

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer Grand Island, NE

A hands-on living history experience tells the story of early town-building in Nebraska. For forty-plus years, the world-class educational center and outdoor living history museum, called a "crossroads in time," has given visitors an authentic glimpse of early prairie town life, while preserving and portraying the pioneers' inspiring stories.

StuhrMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Old Tucson, Tucson, AZ

BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

Scottsdale, AZ

A mecca of the testosterone-driven Western artwork that Santa Fe has abandoned, Old Town Scottsdale boasts galleries and a Museum of the West, returning to its roots as the place to see the best in Western art, bar none. And visit Guidon Books for the best books on Western art.

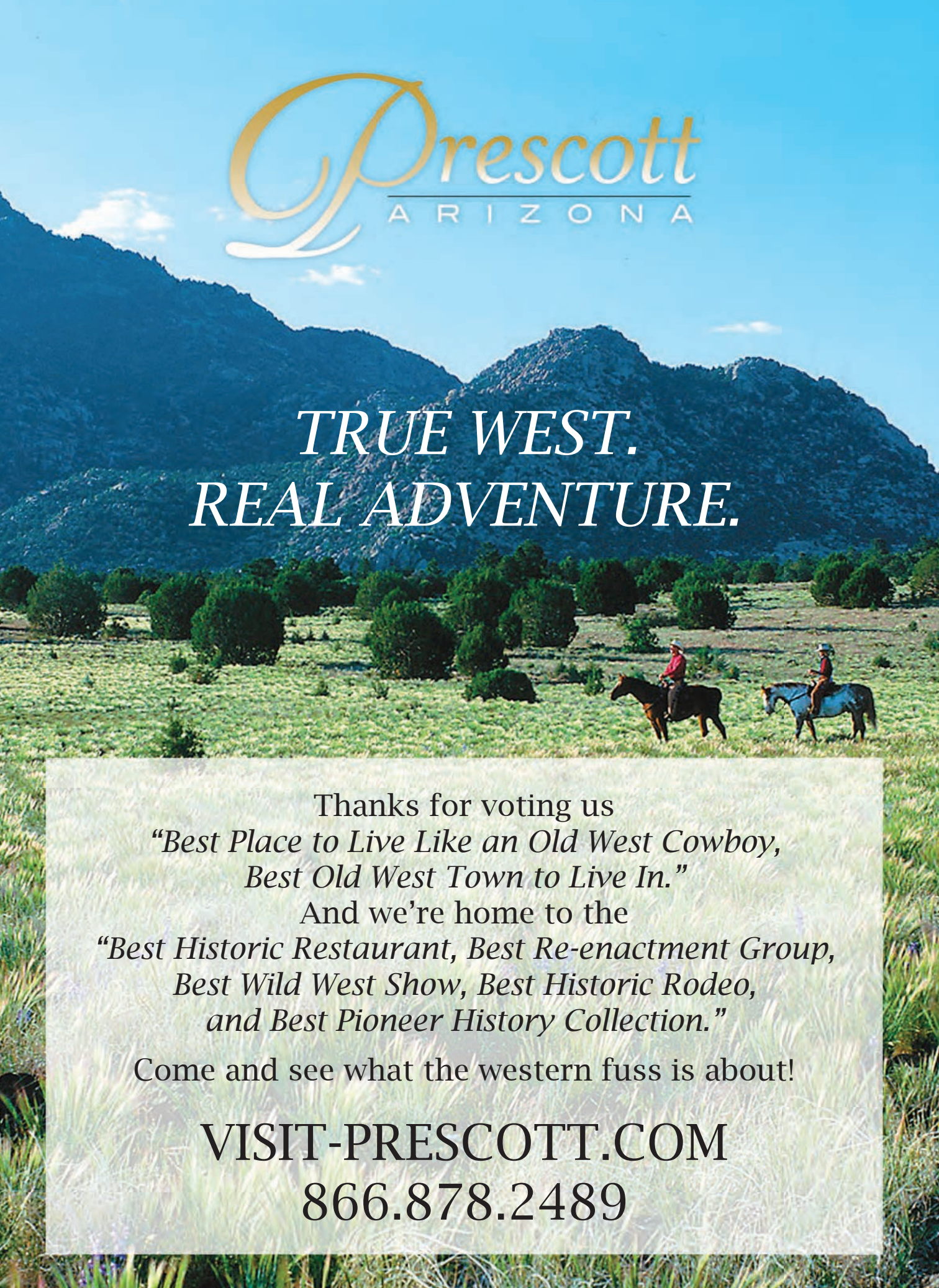
ScottsdaleChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Cody, WY

BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT

Bandera, TX

Ready to escape big-city Texas and rediscover the best of small-town life the cowboy way in the Lone Star State? Then pack your bags for Bandera and get ready for a good time. Book a room at one of the local guest ranches, like the historic Flying L, enjoy a home-cooked meal at The Spanish Trail diner, tour the Frontier Times Museum and shop 'til you drop in Bandera's historic downtown, including the renowned Western Trail Antiques & Marketplace. After the sun goes down in Bandera, visitors can enjoy themselves at numerous restaurants and venues with live country music and dancing. The 12th



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HERITAGE TRAVEL

Historic Tombstone in Arizona's Cochise County is a year round destination for lovers of Old West history and festivals that celebrate the city's infamous heritage.

– COURTESY TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK –

Annual 11th Street Cowboy Mardi Gras, February 1-3, 2018, is an event not to miss. *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Tombstone, AZ

BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN

Dubois, WY

Historic Dubois in the Wind River Valley might be a gateway city to Yellowstone, the Tetons and Jackson Hole, but locals will tell you that it is a destination city for anyone seeking a weekend away or an extended retreat from big-city life. Butch Cassidy once ranched in the area, and legend has it he visited the town regularly and shopped at the historic Welty's General Store, built in downtown in 1899. Visitors to Dubois will enjoy walking, shopping, dining and touring the city's center, much of which was built over a century ago, including the Dubois Museum, Cowboy Café, Tukadeka Traders and Horse Creek Station, Rustic Pine Tavern and Outlaw Saloon. *DuboisWyoming.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Virginia City, MT

BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

Trail of Fame, Dodge City, KS

Sidewalk medallions and statues along Dodge City's Trail of Fame commemorate the city's famous and infamous denizens—and the actors who have portrayed them. Some celebrities have signed and left handprints in the concrete near their medallions. Pick up a map for the free walking tour at the information center. *DodgeCityTrailofFame.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Legends of Laramie, Laramie, WY

BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

Dodge City, KS

Visitors to Dodge City, Kansas, will quickly discover that the infamous frontier outpost is one of best in the West for Old West aficionados. From the Boot Hill Museum to the Dodge City Trail of Fame, tourists will love walking and exploring the historic town while staying at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort. *VisitDodgeCity.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Sheridan, WY

BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN

Tombstone, AZ

Tombstone is in Cochise County in southeastern Arizona within driving distance of multiple historic towns and sites, including Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista and Wilcox. "The town too tough to die," with its historically significant downtown, restaurants, saloons, shops, museums, hotels and annual Old West festivals, is the ideal Western town to live in if you want to live and breathe Western history 365 days of the year.
TombstoneChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Prescott, AZ

BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE WEST

Boot Hill Cemetery, Dodge City, KS

Boot Hill Cemetery has not been an actual cemetery since 1879 (the hill had become too valuable as real estate to bury paupers). In 1947 the Dodge City Junior Rotary started a simple museum on the site and today it is home to the People of the Plains exhibit building and the award-winning Boot Hill Museum. Visitors can walk through an area of re-created headstones and markers that tell about the men and women buried in the old graveyard.
BootHill.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site is a popular living history center along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

– COURTESY COLORADO TOURISM OFFICE –

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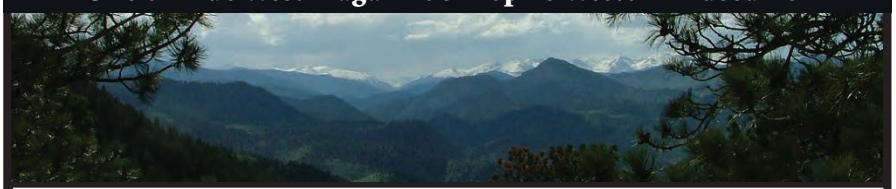
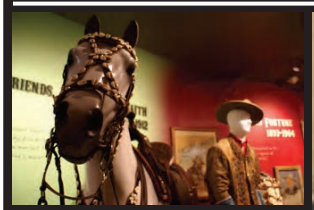
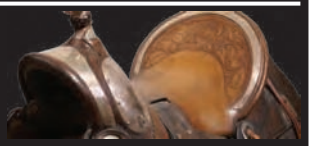

Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave




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HERITAGE TRAVEL

The recently restored Historic Sheridan Inn in Sheridan, Wyoming, hosts the First People's Pow Wow and Dance on its lawn during Sheridan's WYO Rodeo Week.

– COURTESY SHERIDAN TRAVEL & TOURISM –

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST

Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, CO

Bents' Old Fort National Historic Site on the Santa Fe Trail was originally built as a fur-trading post in 1833-34 by brothers Charles and William Bent with Ceran St. Vrain. Today, the reconstructed fort draws visitors to enjoy living history activities and to hear National Park staffers and re-enactors tell its 150-year-old stories.
NPS.gov

READERS' CHOICE:

Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Laramie, WY

BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD OF THE WEST

Georgetown Loop Railroad
Georgetown, CO

Built in 1884, Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad is one of the engineering wonders of the Rocky Mountain state's historic narrow gauge rail lines. Passengers will enjoy the thrill of riding on historic rolling stock pulled by a steam-driven locomotive across the new High Bridge.
GeorgetownLoopRR.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Tie: Cumbres & Toltec, Chama, NM/Antonito, CO
Durango & Silverton Railroad
Durango/Silverton, CO

BEST PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING

Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY

The end of the Johnson County War opened the door to expansion of tourism in Wyoming, including the opening of the Sheridan Inn in 1893. A gathering place for travelers for decades, the inn was completely restored and reopened in 2013. The Sheridan Inn is the perfect headquarters for exploring the Big Horn region of Wyoming and Montana, with 22 fully restored rooms and the renowned Open Range Restaurant on site.
SheridanInn.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

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HERITAGE TRAVEL

The Georgetown Loop Railroad thrills visitors on its three-mile narrow gauge trek over four crossings of Clear Creek, including the Devil's Gate High Bridge.

– COURTESY GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD –

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

Oregon Trail, MO, KS, NE, WY, ID, OR, WA

The National Park Service, in conjunction with regional, state, local and volunteer organizations—including several museums—assists and collaborates in the maintenance of the Oregon National Historic Trail system in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. In 2018, the 175th anniversary of the 2,170-plus-mile emigrant route through seven states will be honored in exhibits and events at museums and sites along the historic wagon road. For details about events, check with local chambers, visitor centers, museums and the national park website.
NPS.gov

READERS' CHOICE:
Chisholm Trail, TX, OK, KS

BEST PRESERVATION EFFORT OF THE WEST

Charles Goodnight House, Claude, TX

The 1887 Victorian-style Charles Goodnight House at the Charles Goodnight Historical Center, has recently been restored on its original site. From the cattle baron's 268-foot second-floor sleeping porch, visitors can enjoy views of the countryside and the famous Goodnight bison herd, which is descended from the herd raised by Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight. While on tour, don't miss the J. Evetts Haley Visitor and Education Center and its exhibits that offer interpretations of regional history.
ArmstrongCountyMuseum.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site, Olathe, KS

BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE" HOTEL

Occidental Hotel, Buffalo, WY

Visitors to Buffalo, Wyoming, should consider spending the night and dining at the Occidental Hotel, where Owen Wister may have written part of his famous novel, *The Virginian*. Famous former guests of the historic hotel include Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Theodore Roosevelt, Calamity Jane, Tom Horn, Buffalo Bill Cody and Ernest Hemingway. While in town, visit the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum's exhibits that chronicle local history, including the Johnson County War. Just outside town is the TA Ranch, a historic guest ranch that was the site of a major conflict during the cattle war. Don't miss Longmire Days every July in celebration of writer Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire mystery novels and television series set in Big Horn Country.
OccidentalWyoming.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Glenwood Springs, CO

BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

Located in the heart of the San Juan Mountains on the banks of the Animas River in southwestern Colorado, Durango is home to the Historic Strater Hotel, a Victorian-era inn built in 1887 in the downtown district. The fully restored hotel is located within walking distance of the world-famous Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, which takes passengers on a breathtaking round-trip ride into

The lobby of the historic Occidental Hotel in Buffalo, Wyoming, (above) is a perfect place to relax when on a heritage tour of Johnson County. Guests can stay in the Owen Wister Suite, named for the famed author, who was a guest in the 1880s.

– COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM –

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Prescott's famous Palace Restaurant and Saloon opened on Montezuma Street in 1874 as the Cabinet Saloon, where Doc Holliday was sure to have been a patron. In 2016, *True West*'s Bob Boze Bell entertained the crowd at the annual Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade (left).

– STUART ROSEBROOK –

The historic 1887 Strater Hotel (right) is a landmark in downtown Durango, Colorado. The famous inn is just two blocks north of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Station, and is home to the ever-popular Henry Strater Theatre.

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HERITAGE TRAVEL

history on the narrow-gauge railroad to Silverton and back. When staying at the Strater Hotel, don't miss dining at the Mahogany Grill, enjoying libations at the hotel's two saloons and taking in a show at the world-famous Henry Strater Theatre. *Strater.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
The Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY

BEST HERITAGE BED & BREAKFAST

A Cowboy's Dream Bed & Breakfast Alamo, NV

"Enter as strangers, leave as friends" is the motto of A Cowboy's Dream Bed & Breakfast, in Alamo, Nevada. Built and founded by Phyllis Frias in honor of her late-husband, Charles Frias, the bed and breakfast is no ordinary B&B, but a unique luxury destination with eight custom suites built in the spirit of the Old West. *CowboysDream.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Concho Hills Guest Ranch, Magdelena, NM

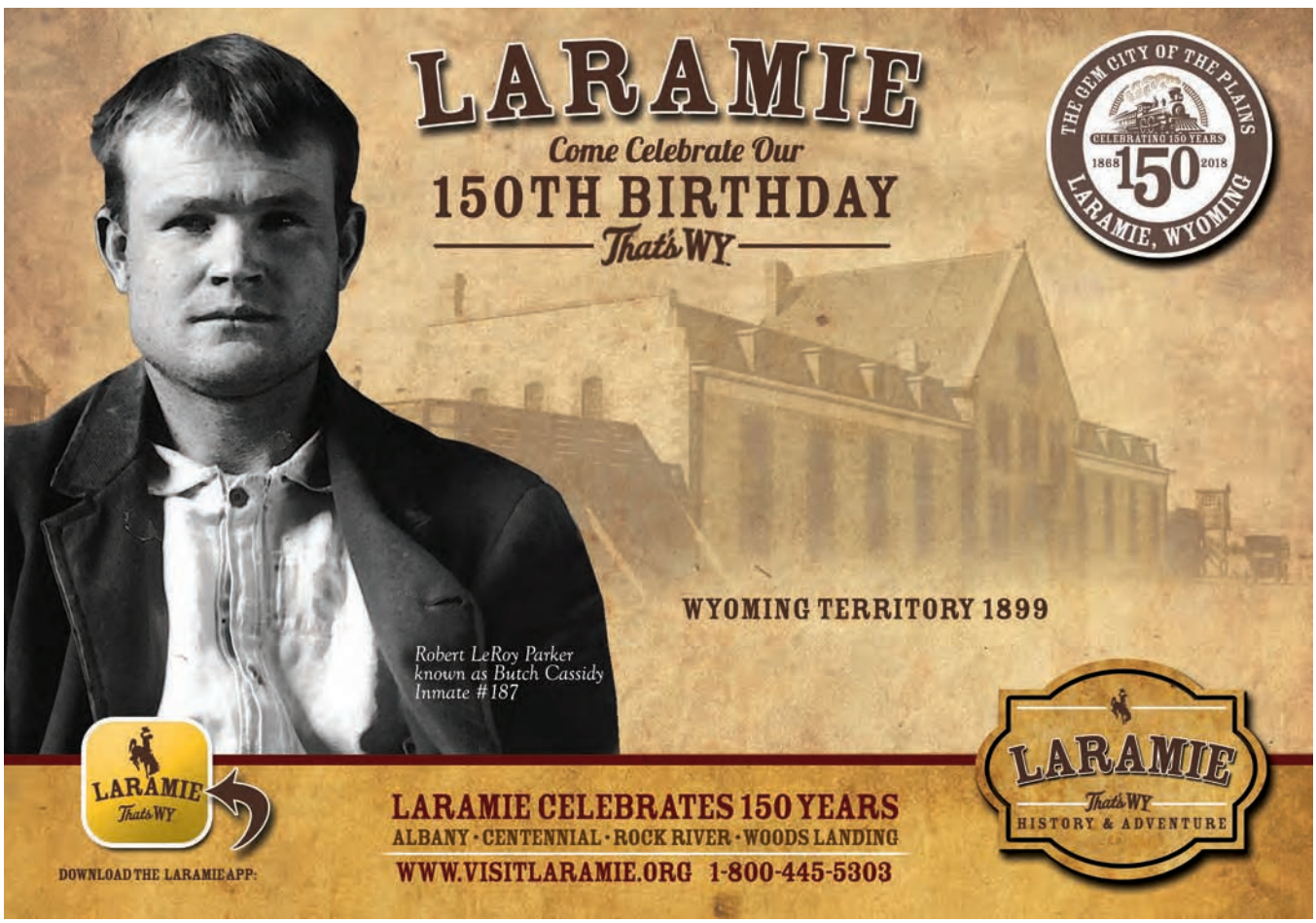
The rebuilt Old Style Saloon #10, an homage to Deadwood's Wild West past, welcomes visitors on the trail of gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok.

– CHAD COPPESS, COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM –

BEST HISTORIC SALOON OF THE WEST

Old Style Saloon #10, Deadwood, SD

Dedicated to preserving and promoting the legendary early years of Deadwood, the



The Chuckwagon Cook Off in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is a four-day celebration of open range cattle drive cooking that leads up to the championship event as part of Cheyenne Frontier Days held every July.

– CAROL HIGHSMITH, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

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HERITAGE TRAVEL

Saloon #10 at 657 Main Street is named after the original Nuttal & Mann's saloon where Wild Bill Hickok was shot and killed on August 2, 1876. The No. 10 may be known as "the only museum in the world with a bar," but it also has the Deadwood Social Club on the second floor, an Italian-style steak restaurant.
Saloon10.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Big Nose Kate's, Tombstone, AZ

BEST HISTORIC RESTAURANT

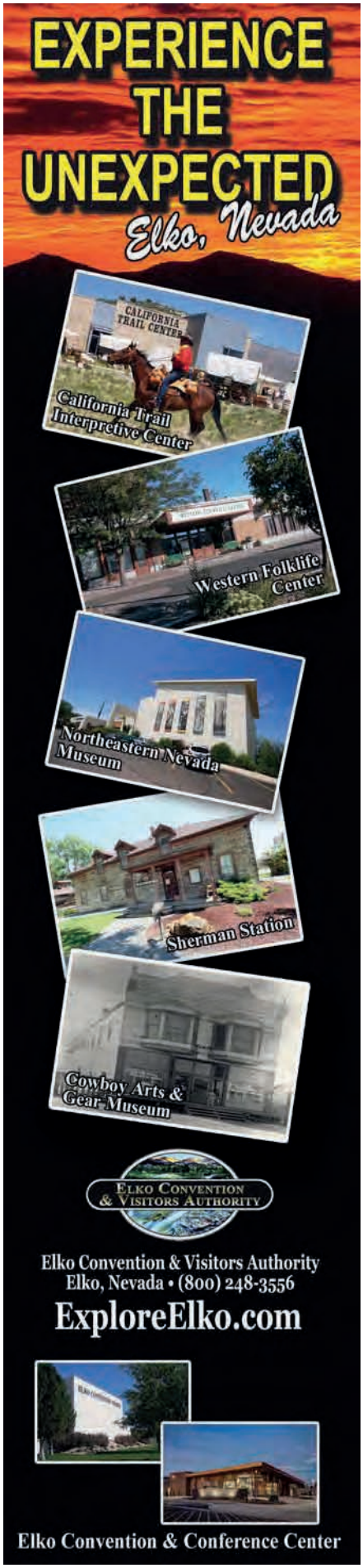
The Palace Restaurant and Saloon Prescott, AZ

The legendary Palace Saloon history goes back to the 1870s and Prescott's earliest years as the Territorial capital of Arizona. Located at 120 S. Montezuma, the world-renowned drinking and dancing (and one-time gambling) establishment was restored to its 1901 glory and converted into a family-style restaurant in 1996. It is a favorite gathering place for drinks and dinner throughout the year, but especially during the World's Oldest Rodeo Frontier Days every June and July. A mural depicting the Steve McQueen film *Junior Bonner*, which was filmed in the Palace during the rodeo in 1971, graces the dining room's back wall.
HistoricPalace.com

Western heritage is celebrated annually at the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, Texas, with several living history events, including the ever-popular Chuck Wagon Cookoff.

– COURTESY LUBBOCK CVB –

READERS' CHOICE:
The Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO



HERITAGE TRAVEL

Internationally renowned cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell (above) and award winning singer-songwriter Trinity Seely are among the entertainers who regularly attend the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering hosted by the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada.

– COURTESY NEVADA TOURISM –

BEST CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFF

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY

A highlight of the world-famous annual Cheyenne Frontier Days—two weeks of events held every July—in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Chuckwagon Cook Off celebrates the heritage of chuckwagon cooking on the open range and cattle drives that brought cattle from Texas to Wyoming. The chuckwagon cooks hold demonstrations and tastings for four days leading up to the championship event.

CFRodeo.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Chandler Chuck Wagon Cook-Off
Chandler, AZ

BEST CHUCKWAGON SHOW & SUPPER

National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Lubbock, TX

The cowboy fun celebrating our Western heritage includes entertainment, poetry and storytelling, Western writers and authors, panels, film and movie seminars, a Youth Wild West Day, horse-handling demonstrations, a horse-themed parade, Native American Indian activities and presentations, the ever-popular Chuck Wagon Cookoff, and exhibits of Western artworks and merchandise.

Cowboy.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Big Horn Heritage Days, Sheridan, WY

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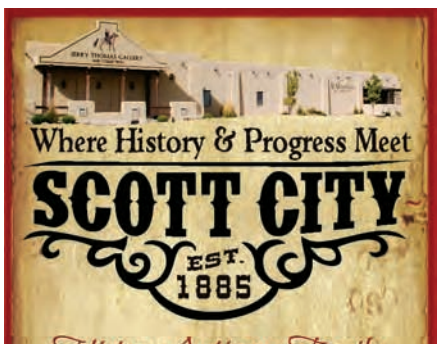

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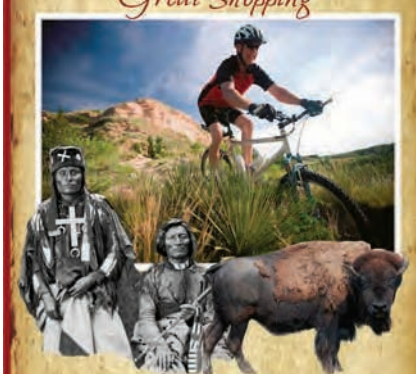


www.visitscottcity.com
620.872.5612
Scott City, KS

Since Independence Day in 1888, cowboys and cowgirls have gathered in Prescott, Arizona, to test their roping, riding and rough stock skills at the Frontier Days' World Oldest Rodeo.

– DALE MILLER, COURTESY PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS' WORLD OLDEST RODEO –

BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH

Rancho de la Osa, Sasabe, AZ

Three centuries of history await discovery at Rancho de la Osa, a high-desert retreat just north of the Sonora, Mexico, border. Located on a Spanish land grant, the guest ranch has on its site, according to ranch records, "the oldest continually used building that was built at the Indian village around 1720 by Jesuit missionaries who had traveled with Father Kino (Kino died in 1711)." The ranch retreat has been popular with dignitaries, celebrities and politicians since noted archaeologist Louise Wetherill opened it in 1926. All-inclusive dude ranch packages include lodging, dining and horseback riding.
RanchoDeLaOsa.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Concho Hills Guest Ranch
Magdalena, NM

BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Elko, NV

For three decades running, the international National Cowboy Poetry Gathering and cultural festival has celebrated the poetry, music and traditional arts of the American West. The 32nd National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 29-February 3, 2018, in Elko, NV, spotlights the flowing grasslands, vast open spaces and indigo skies of the Northern Plains.
WesternFolkLife.org

READERS' CHOICE:
National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Lubbock, TX

BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival, Fort Worth, TX

The gathering, celebrating 27 years, features a weekend of great events, including a wagon train and trail ride from Jacksboro, a trappings show, cowboy poetry, cowboy music, a youth poetry contest, youth fiddle competition, youth chuck wagon cook-off, Texas Trail of Fame, Cowboy Church, cowboy gospel concert and Western swing dances.
RedSteagallCowboyGathering.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering, Heber City, UT

BEST OLD WEST MOUNTED RE-ENACTMENT

Battle of Little Bighorn Magdalena, NM

Near Garyowen, Montana, on the Crow Reservation, the Real Bird Family hosts a re-enactment of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. On June 24-26, watch American Indian braves and Cavalry troopers crash through the river, and battle along its banks, where some believe Custer was killed.
LittleBighornReenactment.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN

HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the "Official Old West Ambassadors" of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on Whiskey Row, participate in re-enactment events and parades throughout Arizona, donating all profits to locally based charities.
PrescottRegulators.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Six Guns & Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX

BEST WILD WEST SHOW

Whiskey Row Shootout, Prescott, AZ

For 12 years, the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies have hosted the family-friendly Shootout on Whiskey Row. The ever-popular weekend event coincides with the National Day of the Cowboy, the third Saturday of July. The all-volunteer organization donates its proceeds to charity.
PrescottRegulators.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Cody, WY

BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ

Since July 4, 1888, the Prescott Frontier Days rodeo has been held over the Fourth of July weekend. The World's Oldest Rodeo will celebrate its 131st annual performance with eight shows from June 28 to July 4, 2018. In conjunction with the rodeo, the always popular annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, and the Rodeo Dance the evenings of June 29-30.
WorldOldestRodeo.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton, OR

Western Roundup

FOR JANUARY 2018

– NWSS VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS –

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 6-21: Since 1906, this show hosts livestock and horse sales, seminars, and rodeo events, at the National Western Complex.
303-296-6977 • *NationalWestern.com*

AUCTION

LEANIN' TREE MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART COLLECTION AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ, January 19-20: Bid on over 500 works of western, landscape & wildlife paintings and sculpture.
480-945-0225 • *LeaninTreeMuseumAuction.com*

ART SHOWS

26TH ANNUAL LITCHFIELD PARK NATIVE AMERICAN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Litchfield Park, AZ, January 12-14: The 25th annual gathering of American Indian artists who display jewelry, pottery, katsinas and beadwork.
623-935-9040 • *Litchfield-Park.org*

25TH ANNUAL CAREFREE FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Carefree, AZ, January 19-21: High Sonoran Desert town closes its streets for Southwestern and American Indian art show and wine tastings.
480-837-5637 • *ThunderbirdArtists.com*

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH TRAIN

Durango, CO, January 1: Start the New Year aboard the Durango & Silverton Railroad on this trip reminiscent of 19th-century travel.
888-827-4607 • *DurangoTrain.com*

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

FRANK & ANNIE JAMES: THE LATER YEARS

Kearney, MO, closes January 31: This exhibit focuses on the lives of Frank & Annie James during the later years at the James Farm.
816-736-8500 • *JesseJamesMuseum.org*

ONCE UPON A TIME: THE WESTERN

Montreal, Canada, thru Feb. 8: A multidisciplinary exhibit on the myths and stereotypes associated with Western film from the 19th century to today.
514-285-2000 • *MBAM.QC.ca*

BRIAN LEBEL'S HIGH NOON SHOW & AUCTION

Mesa, AZ, January 20-21: Bid on prized historical items and enjoy a showcase of Western Americana artifacts.
480-779-9378 • *OldWestEvents.com*

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, Opens January 12: Attracting cowboys since 1896, enjoy auctions, livestock and horse shows, rodeo events and concerts.
817-877-2400 • *FWSSR.com*

MUSIC & POETRY

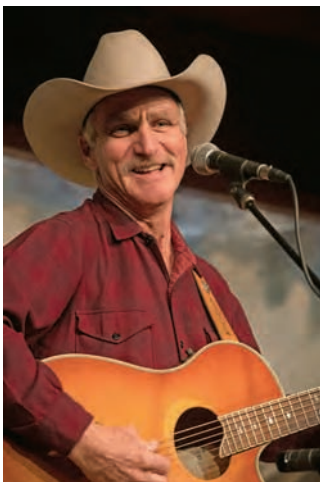
COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Golden, CO, January 19-21: Features cowboy poetry performances by Dave Stamey, Flying W Wranglers, Dick Warwick, Susie Knight and more.
720-213-6446
ColoradoCowboyGathering.com

RODEO

COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 15: Held since 1995, this rodeo brings together cowboys from diverse cultures to celebrate their Western heritage.
817-922-9999 • *CowboysOfColor.org*



– JESSICA BRANDI LIFLAND –

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Elko, NV, January 29- Feb 3: Celebrate cowboy and ranch lifestyles through music and poetry at this gathering featuring 'Basques and Buckaroos'.
888-880-5885 • *WesternFolkLife.org*

TWMag.com:
View Western events on our website.

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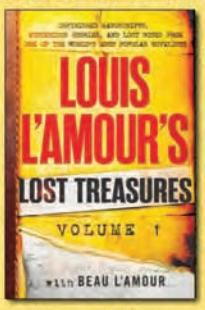

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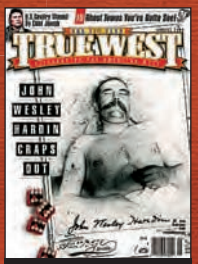
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The Low Down on Show Low

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen;* History Press, 2015. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

What's the story behind the naming of Show Low, Arizona?

Michael Westlund
Clarkdale, Arizona

Anthony Cooley, the former president of the Pinetop-Lakeside Historical Society and the great-grandson of the storied C.E. Cooley, is the best source of the history on the card game that brought about the name for Show Low, Arizona.

The popular story is one that traces to Will C. Barnes, who claimed that, while he was stationed at Fort Apache in 1880, C.E. told him this tale: C.E. and Marion Clark, neighbors in the Mogollon Rim area, decided around 1876 that the region wasn't big enough for the two of them, so they played cards to determine who would leave. The game was "Seven-Up," in which the low card won. Clark told C.E., "If you can show low, you win." C.E. threw down his hand, saying, "Show low it is." Popular lore claims he had the deuce of clubs.

Yet C.E.'s great-grandson believes an earlier card game inspired the name, one played around 1872, between C.E. and Henry Dodd, to decide who would get the rights to ranch in the area. When C.E. won, he called the place Show Low. Anthony found an 1874 Yavapai County census listing Clark as the only inhabitant at the Show Low River, so the card game had to take place before 1876.

That's not to say Cooley and Clark didn't play a card game, just not the one that named the place Show Low.

This first known picture of Corydon E. Cooley was taken while he served as chief of the Apache scouts under the command of U.S. Army Gen. George Crook, between the years 1871 and 1874.

– ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

What did the actors drink when they were drinking "beer" on *Gunsmoke*?

Dave Rapoza
Olathe, Kansas

The *Gunsmoke* actors actually drank beer, but the whiskey was tea or colored water.

What is 3-7-77, associated with the Montana Vigilantes?

Dave Quinn
Carson City, Nevada

This has long been a Western historical puzzle. The Montana Vigilantes never revealed the meaning of 3-7-77, which has led to speculation about its meaning.

The most plausible explanation comes from a 1974 article in *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, which suggested the numbers represented the three emigrants from Minnesota who formed the first Masonic lodge in 1862 in Virginia City; the seven Masons who formed the vigilance committee; and 77 to refer to a Mason who died, whose funeral was attended by the remaining 76 Masons.

Today, the emblem is worn on the shirts of the Montana Highway Patrol, on the flight suits of the Montana Air National Guard and on the flight patch for the Montana Army National Guard Medevac.

Were archery contests held out West?

Jennifer Malewski
Kansas City, Missouri

Archery was practiced almost entirely by American Indians in the frontier West.

Modern archery organizations date to post-Civil War, when ex-Confederate soldiers Maurice and Will Thompson—who weren't allowed to own firearms—used bows and arrows to hunt. They also started some local archery clubs.

In 1878, Maurice wrote a book, *The Witchery of Archery*, that inspired the startups of several more archery clubs, most of them in the East and Midwest. A year later, these clubs established the National Archery Association. The sport didn't take off in the West until after 1900.

Was Bat Masterson run out of Denver?

Daniel E. Scuiry
Berkeley, California

Bat Masterson biographer Robert DeArment says, "Yes." In May 1902, Masterson tangled with a lady who challenged his election vote, apparently because he was part of the gambling fraternity. He asked her, "Madam, will you please state why you challenge my vote? I have lived in this city for 15 years, and nine years in my present domicile."

She whacked him over the head with her umbrella and, Masterson, in a blind rage, went on a wild binge, hurrahing the town. The lawmen in Denver, Colorado, called in Jim Marshall, a friend from

Bat Masterson did not have the right to vote in America.

Masterson's days in Dodge City, Kansas, and a lawman in Cripple Creek, Colorado. While Masterson was enjoying his morning nip in a saloon, Marshall convinced his pal to leave town—then visited all the local newspapers and told them to put a lid on the fiasco. They did.

Ironically, the lady who challenged Masterson's right to vote was correct—she just had the wrong reason. He never became a U.S. citizen after emigrating from Canada, so he wasn't eligible to vote (or hold public office).

How was life in territory prisons?

Jim Spell
Sonora, California

Life in territory prisons was pretty tough, overall.

For example, in Arizona Territory, in the Yuma Territorial Prison, a cell might hold a half-dozen men. They shared a gallon bucket, which served as a toilet and was emptied just once a day.

At the Wyoming Territorial Prison, rules, enforced according to the beliefs of the warden, included the following:

1. You will not be allowed to converse with each other on any subject whatever. Conversation is allowed only when you work out of doors and only in relation to the work you are performing.

2. You will not hold any conversation with visitors unless they are accompanied by either the Warden or one of the Guards, and not then without permission.

3. You will be required to keep your cell clean and in perfect order, and each morning, immediately after rising, fold your bedding and place it on the head of your bed.

4. You will air and dust your bedding twice per week and at such times as you are ordered to do so, and will keep your bedding in perfect repair.

5. You will be permitted to smoke or chew in your cell as long as you do not deface the floor or walls. Each cell will be provided with a spitbox which you must clean every day.

6. When you are permitted to exercise outside your cell, you will in no case step beyond the width of the cell door. If you have any request to make, you will remain within the limited space until you have an opportunity to make the request.

7. At meal hours, you will be ordered by the guard to step from your cell and, when the command is given, march around the table in single file taking the dishes numbered to correspond with your cell number and then return to your cell in the same order.

8. You will be allowed to write one letter per month and to receive letters every Sunday. All mail to and from you must pass through the hands of the Warden.

9. Reading matter will be furnished by application to the Warden and must be returned in good condition.

Prisoners bathed and changed underwear once a week. Needless to say, the stench was terrible.

Who was the fastest gun in Hollywood?

Ron Bolza
Slatington, Pennsylvania

Some of the names might surprise you. How about Sammy Davis Jr. and Jerry Lewis?

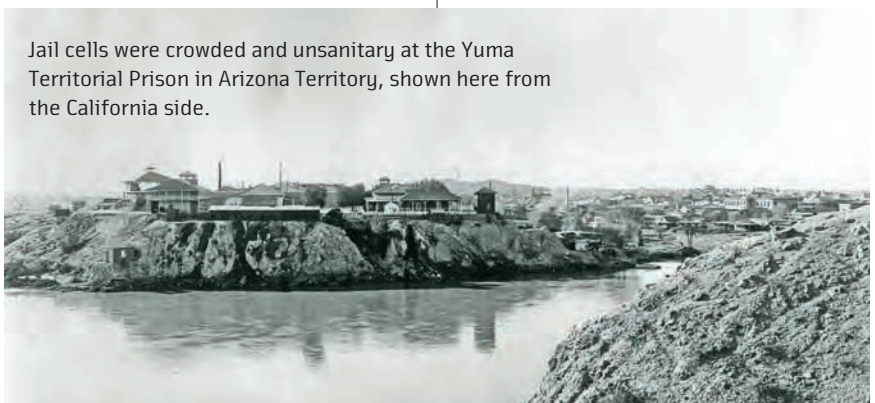
The first fast draw competition took place at Knott's Berry Farm in 1954.

Hugh O'Brian claimed his 0.25 of a second was the fastest, but Davis Jr. and Lewis were reportedly faster. O'Brian challenged Audie Murphy to a contest, but when Murphy requested live ammunition, O'Brian wisely declined.

Others who were good at fast draw during the 1950s and 1960s, says Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberger, included Wally "Mr. Peepers" Cox, Hugh Downs (a host of the early *Today* show), dancer Donald O'Connor, singers Marty Robbins and Frankie Lane, and actors Glenn Ford, Clu Gulager, Ernest Borgnine, Jock Mahoney and Clint Eastwood.

Sammy Davis Jr. (at left) showed off his fast draw talent while appearing with Chuck Connors (at right) in *The Rifleman*.

– COURTESY ABC –



Jail cells were crowded and unsanitary at the Yuma Territorial Prison in Arizona Territory, shown here from the California side.

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Childhood friends who grew up together in Kingman, Arizona, Dan Harshberger (left) and Bob Boze Bell (far left) stand outside the ghost town of White Hills in 1959.

– COURTESY DAN HARSHBERGER –

DAN HARSHBERGER, ART DIRECTOR

A Commercial Art graduate of Northern Arizona University, Dan Harshberger grew up with his best bud, Bob Boze Bell, in Kingman, Arizona. In the 1970s, the two cut their teeth on the *Razz Revue*, which "Dan the Man" styled as a "magazomic," a short-lived humor magazine-comic modeled after *National Lampoon*. When Bell bought *True West* Magazine in 1999, Dan joined the team as art director. He owns his own graphic design studio in Phoenix, Arizona, and stands here with his rat rod.

Half the stuff I design for the magazine is thrown out and only the mediocre stuff remains. Ha!

My favorite cover design for *True West* was the March 2004 cover. The "most famous photo of Doc Holliday" was such a strong image—too bad the photo was a fake!

My Dad rarely spoke in anything but yes and no, and I have spent my life trying to get over being shy and learning how to start and continue a conversation. Haven't learned yet.

The biggest risk I have ever taken was joining the Army after I graduated from college in 1969.

The best thing I ever did was join the Army. I met my wife and love of my life while I was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington state.

I will be remembered as, "Wasn't he the guy who got old, but never grew up."

To me, school was a great place to joke around with friends, play basketball and baseball, and avoid math.

The best Western for my money is 1992's *Unforgiven*.

The problem with most Westerns today is they are totally unrealistic. The men are too handsome, the women, too pretty, the clothes, always clean. Come on, I go out in the yard for a few hours working and I'm filthy, but I can take a shower and throw my clothes in a washing machine when I'm done. They couldn't. They had to live with the dirt—for days, if not weeks at a time. I like grit.

If I ever finish my rat rod (nicknamed the "Jiggle-O")…. Nah, it will never be finished-finished. I just wish I could get the car titled and licensed and insured.

I wanted to be an auto mechanic on Route 66, like my Dad, but I realized early on that he worked six days a week, didn't make much money and was laid off at age 60 and had to work as a parts runner. Broke my heart seeing him treated like he didn't know how to fix a car.

My favorite place in the entire West is Red Ghost Ranch in Kingman, Arizona.

The stupidest thing I've ever done is ride from Kingman to Tucson at night on my 1958 650 Triumph with my good friend, the late Steve Burford, on his Harley. Took 12 hours to get there and 12 hours to get home. Neither of us had helmets, nor did we have headlights most of the trip. Thankfully, a full moon showed us the way.

Took me 25 years to realize that my talent was in design, not illustration. I should have known earlier. I had to compete with Robert Allen Bell, in Mrs. Wyland's fourth grade class. I was drawing stick figures, while he was drawing complete WWII battle scenes.

My attempts at designing a lasting masthead logo ended on the third try. Other than changing the tag lines, the logo has lasted since November/December 2002.

When Bob Bell bought *True West* Magazine, I thought he was making a huge mistake. My hat's off to him for turning *True West* into a Western juggernaut. I've learned a bit about Western history and enjoy the daily design challenges—even if I have to roll my eyes at some of them.

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— Paul Andrew Hutton

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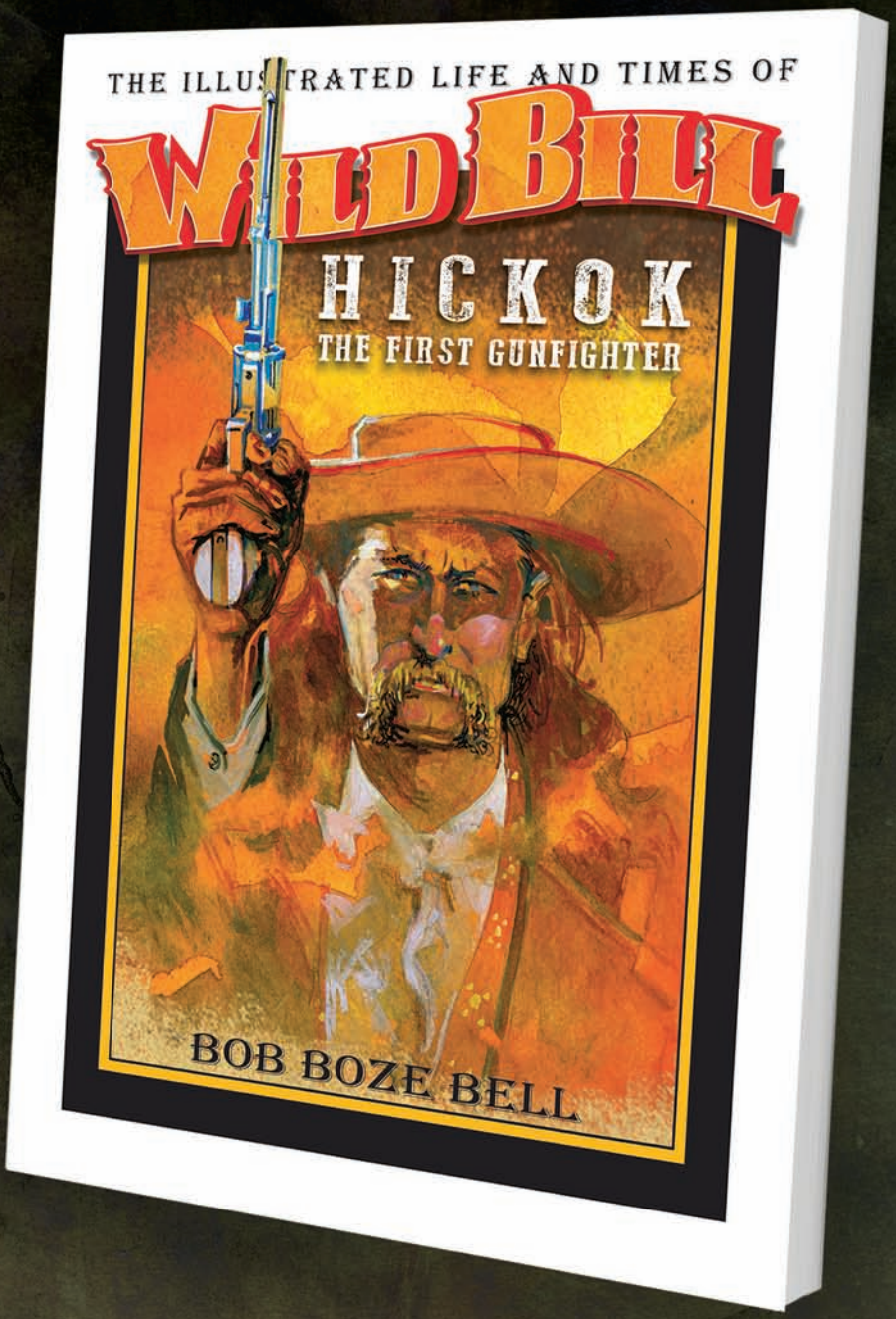

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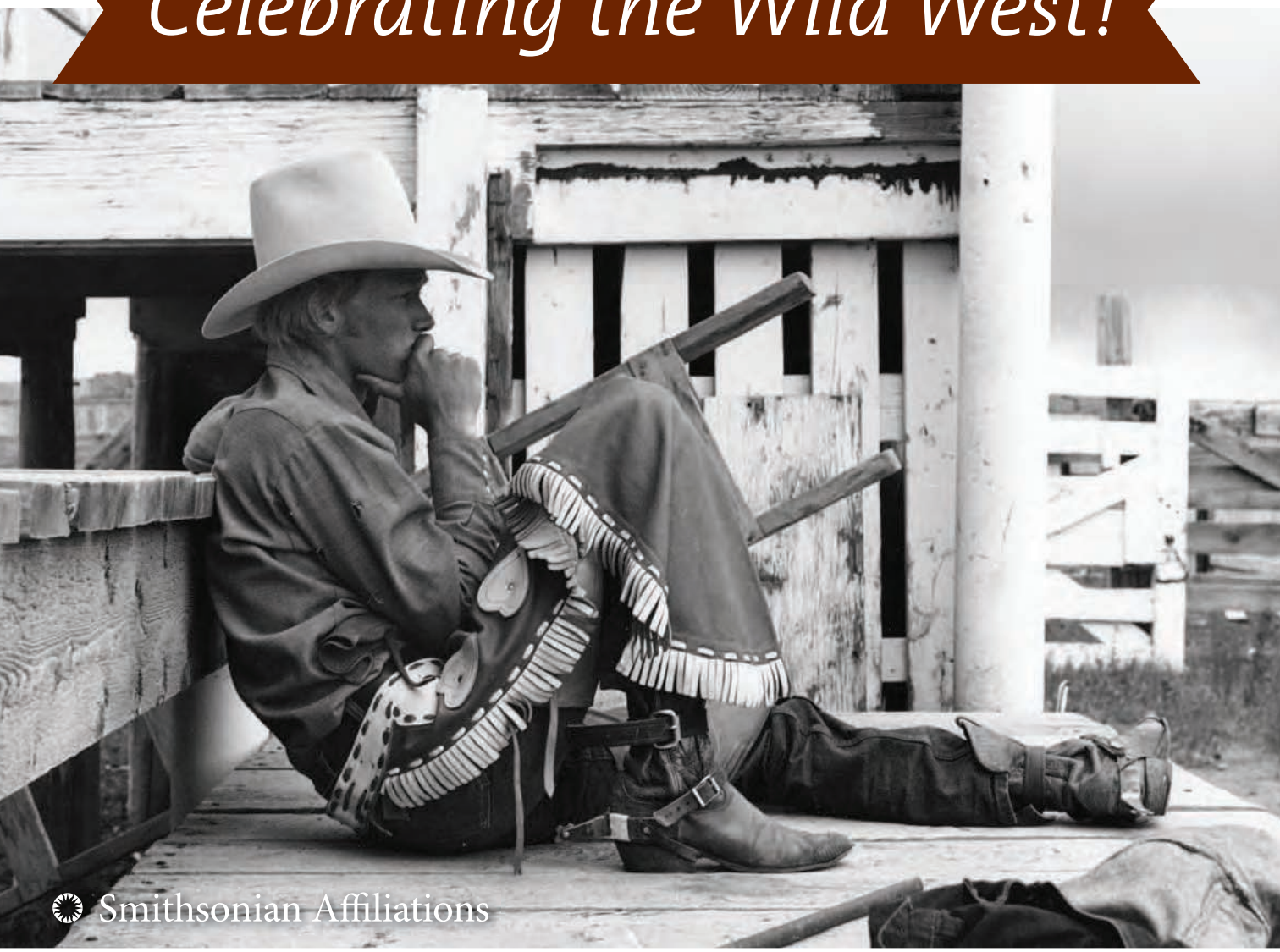

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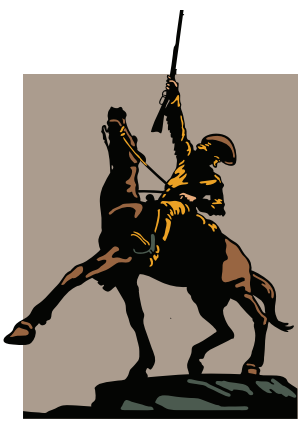
IMAGE: James Bama (b. 1926), *Rookie Bronc Rider*, High School Rodeo, Cody, WY, May 1975, black and white photograph, P.243.02828, Gift of James Bama.



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