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OUR 59TH YEAR APRIL 2012

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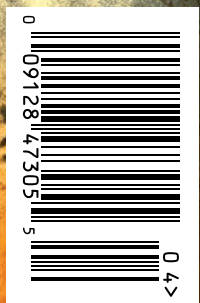
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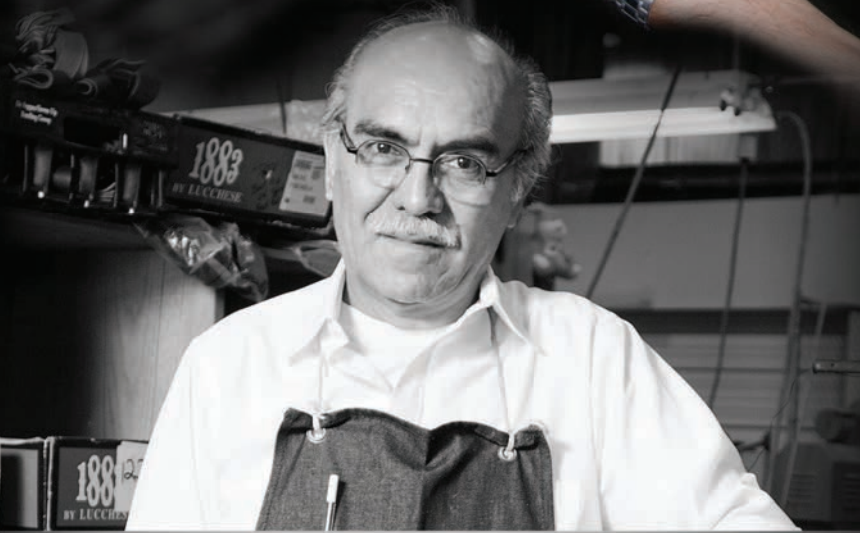
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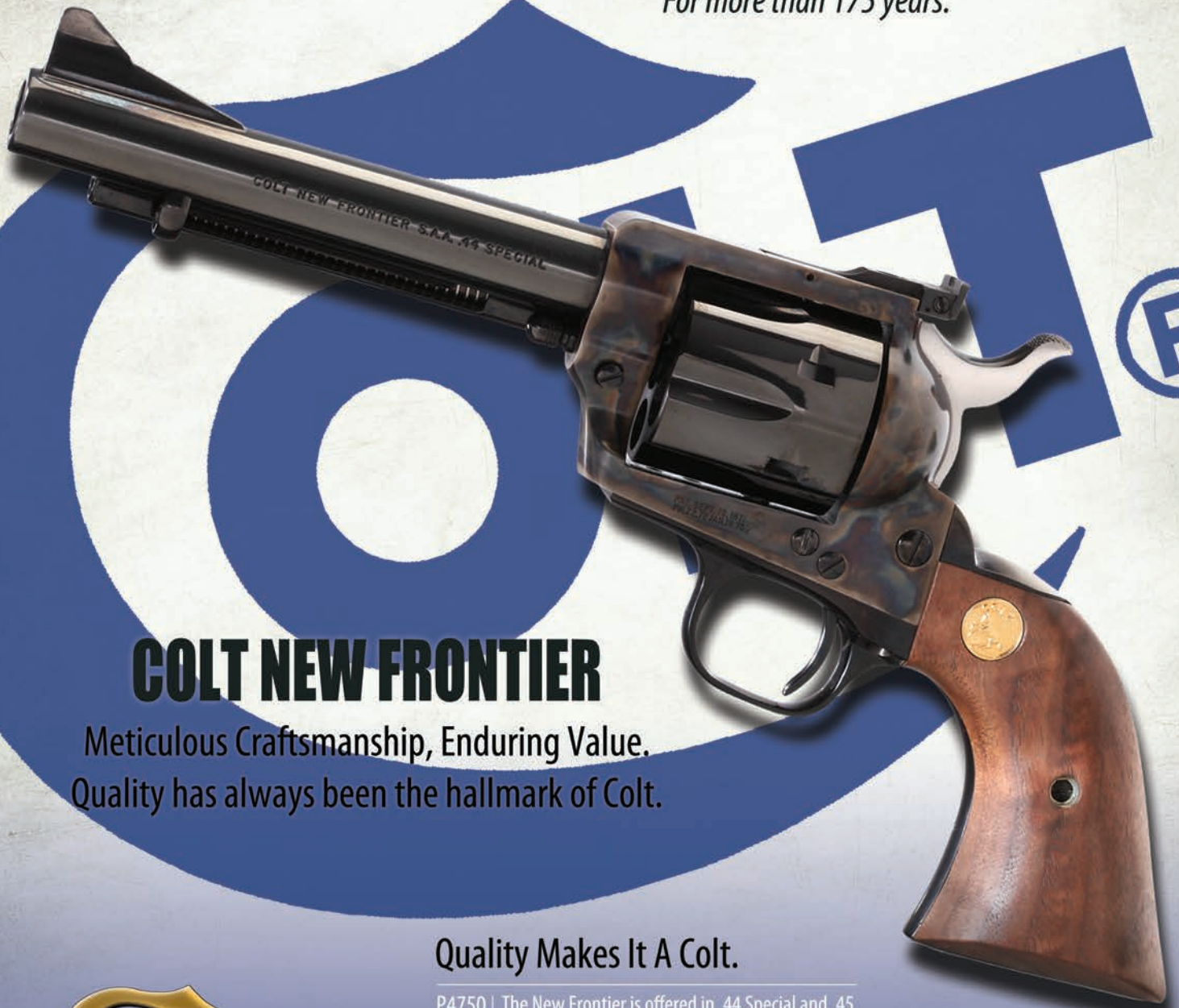
such as knowing how a well made boot should fit perfectly but more importantly I want to see the same passion I have in the eyes of fellow coworkers. To help teach them what quality means in the work we do, guide them and see their spirits lifted because they genuinely love what they are doing. I'm thrilled when I see a finished pair, analyzing every little detail making certain is as best as it can be. Keeping the name Lucchese alive and meaningful is extremely important as long as the passion is there I know we will succeed...

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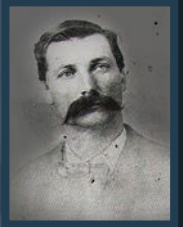
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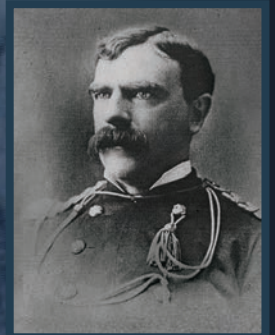
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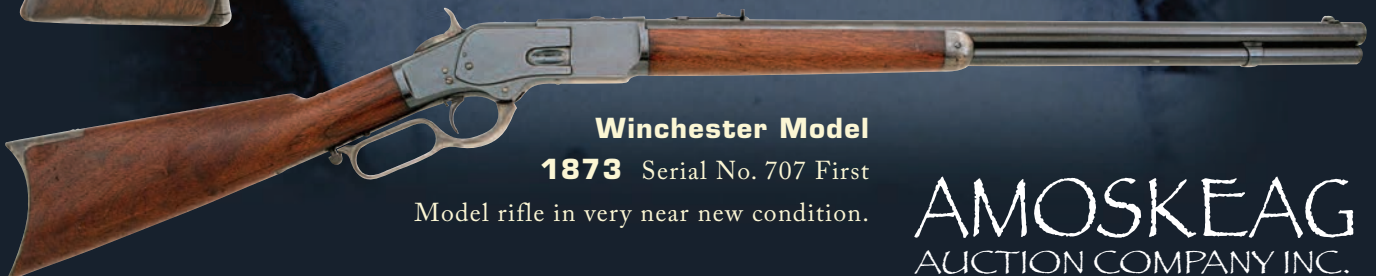
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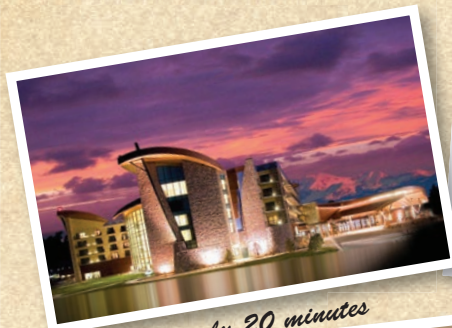
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*-By Frederick Nolan*

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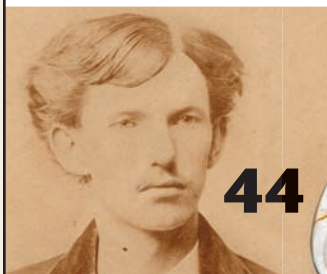
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## 26 HARDIN'S DEADLY TOOLS

The firearms of gunfighter John Wesley Hardin, a master craftsman of death.

—Phil Spangenberg

## 34 THE BEST TEXAS RANGERS PHOTOS, EVER

A noted Texas Ranger historian selects his 10 favorite iconic images.

—Bob Alexander

## 44 TRAVELING THROUGH HISTORY

A Hill Country road trip following John Coffee Hays and other top Texas Rangers.

—David George

Hot on the trail of Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp and Kit Carson in western Colorado.

—Tom "Dr. Colorado" Noel

Track down the Dalton Gang and Chisholm Trail cowboys in southeast Kansas.

—Orin Friesen

In the footsteps of George Armstrong Custer, Buffalo Bill Cody and Chief Joseph.

—Candy Moulton

Head to Butch Cassidy & Wild Bunch Country in this Utah road excursion.

—Larry Clarkson

Follow Black Bart, vigilantes and Rattlesnake Dick from San Fran and back.

—John Boessenecker

## 6 OPENING SHOT

## 11 TO THE POINT

## 13 TRUTH BE KNOWN

## 14 INVESTIGATING HISTORY

## 17 OLD WEST SAVIORS

## 18 COLLECTING THE WEST

## 20 WESTERNS

## 94 CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## 98 GRAPHIC CINEMA

## 101 ARTISTS WE LOVE

## 102 EVOLUTION OF WESTERN WEAR

## 104 FRONTIER FARE

## 106 BOGGS UNLEASHED

## 109 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS

## 110 RENEGADE ROADS

## 116 WESTERN BOOKS

## 122 WESTERN ROUNDUP

## 126 ASK THE MARSHALL

## 128 WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



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# Trailblazers

*Traveling the back roads, looking for history, is a family tradition.*



**Magical History Tours:** My family has been hitting the road for a long time. In this photo taken near Steins Pass, New Mexico, in 1916, my grandpa, Bob Guess, sits in the driver's seat (love his hat), while my grandma, Louise, sits in the back with her firstborn daughter, Sadie Pearl. Both of these women told me wild stories of my grandpa and his cowboy adventures in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The tradition continues, as my kids, Tommy and Deena, pose at a Fina Gas Station (left) on the way to visit Billy the Kid's grave, in the summer of 1984. Our conveyance was a 1984 Ford Econoline, while my grandpa looks to be traveling in a 1915 Model T Ford touring car. The mode of transportation changes, but the goal is the same.

— Bob Guess photo courtesy Tap Lou Duncan Weir; Bell kids photo by Bob Boze Bell —

**“Everyone who travels out West wants to go down a dusty road and find history, great food and music, and come away with great memories.”**

Those words were penned by our friend Stuart Rosebrook, and I don't think anyone has said it better.

Remember when you were a kid and you called out “Shotgun!” in order to command the front passenger seat on a

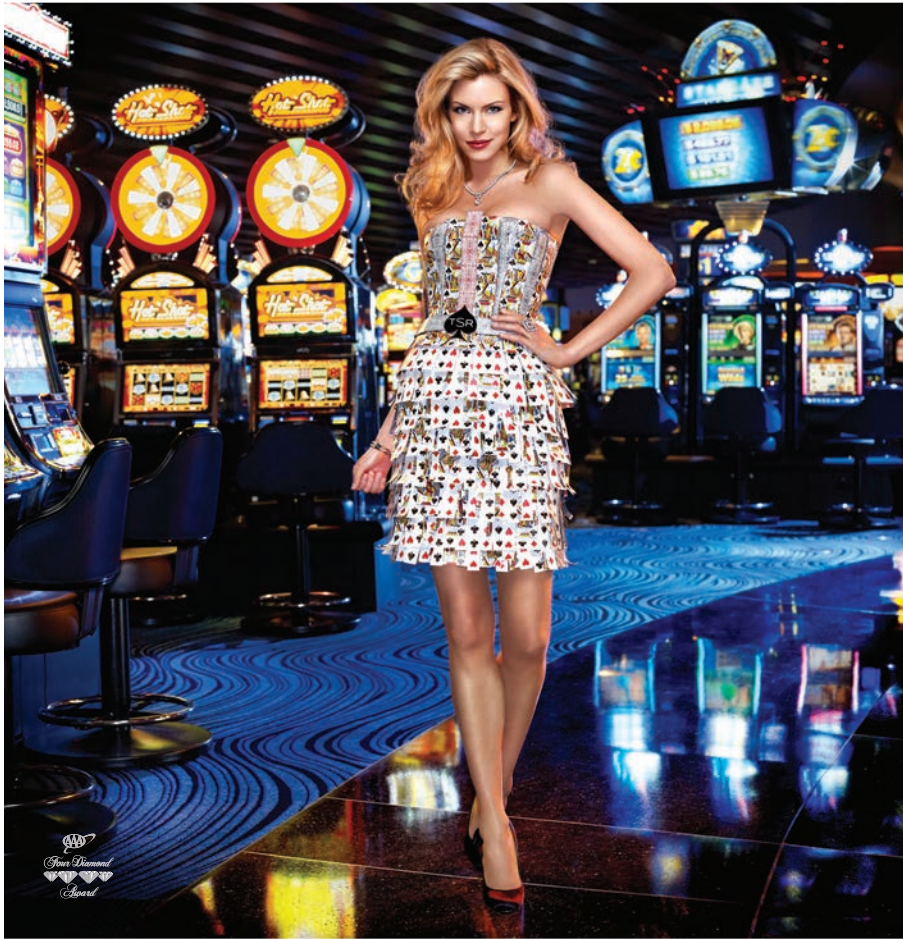
road trip? Well, in this issue, we make sure you are riding shotgun with the very best guides in the West. They put you on the back roads where history awaits you at every turn. We commissioned six trailblazing historians (seven, if you count Johnny Boggs's *Renegade Roads* feature on p. 110) to give you the inside skinny on where to travel this year and how to find great food and music along the way. I wouldn't be surprised if each one had grandparents like mine who toured the back roads of history and ended up passing that love down to the next generation.

In addition to these guided tours, we include some good advice (How to Walk Like John Wayne, p. 103), some rare photos (the best Texas Rangers photos ever, p. 34) and the deadly weapons of John Wesley Hardin (p. 26).

So, head on out and hit the road this spring and summer. I have a hunch you will make some great memories yourself.



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



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Quotes

“Civilization is the limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities.”

—Mark Twain

“A feeling of immediate contact with the past is a sensation as deep as the purest enjoyment of art; it is an almost ecstatic sensation of no longer being myself, of overflowing into the world around me, of touching the essence of things, of through history experiencing the truth.”

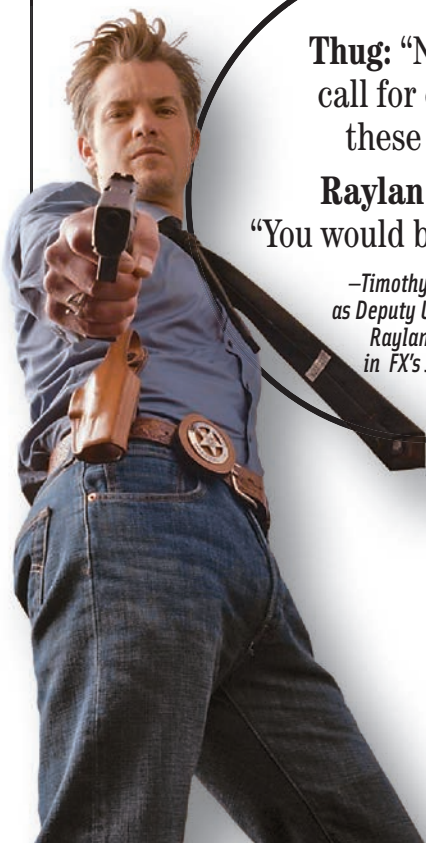
—Johan Huizinga, *historian*

“I never got to have a cool name. Lash La Rue. That would’ve been good.”

—Bernie Taupin, *lyricist with Elton John, in Esquire magazine*

“Being a hero is about the shortest-lived profession on earth.”

—Will Rogers



**Thug:** “Not much call for cowboys these days.”

**Raylan Givens:** “You would be surprised.”

—Timothy Olyphant as Deputy U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens in *FX's Justified*

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO

I shot a man in Reno just to watch him flinch, cover his eyes, blink dramatically & struggle to see around that blue dot that appears everywhere you look for the next few minutes.



Outlaw Descriptions We Love

“There was no preliminary chitchat as he sat erect in a leather chair, his jaw set in that familiar lock, his eyes blinking only occasionally. Dressed in the uniform of his native Texas—jeans, a corduroy blazer, boots—he gave off the air of a magisterial outlaw.”

—Nicole Laporte, *describing Tommy Lee Jones in Newsweek, February 14, 2011*



Old Vaquero Saying



“Don’t expect mules and cooks to share your sense of humor.”

# Unsinkable Margaret Brown

*The true history of Denver's leading lady, in this anniversary year of the famous steamship disaster.*

On April 15, 1912, the brand new passenger liner *Titanic* sank after hitting an iceberg. More than 1,500 people died, and the legend of the “Unsinkable Molly Brown” was born, providing an Old West connection to one of the worst maritime disasters in history.

Her story is a remarkable one, starting in 1867, when Margaret Tobin was born to Irish immigrants in Hannibal, Missouri. In her mid-teens, Margaret moved to the booming mining town of Leadville, Colorado. She worked at a department store and attended the Catholic church.

One of her fellow parishioners was J.J. Brown, a self-taught mining engineer who was 12 years her senior. They married in 1886, when she was 19. They lived a far from glamorous existence in a cabin near the mines, but Margaret later called them the best years of her life.

That life changed in 1893, when J.J.—a mine superintendent—discovered gold in a claim owned by his employer, the Ibx Mining Company. Ibx was grateful; they gave him shares in the company, and the Browns became overnight millionaires.

They soon moved to Denver, where they built a mansion. Margaret, who was always socially conscious, became involved in poor relief, historic preservation and juvenile justice. Over the years, their interests diverged. J.J. and Margaret legally separated in 1909, but the devout Irish Catholics never divorced.

In 1912, while Margaret was touring Europe, she received a telegram that her grandson was ill. The fastest ship available to take her to the States was the *Titanic*. She was reading in bed when the collision occurred.

Once on deck, Margaret helped direct passengers to lifeboats. Then someone picked her up and dropped her in one



Margaret Brown presents the *Titanic* rescue reward to *Carpathia* Capt. Arthur Rostron.

– Courtesy Library of Congress –

of the boats—an action that saved her life. Several hours elapsed before the *Carpathia* crew rescued them.

Aboard the *Carpathia*, Margaret, who spoke five languages, translated to allow crew members to communicate with the survivors. She also raised \$10,000 to help destitute survivors, forming the Survivor’s Committee and becoming its chairperson. When the ship reached the U.S., she made sure that other *Titanic* passengers were reunited with family or friends. She was the last to leave the ship that day. She would later be the force behind the *Titanic* Memorial in Washington, D.C.

When the ship docked at New York, Mrs. Brown acquired part of her nickname. Surrounded by reporters asking how she had survived, she told them: “Typical Brown luck. We’re unsinkable.”

Although Margaret now lived in Newport, Rhode Island, she returned to Denver on a yearly basis. In 1914, she took on a special situation. On April 20, a fire broke out in Ludlow, Colorado, between striking miners and militia from John D. Rockefeller’s Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. More than 20 people were killed—including two women and



By the way, nobody ever called her Molly while she was alive; playwright Richard Morris called her that, because it would be easier to sing in the musical, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*.

11 children—in what organized labor called the Ludlow Massacre.

Both sides asked Margaret to help mediate the conflict. It was a tough assignment. Her sympathies were with the strikers, but she understood the positions of the mine owners. She did use media coverage to apply pressure, especially to Rockefeller, who eventually made concessions and reached an agreement with the miners.

In her later years, Margaret found a different stage. She studied drama in Paris and acted there and in New York (to some public acclaim, of course). She died in her sleep in the Big Apple in 1932.

Margaret's legacy lives in so many areas. Her Denver mansion was rescued from the wrecking ball in 1970 by a group of preservationists (it is now the Molly Brown House Museum). Their efforts led to the formation of Historic Denver, which has been instrumental in the establishment of 45 historic districts and landmarking of more than 325 properties.

As you might expect, the Molly Brown House is hosting a number of events tied to the 100th anniversary of the *Titanic* disaster (see sidebar below).

Unsinkable and unforgettable. That's Margaret Tobin Brown.

## DENVER'S TITANIC EVENTS!

**Titanic-Themed Tours**  
Molly Brown House Museum

**The Unsinkable Molly Brown Screening**  
April 3: Denver Film Center

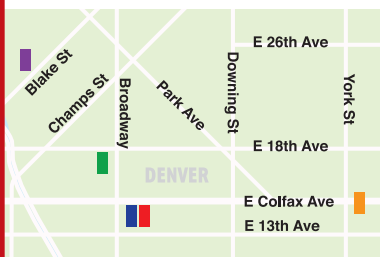
**Great-Granddaughter Recounts Margaret's Life**  
April 12: Brown Palace Hotel

**Titanic Gala Dinner & Fundraiser**  
April 14: Oxford Hotel

**The Sinking of the Titanic by JACK Quartet**  
April 15: Newman Center for Performing Arts  
(take Broadway south to I-25 East)

**Titanic in American Culture, 1912-2012 Lecture**  
April 17: Scottish Rite Masonic Center

**Molly's Birthday Jubilee & Titanic Expo**  
July 15: Molly Brown House Museum



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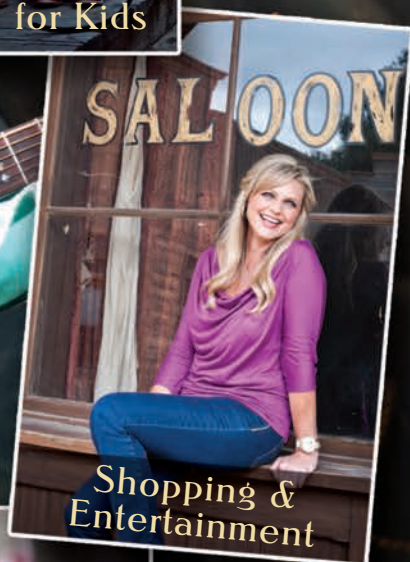


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# Supersized in San Antonio

*The “People’s Museum” expands with a new center to offer more of its collection to the public.*

Texans don’t call San Antonio’s Witte Museum the “people’s museum” to be folksy.

Unlike many museums that come into being with a nice endowment from a wealthy family, the Witte had far humbler beginnings.

While San Antonio saw itself as “thriving” in the 1920s, it lacked the kinds of cultural institutions that mark a great city. High school teacher Ellen Schulz was determined to change that.

She took her idea of a museum to community leaders, who asked her, “What is a museum?”

Schulz had her eye on H.P. Attwater’s natural history collection, up for sale in 1922. Help for her cause came from schoolchildren, who stood on street corners with cigar boxes, asking, “Spare a dime?”

Adults got in the act too, selling bluebonnets (the state flower) and cakes, and staging performances.

In all, they gathered \$6,200 to buy the collection and install it at the Main Avenue High School in 1923.

But within a year, the “museum” proved so popular, it needed its own building. With the help of her friend and high school principal, Emma Gutzeit, Schulz convinced Mayor John Tobin to commit land in San Pedro Park and \$25,000 in city funds to construct a two-story building. Ground broke on September 22, 1925.

Two days later, local businessman Alfred G. Witte died. Unbeknownst to Schulz or city officials, Witte’s will bequeathed \$65,000 to the city for the construction of a

museum in Brackenridge Park to be named for his parents. Mayor Tobin halted Schulz’s project and moved it to Brackenridge.

Schulz, the “heart and soul” of the people’s museum, became its first director and served for 34 years.

“The museum opened on October 8, 1926, and on October 12, three thousand people visited the museum. The local paper said that for several hours, every streetcar dislodged visitors at the new museum,” notes the Witte’s President and CEO Marise McDermott. “People came from all over south Texas. Within two years, all

the great ranch families brought their artifacts to be included in the museum—we have the King Ranch mudwagon and beautiful Apache baskets.”

Along the way, the Witte became the “attic of south Texas,” and it remains the most-visited museum in San Antonio. Its 350,000 visitors a year saw all the exhibits the museum could hold—just one percent of its 200,000 artifacts, Communications Vice

President Jim Dalglish says.

But Memorial Day weekend will mark a “new era” for the Witte—the opening of the South Texas Heritage Center. Dalglish tells us the addition will allow the museum to display at least 40 percent of its collection.

The 20,000-square-foot center will offer exhibits on ranching; San Antonio’s Main Plaza in the 1840s; oil and gas artifacts; border life; horse culture; and a 19th- and 20th-century Texas art gallery.

McDermott, the newest visionary to the Witte, grew up in New York and began her

Help for her cause came from schoolchildren, who stood on street corners with cigar boxes, asking, “Spare a dime?”



Marise McDermott, the president and CEO of the Witte Museum, holds a late 1800s gourd canteen from the Donald and Louise Yena Collection, just one Witte collectible out of many that will now be on exhibit thanks to the expansion.

– Courtesy Witte Museum –

life in Texas as a cultural art journalist. She served the Witte as the humanities director from 1989-96, then returned, becoming president and CEO in 2004, just in time to lead the massive expansion efforts.

But try to call her an Old West Savior for her efforts, and she rejects the idea. “Today’s Old West Saviors at the Witte are the people—they tell us what they want in the museum, and my role is to listen to them and do what they want,” McDermott says. “We have our ears on all the time.”

The grand opening of the South Texas Heritage Center promises to be a real doozy—just the latest example of how to build a “people’s museum.”

Jana Bommersbach has been Arizona’s Journalist of the Year and has won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She is the author of two nationally-acclaimed true crime books and a member of Women Writing the West.

# Viva Villa!

Mexican Revolution collectors bid high on a Pancho Villa saddle owned by Howard Hawks.

Although Howard Hawks would eventually leave *Viva Villa!* to be helmed by Jack Conway, he did get a great parting prize from Pancho Villa's widow—the general's last saddle, which sold for a world record, at \$625,000.



When Mexican Revolution Gen. Francisco “Pancho” Villa sat on his ornate silver saddle, he probably did not envision that the six-year-old son of a Hollywood director would play “cowboy” on it in his family room in Benedict Canyon, California.

In 1933, ten years after Pancho Villa's assassination, Howard Hawks was filming the movie *Viva Villa!*, 200 miles outside of Mexico City, when he received Villa's last saddle as a gift from the general's widow, María Luz Corral de Villa. On January 28, that saddle sold for a world record bid, \$718,000—more than four times its reserve price—at the High Noon Western Americana Auction in Mesa, Arizona.

The boy who played cowboy on the saddle, David Hawks, wrote in a letter how the saddle had “disappeared” after the Hawks's home sold while his father was overseas filming *Land of the Pharaohs* in 1954. When his father later saw the saddle advertised for sale, he filed a theft

report in 1976 with the Palm Springs Police Department. Although Howard would not live to see the saddle returned to him, it was back in the possession of the Hawks family after a court settlement in 1982.

Given the saddle's intricate red oak leather tooling and silver embroidered snakes and florals, Villa likely used it as a parade saddle. Joaquin Rodriguez and Alberto Tulan Cingo Marquez made it for him in the 1920s. They marked the stirrups and the saddle horn with his initials, “FV.” “Rodriguez probably fabricated the cantle and the other wooden portions of the saddle” and Marquez “probably executed the leatherwork,” wrote Museum of New Mexico curator Charles Bennett to Howard's son-in-law, Donald D. McCampbell, in 1983.

Seven years later, Chuck Ramsey bought the saddle from Trails West Gallery in Laguna Beach, California. He shared it with the public immediately, loaning it to the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas, and the South Texas Museum in Edinburg. It last went on exhibit at the Witte, in 2010, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Mexican Revolution.

After the auction, Ramsey, who lives in San Antonio, told *True West*, “I was surprised that there were not any wealthy Mexican Nationals bidding. I ran a number of ads in Mexico that read, ‘I want to come home.’ But it didn't. It will be in Texas for a while longer.”

High Noon closed at nearly \$2 million. ❖

This Pancho Villa saddle was even featured in the 1940 movie, *North West Mounted Police*. Director Cecil B. DeMille, who was friends with Howard Hawks, probably asked to borrow it for the film.



Featuring a gold ruffled hat band and rolled rim, this 1890s Mexican beaver sombrero was a big hit. It sold for \$6,500, more than three times its reserve price.



Notable Mexican Collectible Lots Included  
(All images courtesy High Noon Western Americana Auction)

You may have seen these chaparejos on exhibit at the Buckhorn Museum in San Antonio, Texas. Mexican Revolution Gen. Miguel H. Monraz of Guadalajara purportedly owned these; \$300.



Hammering down for \$3,750, this pair of 1870s Mexican spurs has silver threaded straps with grand conchos, inlaid rose bands and

10-point inlaid spoke petal rowels.

This 1870s Mexican saddle might have been owned by a *plateado*, a silver-adorned bandit who roved Mexico's countryside, especially during the French occupation in the 1860s. The saddle is exquisitely adorned with overlapping ovals and figural eight patterns, and is decorated with three-dimensional horse head conchos below the saddle horn and on the saddlebags; \$24,500.



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# Train Keeps A'Rollin'

*AMC's Hell on Wheels continues the tradition of filming the rich heritage of the Transcontinental Railroad.*

When Joe and Tony Gayton, the brothers responsible for creating *Hell on Wheels*, pitched their series to cable station AMC, a Western wasn't necessarily the first thing they had in mind. The Gaytons, separately and together, had a number of projects in their past, most of them action-oriented, though some were along the lines of Suspense and Mystery genres.

But AMC was having a lot of luck with Westerns, among them *Broken Trail*, and they've been blocking a lot of older Western films routinely on the channel. The idea of a Western seemed to suddenly take shape; as the project generated enthusiasm, as so often happens with Westerns, the notion of a long form Western series took on a life of its own.

"I remember the [PBS] documentary, the *American Experience* documentary, 'Transcontinental Railroad,'" Joe says. "Seeing that, and thinking, dang! There's a lot of great stuff in there: characters, ideas, history—seeing the scope of the story.

And so we pitched it as a Western, based on the Transcontinental Railroad, and they bought!"

*Hell on Wheels* seems natural enough, in particular the idea of a movable town and the people who live there—the workers, the makers and shakers, and the entertainers—makes it an

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“...his gut tells him right and wrong, but it constantly leads him off the track...”

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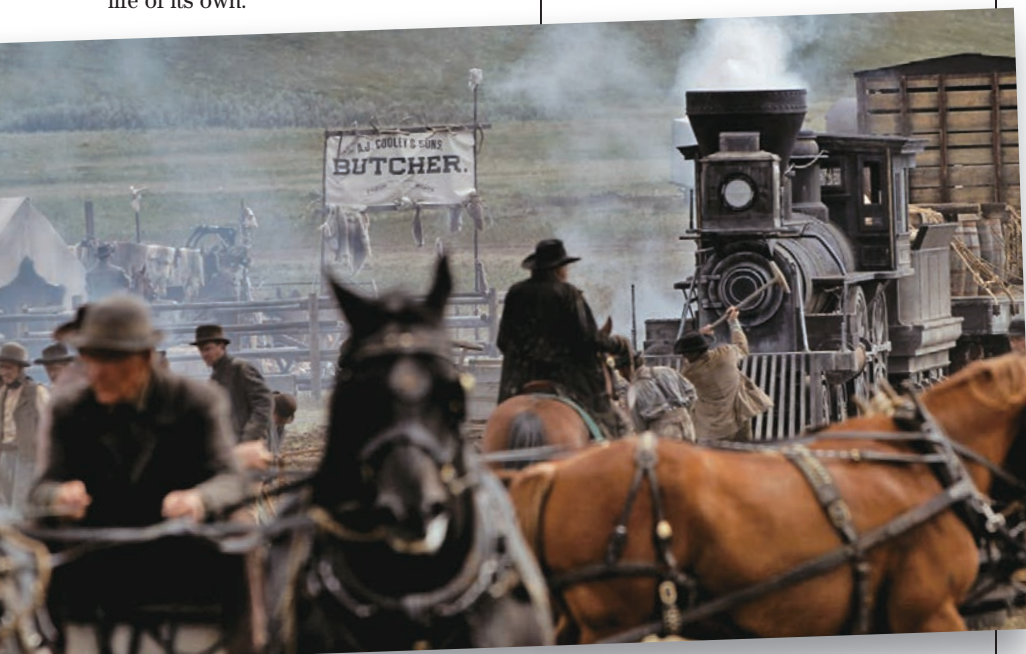
unrooted version of the HBO series *Deadwood*. The driving theme is the train; people who construct it, the entrepreneurs who profit by it and the environment that it drives through, which impacts the American Indians.

"It's going to grow, *Hell on Wheels*, the town," Joe says. "They were dragging an Eastern ghetto like the [neighborhood] Chelsea. At the same time, we wanted the series to have a classic John Ford look on the outside, but when you go inside, it's claustrophobic and dirty. So far, we've done a pretty good job. And, of course, it's about the train."

The train, the Union Pacific, is the single steel metaphor that drives the 19th century—it represented the future, travel, the Industrial Revolution, commerce and fantastic unimaginable venality.

"Paradoxically," Tony adds, "because we have this through-line, this driving force, for the good of the country. And yet we have a lot bad stuff—violence, black-and-white issues—as well as a lot of juicy gray matter to deal with. This was probably the greatest achievement that had ever been accomplished, but at the same time, they were in

Funding a transcontinental railroad was often an arduous task, and the competition between different lines was fierce; such conflict is at the heart of many Westerns.



front of two of the biggest issues to deal with: slavery and the treatment of Native Americans. It's got both. And as the railroad is built, it's really changing everything for the worst, for the buffalo, the Indians and their way of life—the final nails in the coffin.”

“We also like the irony that in opening out the West, it's really closing down the West, the Wild West that we knew,” Joe admits.

Added to the Gaytons is David Von Ancken, one of the executive producers of *Hells on Wheels*, who also directed the 2006 Western feature film *Seraphim Falls*. As to whether the revenge theme came from *Seraphim Falls* and Ancken or somewhere else, the central figure of Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount) lives for a dream of violent retribution.

“What I like about it, what I like about this character, is you have the essential conflict of the revenge, which we've seen before this, and he's led by his gut,” Anson Mount says. “And his gut tells him right and wrong, but it constantly leads him off the track, off his primary objective, involves him in all these situations that are keeping him from achieving this main objective.”

“So while his motivations are nefarious. His heart is good. And that's what keeps him from being able to achieve his objection—now I'm not going to tell you how far he goes, but that's his primary conflict.”

“We have a great many influences in this series—certainly John Ford and *Once Upon a Time in the West*, which is all about the train,” Tony says. “But the other day, I watched *Red River* and the part where the train comes to Kansas.

“We hadn't seen the movie in years and then, we thought, there's a lot of Cullen in the John Wayne character—he's not the most likable guy in the world—but he can't help doing the right thing. But he does a lot of wrong things on the way.”

The other central character in the drama of *Hell on Wheels* is Thomas “Doc” Durant, played by Colm Meaney. Durant



Lily Bell is the wife and partner of Robert, who provided the surveying needed to find a path to the mountains and is killed by Indians early in the series. The actress who plays her, Dominique McElligott, also starred as Etta Place in last year's *Blackthorn*, about Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.



Anson Mount, who plays Cullen Bohannon, uses the construction of the train as a way of pursuing the men who killed his character's wife and son. Mount's father, Anson Mount III, was a sports writer and editor of *Playboy*.

was a real 19th-century figure we see more commonly as a robber baron, even though he really was a phenomenally successful and unscrupulous hustler who stole a fantastic amount of money and, at the same time, built a train.

Durant sold phony stocks, worked for a while with Abraham Lincoln and, among other things, sold contraband cotton to the North, from the South, during America's Civil War.

“Durant is a complex figure—he's who he is, but he's also something of a composite, historical,” Joe says. “We know that Durant was spending most of

his time in Washington as the train was being built. But we need him on the site, in the series, on the construction of the trains, for drama purposes.

“We think of him as the world that keeps on giving, and we had to be careful to find a way to humanize the character. We didn't want to make this a history lesson.”

“But we also need to see *Hell on Wheels* as a simple way to create comparisons and parallels to what's going on in the modern age, with corruption and greed, with the hedge fund scandals and the real estate bubble,” his brother Tony adds. “But what we see, then, is that in spite of the graft and dealing, we wanted them to see the railroad as something that we could see and touch. We want people to say, back then, ‘We made this! We built this!’

“I don't know what a hedge fund is—that's just smoke and mirrors. But I know what a railroad is, and they knew what it was.”

As the producers and the cast and crew begin to prepare to return to Alberta, in Canada, for the second

season, we've come to know more about the story and the characters. The most interesting thing about *Hell on Wheels* is how determined the creators seem to be to make sure that we are constantly surprised, and that they foil expectations at every turn.

This is a violent story, and very dark. No one is going to confuse it with *Broken Trail* or *Lonesome Dove*.

"I'm a big reader of Cormac McCarthy's books, and [Joe and Tony], they're McCarthy fans. There are similar characters in McCarthy's, especially in [his novel] *Blood Meridian*—which I think was a huge influence to me," Mount admits.

"But the primary influence is just reality. Growing up in the South, I learned a lot about the Civil War. But



Bohannon (above, far left) is a deeply conflicted and driven character whose inclinations are basically decent, but who, like Thomas Dunson in *Red River* (right), steps outside the moral lines so far as to be nearly beyond repair.



we did not get as great [an] education on Reconstruction, so I did not realize that it was the engineering marvel of the 19th century, the Transcontinental Railroad. And it's a fantastic framework for a Western because it was lawless—not only was it lawless, it was mobile, in every sense—there's no foundation,

nothing to hang on to, but that it's constantly moving. That's what makes this story different—there's movement, but no framework, either physically or morally."

I, for one, can't wait to see how the next season unfolds.

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## Great Train Westerns

Trains are as much a part of the Western as guns, cows, hats, Indians, horses and attitude, and trains had as much attitude as outlaws. In fact, trains, like banks, were a universal adversary—the stuffed-vest executives who owned them, the clerks who protected their safes (the unfortunate Mr. Woodcock in *Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid*), the engineers, the brakemen and firemen who were forever being held up by daring desperados, not to mention the porters and passengers.

But trains are sexier than stagecoaches and infinitely sexier than banks: you can chase them and leap from horseback onto them while in motion, and yelping Indians with bows and rifles can fire on them.

No question—the train is the king. Without trains there's no *Great Train Robbery* (first Western film), no Jesse James, no Wild Bunch or Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid, no steam or whining brakes, no noisy machinery and, least of all, no lonesome whistles. For outlaws and Indians, trains were how we measured our bravado—before trains, we chased woolly mammoths and, later on, bison.

But trains reached all the way to the imaginations of ambitious men, to closed rooms where cigar smokers figured out ways to build tracks while they stacked, and sacked, loot, which is what the AMC series *Hell on Wheels* is largely about.

We needed men to physically build the trains, and design and finance them. For our purposes, we needed people to take advantage of real estate—moustache



Morris Birdyellowhead is the shaman Bull Skull, the right hand of the Cheyenne chief, Chief Many Horses (Wes Studi), who doesn't quite understand the advantage of living in a reservation, or playing a role in what a politician refers to as the "beginning of a great Industrial Revolution!"

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These Western railroad classics should hold you over until the second season of *Hell on Wheels* airs.

Two other train pictures deserve special attention: *A Ticket to Tomahawk* and *Santa Fe*. Randolph Scott shows up in a great many significant train pictures—*Canadian Pacific* and *Carson City*, among others, but in *Santa Fe*, we see a version of Reconstruction—Scott's two brothers are determined to have vengeance for the Civil War, while Scott is starting a new life, working on the train.

What *Santa Fe* has in common with *Hell on Wheels* is that the mobile drinking and gambling tent that follows the train workers is what Scott is determined to destroy, even though his brothers are working there. It also has a scene where Scott allows an Indian chief to drive a locomotive engine—a somewhat different look at a similar event in *Hells on Wheels*. *Santa Fe* is not a great picture, but it's a solid Scott effort, which is true of almost

twirlers who stole land for the trains, and good guys, like Johnny Guitar and the spectacular Claudia Cardinale in *Once Upon a Time in the West*—one of the greatest train movies ever. Speaking of which, for a treat, see the Mongolian 15-minute train shoot-out in *The Good, The*

*Bad, The Weird*—it's incredible, and yes, it's a Western.

Trains are big mojo in the world of Western cinema: *The Iron Horse*,

*Union Pacific*, *Denver and Rio Grande*, *Canadian Pacific*, *Carson City*, *Buckskin Frontier* and so many others. I'd also add in *The Wild Bunch*, largely because the film's characters are defined by the relationship between the outlaws and a train tycoon, but also because the train robbery, and its destruction, is one of the greatest sequences in movie history.

## Discover Treasures of the American West

See the newly remodeled galleries of the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas. Experience art of the American West in a new light, enhanced by bold wall colors and state-of-the-art lighting.

### From Russia: Fechin and Gaspard in the Southwest

February 18 – June 2, 2012



▲ Leon Gaspard (1882-1964), *Rabbi* (detail), 1911, oil on canvas board, 9.5 x 7.5 in., Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas.

Visit the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas to explore the artistic contributions of Nicolai Fechin and Leon Gaspard, artists who emigrated from Russia and settled in the American Southwest.

Both brought academic training, knowledge of European art and evocative memories of their homeland. Visit this exhibition to see the strong, individual style each developed to create art in this new environment.



Nicolai Fechin (1881-1955), *Barge Captain* (detail), after 1933, oil on canvas, 20.25 x 16.25 in., Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas. ▲

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all of them, and, in the background, it has a lot of what draws us to *Hell on Wheels*.

The other picture, *A Ticket to Tomahawk*, is all about competing railroad lines, which is a fairly routine plot device, but it has spirited music (by Dan Dailey), dancing, some fun writing, some great scenery, a spunky rootin' & shootin' cowgirl (Anne Baxter), some interesting Arapahos and a little bit of Marilyn Monroe.

Now that *Hell on Wheels* has closed its first season and is preparing for the second one, think of *Santa Fe* and *A Ticket to Tomahawk* as refreshing palate cleansers.

## DVD REVIEW

### Little Big Man

(Blu-ray Paramount; \$24.99) The Western was fair game in 1970, when

the movie *Little Big Man* was released. Those were cynical times, and people were polarized—politically, socially, culturally—but Westerns were a constant; the difference was diverse groups watched them. John Wayne kept older audiences in their seats, but other people were watching movies like *The Wild Bunch*, *Soldier Blue*, *A Man Called Horse* and a great many Spaghetti Westerns, when you could find them.

But *Little Big Man* was the first time that a Western made sense as political satire (*F Troop* doesn't count). *Little Big Man* was a farce that went straight for the jugular, and it



did so by being ribald, anti-heroic and pro-Indian.

It's still a pretty good comedy, even if the politics are rusted somewhat. The film offers strong writing and a slew of great actors, not least of all the brilliant Chief Dan George. *Little Big Man* has not lost its charm.

The new Blu-ray image is particularly sharp and the sound is clean, but the disc does not offer any extras, not even a commentary. The movie really deserves more than this.



Henry Cabot Beck is the Film Editor for *True West*, writes about pop culture in general for other publications and is a member of the Phoenix Film Critics Society.

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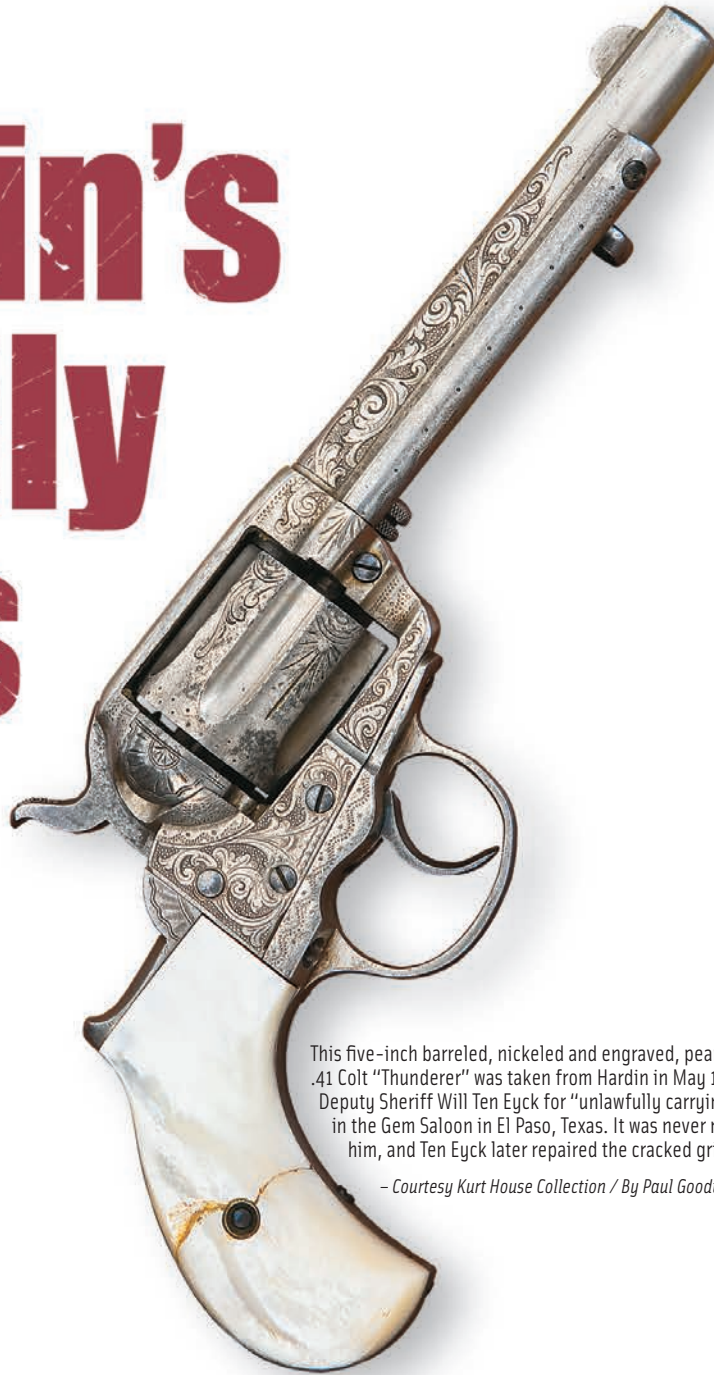


KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

# Hardin's Deadly Tools

*John Wesley Hardin was a master craftsman of death, and these were the tools of his trade.*

**By Phil Spangenberg**



This five-inch barreled, nicked and engraved, pearl-handled .41 Colt "Thunderer" was taken from Hardin in May 1895 by Deputy Sheriff Will Ten Eyck for "unlawfully carrying a pistol" in the Gem Saloon in El Paso, Texas. It was never returned to him, and Ten Eyck later repaired the cracked grip.

— Courtesy Kurt House Collection / By Paul Goodwin —

**W**e've long held a fascination for the gunmen of the Wild West, and firearms enthusiasts have been especially interested in the hardware used by them.

Unlike most Wild West gunmen, who left behind scarce detailed accounts of the guns they had used during their tumultuous careers, John Wesley Hardin is known to have owned or used several solidly documented guns.

Furthermore, thanks to his autobiography, in instances where his hardware is not known, we can guesstimate what arms were most likely used on given dates, based on firearms production records and other known historical facts relating to firearms chronology. (Keep in mind though, Hardin describes some shootings that have not been documented elsewhere and are thus suspect.)

Displayed with assorted John Wesley Hardin memorabilia—including playing cards that Hardin shot and signed, original photos, a business card, gambling paraphernalia and a pocket watch presented to him by his cousin by marriage, “Killin’” Jim Miller—are two of Hardin’s personal weapons—(top) his five-inch, engraved and pearl-gripped .41 Colt “Thunderer,” taken in an arrest, and the 2 ½-inch, pearl-stocked, ejectorless .38 Colt “Lightning” Miller gave Hardin. Both were sold at auction in 1996.

— Courtesy Bonhams & Butterfield —





Hardin, arguably the most deadly of the Old West's gunmen, was a notorious desperado whose career spanned three decades (minus almost 16 years in prison) that ranged from the end of the percussion era of the late 1860s to well into the age of metallic cartridge arms in 1895.

Although firearms were probably nothing more than mere tools to him, there is little doubt that Hardin was a man who appreciated the mechanics as well as every line and curve of his weapons, as his adept handling of his firearms testifies.

### "Hardin was an awful quick man"

To say that Hardin was good with his guns would be an understatement. During his lifetime he was considered to be the best shot, the fastest draw, an excellent horseman and the deadliest gunman in the West—and not simply through hearsay. Hard men of arms, who had witnessed and respected his six-gun handling, recorded his abilities.

Late in his lawless career, in 1877, when Hardin was a captive of the Texas Rangers, famed Ranger James B. Gillett was among a group of Rangers who unchained Hardin and watched him in amazement as he demonstrated his skills with a pair of empty Colts. The Ranger remembered he handled the Colts "as a sleight-of-hand performer manipulates a coin." They also noted his tricks: "The quick draw, the spin, the rolls, pinwheeling, border shift—he did them all with magical precision."

A Smiley, Texas, man told Hardin's great grandson he remembered seeing young Hardin "...get on a horse and run that horse at a pretty good speed by a tree, and unload his gun in a knot on the tree."

Another contemporary recalled that Hardin was so fast that, "When he was young he could get out a six-shooter and use it quicker than a frog could eat a fly."

In his El Paso years, despite aging and being away from guns for nearly two

This image by R.J. Onderdonk appeared in Hardin's autobiography and depicts the gunfighter's charge against a band of Mexican vaqueros while Hardin and his cousins were trailing cattle in Kansas in 1871. This fight earned him the nickname of "Little Arkansas," because of the Arkansas River locale of the fight. In another Kansas incident that year, Hardin likely used an 1866 Winchester rifle, like the one shown here.

— 1866 Winchester rifle courtesy Rock Island Auction —

decades in prison, Hardin was still lightning fast. One eyewitness, who saw Hardin in action in 1895, said, "Hardin was an awful quick man. I was in Mexico one night with him when a policeman started to arrest Hardin for carrying a gun. The policeman made a break for his gun, but he didn't have time to pull it. Hardin hit the man in the face and then, pulling his gun, told the Greaser to get out of town, at the same time informing him who he was.

The Mexican never did come back, and he hasn't stopped running yet, I bet."

While in El Paso, Hardin must have felt himself slipping as he passed into his early forties, for in his autobiography he writes of his earlier abilities with guns, "In those days I was a crack shot...."

In El Paso, he practiced daily in front of a mirror in his boarding room. He wore a special "calfskin vest with built-in holsters containing his two Colt .41 caliber revolvers," according to contemporary accounts, although neither this vest, nor a bulletproof vest he was supposed to have worn, have ever turned up.

When interviewed for the August 23, 1895, edition of the *El Paso Daily Times* (just four days after Hardin's death), his landlady,

Mrs. Williams of the Herndon House, stated: "Yes, Mr. Hardin was certainly a quick man with his guns. I have seen him unload his guns, put them in his pocket, walk across the room and then suddenly spring

to one side, facing around, and quick as a flash, he would have a gun in each hand, clicking so fast that the clicks sounded like a rattle machine."

She went on to say, "He would place his guns inside his breeches

front with the muzzles out. Then he would jerk them out by the muzzle, and with a toss as quick as lightning, grasp them by the handle and have them clicking in unison."

As a final testimony to Hardin's speed and skill with his guns, El Paso Constable John Selman, a noted gunman himself, would kill Hardin by shooting him in the back!

### Hardware for a Young Shootist

Much of Hardin's early career—from 1868 to 1877—largely involved the use of cap-and-ball revolvers, since the self-contained metallic cartridge arms were relatively new and were not yet nearly as plentiful as they were in later years.

In his life's story, he frequently makes mention of Colt's revolvers. Based on the

...his face showed a certain hardness. One had only to look into his keen brown eyes to see that Wes Hardin was a bad man with whom to fool.

— an El Paso citizen, describing John Wesley Hardin

dates of his gunfights, these likely would have been the Model 1860 Army .44s or the 1851 and 1861 Navy models in .36 bore, or possibly cartridge conversions.

Hardin is known to have used at least one 1851 Navy .36, which is identified by serial number in a letter handwritten by Joe Clements, Hardin's cousin. In the letter, Joe writes that Hardin gave him the gun after Joe had broken up a fight in Gonzales, Texas, and that Hardin got a newer model revolver.

Hardin mentions using a Colt .44 (most likely the 1860 Army model) in his first killing, in 1868, involving a freed slave who had assaulted him. Shortly thereafter, he may well have relied on the same six-gun when a posse of three soldiers discovered his whereabouts and came to arrest the

15 year old for the shooting. The teenaged fugitive selected a spot by a deep creek bed, where they would have to cross, and waylaid the troopers.

In this ambush, which young Wes described as "war to the knife with me," he killed the three men by "...opening the fight with a double-barreled shotgun and ending it with a cap-and-ball six-shooter."

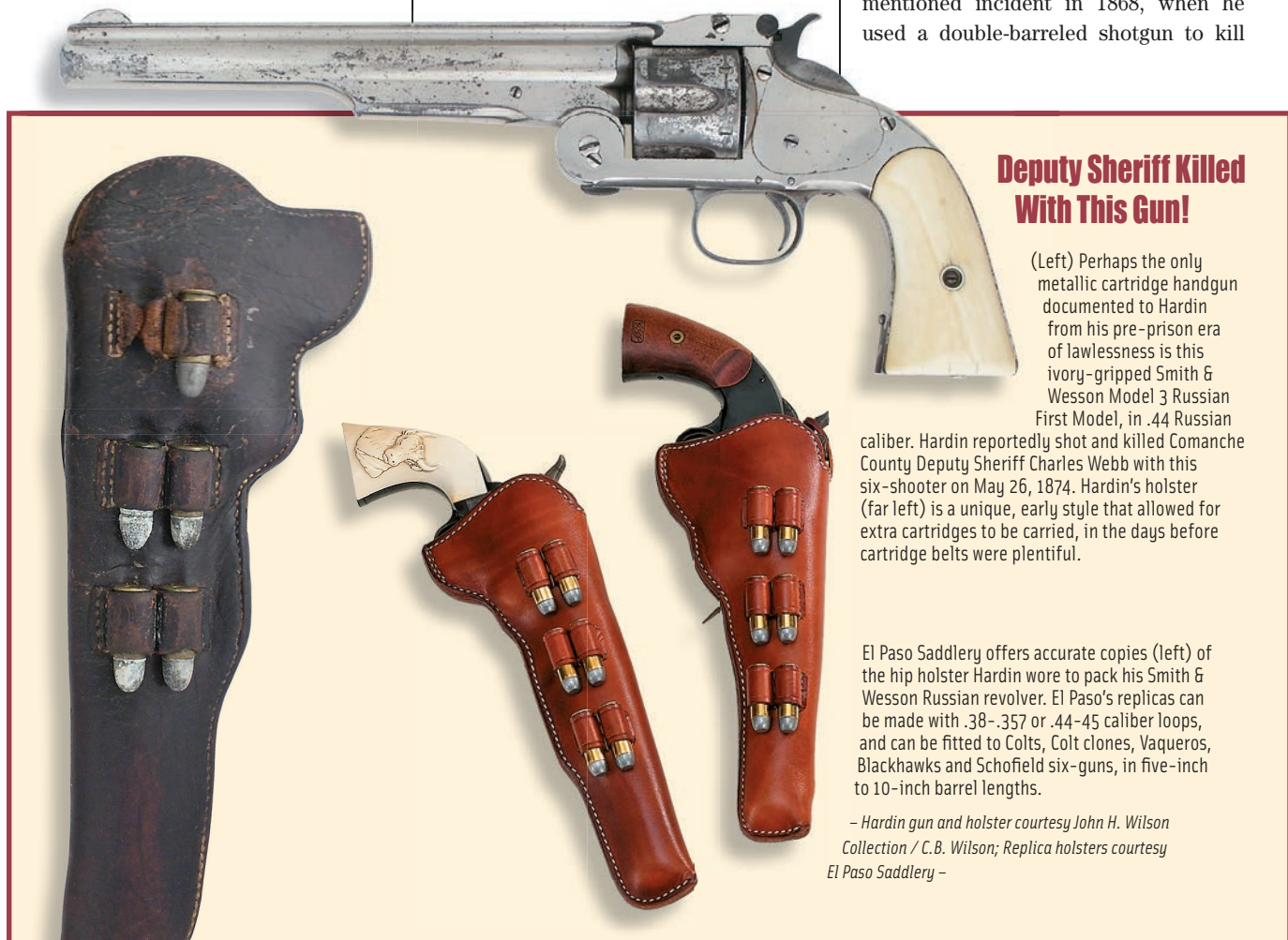
Several years later, when Hardin was captured in Pensacola, Florida, on July 23, 1877, he had a '60 model, .44 cap-and-ball Army Colt revolver on him. He had been unable to draw his six-shooter, since it was strapped to his galluses—much to the relief of the arresting officers.

In recounting his many other fracasas, Hardin does not go into detail as to the particular type of weapons used. Like

many other Westerners of the day, Hardin referred to them as a cap-and-ball six-shooter or, simply, as "my pistol." Texas's Public Enemy No. 1 also spoke of shooting a man with a derringer. Again, he doesn't stipulate the type or caliber, and such a weapon at that time could have been any of a myriad of hideout pocket pistols.

One of Hardin's known six-guns is a Smith & Wesson Model 3 Russian First Model, in .44 Russian chambering, which he used to kill Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb in Comanche, Texas, on May 26, 1874. This shooting brought about Hardin's eventual capture and jailing. It is perhaps the only documented metallic cartridge six-gun from Hardin's pre-prison era of lawlessness.

Although he preferred handguns, he was known to have also used longarms in several shoot-outs. Beside the above-mentioned incident in 1868, when he used a double-barreled shotgun to kill



## Deputy Sheriff Killed With This Gun!

(Left) Perhaps the only metallic cartridge handgun documented to Hardin from his pre-prison era of lawlessness is this ivory-gripped Smith & Wesson Model 3 Russian First Model, in .44 Russian

caliber. Hardin reportedly shot and killed Comanche County Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb with this six-shooter on May 26, 1874. Hardin's holster (far left) is a unique, early style that allowed for extra cartridges to be carried, in the days before cartridge belts were plentiful.

El Paso Saddlery offers accurate copies (left) of the hip holster Hardin wore to pack his Smith & Wesson Russian revolver. El Paso's replicas can be made with .38-.357 or .44-45 caliber loops, and can be fitted to Colts, Colt clones, Vaqueros, Blackhawks and Schofield six-guns, in five-inch to 10-inch barrel lengths.

— Hardin gun and holster courtesy John H. Wilson Collection / C.B. Wilson; Replica holsters courtesy El Paso Saddlery —

Although Hardin was an expert pistoleer who used handguns for close range work, he knew the value of a scattergun. This 12-gauge, percussion W.&C. Scott & Son English shotgun was owned and used by Hardin to kill Jack Helm, the sheriff of DeWitt County, Texas, and a deadly rival in the Sutton-Taylor feud, in July 1873. Hardin later gave the piece to Sheriff J.C. Jones of Gonzales County, Texas.

—Courtesy Buckhorn Saloon & Museum in San Antonio, Texas—



some soldiers, Hardin also used a shotgun to kill Jack Helm in July 1873.

Helm, a former Texas police captain and the DeWitt County sheriff, was also a deadly rival of Hardin's in the notorious Sutton-Taylor feud. Hardin, who fought for the Taylors, gave Helm a broadside with a British W.&C. Scott & Son, double-barreled, 12-gauge percussion shotgun as Helm approached him. Hardin's partner, Jim Taylor, then shot the sheriff several times in the head with his six-gun. This Hardin shotgun is on display at the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum in San Antonio, Texas.

On another occasion, the failure of the cap to ignite the main charge on a double-barreled caplock scattergun saved one lawman from joining Hardin's long list of victims. During a running horse battle in drizzling rain, Hardin and Jim Taylor were escaping after shooting Deputy Sheriff Webb. When Texas Ranger Capt. John R.

Waller caught up to the fugitives, he rode hard at them. The outlaw later recalled "...I wheeled, stopped my horse, and cocked my shotgun. I had a handkerchief over the tubes [nipples] to keep the caps dry, and just as I pulled the trigger the wind blew it back and the hammer fell on the handkerchief. That saved his life. Waller checked up his horse and broke back to his men."

Rifles also sometimes made up Hardin's personal arsenal. In his autobiography, he gives an account of firing at some pursuing lawmen with a "needle gun," a frontier term for the .50-70 Allin conversion of the Springfield rifle—an early trapdoor model.

On another occasion, while trailing cattle to Kansas in 1871, Hardin holed up with his Winchester rifle in the bushes of his campsite and got the drop on a group of men who were after him. Based on the date of this incident, this likely would have been Winchester's 1866 Model—originally dubbed the "Improved Henry."

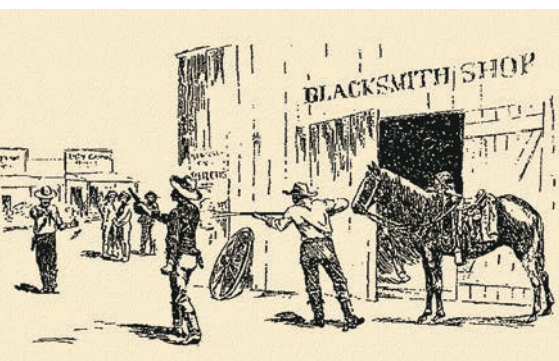
### Last Guns of the Last Gunfighter

After Hardin's release from prison in February 1894, the governor of Texas granted him a full pardon. Passing the bar soon afterwards (while in prison, Hardin had made an attempt at reforming by studying law and theology), the ex-convict began practicing law. Yet his inner demons were still plaguing him, and the hair-trigger-tempered Hardin quickly reverted to his old ways of gambling and drink.

The firearms from this notorious Texas pistoleer's final years are solidly documented through the official court records resulting from an arrest and his murder. They present an interesting assortment of handguns.

Among these was a nickeled 2½-inch, ejectorless, .38 caliber Model 1877 Colt Double Action "Lightning" with two-piece pearl stocks. This six-shooter was presented to him (along with an engraved and gold-filled Elgin pocket watch, a watch chain and coin watch fob) from his cousin by marriage, "Killer" Jim Miller, for representing him in a legal dispute. Hardin also owned two .41 Long Colt-chambered 1877 Colt Double Action "Thunderers." One was a 4½-inch barreled, ivory stocked and nickel plated pocket revolver (with ejector) and the other had a barrel of five inches and was nickel plated and ornately engraved with two-piece pearl grips.

Hardin also owned an ivory-stocked, 4¾-inch barreled, 1873 Colt Single Action



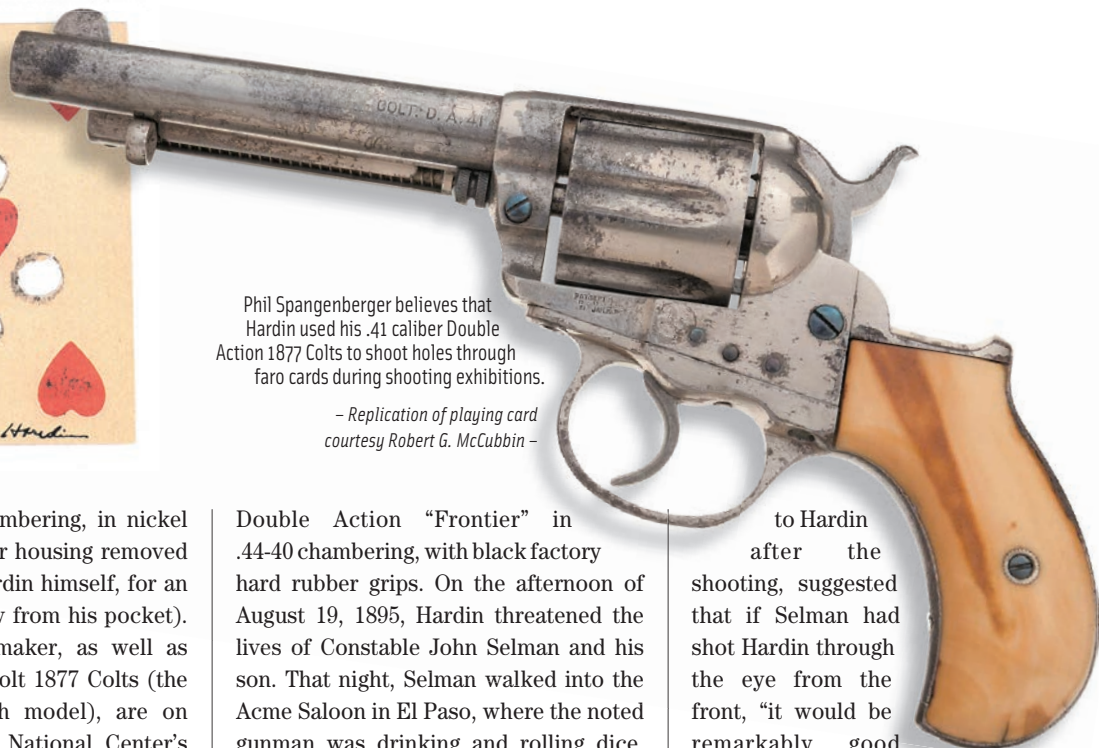
This illustration, by noted artist R.J. Onderdonk, was created for John Wesley Hardin's autobiography. It shows Hardin and his accomplice, Jim Taylor, gunning down Sheriff Jack Helm. Hardin used a 12-gauge caplock shotgun to broadside Helm; then Taylor fired several shots into Helms's head with his six-gun.

— All images True West Archives unless otherwise noted —



Phil Spangenberg believes that Hardin used his .41 caliber Double Action 1877 Colts to shoot holes through faro cards during shooting exhibitions.

— Replication of playing card courtesy Robert G. McCubbin —



Army in .45 Colt chambering, in nickel finish, with the ejector housing removed (quite possibly by Hardin himself, for an easier and faster draw from his pocket). Hardin's 1873 Peacemaker, as well as one of his .41 Long Colt 1877 Colts (the ivory-stocked 4½-inch model), are on display at the Autry National Center's Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, California.

At the time of his death, 42-year-old Hardin was packing a Smith & Wesson

Double Action "Frontier" in .44-40 chambering, with black factory hard rubber grips. On the afternoon of August 19, 1895, Hardin threatened the lives of Constable John Selman and his son. That night, Selman walked into the Acme Saloon in El Paso, where the noted gunman was drinking and rolling dice, and coolly shot Hardin in the back of the head with a Colt .45 Peacemaker, killing him instantly.

Ironically, Selman claimed that Hardin had seen him come in to the Acme and went for his guns, although few believed this story. As a matter of interest, Episcopal Minister E.H. Higgins, who had been called to the Acme to attend

to Hardin after the shooting, suggested that if Selman had shot Hardin through the eye from the front, "it would be remarkably good marksmanship," and if Selman had shot him from behind, "it was probably remarkably good judgment."

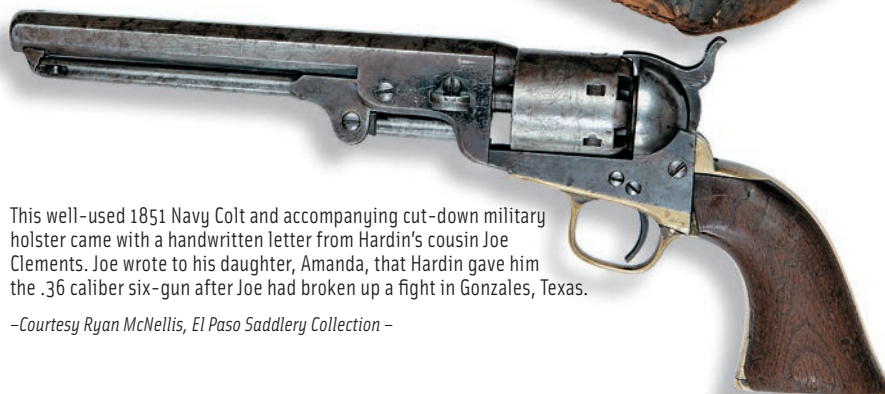
Had Selman indeed faced Hardin in a fair fight, the outcome might well have been different. J.W. Hardin was a bona fide expert with his six-guns. In his last year of life, he put on a number of shooting exhibitions during

...the only sound came from the dice as they rolled over the bar, and Hardin remarked: 'You have four sixes to beat!'

Without warning Selman fired his six-shooter. Hardin toppled and fell. Three more shots were fired.

From my chair I watched as blood from Hardin's wounds and his brain seeped out upon the floor.

—So said Patrick McGeeney, witness to the August 19, 1895, killing of one of the Old West's deadliest shootists, John Wesley Hardin.



This well-used 1851 Navy Colt and accompanying cut-down military holster came with a handwritten letter from Hardin's cousin Joe Clements. Joe wrote to his daughter, Amanda, that Hardin gave him the .36 caliber six-gun after Joe had broken up a fight in Gonzales, Texas.

—Courtesy Ryan McNellis, El Paso Saddlery Collection —

which he shot holes in faro cards, then signed them and gave them away as souvenirs. Most historians, including this writer who has carefully measured the bullet holes in some of these cards, feel that Hardin used his .41 caliber Double Action 1877 Colts to perform these shooting feats. A handful of these unique gunfighter mementos still exist and bring a premium price with collectors, as do any of Hardin's firearms.

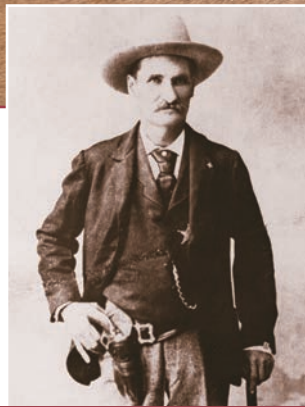
Like so many other shootists of the Old West, Hardin had many guns during his long and violent career. Thanks to court records, Hardin relatives and dedicated historians and collectors, like El Paso's late Robert E. McNellis, who uncovered several of Hardin's documented guns and other personal memorabilia, several examples of the Texas gunman's weaponry have survived. These valuable artifacts not only reveal the types of arms used by Old West gunfighters, but also provide the rare opportunity to see the actual tools of this deadly gunman—one of the frontier's most notorious shootists—in his violent profession.

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



This mirror was hanging in El Paso's Acme Saloon the night of August 19, 1895, when Constable John Selman killed John Wesley Hardin. Hardin was reportedly facing the mirror, rolling dice for drinks. His last words were "You have four sixes to beat." The bullet that went through Hardin's head supposedly bounced off of this mirror and was recovered.

—Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection —



A deadly duo of six-guns! At top is the Smith & Wesson .44-40 Frontier Double Action revolver taken from Hardin's body (shown on opposite page) after he was shot by Constable John Selman (left). Selman used the 1873 Colt Single Action .45 (above) to end the life of one of the West's most notorious and dangerous shootists.

—Courtesy James H. Earle Collection —

## See Where it All Happened!

Visit These Great Hardin Sites in Texas.

**Bonham:** Hardin was born 10 miles south of here at Blair Springs.

**Comanche:** Learn about Hardin's 1874 gunfight with local sheriff Charles Webb at the Comanche County Historical Museum; the bodies of his brother Joe and two cousins, who were lynched because of the killing, are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

**Waco:** Armstrong's capture of Hardin bought him a ticket to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum.

**Huntsville:** Learn about Hardin's prison life at the State Pen Museum.

**Cuero:** Visit the DeWitt County Historical Museum to learn more about the Sutton-Taylor feud, and see the Taylor-Bennett Cemetery.

**San Antonio:** See Hardin's gun at the Texas Ranger Museum.

**El Paso:** John Wesley Hardin is buried at the Concordia Cemetery (as is the gunfighter who killed him, John Selman). The Wells Fargo building where he had his law office in 1895, on the second floor, still stands at the corner of El Paso and San Antonio Streets. A historical marker notes his death at the site of the Acme Saloon, 274 E. San Antonio Street.





John Wesley Hardin x

*W. J. ...*  
PHOTO.

212 and 214 Santa Fe St.,  
EL PASO, TEXAS.

*(over)*

THE BEST

# TEXAS RANGERS

PHOTOS, EVER

BY BOB ALEXANDER

There are many, many iconic images of the Texas Rangers, but here are my 10 favorites and why.



*Ira Aten taken 1885  
S. Hayd, Round Rock, Tex.*

Make no mistake about this "Rawhide Ranger." Though posed in a photographer's studio—with weapons prominently displayed as attention-grabbing props—Texas Ranger Ira Aten was a man fearlessly capable of standing alone during a dicey tumult, proving to be one nifty adversary throughout a number of gunfights. I like this photo of Aten because he looks salty.

*Courtesy Jeri and Gary Boyce Radder*



Texas Ranger Cpl. J. Walter Durbin (at right) said he had some 15 good men in Company D, though a few could be a "little fussy and dangerous" when drinking. Private Wood Saunders (at left) measured up splendidly—on both counts. This is one of my favorite photos because it shows how both Rangers carried their six-shooter Colts just forward of the hip, butt to the front, easily permitting a strong-hand cross draw.

*Courtesy Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library & J. Evetts Haley History Center*



“Lt. George Patton wrote his wife: ‘Dave Allison taught me to always shoot the horse first, then the man.’”

—BOB ALEXANDER



This photo of Company D Texas Rangers is one of a series of five photographs that play out a story for a photographer. The camp scene shot stands out because it has several of the most prominent Texas Rangers: Sergeant Ira Aten (standing with cup) issues the marching orders; (seated, from left) Jim King, Frank L. Schmid, Ernest Rogers, Cal Aten, Walter Jones, Charley Fusselman, J. Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson, John R. Hughes and Bass (Baz) Outlaw.

*Courtesy Jeri and Gary Boyce Radder*

Although he looks more like a schoolteacher in this portrait photo, Dave Allison was the “real McCoy.” Friends and enemies alike described him as a career lawman who knew no fear.

*Author's photo*



This photo shows the transition to more advancing technology; these Winchester warriors wear cartridge belts stuffed with modern-era smokeless powder rifle cartridges. (Standing, from left) Herff Alexander Carnes, Sam McKenzie and Arthur Beech. (Seated, from left) Tom Ross, Albert Mace and John R. Hughes.

*Courtesy Texas Ranger Research Center,  
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum*

I love this image of James B. "Jim" Hawkins, a charter member of Company D of the Texas Rangers, because he definitely looks like he's loaded for bear.

*Courtesy Chuck Parsons*

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**“After he quit following the ‘festive cow’ and had become a Texas Ranger, James B. ‘Jim’ Hawkins was always loaded and at the full-cock notch: Ready for a bear or a brawl—or a beer.”**

**—BOB ALEXANDER**

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# TEXAS RANGERS



This Frontier Battalion photo has been widely circulated; you'll see it on postcards, t-shirts, even walls of restaurants. I like this classic photo because it was taken either before or after the famous 1892 shoot-out in Shafter, Texas, where the Texas Rangers had been sent to protect a silver mine. (Standing, from left) Robert "Bob" Speaks and Jim Putman. (Seated, from left) Alonzo Van "Lon" Oden and John R. Hughes. Ira Aten had recommended Hughes to the Texas Rangers after Hughes ably assisted him in the 1886 pursuit of murderer Wes Colliers.

*Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin Collection*

# TEXAS RANGERS



This photo of Samuel H. "Sam" Newberry is great because it shows the Texas Ranger making the transition to professionalism, through dress. But even though he looks quite natty in this photo, folks could tell he was a dangerous man. Typically, as most lawmen would, Newberry made sure the shutterbug had the Ranger's six-shooter Colt and fancy Mexican Loop holster and cartridge belt in the frame.

*Courtesy Texas Ranger Research Center,  
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum*

# TEXAS RANGERS



Statistically, the odds were stacked against this unsuspecting cluster of lawmen. At least five of these Company D Texas Rangers would die violently at the hands of others and, for that reason, this photo is among my top 10. (Standing, from left) Jim King, Bass Outlaw, Riley Boston, Charley Fusselman, Tink Durbin, Ernest Rogers, Charles Barton and Walter Jones. (Seated, from left) Bob Bell, Cal Aten, Captain Frank Jones, J. Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson and Frank L. Schmid.

*Courtesy Texas Ranger Research Center,  
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum*

**Bob Alexander** is a native Texan and veteran lawman, serving from 1965 until retiring as a special agent with the U.S. Treasury Department in 1996. He is the author of numerous books, including *Fearless Dave Allison: Border Lawman*, *Winchester Warriors: Texas Rangers of Company D, 1874—1901* and *Lawmen, Outlaws and SOB's*. His latest book is *Rawhide Ranger, Ira Aten*. Alexander is currently working on a book about Texas Ranger deaths on the Mexican border. He lives on a ranch near Maypearl, Texas.

# TEXAS RANGERS



On the cusp of the 20th century, in 1892, these four Texas Rangers ride into the history books.

*Courtesy Institute of Texan Cultures at University of Texas-San Antonio*

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**“Though these gritty Texas Rangers are crossing a bridge into the 20th century, it’s a surefire bet their destination wasn’t a pleasant Sunday afternoon picnic—more likely a chancy manhunt.”**

—BOB ALEXANDER

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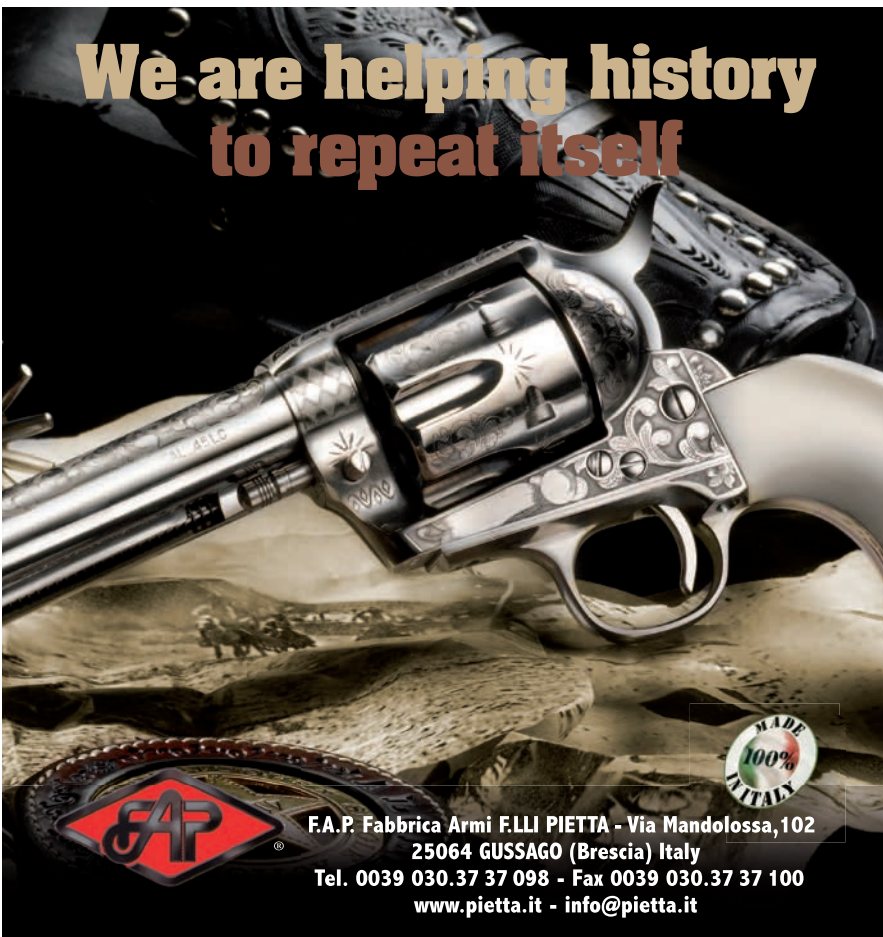


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# TRAVELING THR



This stagecoach racing a DC-3 American Airlines airplane serves as the perfect metaphor for the Old West historic sites and locales that modern-day travelers can journey to today, places where they can gain a better understanding and appreciation of their rich heritage. Incidentally, in 1937, when this photo was taken, American Airlines flew its one-millionth passenger. Automobiles had already closed the last chapter for the passenger stagecoach in the 1920s.

— Courtesy Library of Congress; all photos shared in these features are True West Archives unless otherwise noted —

# ROUGH HISTORY

## Riding Shotgun with 6 Trailblazing Historians

We handpicked six history-loving, trailblazing road aficionados for your sightseeing edification. These fellow travelers have either grown up on the trails they are touting, or they have studied these trails for most of their lives. Or both! Now you will have the inside skinny on what to see, and where to look, on six historic loops that will help you experience everything to the fullest. So hit the gas, turn on the tunes and check out the best magical history tour in the entire West. We plum sure guarantee it.



# Tracking the Texas Rangers

A Hill Country road trip following John Coffee Hays, Ira Aten and other top Texas Rangers.

BY DAVID GEORGE

## You're Riding Shotgun With...



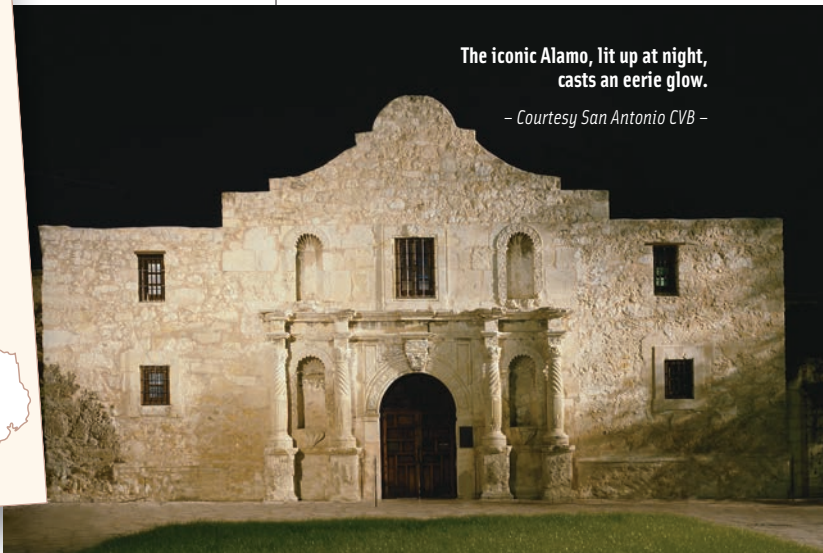
**David George**, who orchestrated the turnaround of the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum in San Antonio, further enhancing this historic museum with a new addition, the Texas Ranger Museum. The Ranger museum houses hundreds of Ranger firearms, badges and photographs. George embarked on that project as the owner of Destination Entertainment, a management consulting company that specializes in the tourist attraction industry.

His interest in the frontier West has encouraged George to become members of history organizations that include the Texas Gun Collectors Association, Wild West History Association and the Former Texas Rangers Association. He tells us, "Few road trips are more spectacular than a jaunt through the Texas Hill Country during the spring Bluebonnet season." For frontier West enthusiasts like him, George has outlined an excursion that will take you past a number of Hill Country locations with historical significance for those interested in the story of the Texas Rangers.

## SAN ANTONIO, TX

The experience begins in the number one tourist destination in Texas, San Antonio. The **Alamo** is, of course, the focal point of today's daytime activity. However, before your visit to this famous mission, you should go to the **IMAX Theater** at Rivercenter Mall adjacent to the Alamo grounds and view *Alamo: Price of Freedom*. This 45-minute presentation provides a great prelude covering the 13 days leading up to the fall of the Alamo. As you watch the film, you will realize that the Texas Rangers and volunteers totaling 32 men from the Texas town of Gonzales were the only response to Lt. Col. William Travis's famous "Victory or Death" letter.

Within walking distance of the Alamo are several additional attractions for the Frontier West historical traveler. The **Buckhorn Saloon & Museum** and the **Texas Ranger Museum** are two blocks away on Houston Street. The Texas Ranger Museum, in San Antonio since



The iconic Alamo, lit up at night, casts an eerie glow.

- Courtesy San Antonio CVB -



The Texas Rangers were the first to adopt the new Colt revolvers for use in fighting Indians from horseback. Mounted Indians could let fly a quiver of arrows in the time it took soldiers to ready their muzzle-loading rifles. The Colt Walker was a modification of Sam Colt's original design, with input from Texas Ranger Capt. Samuel Walker (shown above, with the Colt Walker revolver).

1936, covers many aspects of Ranger history beginning with the settlement of Austin's colony and the hiring of the first 10 Rangers in 1823.

For gifts for the history enthusiast, look for the **History Shop** on Houston Street, across from the Alamo, and explore the shops at **La Villita Historic Arts Village**. The area is only a short walk along the **RiverWalk** next to the **Hilton Palacio del Rio** hotel. Famous Texas Ranger Col. John Coffee "Jack" Hays once lived at what is now called the **Louis Gresser Complex** at 225 S. Presa Street across from La Villita.

There are a number of famous Rangers buried in San Antonio, including Samuel Walker of the Walker Colt fame, Robert A. Gillespie, John Salmon "RIP" Ford and Capt. Jesse Lee Hall. For details on their grave sites, go to [FindAGrave.com](http://FindAGrave.com).

## THE OLD TEXAS RANGER TRAIL

Although Company D of the Texas Ranger Frontier Battalion was based in San Antonio, Rangers did not spend a lot of time working in the big city. Their mandate, at the time, was frontier defense, so they often traveled for many days far from San Antonio. One of the more frequent journeys was from San Antonio to Kerrville and beyond via the "Old Texas Ranger Trail." Our tour will now take us in that direction to Boerne, Bandera, Camp Verde, Center Point and on to Kerrville.

Take Interstate 10 northwest from San Antonio about 30 miles to the Boerne exit. Boerne was settled primarily by German immigrants, and fine examples of Hill Country

limestone buildings can be seen in and around town. An interesting stop is **Texas Treasures Fine Art**, where quality paintings and sculptures by well-known Western artists are on display. A life-size sculpture of Wild Bill Hickok by artist Erik Christianson is currently in process in the gallery. There are numerous galleries, shops, antique stores and restaurants in town. For a stay over in Boerne consider **Ye Kendall Inn** right on the plaza in town. The 1859 stagecoach stop is a state and national landmark, and offers 36 rooms, a top restaurant and bar, and easy walking access to all the shops on Main Street.

While in the Boerne area do not miss a visit to **Enchanted Springs Ranch**. The 86-acre Western movie set, working ranch and animal park offers a unique opportunity to step back in time. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays.

When in Boerne you will be only about 15 miles from the site of a famous battle between Rangers and Comanche warriors at **Walker's Creek**. Take Sisterdale Road north from Boerne to the town of Sisterdale. On June 8, 1844, the Battle of Walker's Creek took place near here. Ranger Capt. Hays and a group of 14 men, including Samuel Walker, encountered a band

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of Comanches led by Yellow Wolf and a battle ensued. This was the first time a Ranger company used revolving pistols, Colt Patersons, in a battle with Indians. Up until this time, a mounted Indian brave with a quiver full of arrows had a distinct advantage in firepower over settlers using muzzle loaded arms. While in Sisterdale take time to visit the **Sister Creek Vineyards** store, housed in an 1885 cotton mill, and the **Sisterdale Trading Company & Saloon**.

After touring Boerne and Sisterdale, take Highway 46 toward Bandera. You are now entering serious dude ranch territory. Bandera is considered the “Cowboy Capital of the World,” with numerous guest ranches, events, entertainment and shopping making it a great place to slow down and smell the bluebonnets. Guest Ranches include the **Running-R, Flying L** and **2E Twin Elm**. Visit the **Frontier**

**Times Museum** and look for several historical markers involving Ranger history in and around town. April offers the annual **Chuckwagon Races**, plus the commencement of **Cowboys on Main** every Saturday. Look for great nighttime entertainment at **Arkey Blue’s Silver Dollar Saloon**.

**Camp Verde**, the Army post established in 1855 to experiment using camels on the frontier, is just north of Bandera about 14 miles. On the way, 10 miles out of Bandera, look for the **historical marker at Bandera Pass**. The well-traveled Indian pass was a choke point for attacks on the Spanish and all who later followed. Capt. Hays, along with 40 men, confronted the Comanche here in 1841 and engaged in a fierce battle. Stop at the **Camp Verde General Store** for lunch and an impressive selection of gift items.

Charles Schreiner, a French immigrant and former Texas Ranger, purchased the store in 1858 and from there grew his activities into larger mercantile, banking and ranching activities in and around Kerrville.

Six miles to the northeast of Camp Verde is Center Point. The **cemetery** in this small community is the final resting place of more than 30 Texas Rangers who served in the late 1800s. There is no other cemetery that contains the grave sites of so many Texas Rangers. Famous names include Capt. Neal Coldwell, Lt. N.O. Reynolds and Andrew J. Sowell.

A short ride from Center Point brings us to Kerrville and the home of the **Museum of Western Art**, the **Kerrville Folk Festival** (May 24 to June 10) and the **Schreiner Mansion Museum**. The Kerrville Folk Festival is a major event dating back to 1972 and attracting more



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## Within Striking Distance

### THE LEXINGTON OF TEXAS

The town of Gonzales offers the historic traveler an abundance of opportunities throughout the entire year.

The first shot of the War for Texas Independence was fired at Gonzales in October of 1835. The "Come and Take It" incident, or Battle of Gonzales, occurred as the Spanish attempted to retrieve a small cannon loaned to the settlers for defense against Indians.

The 32 men from Gonzales would be the only aid to the defenders of the **Alamo** in several months later, as Santa Anna's army encircled the San Antonio mission.

The **Old Jail Museum** and the **Gonzales Memorial Museum** are great places to start your visit. The jail, dating to 1887, contains many artifacts and takes the guest back to a time when

prisoners might go from jail cell to the gallows in the same building. The jail now houses a visitors center. The Gonzales Memorial Museum is dedicated to the Immortal 32 and has a cannon on display that many believe is the "Come and Take It" piece. Don't miss the museum's impressive Buck Winn mural outlining the pivotal role of Gonzales in the Texas Revolution.

The **Pioneer Village Living History Center** is an authentic representation of 1800s Gonzales, with events throughout the year.

It was in Gonzales that John Wesley Hardin met his wife and attempted to settle down, only to become involved in the Sutton-Taylor feud. Hardin would briefly return to Gonzales and start a



The famous "Come and Take It" cannon at the Gonzales Memorial Museum.

law practice after being released from prison. Look for the **Peck & Fly Building**; Hardin's office was on the second floor.

Gonzales is home to many impressive historic buildings and residences dating back to the cattle and cotton days in the late 1800s. The Old Jail visitors center offers a walking tour map, as well as a calendar of events sharing local history.

# BANDERA, TEXAS Cowboy Capital of the World

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3 nights of Rodeo, plus parade, arts & crafts and lots of music

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Texas Ranger Capt. John Coffee Hays was known as a "fearless fighter" and a great leader of men.

than 30,000 guests annually. The Schreiner Mansion Museum, housed in the former residence of Texas Ranger Charles Schreiner, takes the guest back to turn-of-the-20th-century Kerrville, re-creating the décor of the period.

### ON TO FREDERICKSBURG

Fredericksburg offers the traveler a treasure chest of amenities, historic sites, museums, restaurants and shopping. With more than 350 bed and breakfast inns, 20 hotel and motel properties, 150 shops, 20 art galleries, 30 wineries and numerous historic sites, there is never a lack of

things to do. Those with an interest in Texas Rangers will enjoy a ride to the **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** where Capt. Hays single-handedly fought a skirmish with Comanche Indians and lived to tell about it. A historical marker commemorating the event is in the visitor center at the base of this incredible huge pink granite dome that rises 425 feet above the surrounding area.

Unique lodging can be found at the **Trois Estate** at Enchanted Rock, where you can relive the Old West in a Spanish Colonial village environment. The property also houses the largest cap gun museum in the world with an example of almost every sidearm a kid ever dreamed of. The **Tin Star Ranch B&B** north of town is a favorite of single action shooters and Frontier West fans. Don't forget, the town of Luckenbach is just 13 miles southeast of Fredericksburg

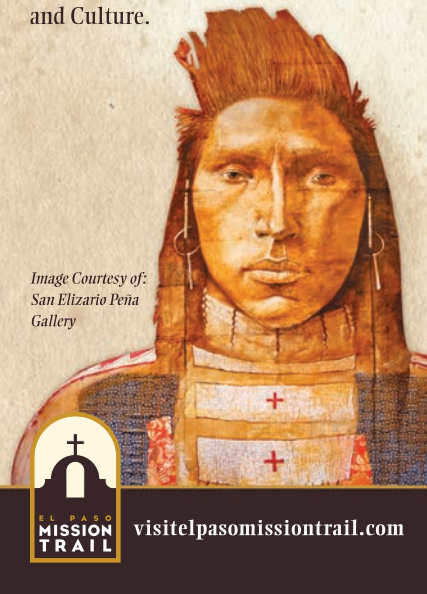
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Events subject to change please call to confirm.

**April**  
6-8 - Fiddle Fest Weekend & Fiddle Contest  
20-21 - 23rd Annual Llano Crawfish Open  
21- Llano Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Show

**May**  
4-5 - Mike Blakely's 10th Annual TexAmericana Fandango  
25-27 - Bluebell Bluegrass Classic Car Show

**June**  
1-2 - 77th Llano Open Pro Rodeo  
2 - Llano Rodeo Parade/ Great Castell Kayak Race  
30 - Llano Rock'n River Fest

**July**  
28-29 - Llano Outdoor Expo

**August**  
3-4 - Hill Country Hammerfest

**September**  
1 - Jr. Livestock Assoc. Wild Game Dinner

**October**  
13 - Chamber of Commerce Casino Night  
19-20 - Heritage Day/ Chuck Wagon Cook-Off

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## NORTH TO WACO

No visitor to central Texas with an interest in Frontier West history should miss the **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum** in Waco.

For a scenic route with Bluebonnet landscape opportunities, take Highway 16 from Fredericksburg to Llano. Llano, as the county seat, has an interesting past with spillover from the Mason County Hoodoo Wars involving Johnny Ringo and the Texas Rangers. Visit the historic **Llano County Courthouse** and **Red Top Jail**. **Cooper's BBQ** is a favorite stop for food and refreshments.

After passing through San Saba, Lampasas, Copperas Cove and Killeen, connect with Interstate 35 going north

to Waco. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's comprehensive assemblage of artifacts, photographs, documents and displays combine to convey the Ranger story of dedication to the people of Texas.

## BACK TO SAN ANTONIO

Traveling back to San Antonio will take you by a number of sites of interest.

Edwin Aten ended up joining the same Texas Ranger company as his older brother, Ira, who had, by 1892, retired and was serving as an XIT Ranch foreman. Two years later, Edwin helped break up the railroad strike in Temple, after workers joined a national strike by refusing to run trains pulling Pullman cars. The **Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum** is a good place to find out more about the strike and to see its collection of rolling stock.

The Texas Ranger most recently associated with Granger came in the form of actor Matt Damon, as the Ranger LaBoeuf, when the Coen Brothers' remake of *True Grit* was filmed here. This town of about 1,400 dates back to 1882, when the Houston and San Antonio branches of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad intersected here.

Texas Rangers battled it out on the streets of **Round Rock** in 1878 with Sam Bass and his gang of train and bank robbers.

The **Texas State Cemetery** in Austin is the site of a number of Ranger graves, including Big Foot Wallace's. The **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** and the **Blanton Museum of Art** at the University of Texas offer added options for Western history enthusiasts.

In 1846, William W. Moon became one of the first settlers of San Marcos, and



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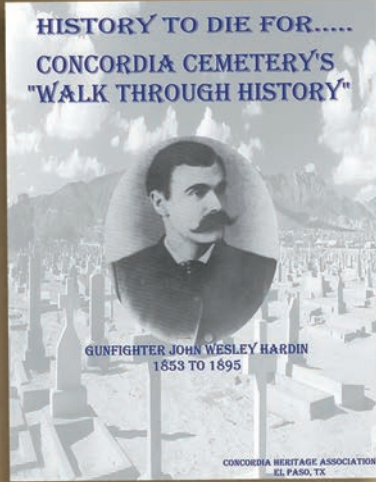
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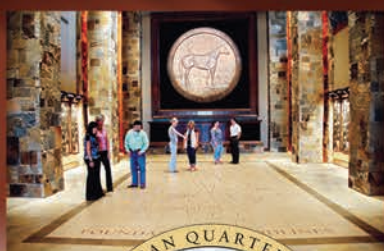
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he convinced other former members of John C. Hays's company of Texas Rangers to join him. But San Marcos is probably more well known for a collection tied to fictional Texas Rangers, from the popular *Lonesome Dove* miniseries. The **Wittliff Collections at Texas State University** has complete outfits, "making of" materials, production notes and photographs of Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones playing former Texas Rangers.

Johann Jacob Rahm was among Hays's Texas Rangers who came to the aid of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels's party to locate a settlement site in 1845 at what would become New Braunfels. Yet his good deed didn't keep him from dying in a duel in the town the next year. But you can think of the Ranger if you ever get the chance to book the John Coffee Hays room at the **Prince Solms Inn B&B**. German heritage is also preserved at the **Gruene Homestead Inn**, with its collection of historic farm houses located on eight acres of the original homestead.

The 1872 town of **Gruene** re-creates the touch and feel of turn-of-the-20th-century Texas with numerous options for food, gifts and entertainment.

By the time you return to San Antonio, you will have realized that the Texas Rangers have done a lot to make the state what it is today. There are many more stories yet to be uncovered. It's a big state with a dynamic heritage and reason for another journey or two, while the spring Bluebonnets are still in bloom.



At the Gruene Homestead Inn, you can rent a one-bedroom, one-bath loft converted from a 1940s grain silo.

— Courtesy Gruene Homestead Inn —

# Doc Holliday Slept Here

Hot on the trail of Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp and Kit Carson in western Colorado.

BY TOM "DR. COLORADO" NOEL

## You're Riding Shotgun With...



**Thomas J. Noel**, who is truly "Dr. Colorado." He has written more than 40 books on Colorado, he is a professor of history at the University of Colorado in Denver and he conducts tours for the Colorado Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institution. He also appears as "Dr. Colorado" on Denver's Channel 9, as well as writes a Sunday history column for *The Denver Post*.

Dr. Colorado guides us through his favorite spots in western Colorado on a tour that will take you back to the days of Doc Holliday, Teddy Roosevelt, Alferd Packer and other Old West pioneers who trekked to these Colorado slopes.

## GRAND JUNCTION, CO

Fly into Grand Junction, coast in on Amtrak, whiz in on I-70 or raft or kayak in on the Colorado River to its grand junction with the Gunnison River.

Stay at the **Spring Hill Suites**, which is located in the downtown historic district dressed up with engaging sidewalk sculpture. Among many dining options in this Main Street, pedestrian-friendly district are the upscale **Il Bistro Italiano** and the popular **Rockslide Brewery**.

As the largest city in western Colorado, Grand Junction has a crackerjack **Museum of Western Colorado**, the **Cross Orchards Living History Farm**, the **Western Colorado Botanical Gardens & Butterfly House**, plus nearby Fruita offers the

**Dinosaur Journey Museum** and **Colorado National Monument**, while Mesa is home to **Powderhorn Ski Resort**. The biggest and tastiest draws, however, are the Grand Valley's **two dozen wineries**, which are slowly sneaking up on California vintners.

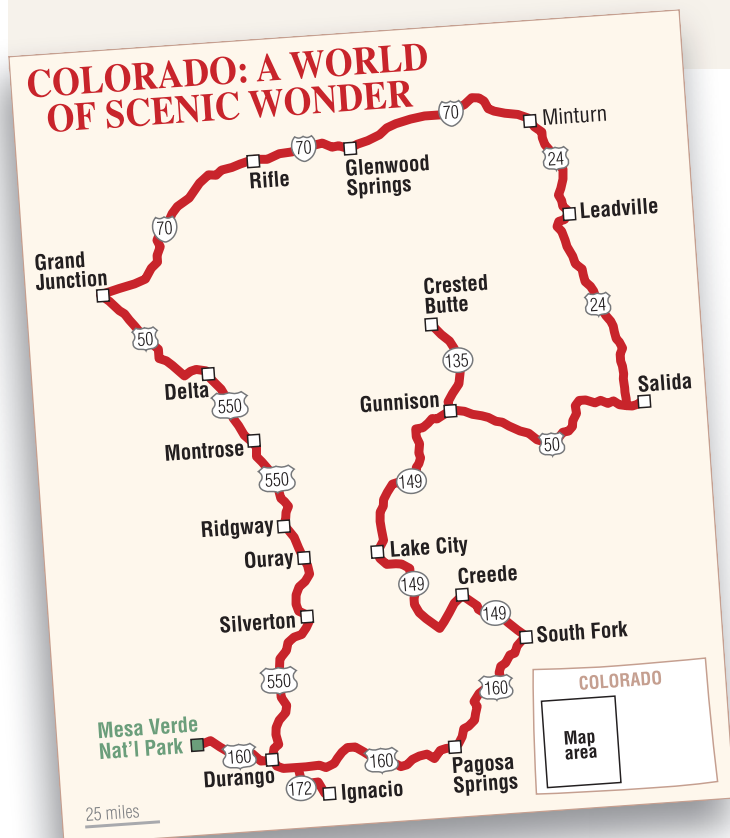


The famed O.K. Corral gunfighter Doc Holliday drew his last breath in Glenwood Springs.

## GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO

About 100 miles east on I-70, Glenwood Springs is famed for the country's **largest outdoor hot springs pool**. Try a curative soak. Doc

Holliday tried the hot springs cure for his tuberculosis, but he wound up under a tombstone in **Linwood Cemetery**. A Main Street saloon is named for the gunslinging dentist.



When Doc Holliday was arrested for shooting Billy Allen in Leadville in August 1884, one of the people who posted his bail was John G. Morgan, proprietor of the Board of Trade Saloon. Morgan had opened his saloon just the year before, and it is still open today, as the Silver Dollar. In Glenwood Springs, you can visit the gunfighter's grave.



Best to stay next door in the grand old **Hotel Colorado**, President Theodore Roosevelt's home base for one of his Colorado bear hunts. You can head for the well named **Exclamation Point Restaurant & Bar** with a breathtaking view of the Colorado and Roaring Fork River valleys.

### LEADVILLE, CO

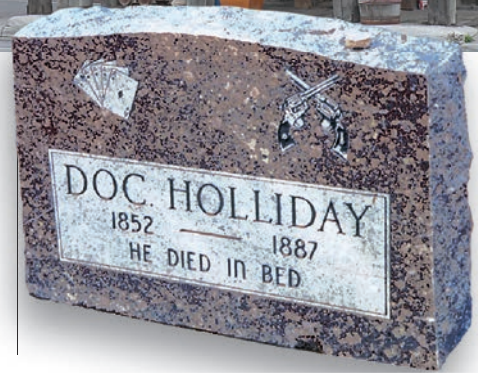
Aspen, Colorado's most glamorous resort town, is only 40 miles away, but consider the road less taken and head for the much cheaper, more real silver city of Leadville. At two miles high, the country's highest city never recovered from the silver crash of 1893—it is still a raw, blue collar town so unlike glitzy Aspen, Crested Butte, Breckenridge and Telluride.

The 1886 **Delaware Hotel** is the place to stay while you visit the intriguing **National Mining Hall of Fame &**

**Museum**, ride the **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad**, visit the **Healy House Museum & Dexter Cabin** and tour the **Matchless Mine**. There, Baby Doe Tabor's frozen body was found one icy March, 1935 morning. The most beautiful woman in Colorado came to an ugly end.

### SALIDA, CO

Fifty miles south of Leadville on scenic U.S. 24, Salida is one of Colorado's up-and-coming havens. An old railroad and smelter town with a marvelous red brick historic district, it has become a haven for rafters, artists and the younger generation.



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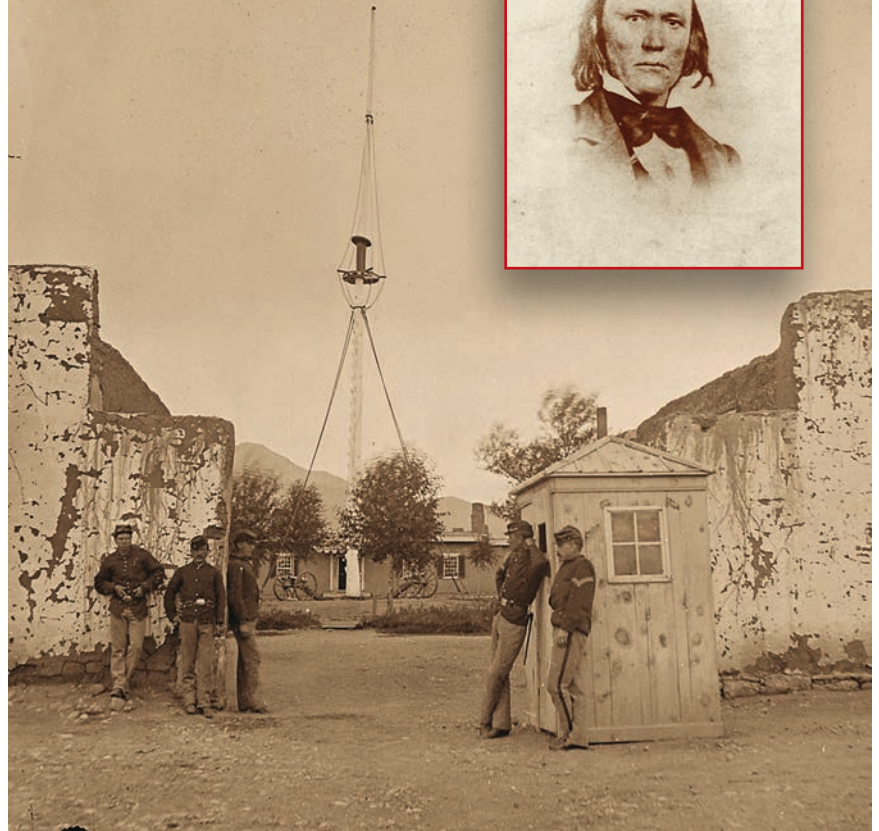
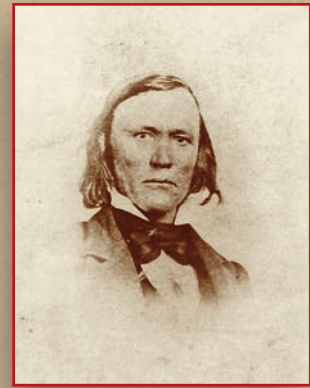
Salida sits on the Arkansas, which boasts of being “American’s Most Rafted River.” Get wet in white water thrills rushing you through the awesome 1,000-foot deep **Royal Gorge**.

The Gorge is also visible by the **Royal Gorge Route Railroad**, an incline railroad (the only one of seven to survive in Colorado), which runs under the world’s highest suspension bridge. President Theodore Roosevelt—here he is again—rode this train where you can now enjoy a champagne brunch or murder mystery dinners aboard the elegantly restored rail relic.


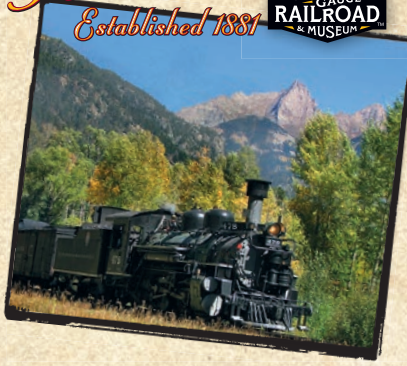
### CRESTED BUTTE, CO

To see a grungy coal town reborn as one of the best restored mining towns and slickest new ski resorts, head for Crested Butte. This is the “Mountain Bike Capital of America,” with no shortage of

Commander Kit Carson (inset) was stationed at Fort Garland from 1866-67. These troops are shown guarding the fort, a few years later, in 1874.



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Old City Hall on Elk Avenue is just one of the beautifully restored buildings to be seen in Crested Butte.

— By Walter Smalling 1978/Library of Congress —

rentals, not to mention the **Mountain Bike Hall of Fame and Museum**.

History buffs will appreciate the life-size mining tunnel at the city's **Mountain Heritage Museum**, which gives you a feel for the working conditions of the town's early-day coal miners.

### GUNNISON, CO

After Wyatt Earp's infamous Vendetta Ride in Arizona in March 1882, he and his posse departed Arizona for New Mexico and eventually Colorado. The group split with Doc Holliday, heading to Pueblo and then Denver. Wyatt and his brother Warren, along with Dan Tipton and Texas Jack Vermillion,

landed in Gunnison, where Wyatt briefly took over a faro game at a local saloon. Wyatt took the train to get here, and the best place to learn about the region's rail history is at the **Pioneer Museum**. It even houses an 1882 Denver & Rio Grande steam locomotive! Picture Wyatt standing on it, when you visit.

### LAKE CITY, CO

Colorado's grisliest tale unfolds in the still remote, isolated town of Lake City. The antique frame courthouse there is now a veritable museum to Alfred (a.k.a. Alferd) Packer, the **Hinsdale County Museum**. He led five prospectors into the blizzard-blasted San Juan Mountains during the winter of 1873. Packer had wild tales of what happened to his companions. When the snow finally melted, the butchered bodies were found. Packer was sentenced

"Doc" Holliday's Grave  
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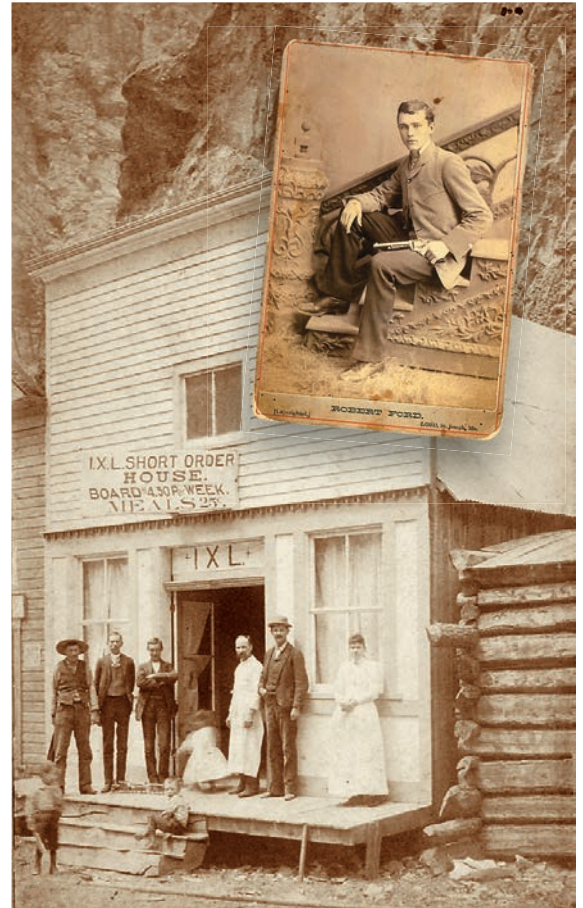
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Citizens in Creede stand in front of the IXL Short Order House in 1892, the same year that Jesse James's killer, Robert Ford, was shot down and killed. More than 100 miners and dance hall women turned out for his funeral at the town's local boot hill, although his body was later buried in his Missouri hometown.



**Within Striking Distance**

**ALAMOSA, CO**

At Alamosa, board the **Rio Grande Scenic Railroad** for trips to Monte Vista, LaVeta (an artsy-craftsy haven) or Antonito. At Antonito, don't miss America's highest coal-fired, narrow gauge steam excursion train. The **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad** is the longest and skinniest (65 miles long, three feet wide) of more than 1,000 registered Colorado Historic Places.

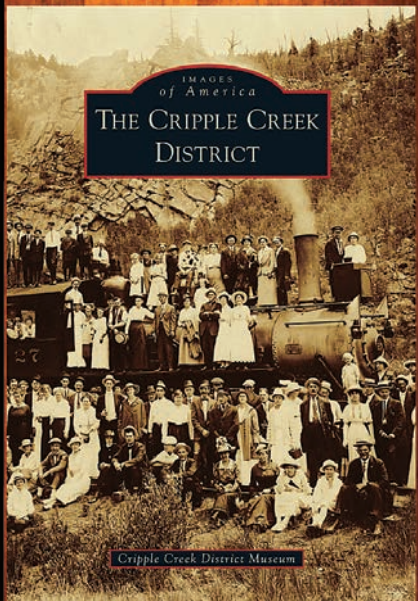
to hang, supposedly with the judge's pronouncement, "Packer, you voracious, man-eating, son-of-a-bitch, there was [sic] seven Democrats in Hinsdale County, and you ate five of them!"

**CREEDE, CO**

Spectacularly situated in a narrow canyon is Creede, with its unique **Underground Mining Museum**. Creede's **Silver Thread Scenic Byway** takes you to some of the best mining ruins in Colorado, and evenings offer first-rate summer repertory theatre.

Creede lies on the headwaters of the Rio Grande, which you can follow down to the San Luis Valley. Here lie the state's oldest towns, sleepy adobe villages with picturesque churches and chapels. Valley attractions include the restored **Fort**

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*Alfred Packer, the  
"Colorado Cannibal"*

**Garland**, an adobe outpost commanded by Kit Carson in 1866-67.

## IGNACIO, CO

On the reservation in Ignacio, you will find one of Colorado's most spectacular new marvels. The \$32-million, tipi-shaped **Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum** is a high-tech tribute to the state's oldest residents. The Ute Mountain Utes offer guided tours of their **Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park**.

If you have already visited adjacent **Mesa Verde National Park**, the Ute tour offers a native perspective on Mesa Verde, the first United Nation-designated World Cultural Heritage Site in the United States.

## DURANGO/SILVERTON, CO

Even more popular is the Durango & Silverton narrow gauge steam train which has been running ever since 1882

through the spectacular canyons of *El Rio de las Animas de los Perditos* (River of Lost Souls). At the end of the line, the postcard town of Silverton lies like a movie set high in the silvery San Juan Mountains.

Back in Durango, treat yourself to shops galore, great brewpubs like **Steamworks** and the fabulous **Strater Hotel** with its **Diamond Belle Saloon**. Therein you will find the warning: "Work is the curse of the drinking classes!"

## OURAY, CO

From Silverton, the scary Million Dollar Highway snakes over Red Mountain Pass and down into the "Switzerland of America," the mountain hamlet of Ouray. Ouray's fabulously-restored **Beaumont Hotel**, jeep tours of nearby ghost towns and large outdoor hot springs pool are the essentials of many options.

In nearby Ridgway, see the crackerjack **railroad museum** and grab a meal at the **True Grit Café**, a relic of John Wayne's *True Grit* filmed in Ridgway.

North of Ouray, you will leave mountains for the canyon lands and Montrose, with its first-rate **Ute Indian Museum & Chief Ouray Memorial Park** and nearby **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**. North of Montrose, fruit orchards and vineyards start to adorn the landscape on your way back to Grand Junction. ✠

Take the Silver Thread Scenic Byway to the outskirts of Lake City, where you'll find the dinner site of the "Colorado Cannibal," just above Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. Two years after that gruesome tale, in 1875, William Henry Jackson found a more pleasant scene outside Lake City, that of cowboys at the top of Argenta Falls (opposite page); its nearly 100-foot drop is still a sight to see today.

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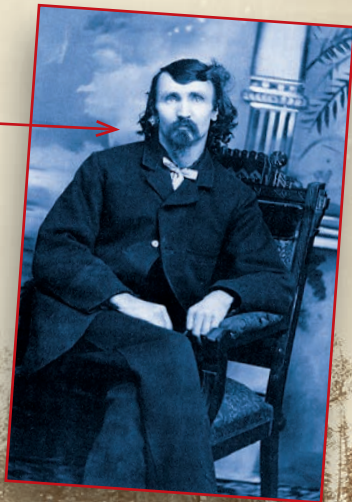
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# Cowboys & Cowntowns

Tracking down the Dalton & Talbot Gangs,  
Wild Bill Hickok and Chisholm Trail cowboys in southeast Kansas.

BY ORIN FRIESEN

## You're Riding Shotgun With...

**Orin Friesen**, whose passions are the Chisholm Trail, Texas Longhorn cattle, the Pony Express and Kansas history. A serious student of history for more than 50 years, Friesen is the operations manager of the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper, plays bass for the Prairie Rose Rangers and is curator of the Silver Screen Cowboy Museum.

He doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to preserving Kansas's Old West heritage; he walks the walk. In 2011, he spearheaded a drive to raise money for the restoration of the Kansas cabin where, in 1871, Dr. Brewster Higley wrote "Home on the Range," the state song.

In his spare time, Friesen raises horses on his Rocking Banjo Ranch and shares the stories behind Kansas's historic sites. Last year he helped celebrate the state's 150th anniversary by helping folks explore the Pony Express Trail. On this loop, he shares a bit of all his favorite history subjects, along with some road trip tunes that come to mind whenever he visits these sites.



## COFFEYVILLE, KS

"Go down Bill Dalton, it must be God's will. Two brothers lyin' dead in Coffeyville, two voices call to you from where they stood," the Eagles sang in 1973.

Coffeyville is a gold mine for those who love Old West outlaw history. It's where, in 1892, the Dalton Gang met its fate while trying to rob two banks at once.

The **Perkins Building**, which housed one of those banks, still stands; now it's the spot to go to find out the great historic sites in the area, as it is the home of the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau and of Downtown Coffeyville.

That's just the start of the Dalton tour. You can also visit **Dalton Defenders Plaza & Death Alley**, and the **Elmwood Cemetery** with the graves of three Dalton brothers (two of whom were killed on that fateful day). The **Dalton Defenders Museum** helps you travel

back in time to that day, with its artifacts tied directly to the Dalton Gang, including revolvers carried by Bill Power, Bob Dalton and Emmett Dalton, the sole gang member to survive the gunfight that day.

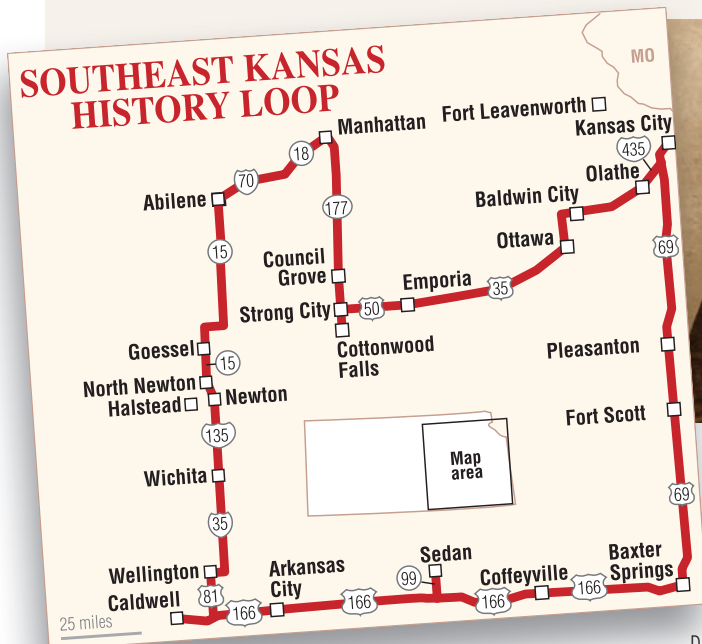
## ARKANSAS CITY, KS

"Someday I'll make a trip, back to that Cherokee Strip" goes the Bob Wills classic that Merle Haggard turned into a hit.

As you go through Arkansas City (pronounced Ar-Kansas, just like the river of the same name is pronounced in Kansas), make sure to visit the **Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum**. Besides commemorating the great land rush of 1893, the museum also has a replica of a Wichita Indian village that was originally located nearby.



Bob Dalton (above) was killed, along with his brother Grate, Bill Power and Dick Broadwell, after robbing the Condon National Bank and First National Bank in Coffeyville. Only Emmett Dalton lived, having survived 23 gunshot wounds.



## CALDWELL, KS

Even though he's singing about riding around the red rocks of Texas, whenever I hear Brenn Hill sing the lines, "I could feel the gunfight, Knew it was comin' soon," I figure that train of thought surely must have passed through the minds of many of the law and order men who tried to keep a handle on Wild West hooligans.

When Mike Meagher hung up his hat as a marshal in Wichita and became the mayor of Caldwell, he probably thought he had left that worry behind him. Yet when Jim Talbot and his gang came shooting into town on December 17, 1881, Meagher ended up dead.

As you stroll downtown, you can read more about this Talbot Gang shoot-out, as well as other historical events and people. Stop at the **Cherokee Strip Center** for a free tour guide of the **downtown historical markers**.

## WELLINGTON, KS

Chuck Miller was born in Wellington in 1924, and one of the songs he sang with his Chuck Miller Trio was a Western Swing hit called "Cow Cow Boogie." When you drive through his hometown, be sure to put on that tune, so you too can sing "Cow cow boogie in the strangest way. Comma ti yi yi yeah. Comma ti yippity yi yeah."

In Wellington, you'll want to check out the **Chisholm Trail Museum** and its displays and artifacts of the Chisholm Trail that ran just seven miles west of town. The cattle herds coming up the trail played an important role in the early economy of this town, which was first surveyed in 1871.



In October 1871, Abilene marshal Wild Bill Hickok accidentally killed his deputy during a shoot-out with gambler Phil Coe.

## WICHITA, KS

Tex Ritter sang a song called "Wichita," with a chorus that went: "Back in Wichita, law and order prevail. Take me back to Wichita, let me ride that Wichita trail." When I visit this town, the song's ending refrain still rings true: "Today, it's a very nice town. A very nice town."

Wichita was one of the important cattle towns on the Chisholm Trail. Located along the Arkansas River near the center of Wichita, **Old Cowtown Museum** depicts Wichita as it was in the 1870s during its heyday as a cattle town. With more than 45 historic and replica buildings, Cowtown is one of the finest representations of an Old West town anywhere. It is a "must see" attraction for anyone interested in the history of the American West.

Bob Dalton (a descendant of the famous bank robbers), actually has an account at the Condon Bank in Coffeyville today.

He says that when he walks up to the teller window, he is invariably asked, "Withdrawal today, Mr. Dalton?"



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The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita has a great collection of historically-accurate buildings, and the living history folks who work and volunteer here are the best.

While you're in Wichita, save time for the all-you-can-eat **Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper** followed by a show performed by me and the Prairie Rose Rangers. You can also take a horse-drawn wagon ride, watch a cowboy movie or visit the **Silver Screen Cowboy Museum**. The Prairie Rose Ranch is only 15 minutes from Wichita.

### HALSTEAD, KS

If you "fall to pieces" every time you hear Patsy Cline's "Crazy," you may have lots to talk about with the gal who owns **Kaleo Café**. Owner Kim Coslett, the lead singer for the Prairie Rose Rangers, sometimes performs tribute concerts to the famous Country singer. Even if you're not



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<b>ALL YEAR</b>	Events at Chaplin Nature Center & the Museum



## Dalton Defenders Days Live Re-enactment October 5 & 6, 2012



## Coffeyville, Kansas

Other attractions to see are the Old Condon Bank, the Dalton Defenders Museums, Death Alley/Old Jail and Elmwood Cemetery where some of the gang was buried

### Coffeyville Kansas

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a Patsy fan, stop by the café and snack on a slice of Kim's homemade carrot cake or peanut butter pie.

A block north on Main Street, visit the **Old Hardware Store**. It's like stepping back in time. The hardware store has been in business since 1885 and still sells many of the items it sold when it first opened. Proprietor Margaret Kraisinger will greet you and show you around. She's quite the historian herself, and she and her husband, Gary, wrote the definitive book on the history of the Great Western Cattle Trail.

### NEWTON, KS

"Gold was just a windy Kansas wheatfield, and blue was just a Kansas summer sky," John Denver sang in his 1974 song about a Kansas farmboy.

Mennonite farmers made this area famous with their fields of Russian Red Winter Wheat, introduced to Kansas in

1873. You can learn more about them, Newton's Chisholm Trail history, prairie homesteaders and the area's American Indians at the **Kauffman Museum**, a part of Bethel College in north Newton.

### GOESSEL, KS

"Oh, the high hawk knows where the rabbit goes, and the buzzard marks the kill. But few there be with eyes to see the tall men riding still. We hark in vain on the speeding train, for an echo of hoofbeat thunder. And the yellow wheat is a winding sheet, for cattle trails plowed under," was penned by cowboy poet S. Omar Barker and has been set to tune by numerous folk singers.

To find out more about that winding sheet of yellow wheat, a treat awaits you in Goessel, as you head up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene. The **Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum** not only shares the history of wheat farming

in Kansas, but also offers up eight 100-year-old buildings you can visit.

### ABILENE, KS

"Then in '69 he headed back to Kansas with his horse and pack, to become the U.S. marshal at Abilene. With his fearless heart and his trusty gun, he kept the outlaws on the run, and his justice was the fairest ever seen," sang the Peter Pan Orchestra, on a *Songs of the West* album you might have heard when you were a young cowpoke.

When you visit **Old Abilene Town**, you'll feel like you've gone back to the days when Wild Bill Hickok was marshal.

As the original trail head of the Chisholm Trail, Abilene was the first town to be established as a cattle town. After your trip to Old Abilene town, you should also take in **President Dwight D. Eisenhower's boyhood home** as well as the **Presidential Library and**

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When George Custer was in the area, he ate his meals at the Hays House in Council Grove.

**Museum.** In 1878-79, the Eisenhower clan moved from Pennsylvania to the Abilene cowtown, and the boy who would grow up to be our 34th president is buried here, in a chapel on the grounds of the library.

If you plan your trip accordingly, in May through October, you might be able to catch a ride on the historic Santa Fe steam train now operated by the **Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad.**

### COUNCIL GROVE, KS

In 1911, James Grafton Rogers penned "The Santa Fe Trail" song: "I seen her ride down the arroyos, way back in the Arkansas sand, with a smile like an acre of sunflowers, and her little brown quilt

in her hand. She straddled the pinto so airy, and rode like she carried the mail. And her eyes near set fire to the prairie, 'longside of the Santa Fe Trail."

Council Grove was an important stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Visit the **Kaw Mission**, which dates back to 1851. Daniel Boone's grandson, Seth Hays, opened the **Hays House Restaurant & Tavern** in 1857.

It's the oldest, continuously-operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. Have dinner in the same place where legends like George Armstrong Custer once dined.

### STRONG CITY, KS

"All in all, they had it good. Life as solid as ironwood, in the flint hills of Kansas," the soulful Country Rock singers Nathan Bell & Susan Shore sang in 1989.

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#### OLATHE, KS

Confederate guerrilla William Quantrill and his men raided Olathe just after midnight, on September 7, 1862. One of the raiders apparently dropped a flag in the town square. Resident Jonathan Millikan found it, and his son, Orin, donated it to the state historical society in 1930. (The seven-by-13-inch flag is now housed at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka.) Quantrill's bushwhackers did not scare off the Mahaffie family; you can still see three of the family's original

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buildings at the **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site**.

## KANSAS CITY, MO/KS

In 1864, Confederate Gen. Sterling Price and his men met defeat in Westport, now part of Kansas City on the Missouri side. (Kansas City on the Kansas side would be formed after the Civil War, in 1868.) The Westport battle tour route starts at the **Harris-Kearney House**, across the street from **Kelly's Westport Inn** (the city's oldest building), where Maj. Gen. Sam Curtis had his headquarters. Learn more about the battle at the **Trailside Center**.

When you cross the border back into Kansas, be sure to stop at the **Grinter Place**, an 1857 home that housed Annie and Moses Grinter. Forts Leavenworth and Scott troops sometimes crossed the Kansas River on a ferry operated by Moses.

## PLEASANTON, KS

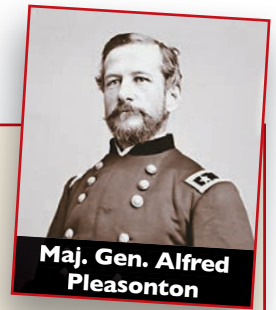
The second-largest cavalry battle in the Civil War took place near present-

day Pleasanton at Mine Creek, on October 25, 1864 ("approximately 2,800 Union cavalrymen overwhelmed 8,000 Confederates," states the historic marker). Visit the **Mine Creek Battlefield** and walk where Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton led his men to defeat the larger Confederate force in under an hour.

## FORT SCOTT, KS

Built in 1842, Fort Scott saw troops fighting Indians and in the Mexican-American War. It closed in 1853, just a year before violent political confrontations known as "Bleeding Kansas" broke out between Kansas and Missouri over whether or not Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state. The Army opened the fort again in 1862, to train Union troops for the Civil War. The **national historic site** shares all these stories, as well as offers a living history program about 1840s life. The **Fort Scott National Cemetery** is the resting place of troops ranging from the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers, to Buffalo

Soldiers to American Indian soldiers who served during the Civil War.



**Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton**

## BAXTER SPRINGS, KS

In 1862, field camps were built in Baxter to supply troops escorting wagon trains through Indian Territory. Fort Blair was built in July 1863. Only a few months later, in October, Indians weren't the ones who struck, but rather Confederate guerrillas under William Clarke Quantrill. In that Battle of Baxter Springs, 132 soldiers perished. The dead are buried in **Baxter Springs Cemetery**, west of the city. You'll find the **Fort Blair site** on Route 66 on 6th Street. You should also take a walk in downtown down **Military Avenue**, and check out the framed accounts of people and events tied to the historic buildings.



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known as the **Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**. There, you can visit the historic limestone ranch buildings, take a tour of the prairie and view a herd of buffalo.

### COTTONWOOD FALLS, KS

“Our prairie evening party has a guest list miles long, of critters who all come to life when evening’s comin’ on. Our hostess is the hoot owl, perched high up on a limb. She’s calling out to all her friends, ‘Who-who’s comin’?” is from a song some Cottonwood Falls folks will know well.

Just down the road from Strong City is Cottonwood Falls, a town dating back to the 1850s. The **French Renaissance courthouse**, built in 1873, is in itself worth the trip.

While you’re in town, grab some grub at the **Emma Chase Café**. If you time your meal right, you might even catch a live performance by some of the local cowboy musicians, like the Tallgrass Express, who sings the noted song on the band’s album, *Clean Curve of Hill Against Sky: Songs of the Kansas Flint Hills*.

### EMPORIA, KS

“I was out walking an’ a-ramblin’ one day. I spied a fair couple a-comin’ my way. One was a lady as fair as could be, an’ the other a cowboy, an’ a brave one were he. An’ the other a cowboy, an’ a brave one were he,” comes from a folk song sung by Cowboy Celtic on the band’s 2001 album, *Drover Road*.

One of the greatest contributions Welsh settlers gave Emporia was their love of music. Among the first concerts they held here was in December 1875, around the time when the traditional Welsh music festival, Eisteddfod, was held. Today, the town still pays tribute to its Welsh heritage with a musical celebration in March to honor the Welsh patron saint, St. David, while December usually means music and songs at the **W.L. White Auditorium** and downtown horse carriage rides.

Some of the town’s best historic sites are linked to W.L. White’s father, the editor of the Emporia newspaper he purchased in 1895: his **1899 home**, and the **museum of the newspaper**, which is still operated by the fourth generation of the White family.



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# Custer & Cody Country

In the footsteps of George Armstrong Custer, Buffalo Bill Cody and Chief Joseph.

BY CANDY MOULTON

## You're Riding Shotgun With...

**Candy Moulton**, a fourth-generation Westerner, who was reared on the Wyoming ranch her grandparents homesteaded. Moulton knows Wyoming inside-out. This journalism graduate of the University of Wyoming not only wrote the tour guide on the state, *Roadside History of Wyoming*, but she also shared the lesser-known Wyoming way stations, Overland Trail sites, battlefields and even hog ranches in her recent book, *Forts, Fights & Frontier Sites: Wyoming Historic Locations*.

As a contributing editor for *True West*, she specializes in travel features focused on the northwest region. She is also the author of 13 Western history books, including the Spur-winning biography on Chief Joseph, and she is the writer and producer of the multi-award-winning Oregon-California Trail documentary *In Pursuit of a Dream*. When she's not on the road, Moulton serves as the executive director of Western Writers of America, where she previously edited the organization's *Roundup Magazine* for more than 15 years.

In this grand adventure, Moulton goes on the trail of George Armstrong Custer, Buffalo Bill Cody and Chief Joseph, taking you to the little-known, but important, historic sites along the way.



## BUFFALO, WY

If Owen Wister could return to Buffalo, Wyoming, he would no doubt start the visit at the **Occidental Hotel & Saloon**. He'd wet his whistle and enjoy a good meal in the **Virginian Restaurant**, named, of course, for his iconic Western novel.

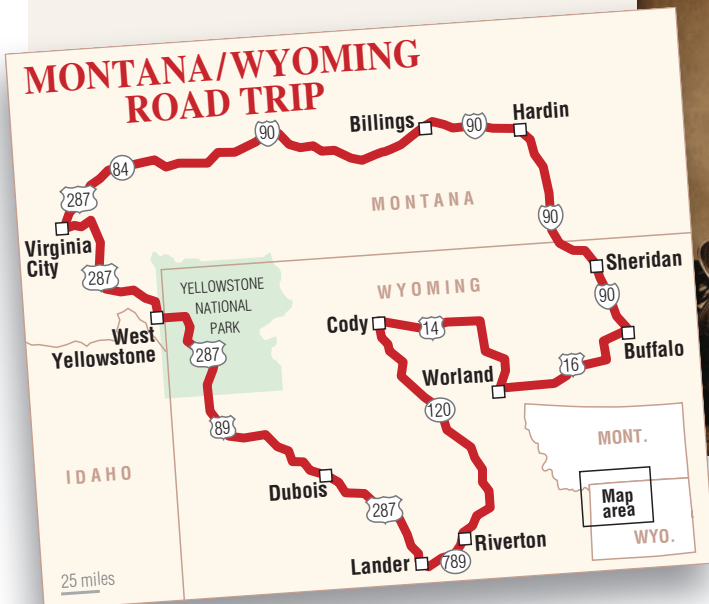
It is just a short walk up the sidewalk to the **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum** with collections about the 1892 Johnson County War and American Indian clothing and gear.

If you have an open schedule, I highly recommend a week-long detour to **Paradise Guest Ranch** where the horse brand is FUN. Owners Leah and Clay Miller give you the best attention and offer up summer seasonal choices of staying at the guest ranch or taking a backcountry pack trip deep into the Bighorns.

## WORLAND, WY

A massive mammoth sculpture by Chris Navarro is your visual cue that you have reached the **Washakie Museum & Cultural Center** in Worland. Inside, learn about the paleontological, geological and ancient history of the Big Horn Basin, then walk into the "bunkhouse" and get your instructions for a day on the range from a cattle king. Create your own personal brand and then head around the corner to check out the sheep wagon and the sheep brands that were donated by Sam Hampton.

The last murderous sheep raid in the Big Horn Basin took place in 1909. Worland resident John Davis, who wrote the book on it, *The Spring Creek Raid* (as well as the more recent tome on the Johnson County War), served as a consultant to the museum, which means you get great



Cody is named for its town founder, Wild West showman Buffalo Bill Cody.



"When you call me that, smile." Owen Wister's 1902 novel, *The Virginian*, set the tone for many Westerns to come (five movies and a TV series). Even before the movies, the story was first dramatized in 1904 at New York City's Manhattan Theatre (below).



interpretation of a complex story. The museum is also home to great photographs of the militia in front of the Big Horn County Courthouse and of the five defendants who participated in the raid.

### CODY, WY

When you walk into the **Buffalo Bill Museum** at the **Buffalo Bill Historical Center** this summer, it is going to be a fresh experience, where familiar objects are showcased in new ways as part of a complete renovation. "Window on William of Cody's West" will have artistic and photographic views of the country William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody loved, which are interpreted by using his own thoughts about places like the North Fork and South Fork of the Shoshone River, and his TE Ranch, among other locales. The Buffalo Bill Museum reopens on May 19 with a grand opening on July 3.



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For shopping, don't miss the **Custom Cowboy Shop**, **Wayne's Boot Shop** and the **Plush Pony**. A sandwich at **Peter's Café** or a steak and some boot-scootin' at **Cassie's** are also in order when you are in Cody.

## RIVERTON, WY

The Wind River Basin is the traditional home of the Eastern Shoshones, and they still have a reservation here, which they share with the Northern Arapahos.

Top museums and visitor sites with outstanding collections in this region are the **Wind River Heritage Center** in Riverton, **St. Stephens Indian Mission and Education Center**, devoted to the Northern Arapahos and located in St. Stephens, the **Museum of the American West** in Lander, the **Eastern Shoshone Tribal Cultural Center** and the **Gallery of the Wind**, near Ethete, which has

outstanding examples of Eastern Shoshone clothing, drums and guns.

In Riverton, you can watch powwow dancing at weekly summer events at the city park, or, during the Fourth of July holiday, you can learn about the 1838 rendezvous by attending a gathering of mountain men re-enactors.

## LANDER, WY

Lander is known for its collection of sculptures that are spread throughout the city. You will find a good sandwich, pizza and brew at **Gannett Grill**.

When you are in Shoshone country, you better believe that the Lewis & Clark guide Sacajawea is buried at the grave site west of **Fort Washakie** (north of Lander), where you will find a monument to her and her sons. To reach the cemetery site, travel toward Fort Washakie. At the **Wind River Trading**

**Post & Gallery of the Wind**, turn west on Trout Creek Road.

**Crowheart Butte** juts up from the Wind River Basin north of the junction of roads leading to Dubois from Riverton and Lander, and a roadside marker tells the story of the 1866 battle between Shoshone

These tipis outside the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody offer just a taste of the authentic tipi and artifacts that await you inside, at the Plains Indian Museum.



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In 1901, the Cowan family (inset shows George Cowan) visited the site of their capture where the Nez Percés kidnapped them while they were touring Yellowstone National Park in 1877.



Chief Washakie and a Crow that led to the naming of this landmark.

## DUBOIS, WY



Situated in the Upper Wind River Valley, Dubois started attracting homesteaders after the 1866 battle at Crowheart Butte. Here, ranch folks still tie their horses to a rail on Main Street. You'll find a variety of guest ranches where you can spend time close to nature and riding horses. For a truly rejuvenating interlude, go to **Brooks Lake Lodge** for a wilderness experience with all the amenities.

A steak at the **Rustic Pine Steakhouse** is in order after a long day of travel, but don't miss shopping at **Stewarts' Trapline Gallery**.

Just next door to the **National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center** on the west side of town is the **Dubois**

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**Museum** with its collection of rustic structures, and some very fine examples of Indian artifacts and local history.

This town's summer nights are filled with square dancing on Tuesday at the **Rustic Pine Frontier Room** and Friday rodeos at **Clarence Allison Arena**.

## YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Tourists who visited Yellowstone during the summer of 1877 were in for a surprise. That August, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perces found themselves under attack at Big Hole in western Montana. At dawn on the 23rd, they were in Yellowstone when the Nez Perces grabbed some park tourists to take as hostages in an attempt to push back the military. The Nez Perces safely released them and left Yellowstone, only to be forced to surrender at **Bear Paw Battlefield**, about 40 miles from Canada.

**Lower Geyser Basin** is where those tourists were camping when the Nez Perces grabbed them, and that basin is not only one of the largest, but also one of the most accessible (even kids can travel it).

Other great sites in West Yellowstone: **Yellowstone Bear World** may be the only place where you are sure to see wild species such as grizzly bears and wolves. Dine or stay at **Three Bear Restaurant and Lodge**. Visit the **Yellowstone Historic Center** and **Yellowstone IMAX Theater**. Then head over to **Yellowstone Traders**, where you

When Chief Joseph and his people reached Sunlight Basin in 1877, they chose the more rugged Clark's Fork River route for their escape. North of Cody, you can take the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway (open year-round) to view the majestic basin.



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### VIRGINIA CITY/NEVADA CITY, MT

Virginia City is so historic, the town itself is a museum; most of the buildings date to the Old West era, though they have been turned into a variety of businesses. You can tip one back at the **Bale of Hay Saloon**, find new duds at **Rank's Mercantile** and purchase a handmade or homegrown item at the **Virginia City Artisans & Growers Guild**.

Weekends are just plain living...with history—sharing the discovery of gold, vigilante terrorism, the Civil War in Montana Territory and much more.

Nearby Nevada City offers more of the same great history. You can see one of the cabins used in the PBS series *Frontier House*, an outstanding collection of music boxes or try your hand at gold panning.



These Crow Indians were captured and later imprisoned after an 1887 fight in Crow Agency, three miles north of the Little Big Horn Battlefield.

Lodging is recommended at the **Fairweather Inn** and **Just an Experience B&B** in Virginia City and at the **Nevada City Hotel** in Nevada City.

### BILLINGS, MT

Follow the Yellowstone River east across Montana as Corps of Discovery explorer William Clark did, but plan to stop in Billings to visit the **Western Heritage Center** with its "A Mile in Her Shoes: Montana Women at Work" exhibit up through September and the Cecil Dunn Collection of Eastern Shoshone artifacts (highlights include breastplates, beaded bags and horn spoons).

Heading on east of Billings you can visit **Pompey's Pillar**, on which Clark inscribed his name in 1806, but then turn south to the Little Bighorn River country.

### HARDIN, MT

**Little Bighorn Battlefield** is the reason many people want to stop in Hardin, and of course you ought to go up to walk with the ghosts of George Armstrong Custer and the men who died with him. But it will also be well worth your time to visit the monument to the Indian participants, and stop at the **Big Horn County Historical Museum**.

At **Lammer's Trading Post**, which has been in business since 1916, you'll find guns, saddles, tack, beadwork, Indian regalia, hand drums, Pendleton blankets and beads.

The two big events in the Hardin area are the annual re-enactment of the

Little Big Horn Battle (June 22-24) and Crow Fair, an Indian cultural fair and powwow held in mid-August.

**SHERIDAN, WY**

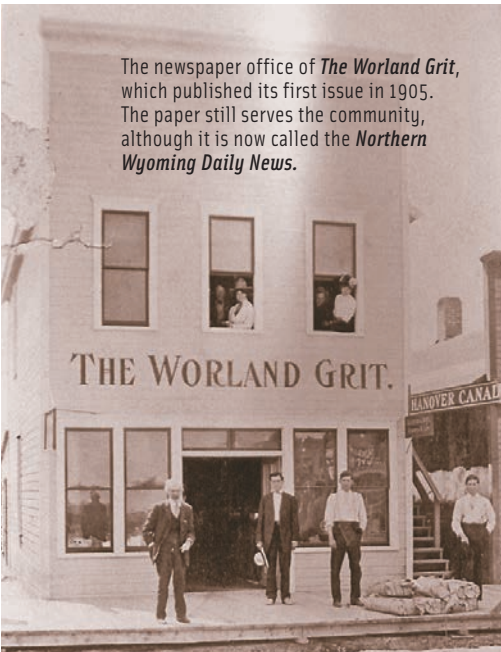
The cattle industry helped build Sheridan, and you'll find vestiges of its heyday all across town, from the **Trail End State Historic Site** (home of John B. Kendrick who came to the state as a penniless cowboy and became the governor) to the **Museum of King's Saddlery**.

Have a drink at the **Mint** and shop at **King Ropes, Tom Balding Bits and Spurs** or **Bucking Buffalo Supply Company**.

Take a side trip to Big Horn, where the **Bradford Brinton Memorial & Museum** offers you an opportunity to view original art by the likes of Borein, Gollings, Remington and Russell.

The route back to our starting point is rich in a final bit of Plains Indian War history. By avoiding the interstate and driving on the secondary roads, you can visit the **site of the 1867 Wagon Box Fight**, have a fine meal at the **Wagon Box Inn** in Story, walk the ground at the **1866 Fetterman Massacre site** and visit the **1866 Fort Phil Kearny**, where you will learn just how effective Red Cloud's Lakotas were in stopping travel along the Bloody Bozeman Road and forcing the military to abandon not only this fort, but also Fort C.F. Smith farther north in Montana, and Fort Reno, built to the east in Wyoming. ✕

The newspaper office of *The Worland Grit*, which published its first issue in 1905. The paper still serves the community, although it is now called the *Northern Wyoming Daily News*.



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# Wild Bunch Territory

*A Utah road trip to Butch Cassidy & the Wild Bunch, the ill-fated Donner Party and Chinese rail workers.*

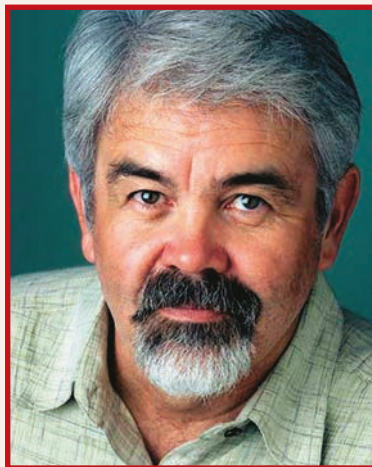
BY LARRY CLARKSON

## You're Riding Shotgun With...

**Larry Clarkson**, a native Utahn, born and raised in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. He stills lives, with his wife, in the shadow of Mount Olympus.

A professor of art and design at Weber State University, Clarkson is also the graphic designer of the Official Utah Travel Guide for the Utah Office of Tourism and has worked for more than 30 years as a graphic designer and visual communications consultant.

He spends his winters skiing the majestic Utah powder in northern Utah and his summers hiking the red rock canyons of southern Utah, and he always has his sketchbook or paint box on hand. His writing and painting have recently been highlighted in the book *Painters of Utah's Canyons and Deserts*.



Clarkson takes us on a tour of some of Utah's historic railroad and mining towns, on a loop that begins at the hub of Salt Lake City.



## SALT LAKE CITY, UT

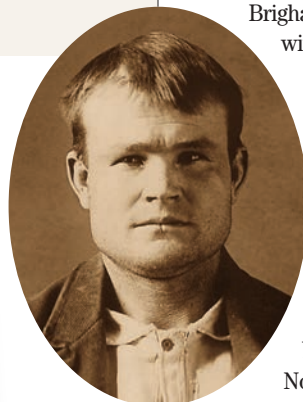
This mountain-rimmed sagebrush valley adjacent to the Great Salt Lake was first traversed by trappers and pathfinders from Jim Bridger to John C. Fremont, but most notably, by the ill-fated Donner-Reed party in 1846. The emigrants' untimely winter sojourn in the high Sierras made cannibals of these god-fearing pioneers. A 45-minute drive west of Utah's capital city on I-80 to the Delle exit will hook you up to a dirt road leading to the **Hastings Pass Trail** that dictated the emigrants' grisly fate.

A side trip into Grantsville to visit the **Donner-Reed Museum** is worth your time to see artifacts pioneers discarded from wagons to lighten their load as they ran out of water and their oxen died. It was this same track, but on the east side of the Salt Lake Valley through East Canyon, that Brigham Young and the Mormon pioneers took to enter the Valley one year later.

In Salt Lake City, Mormons still get baptized and married inside the imposing, but beautiful, granite temple fortress at **Temple Square**. East of the square are the **Beehive House** and the **Lion House**—homes of early Mormon Church president Brigham Young and his 50-plus wives and abundant children.

The Salt Lake Valley was actually Mexican territory when the pioneers entered on July 24, 1847. You can contemplate this little-known fact while eating the best "mole" outside of Mexico at the **Red Iguana** restaurant, just seven

blocks west of the square on North Temple street. The line getting in often winds around the building like a wagon train, but the food is worth the wait.



**Butch Cassidy**

**“This is the Place” Heritage Park** houses **Old Deseret Village**, a living history museum that re-creates a typical 1850s Mormon community. For lunch, head down the Old Mormon Trail (now Emigration Canyon Road) about two miles east to **Ruth’s Diner**. Sip a local brewed beer and chow down on “Grandma Claire’s Baked Mac & Cheese” on the restaurant’s huge outdoor patio.

The **Pioneer Memorial Museum**, known among the locals as the DUP, offers the world’s largest collection of Mormon pioneer artifacts, from a Conestoga wagon to Victorian hair art made into wreaths.

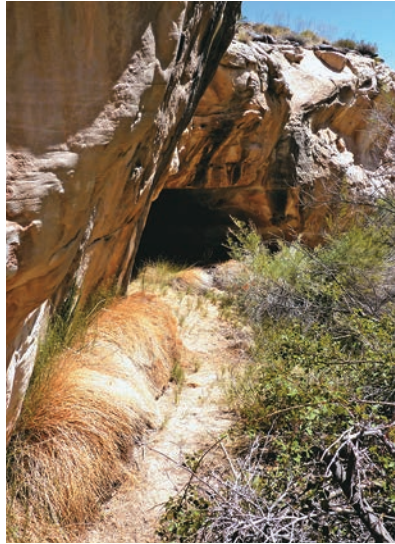
If you are looking to add a rare book on Mormonism to your Western history collection, visit **Ken Sanders Rare Books**. Ken could pass for a member of Z Z Top, but while he can’t sing a note, he is a treasure chest of Western lore.

## OGDEN, UT

Ogden, named after Hudson’s Bay Company mountain man Peter Skene Ogden, claims to be Utah’s oldest non-native settlement with the building of **Fort Buena Ventura** in 1845 by mountain man Miles Goodyear. Even though it was more a small picket enclosure than a fort, Goodyear pulled a sneaky and sold his claim to the Mormons two years later in 1847; it became known as Brown’s Fort. Today, you can visit a replica of the fort on the original site, along with a visitor center. Stop by on Labor Day and participate in a blackpowder pistol shoot or compete in the tall tales competition at the Fort Buena Ventura Rendezvous.

With the completion of the nation’s Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, Ogden became the junction for rail travel in the Intermountain West. Its **Ogden Union Station** houses three museums: **Utah State Railroad Museum** (learn about the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad); **John M. Browning Firearms**

The author knows of a “Butch Cassidy” inscription in a cave hidden in the Waterpocket Fold. It is on the trail Butch often took between the Mormon farming and ranching hamlets of central Utah where he was raised, and the Wild Bunch’s Robber’s Roost hideout in the red rock maze of Canyonlands.



**Museum** (my favorite firearm is the 1911 Colt .45, the U.S. military sidearm for more than 75 years); and the **Browning-Kimball Classic Car Museum** (houses a 1901 single-cylinder Olds to a 1930 16-cylinder Cadillac, but no Porsches).

Take a stroll up **Historic 25th Street**, due east of Union Station, where the buildings and storefronts still retain the atmosphere of Ogden during its heyday as “Junction City.” Housed in an 1890 building that was once a house of ill repute is **Roosters Brewing Company**. Its well-known Polygamy Pale Ale goes great with a Naughty Brewhouse Burger.

## PROMONTORY, UT

The joining of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads on May 10, 1869, to become the Transcontinental Railroad took place 50 miles northwest of Ogden at Promontory Summit. At the **Golden Spike site**, you can view replica steam locomotives “Jupiter” and “119” and participate in re-enactments of the Golden Spike ceremony.

Next up, take a driving tour on the original Transcontinental Railroad grades. A great side trip is the hike to **Chinaman’s Arch**, named in honor of

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the Chinese rail workers. Art fans may want to drive a short 16 miles away, on a dirt road, to see **Spiral Jetty**, the monumental earthwork by Robert Smithson located on the shore of the Great Salt Lake.

### UTAH'S CACHE VALLEY

Originally inhabited by the Northwest Band of the Shoshone, Cache Valley was named by mountain men who used it for trapping and caching hides, and as a rendezvous site in 1826.

A Mormon settlement founded in 1859, Logan was named after fur trapper Ephraim Logan. The valley is a prime agricultural area, and Logan is home to **Utah State University**, Utah's original 1888 land grant college.

Logan's downtown features many turn-of-the-20th-century homes and buildings. The **Logan Utah Temple**,

built from 1877-84, rests on a terrace of ancient Lake Bonneville, precursor to the Great Salt Lake. The 1891 **Logan Tabernacle** is an excellent example of an early Mormon meetinghouse. For more historic homes, take the walking tour in Providence.


After all that walking in Logan, stop by the **Bluebird Café** and order an Ironpot—a cross between a root beer, coke and cream soda. Be sure to order it with cream.

In nearby Wellsville, the 160-acre **American West Heritage Center** is the place to be in the summer, when it hosts history re-enactments, folk-life craftspeople and Old West entertainers. You'll see an Indian village, a mountain man rendezvous, a military encampment, a pioneer settlement, cowboy shoot-outs, a medicine show and loads of great food.

### PROVO, UT

Fathers Escalante and Dominguez trekked through the Utah Valley in 1776 to look for an overland trade route from the Spanish mission at Santa Fe to the missions in northern and central California. Fur trappers also visited in the early 1800s, and it is from one, named Etienne Provost, that the Mormon settlement Provo got its name. Founded in 1849, Provo was the first Mormon colony in Utah outside of Salt Lake Valley.

If you are interested in the history of printing, be sure to spend some time at the **Crandall Historical Printing Museum**. It features fully-working replicas of the presses used by Gutenberg to print the *Bible* and Franklin to print the *Constitution*. It also showcases many historical printed samples, including pages of the first edition of the *Book of Mormon*.



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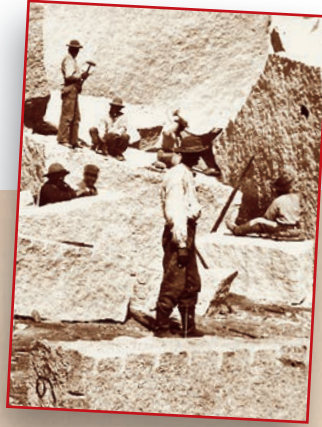
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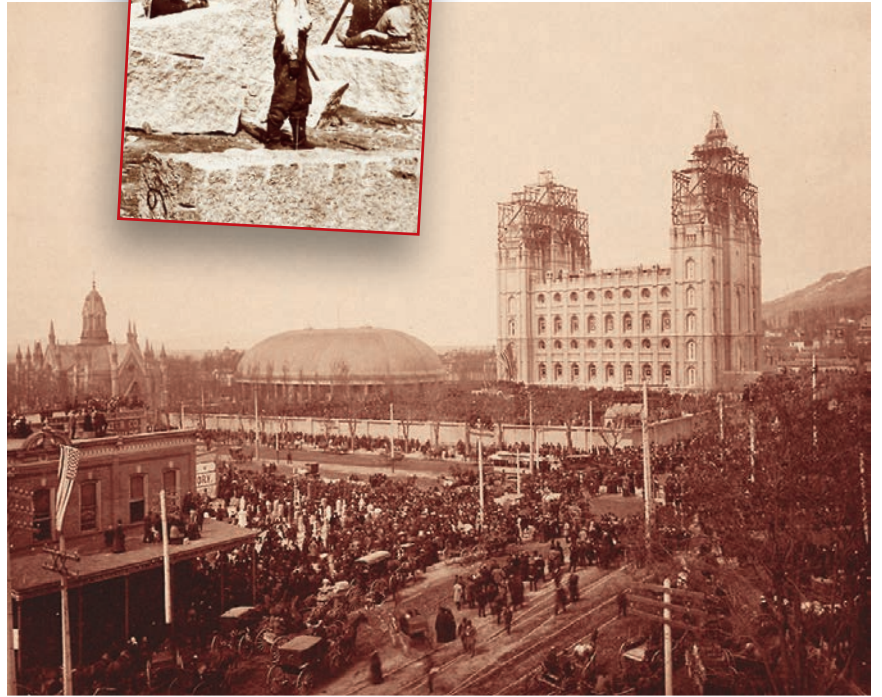
## CASTLE GATE & HELPER, UT

Seeking a route from Denver to Salt Lake City in the late 1800s, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad laid tracks between Provo and Price over Soldier Summit, passing by the railroad and mining settlements of Castle Gate and Helper.

**Castle Gate Spire**, a single landmark now, was once two striking castle spires before the Utah Department of Transportation blasted one with dynamite so it could widen the road. Castle Gate got its start when the Pleasant Valley Coal Company began mining here in 1886. It was the scene of a daring, but smart, robbery in broad daylight of some \$8,000 in payroll gold in 1897. Butch Cassidy and his two accomplices fled to **Robbers Roost**, cutting telegraph wires along the trail to prevent news of the robbery from spreading to lawmen along their 100-mile escape route.



In 1872, William H. Jackson captured this photograph of Mormon pioneers quarrying granite for the temple in Salt Lake City. Twenty years later, in April, about 50,000 attended to see the placement of the capstone and the statue of the angel Moroni.



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Photo by Paul Larsen

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History comes to life at the replica of mountain man Miles Goodyear's Fort Buenaventura. His 1841 cabin that was originally on the same land as the fort is now preserved near the Pioneer Museum on Grant Avenue in Ogden.



The town of Helper, northwest of Price, was named after the helper locomotives that still aid trains traveling up the steep grade of Price Canyon to Soldier Summit and over to Provo. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad established the town in 1891 to take advantage of the nearby coal deposits needed to fuel the steam engines. You can learn more about this story of coal mining and railroad camps with a visit to the **Western Mining and Railroad Museum** on Main Street.

#### GREEN RIVER, UT

As you drive to Green River, watch the Book and

Roan Cliffs rise dramatically from the lower desert floor. These impassable cliffs have provided hiding places for rustlers, outlaws and hermits over the years, and they were home to the Fremont Indians some 1,000 years ago.

A side trip to view the Indian rock art in **Nine Mile Canyon** is worth it. The scenic drive is a 100-mile round trip from the Wellington turn-off to the famous "**Cottonwood 'Great Hunt' Panel**" and back on a graded dirt road, so be sure you have plenty of gas, food and water.

A river crossing for the U.S. mail in 1876 and then a fuel and water stop in 1883 when a rail line was built between Salt Lake and Denver, Green River was visited often by bandits traveling between **Robbers Roost** in south central Utah and **Brown's Park** in northeastern Utah. Matt Warner, a relative of mine and a cohort of Butch Cassidy, once owned

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a saloon and brothel in Green River. I wonder if thievery is in my blood?

Green River is home to the John **Wesley Powell River History Museum**. Situated on the banks of the Green River, it is a showcase of the trials and tribulations of the expeditions of Powell, a one-armed Northern Army officer veteran of the Civil War, who first floated down the length of the Green River and parts of the raging Colorado. This museum is one of my favorites and is packed with a slew of interesting historical artifacts of river running in the West.

### MOAB, UT

On the drive to Moab, you'll notice the landscape change from grey silt stone cliffs to free-standing sandstone pinnacles and plateaus...welcome to Utah's red rock desert. To the north is **Arches National**

**Park**, the largest concentration of natural arches in the world, while to the south is **Canyonlands National Park**.

Nineteen miles into your drive from Crescent Junction, at highway marker 141, is the dirt road turn-off to **Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trailhead**. The trail leads to fossilized dinosaur footprints. On the canyon's south side, you'll see remnants of an 1800s copper mill along the Moab fault.

Remains of the 1883 **Halfway Stage Station** between Moab and Thompson are located about a half mile east of the Dinosaur Trail. The first train went through Thompson to Salt Lake in April 1883. The 35-mile stage trip from Moab to the train took eight hours, so travelers stopped at the station for meals.

Your first glimpse of the Colorado River as you drop down off the plateau into Spanish Valley on your way to Moab

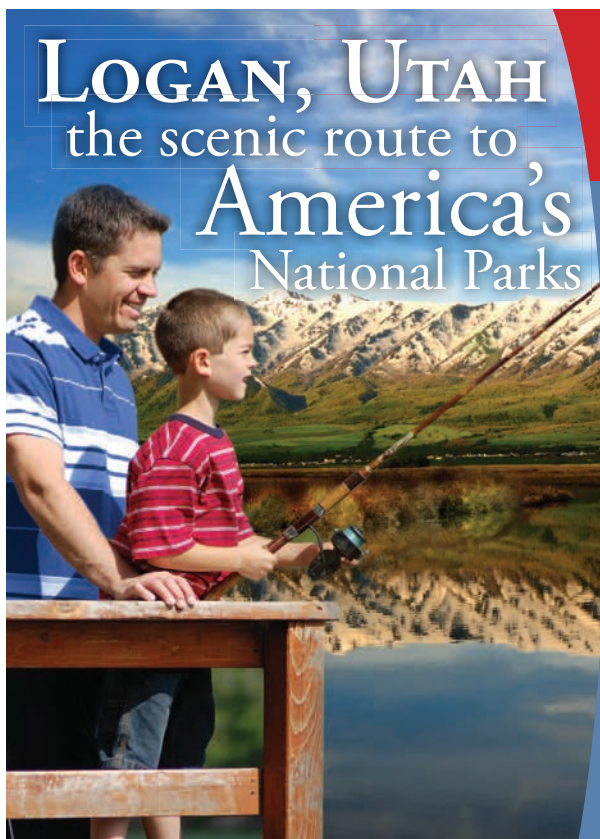
is an exhilarating sight. During the 1800s the area around what is now called Moab served as the Colorado River crossing along the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe.

While in Moab, stop for a drink and some grub at **Moab Brewery**, which boasts nine locally-brewed beers. My favorite is Golden Sprocket, which goes great with a Reuben sandwich.

### BACK TO SALT LAKE

Head back to Crescent Junction and slip into Colorado on the return route for our Utah trip. The next stop will be Vernal.

It lies in Ashley Valley, named in honor of William H. Ashley, a fur trader who entered the basin in 1825 by floating down the Green River in a bull boat. Unlike many Utah towns, Vernal was not settled initially by Mormon pioneers. Yet



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# Gold Coast's Badmen

Following Black Bart, the Vigilance Committee and Rattlesnake Dick from San Fran and back.

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

## You're Riding Shotgun With...

San Francisco-born **John Boessenecker**, who, as a boy, made annual vacation trips along this route with his family. His visits to Auburn, Virginia City and Placerville kindled his interest in the Old West. At the age of 15, he even sold his first article to a Western magazine.

He's served California as a police officer in Mill Valley and San Mateo, and he began practicing law in the field of probate, trust and estate litigation after passing the state bar in 1985. California history is his passion though, and he has authored six books highlighting the state's bandits and frontier lawmen, most recently the biography, *Bandido: The Life and Times of Tiburcio Vasquez*, which earned a Spur from Western Writers of America and the "Best Book" award from Wild West History Association. But rather than take you to the popular Vasquez Rocks, 40 miles north of Los Angeles and a frequent hideout of Vasquez, Boessenecker has tracked some other notable badmen on a Gold Coast loop that takes you through northern California and across the border to Nevada.



## SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The **Wells Fargo History Museum** located at 420 Montgomery St. is the best express museum in the West, featuring two Concord stagecoaches, firearms and a Wells Fargo bank office. You can see the Henry rifle and Colt revolver carried by the famous Wells Fargo Detective James B. Hume, a close friend and supporter of the Earp brothers. You can also see authentic Wells Fargo express boxes of the type targeted by Black Bart, the West's most prolific stage robber. The staff is very friendly and eager to answer questions.

**Tadich Grill**, on 240 California Street and established in 1849, is the city's oldest restaurant. The fare here is Old San Francisco; the menu has changed little since the Gold Rush. The waiters wear the old-style white linen aprons and are notoriously abrupt with customers. San Franciscans love it and keep coming, generation after generation.

Next up, visit **Mission Dolores** at 16th and Dolores Streets. Father Junipero Serra established this adobe mission in 1776, and it is the oldest building in the city. It withstood the 1906 earthquake

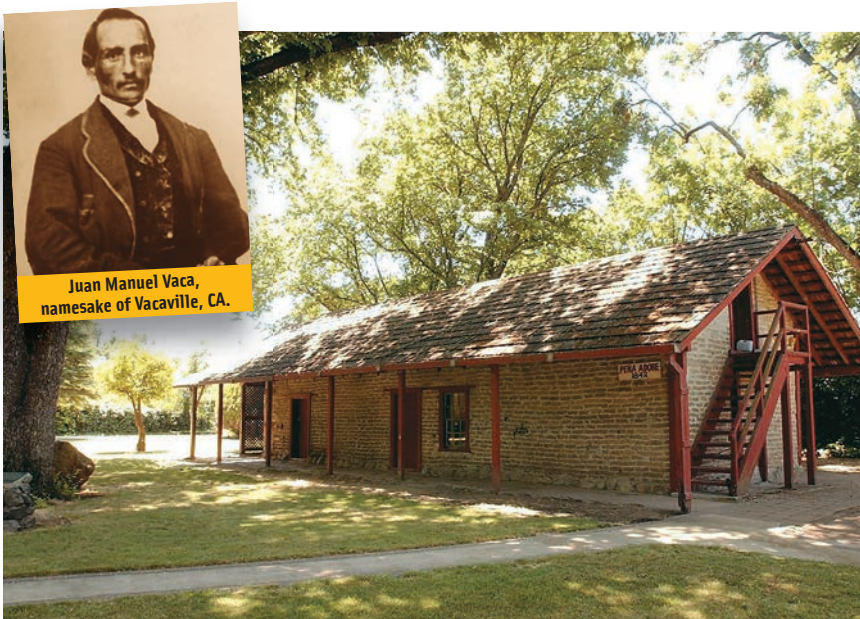
and fire when many modern brick and steel buildings collapsed and burned. In the churchyard is the **grave of the notorious bare-knuckle pugilist and "shoulder striker" James "Yankee" Sullivan**. It is marked with the inscription, "died by the hands of the V.C." That means



San Francisco's 1856 Committee of Vigilance sharpshooters.







Vacaville's Peña Adobe (above) and its next-door museum devoted to settlers and American Indians, the Goheen-Mowers Museum, are open to the public on the first Saturday afternoon of every month.

– Courtesy Peña Adobe Historical Society –

dating from 1862 to 1944, including the famous C.P. Huntington, Southern Pacific Railroad Steam Locomotive No. 1. You'll also see a full-scale diorama of an 1860s construction site high in the Sierra Nevada, as well as a bridge elevated 24 feet above the museum floor.

After your visit, I recommend **Fat City Bar & Cafe** at 1001 Front Street, long a favorite of politicians and legislators, and a great place for a meal or a drink. Then head over to **River City Saloon** for some 25¢ sarsaparillas.

### AUBURN, CA

Auburn was one of the most important towns of the Gold Rush. Next door to the fire station is a historical marker showing the **spot where the notorious highwayman Rattlesnake Dick Barter was killed** in a gunfight with lawmen in 1859. In that fight, Dick killed Deputy

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Sheriff George Martin before he was slain. The graves of Rattlesnake Dick and Deputy Martin can still be seen at **Old Auburn Cemetery** on 170 Fulweiler Avenue.

### TRUCKEE, CA

The story of the Donner Party is one of the West's most tragic. Stranded in the winter snow while crossing the Sierra Nevada in December 1846, their fateful journey ended in death and cannibalism as some of the survivors ate the bodies of the dead. Two-thirds of the men in the party perished, while two-thirds of the women and children lived. A total of 41 died and 46 survived. Visit **Donner Memorial State Park** and its **Emigrant Trail Museum**, which has displays and information about the Donner Party.



Lewis Keseberg was the last member of the Donner Party to be rescued. Remarkably, he later opened a successful restaurant in Sacramento. Keseberg died in 1895.

### VERDI, NV

Just off I-80, near Verdi, between **Hunter's Crossing** and **Granite Hot Springs (Lawton's)**, there occurred in 1870 the first train robbery of the far West. A gang of robbers led by "Big Jack" Davis boarded the locomotive in Verdi and then held up the train, fleeing with \$40,000 in gold and silver coins. The entire gang was eventually captured, and the leader, Davis, after serving a term in the Nevada State prison, was shot to death during a stage robbery in 1877 in the high desert of eastern Nevada.

### RENO, NV

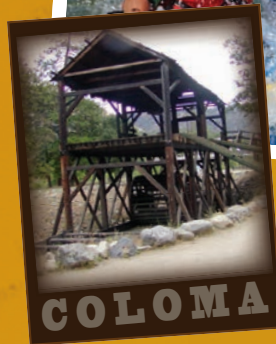
In Reno, visit the **Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad Depot Locomotive House & Machine Shop**. The historic, two-story red brick depot was built in 1910, and the locomotive

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house and machine shop next to the depot dates from 1889. Also of interest is the **Virginia Street Bridge**, built across the Truckee River in 1905, replacing an earlier iron bridge. According to Reno's folklore, newly-divorced couples throw wedding rings from this bridge.

### VIRGINIA CITY, NV

Mark Twain lived and worked in this silver mining town and made the town's characters famous in *Roughing It*. The baddest gunfighters were called "chiefs," and there were plenty of them: "Longhair Sam" Brown, Langford "Farmer" Peel, El Dorado Johnny Dennis, John Bull and "Big Jack" Davis. A fun place to have a drink or a bite to eat is the **Delta Saloon**, famous as the home of the Suicide Table (so-called because three previous owners were reported to have committed suicide because of heavy losses at the faro table).

Another is the **Bucket of Blood Saloon**. The building was erected in 1876, and the place is filled with Old West artifacts.

### CARSON CITY, NV

**Nevada State Museum**, at 600 North Carson Street, is a great place to see mining equipment artifacts from Nevada's silver rush, as well as an original Gatling gun from the Nevada State Prison. Since the building was formerly the U.S. Mint, it also offers gold scales and coin making presses and equipment. You'll also see a collection on Nevada's gambling history.

### LAKE TAHOE, NV

Head to South Lake Tahoe for a buffet meal. If you have time, take the **paddle-**

Check out the Gatling gun at the Carson City Mint, which is now the Nevada State Museum, in Carson City, Nevada.



**wheelers Tahoe Gal or M.S. Dixie** for a tour of the lake. When you drive back onto Highway 50, be sure to look to your left for incredible views as you climb out of the Tahoe basin. You are taking the very **route to Placerville that the famous stage driver Hank Monk traveled on** when he brought Horace Greeley to California on a wild ride in 1859, famously saying, "Horace keep your seat! I told you I would get there by five o'clock, and by God I'll do it, if the axles hold!"

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### POLLOCK PINES, CA

A historical marker at **Bullion Bend** marks the spot where Confederate guerrillas robbed two coaches in 1864. They were led by Rufus Henry Ingram, rumored to have been with Quantrill's guerrilla band. He came to California to raise a band of guerrillas in San Jose. His lieutenant was a ruffian named Thomas B. Poole, the former undersheriff of Monterey County. Poole had once hanged a Hispanic criminal who had already been granted a reprieve by the governor. After the Bullion Bend robbery, a posse shot it out with the gang. Poole was captured, and a deputy sheriff was killed. In one of the most ironic hangings of the Old West, Poole himself was hanged in Placerville.

### PLACERVILLE, CA

Placerville, formerly known as Hangtown, was one of the most famous camps of the Gold Rush. Here, you can treat yourself to the Forty-Niners' traditional delicacy, the Hangtown Fry. Hangtown fry may well be the first original California dish. It is an omelet made with fried oysters, eggs and fried bacon. In the Gold Rush, live oysters would be shipped to the mining camps in barrels of sea water after being collected in San Francisco Bay. A Hangtown Fry cost about \$6.00, an exorbitant price in that era. **Chuck's Restaurant** on Broadway has been serving it for nearly 50 years.

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Opened in 1863, the Cliff House restaurant burned in 1907, after having survived San Francisco's disastrous 1906 earthquake and fire. Go figure! Rebuilt over the next two years, the restaurant is open to this day.

## OAKLAND, CA

The **Oakland Museum**, on 1000 Oak Street, has one of the finest collections of pioneer artifacts and Western art masterpieces. Here are massive Sierra Nevada and Yosemite paintings by the landscape masters Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Hill and William Keith, and extraordinary California genre paintings of the 19th century by William Hahn and Charles Christian Nahl. For the gunfighter aficionado, you can see two pistols, a Smith & Wesson American Model and a Colt 1849 Pocket Model, carried by Sheriff Harry N. Morse, one of the great lawmen of the Old West, who captured stage robber Black Bart in 1883.

## SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The historic **Cliff House**, at 1090 Point Lobos Avenue, offers spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Don't miss seeing **Seal Rocks** and the ruins of the **Sutro Baths** next door. The Cliff House was first built in 1863, attracting wealthy San Franciscans who drove out in carriages to enjoy the food and coastal views. Its clientele later declined, and it became something of a dive. Adolph Sutro, a millionaire philanthropist and later mayor of San Francisco, bought the Cliff House in 1883 and cleaned it up. In 1894, the Cliff House was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. Ironically, it survived the 1906 earthquake and fire, but it burned down again the next year. Rebuilt in 1909, it is as popular today as ever. ❏

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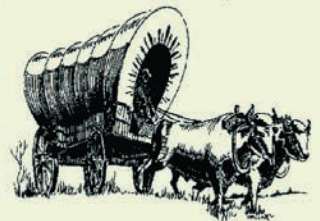


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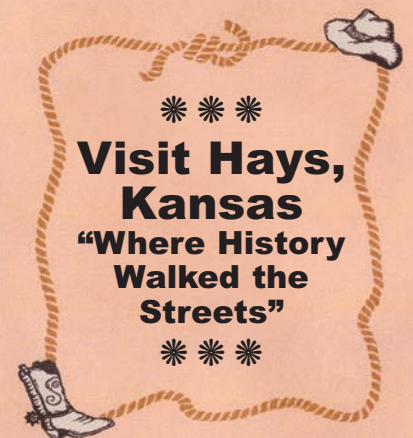
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## CATHOUSE MELEE

### BASS OUTLAW VS JOHN SELMAN

THREE LAWMEN,  
TWO SOILED DOVES  
AND A CARTRIDGE  
IN A BIDET

TWO DIE FROM WOUNDS



*Bass Outlaw*

— COURTESY ROBERT G. McCUBBIN COLLECTION —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Leon C. Metz

This classic *Classic Gunfights* article first appeared in the April 2003 edition of *True West* magazine.

APRIL 5, 1894

**B**ass Outlaw is drunk. This isn't news. He's been described by fellow Texas Ranger Alonzo Oden as "so kind . . . more sympathetic, more tender, more patient than all of us when necessary." Except, Oden adds cryptically, "Bass couldn't leave liquor alone, and when Bass was drunk, Bass was a maniac."

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

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

Instead, Bass decides he wants an encore with sweet Ruby. To humor him, Selman and Collinson walk him back to Tillie's and wait for him in the parlor, while Bass tries to rustle up a rematch. As Selman and Collinson talk, they hear a shot (one report says it came from the water closet). Selman smiles, then says to Collinson, "Bass has dropped his gun."

As Selman leaves to investigate, Tillie herself bursts from her apartment, runs to the back of the building and blows a police whistle. Hearing the alarm, Bass Outlaw

chases Tillie into the yard and attempts to take away her whistle.

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

Selman steps onto Tillie's back porch just as Ranger McKidric enters the backyard.

"Bass, why did you shoot?" McKidric demands.

"It was an accident, Joe," Selman says. "He's all right."

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

Selman jumps from the porch, but before he can draw his weapon, Bass fires at the lawman's face. The bullet just misses Selman's ear and the gunpowder sears his eyes, all but blinding him. Falling backwards, Selman pulls his pistol and fires by instinct, his vision so impaired his target is a blur. Selman's shot hits Bass just above the heart, tearing through his lung and emerging beneath his right shoulder.

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

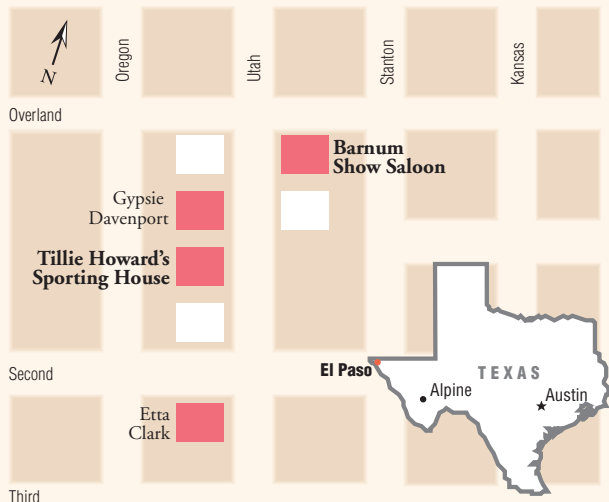


*Shot above the heart, Bass Outlaw (at right) returns fire, hitting John Selman in the thigh.*

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

## EL PASO'S TENDERLOIN DISTRICT, 1894

Major brothel locations



*Pictured above is Madame May Palmer's police-issued whistle. El Paso's Police Department distributed whistles to "housekeepers" with instructions to blow loudly when customers became too rough.*

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends



*The fatal whistle.*

Severely wounded, Bass Outlaw was laid on the bar in the Barnum Show Saloon (see El Paso map). A doctor concluded nothing could be done for him. Transferred to a soiled dove's bed in a back room, Bass died four hours later. As he convulsed in pain, he kept crying, "Oh, God, help!" And finally: "Where are my friends?" Nobody answered.



Texas Ranger Joe McKidric died a few minutes after being shot. His real name was Joe Cooly, but he had changed it to keep his mother from knowing his whereabouts. He was about 30 years old.



John Selman was taken by carriage to Dr. Alward White, who diagnosed his wounds as nonfatal. After several weeks in bed, Selman recovered, but spent the rest of his days walking with a cane and he never fully recovered the use of his eyes. (Selman's son said his father was night-blind thereafter.) Selman was tried for the Bass Outlaw shooting, but exonerated.



The "cathouse melee" shoot-out was unusual because it involved three lawmen, two of them killed. People in El Paso's Tenderloin District behaved themselves for a while. No arrests were made for three weeks, a likely reaction to the killings.



**We recommend:** *John Selman, Gunfighter* and *John Wesley Hardin: Dark Angel of Texas* by Leon C. Metz, published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

*Tillie Howard (right) runs the premier sporting house in El Paso, and many returning customers claim she operates the finest whorehouse in the West.*

— ALL PHOTOS TRUE  
WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS  
OTHERWISE NOTED —



## Bass Outlaw

Supposedly born in Georgia, Bass Outlaw stands about five feet four inches, with piercing, pale grey eyes and a flowing mustache.

Sources indicate Bass Outlaw was his real name, although the late author Jim Browning found evidence his given name was Basil or Bazil, and Bass was a nickname (or a misspelling).

In 1885, Bass joined the Texas Rangers, Company E. In 1887, he was transferred to Company D. Although rapidly promoted to sergeant, he was compelled to resign for being drunk on duty at Alpine, Texas (see locator map, above). Later, he secured a deputy U.S. marshal appointment and was popular with the locals despite numerous run-ins with his superior, U.S. Marshal Dick Ware, who repeatedly threatened to force Bass's resignation over his drinking. It's possible Ware sent another deputy marshal into Bass's territory to serve papers because he lacked faith in Bass's sobriety.

On the day of the shoot-out, Bass is supposedly angry about the perceived slight and the money lost on those assignments. Will Burges, who is present when the gunfighter dies, maintains Bass was the "only man I ever saw who died in mortal terror."



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Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary p.120  
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 Lozier's Box R Ranch p.23  
 Twin Elm Guest Ranch p.51  
 Willow Creek Ranch at the Hole-in-the-Wall p.80  
 Wind River Hotel & Casino p.73

## APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Bandit and Belle p.121  
 Catalena Hatters p.119  
 Circle KB Inc. p.119  
 Corral Boots p.42  
 Cowboy Corral p.107  
 Jaxonbilt Hat Co. p.120  
 Lucchese Boots IFC p.3  
 Resistol Hats p.119  
 Texas Jack's Wrangler BC p.73

## COLLECTIBLES

Southwest & Beyond p.106

## EVENTS

1838 Rendezvous p.119  
 Absolute Auction—Concho Valley, AZ p.96  
 Bandera Chuck Wagon Races p.49  
 Cattlemen's Days p.2  
 Cowan's American Indian Art Auctions p.15  
 Custer's Last Stand Reenactment p.74  
 Defeat of Jesse James Days p.93  
 Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering p.55  
 Friends of Happy Trails Banquet & Rally p.90  
 Hells Canyon Mule Days p.118  
 Jackson Hole Old West Days and Elk Fest p.84  
 Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show p.76  
 Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo p.104  
 Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival p.16  
 Titanic: A Night to Remember p.58  
 True West RailFest p.8  
 Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions p.127

## FIREARMS & KNIVES

Amoskeag Firearms Auction p.5  
 Colt's Manufacturing Co. p.1  
 F.LLI Pietta p.42  
 Merz Antique Firearms p.121  
 Western and Wildlife Wonders p.120  
 Working Cowboy Gun Leather Shop p.120

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

Almost Historical River City Saloon p.90

## HOME

Big Bronco p.91  
 Colorado Cowgirls p.120

## HORSE

Bureau of Land Management p.82

## LODGING

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel p.71  
 Crockett Hotel p.42  
 Delaware Hotel p.54  
 KC RV Park p.121

Marcus Whitman Hotel p.91  
 Occidental Hotel & Saloon p.75  
 Rochester Hotel p.56  
 Strater Hotel p.55  
 Talking Stick Resort p.12  
 Wind River Hotel & Casino p.73

## MEDIA

Dimenovels p.119  
 Garner A. Palenske p.121  
 Guidon Books p.120  
 Route 66 Books p.118  
 University Press of Colorado p.118  
 Yellow Rose of Texas p.121

## MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

A. R. Mitchell Museum p.60  
 Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center p.76  
 American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum p.52  
 Amon Carter Museum of American Art p.59  
 Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave p.60  
 Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) p.61  
 Carbon County Museum p.77  
 Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center p.105  
 Chisholm Trail Heritage Center p.123  
 Cripple Creek District Museum p.57  
 Crook County Museum & Art Gallery p.77  
 Deming Luna Mimbres Museum p.112  
 Desert Caballeros Western Museum p.92  
 Dubois Museum/Wind River Historical Center p.77  
 Ellis County Historical Society Museum p.93  
 Fred Harman Art Museum p.60  
 Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History p.60  
 Hulett Museum & Art Gallery p.123  
 Hutchinson County Museum p.92  
 Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum p.76  
 John E. Conner Museum p.61  
 Kenedy Ranch Museum p.61  
 Kingsville Depot Museum p.61  
 Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum p.92  
 Lawton Fort Sill Military Museums p.76  
 Meeteetse Museum District p.77  
 Museum of Northwest Colorado p.93  
 National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum p.93  
 Nebraska Prairie Museum p.60  
 O. Winston Link Museum p.93  
 Olaf Wieghorst Museum p.92  
 Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum p.76  
 Placer County Museums p.86  
 Pueblo Grande Museum & Archaeological Park p.92  
 Sharlot Hall, Phippen & Smoki Museum of Prescott p.43  
 Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum p.54  
 Stark Museum of Art p.24  
 Stonewall Saloon Museum p.61  
 Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer p.60  
 Tate Geological Museum p.75  
 Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum p.61  
 Wells Fargo History Museums p.86  
 West of the Pecos Museum p.93  
 West Texas Trail Museum p.123

## PRESERVATION

Concordia Heritage Association p.51  
 Northfield Historical Society p.93

## TOURISM

Arkansas City, KS p.64

Bandera, TX p.49  
 Box Elder County, UT p.81  
 Buffalo & Kaycee, WY p.72  
 Buffalo Bill's Cody/Yellowstone Country, WY p.80  
 Carbon County, WY p.25  
 Chama Valley, NM p.79  
 Cheyenne, WY p.75  
 Cheyenne County, NE p.43  
 Clayton-Union County, NM p.114  
 Clinton, OK p.107  
 Coffeyville, KS p.64  
 Council Grove & Morris County, KS p.66  
 Deming, NM p.113  
 Dodge City, KS p.108  
 Dubois Main Street, WY p.70  
 Duncan, OK p.123  
 Eagle Nest, NM p.113  
 Edmond, OK p.118  
 El Dorado County, CA p.88  
 El Paso, TX p.47  
 Elk City, OK p.124  
 Emporia, KS p.68  
 Eureka County, NV p.89  
 Fort Abraham Lincoln, ND p.107  
 Fort Davis, TX p.112  
 Fort Scott, KS p.63  
 Fort Smith, AR p.43  
 Fort Worth, TX p.48  
 Glenwood Springs, CO p.56  
 Gonzales, TX p.4  
 Gothenburg, NE p.104  
 Gunnison/Crested Butte p.2  
 Independence, KS p.68  
 Kaycee, WY p.121  
 Kearney, NE p.100  
 Keith County, NE p.108  
 Lander, WY p.72  
 Larned, KS p.67  
 Lincoln County, NM p.82  
 Llano, TX p.50  
 Logan, UT p.83  
 Mission Trail/County of El Paso, TX p.50  
 Nebraska Tourism p.22  
 Newton, KS p.66  
 North Platte, NE p.124  
 Oakley, KS p.65  
 Pendleton, OR p.108  
 Prescott, AZ p.100  
 Russell County, KS p.65  
 Sacramento, CA p.87  
 Scotts Bluff County Tourism, NE p.108  
 Silver City Arts & Cultural District, NM p.105  
 St. Joseph, MO p.106  
 Toppenish, WA p.91  
 Town of South Fork, CO p.121  
 Trail of the Ancients: Aztec, NM p.114  
 Virginia City/Nevada City, MT p.74

## OTHER (no information)

Blevins Manufacturing Co. p.119  
 True West Maniac ad p.12  
 True West Mercantile ad p.125  
 True West Year in Review ad IBC

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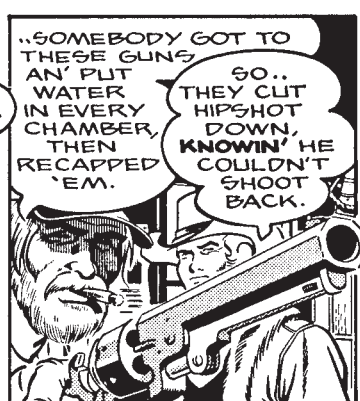
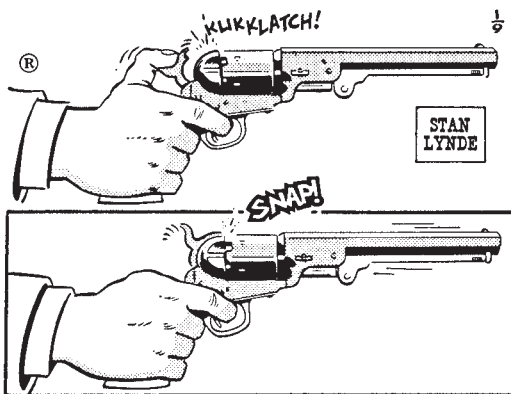
Stan Lynde

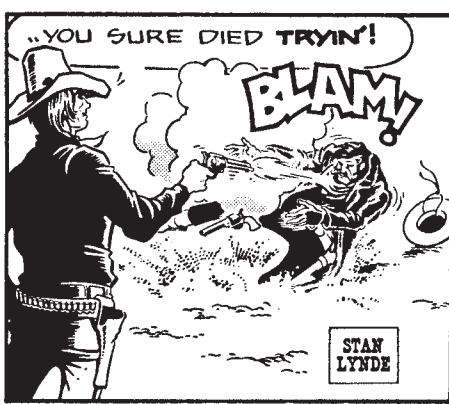
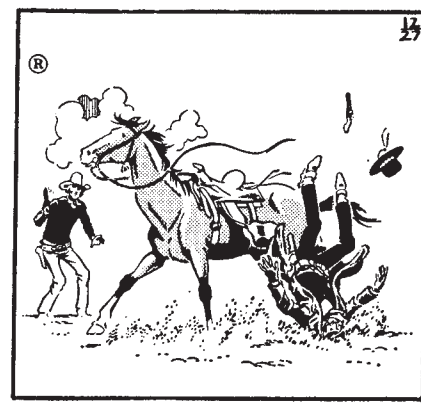
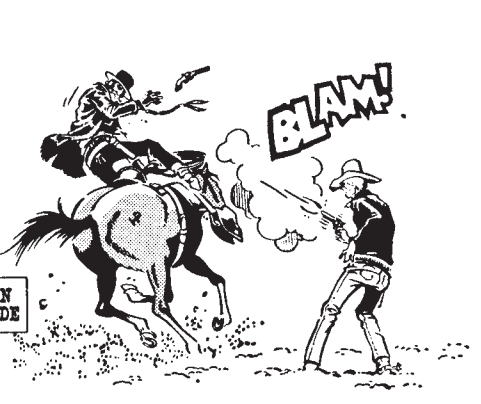
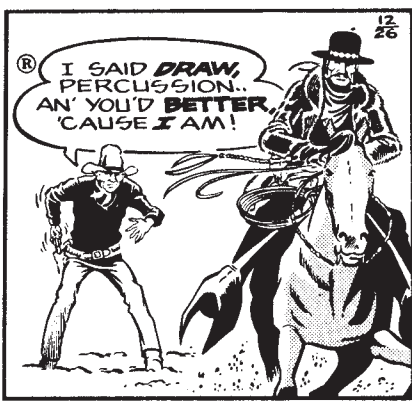
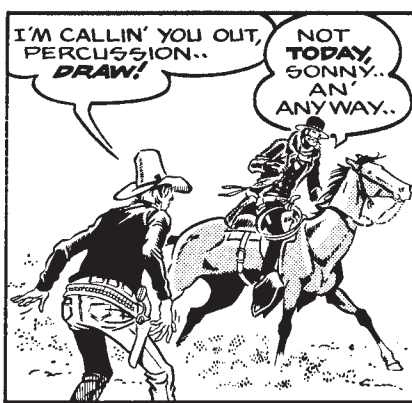
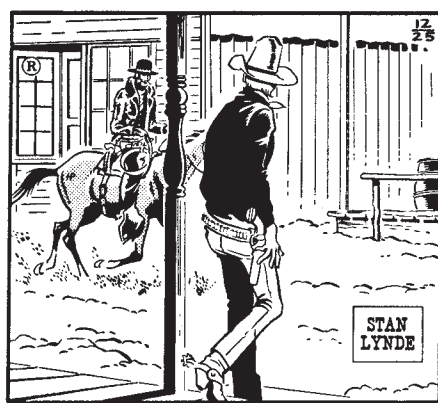
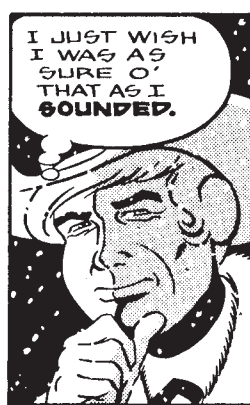
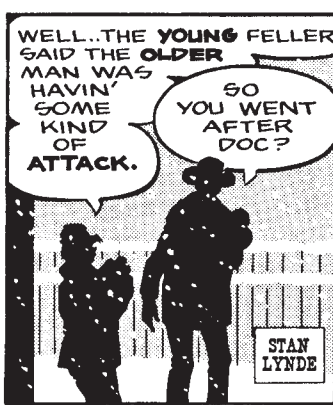
When people ask which of my novels is my favorite, I usually say "my next one." But when it comes to my nationally-syndicated comic strip *Rick O'Shay*, the two-part tale of treachery, friendship and revenge I named "Trackdown" wins the nod hands down.

By the fall of 1974, the strip's gunfighter, Hipshot Percussion (right), had become easily its most popular character. Female readers from six to 96 admired Hipshot and wrote him letters. Boys and men wanted to *be* Hipshot. So in October 1974, I followed the old advice for writing a page-turner: "Get your hero up a tree. Throw rocks at him. Get him down out of the tree."

The result was a 20-week story in which I offered some observations on loyalty, friendship and the sometimes ironic nature of vengeance. Shared here are two excerpts I think you will enjoy.

Stan Lynde reprinted some of the best stories from his comic strip in the book, *Rick O'Shay, Hipshot, and Me*. Visit [StanLynde.net](http://StanLynde.net) to purchase your copy.







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BY ALLISON CARLTON



*Desert Solitude* (above) and *Working Wrangler* (inset) by Gary Ernest Smith.

— COURTESY OVERLAND GALLERY OF FINE ART / SCOTTSDALE, AZ —

## GARY ERNEST SMITH

Gary Ernest Smith can often be found creating artworks in his Highland, Utah, studio, or out in the vast, open spaces.

"I like the challenge," Smith says of painting en plein air. "You can never anticipate a gust, a wind is going to come up, whether you're going to be attacked by insects, which happens often, or how quickly the atmosphere changes by the clouds moving, the sun moving also, and you try to get the things in first that will change the fastest."

Smith, who grew up on a cattle ranch in eastern Oregon, is inspired by artists like Maynard Dixon and Ernest Blumenschein. "Dixon's paintings kind of have a symbolic quality about them, and I like to capture the same thing," he says. "Almost iconic imagery."

What he most enjoys about painting landscapes "is the sense of open space," he says. "It has a man-against-nature feel to it."

"I paint paintings that are based on the Western imagery," he adds, "but it's not a derisive cowboy and Indian kind of thing as much as it deals with the contemporary world we live in that is also the West, and we see it as the changing of the West—the evolution."

When Smith approaches a Western subject, he says he wants to "get to the truth," which he sometimes finds while touring historic



sites. "One of my most meaningful trips was to go to Lincoln County, New Mexico, 'Billy the Kid Country,' with Bob Boze Bell and Ed Mell on a sketching/photography trip," Smith says. "I love the history and seeing it firsthand."

Of his Old West legends artworks, Smith says, "my figures in my paintings are mostly iconic, larger than life, where they represent the time and era, not just the person. There are times I have done specific paintings and bronzes that I try to get to the truth of their looks and dress."

Wyatt Earp is among the icons Smith has sculpted (Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell, who both acted as Earp, own their own copy of that bronze). Even as a kid, Smith felt a connection to the O.K. Corral gunfighter: "Riding horses on a regular basis and living the Western life made Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid that much more real to me."

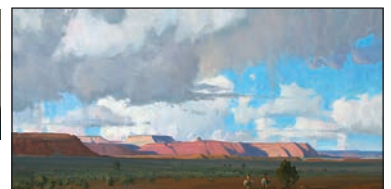
Although the artist is more drawn to landscapes these days, Smith says he still gets inspired to portray the history of the West. "The Old West," he says, "its heroes along with the bad guys, continues to capture the imagination of a contemporary public."

## UP - AND - COMERS



Smith is a fan of **Jeff Pugh's** work that focuses on rural America. "He has a very bold and distinct, almost abstracted subject matter," he says. In his paintings, Pugh often unites cattle to the landscape by using a palette knife to flatten the cows against the backdrop, as seen in *Lunch Break*.

He also likes **G. Russell Case's** desert scenes. "They have a little bit of Edgar Payne, Maynard Dixon feel to them," Smith says, "but they're very vast, open space, red rock Arizona, Utah, and sometimes he'll put little figures in them." In *Painted Cliffs*, Case placed his pair of horseback riders in the shadows.



# Head Over Heels

Plus, find out how you can get the Duke's "exaggerated swagger."

Singer Nancy Sinatra's breakout hit in 1966 was with Lee Hazlewood's song, "These Boots are Made for Walking." In the song, she's a tough cookie threatening to turn heel on a heel with whom she'd been head over heels. Her boots are made for walking, and they're probably not traditional cowboy boots.

Cowboy boots, originally, were not made for walking. They were made for "cowboying," that is, riding a horse. The tall, underslung heels—known as a "Cuban heel"—keep a rider's foot from slipping through a stirrup. They also change the posture and affect the gait of person wearing high-heeled boots. If you watch a buckaroo walk in boots with 2½-inch heels, he'll have a slight roll in his gait. Or he'll have an exaggerated swagger, if he's walking like John Wayne.

The basic boot or shoe heel's function in walking is to support the heel bone in the foot when the foot strikes the ground. Depending on the materials used, the heel can also cushion the heel bone. The height and diameter of the heel is also a factor in the balance of a boot, podiatrists say. As a footnote, the heel slippage you experience inside a cowboy boot is due more to the metal shank positioned in the sole under the arch of the foot. The boot doesn't flex there, but your foot does inside the boot, so your heel rides up naturally.

Various bootmakers offer many of the same assortments of heels on their boots, with varying heights, angle cuts and names. By one estimate, cowboy boots can come in 13 different types of heels!

The lowest heel found on cowboy boots is on ropers, which are usually about one-inch high with little or no angle. This allows a calf roper to dismount quickly from a horse with less chance of turning an ankle because of a higher, narrower heel. Any heel of any height that is not cut at an angle from the base or "cap" of the heel to the top is generally known as a block heel.

"These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do.

One of these days, these boots are gonna walk all over you."

—"These Boots are Made for Walking" by Lee Hazlewood

The next highest heel—and the most widely sold today—is a 1½ to 1¾-inch heel with a slight pitch (no slope at the back) and is generally referred to as a walking heel.

Noticeably underslung heels, about 1¾ inches and higher, are generally referred to as cowboy heels. Cowboy heels often feature a ledge around the

top to support a spur. This ledge is known as a spur ridge. Variations on the cowboy heel design include the angle of the heel cut and the diameter of the heel base. These variations include dogging heels, riding heels and Fowler heels.

Boots with no heels—usually made from a rubber compound known as "crepe," have been a popular walking boot for cowboys and civilians looking for a comfortable, highly cushioned walking boot.

Your choice of heels on your boots can indicate your use of that boot, but it can also be a reflection of your personal style or simply just comfort. Higher heels do add height to the wearer—which may be a goal for some. Be sure to walk and stand in boots with different heels and heel heights. You'll be amazed at not only how a different heel can change your posture and your gait, but your whole attitude.

G. Daniel DeWeese coauthored the book *Western Shirts: A Classic American Fashion*. Ranch-raised near the Black Hills in South Dakota, Dan has written about Western apparel and riding equipment for more than 25 years.

## CUBAN HEEL

The tall stacked-leather fashion heel on these black goatskin Corral boots fall in the Cuban heel zone; \$188.





### COWBOY HEEL

The ample spur ridge on the two-inch riding heel gives the Ricochet from Ariat (right) a classic cowboy profile, while the two-toned Robus leather heel gives it a nice fashion kick; \$269.95. The stacked cowboy heel with a spur ridge also anchors these black kangaroo boots with cognac calfskin shaft (left) from Rod Patrick; \$400.



This 1913 Justin boot advertisement with its boot illustration reminds our executive editor Bob Boze Bell of some of the 1950s boot ads that enticed him to purchase his first pair of cowboy boots.

— Courtesy Justin Boots —

### ROPER HEEL

The low-profile, stacked leather stockman heel on Rocky's Handhewn boot gives the side profile heel strike of a classic Roper-style boot suitable for riding or walking; \$204.99.



### WALKING HEEL

The two-inch heel on the Durango boots shown left allows just enough of a shelf to support spurs. The 12-inch, pull-on Gambler retails for \$129.95. Lucchese put a 1 3/8-inch stacked leather walking heel with a spur ridge on its 12-inch Marsh Goat boot, at far left; \$590.

## HOW TO WALK LIKE JOHN WAYNE

1. Pull on your cowboy boots that have at least two-inch-high Cuban heels.
2. The boot heel height will make you roll your hips slightly as you walk.
3. For that exaggerated Duke swagger, be sure to move slowly and thoughtfully.
4. Cut your hands across your body as you walk.
5. Practice, practice, practice.

The taller riding heel on the Duke's boots helped him to perfect his exaggerated swagger. By the time John Wayne starred in 1953's *Hondo* (right), his signature walk was well developed.

— Hondo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures —



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# Snake River Salmon

*And other fishy frontier delicacies enjoyed by our pioneers.*



– By Sherry Monahan –

“While travelling along the Snake River, father secured a fine, large salmon from an Indian, and we looked forward to a good feast at supper time. There being no wood, the salmon was cut up and put in a pot hung over a fire of bunchgrass.... It was the first salmon we had ever tasted, and there is no doubt it was highly relished,” recalled 1852 Oregonian emigrant James Meikle Sharp.

Fish may not be what first comes to mind when you think about frontier fare, but fish was eaten more often than you might realize. Coastal Indians, pioneers who lived near lakes and Westward emigrants frequently dined on fresh fish.

Towns with water nearby offered locally caught items, while merchants sold landlocked businesses a variety of fish: smoked, tinned and in barrels. In 1872, a can of salmon cost 35¢, a box of oysters was 23¢ and a box of sardines cost 30¢. Mrs. Ford, who lived in Canyon City, Oregon, after the 1862 gold strike, remembered, “The stores used to keep huge barrels of pickled mackerel and salmon bellies. The fish was a real Sunday treat in the winter time.”

Store merchants all over the West advertised their fish offerings. On January

9, 1873, Taylor & Gilbert advertised in the *Dakota Republican* in Vermillion, Dakota Territory, “You can get White Fish, Mackerel, Codfish, Herring, Hake, Halibut, California Salmon, and also some of that nice Breakfast Codfish.”

Restaurants of the day reflected Victorian cooking trends. Regardless of their location, many restaurants offered specialties like Baltimore oysters, brook trout, lobster and salmon from the Russian, Columbia and Colorado rivers.

So how did they get oysters from Baltimore, Maryland, to say, Tombstone, Arizona? Nope, they didn’t rely on dry ice, because it wasn’t used commercially until the 1920s. They used railroad cars packed with large chunks of ice and hay. (Yet one wonders how the fish kept cold on a stagecoach traveling in the Arizona heat from Tucson to Tombstone in 1880.)

Popular menu items included salmon, trout, oysters and codfish. Victorian cooks prepared these viands in many ways, including boiled salmon with egg or Italian sauce, trout a la Royale, escallops of red snapper, oyster patties, oysters on the half shell, broiled white fish, lobster au natural and salmon Maitre d’Hotel sauce. Boiled and broiled were the two most popular

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## GRILLED SALMON WITH MAITRE D'HOTEL SAUCE

*2 pieces of salmon, about one-inch thick  
Salt and pepper to taste*

Rinse and dry the fish. Then salt and pepper as you like. Heat the grill or grill pan to medium high. Place the fish skin side down and cook for about three minutes. Carefully turn the fish over and cook for 3-5 minutes. Remove the skin before saucing, if you like.

## MAITRE D'HOTEL SAUCE

*2 T. butter*

*1 lemon, juiced*

*1 tsp. chopped, fresh, flat-leaf parsley  
Salt and pepper to taste*

Melt the butter over low heat. Then add the lemon juice and parsley. Taste and add salt and pepper as needed. Place the fish in the pan and turn to coat with the sauce. Place the fish on a platter and pour the sauce over it.

Garnish with fresh parsley.



Salmon recipe from the August 7, 1880, *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*; Maitre d'Hotel Sauce recipe from the April 30, 1887, *Omaha Daily World*

ways to cook fish, but broiling in the 1800s was like grilling today. The fish was put on a gridiron, which was placed over an open flame.

Of all the landlocked places offering fish, Idaho went the extra mile. In 1892, Falk-Bloch Mercantile offered Blue Point and Wagners oysters, mackerel, salmon, herring, sardines, shrimp, Russian caviar, clams and codfish for Thanksgiving celebrations.

Now imagine you're at the beautiful Capitol Hotel in Boise, Idaho, in the 1890s, ordering salmon Maitre d'Hotel sauce off the menu. Okay, you can't go there today, but you can make this classic Victorian recipe at home, enjoying what the guests dined on all those years ago.



**Sherry Monahan** has penned *Taste of Tombstone*, *Pikes Peak*, *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds*, *Investigating History* and *Wild West Tech*.



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# Paramount's Golden Boy

*A.C. Lyles has been the champion of Western movies since the 1930s.*

A.C. Lyles, 93 years young, vividly recalls the Western movies he grew up watching. But Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson or Fred Thomson didn't bring him to Hollywood. *Wings* did.

Actually, a train did. "One-way day coach," he says. "Two loaves of bread, two jars of peanut butter and a sack of apples, and I was off."

In 1928, Lyles saw the silent WWI epic movie *Wings* for his 10th birthday at a Paramount theater in Jacksonville, Florida. He loved that film so much he asked the theater manager for a job. Soon, he was passing out circulars advertising upcoming films on a street corner. No money, but he got to see the movies for free.

After meeting Paramount Pictures founder Adolph Zukor at the theater, he began writing the mogul every Sunday, saying how much he wanted to work for Zukor and learn the business.

When Gary Cooper came to Jacksonville, Lyles told the actor about his plans. Coop wrote a note for Lyles to stick in his next letter to Zukor: "Looking

forward to A.C. Lyles being with us at the studio. He seems like a bright kid."

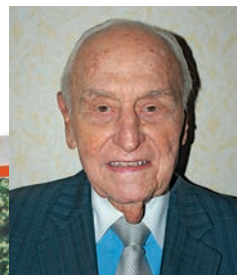
By the mid-1930s, Lyles was on that train to Hollywood. In a story straight out of Hollywood, he wound up working as an office boy at Paramount, living on \$18 a week. Zukor took the kid under his wing. So did director Cecil B. DeMille.

"One time, Mr. Zukor said, 'We want you to look good. Buy a Cadillac,'" Lyles recalls. "I wrote that down in my notebook. Then Mr. DeMille says, 'We want you to invest your money wisely, A.C. A good place to have a home is in Bel Air. Buy a lot and build a home in Bel Air.' I wrote that down, too. And Mr. Zukor said to me, 'Dress British, but think Yiddish.' That became my creed."

He learned from Zukor and DeMille

Richard Arlen, at the time one of Paramount's leading actors, gave A.C. Lyles, then an office boy, his first watch. Lyles returned the favor by casting the actor in supporting roles in his 1960s Westerns. "I just sent him the script, and he picked out the part he wanted," Lyles says.

- Courtesy Paramount Pictures -



how to make pictures. His career has gone from associate producer of *Rawhide* in 1959 to consulting producer for *Deadwood* in 2005-2006.

But he's best known for producing low-budget Westerns for Paramount in the 1960s. They might not have gotten great reviews, but they usually opened overseas and made money before playing in America. *Stage to Thunder Rock*, *Black Spurs*, *Town Tamer*, *Apache Uprising*, *Waco*, *Fort Utah*. Not exactly *Shane*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* or *True Grit*, but, as Vincent Canby once wrote, "A.C. Lyles has been the most profitable producer in the history of Paramount Pictures."

Lyles cast his friends in those Westerns: Dale Robertson, Rory Calhoun, Virginia Mayo, Jane Russell, Yvonne De Carlo, Brian Donlevy, Dana Andrews, Howard Keel. Even Richard Arlen, who had starred in *Wings*.

After 83 years in the movie business, he's still at Paramount. "It's a short resumé," he says.

Paramount Pictures has an A.C. Lyles Building, but he has an office in the William S. Hart Building. And he lives—where else?—in Bel Air.

Of course, these days he spends more time giving eulogies. "I just got a call from Rhonda Fleming," he says. "She said, 'A.C., you give the best eulogies. It's in my will that you give my eulogy.' I said, 'Just a minute, Rhonda, let me get my date book.'"

Maybe he missed his calling. He should have become a stand-up comic. But, no, Lyles just loves movies, especially Westerns.

"The first feature made was a Western, *The Great Train Robbery* [1903]. And Mr. DeMille made *The Squaw Man* [1914], which established Paramount in Hollywood. We've had so many great Westerns, and I see by the production charts, since *True Grit* did so well, several [Westerns] are going into production. I sure hope that's true."



Johnny D. Boggs does not drive a Cadillac or have a home in Bel Air, probably because his mentors weren't Adolph Zukor and Cecil B. DeMille.



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# 10 for 10: Bismarck, ND

Touring our #9 town of the year, from Fort Abraham Lincoln to Harvest Brazilian Grill.

**1. Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** provides the finest example of living history on the Northern Plains. Besides the reconstructed Custer House (with its guided tours by 1875-era re-enactor soldiers and maids) and its seven other military reconstructions, the state park includes a Mandan village, occupied from 1575-1781, with six earthlodges filled with exhibits. An excellent visitors center provides the best display in the world on the history of the Mandan people.

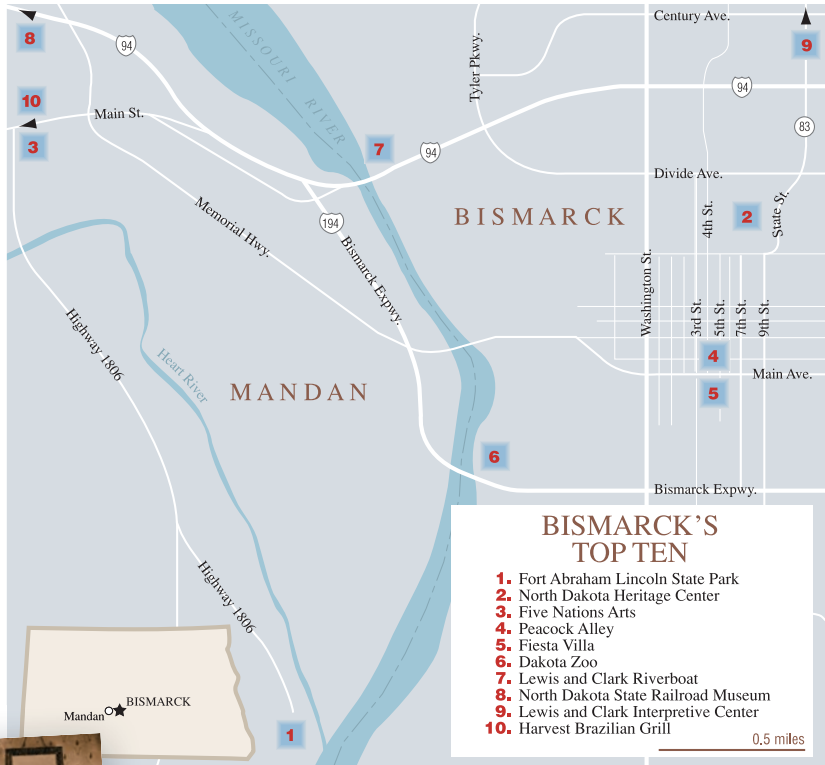
**2.** Check out the budget-friendly (admission is free!) **North Dakota Heritage Center**, offering up the “official” state history, on the state capitol grounds. The museum is currently undergoing a \$52 million expansion.

**3.** Tour North Dakota’s best Indian art gallery, **Five Nations Arts**, in the 1929 rail depot on Main Street in Mandan. You’ll see sculptures, paintings, jewelry and traditional arts from Lakota, Dakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Chippewa artists.

**4. Peacock Alley** is a historic watering hole in downtown Bismarck. Once the Patterson Hotel, it has been the bipartisan meeting place of politicians and lobbyists for a century.

**5. Fiesta Villa**, across from Peacock Alley and housed in Bismarck’s historic railroad depot, is known for its margaritas; get your Gold Card punched and every 10th one is free. But take your time. One is nice, two is still nice, three ... no, don’t do it. Take it from someone who has.

**6.** Set in lovely Sertoma Park, **Dakota Zoo** is home to more than 125 species, and



**BISMARCK'S TOP TEN**

1. Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
2. North Dakota Heritage Center
3. Five Nations Arts
4. Peacock Alley
5. Fiesta Villa
6. Dakota Zoo
7. Lewis and Clark Riverboat
8. North Dakota State Railroad Museum
9. Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
10. Harvest Brazilian Grill

0.5 miles



George Custer and his wife Libbie at Fort Abraham Lincoln in Dakota Territory in 1874.

it offers exhibits of the animals seen by Lewis and Clark when they visited in 1804.

**7.** Take a cruise on the mighty Missouri River aboard the **Lewis and Clark Riverboat**, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The 110-passenger sidewheeler rides the river known to Lewis and Clark, Custer, Sitting Bull, Sacagawea and other legends of American history.

**8.** Learn how railroads built the region through exhibits at the **North Dakota State Railroad Museum** (open Memorial Day through Labor Day). Train buffs will enjoy the railroad cars, the 1880s depot and the model trains.

**9.** Drive Highway 1804 to the **Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center**

and **Fort Mandan**, 38 miles north of Bismarck in Washburn. The fort is a full-scale replica of the Lewis and Clark expedition quarters during the winter of 1804-05. Excellent tour guides explain the whole thing. The interpretive center is a remarkable museum with both permanent and rotating exhibits about the expedition and the friendly people the explorers encountered more than 200 years ago.

**10.** North Dakota is cattle country, and beef is presented nowhere better than at the new **Harvest Brazilian Grill** on Mandan’s Main Street. Keep putting tender, tasty thin slices of sirloin or rib eye on your plate until you surrender. ❏

Tracy Potter, executive director of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation and a former North Dakota senator, has BA and MA degrees in history from the University of North Dakota.

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Following Sibley's Confederate Invasion

*Into New Mexico, 150 years later.*



In 1856, military officer Henry Hopkins Sibley (inset) patented his Sibley tent, a 12-foot-high conical tent supported by a central pole. Ironically, when Sibley resigned from the U.S. Army to fight for the Confederates, the Union Army used nearly 44,000 Sibley tents. Shown here are some 8th Kansas Union soldiers, in 1862, by a Sibley tent.

— True West Archives —



**Y**ou've gotta love Texians and the Confederate government. They actually thought this was a good idea.

In 1861, Brig. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley approached the Confederate brass with an ambitious—okay, ludicrous—plan. Sibley would lead an army of Texas volunteers from San Antonio out west. In New Mexico, they would capture Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Fort Union, and proceed on to Colorado to secure the gold and silver mines there. Ultimately, the Rebels would claim what's now Arizona and California for the Southern cause.

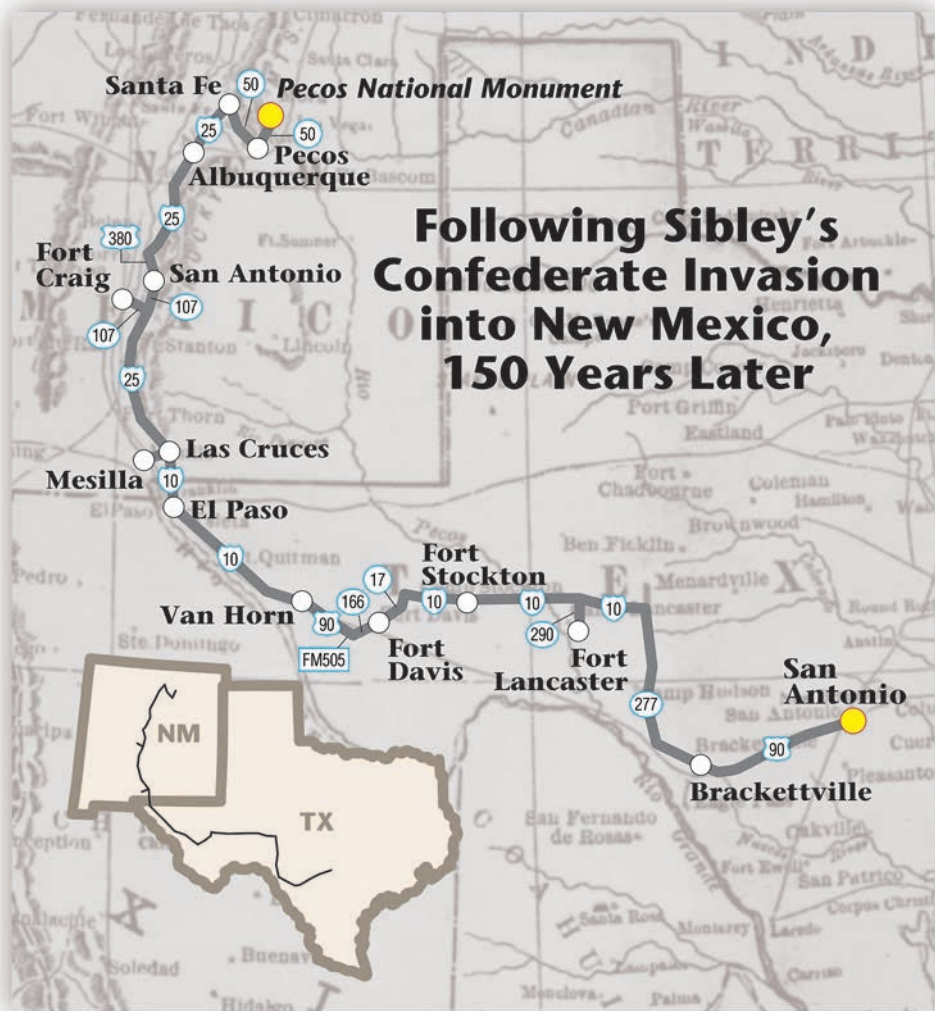
Give Sibley some credit. He invented the Sibley tent and the Sibley tent stove. Yet he believed his army could live off the land on their march west and north. He also believed New Mexicans would flock to the Southern cause. (Yet, as the late historian Don E. Alberts noted, native New Mexicans “detested Texans” more than the Union soldiers.)

Sibley, it was said, had a drinking problem. The brass in Richmond, Virginia, couldn't have been teetotalers to sign off on his plan.

### A Trail of Texas Forts

Be that as it may, in the autumn of 1861, Sibley led his volunteers out of San Antonio, a historic city that offers today's visitors the River Walk, the Witte Museum, the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum, SeaWorld, Schlitterbahn and the mango ice cream at the Menger Hotel. Fort Bliss, in El Paso, lay roughly 630 dry miles away.

By then, Union troops had abandoned their forts in Texas, so Sibley and his roughly 3,700 men traveled down the stage road, often camping near or at the ex-Yankee military posts. This is still a good thing to do to break up that long drive across west Texas.



For instance, a good road trip stop is Brackettville. Fort Clark was established in 1852, and the federal Army would reoccupy it in 1866, where it would play major roles in the Indian wars. In fact, Fort Clark wouldn't be abandoned again until 1946. Of course, it's not abandoned these days.

The grounds have been transformed into Fort Clark Springs. The guardhouse is now a museum, open Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The cavalry barracks



After the Civil War, Texas's Fort Davis would be home to Col. Benjamin Grierson's famed 10th Cavalry. It would also be the site of black Lt. Henry Flipper's court-martial.

— All photos by Johnny D. Boggs unless otherwise noted —

have been renovated into a motel. And there's an 18-hole golf course.

There's even something to see in Sheffield, but not many people take time to visit Fort Lancaster State Historic Site. At least, that's the sense I get, because the ranger working there when I drop by just won't stop talking. That's a good thing.

Lancaster was established in 1855, but was abandoned on March 19, 1861. Companies of the Texas Mounted Rifles manned the fort for a while, before the feds came marching back in 1867. There's not much left of the post, but the visitors center has a nice little museum, and that ranger will answer any question you have. In fact, chances are you won't even have to ask. He'll just tell you.



New Mexico's Fort Craig was established along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road to the Interior Lands), a Spanish Colonial trail that stretched 1,200 miles from Mexico City to Santa Fe.

Down I-10 lies yet another historic stop: Fort Stockton, established in 1859, evacuated in 1861, home to Confederates for a spell and then burned. The water here still tastes like it could burn. The Army re-established the garrison

in 1867, but it wasn't the most popular posting. As visitor Emily K. Andrews noted in 1874: "The lack of shade and the want of grass on the Parade make a glare as you look upon it almost intolerable...." More tolerable today is the reconstructed Barracks No. 1, which houses a museum. You can also tour the original 1868

guardhouse and one of the remaining three officers' quarters that has been restored to its 1870s appearance.

Even today Lancaster and Stockton are mighty bleak, but finally, Sibley's men found an oasis in west Texas. When Col. James Reily reached the beautiful Davis Mountains, he and his men scored some hooch and "got tight." In fact, Reily and some officers stayed in Fort Davis for a spell, "tanked up considerably."

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Apparently, Sibley wasn't the only Texas officer with a drinking problem.

There's more to do in Fort Davis than drink, which is a good thing, since much of Jeff Davis County is dry. If you're thirsty, you can buy booze at the Hotel Limpia's Sutler's Club, and this historic hotel is perhaps the nicest place to stay in a great little town. Once you've slaked your thirst and filled your belly, check out Fort Davis National Historic Site, one of the best and best-looking posts in the Southwest. And hit the Overland Trail Museum, since we've basically been following the San Antonio-El Paso Road.

From Fort Davis, head up to Van Horn—with a stop at the McDonald Observatory for you sky-watchers—where you should fortify yourself on chiles relleños at Chuy's (a favorite of NFL broadcaster

John Madden), and journey on to El Paso.

On December 14, while at El Paso's Fort Bliss, Sibley assumed command of "all the forces of the Confederate States on the Rio Grande at and above Fort Quitman and all in the territory of New Mexico and Arizona."

Alas, Tony Lama, Luchese, Champion Attitude, Stallion, J.B. Hill and Rocketbuster weren't making awesome boots in El Paso in 1861, but you can sure shop for boots here today. And don't forget to check out the El Paso Museum of History and Old Fort Bliss, a reproduction of the original 1849 fort. Bliss is still an active post, so you'll need a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance to get in. No verification is needed, however, to sample the carnita plate at Avila's Mexican Food.



### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**Best Grub:** Lone Star Cafe (*San Antonio, TX*); Buckhorn Tavern (*San Antonio, above*); Mi Casita (*Fort Stockton*); Socorro Springs Brewing Company (*Socorro, NM*); Route 66 Diner (*Albuquerque*); Kristina's Restaurant (*Pecos*).

**Best Lodging:** Crockett Hotel (*San Antonio, TX*); Fort Clark Springs Motel (*Brackettville*); Indian Lodge (*Fort Davis*); Ramada Palms (*Las Cruces, NM*); Hotel St. Francis (*Santa Fe*).

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Each May, re-enactors re-create not only the Battle of Glorieta Pass at El Rancho de las Golondrinas in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but also camp life, skits and military drills.

## Invading New Mexico

Finally, the Rebels reached New Mexico. It was *southern* New Mexico. In fact, meetings in New Mexico's Mesilla and Arizona's Tucson had led to the southern section to secede from the Union and become the Confederate Territory of Arizona. But others weren't happy to see the Rebels. Indians raided the horse herd. A dust storm peppered the invaders.


Oh, things were fine in Las Cruces and Mesilla. In fact, things are still fine there. Mesilla, once the gateway to southern New Mexico (Billy the Kid would be tried for murder here in 1881), is a charming town of shops, art galleries and restaurants with an old adobe feel. Vibrant Las Cruces offers a score of museums, ranging from the New Mexico

Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum and the Museum of Natural History and Science to the Las Cruces Railroad Museum and the Branigan Cultural Center.


With such a charming welcome, Sibley sent Capt. Sherrod Hunter and 200 men to Tucson (the battle at Picacho Pass, between Tucson and Phoenix, would end that little escapade), while Sibley took the rest of his force north.

The troops got their first real taste of battle on February 20-21, 1862, at Valverde, a few desolate miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico, near Fort Craig.


Colonel Edward Canby commanded the federal garrison, which included federal troops and Colorado and New Mexico volunteers and militia. One regiment of New Mexico volunteers was commanded by legendary frontiersman Kit Carson, so you knew the Rebs were in trouble.



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By Eastern standards (Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, Franklin), Valverde wasn't much of a battle. Losses totaled fewer than 500 Union casualties and nearly 230 Confederate, though I imagine participants thought the fight was hot and savage enough.

Although the battlefield of Valverde, which is three miles north of the fort, is on private land, Fort Craig lies in ruins on Bureau of Land Management property. Chances are you'll be able to tour the grounds alone.

Canby withdrew back to Fort Craig, leaving the Rebels claiming victory. Sibley didn't have enough men, supplies or patience for a siege, and he wasn't stupid enough to charge the fort's thick walls. So he moved north, leaving Canby in his rear. He thought he could get resupplied in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

"He also thought they could live off the land, and this was in the winter," the woman at Fort Craig's visitors center and museum tells me with a laugh. "Look out there. This is a desert."

They call this area Jornada del Muerto (Journey of the Dead). It's still hard to find life here, although the winter months at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife

Refuge offer a birder's paradise. And the green chile cheeseburgers at San Antonio's Buckhorn Tavern or the Owl Bar are a carnivore's delight.

Sibley's invaders must have been exhausted by the time Albuquerque fell on March 2. On the Old Town Plaza, you can see two replica Mountain Howitzers that the Rebels buried nearby in April when they were retreating back to Texas. The original cannon barrels are displayed at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, walking distance from the plaza.

On March 13, the Confederate flag flew over Santa Fe.

"The houses in Santa Fe," Texas soldier A.B. Peticolas wrote in his journal, "though

altogether built of adobes, are of a better sort than any I have yet seen."

Tell me about it. My wife's a realtor in this town. Visitors are often blown away by how much a house here costs.

But it's a great city to visit. The New Mexico History Museum is first-rate, as is Battlefield New Mexico, a two-day event of Civil War lectures and re-enactments each May at the fabulous living-history museum, El Rancho de las Golondrinas.

### The Battle of Glorieta Pass

Sibley and his men knew they'd have to whip up the Yankees at Fort Union if they wanted that gold, so they headed on toward Colorado. They only got as far as Glorieta Pass near Pecos. There they met their Waterloo on March 26-28.

The Battle of Glorieta Pass has been called the "Gettysburg of the West." Yeah, right. Roughly 100 men died on both sides combined during the Glorieta fight versus the approximately 8,000 deaths at Gettysburg. But Glorieta did turn the tide, and it turned back Sibley.

Actually, the Confederates had won the battle, tactically speaking, when they succeeded in pushing the Union force back through the pass. But then Colorado volunteers

under Methodist parson John Chivington found the Rebs' supply train in Apache Canyon and destroyed it.

Instead of claiming glory, the Rebels retreated back to Santa Fe, back to Albuquerque, all the way back to Texas. Chivington was the new Western hero. Two years later, he became the West's worst villain after leading the massacre at Sand Creek.

The Battle of Glorieta Pass has been called the "Gettysburg of the West." Yeah, right.



### HISTORICAL MARKERS

Along N.M. Highway 50, between Glorieta and Pecos, are two historical markers commemorating the battle that 150 years ago ended the Confederate hopes of winning silver, gold and the West for the South.

- On October 1, 1939, the United Daughters of the Confederacy (Texas Division, of course) erected a monument "In Loyal memory of the Texas Mounted Volunteers, Sibley's Brigade, C.S.A., Who Died in Service at Glorieta Pass, March 28, 1862."
- Not to be undone, the "People of Colorado" finally put up their own monument in the 1990s, dedicated to the "Colorado Volunteers" and "in Memory of the brave men who fought here."

Parking is available on the south side of N.M. 50, a short distance from the ruins of Pigeon's Ranch.

The Glorieta battlefield is spread out, but Pecos National Historical Park in Pecos conducts two-hour van tours on Saturday afternoons. You can also take a 2.3-mile "Battlefield Trail" by signing in at the visitors center and picking up a trail map and gate code.

Texians, by the way, are not only allowed on both the tour and the trail, they are even welcome.



Johnny D. Boggs recommends Don E. Alberts's *The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West* and Albuquerque writer P.G. Nagle's novel *Glorieta Pass*.



**CDs for the Ride:** *Tonight I Ride* by Tom Corbett (Roundhole Records); *Satisfied at Last* by Joe Ely (Rack'em Records); *Heirloom Music* by the Wranglers with Jimmie Dale Gilmore (Redeye). **Honkytonks Worth the Stop:** The historic La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe might not be as wild and rowdy as Billy Bob's Texas, but locals know the La Fiesta Lounge is a great place to hear great tunes six nights a week—especially if you happen to catch some New Mexico icons like the Bill Hearne Trio or Syd Masters & the Swing Riders.



# Cruisin' with Custer

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## THE GREAT PLAINS GUIDE TO CUSTER

When folks ask me about the goals I have as the U.S. Congress's "Foremost Custer Living Historian," I tell them that, in addition to reading the literature he had in his personal library, I want to visit all the sites Custer saw in his lifetime. Jeff Barnes's 230-page book *The Great Plains Guide to Custer* (Stackpole Books; \$19.95) has taken me a little closer to what Barnes describes as "a place among those who know the stories or are learning them and now want to see and enjoy the land that Custer walked."

The below photograph of Libbie and George Custer in Hempstead, Texas, 1865 is just one of many great illustrations featured in Jeff Barnes's travel guide: *The Great Plains Guide to Custer*.

—COURTESY JEFF BARNES—

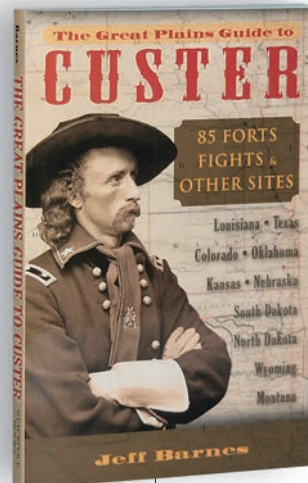
That journey begins in Louisiana and quickly and chronologically moves Custer into the West, starting with his arrival in Texas. Enhanced with period photographs and current-day descriptions of more than 65 historical forts and sites attributed to the general, the book gets better with Barnes's helpful hints and instructions on how to get access to active army posts and the days to avoid sites when they are being used as correctional facilities.

Barnes allows us to experience the simplistic life Libbie described as home on Big Creek. We feel the chill of the wintery Washita, the high altitude of the Black

Hills, and we celebrate the Grand Duke taking a buffalo before the West was gone.

Barnes easily ranks alongside those Custer experts he acknowledges in the book. For me, his guide is particularly rewarding because the sites are all specific to Custer.

For those content to just watch *They Died with Their Boots On*, this may not be the book for you. But for anyone driving out to the Little Big Horn (one of three re-enactments are described in the book), there can be no better companion on the seat beside you.  
—Steve Alexander





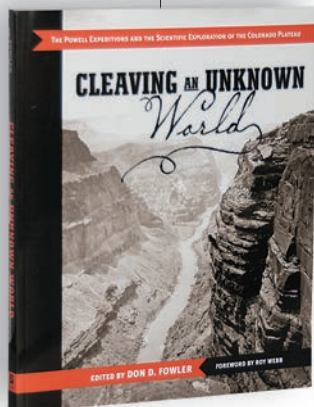
## CLEAVING AN UNKNOWN WORLD

By 1869, Lewis & Clark, trappers, U.S. Army surveyors and pioneer emigrants had pretty much explored most of the continental United States, but with one notable exception: the canyons of the Green and Colorado Rivers.

Sure, trappers had ventured into these canyons, most notably William Ashley on the upper Green in 1825, but he shared his tales of adventures around the campfire. To most folks at the time, the lack of published accounts enshrined these canyons as places of great mystery.

In the introduction for *Cleaving an Unknown World* (University of Utah Press, \$24.95), Roy Webb writes that Powell's 1869 and 1871 expeditions down these rivers "are among the most significant, stirring, and well documented in American history."

That belief is why the University of Utah Press dedicated itself to publishing a total of four volumes of out-of-print journals, letters, maps, photos and other documents from Powell's expeditions; this is the final volume. Although biographies, magazine articles and even a feature film (*Ten Who Dared*) have helped to make Powell's expeditions among the best known in the annals of North



Jack Hillers's photographs are one of the best features of *Cleaving an Unknown World*. Included in the book is a cropped version of the full photograph we display here; the Powell party is shown paddling out of Green River Station in Wyoming in 1871.

— HILLERS PHOTO TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

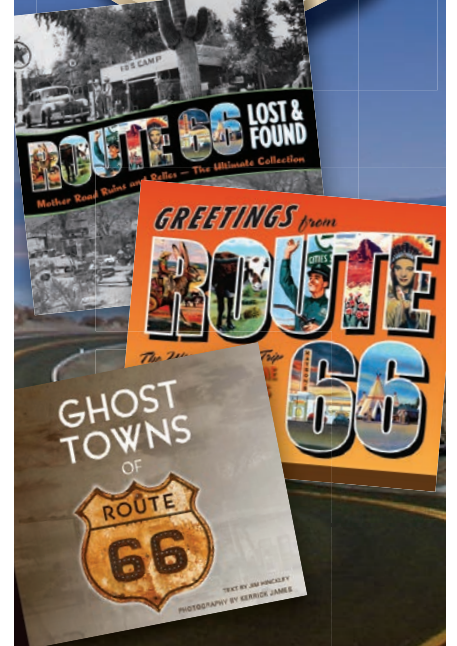
American exploration, these volumes provide firsthand access to the explorer, through the journals and writings of members of his two expeditions.

This final volume gathers together documents that are not easily obtained by today's readers, such as the witty "Lost Journal of John Colton Sumner" and, my personal favorite, Jack Hillers's diary, recorded during 1871-75. As editor Don D. Fowler explains in the book, Hillers chanced upon Powell in 1871 Salt Lake City, Utah, where the major was making preparations for a second boat trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers. Powell liked the teamster and offered him the boatman's job; Hillers accepted. Thus marked the start of

Hillers's photographic career, one that would see him become the chief photographer for Powell's survey of the Rocky Mountains, among other illustrious jobs. His photographs, and those taken by others, all deftly serve to illustrate the accounts shared on these pages.

—Lucky Bonner

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The Cliff House in Newberry Springs, California, is just one of the many community hubs showcased in Russell A. Olsen's book, *Route 66: Lost & Found*.



— COURTESY RUSSELL A. OLSEN —



## ROUTE 66: LOST & FOUND

The famous Mother Road pathway lingers in our memories, and Russell A. Olsen highlights its charms in *Route 66: Lost & Found* (Voyageur Press, \$30). From motels to bridges, each page shares the story of some of the well-known and oft-overlooked establishments along the route.

This book provides an experience to those wishing to return to and reminisce over an era that most consider bygone, but is still hanging on today. The vintage postcards the author obtained from private collections help illustrate the sites, and he mixes color photographs in for the places he recommends people visit today, in order to create a balanced blend between the past and present.

The author succeeds in not shying away from the fact that many places have vanished. At the same time, he reminds readers how his friends and other volunteers continue the fight to preserve the historical relics on Route 66, stating that “they’re all just an Interstate exit away.”

Some of the places have been turned into museums or private residences, and sections of the road were bypassed, but the fact that these sites are still standing and the roads are still accessible by car is what gives the Route 66 family their heritage and has created a community that is more than willing to welcome you. —Allison Carlton

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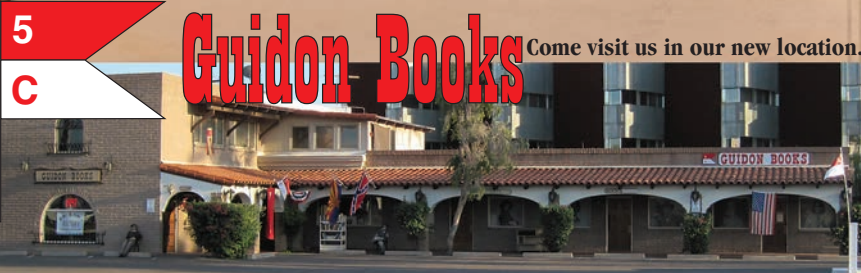


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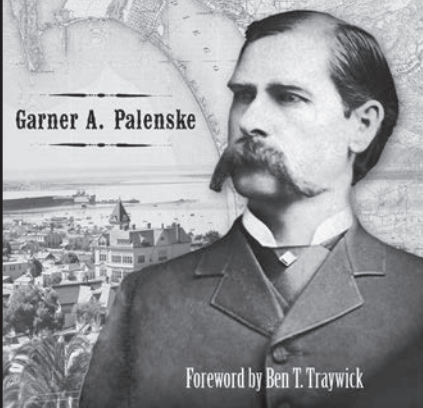
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— By Ryan Drake —

## SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL

Santa Clarita, CA, April 19-22: Melody Ranch & Western film tours, plus performances by acts like Cari Mari & Pony Express (top), Don Edwards (center) and R.W. Hampton (bottom). 661-250-3735 • [CowboyFestival.org](http://CowboyFestival.org)

## ADVENTURES

### COWGIRL CAMP

Gila, NM, April 15-20: Offers lessons in horsemanship techniques, a cattle roundup, trail rides and a mini rodeo competition. 575-535-2048 • [DoubleERanch.com](http://DoubleERanch.com)

### BLUEGRASS EXPRESS TRAIN

Durango, CO, April 20: Enjoy live Bluegrass music on the vintage steam-powered train and at the stop at Cascade Canyon Pavillion. 970-247-2733 • [DurangoTrain.com](http://DurangoTrain.com)

### NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

Nationwide, April 21-29: Free entrance days at all National Parks, from Yellowstone in Wyoming and Montana to Mesa Verde in Colorado. 202-208-3818 • [NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)

## ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

### WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTIONS

Tucson, AZ, April 27-29: Wild horses and burros from Western states offered for adoption to folks providing long-term care. 866-468-7826 • [BLM.gov](http://BLM.gov)

## ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### ARIZONA CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

Phoenix, AZ, April 18-21: Historic preservation workshops and Arizona history lectures celebrate the Grand Canyon state's 100th birthday. 480-420-4601 • [ArizonaCentennial.org](http://ArizonaCentennial.org)

### THE TITANIC: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Leadville, CO, April 14-15: Commemorates the 100th anniversary of ship's sinking, includes home tour, dinner and presentation on Molly Brown. 719-486-1239 • [LeadvilleAssembly.org](http://LeadvilleAssembly.org)

### FIRST THANKSGIVING

San Elizario, TX, April 28: Re-enacts the 1598 first Thanksgiving with Indian and Spanish dancers, after a conference sharing San Elizario's history. 915-851-9997 • [ElPasoMissionTrail.com](http://ElPasoMissionTrail.com)

## ART AUCTION & EXHIBITS

### SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ, March 30: A wide collection of paintings and sculptures by master artists like Frederic Remington and Gerard Curtis Delano. 480-945-0448 • [Altermann.com](http://Altermann.com)

### PUEBLO TO PUEBLO

Oklahoma City, OK, Ends April 8: Presents nearly 80 vessels of Southwest Indian pottery from the mid-19th to the 20th centuries. 405-478-2250 • [NationalCowboyMuseum.com](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.com)

### WESTERN SPIRIT ART SHOW & SALE

Cheyenne, WY, Ends April 15: View Western artwork by more than 130 artists at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. 307-778-7290 • [OldWestMuseum.org](http://OldWestMuseum.org)

## AWARDS SHOW

### WESTERN HERITAGE AWARDS

Oklahoma City, OK, April 20-21: Honors the best in literature, music, film and television that reflect the American West heritage. 405-478-2250 • [NationalCowboyMuseum.com](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.com)

### ROMAN NOSE HILLS TRAIL RIDE

Watonga, OK, April 20-22:  
Two- to six-hour guided trail ride adventures at Roman Nose State Park and several private ranches. The Sioux chief who inspired this ride is shown here in an 1865 stereograph.  
877-782-2395  
[RomanNoseHillsTrailRide.com](http://RomanNoseHillsTrailRide.com)



### COMPETITIONS

#### FIDDLE FEST WEEKEND

Llano, TX, April 6-8: Fiddle music jams, an open fiddle contest at the 1927 LanTex Theater, art exhibits and a chuckwagon breakfast.  
325-247-5354 • [LlanoFiddleContest.com](http://LlanoFiddleContest.com)

#### BANDERA CHUCKWAGON RACES

Bandera, TX, April 13-15: Cowboys compete at breakneck speeds in chuckwagons in this National Finals-qualifying race at 2E Twin Elm Ranch.  
830-796-3045 • [BanderaCowboyCapital.com](http://BanderaCowboyCapital.com)

### FRONTIER FARE

#### LLANO CRAWFISH OPEN

Llano, TX, April 20-21: Heritage cuisine meal of boiled crawfish and barbecue accompanies Llano's charity golf tournament and marathon.  
325-247-2270 • [LlanoCrawfishOpen.com](http://LlanoCrawfishOpen.com)

#### PIONEER VILLAGE DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

Gonzales, TX, April 28: Taste the winning dutch oven fare, then learn how to make rope and lye soap as you tour the 1800s pioneer village.  
830-672-2157 • [ThePioneerVillage.com](http://ThePioneerVillage.com)

### FUNDRAISER

#### FRIENDS OF HAPPY TRAILS BANQUET & FREEDOM RALLY

Victorville, CA, April 21: This fundraiser benefits the children's foundation formed by classic



#### FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 19-29: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations, plus fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo. This photo, of the Battle of the Flowers Parade, was taken at the celebration 110 years ago.  
877-723-4378 • [Fiesta-SA.org](http://Fiesta-SA.org)

Western actors Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.  
760-240-3330 • [HappyTrails.org](http://HappyTrails.org)

### HERITAGE FESTIVALS

#### WILD WEST DAYS

Tucson, AZ, March 30-April 1: Old Tucson Studios presents roping and bull whip handling by Cowboy Kal and music by Sourdough Slim.  
520-883-0100 • [OldTucson.com](http://OldTucson.com)

#### GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR

Hitchcock, TX, April 13-21: Since 1938, the fair and rodeo includes auctions, a variety of cook-offs, concerts, rodeo events and youth activities.  
409-986-6010 • [GalvestonCountyFair.com](http://GalvestonCountyFair.com)

#### COWBOY CULTURE CELEBRATION

Dublin, TX, April 20-22: Ranch rodeo, Wild West show, cowboy mounted shooting, downtown cattle drive and cowboy poetry competition.  
254-592-1653 • [CowboyCultureCelebration.com](http://CowboyCultureCelebration.com)

### POWOWS

#### TIGUA PERFORMANCES

San Elizario, TX, Starts April 7: Every Saturday and Sunday, the Tigua perform traditional dances such as the Buffalo Eagle and Pueblo Two-Step.  
915-859-7700 • [ElPasoMissionTrail.com](http://ElPasoMissionTrail.com)

#### SCOTTSDALE NATIVE TRAILS

Scottsdale, AZ, Ends April 14: Traditional musical instruments accompany period dancers as they share the stories of Arizona's first tribes.  
480-421-1004 • [ScottsdaleCVB.com](http://ScottsdaleCVB.com)

### RODEOS

#### FIESTA DAYS RODEO

Cave Creek, AZ, March 28-April 1: A PRCA rodeo, plus charity golf tournament, dances, rodeo parade and mutton bustin' competition.  
480-488-4043 • [CaveCreekRodeo.com](http://CaveCreekRodeo.com)

#### STOCKYARDS CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

Forth Worth, TX, April 20: World's only year-round rodeo offers two hours of live action, held every Friday and Saturday of the month.  
817-625-1025 • [CouttownColiseum.com](http://CouttownColiseum.com)

### RE-ENACTMENT

#### SPRING TRADERS ENCAMPMENT

Bartlesville, OK, April 13-14: Bring your pre-1840s camp gear and clothing for a hands-on look at mountain man life near Crystal Lake.  
888-966-5276 • [Woolaroc.org](http://Woolaroc.org)

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### GATHERING OF NATIONS

Albuquerque, NM, April 26-28: Learn about American Indian culture and tradition through photos, music and stories. Kenny Pratt Jr., shown at the powwow last year, will be the powwow's head male dancer this year. 505-836-2810 • [GatheringOfNations.com](http://GatheringOfNations.com)

### SHOOTING MATCH

#### SHOOT-OUT AT THE O.K. CORRAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 28-29: Main match on Saturday, with men and ladies' division shoot-off at the O.K. Corral Sunday, plus a cowboy dinner. [OldPuebloGunfighters.com](http://OldPuebloGunfighters.com)

### TRADE SHOWS

#### KATSINA DOLL MARKETPLACE

Phoenix, AZ, April 14: Check out the handiwork of more than 100 artists as they display their carved Katsina dolls at the Heard Museum. 602-252-8848 • [Heard.org](http://Heard.org)

#### HUB CITY MARKET

Clinton, OK, April 19-22: This Route 66 hub in western Oklahoma offers up a marketplace of vendors, food and entertainment. 580-323-2222 • [ClintonOK.org](http://ClintonOK.org)

### WORKSHOPS

#### ARIZONA LIVING HISTORY WORKSHOP

Prescott, AZ, April 7: Learn how to make Victorian accessories, like bonnets and parasols, and homemade supplies for spring cleaning. 928-778-4810 • [Sharlot.org](http://Sharlot.org)

#### ARIZONA HISTORY ADVENTURE

Prescott, AZ, April 14: Learn the spring cleaning techniques frontier Arizona housewives used to get the home ready for summer. 928-445-3122 • [Sharlot.org](http://Sharlot.org)

#### WEST TEXAS TRAIL WRITERS CONFERENCE

Fort Davis, TX, April 27-29: Improve your writing skills with help from Western novelist and TexAmericana songwriter Mike Blakely. 432-426-3481 • [Dmectexas.org](http://Dmectexas.org)

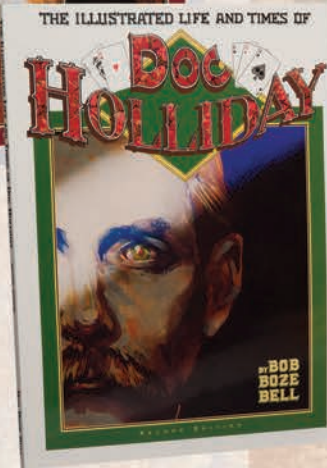
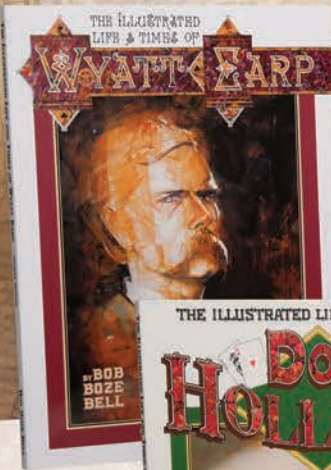
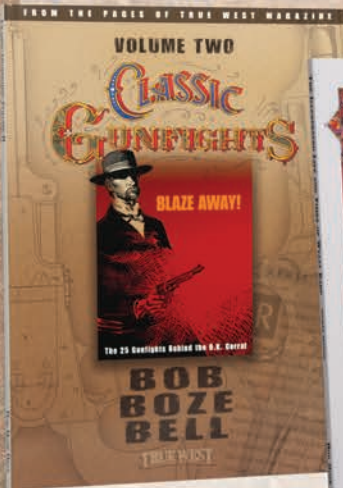


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# Hanged for Robbery?

## Did Arizona ever list train robbery as a capital offense?

Norman Lilley  
Forepaugh, Arizona

Yep. The railroads wielded enough political pressure to get some territories to make train robbery a crime worthy of the noose.

An epidemic of train robberies led the New Mexico Territorial Legislature to make train robbery a capital offense in 1887. Arizona followed suit in 1889.

Even so, juries were reluctant to sentence an outlaw to hang if no one had been killed. In New Mexico, only one man, "Black Jack" Tom Ketchum, was legally strung up, in 1901, for sticking up a train near Folsom two years earlier.

In Arizona, a jury ordered only one train robber to be taken care of by the hangman. Frans Oscar Toren helped hold up the Southern Pacific Express at Maricopa on October 1, 1894. He never got his short drop, as his sentence was later commuted.

## The John Wayne Memorabilia exhibit in Los Angeles featured his costume trousers with sewed-on belt loops. Aren't belt loops an early 20th-century development?

Ron Heisner  
Cave Creek, Arizona

To say belt loops didn't exist before the 20th century would be incorrect; they just weren't common.

Bob Charnes, owner of the Arizona Gunfighters re-enactment group, says some baseball uniforms had belt loops by the late 1850s. They didn't catch on with the general public at that time.

Most 19th-century cowboys either wore suspenders or had a pair of pants

tight enough around the waist that they didn't need a belt to hold them up. It was the hot summer of 1893 that drove some men to give up their braces and opt for belts.

The fashion took awhile to take hold. Levi Strauss didn't put belt loops on its jeans until the 1920s.

## How successful were traveling entertainers in the Old West?

Jack A. Graves  
Turlock, California

They were popular in the entertainment-starved West, and the good ones made a lot of money. Since the entertainers hit the



Adah Isaacs Menken was better known for her showmanship and unconventional lifestyle than her skill as an actress. In her brief life of 33 years, Menken was married to five men in seven years and subsequently had numerous lovers, including novelist Alexandre Dumas and the poet Algernon Swinburne. She was also a friend of Charles Dickens. She died in Paris in 1868.

— True West Archives —



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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

mining town circuit, they found plenty of cash to pay them top dollar.

Shakespearian plays were always popular, as was "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Sideshows, medicine shows and circuses also drew crowds. So did musical groups.

Pretty women were the most popular. Caroline Chapman was one of the first real actresses to head west. Stories tell of how, after her first performance in San Francisco, the audience carpeted the stage with pokes filled with gold.

Another favorite was Adah Isaacs Menken, a woman with an innocent appearance that belied her wild and wicked lifestyle. Mark Twain wrote a newspaper article about her appearance in Virginia City, Nevada, in the early 1860s. She rode across the stage on a horse in a flesh-colored bodystocking that made her appear nude. Her adoring audience showered the stage with gold and silver. Then, as now, sex sells.

## Why did some vaquero saddles have dinner plate-type saddle horns?

Glade Fawson  
Riverton, Utah



My famous saddlemaker friend, Carson Thomas, of Wickenburg, Arizona, told me: "The large platter style comes on many early as well as contemporary charro-style saddles. Both types work very well for roping livestock with the rawhide reatas or maguey ropes used by both vaqueros and charros (who are similar to vaqueros—their style is a bit different).

"The larger the horn neck, the more friction the rope has and the less dallys the roper needs to take to hold the critter.

"And yes, there are times when it might be used for holding on to when a horse decides he doesn't want a passenger anymore!"

## Who was the man Wild Bill Hickok shot and killed in Abilene, Kansas?

John "Arizona" Crawley  
Salem, Oregon

Mike Williams was a former bartender from Kansas City who went to Abilene to earn some extra money. He was working as a special deputy marshal to Wild Bill Hickok—primarily overseeing the jail.

On the night of October 5, 1871, he rushed to Hickok's aid when the lawman got into a fracas with gambler Phil Coe. The marshal fatally shot Coe and then accidentally killed Williams as the deputy ran to the scene.

Williams was due to return to KC later that night, but instead was shipped home to his wife in a box. Hickok paid for the funeral and visited his widow to explain what had occurred that fateful night.

**In the Nov/Dec. 2011 issue, I told readers a possible reason why Geronimo was holding two sticks was so he could steady the gun while firing. Reader David West has shared another explanation:**

"If you enlarge the image, the darker stick in his hand is his cleaning rod. If you look at the top of the rod, you will see a hole for his cleaning patches. All 1873 Springfield rifles have the same cleaning rod with a hole at the top. He is also holding a stick for unknown reasons. The cross sticks to steady his gun response does sound cool." ❏



In this 1886 C.S. Fly photo, Geronimo holds two sticks; *True West* reader David West believes that the darker stick was the cleaning rod for the 1873 Springfield rifle.

— Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin Collection —



## UPCOMING ADOPTIONS

Contact BLM for additional dates and locations

April 6	Canon City, CO
April 10	Pauls Valley, OK
April 11 - 25	Internet
April 12 - 14	Beeville, TX
April 13 - 14	Redlands, CA
April 20 - 21	Bloomfield, IA
April 20 - 22	Kenansville, NC
April 27 - 29	Tucson, AZ
May 3 - 5	Beaumont, TX
May 11 - 12	Springfield, OH
May 17 - 19	Enid, OK
May 18 - 19	Riverton, WY



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**I loved working with** the “Young Guns,” but it was the Old Guns, like Jack Palance, James Coburn and Brian Keith, who made it a true Western experience. On other films, I’ve been fortunate to work with Harry Carey Jr., Malcolm McDowell and Omar Sharif. To have the legends who inspired you to write, now saying your lines...it just doesn’t get any better than that.

**I also loved working with** Emilio Estevez (he lived and breathed the Kid), Viggo Mortensen and, not too many filmmakers will say this, Val Kilmer. He drove me batty, but it was worth it in the end. I’m eager to work with him again.

**People don’t know** that during the final mustang stampede in *Hidalgo*, Viggo and I are riding full gallop, off-camera with the wranglers, driving those ponies across Montana. I love my life.

**When it comes to directors**, nobody can touch Kurosawa. I’ve long been intrigued by the fact that John Ford and American Westerns inspired this Japanese artist, who then inspired filmmakers like Sergio Leone, John Sturges and Peckinpah (and Spielberg, Lucas, Scorsese and Tarantino). It’s a fascinating cycle of influence that has produced great film.

**Don’t get me started on** Westerns that have Wyatt Earp shooting it out with Al Capone. I can’t go there.

**On the set of *Young Guns***, Charlie Sheen was the only sane one. He was always dragging us out of border bars and restoring order to bad situations. Not sure if he was just in character as the foreman Dick Brewer, but he would literally yell “Regulators” and herd the guys out of trouble.

**I haven’t stopped fighting** to get Westerns made. In the late ’80s my agents begged me not to pitch my Billy the Kid idea because the Western was “dead.” I defied common sense, went off and wrote it on spec. Glad I did.

**My biggest influences** have been the old-timers who took me under their wing: the screenwriting legends Waldo Salt and Ring Lardner Jr., who became my mentors, old Bluesmen I traveled with on the road and Native American elders, like Frank Fools Crow, whom I spent time with on the Rez.

**Show me an open highway**, and I’ll have something written before we get to Bakersfield. The road is a great source of creativity for me. So is trail riding.

**I’ve lived in** bad motels and renovated school buses and, for



John Fusco says the quickest way to kill a scene is to overwrite it: “Keep it spare, like Horton Foote did.” One of Foote’s most notable screenplays was 1962’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



## JOHN FUSCO, SCREENWRITER

Most known for writing and producing the box office hit *Young Guns* and its sequel *Young Guns II*, John Fusco (inset) also wrote 1992’s *Thunderheart*, the ABC miniseries *DreamKeeper*, 2004’s *Hidalgo* and the 2002 animated film *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, which earned an Oscar nomination. He has three projects on the launching pad for 2012: his *Marco Polo* series for the Starz Channel; his adaptation of *Last Train to Memphis*, about the early days of Elvis; and the Western he wrote at Universal just signed John Lee Hancock as the director.

a time, in a doorway in the French Quarter of New Orleans. So when I hear an actor whine about his accommodations at the Four Seasons....

**Wish I had a dollar for** every time a magazine cover, a sports team or a political campaign has used the term “Young Guns.”

**History has taught me** that the best drama isn’t always found in the big pivotal events, nor are the richest characters always the best known.

**My only regret is** that Paul Newman passed away just before he and Robert Redford were ready to reunite on my screenplay *The Highwaymen*, playing retired Texas Rangers Frank Hamer and Manny Gault. But I’m grateful to have spent time with Butch, going over the script and eating Fig Newmans. That project is still alive (it’s the one John Lee Hancock is going to direct).



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