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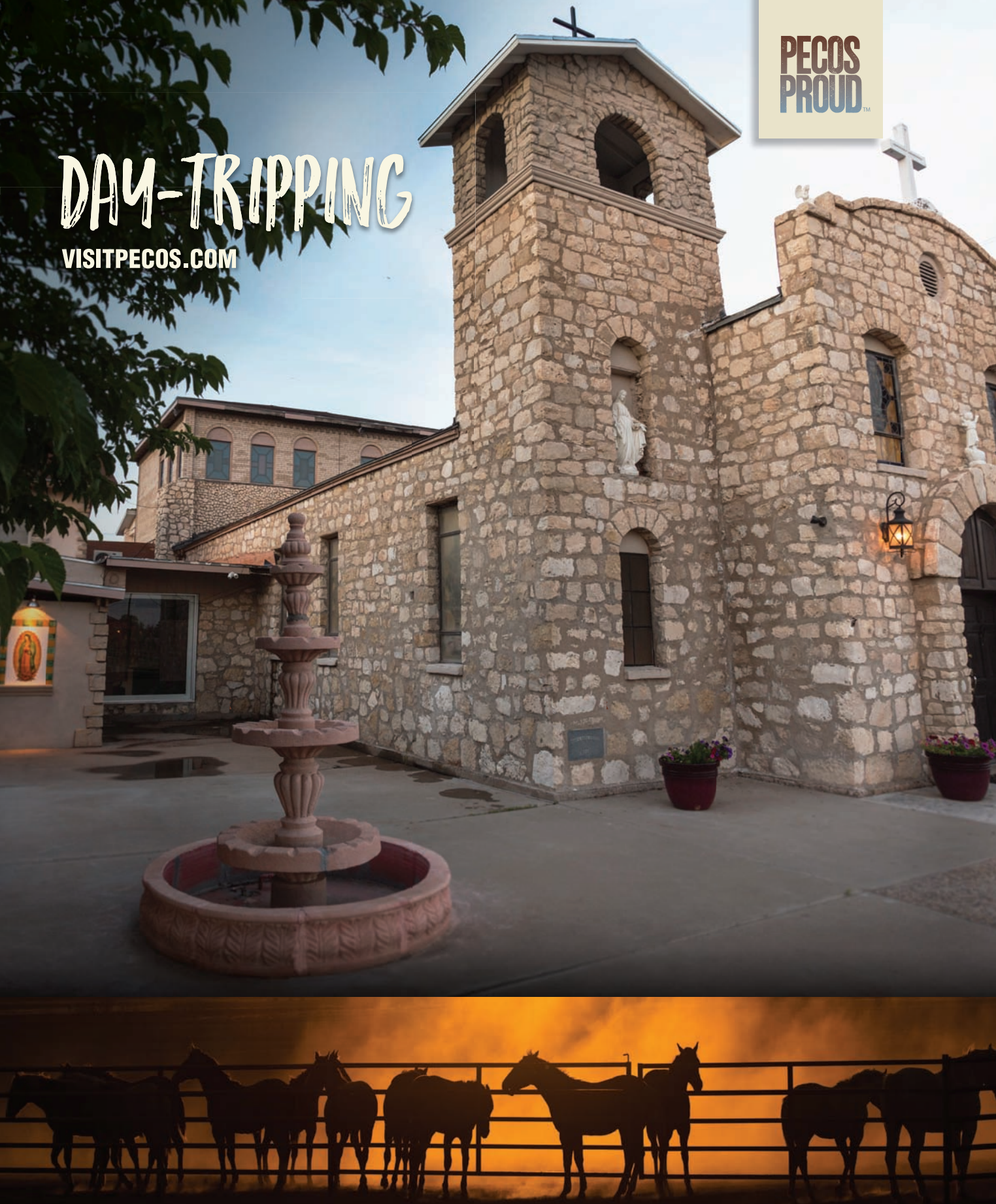
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John Wayne stood larger than life on the silver screen, and just as tall in real life. During his long career, he appeared in more than 150 films, and audiences around the world recognized him as the one man who best represented the patriotic spirit of America.

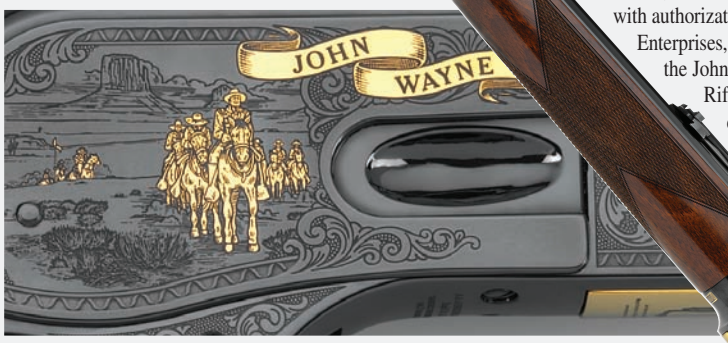
More than 35 years after his death, John Wayne still ranks among the top 10 most popular movie stars in the annual Harris Poll, and his movies continue to be viewed by millions of Americans, ensuring his status as a legendary American icon.

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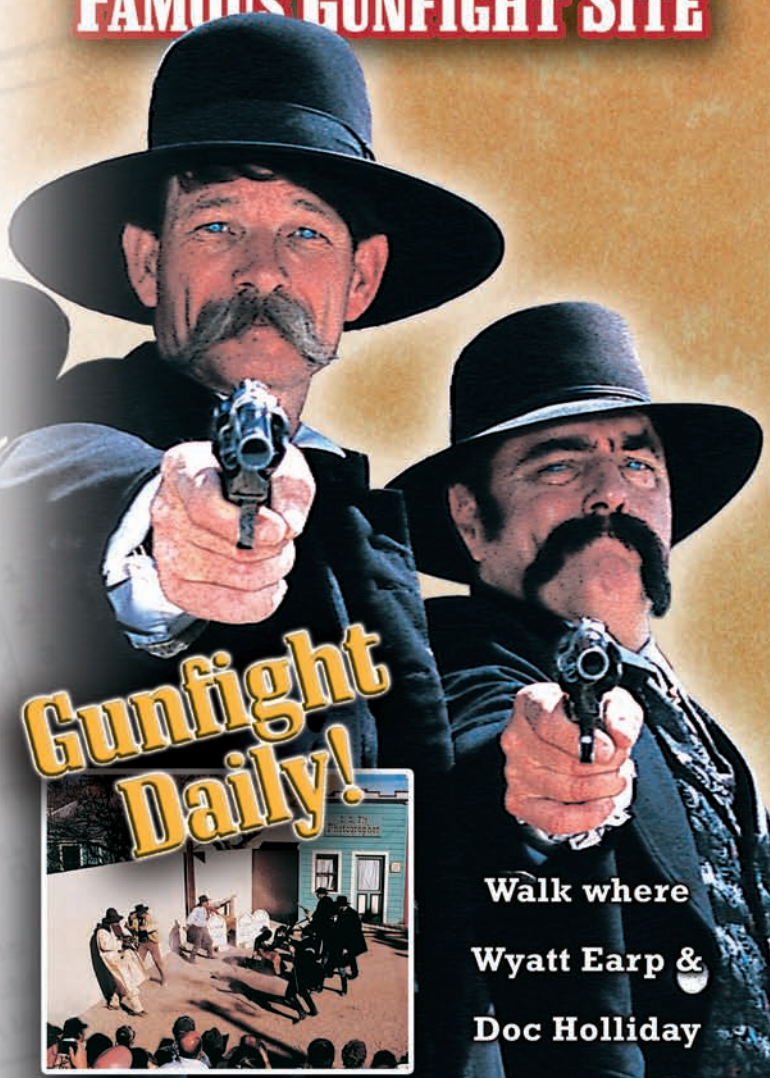
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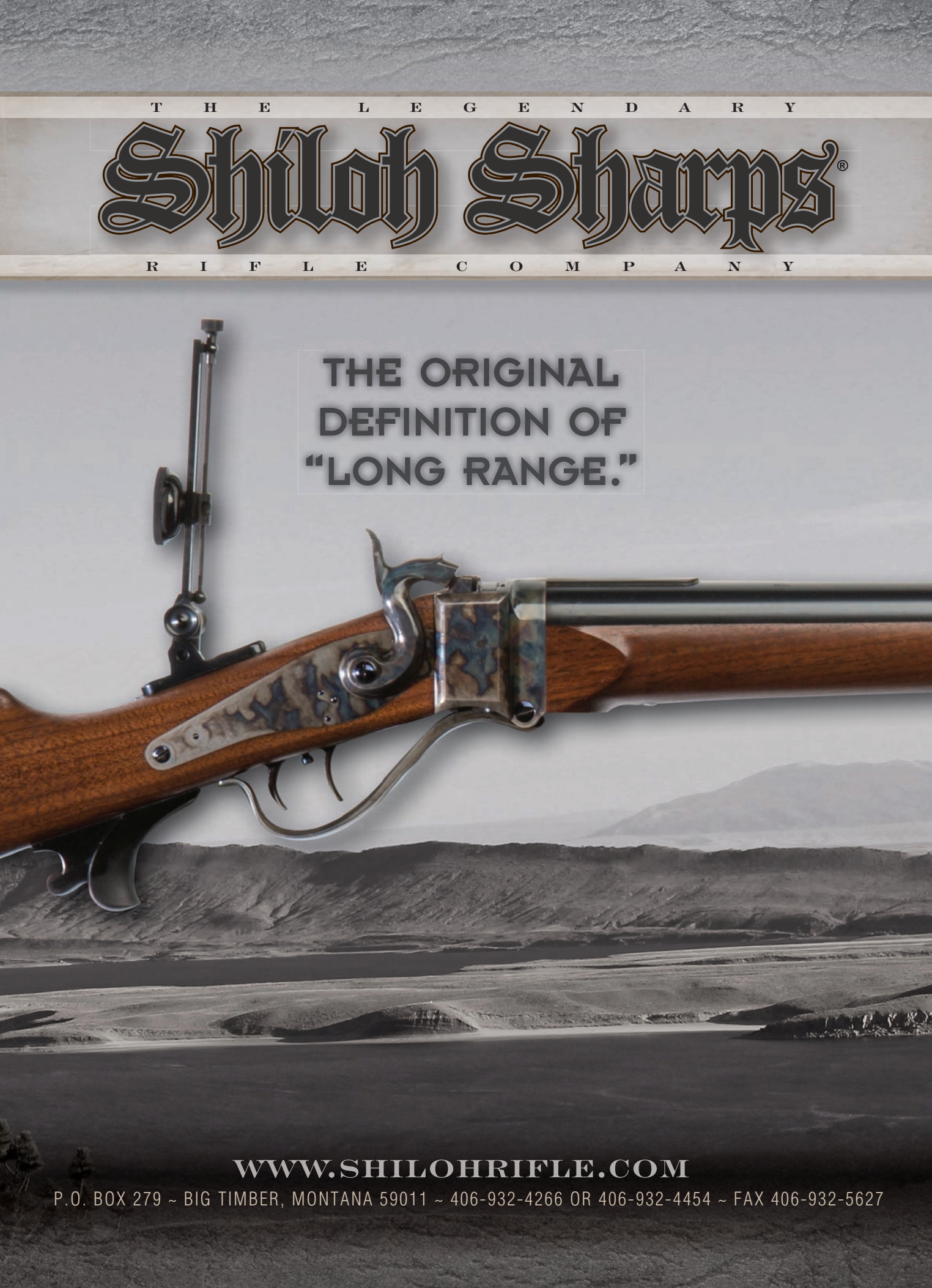
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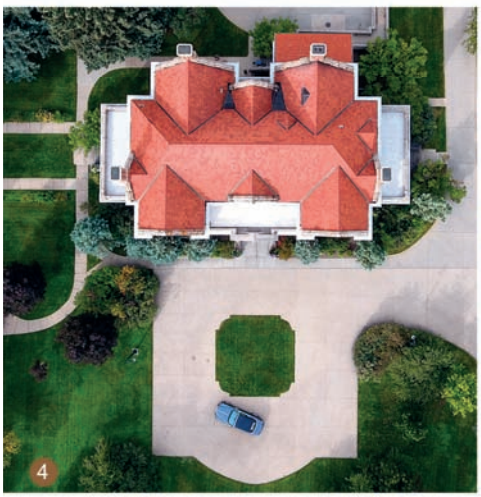
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Before dinner, tour the **Trail End State Historic Site (4).** Built in Flemish Revival style, the Trail End mansion provides an elegantly different vision of Sheridan's rich and colorful history. Sit down for supper at the Cowboy Cafe or birch Restaurant for a taste of wild Wyoming fare or fine western dining, respectively. **Day 2.** Rise to beat the crowds of history buffs and tour Indian battle sites and former military posts, including the **Rosebud and Connor Battlefields,** the site of the **Wagon Box Fight,** and finally picturesque **Fort Phil Kearny,** located on the **Bozeman Trail (6).** The new Skylab at Fort Phil is a thrill for stargazers. After lunch, plan to spend a few hours exploring **The Brinton Museum (5)** in Big Horn for a look at one of the most robust collections of Indian and western artifacts in the United States.

Save plenty of time to shop **Historic Downtown Sheridan (1).** Visit Crazy Woman Trading Co., High Mountain Mercantile, Sheridan Stationery and Books, Tom Balding Bits and Spurs, the Bozeman Gallery, Brian's Boots and other western-centric boutiques and galleries. Downtown Sheridan features incredible public art, beautifully restored historic buildings, and the iconic WYO Theater, opened in 1923. Grab lunch at Frackelton's or Java Moon, then visit the **Sheridan County Museum;** the museum boasts a robust archive of historical images, artifacts and letters, and serves as an excellent exclamation point on your tour. Enjoy Happy Hour at Blacktooth Brewery or The Mint Bar then dine downtown. After dinner, kick up your boots on the porch of the Historic Sheridan Inn the way Buffalo Bill once did, and watch the sun set on your time in Sheridan.

For additional itineraries, history and tall tales of the icons and outlaws of Sheridan visit us at **sheridanwyoming.org.**

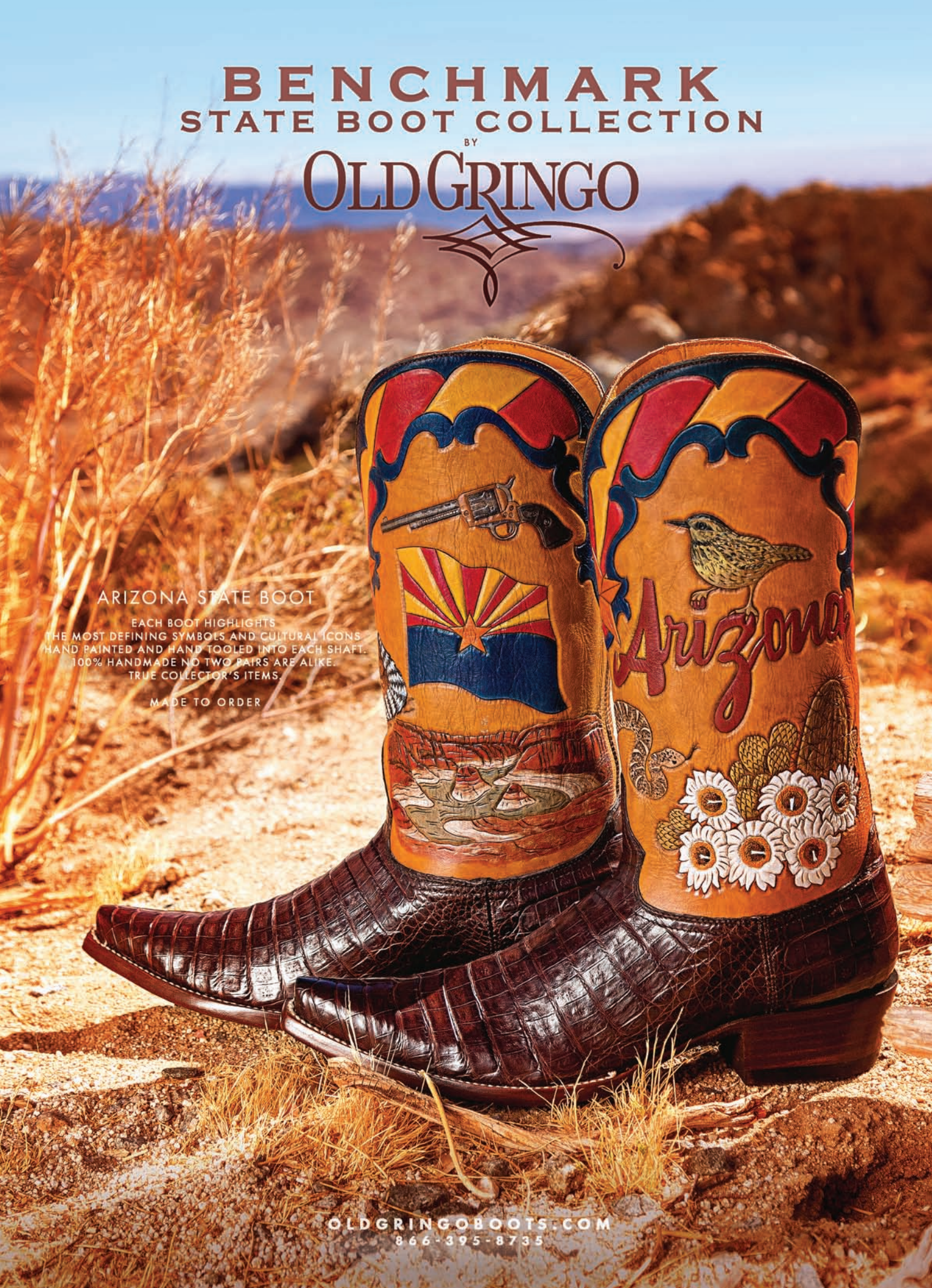
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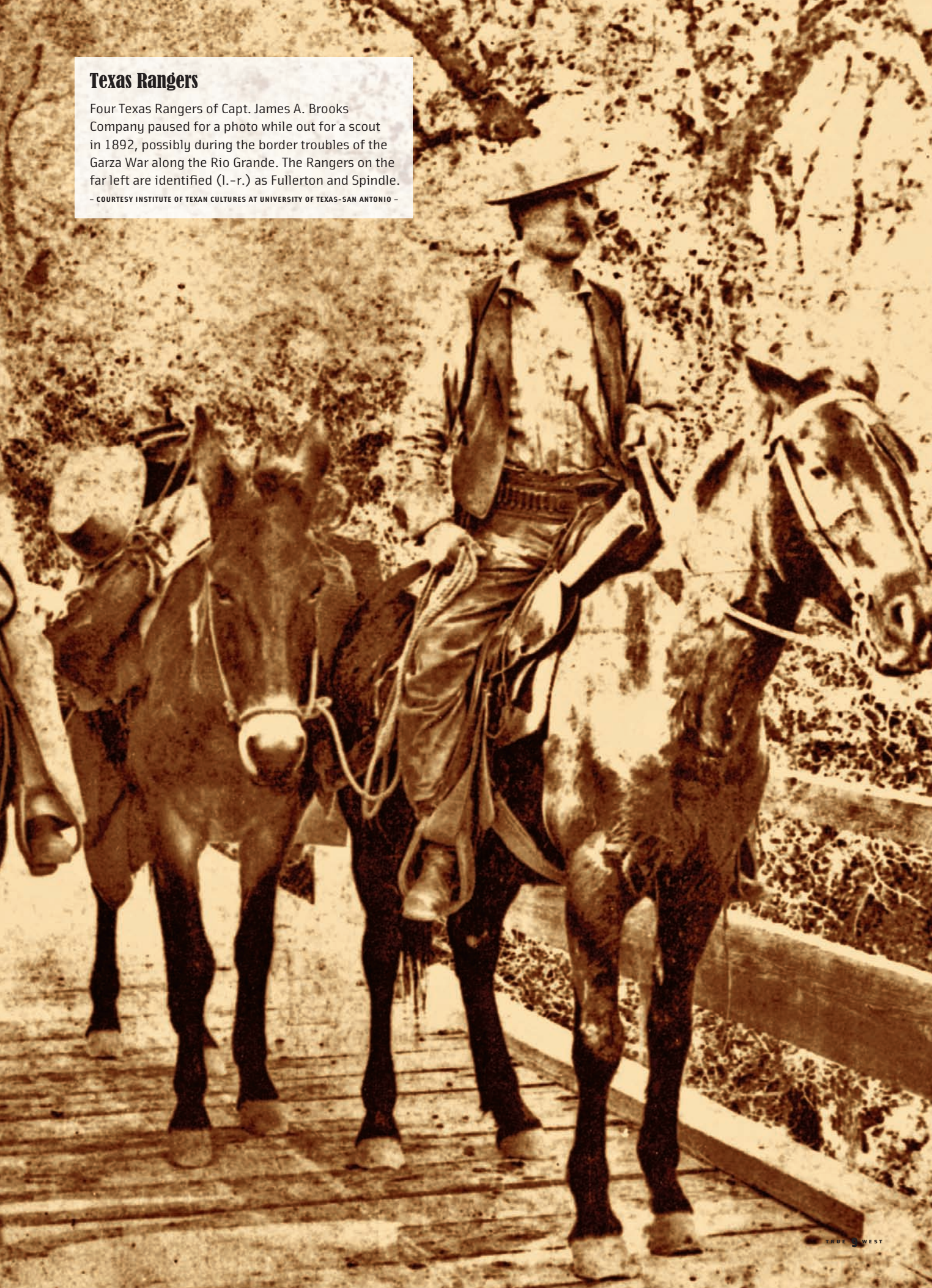
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Texas Rangers

Four Texas Rangers of Capt. James A. Brooks Company paused for a photo while out for a scout in 1892, possibly during the border troubles of the Garza War along the Rio Grande. The Rangers on the far left are identified (l.–r.) as Fullerton and Spindle.

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TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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

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Lawman, Pat Garrett's most famous kill did not come from a gun battle. In 1881, he sneaked into Pete Maxwell's house and shot notorious outlaw Billy the Kid to death. Find this photo and more historical photography on our "Gunslingers" board.

Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag



Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see his scratchboard, *It's Hamer Time!*, and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts (Search for "April 13, 2016").

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com



Join the Conversation: The Meticulous Rebith of Old West Guns "It's great to have such a wide choice of Old West reproduction firearms and new models and variations come out every year. Gotta love it!"

—Stephen Soto of Huntsville, Alabama

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Cover design by Dan Harshberger

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TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

Quotes

"I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us, I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

–Carl Sandburg, American writer and editor

"The Internet: whose idea was it to put all the idiots on earth in touch with each other?"

–P.J. O'Rourke, political satirist and journalist

"History is open to interpretation, but it isn't a toy dog you can make leap however you like."

–Neil Steinberg, author and news columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times

"It's like a family reunion of sorts, only here everybody likes each other."

–Paul Zarzyski, cowboy poet on the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering

"We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

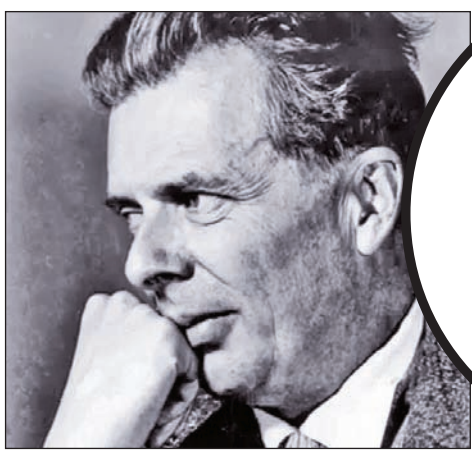
–Abraham Lincoln, 1862

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



"Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shouting and doing the things historians usually record, while on the banks, unnoticed, people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, write poetry and even whittle statues. The story of civilization is the story of what happened on the banks."

–Will Durant, American writer, historian, and philosopher



"Most historical facts are unpleasant."

–Aldous Huxley, English writer, novelist and philosopher

Old Vaquero Saying



"Schizophrenia beats dining alone."

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Crazy Connections

Tying together Big Foot Wallace, Frank Hamer and Bily the Kid. Oh, and John Fusco.

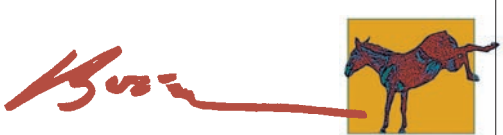
My family is proud to claim relations to the legendary Texan Big Foot Wallace and so I was pleasantly surprised to see that Frank Hamer, another Texas legend, also had a thing for Big Foot (see, at right).

This issue is chock full of those kinds of crazy connections, including Hamer's long tenure in the Rangers, capped by coming out of retirement to take down Bonnie and Clyde. His heroics were then sullied by a libelous portrayal in the Warren Beatty *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967) movie. Then the Hamer arc ends with the announcement of our True Westerner of 2019 Award going to John Fusco, who started his career with Billy the Kid (*Young Guns* [1988]) and comes through on a promise to redeem the Hamer name (see Henry C. Parke's article, p. 46). Not to mention the bizarre connections between Pancho Villa and Walter Noble Burns. And, yes, as you shall see in this issue, they are all connected!

After a long and solid tenure—16 years!—Meghan Saar is resigning to seek other challenges. We have always been in awe of her fierce tenacity and passion for seeking the truth, warts and all. She will be missed.

A new era at *True West* magazine is beginning, with the hiring of Peter Corbett as our new editor, and, who along with senior editor Stuart Rosebrook will act as our editorial team leaders going forward. We are expecting great things from both of them.

I have a hunch you will be seeing even more amazing and crazy connections going forward.



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







Frank Hamer, above left, poses with Big Foot Wallace's rifle, 1937; the real Big Foot, circa 1872, and Stuart Rosebrook, left, and Peter Corbett, right, take the reins at *True West*.

– FRANK HAMER PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BOESSENECKER; BIG FOOT WALLACE COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS; STUART ROSEBROOK AND PETER CORBETT BY BOB BOZE BELL –

HUTTON HITS A NERVE

Paul Andrew Hutton's commentary, "When History Was True," which ran in the November, 2018 issue received the most response of any article we have run in the past 20 years. Here, slightly edited for space, are just a few of the comments we have received.

In my opinion, Paul Hutton's piece on "When the West was True," may be as significant as Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." It should be read.

—*Doug Hocking,* Sierra Vista, AZ

[As a teacher, Hutton's commentary] made me reflect on how I have presented the history of the American West over the years. I have lost my focus on all the incredible American heroes that have helped define the West and the country as a whole. My goal is to recapture the focus on the incredible stories of the West regardless of the current attack on our Western heritage. Thank you for all you have done to keep the true west alive.

—*Jason Kohl,* Colorado Springs, CO

I much appreciated your "When the West Was True" piece in the November issue of *True West*. The burgeoning revisionism of our history is Orwellian, Santayana-ist, and just plain dangerous. Those who control the past control the present and direct the future. In that comes the power over what the hoi polloi remembers and forgets, and therefrom dooms a culture to repeat the mistakes.

As I read your article, I was reminded of when years ago some moneyed influences wanted to "relocate" the Alamo to make way for a multi-level parking lot for a mixed-use commercial development. The good folks of San Antonio fought it, and they won. Yet while there was a victory in battle, the national war wages on.

I fear for the future of our nation (I'm 68 years old, should you wonder)...and with that, the history and legends that have made America, for good or ill.

—*John H. Holliday,* Clarkdale, AZ

Enjoyed Paul Andrew Hutton's article about the true history of the West and how it is being re-written, if not lost, in this new world. It proves that the only constant is change and apparently that even goes for history!

—*Thom Ross,* Lamy, NM



I must express my appreciation of the Paul Hutton commentary speaking up about how history is being changed before our very eyes and truth is under siege. Jacob Baynham voices similar concern in his article, "Battling History," in the Fall 2018 issue of *National Parks Magazine*. He writes of how our present views change our view of the past.

"History, and the people whom we celebrate or vilify, are complicated."

I had the thought years ago that when we moved into our "Information Age" that the days of pulling the wool over someone's eyes were over. These days any claim can be verified in seconds. Yet it now seems to be fashionable to create lies. It is like we have the power of God almighty, just speak the words and they become real. In a sense it is true. I might invent that one of our forefathers deserted his family. Note that I did not even put a name to this falsehood and yet someone will read this and be hot on the trail to identify this person. My falsehood has become real, and true.

In recent years it seems that a scab has been pulled off an old wound. Me, being a fairly close example of an old white man, I try to not make things worse and must choose carefully what history I present to the public. And so what I am doing is being an editor and in a sense, slanting this history. Is that the right approach? An experienced interpreter should be able read his audience. Mistakes, lies, thievery, murder and massacre are a part of what we all come from. How can we learn from them if we hide or change them?

—*Rex Rideout,* Conifer, CO

Paul Andrew Hutton's lament, "When the West Was True" glosses over not only the entirety of American history, but recent Western historiography. The "time of national discord" he deplores is neither new nor by our country's historical standards particularly discordant. You want discord—the good kind and the bad kind—consider the American revolution, the Whiskey Rebellion, the expansion of the right to vote, slavery, Indian Wars, slave revolts, abolitionism, ethnic massacres, vigilantism, border wars, range wars, feuds, the Civil War, anti-draft riots, the Palmer Raids, labor/management violence, the sheep wars the sheep didn't go to war, the cattlemen did), lynchings, the anti-lynching movement (one discord leads to another), the Comstock Law (which made just about any "obscene" printed matter or sexual device illegal), the Free Love Movement (which discordantly fought Comstock and, in case you hadn't noticed, won), the suffragettes, three separate KKKs (which collectively assaulted blacks, Jews, Catholics, and immigrants in the 1860s, 1920s and 1960s), the Great Depression, Japanese Internment, 1950s rock and roll (Elvis wailed, preachers wept), the McCarthy era, segregation and Jim Crow laws, the Civil Rights movement, the anti-Vietnam war campaign, Watergate, the Tea Party movement, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo w and so on.

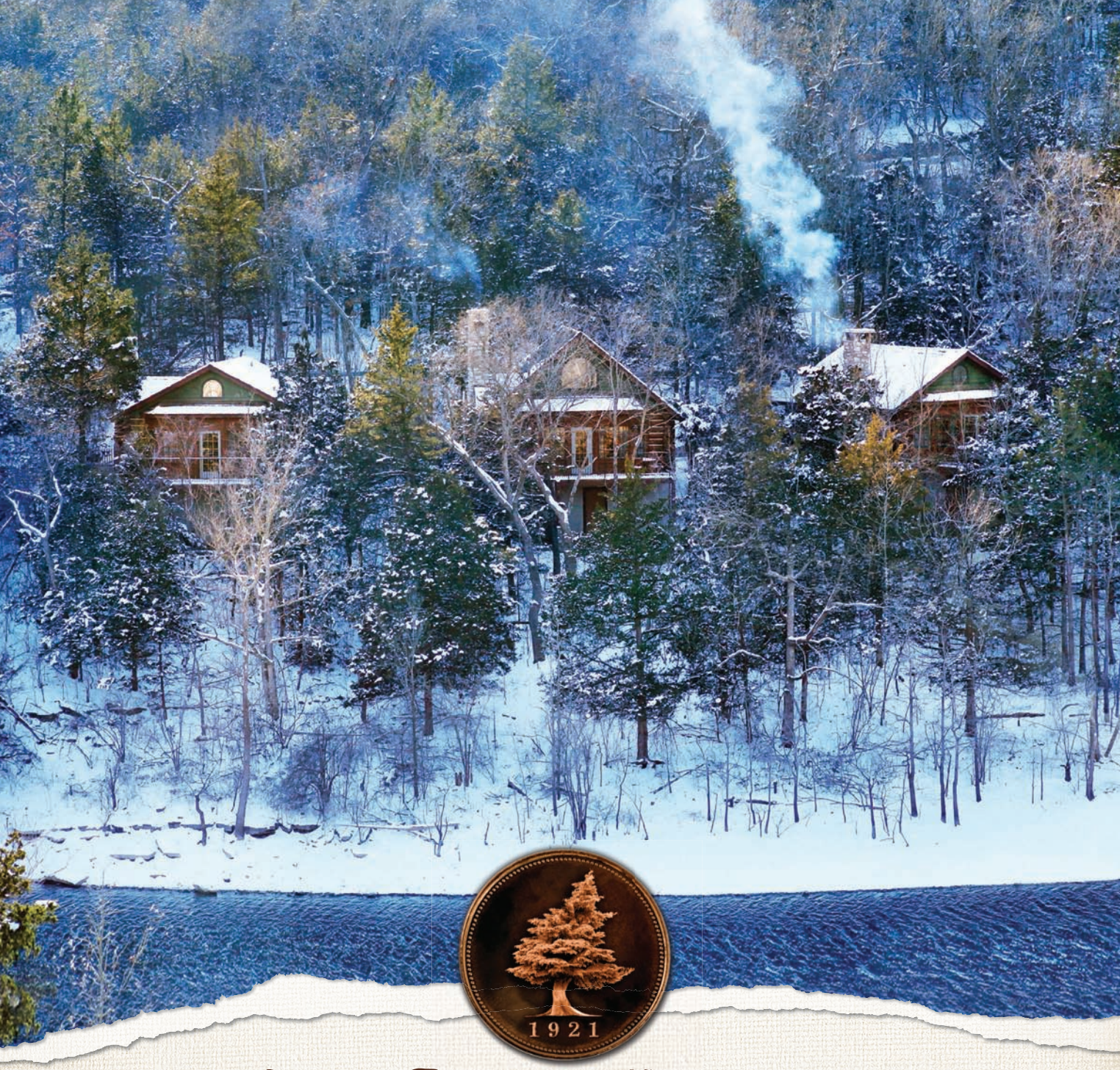
Democracy is messy, and as Churchill is often quoted, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.…" would add that history is not supposed to be unifying. For unity, we have myths. History is simply the study of past events, based on the best available evidence.

Look at the bright side, there is more excellent history being written today about America in general and the West in particular than ever before, much by *True West* writers like Hutton, whose last book, *The Apache Wars*, was published to much acclaim.

—*Daniel Buck,* Washington, D.C

Thank you for the commentary! The revision of American history, especially the Western march is becoming the Black Death of our National being. Hutton said it all and he said it right.

—*Daniel Boyer*, TSgt. USAF (Ret.)
East Liverpool, OH



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– *Travel and Leisure* Magazine

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

The Death of the Man Who Killed the Man Who Killed Jesse James

Killer Ed O'Kelley's short-lived fame ended in a fatal fight with police.

Ed O'Kelley has his claim to fame. On June 8, 1892, he walked into a tent saloon in Creede, Colorado, and emptied two shotgun barrels into the neck of the proprietor. The victim just happened to be Robert Ford, "the dirty little coward" who shot Jesse James 10 years before. It's not clear why O'Kelley killed Ford—maybe to avenge Jesse, perhaps to get some publicity. But it set him on a path that would result in his own violent death in a Western street more than a decade later.

There were consequences for the killing of Jesse James' killer Bob Ford. Much to his surprise, O'Kelley—who thought he'd be hailed as a hero—was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. That was later cut to 18 years, but a petition campaign resulted in his release on medical grounds in 1902. Apparently, the jail time did not rehabilitate him.

Maybe he was beyond that. O'Kelley was a former lawman with a reputation for a bad attitude. He was quarrelsome and surly and someone to avoid in private and public. In 1891, he reportedly killed a man who accidentally stepped on his feet (there's no record of his being arrested or tried for that). Ten years in a steel cage must have made things even worse.

When he got out, O'Kelley moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and re-established his reputation as a nasty guy, not to be messed with. He hung around in the saloon district where the denizens learned that he was the man who killed Bob Ford—information that apparently didn't give him greater prestige in local eyes.

He soon ran afoul of policeman Joe Burnett, who arrested O'Kelley for being a "suspicious character." That didn't help the ex-con's disposition, and once he was released from custody, he began making threats against Burnett. O'Kelley would get his chance to get even.

On January 13, 1904, O'Kelley was arrested by another officer (it's not clear why) but soon released. Apparently, he was seething later that evening when he encountered Officer Burnett, his previous adversary, on a street. According to accounts, Burnett cordially greeted O'Kelley with a "good evening." In response, O'Kelley pulled a pistol and began hitting the policeman, cursing the cop and shouting that he was going to kill him.

The two wrestled to the ground; O'Kelley fired his gun several times but never hit his target, who kept pushing the barrel away (though he got some powder burns in the process). In the meantime, Burnett begged passersby for help, identifying himself as being a lawman. Nobody assisted. O'Kelley, out of bullets, began biting Burnett's ears.

An O'Kelley pal happened upon the scene and took a shot at the officer, but when he missed, the friend beat a hasty retreat. Police were called, but before they could get there, the battle came to a sudden end. Railroad baggage man A.G. Paul jumped in to assist Burnett, grabbing O'Kelley's arm. That allowed the policeman to pull his own gun and fire twice. One bullet hit his attacker in the leg; the other hit him in the left temple, killing him instantly.

O'Kelley's body was taken to the morgue. It stayed there for two weeks; nobody would claim it. Finally, the city buried his remains at Fairlawn Cemetery. There was no marker. The burial cost $12.50. Today, visitors to Fairlawn can see a headstone engraved with O'Kelley's visage placed by the Oklahoma Outlaws Lawmen History Association to mark the outlaw's grave.

Ed O'Kelley, the man who killed the man who killed Jesse James, may never have enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame. For all his troubles, he got a lonely grave in Oklahoma City and a footnote in the history books.



JESSE JAMES

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



BOB FORD

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



ED O'KELLEY

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Lost and Found in American History

Nebraska had long searched for this piece of its heritage.

For 184 years, it was lost. Then they found a metal military button—eventually, they'd find 39. Then glass trading beads—the first of 434. Then an early 1800s trigger guard, and then they knew: Nebraska investigators had found the 1819-'20 site of a very special winter camp that was named Engineer Cantonment.

The discovery in 2003 was so special, Nebraska State Archaeologist Gayle F. Carlson declared he could "die in peace, now that Engineer Cantonment has been found."

By the time Carlson died in 2015, the nation knew how special this find was.

The Missouri River camp north of present-day Omaha was called a Cantonment—an old-fashioned word describing a longer-term encampment. And it took the name "Engineer" from the steamboat that brought the first government-sponsored scientific expedition to study the area's native people, animals and plants—*Western Engineer*, the first steamboat to ascend the Missouri.



In 2004, (l.-r.) Tony Schommer, Amanda Davey Renner and Erin Dempsey were part of the Nebraska team that excavated the first structure in the long-lost Engineer Cantonment, discovering hundreds of artifacts from the Stephen Long Expedition's winter camp (inset) and its fireplace. Although the focus was on the cantonment site from the early 1800s, excavations discovered pioneer farmsteads above the ruins and an 800-year-old American Indian camp buried about six feet below.

– PHOTOS COURTESY NEBRASK



The expedition of a dozen military and civilian scientists was led by Maj. Stephen Harriman Long, and included artist Titan Peale II, whose illustrations of the area were the single most important clue in discovering its location. The verbal descriptions provided a road map: it was on the west bank of the Missouri, with limestone cliffs up to 300 feet at the rear and was "about half a mile about Fort Lisa," that then was a "large and extensive Indian trading establishment." But alas, the location of Fort Lisa has yet to be discovered and over the years, time and the ever-shifting channel of the Missouri had erased any trace of the campsite that included two log buildings and various outdoor work and cook areas.

What was never lost was the importance of what a small group of men did during that cold winter in the early 1800s when this land was still part of the vast Missouri Territory. Among their discoveries were 56 new species—four plants, one snail, 38 insects, three snakes, four birds and six mammals, including the coyote. Even more significant was the information gathered about the Plains tribes that populated the area—the Omaha, Pawnee, Otos, Missouria and Ponca.

The totality of their discoveries were the first "biodiversity" view of this land that had only become part of the country 16 years earlier in the Louisiana Purchase. They didn't always hit the mark. They produced the first detailed maps of the areas they visited—in the spring they went west into the Rocky Mountains—but what they saw of present-day Nebraska led them to label the area a "Great American Desert"—a misconception that appeared on maps for decades.

The location was finally discovered with the help of mechanical trenching that uncovered, in one part of the site, more than 3,700 artifacts. More excavations are planned. Over the years, the area had been part of the farm of Herb and Gloria Gibreal, who donated the site to the Nebraska State Historical Foundation.

Nebraska History magazine thought the discovery "so cool," it devoted an entire issue to the lost-and-found Engineer Cantonment in the Spring of 2018.

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



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BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST EVENTS

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Reel or Real Frontier Fare

Another helping for Hoss.



The Cartwrights get it right. Sitting down to dinner in CBS's hit TV series *Bonanza* (1959 to 1973) are, from left, Hop Sing (Victor Sen Yung), Adam Cartwright (Pernell Roberts), Hoss (Dan Blocker), Little Joe (Michael Landon) and Ben Cartwright (Lorne Green).

– COURESTY CBS –

If you're reading this then you've likely seen a Western. So, does the food on the big screen compare to the real West? Let's digest some food scenes from TV and film.

In John Ford's *The Searchers*, Ward Bond's reverend character enters a house where they're serving doughnuts and coffee. He says, "Oh, doughnuts. Thank you, sister. I'm sure fond of them doughnuts." While this scene does not seem extraordinary because doughnuts were commonly made by pioneers, doughnuts are rarely depicted as frontier fare in Westerns. In Ford's *My Darling Clementine*, Wyatt Earp is shown carving chicken for his dinner guests in a restaurant. This scene is completely wrong. Tombstone had sophisticated restaurants and no patron would have carved their own food.

The movie *High Plains Drifter* is set in a remote area, so meals would have been basic and the filmmakers got it right. Clint Eastwood's character, the Stranger, eats pie, coffee and biscuits for lunch. During the picnic scene they serve up barbequed beef, beer, yellow cake and whiskey. When he takes over the hotel he orders, "chicken, fried, and the best bottle of wine in town." In his hit movie *Pale Rider*, Eastwood's character accurately has butter, syrup, eggs and biscuits for breakfast. His hosts serve a supper of fricassee, which is a pioneer way of cooking tougher cuts of meat and feeding several people cheaply. In the café scene there's a quick shot of a "bill of fare" that shows plain steak, T-bone, sirloin, porterhouse, ham and eggs, bacon and pork and beans. While these are accurate, it's likely they would have served more than just beef.

The TV series *Bonanza* was set in the rich silver mining town Virginia City, Nevada. In one episode, a café owner tells her customer the only thing on the menu is beef stew and biscuits. With a variety of restaurants named Ryan's, Delmonico, Palace Eating Stand, St. Louis, Bonanza,



Brooklyn, What Cheer House and The Youngworth Oyster and Chop House, no sensible business owner would serve one item. Oysters were highly advertised, but other items included mackerel, salmon, cod, Russian caviar, clam chowder and shrimp served on a regular basis. The French Rotisserie offered wine for breakfast and dinner along with spring chicken. In another episode an Italian immigrant introduces the Cartwrights to Italian food and wine. At the end of the show even the Cartwrights' Chinese cook Hop Sing cooks them chicken cacciatore!

These shows and films also accurately set the tables with china, tablecloths and silver cruets. So, set your table and make this Italian dish.

Sherry Monahan kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit *SherryMonahan.com* to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.

CHICKEN CACCIATORE

This recipe was called Italian Chicken Gravy in the 1920s.

½ cup dried Italian mushrooms
1 cup of red wine
1 3-4 lb. chicken, cut up
black pepper as needed
salt as needed
¼ cup of extra virgin oil
1 sprig of rosemary
1 onion
1 clove garlic
¼ cup fresh parsley
2 tbsp. tomato paste

Soak the mushrooms in the wine until hydrated. Salt and pepper chicken to taste and then fry in a dutch oven over medium high heat. Chop rosemary, onion, garlic and parsley and add to the chicken and cook until all is golden; about 10 mins. Add the mushrooms and wine and tomato paste. Stir and season to taste. Bring to a boil and then reduce to simmer and cook for about 50 to 60 minutes until chicken is done. Serve with pasta.

Recipe adapted from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 11, 1923



BY JOSH SIDES

LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Hit by a Volcano

No state in the union could beat his ashy adventure on Lassen Peak.



On May 30, 1914, Lassen Peak became active for the first time in 200 years. Two weeks later, Viola, California, lumberman Lance Graham hiked with friends to the Cinder Cone rim and was injured when the volcano erupted. His companions left him for dead, returning later to recover his body, but found him alive, which was deemed miraculous.

– COURTESY CALIFORNIA HISTORY ROOM, CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA –

E.E. Phelps and F.A. Tipple left Lance Graham for dead, covered in ashes, facedown in the snow.

Carrying his 200-pound body down the hill would have slowed their own frantic escape from the volcano.

The three had crested Lassen Peak's Cinder Cone rim when, without warning, a column of blue-black smoke shot up. A sky full of ash, dust and rock rained down. A rock about twice the size of a man's fist struck Graham in the chest, knocking him unconscious.

Unconscious, but not dead.

When Graham awoke, he reached for his chest wound, but his right arm would not let him touch it—he had broken ribs, a broken collarbone, maybe more. The volcanic plume above him was massive, visible even in San Francisco, more than 200 miles away. Graham called out to Phelps and Tipple, but they were long gone, running, sliding and tumbling their way to survival.

Born in neighboring Tehama County in 1884, Graham had claimed his homestead in the Shasta County village of Viola in 1911 and worked as a lumberman while proving up his claim. He knew the risk of hiking to the rim: the newspapers made a big deal of the eruptions, even publishing retrospectives on the Lost City of Pompeii.

After close to 200 years of quiescence, Lassen Peak had rumbled to life two weeks earlier, on May 30, 1914. The curious began hiking up to Cinder Cone rim. Graham had not been able to resist the chance.

Once the rain of rocks subsided, Phelps and Tipple made their way back up the mountain with several other men to recover Graham's body. They were stunned to find him alive, writhing in pain and cursing, blood wicking into the snow around him.

Using a blanket as a makeshift stretcher, the men transported Graham down the mountain and to a doctor in Viola by about midnight. A surgeon removed a piece of his shoulder blade and sutured the gash on his chest, but was not optimistic about Graham's chance of survival, as he told the *Sacramento Union* newspaper: "...Lance Graham is still alive, but so seriously injured he is expected to die within a few hours."

The Los Angeles Herald, more concerned with getting the scoop, reported that Graham had died.

Yet Graham pulled through. When he regained consciousness, he told reporters his story: "Just as I turned to leave the crater's rim, there was a puff of blue smoke, followed by a tongue of red flame that resembled the discharge of an old fashioned cannon.... I started to pick my way down the mountain, but in a trice I was enveloped in a cloud of smoke, while a perfect hail of small volcanic bombs and cinders beat down upon me."

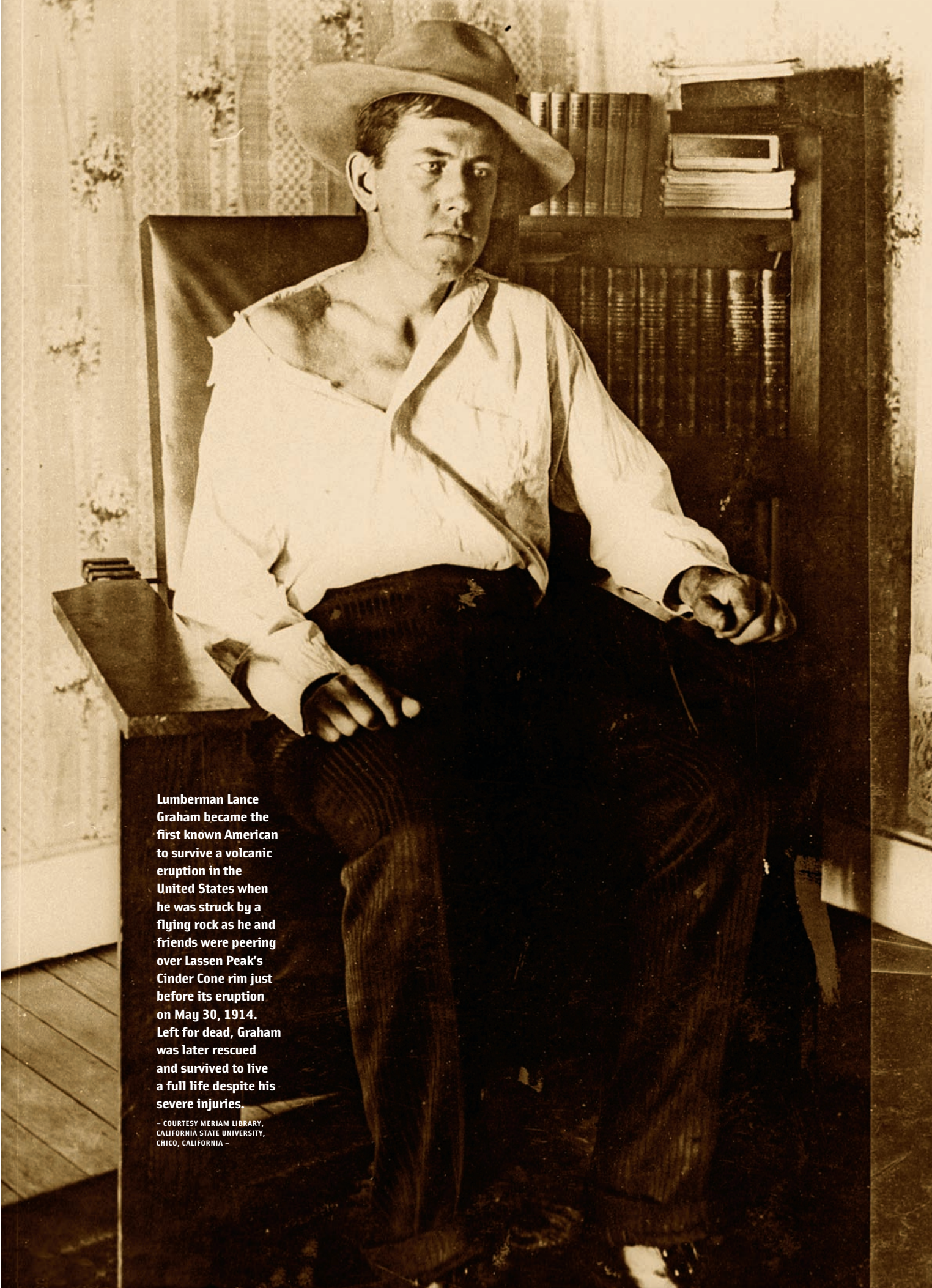
He later claimed, "I wasn't scared a bit," but admitted, "I'll never climb that peak again."

The next year, in April 1915, Tehama County civic leaders trotted Graham out to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in Francisco, saying: "He will be the only man there that was ever hit by an active Madein-America volcano and will be a feature that no state in the union can steal from us."

Tragically, the state of Washington did steal that "feature" from California, in 1980, when the eruption of Mount St. Helens killed more than 50 people.

Graham lived out his days as a wounded homesteader in Tehama County until he died quietly in 1955.

Josh Sides is the Whitsett Chair of California History at California State University, Northridge.



Lumberman Lance Graham became the first known American to survive a volcanic eruption in the United States when he was struck by a flying rock as he and friends were peering over Lassen Peak's Cinder Cone rim just before its eruption on May 30, 1914. Left for dead, Graham was later rescued and survived to live a full life despite his severe injuries.

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THE BEST OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

IN PHOTOS · IN FACT · IN FICTION

AND A TWISTED TRAIL FROM BILLY THE KID TO BONNIE & CLYDE

Here for your Best of the West reading pleasure is an epic 24-page romp through some amazing connections that will take you from the horseback-riding Texas Rangers to the Mexican Revolution, to Hollywood and back again. It's a story of breathtaking turns and bizarre coincidences, proving the Father of the National Parks, John Muir, was correct: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

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 –

THE BEST OF THE TEXAS RANGERS IN PHOTOS



THERE ARE MANY, MANY ICONIC IMAGES OF THE TEXAS RANGERS, BUT HERE ARE MY 12 FAVORITES AND WHY.

BY BOB ALEXANDER

THIS ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED IN OUR APRIL 2012 ISSUE



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 –



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 –

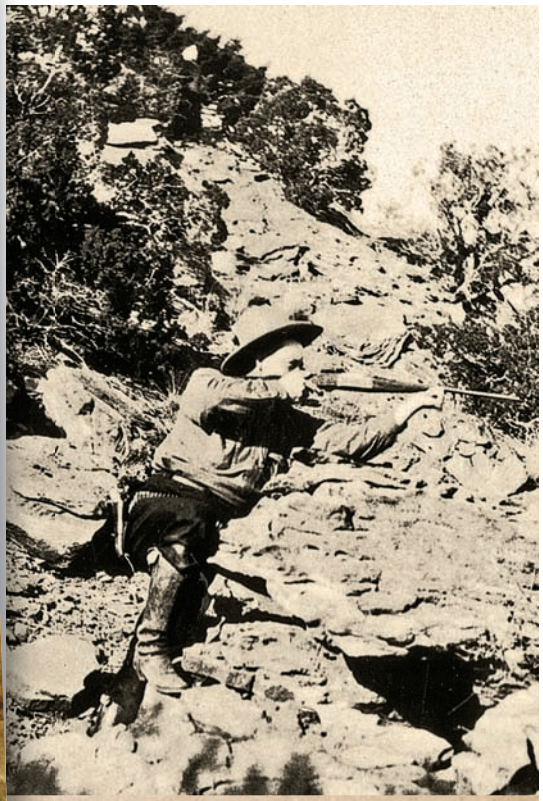


This Frontier Battalion photo has been widely circulated; you'll see it on postcards, t-shirts, even walls of restaurants. I like this classic photo because it was taken either before or after the famous 1892 shoot-out in Shafter, Texas, where the Texas Rangers had been sent to protect a silver mine. (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 –

Frank Hamer in action, on the U.S.-Mexico border, about 1921.

– COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –





Frank Hamer joined the Rangers in April 1906, patrolling the border under Captain J.H. Rogers' Company C, the same company his would-be assassin Gee McMeans served under the year earlier.

– COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS –



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 –



Frank Hamer (back row, far left) is shown with his Texas Ranger Company C in Alpine, Texas, in 1907, the year after he enrolled with the Rangers. Next to Hamer are Monroe Upton, Marvin Bailey and Duke Hudson. Seated in the front row, from far left, are Goff White, Wallace Howell, Capt. John H. Rogers and John Dibrell.

– COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER COLLECTION –



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, James Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson and Frank L. Schmid.

– COURTESY TEXAS RANGER RESEARCH CENTER, TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM –

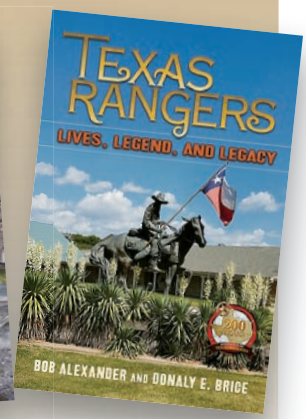


BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

BEST TEXAS RANGER BOOKS BY BOB ALEXANDER

Among the many Texas Ranger books by the prolific author, Bob Alexander, here are two of his best: "Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend & Legacy", co-authored with Donaly Brice; and "Old Riot, New Ranger: Captain Jack Dean Texas Ranger and U.S. Marshal", both published by the University of North Texas.









Company "D" Frontier Battalion Ranger Frank L. Schmid is shown in an 1888 cabinet card (top) taken a year before he suffered a fatal gunshot wound that finally killed him in 1893. Shown in a similar pose, Joseph Walter Durbin served with Schmid in Capt. Frank Jones's Company "D." Both cabinet cards were photographed in Rio Grande City, Texas, in 1888.

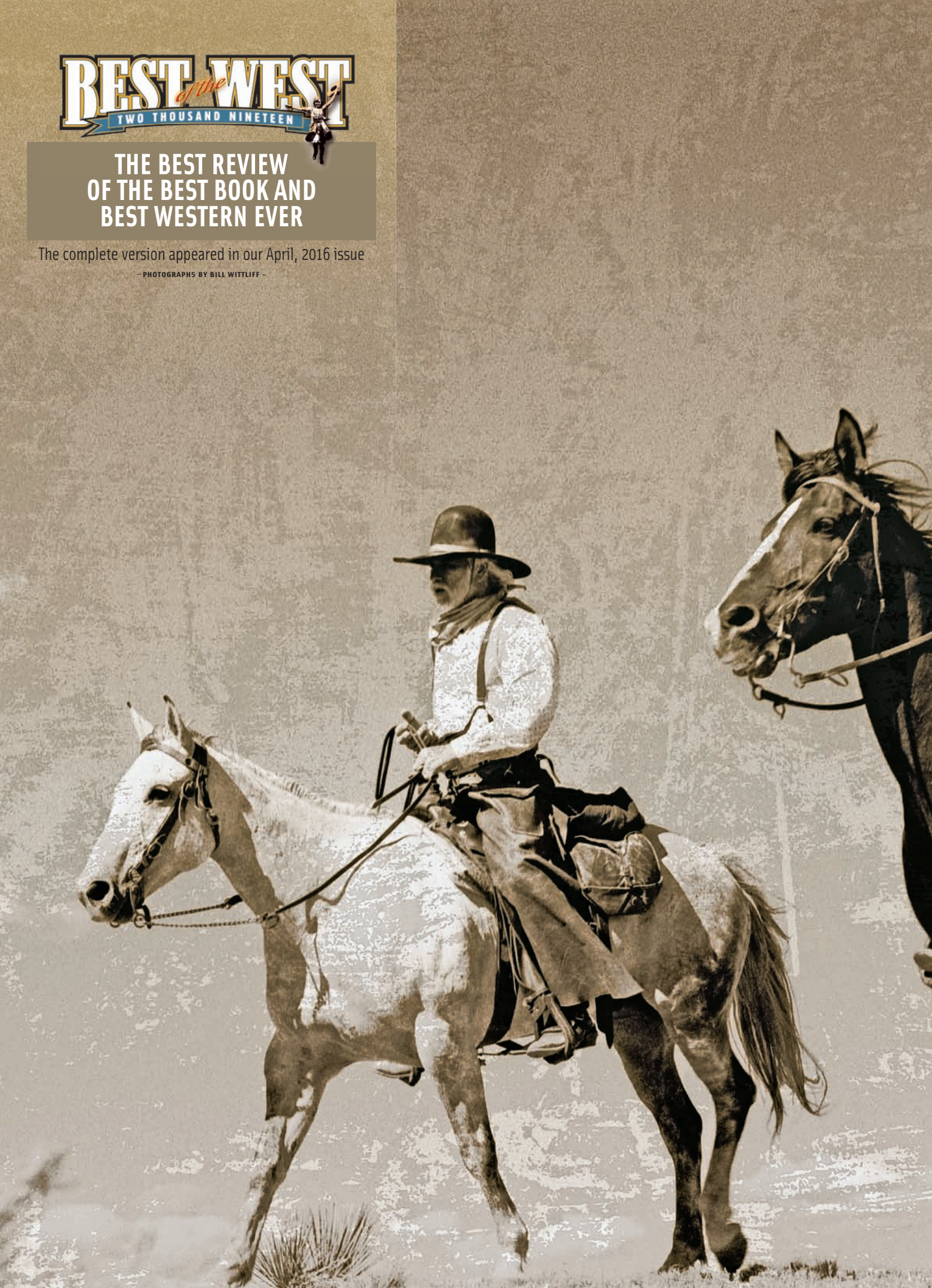
– BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS –

BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

THE BEST REVIEW OF THE BEST BOOK AND BEST WESTERN EVER

The complete version appeared in our April, 2016 issue

– PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL WITTLIFF –



BY ALLEN BARRA

THE BEST OF THE TEXAS RANGERS IN FICTION



Martin Scorsese once said, "More than 90 percent of directing is the right casting."

Lonesome Dove is the greatest Western miniseries—no, to hell with the miniseries limitation: it's one of the greatest Western movies ever made. And its greatness is because of its casting.

We know that Larry McMurtry wanted to cast John Wayne as Woodrow Call and James Stewart as Augustus "Gus" McCrae. This might have worked in, say, the way that Wayne's star trip in 1969's *True Grit* worked. But it wouldn't have been great the way *Lonesome Dove* was great because Tommy Lee Jones and Robert Duvall were not cast for their star power but because they *were* Woodrow and Gus.

Not to argue with Scorsese—our greatest director of Easterns—but only half of a movie's success can be attributed to the actors. The other half is due to the script. McMurtry and William Wittliff wrote *Lonesome Dove's* script, and it had the advantage of being taken from one of the three greatest of all Western novels. (Number one is Thomas Berger's *Little Big Man*, while Charles Portis's *True Grit* and McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* tie for a close second.)

The greatness of *Lonesome Dove* starts with its source material, and the material comes from a man who knew his subject.

In his essays on Texas, *In a Narrow Grave*, McMurtry correctly noted that movie Westerns "fault the myth when they dramatize gunfighting, rather than horsemanship, as the dominant skill."

The killing in *Lonesome Dove* is invariably regarded with a wry salty humor of the kind that Mark Twain thought was essential to American storytelling (and which is woefully missing from Westerns by highly regarded

novelists such as Cormac McCarthy). The novel's famous first sentence, for instance: "When Augustus came out on the porch the blue pigs were eating a rattlesnake—not a very big one."

McMurtry's Texas Ranger McCrae can also be philosophical about killing, but without the pretension. "If I'd wanted civilization," he says to his partner, Call, "I'd have stayed in Tennessee and wrote poetry for a living. Me and you done our work too well. We killed off most of the people that made this country interesting to begin with."

McCrae anticipates Sigmund Freud's argument in *Civilization and Its Discontents* by more than half a century

McMurty's tale is filled with sights and sounds and smells and observations about mundane subjects such as the superiority of biscuits cooked in a Dutch oven compared to those baked in an indoor stove: "A man that depended on an indoor cookstove would miss the sunrise, and if he missed sunrise in Lonesome Dove, he would have to wait out a long stretch of heat and dust before he got to see anything so pretty."

Such observations could only come from a writer who knows the West firsthand and grew up with its traditions.

Actually, Scorsese was being modest about the director's share of the credit for a great movie. One-third should go to casting, one-third to the script and source material, and one-third to the director, who has to put it all together. Neither before nor after *Lonesome Dove* was Simon Wincer a great director, but at the right time, he was great enough to know great actors and great words when they came his way.

Allen Barra is the author of *Inventing Wyatt Earp: His Life and Many Legends*. He writes about sports for *The Wall Street Journal* and is a contributing writer for *American History Magazine* and *The Daily Beast*. His latest book, *Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays, the Parallel Lives of Baseball's Golden Age*, was nominated for the Pen Award for Literary Sportswriting.

"I hate rude behavior in a man. I won't tolerate it."
–Woodrow Call

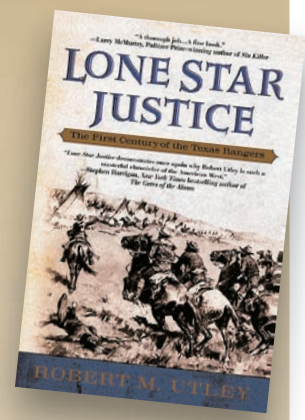




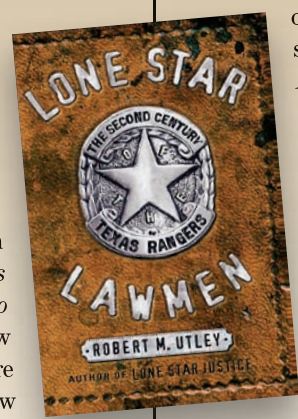
A trio of Texas Rangers: Robert Urich (l. to r.) as Jake Spoon, with Robert Duvall as Gus McCrae and Tommy Lee Jones as Woodrow Call.

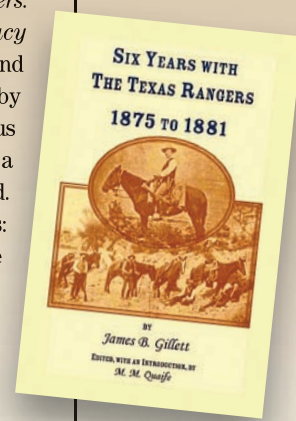
THE BEST BOOKS ABOUT THE TEXAS RANGERS

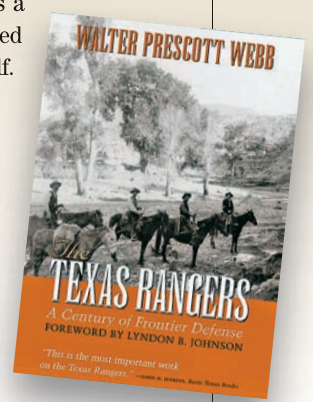
One Riot–One Ranger–A Hundred Books



The historical literature on the Texas Rangers is vast, insightful, and growing. The place to begin is with the two volumes by master historian Robert M. Utley: *Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers* (2002) and *Lone Star Lawmen: The Second Century of the Texas Rangers* (2007). These remain the definitive history of the Rangers, replacing but not supplanting Walter Prescott Webb's 1955 classic *The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense*. Utley avoids the mythology and romance that often marred Webb, but does not succumb to current revisionist rancor either. No student of this famed law enforcement agency can afford to ignore the many books by Ranger historian Mike Cox. The title to start with is his superb *The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso 1821-1900* (a 2009 new edition of his 1992 book). There has been considerable new scholarship on the actions of the Rangers along the Rio Grande that portrays a much darker image of their activities, especially as it concerns the systematic abridgement of Hispanic rights. One of the best of these revisionist titles is Benjamin H. Johnson, *Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans into Americans* (2003). For an excellent work on an earlier period of border conflict see Jerry Thompson, *Cortina: Defending the Mexican Name in Texas* (2013). There are many biographies of famous rangers. To name but a few, see Robert John C. Duval, *The Adventures of Big-Foot Wallace, the Texas Ranger and Hunter* (1871); James Greer, *Texas Ranger: Jack Hays in the Frontier Southwest* (1952); Chuck Parsons and Marianne Hall Little, *Captain L.H. McNelly, Texas Ranger* (2001); Paul Spellman, *Captain John H. Rogers, Texas Ranger* (2003); Chuck Parsons, *Captain John R. Hughes, Lone Star Ranger* (2011); Harold J. Weiss, *Yours to Command: The Life and Legend of Ranger Captain Bill McDonald* (2009); and the recent bestseller by John Boessenecker, *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde* (2016). For a recent overview of Ranger lives and Ranger history see the delightful *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legends and Legacy* (2017) by Bob Alexander and Donaly Brice. Memoirs by Rangers are not as numerous as histories but are a particularly rewarding read. Two stand out as classics: for the 19th century see James B. Gillett, *Six Years with the Texas Rangers* (1921) and for the 20th century see H. Joaquin Jackson and David Marion Wilkinson, *One Ranger: A Memoir* (2005). Few topics in Western history can boast such a rich historiography as the Texas Rangers—it is a story as bold and oversized as the Lone Star state itself.







– **Paul Andrew Hutton**

A LONG AND TWISTED TRAIL

THE BYZANTINE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PANCHO VILLA, A CHICAGO REPORTER, BILLY THE KID, BONNIE & CLYDE AND BRUSHY BILL.

When you tug at the threads of history you will find it connected to some pretty disparate events. For example: If the United States government had not supported Carranza in the Mexican Revolution and allowed his troops to use U.S. rail lines between El Paso, Texas and Douglas, Arizona, Pancho Villa and his army would not have stumbled into a trap, near Agua Prieta, where the Carrancistas employed klieg lights in a night attack and mowed down Pancho's men with machine guns (over 5,000 were killed or captured.)



Following Villa's raid, Columbus civilians evacuate their town and walk to a waiting train.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

Ponder this: if Pancho Villa hadn't attacked Columbus, New Mexico there would probably be no *Young Guns*, or *Young Guns II* movies.



The 8th Gun Cavalry in 1916, during the Punitive Expedition led into Mexico by Gen. John Pershing, aided by George S. Patton, to capture Pancho Villa.



The ruins of the Commercial Hotel which was burned by Villistas during their raid on Columbus, New Mexico.

– COURTESY ROBERT BOUILLY –



And, if Pancho Villa hadn't become so livid over the debacle that he decided to attack a U.S. outpost in retaliation, a Chicago newspaper crime reporter—would not have been dispatched to Columbus, New Mexico, to do a story on this Mexican invasion of the United States of America and the subsequent punitive expedition into Mexico mounted by Black Jack Pershing. And if that Chicago reporter hadn't followed up the story in El Paso, Texas, and not gone into the Coney Island Saloon for a beer, and not been curious about the pistol hanging over the bar, he would not have heard that it was the actual revolver that killed Billy the Kid. And if the Chicago journalist hadn't asked, "Who's Billy the Kid?" the owner of the saloon wouldn't have told him that the Kid was the most famous outlaw in New Mexico Territory, many years ago, and if this crime writer hadn't decided, seven years later, to go visit his sister, who was living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he wouldn't have borrowed her car and drove out to Fort Sumner to interview Paulita Maxwell and others who knew the Kid, and if he hadn't done those interviews he probably wouldn't have published the first Book of the Month Club title, "The Saga of Billy the Kid," by Walter Noble Burns, and it wouldn't have become a national best seller and capitulated the long forgotten Billy Bonney back into the spotlight, which eventually spawned over 65 movies and hundreds of books and articles.

One more connection: The husband of Walter Noble Burns' cousin was Thomas Mabry, who would later be New Mexico's governor, and, who, in 1950, would interview Brushy Bill Roberts to determine if he was really Billy the Kid and grant his request for a pardon. Brushy wasn't, and Mabry didn't grant the pardon. The irony here is that Brushy Bill probably got most of his information from—you guessed it— "The Saga of Billy the Kid," by Walter Noble Burns.

By Bob Boze Bell, with additional reporting from Mark Lee Gardner



The Coney Island Saloon in downtown El Paso was a favorite watering hole. One of the last gunfights happened here in December of 1908 when Mannen Clements was shot and killed. Clements was the cousin of John Wesley Hardin. The saloon became a restaurant during prohibition before moving to Main Street where it operated until its closing in 1985.



BILLY THE KID

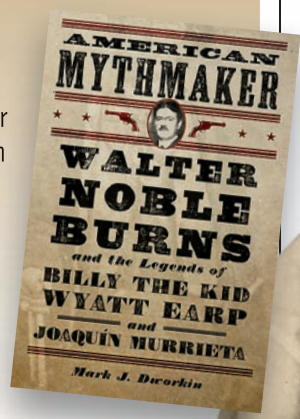


PAULITA MAXWELL

BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

THE BEST BOOK ON WALTER NOBLE BURNS

Dworkin's book tracks the elusive journalist and writer Walter Noble Burns through his byzantine search for the most famous outlaw in American history.





WALTER NOBLE BURNS



65 MOVIES AND COUNTING

Thanks to Walter Noble Burns and his seminal book there have been 65 movies on Billy the Kid. One of the most popular of those films is the *Young Guns* franchise, starring Emilio Estevez as the Kid, at right, mashed up against the original tintype.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

OVERKILL!

BONNIE & CLYDE VS FRANK HAMER & HIS POSSE

"Well, we got them."

–Frank Hamer



The deadly lovers were quite young. Clyde was 25 years old when he was killed, and Bonnie, 22.

– IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Jeff Guinn, John Boessenecker and Peter Biskind.

MAY 23, 1934



Bonnie and Clyde took their last ride down this road. Frank Hamer and his posse hid in the bushes at right.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

It is a warm, muggy morning, as Clyde Barrow drives his stolen V-8 Ford towards Methvin's place, which is a twenty-minute drive from Gibsland, Louisiana. In the front seat with him is Bonnie Parker, who is eating a takeout sandwich from Ma Canfield's cafe in Gibsland. She has on a red dress, while her outlaw beau wears a suit and blue Western dress shirt and a stylish hat. Bonnie had on a tam, but she has tossed it in the back seat.

Clyde is cruising along at a 65 mph clip because they are running about fifteen minutes late for the rendezvous with gang member Henry Methvin. Up ahead, Clyde recognizes Ivy Methvin's truck which is jacked-up and is blocking the road. Coming from the opposite direction is a logging truck which pulls over to allow Clyde to pass, but he does not take the right-of-way, but shows, putting the car in first gear and slowing to a stop with the engine still running.

Hidden from view on the hillside next to the Methvin truck is legendary Texas Ranger Frank Hamer and a six-man posse, armed to the teeth. Hamer had planned to call out for Clyde and Bonnie to surrender, but fifty feet to Hamer's right, a Bienville Parish deputy named Prentiss Oakley who is brandishing a Remington Model 8 with a special five-shot clip that he had borrowed from a local dentist, moves into position and fires a burst. One of the bullets hits Clyde in the temple killing him instantly. Clyde had been driving in his stocking feet and as he slumped forward, the car moved toward a ditch and after several seconds the other posse members, Manny Gault, Henderson Jordan, Ted Hinton, Bob Alcorn and Hamer begin blazing away.

Bonnie screams, a high, shrill wail that haunts the lawmen for the rest of their lives. Hinton later writes that he and his partners fired "about 150 shots."

As the car rolls to a stop, Hamer comes out of hiding and marches down the hill brandishing his Colt Monitor Machine Rifle. Taking no chances he fires a burst into Bonnie through the rear passenger window and then he calmly walks to the front of the car and fires a series of shots down through the window directly into her.

The O.K. Corral fight lasted 30 seconds, but this lethal fussilade elapsed in just sixteen seconds. Both outlaws are dead.

The napkin-wrapped sandwich from Ma Canfield's is still clutched in Bonnie's lifeless hands.



Frank Hamer takes aim.

– COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –

BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

THE BEST BOOK ON FRANK HAMER

True West contributing editor, John Boessenecker, writes the first full-length biography of Frank Hamer whose extraordinary career as a Texas Ranger made him one of the West's most legendary lawmen.



Vicious Killers

Although they are known today for their dozen, or so, bank robberies, Bonnie and Clyde most often preyed upon small stores and rural gas stations. They are believed to have killed at least nine police officers and several civilians. Bonnie chain smoked Camel cigarettes, but she never smoked cigars, except in this gag photo, which branded her as a cigar-smoking, machine-gun wielding killer.



When the Barrow gang fled Joplin, Missouri, they left behind most of their belongings, including a roll of undeveloped film. On the roll were many photos of Clyde and Bonnie in gag poses, like this, playfully brandishing guns at each other.



Unlike the write-ups in the crime magazines, the Barrows did not spend spare time in luxurious hotel hideouts. They actually camped out in primitive backcountry camps, sleeping most of the time in their car, bathing in streams and eating out of tin cans. Clyde was obsessive about cleaning his guns and here we see him doing just that in some hidden glen.

Lovebirds on the Lam



– COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –



Clyde was always a snappy dresser and he insisted that in posing for photographs, the Barrow Gang looked sharp, in snazzy suits.



When the gang fled Joplin, Missouri, they left behind most of their belongings, including a roll of undeveloped film. When the police processed it, they found these photos.

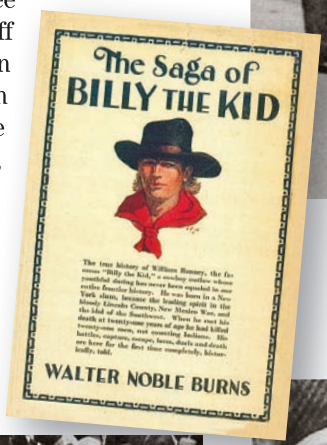
Spoils of War

As the wary posse members surrounded the bullet-ridden Ford, a fog of gunsmoke still hung in the air. Posse member Henderson Jordan pulled off a blanket in the back seat concealing a heap of guns and suitcases. Meanwhile, Hamer confiscated the guns and Clyde's tackle box. Hamer had allegedly been promised by Texas prison general manager Lee Simmons that he could have anything Clyde and Bonnie had in their possession at the time of their capture. Dallas County deputy Bob Alcorn grabbed Clyde's saxophone (he later returned it to the Barrow family). A suitcase full of cash disappeared. The Barrow family always believed it was taken by Henderson Jordan, who later purchased an auction barn and land in Arcadia.

"There is a fine line between catching an outlaw and becoming one."

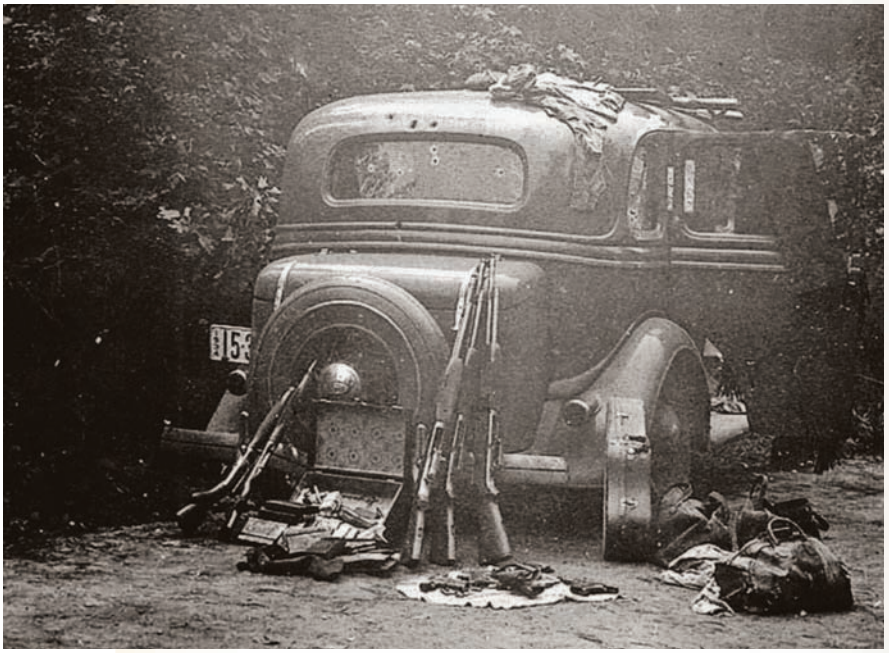
—Old Vaquero Saying

The Lawmen also found Clyde's saxophone (the case can be seen in the top photo at right, leaning again the wheel well), three BARs, two sawed-off shotguns, a dozen hand guns, fifteen sets of stolen license plates and a book, "The Saga of Bill they Kid," by Walter Noble Burns. This book is on display in the Bienville Depot Museum, in Arcadia, Louisiana.





The bullet-riddled car with the outlaws still inside became a macabre carnival.



A Rolling Arsenal

When the "death car" was searched, the lawmen found three BARs (Browning Automatic Rifles), two sawed-off shotguns, a dozen hand guns and over a thousand rounds of ammunition.

– COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –



Following the ambush, the bullet-riddled Ford V-8 with Clyde's and Bonnie's bodies still sprawled inside on the front seat, was towed to Arcadia, Louisiana where thousands of spectators crawled all over the scene. Someone even tried to cut off Clyde's ear as a souvenir. Many were disappointed. A man was heard to say of Clyde, "he was nothing but a little bitty fart."



"She was blonde and stacked and ninety pounds straight out of hell—tommy-gunning, stogy-smoking Bonnier Parker, America's deadliest sweetheart."

—Argosy magazine, March, 1956



A Clever Title Switch

Faye Dunaway, above, was not Beatty's first choice to play Bonnie. Jane Fonda, supposedly turned it down because she didn't think you could have comedy and violence in the same movie and she begged him not to make the film. In most of the news reports, the two outlaw lovers were styled as Clyde and Bonnie, but in the Warren Beatty movie version the two names are reversed to "Bonnie and Clyde." The film is such a cultural touchstone that the more accurate title now seems wrong.



Bonnie (Faye Dunaway) humiliates Hamer (Denver Pyle) in a key scene from the film in 1967.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Warner Brothers released the film "Bonnie and Clyde" starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway in 1967 and it became a runaway hit, earning two Academy Awards. Warren Beatty and crew made one mistake. They foolishly used Frank Hamer's real name and made him the villain with a fictitious plot point where he is captured by the Barrow gang and humiliated, so Hamer kills them in revenge. Mrs. Gladys Hamer was not amused over the portrayal of her dear, dead husband (he died in 1955) and sued Warner Brothers for defamation and the unauthorized usage of Hamer's name. The studio paid $20,000 as a settlement. Because of the film, most people around the world still view Hamer as the bad guy. That would take a long time to remedy, but it started with John Boessenecker's book and earlier this year it took the gumption and commitment of another guy and we are about to honor that guy with the True Westerner Award for 2019 for his new movie, starring Kevin Costner as Hamer, that attempts to redeem the Ranger's good name.

BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

THE BEST BOOK ON BONNIE AND CLYDE



According to Jeff Guinn, the author of "Go Down Together" Bonnie and Clyde were "perhaps the most inept crooks ever, and their two-year crime spree was as much a reign of error as of terror. Lacking the sophistication to plot robberies of big-city banks, the Barrow Gang preyed mostly on small mom-and-pop groceries and service stations. Even at that, they often came up empty-handed and were reduced to breaking into gum machines for meal money."

BY HENRY C. PARKE

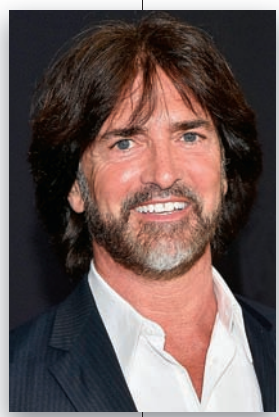
THE MAN WHO REDEEMED THE HAMER NAME

SCREENWRITER JOHN FUSCO MAKES GOOD ON HIS PLEDGE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE TAKEDOWN OF BONNIE & CLYDE.

The story of *The Highwaymen*, the new Depression-era Western from Netflix, has been a thirty-year obsession for author John Fusco. "Those old photos of Barrow and Parker, leaning on their stolen 1932 Ford V8 Sedan, downright haunted me." His investigation revealed that the real Bonnie and Clyde were the antithesis of romantic Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty, and the real hero of the story was the Texas Ranger who ran them down. "As I researched, I became fascinated by Frank Hamer, one of the greatest lawmen of the 20th century, and I was really disturbed [by] his portrayal in this classic movie."

Hamer is the lawman the outlaw duo capture, photograph and humiliate in the press, motivating him to hunt down and kill them. It never happened: Hamer and the Barrow gang never 'met' until the brief moment when Hamer tried to get them to surrender before opening fire. "[He'd] been shot 17 times over the course of his career, had killed over 50 men. He'd patrolled the border on a horse, with a Winchester. He was an old-time Ranger, in an era that had passed him by." That is until Texas Governor "Ma" Ferguson (played in *Highwaymen* by Oscar-winner Kathy Bates) reluctantly asked Hamer to come out of retirement to get the Barrows.

The story simmered on the back burner until fifteen years ago, during the shooting of Fusco's *Hidalgo* in the Mojave Desert. "Producer Casey Silver asked me what my passion projects were, and I told him about Frank Hamer. Coincidentally, we were staying at Whiskey Pete's Casino Hotel where the actual Bonnie and Clyde death car was on display." Silver was quickly onboard.



Fusco wanted the cooperation of the family, but the Hamers, who'd won a settlement from Warner Brothers for defamation, weren't talking. "Frank Jr. like his father had been a Texas Ranger, one of the last of the flying game wardens, hunting down poachers from a Cessna plane. I happened to have a few



John Fusco, on right, shakes hands with Frank Hamer Jr. outside the former Texas Land and Cattle Steak House, in Austin, Texas, with a pledge to "do right by my daddy."







Scenes from the forthcoming "The Highwaymen," starring Kevin Costner as Frank Hamer and Woody Harrelson as Maney Gault.

game warden contacts; I did ride-alongs in three states." They interceded for Fusco, and a meeting was set. At a lunch of mostly bourbon, Fusco convinced 86-year-old Frank Jr. of his righteous intentions. "We walked out into the sun. He said, 'I only ask one thing: to do right by my daddy.' He had his friend take a [picture] as we shook hands, and he said, 'Here's our contract right here.'"

Fusco's initial dream-cast to play Hamer and partner Maney Gault were Robert Redford and Paul Newman. Redford got the script first. "He said, 'Don't send the script to Paul. I'm going to bring it to him and I'm going to make sure that we do this. After *Butch and Sundance* and *The Sting*, [this] will be a perfect last one for us to do together.'" Newman signed on, and the new pairing was the talk of Hollywood. Sadly, Newman was soon too ill to work, and the deal fell apart.

Fast-forward a dozen years, to Netflix, where Fusco is writing and producing the *Marco Polo* series, and Casey Silver is making *Godless*. Director John Lee Hancock had long been a supporter, "We knew there had been interest from Kevin (Costner), and Woody (Harrelson) had been circling it for quite a while. Casey called me and said, 'You've got a relationship with Netflix; I do now. What about taking *Highwaymen* to them?' And bingo: they were on board and we were off to the races."

Fusco grew up on his father's farm in rural Connecticut, dropped out of high school to ride the rails, then got a G.E.D., and went to NYU Film School. Screenwriting teacher and Oscar-winner Waldo Salt took Fusco under his wing. "He had hoboe'd with Woody Guthrie. We were kind of kindred spirits. He got behind my work and I just idolized him." His Bachelor's thesis script became the 1986 movie *Crossroads*. Then Fusco defied all his agents' entreaties to do something commercial, and wrote a Western, although, "A Western had not made money since *Butch Cassidy*." *Young Guns* was a hit, as was *Young Guns 2*, beginning the genre revival that lead to *Dances With Wolves*, *Tombstone*, and *Deadwood*.

"Working with the 'Young Guns' was great," Fusco recalls, "but working with the 'Old Guns', that was the career highlight. We were casting Lawrence Murphy. I said I wrote it as Jack Palance and everybody looked at me like, he's still alive? And so they reached out. He's retired, he's happy, he's not reading anything. I said, don't give up. Tell him this Western's being made with all these young guys, and we want the old guard, the icons of the American Western to take on the 'brat pack on horseback'. He read the script and came out of retirement. From there he'd go on to win an Academy Award. I think of being down on the Mexican border during *Young Guns II*, drinking tequila with Kiefer Sutherland, Emilio Estevez, Lou Diamond Phillips, James Coburn, and Christian Slater. James said, 'You know, that Emilio, that's the best (expletive) Billy the Kid there's ever been.' He said, 'I played opposite Kristofferson. Kris is a good actor. But he was a pacifist. He never aims his gun directly at anybody. But Emilio, he just breathes life into the character. That's what made me want to do this.'"

"There are projects that get offered to me, and I'll say to my wife, I just can't find my way into this. She always says the same thing to me: think of it as a Western. As soon as I do that, I've got it. The Western's in my blood and it always will be. I've been reading *True West* for years, and it's such an honor being [named] True Westerner of the Year, it's just so meaningful to me, as is *The Highwaymen*. After this 30-year dream of telling the story of Frank Hamer, I'm making good on my word, and helping to keep the interest in the west and the Western going."

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN



Our 17th Annual Celebration of the Absolute Best of the West!



Congratulations to our 2019 Best of the West honorees! In honor of our past year, in which *True West* celebrated its 65th year, the editorial team has dedicated this special issue to three of our readers' favorite topics: the Texas Rangers, Law & Order and Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* novel and mini-series, which debuted 30 years ago on CBS on February 5-8, 1989. In addition to these special features, our Best of the West issue features the best in Old West art and collectibles, books, firearms, movies, travel and Western wear.

In 2019, *True West*'s editorial staff looks to the future and an exciting year of the best Old West history features from the region's top historians. Our award-winning columnists will continue to provide expertise on Western history, preservation, art, collectibles, movies, television and books, providing you, the reader, with the most insightful views on the past, present and future of the West. *True West*'s writers will continue to uncover unique Western travel stories that will inspire you to pack your bags and hit the highway to stand where history happened. As Mark Twain wrote 150 years ago in his classic *The Innocents Abroad*, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

We agree, and hope you will enjoy the journey in 2019—we promise you the best of the West in every issue, hoping you will be inspired to experience the West in every way possible this coming year by visiting those we honor in this, our annual Best of the West issue!

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

End of an Era

The Robert G. McCubbin Collection goes to auction.



Fort Worth Five: Large silver print by Swartz of Fort Worth, Texas, 1900. After a lucrative robbery in Nevada, these colorful outlaws met in Fort Worth to enjoy the fruits of their success. From left to right: Sundance Kid, Will Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan and Butch Cassidy.

Est. $100,000–$150,000

On January 25-26, 2019, in Mesa, Arizona, Brian Lebel's Old West Auctions will oversee the auction of the Robert G. McCubbin Collection of Historic Photographs & Artifacts of the Old West. According to the auction house, "The Robert G. McCubbin Collection consists of over 1,500 pieces of original photography, artifacts and ephemera from the American West, circa 1840-1920. It is among the most extensive and important collections of early Western American photographs and documents in private hands, and is the first to come available in its entirety at public auction."

The auction of the McCubbin Collection is not only significant to us because of its value and the items to be sold, but because of Bob McCubbin's personal connection to *True West* magazine. A lifelong collector of Western Americana, books and photographs, McCubbin has been a charter subscriber since Joe Small started *True West* in Austin, Texas, in 1953. McCubbin was a member of the ownership group of *True West* when Bob Boze Bell bought the magazine in 1999, a contributor of historical photographs from his private collection for two decades, *True West*'s publisher emeritus and the recipient in January 2018 of the magazine's highest honor, The True Westerner Award.

In honor of McCubbin's 66-year affiliation with *True West* and his long-time dedication to the preservation and promotion of the West, Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell asked auctioneer Brian LeBel to select which photos from the world's greatest collection of outlaw and lawman photographs would receive the highest bids at the upcoming auction in Mesa. Following the auction, *True West*'s editors will report on the actual winning bids on these and other items at this once-in-a-lifetime Old West collectibles event.



John Wesley Hardin: Tintype, taken in Abilene, Kansas, 1871. This photo came from Hardin's personal photograph album and was made at the end of a cattle drive during which he killed four men.

Est. $50,000–$75,000



Doc Holliday: Young, soon-to-be Western gambler gunfighter CDV by O.B. Morat, Philadelphia, 1872. This photo was passed down through the family from Doc's favorite cousin, Mattie Holliday, and is virtually the only known image that shows us what Doc looked like. Many photos claiming to be Doc are fakes.

Est. $70,000–$90,000



Ben Kilpatrick Ice Mallet: Southern Pacific Express train messenger David Trousdale killed Ben "The Tall Texan" Kilpatrick with this ice mallet during the former Wild Bunch member's attempt to rob the train near Sanderson, Texas, in March 1912.

Est. $50,000–80,000



Charlie Bowdre & Wife: CDV by Furlong of Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1878. Charlie Bowdre rode with Billy the Kid longer than anyone else. Bowdre was shot and killed by Pat Garrett and his posse in December 1880 at Stinking Springs, where the Kid was captured.

Est. $50,000–$75,000

BEST WESTERN MUSEUM

Western Spirit Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Scottsdale, AZ

The beautiful design of this building (the rib-like structure evokes the spines of the saguaro cactus, and the rainwater collection in the garden where the walls "weep" with condensation, mimics the natural varnish on canyon walls at Canyon de Chelly) is just a taste of what you will experience inside this museum filled with art, cowboy gear and ranch paraphernalia, including the Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection. Major exhibits in 2018 were "Joe Beeler: A Western Original," "New Acquisitions from the Herberger Collection" and "A Spotlight on Contemporary Hopi Ceramicists and Katsina Doll Carvers." Three exhibits that are ongoing or will open in early 2019 are "Charles M. Russell: The Women in His Life and Art," "New Beginnings: An American Story of Romantics and Modernists in the West" and "Photographs by Barry M. Goldwater: The Arizona Highways Collection."
ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Buffalo Bill Center of the West Cody, WY

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTION

Stark Museum of Western Art, Orange, TX

A leader in curating, collecting and exhibiting Western art in the United States, the Stark Museum of Western Art offered outstanding exhibitions in 2018 including "Paul Kane: Intrepid Artist and Adventurer," "Portraits from Cowboys of Color: Photographs by Don Russell," "Cowboy Legends and Life" and "Lasting Impressions: The Work of Edward S. Curtis."
StarkCulturalVenues.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Canyon, TX

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION

Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ

Founded in 1929, the Heard Museum is dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art and is recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, exhibitions, educational programming and festivals. The Heard has set the standard for collaborating with American Indian artists and tribal communities to provide visitors with a distinctive perspective about the art of Native people, especially those from the Southwest. Exhibitions in 2018-2019 include "Remembering Our Indian School Days: The Boarding School Experience," "Awa Tsireh: Pueblo Painter and Metalsmith," "Yua: Henri Matisse and the Inner Arctic Spirit," "A Land North: Works from the Heard Museum Collection" and "Sonwai: The Jewelry of Verma Nequatewa."
Heard.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Plains Indian Museum, Cody, WY

BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY

C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT

The C.M Russell Museum is the centerpiece of museums in Great Falls, Montana. Visitors will enjoy touring Charles M. Russell's home and studio and outstanding permanent exhibitions including "Indian Country: The Art of David Bradley," "The Bison: American Icon," "C.M. Russell Legacy Galleries" and



James P. Beckwourth: CDV, photographer, place taken and date unknown. Photographs of fur trappers such as Beckwourth are rare. The original of this photo was probably an ambrotype taken in the 1850s.

Est. $25,000–$35,000

ART AND COLLECTIBLES



Ben Thompson: English-born Ben Thompson had a long and notorious career on both sides of the law, including serving as marshal of Austin, Texas, in 1881. According to the writing on the cabinet card, the portrait of Thompson was taken in Austin, Texas, in 1879.

Est. $25,000–$35,000

"Charles M. Russell Collection." The "Charles M. Russell: The Women in His Life and Art" was launched at the C.M. Russell Museum in 2018 before traveling to Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. The Russell Exhibition and Sale, March 21-23, 2019, is one of the West's most important art events of the year. *CMRussell.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Whitney Western Art Museum, Cody, WY

BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION

Old Sacramento, Sacramento, CA

Western history buffs should put Sacramento on their bucket-list as California's capital city will simultaneously celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Gold Rush and the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 2019. Visitors to the historic old town will discover the Old West at the Sacramento History Museum, California State Railroad Museum, the Delta King Riverboat and Wells Fargo History Museum. Historic rides and tours include the Gold Fever! Tours, Old Sacramento Underground Tours, the Sacramento River Train, Sacramento Southern Excursion Trail and river cruises on the *Capital Hornblower*. *OldSacramento.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Harold Warp Pioneer Village City, NE

BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

Heritage Auctions in Dallas is an internationally recognized leader in selling Western Americana, Texana, art, movie posters and collectibles. Major Western artists' originals auctioned in 2018 included pieces by Frank Tenney Johnson, Olaf Wieghorst, Gerald Harvey Jones, O.E. Berninghaus, Edward Borein, Walter Ufer and Joseph Henry Sharp. *HA.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Brian Lebel's Old West Auction Santa Fe, NM, and Mesa, AZ

BEST OLD WEST ART AUCTION

Scottsdale Art Auction Scottsdale, AZ

Since April 2005, a consortium of leading American art dealers—Mike Frost (Bartfield Galleries of New York City), Jack A. Morris, Jr. (Morris & Whiteside Galleries of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina) and Brad Richardson (Legacy Galleries of Scottsdale, Arizona; Bozeman, Montana; and Jackson Hole, Wyoming)—have held a Western art auction in Scottsdale. The world renowned Scottsdale Art Auction is currently accepting consignments and will hold its next auction on April 6, 2019. *ScottsdaleArtAuction.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

BEST OLD WEST FIREARMS AUCTION

James D. Julia, Inc., a division of Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA, and Las Vegas, NV

In 2017, Jim Julia merged his highly regarded 50-year-old company, James D. Julia, Inc., with Dan Morphy's Morphy Auctions, which was founded in 1997. Both companies are well known and highly respected by collectors worldwide for their rare firearm divisions and annual auctions of guns, edged weapons, armor and militaria. Morphy will hold a Gold Rush, Western and Native American collectible auction in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 24, 2019. *MorphyAuctions.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Rock Island Auction, Rock Island, IL



Bat Masterson: Cabinet card by Vancil & McDonald, of Dodge City, Kansas, 1885. Bat Masterson was Ford County sheriff in Dodge City, the most famous end-of-trail cowtown.

Est. $15,000–$25,000



Heck Thomas, Deputy U.S. Marshal: Cabinet card by Pawnee Gallery ofPawnee, Oklahoma Territory, date unknown. Thomas is seated at front left.

Est. $15,000–$20,000

BEST TREASURE-HUNTING DEVICE

Garrett Metal Detectors, Garland, TX

Charles and Eleanor Garrett founded Garrett Metal Detectors in 1964. Fifty-five years later, Eleanor still leads the family-owned company with the same philosophies that have made them one of the leaders in the metal detector marketplace: make the best metal detectors, sell them at a fair and reasonable cost, and place customer service and satisfaction as the top priorities of the company. Today, Garrett has three major divisions: Sport, Security and Countermine/ERW. The Sport Division offers professional and amateur detectorists one of the most sophisticated product lines in the world.

Garrett.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Garrett Metal Detectors, Garland, TX

BEST WESTERN COLLECTIBLES GALLERY

Cowboy Legacy Gallery
Scottsdale, AZ

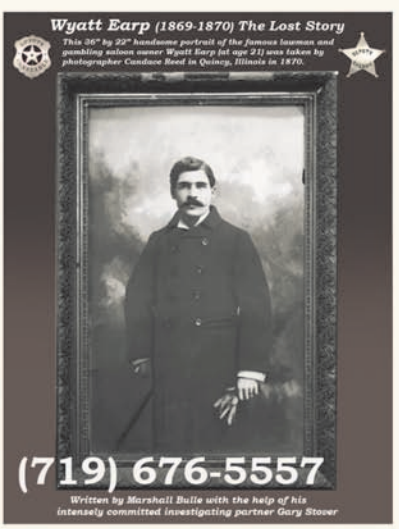
Since 1966, Cowboy Legacy Gallery owner Bill Welch has welcomed customers to his specialty store with Western collectibles and art dating back to at least the 1840s. Welch's international reputation for offering the finest Western Americana antiques, artifacts, art and artisan collectibles, including saddles, bits, spurs and chaps, makes Cowboy Legacy Gallery a destination for anyone visiting Scottsdale.

7077 E. Main St, Ste 10
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 595-8999

READERS' CHOICE:
Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Cody, WY



Hidden Treasures of the Black Range and ***Wyatt Earp- The Lost Story,*** according to many of our readers, contain stories that are the most fascinating ones they have ever read. *Hidden Treasures of the Black Range* is about Larry Ditzer and Marshall Bulle spending decades looking for an old cannon seen by cowboy Walt Nichols high in New Mexico's Black Range in the 1950s, which they found. That discovery led to the location of one of the most sought-after lost gold mines in the entire southwest.



Wyatt Earp- The Lost Story makes a compelling case that the photo seen on its cover is Wyatt Earp, and that it was taken in Quincy, IL in 1870. This 96 page book contains explosive evidence indicating that misidentified photos of Wyatt Earp have been unwittingly published in some western history books. Evidence in this book has changed more than a few opinions. To see more, or to order either book visit- ***www.frontiershadows.com***

ART AND COLLECTIBLES



Belle Starr: Cabinet card by Roeder Brothers of Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1886. Starr (above left) lived in a remote area of the Indian Territory and was attracted to outlaws, consorting with some, including Cole Younger, and marrying others such as—Jim Reed and Sam Starr.

Est. $14,000–$18,000

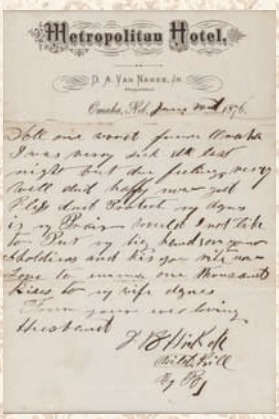
BEST WESTERN PAINTER

Frederic S. Remington (1861-1909)

Most art historians credit Frederic S. Remington and Charles M. Russell as the modern progenitors of Western American art. While Remington and Russell had many contemporary peers in Western art—and master Western artists who inspired them—none equal the output of Remington and Russell. Remington, who died prematurely 110 years ago in 1909, traveled extensively across the West to gain personal knowledge of the land, people, wildlife, communities and cultures to accurately illustrate and paint the West. Considered the most successful Western illustrator at the end of the 19th century, Remington had found a great deal of success when he began his final phase of major works, heavily influenced by the French impressionists. He remains America's greatest Western artist.

READERS' CHOICE:

C.M. Russell (1864-1926)



Highly important W. B. "Wild Bill" Hickok letter that set a world's record when it last appeared at auction in 2003.
Starting bid $25,000, no reserve

AMERICANA & POLITICAL AUCTION

March 30, 2019 | Dallas | Live & Online

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CONSIGN TO OUR SPRING 2019 AMERICANA & WESTERN AUCTION!

Pictured here are just two of the many fine items we will feature in this important auction. Heritage Auctions has been voted the "Best Old West Collectibles" auctions for seven consecutive years (so far!) by the readers of *True West*. If you have quality Western or other Historical Americana items you might consider for auction, there is no better place to call. Please contact us ASAP to discuss consignment options. Consignments to the Spring auction must arrive by February 6, 2019. We look forward to hearing from you!

PREVIEW: MARCH 29 | 3500 MAPLE AVE. | DALLAS, TX 75219





Superb 1853 presentation sword to John Sutter from the Sutter Rifles "in consideration of (his) early Services to the State of California".
Starting bid $25,000, no reserve

Tom Slater
TomS@Ha.com, 214-409-1441

Don Ackerman
DonA@HA.com, 214-409-1736

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Paul R. Minshull #16591. BP 12-25%; see HA.com 51846

ART AND COLLECTIBLES







Wild Bill Hickok: CDV by Scholten of Springfield, Missouri, 1865–1866. Hickok is arguably the first and greatest gunfighter of the Old West. In this photo he is wearing his own clothes.

Est. $14,000–$18,000

BEST WESTERN PAINTER (LIVING)

Sherry Blanchard Stuart Scottsdale, AZ

Award-winning Western artist Sherry Blanchard Stuart was born in Arkansas, raised in Kansas and currently resides in Scottsdale. For nearly five decades she has successfully pursued her career as a Western artist, and has become highly collectible nationally and internationally. She is a signature member of the American Plains Artists, Oil Painters of America, a juried member of Western Artists of America, a founding member of Creative Women of Pinnacle Peak. Stuart's artwork has been exhibited at juried and solo exhibitions across the country and is in permanent collections of Western art museums in Arizona and Nebraska. *SBStuart.SquareSpace.org*

READERS' CHOICE:

Andy Thomas, Carthage, MO

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTOR

Philip F. Anschutz, Denver, CO

Billionaire Western art collector Philip Anshutz's passion for Western art has led him to become one of the most influential collectors and donors of the genre in the country. The Anschutz Collection at Denver's American Museum of Western Art has over 600 paintings, drawings and sculptures representing more than 180 artists. The collection provides one of the nation's finest surveys of American Western history from the early 19th century to the present.

READERS' CHOICE:

Philip F. Anschutz, Denver, CO



Jesse James: Original is not known to exist but was most likely a tintype and was supposedly taken in Platte City, Missouri, in 1864.

Est. $10,000–$15,000

Jack N. Jones and Jack Stilwell: Cabinet card by W.P. Bliss of Fort Sill, Indian Territory, c. 1874. Jack Stilwell (right) slipped through Indian lines at the Beecher Island fight to go for help and later served as a scout for Custer, Miles and Mackenzie.

Est. $10,000–$15,000



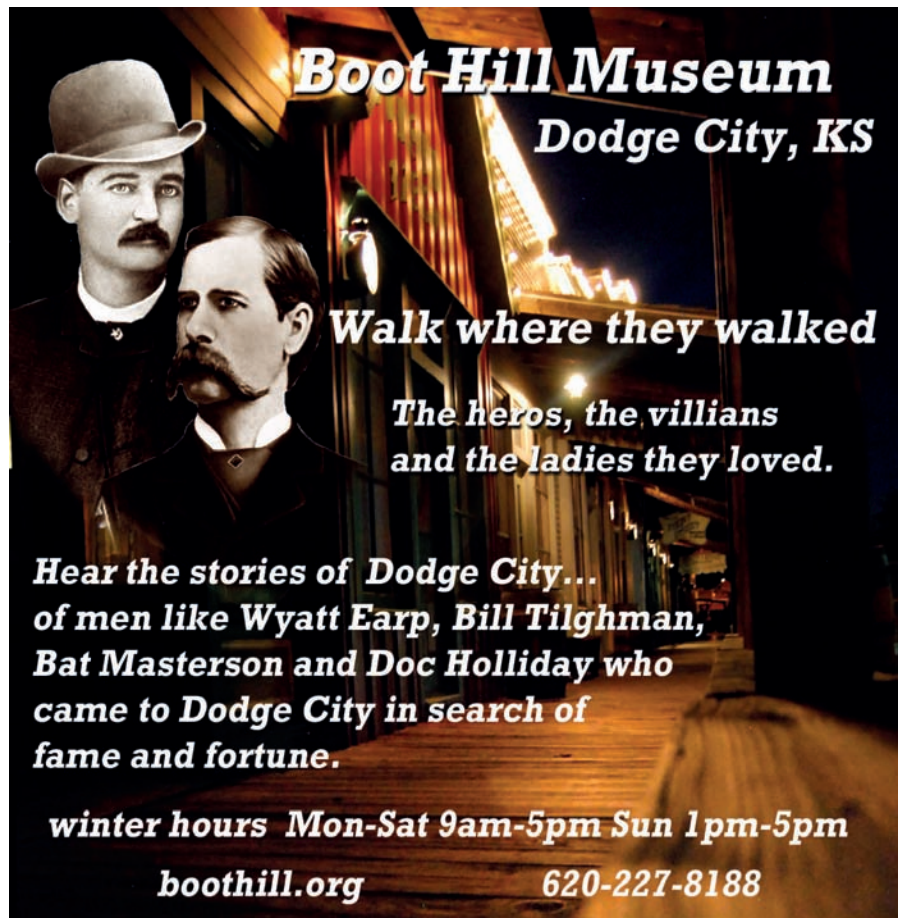
BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR

Johnny Morris, Ridgedale, MO

Founder of Bass Pro Shops, Big Cedar Lodge, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, Tracker Boats, Top of the Rock and more, Johnny Morris was born and raised in the Ozarks of Missouri. The enormous success of his Bass Pro Shops retail chain has never taken him far from his beloved Ozarks, where he has built his signature destination resort Top of the Rock. One of the centerpieces of Top of the Rock is the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, which houses Morris's Western art collection, artifacts and arrowheads. Morris also has opened a showcase of his love for the outdoors, the 350,000-square-foot Johnny Morris's Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri.

READERS' CHOICE:
Johnny Morris, Ridgedale, MO



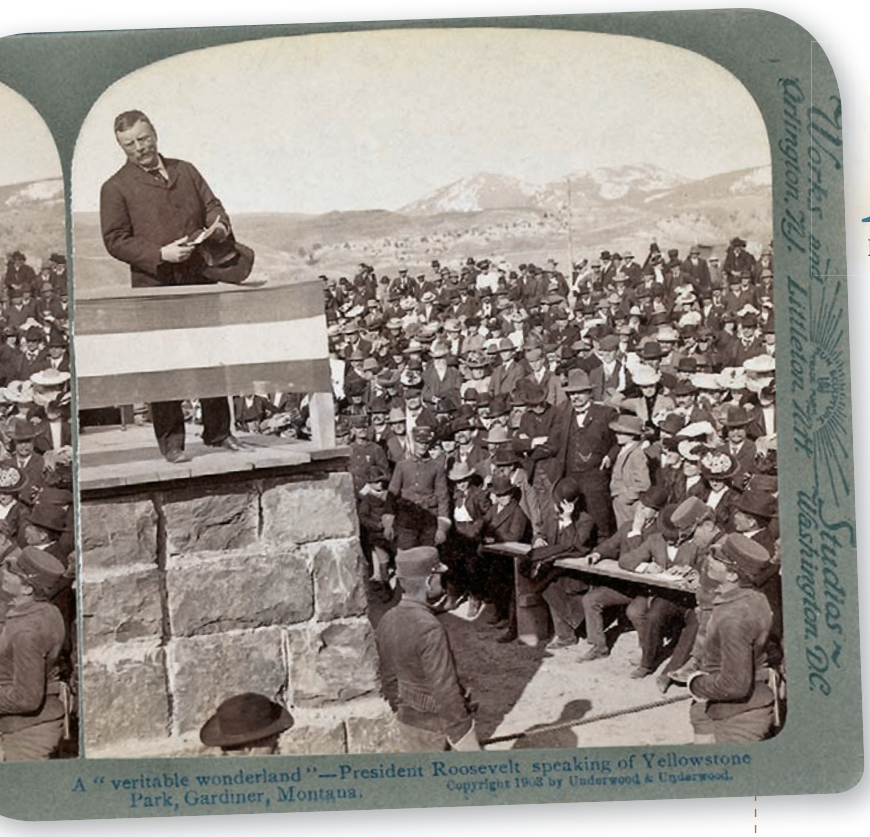


WESTERN BOOKS

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

The Western Book: A Reflection

In 2018 Old West fiction adapts to the marketplace, while Old West history is slipping into a sub-genre nearly forgotten by most publishers.



Arguably America's greatest promoter of the American West—and its conservation—President Theodore Roosevelt, shown speaking at Yellowstone National Park in 1903 (above), is the subject of Michael F. Blake's biography T*he Cowboy President: The American West and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt* (TwoDot).

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

As I write this column from my desk in my office in Iowa City, Iowa, in October 2018, reflecting on the past, present and future state of Western history and fiction publishing, I recall where I was 25 years ago. I was newly engaged to be married, a third-year graduate student in history at Arizona State University and I was working for editor Bob Early in my first year as the research editor at *Arizona Highways* magazine. *True West*'s long-retired founder Joe Small had died at 79 years old earlier that year, and current owner Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell had just published the first edition of *The Illustrated Life & Times of Doc Holliday*. *True West* was still published by Bob Evans Publications' offices in Stillwater, Oklahoma; *Arizona Highways* had a subscriber base over 400,000 (over 52 percent out-of-state subscribers); and my professors in the history department were simultaneously touting the Internet as the future of history research while encouraging all of us to abandon traditional 19th-century research topics such as frontier settlement, overland trails, cowboys and cattle drives, Indian wars, law and order, transportation, et. al., for less-developed genres such as gender, race, environment, sexuality, labor, urban, 20th-century and ethno-cultural studies. Graduate students who attended local and



The history of transportation, mining, law and order and boomtowns remain popular topics for Western historians, and in *Shotguns and Stagecoaches: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West* (Thomas Dunne Books) John Boessnecker writes about them all, including Wells Fargo's key role in the growth of Virginia City, Nevada (right).

national history association conventions discovered they were part of a larger academic movement that encouraged the abandonment of traditional Western American history research and publishing. Historians and editors William Cronan, George Miles and Jay Gatlin asked in their opening essay, "Becoming the West: Toward a New Meaning for Western History," in *Under an Open Sky: Rethinking America's Western Past* (1992): "Does the western past have a future?"

Twenty-five years later, and almost six years after joining *True West*'s editorial staff as Western Books editor, I must reinterpret the question: "Does the Western past have a future in book and magazine publishing?" Has the academy been successful in snuffing out—or at the minimum relegating Old Western history to a sub-genre limited in scope, distribution, interpretation and publication? From where I sit in Iowa City, I would have to answer yes, at least in academic publishing. While the University of Oklahoma Press, the University of Nevada Press, the University of Nebraska's Bison Books, University of North Texas Press and the Texas A&M University Consortium continue to take the lead in publishing new volumes in the traditional 19th-century Western history genre, most of the university publishers who were leaders in 19th-century American Western history book publishing have either abandoned the genre entirely, or have minimized it to a level that in the long run cannot be sustained profitably or academically.

So whom can *True West* readers count on for traditional Western history and biography in 2019? New York publishers will distribute about a dozen annually, as will Western historical societies. Independent publishers including Arcadia and The History Press, McFarland, Rowan-Littlefield (Two Dot, Lone Star, et. al.) and *True West*'s Two Roads West imprint fill numerous gaps in traditional fields and scholarship of Western history and should now be considered by our readers as leaders in the field. Self-publishers and publishing entrepreneurs should consider the opportunity to fill the void in Western history publishing—but beware the other academic prognostication 25 years hence—that the Internet would change the future of writing, research and the history academy. Where is the profit in history publishing when much of the information is available online or at least in an affordable e-book? Just look closer at hand—there are only two Western history magazines still publishing: *True West* and *Wild West*. What truly does the future portend if our history is no longer valued, appreciated, published, interpreted or promoted?

Speaking of the e-book, Western fiction authors and publishers have also entered a new galaxy of publishing. Similar to their colleagues from the history aisle of publishing, Western fiction authors have discovered fewer and fewer publishing houses—academic or otherwise—marketing traditional 19th-century Westerns. In catalogs, bookstores and online booksellers,



In 1869, John Wesley Powell led the first of two major river expeditions (left, his second, preparing to leave down the Green River in 1871). His explorations of the Green and Colorado rivers covered in two books in 2018: *The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley's Powell's Perilous Journey and his Vision for the American West* by John F. Ross (Viking) and *Paddling the John Wesley Powell Route: Exploring the Green and Colorado Rivers* by Mike Bezemek (Falcon).



Both Nevada's Comstock Mining District and the photo's photographer Carleton Watkins are subjects of historians in *2018: The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West* by Gregory Couch (Scribner) and *Carleton Watkins: Making the West American* by Tyler Green (University of California Press).

– COURTESY J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM –

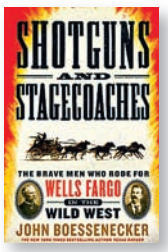
the contemporary Western *mystery* rules. But there is hope for Old West novel fans—as delivered by three publishers: Kensington, Five Star and Wolfpack. These three are delivering the entertainment in storytelling that they grew up reading, and as *True West*'s Western Books editor, I applaud their efforts to keep the genre alive—and thriving.

So what does the future portend in Western history and fiction publishing? I would challenge anyone with a vested interest in Old West history to directly communicate with the publishers about topics you want to see investigated, interpreted and published. Subscribe to history magazines, including *Wild West*. Join and participate in local, state and national historical and preservation societies and organizations. I'm a member of the Western Writers of America, Western History Association, National Council of Public History, The Westerners Corral, Wild West History Association and the Arizona Historical Society, what about you? Follow up on Old West research topics—and publish them—the e-book world is not limited to just fiction. Investigate, record and write your families' stories for the next generation. And, most importantly, give the gift of history by sending a subscription to a friend or loved one, or sending a book as gift and sharing your passion for the American West with the next generation. It's not just the right thing to do, it's the only way we can ensure the history is preserved, not just a century from now but in the next ten years.

WESTERN BOOKS

BEST AUTHOR AND NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Shotguns and Stagecoaches: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West* by John Boessenecker (Thomas Dunne Books)**



Award-winning author of *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde* John Boessenecker is back with his latest big Western history book, this time taking on the legendary story of Wells Fargo and its iconic stage lines—and the men who drove and protected them.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Cattle Industry**: *The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble* by James E. Sherow (University of Oklahoma Press)

❷ **Western Trails**: *West Like Lightning: The Brief, Legendary Ride of the Pony Express* by Jim DeFelice (William Morrow)

❸ **Exploration**: *The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley's Powell's Perilous Journey and his Vision for the American West* by John F. Ross (Viking)

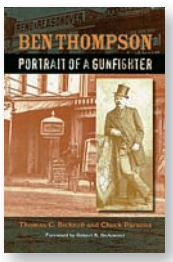
❹ **Biography:** *They Called Him Buckskin Frank: The Life and Adventures of Nashville Franklyn Leslie* by Jack DeMattos and Chuck Parsons (University of North Texas Press)

❺ **Mining**: *The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West* by Gregory Couch (Scribner)

BEST BIOGRAPHY

***Ben Thompson: Portrait of a Gunfighter* by Thomas C. Bicknell and Chuck Parsons (University of North Texas Press)**

Thomas C. Bicknell and Chuck Parsons' dual research and writing effort has created one of the finest biographies of a Western gunfighter published in recent years. The writing team included in *Ben Thompson* fully annotated endnotes, an unabridged bibliography and detailed appendixes that historians, students and researchers will be using as a valuable resource for decades.



BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Law and Order:** *Captain Jack Helm: A Victim of Texas Reconstruction Violence* by Chuck Parsons (University of North Texas Press)

❷ **Politics**: *The Cowboy President: The American West and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt* by Michael F. Blake (TwoDot)

❸ **Western Culture**: *Carleton Watkins: Making the West American* by Tyler Green (University of California Press)

❹ **Literature**: *The Life of Mark Twain: The Early Years, 1835-1871* by Gary Scharnhorst (University of Missouri Press)

❺ **Women**: *Ann Bassett: Colorado's Cattle Queen* by Linda Wommack (Caxton Press)

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY

***The Black Legend: George Bascom, Cochise, and the Start of the Apache Wars* by Doug Hocking (TwoDot)**



Doug Hocking, who made his name well-known in Western history circles two years ago with the first-ever biography of Tom Jeffords, has returned to familiar ground to provide a thorough recounting and interpretation of the Bascom Affair of 1861 and the beginning of the 25 year Apache Wars.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **War and Peace**: *Uninterrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indians* by Mary Stockwell (Southern Illinois University Press)

❷ **Religion**: *A Whirlwind Passed Through Our Country: Lakota Voices of the Ghost Dance* by Rani-Henrik Andersson (University of Oklahoma Press)

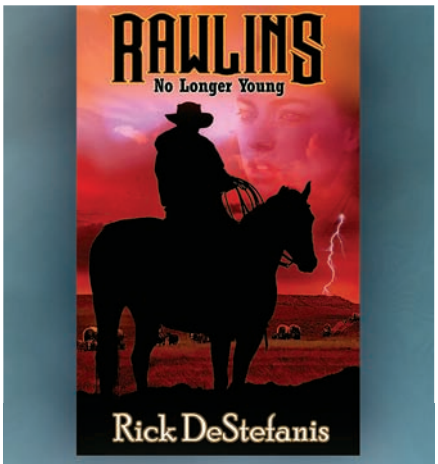
❸ **Culture**: *Apacheria: True Stories of Apache Culture, 1860-1920* by W. Michael Farmer (TwoDot)

❹ **Warfare**: *'I Will Not Surrender the Hair of a Horse's Tail': The Victorio Campaign 1879* by Robert N. Watt (Helion and Company)

❺ **20th-Century**: *A Journey Freedom: Richard Oakes, Alcatraz, and the Red Power Movement* by Kent Blansett (Yale University Press)



C.S. Fly's famous photo of Gen. George Crook and Geronimo in surrender negotiations in 1886 occurred 25 years after the beginning of the Apache–American conflict which is chronicled in *The Black Legend: George Bascom, Cochise, and the Start of the Apache Wars* (TwoDot) by Doug Hocking.



VIRGIL RAWLINS is left without family or friends as he is swept into the maelstrom that encompasses the last years of the American Civil War. Along the way he meets the remarkably beautiful Sarah McCaskey and learns that the rights and wrongs in his life cannot be defined simply as blue and gray.

Heading westward into the raging Indian War of 1865, he earns a reputation as a well-respected fighter and must finally decide what kind of man he will be—outlaw, lawman or perhaps, neither.

RickDeStefanis.com
Amazon.com

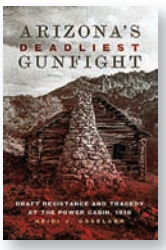


WESTERN BOOKS

BEST LAW AND ORDER HISTORY

***Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918* by Heidi J. Osselaer (University of Oklahoma Press)**

Arizona State University history professor Heid J. Osselaer's investigative research on the controversial Power Cabin shoot-out demonstrates why even the most remote corners of the West are never too far from the larger national—and even international—market forces and policies that affect the rural West.



BEST OF THE REST

1. **Prostitution**: *Deadwood's Al Swearingen: Manifest Evil in the Gem Theatre* by Jerry L. Bryant and Barbara Fifer (Far Country Press)
2. **Texas Rangers**: *The Ranger Ideal: Texas Rangers in the Hall of Fame, Volume I, 1823-1861* by Darren L. Ivey (University of North Texas Press)
3. **Criminal**: *Pirates of the Prairie: Outlaws and Vigilantes in America's Heartland* by Ken Lizzio (Lyons Press)
4. **Lawmen**: *Calling the Brands: Stock Detectives in the Wild West* by Monty McCord (TwoDot)
5. **Outlaws**: *Ned Christie: The Creation of an Outlaw and Cherokee Hero* by Devon Abbott Mithesuah (University of Oklahoma Press)

BEST FICTION

***The Removes, A Novel* by Tatjana Soli's (Forge)**

Award-winning California author Tatjana Soli's *The Removes* is a bold, adventuresome novel of the post-Civil War Western Indian Wars. Told through the experiences of two female antagonists, George Armstrong Custer's wife, Libbie Custer, and Cheyenne Indian abduction victim 15-year-old Kansas pioneer girl Anne Cummins, the dynamic and original narrative will enthrall readers.



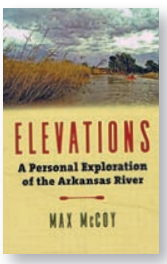
BEST OF THE REST:

1. **Old West**: *The Kid and Me, A Novel* by Frederick Turner (University of Nebraska Press)
2. **Mystery:** *A Dying Note: A Silver Rush Mystery* by Ann Parker (Poisoned Pen Press)
3. **Literary**: *This Scorched Earth* by William Gear (Forge)
4. **Frontier Fiction**: *Born to the Badge, Wyatt Earp, An American Odyssey, Book Two* by Mark Warren (Five Star)
5. **Mass Market**: *Where the Bullets Fly* by Terrance McCauley (Pinnacle)

BEST CULTURAL WEST

***Elevations: A Personal Exploration of the Arkansas River* by Max McCoy (University Press of Kansas)**

Author, journalist, professor, historian and adventurer Max McCoy has brought all of his talents, passion and skills in research, journalism and storytelling to weave together one of the most original books of the year. If you like to read Edward Abbey, Colin Fletcher, William Least Heat Moon and John McPhee, you will place McCoy's *Elevations* side by side with their best in your library and save a space for McCoy's next volume.



BEST OF THE REST

1. **Cowboys**: *The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West* by John Branch (WW Norton)
2. **Regional**: *1880: The Boomer Movement, the Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City* by Michael J. Hightower (University of Oklahoma Press)

JUST RELEASED!

Some of the best books in Western history and fiction are published in the last quarter of the year. They are just in time for the holidays but not early enough to be reviewed. Here is a selection I recommend:

The Ranger Ideal Volume 2: Texas Rangers in the Hall of Fame, 1874-1930 by Darren L. Ivey (University of North Texas Press)

Wild Justice by Loren D. Estleman (Forge)

Seven Fingers 'a Brazos: A Western Novel by Eric H. Heisner (Lean Dog Productions)

Puget's Sound: A Narrative of Early Tacoma and the Southern Sound by Murray Morgan (University of Washington Press)

The Making of Tombstone: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Modern Western by John Farkis (McFarland)

Paddling the John Wesley Powell Route: Exploring the Green and Colorado Rivers by Mike Bezemek (Falcon)

Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomolies & Tamales by Marshall Trimble (The History Press)

Grit and Gold: The Death Valley Jayhawkers of 1849 by Jean Johnson (University of Nevada Press)

Old West Showdown: Two Authors Wrangle Over the Truth About the Mythic Old West by Bill Markley and Kellen Cutsforth (TwoDot)

Esteban: The African Slave who Explored America by Dennis Herrick (University of New Mexico Press)

'Horses Worn to Mere Shadows': The Victorio Campaign 1880 by Robert N. Watt (Helion and Company)

5C Guidon Books



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TRUE WEST
BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

BEST NONFICTION AUTHOR

EDITORS' CHOICE
JOHN BOESSENECKER

READERS' CHOICE
PAUL ANDREW HUTTON

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST

EDITORS' CHOICE
TATJANA SOLI

READERS' CHOICE
LOUIS L'AMOUR

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER

EDITORS' CHOICE:
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS, NORMAN, OK

READERS' CHOICE
TWODOT, NEW YORK, NY

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

EDITORS' CHOICE
GUIDON BOOKS, SCOTTSDALE, AZ

READERS' CHOICE
SHERIDAN STATIONARY, SHERIDAN, WY

BEST WESTERN HISTORY UNIVERSITY PRESS

EDITORS' CHOICE
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS, NORMAN, OK

READERS' CHOICE
TIE: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS, LINCOLN, NE AND TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PRESS, LUBBOCK, TX

BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

EDITORS' CHOICE
FIVE STAR PUBLISHING, WATERVILLE, ME

READERS' CHOICE
PINNACLE BOOKS, NEW YORK, NY

WESTERN BOOKS

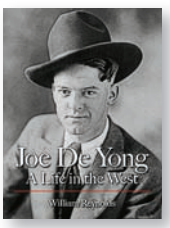
❸ **Tourism**: *Tombstone, Deadwood and Dodge City: Re-creating the Frontier West* by Kevin Britz and Roger L. Nichols (University of Oklahoma Press)

❹ **Frontier Fare**: *The Golden Elixir of the West: Whiskey and the Shaping of America* by Sherry Monahan with Jane Perkins (TwoDot)

❺ **Western Film**: *Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971* by Jeb Rosebrook with Stuart Rosebrook (Bear Manor Media)

BEST ART/ILLUSTRATED BOOK

Joe De Yong: A Life in the West by William Reynolds (Alamar Media, Inc)



Historians, students, collectors and fans of Western American art will be in debt to William Reynolds for many decades after his publication of *Joe De Yong: A Life in the West*. Sharply written, exquisitely designed and beautifully illustrated, *Joe De Yong* reflects the professionalism and style that Reynolds has brought to all his media work for four decades.

BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Cowboy Artists**: *Charles M. Russell: The Women in His Life and Art* ed. by Joan Carpenter Troccoli (CM Russell Museum)

❷ **Cultural**: *Transnational Frontiers: The American West in France* by Emily C. Burns (University of Oklahoma Press)

❸ **Film**: *Cowboys, Creatures and Classics* by Chris Enss and Howard Kazanjian (Lyons Press)

❹ **Western Art**: *Albert Bierstadt: Witness to a Changing West* by Peter H. Hassrick (University of Oklahoma Press)

❺ **Photography**: *Eye on the West: Photography and the Contemporary West* by George Miles (The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University)

BEST NEW WESTERN AUTHOR

Texas novelist Vicky Rose has published her first novels with two Western publishers in 2018. For Wolfpack Publishing, she writes under the pseudonym V.J. Rose and had two novels published, a classic frontier Western, *Treasure Hunt in Tie Town*, and a modern Western mystery, *Testimony*. For Pinnacle Westerns, she debuted under the pseudonym Easy Jackson with the first volume of the Tennessee Smith Western series, *A Bad Place to Die*. Fans of Western fiction will have to keep their eye on Rose in 2019 as she continues to thrill her readers with new Western fiction.



BEST WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHER

The University of Oklahoma Press

With so many of its peers reducing or dropping 19th-century Western history from their catalogues, The University of Oklahoma Press has picked up the slack and is the standard bearer for publishing the history of the North American West. Fans of Western Law and Order history should follow closely the University of North Texas Press and Two Dot/Rowman Littlefield's fast growing catalog of Old West titles.



BEST OF THE REST

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

❷ **University, Law & Order**: University of North Texas Press • Denton, TX

❸ **University, Regional**: University of Nevada Press • Reno, NV

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

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

BEST WESTERN FICTION PUBLISHER

Five Star Publishing

Five Star Publishing, an imprint of Gale Cengage Learning in Waterville, Maine, publishes more authors and titles than any other publisher of Western fiction. Fans of Western fiction, especially e-book readers, should also be closely following the increase in new authors—and new releases—from Pinnacle and Wolfpack Publishing—the two international leaders in Western e-books.



BEST OF THE REST

1. **National**: Forge • New York, NY
2. **University**: University of Arizona Press • Tucson, AZ
3. **Electronic**: Wolfpack Publishing, LLC • Las Vegas, NV
4. **Regional**: Poisoned Pen Press Scottsdale, AZ
5. **Mass Market**: Pinnacle New York, NY

BEST WESTERN BOOKSTORE



Jeb and Stuart Rosebrook signed books for Guidon at the Arizona History Conference in April 2018.

– DOROTHY ROSEBROOK –

Guidon Books

After over 50 years of publishing Western, Civil War and Indian history books in Arizona, Guidon has announced its closure in 2019. Contact proprietors Shelly and Gordon Dudley for more details.

7830 E. Redfield Rd. Suite 1
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
(480) 945-8811 • *Guidon.com*

BEST OF THE REST

1. **Large**: Powell's City of Books Portland, OR • *Powells.com*
2. **Medium**: Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse Santa Fe, NM • *CWBookstore.com*







While many academics and critics write about Western film history, few screenwriters reflect back through memoir on their career and the making of a film from story to the screen as did Jeb Rosebrook in his last book, *Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971* (Bear Manor Press).

– COURTESY JEFF SLATER COLLECTION –

❸ **Small**: Sheridan Stationary Books & Gallery • Sheridan, WY *SheridanStationary.net*

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

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

BEST OF THE BEST ROUNDUP

Travel History

Heritage travel, travel guides, travel photo and travel essay collections continue to be a strong genre in Western publishing. A cross-selection from 2018:



❶ *The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day* by Gary E. Moulton (University of Nebraska Press)

❷ *66 on 66: A Photographer's Journey* by Terrence Moore, Foreword by Michael Wallis (Schaffner Press, Inc.)

❸ *The Traveling Feast: On the Road at the Table with My Heroes* by Rick Bass (Little, Brown and Company)

❹ *Lady Long Rider: Alone Across America on Horseback* by Bernice Ende (Far Country Press)

❺ *Across America and Back: Retracing my Great-Grandparents' Remarkable Journey* by Mary Ann Hooper (University of Nevada Press)

Environmental History and Water

The role of the environment and water in the history of the American West remains a very strong genre across university press catalogs. A cross selection from 2018:



❶ *Son of a Midnight Land: A Memoir in Stories* by Atz Kilcher (Blackstone Publishing)

❷ *Flood on the Tracks: Living, Dying and the Nature of Disaster in the Elkhorn River Basin* by Todd M. Kerstetter (Texas Tech University Press)

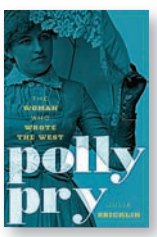
❸ *A Thirsty Land: The Making of an American Water Crisis* by Seamus McGraw (University of Texas Press)

❹ *Coastal Sage: Peter Douglas and the Fight to Save California's Shore* by Thomas J. Osborne (University of California Press)

❺ *A Natural History of the Mojave Desert* by Lawrence R. Walker and Frederick H. Landau (University of Arizona Press)

Women, Race, Family and Labor in the West

Gender, race, family and labor studies dominate many university catalogues. A cross-section selection from 2018:



❶ *Mining the Borderlands: Industry Capital, and the Emergence of Engineers in the Southwest Territories, 1855-1910* by Sarah E.M. Grossman (University of Nevada Press)

❷ *West to Montana* by Christine Wortman-Engren (Far Country Press)

❸ *James A. Murray: Butte's Radical Irish Millionaire* by Bill Farley (Mountain Press Publishing)

❹ *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist* by Angelica Shirley Carpenter (South Dakota Historical Society Press)

❺ *Polly Pry: The Woman Who Wrote the West* by Julia Bricklin (TwoDot)

Military, Conquest and Weapons in the West

Warfare in the West remains a leading genre for academic and popular history publishers. A cross-section selection from 2018:

WESTERN BOOKS

❶ *Blood Moon: An American Epic of War and Splendor in the Cherokee Nation* by John Sedgwick (Simon & Schuster)



❷ *Coast-to-Coast Empire: Manifest Destiny and the New Mexico Borderlands* by William S. Kiser (University of Oklahoma Press)

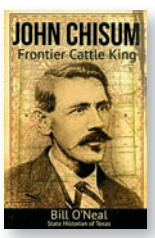
❸ *The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West* by Robert Utley (University of Oklahoma Press)

❹ *Murder and Intrigue on the Mexican Border: Governor Colquitt, President Wilson and the Vergara Affair* by John A. Adams (Texas A&M University Press)

❺ *The "Trapdoor" Springfield: From the Little Bighorn to San Juan Hill* by John Langellier (Osprey Publishing)

Independent Publishers

Small presses continue to make a strong impact on the Western non-fiction and fiction marketplace. A cross-section selection from 2018:



❶ *Valley Creek Station* by Carl B. McDonald and Herschel McDonald (Christian Faith Publishing)

❷ *John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King* by Bill O'Neal (Eakin Press)

❸ *Disappearance of Lucinda* by Phyllis de la Garza (Silk Label Books)

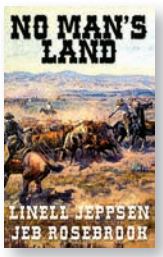
❹ *The Beginning of His Excellent & Eventful Career* by Cameron MacKenzie (MadHat Press)

❺ *How to Cuss in Western (And Other Missives from the High Desert)* by Michael P. Branch (Roost Books)

E-Books and Print on Demand

In 2018, Western fiction authors and publishers continued to mine the profitable field of e-book publishing and print-on-demand. A cross-section selection from 2018:

❶ *Hell Bound: A Peyton Bonner Novel* by G.R. Williamson (Indian Head Publishing)



❷ *Girl With a Gun: An Annie Oakley Mystery* by Kari Bovee (SparkPress)

❸ *No Man's Land* by Linell Jeppsen and Jeb Rosebrook (Wolfpack Publishing)

❹ *Treasure del Diablo: The Gaslight Boys* by John T. Wayne (Mockingbird Lane Press)

❺ *A Brock Clemons Western: Battle on the Plateau: A Western Adventure* by Scott Harris (Dusty Saddle Publishing)

Self-Published

In 2018, Western authors continued to take advantage of the broad platforms of print and e-books to self-publish. A cross-section selection from 2018:

❶ *Hell Bound: A Peyton Bonner Novel* by G.R. Williamson (Indian Head Publishing)



❷ *The Treasures of Bitter Creek: A Mason & Thorn Western* by Larry Richardson & Tom Richardson (Putnam & Smith)

❸ *Telluride: Top of the World* by Tom Tatum (Outskirts Press)

❹ *Stories the Canyon Keeps: A "Grand" Family Legacy* by Debbie Probst-Gipson (Quickstep Publishing)

❺ *Out West: Stories of the American Frontier* by Mark Huenemann (Proficient Consulting LLC)

Best Western Essays and Short Stories

Short-story authors and essayists remain key contributors to the genre of Western literature. A cross-section selection of short story and essay collections from 2018:

❶ *The Trading Post and Other Frontier Stories: A Five Star Anthology* edited by H.I. Rumney (Five Star)

❷ *My Ranch, Too: A Wyoming Memoir* by Mary Budd Flitner (University of Oklahoma Press)



Military history of the West continues to be a popular topic for Western historians and readers alike, with Robert Utley's *The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West* (University of Oklahoma Press) one of the year's best.

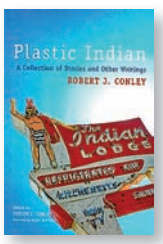
WESTERN BOOKS



Labor and environmental history are the subjects of two major 2018 books on Butte, Montana's copper mining: *The City that Ate Itself: Butte, Montana and Its Expanding Berkeley Pit* by Brian James Leech (University of Nevada Press) and James A. Murray: *Butte's Radical Irish Millionaire by Bill Farley* (Mountain Press Publishing).

❸ *Plastic Indian: A Collection of Stories and Other Writings* by Robert J. Conley, ed. by Evelyn L. Conley (University of Oklahoma Press)

❹ *Great Plains Literature: Discover the Great Plains* by Linda Ray Pratt (University of Nebraska Press)



❺ *The Light Shines from the West: A Western Perspective on the Growth of America* by Robert C. Baron (Fulcrum Publishing)

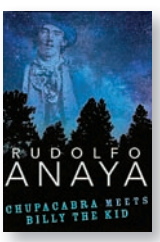
Weird, Wild Fantasy, Sci-Fi and Horror Western Fiction

This may be a new fiction category for the 2018 Round-up, but not a new category for fans of Western fiction. Max Evans' *Bluefeather Fellini: In the Sacred Realm* may have set the standard in recent years for this category, but going back to Ambrose Bierce and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Western authors have been blending genres. Fans from all generations enjoy this cross-genre category. Here is a sample from the past year:

❶ *Chupacabra Meets Billy the Kid* by Rudolfo Anaya (University of Oklahoma Press)

❷ *Mad Amos Malone: The Complete Stories* by Alan Dean Foster (Del Rey)

❸ *A Town Called Vengeance* by Kevin Wolf (North Star Editions)

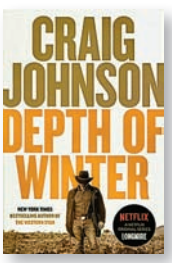


❹ *The Hunger* by Alma Katsu (GP Putnam)

❺ *Deadlands: Boneyard* by Sean McGuire (Tor Books)

20th- to 21st-Century Western Mystery Fiction

In 2018, the mystery genre continued to dominate Western fiction. A cross-section selection from the past year:



❶ *See Also by Proof* by Larry D. Sweazy (Seventh Street Books)

❷ *Gold Dust: A Red River Mystery* by Reavis Z. Wortham (Poisoned Pen Press)

❸ *Lies Come Easy* by Steven F. Havill (Poisoned Pen Press)

❹ *A Death in Eden* by Keith McCafferty (Viking)

❺ *Depth of Winter* by Craig Johnson (Viking)

20th- to 21st-Century Western Fiction

Fiction authors continued to mine the rich cultural heritage and history of the West for novels that explored the human condition across time and regions. A cross-section selection from the past year:

❶ *Don't Skip Out on Me, A Novel* by Willy Vlautin (Harper Perennial)

❷ *Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin: a Novel* by Mary Clearman Blew (University of Nebraska Press)



❸ *Whiskey, A Novel* by Bruce Holbert (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux)

❹ *The Long-Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday* by David Corbett (Black Opal Books)

❺ *The Return of Kid Cooper, A Novel* by Brad Smith (Skyhorse Publishing)

20th- to 21st-Century Western Nonfiction

In 2018, publishers of Western nonfiction continued to trend their catalogs toward 20th- and 21st-century history rather than 19th-century Western topics. The environment, race, urban and cultural history topics dominate the past year's publications. A cross-section selection from 2018:

❶ *The City that Ate Itself: Butte, Montana and Its Expanding Berkeley Pit* by Brian James Leech (University of Nevada Press)

❷ *Boom Town: The Fantastical Saga of Oklahoma City, Its Chaotic Founding, Its Apocalyptic Weather, Its Purloined Basketball Team, and the Dream of Becoming a World-Class Metropolis* by Sam Anderson (Crown)



❸ *First Americans: US Patriotism in Indian Country After World War I* by Thomas Grillot (Yale University Press)

❹ *Old Riot, New Ranger: Captain Jack Dean, Texas Ranger and U.S. Marshal* by Bob Alexander (University of North Texas Press)

❺ *A Girl's Guide to Missiles: Growing Up in America's Secret Desert* by Karen Piper (Viking)



FIREARMS

STUART ROSEBROOK AND
THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

Old West Firearms

Gunsmiths, manufacturers and gunbelt and holster artisans are dedicated to keeping the Western spirit on target for the most discernable customer.

Throughout the year, our Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberger brings you the latest and most interesting firearm stories and news about Old West gun manufacturers, artisans, gunsmiths, collectors, rarities, books, belt and holster makers, history and events.

In our 2019 annual Best of the West we honor and celebrate the finest Western gun manufacturers, gunsmiths and gunbelt and holster artisans, many of whom Phil has written about this past year. Their dedication to their craft is truly remarkable and their artistry as timeless as it is modern. We encourage our *True West* readers to visit their storefronts when traveling across the West or frequent their shops online. *True West*'s editors believe that these producers of Old West firearm originals, collectibles and reproductions will satisfy the most discriminating gun owner, whether a firearms collector, hunter, competitor or professional,



Naiche, son of Cochise and grandson of Mangas Coloradas, fought for years with Geronimo before they surrendered in 1886. The Apache leader, photographed with his rifle at Fort Sill, Oklahoma Territory, became an Army Scout in 1897.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

BEST GUNLEATHER ARTISAN

Old West Reproductions, Florence, MT

Old West Reproductions' handcrafted gun leather products are made in the tradition of the Old West and modeled meticulously after products originally used from 1849 to 1900. Old West Reproductions' President Rick M. Bachman is dedicated to personal customer satisfaction and custom leather work.
OldWestReproductions.com

READERS' CHOICE:

John Bianchi Frontier Gunleather
Cathedral City, CA

BEST FIREARM ENGRAVER

Jim Downing, The Gun Engraver
Springfield, MO

For over 35 years—from his shop in the Commercial Street National Historic District of Springfield, Missouri—Jim Downing has built a renowned reputation of excellence in hand work with his gravermeister tool on metal blades and firearm metals. Downing's superior work is so sought after by firearm enthusiasts that he has traveled the globe to engrave guns for customers at Cowboy Action Shooting events in Europe, Australia and across the United States.
TheGunEngraver.com

READERS' CHOICE:

A&A Engraving, Rapid City, SD

BEST COWBOY ACTION PISTOL

Cimarron Firearms' Thunderer
Fredericksburg, TX

In 1990, Cimarron Arms' founder and president Mike "Texas Jack" Harvey designed the Thunderer, a single-action, highly reliable and durable six-gun that gives today's shooter the looks and heft of the 19th-century Thunderers with single-action simplicity and 21st-century reliability. Now you can have the best of both worlds in four handsome and practical barrel lengths. The compact 3½-incher is a superb carry single-action.

READERS' CHOICE:

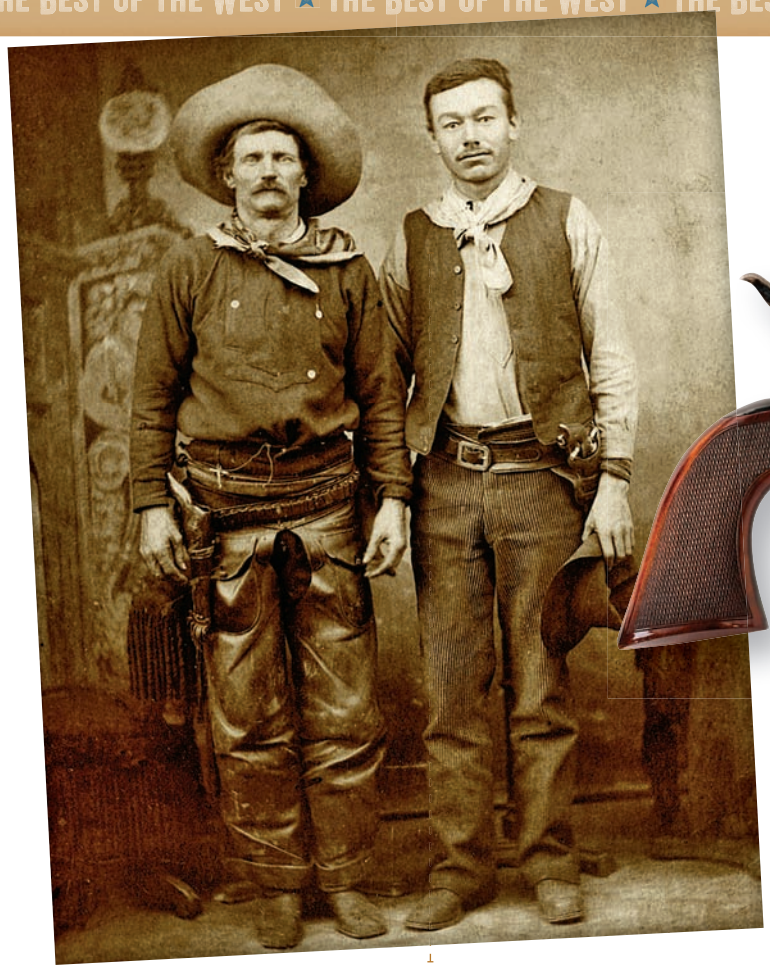
Taylor's & Company's Smokewagon
Winchester, VA





Old West Reproductions takes pride in recreating frontier-era gunleather that looks and feels exactly like what was made 100 to 150 years ago. Owner/operator Rick Bachman's handiwork is evidenced by comparing his rig in the color photo to the 1880s photo of two Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, gents brandishing their holsters and money belt/cartridge belts, which probably were made by F.A. Meanea.

– COWBOY PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/ GUNBELT AND HOLSTER COURTESY OLD WEST REPRODUCTIONS –



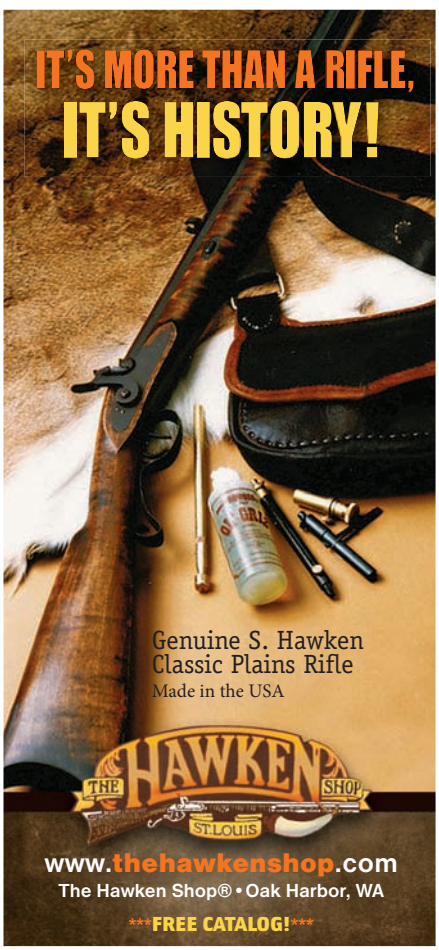


In this 1880s cabinet card, accurately captioned "The Genuine Cow Boy Captured Alive," Cottonwood Charlie Nebo (left), a proud proprietor of a horse ranch, and his partner Nick (right) wear their favorite sidearms, including what appears to be a Colt single-action on Charlie's hip. **Taylor's & Company**'s modern interpretation of the famous Colt , the Smoke Wagon (inset), is highly prized by collectors and competitors for its stagecoach-style, single-action revolver and low-sitting hammer and wider-style sights that allows for faster sight acquisition.

– PHOTO OF COWBOYS COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION/ PHOTO OF SMOKE WAGON COURTESY TAYLOR'S & COMPANY –







FIREARMS

BEST COWBOY ACTION RIFLE

Uberti USA's 1873 Limited Edition Short Rifle Deluxe, Accokeek, MD

The Winchester 1873 short rifle—am iconic and historic American firearm of the 19th century—is available from Uberti USA in limited quantities for 2018 only. Chambered in a .45 Colt with a 20-inch octagonal barrel, the 1873 Limited Short Rifle Deluxe features a rich case-hardened steel frame and lever and an A-Grade walnut stock and forend. The rifle has a 10+1 capacity while weighing a lithe 8.2 pounds. The rifle is also fully engraved using an original pattern from the 19th century featuring game and scroll patterns.
Uberti.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Henry Repeating Arms' The New Original Henry, Bayonne, NJ

BEST ACTION SHOTGUN

E.M.F. Hartford Model 1878 Coach Gun Santa Ana, CA

E.M.F. has manufactured an instant classic with its popular, 12-gauge Wyatt Earp 1878 Hammer Shotgun. The side by side shotgun with its 20 inch barrel can be easily opened with one hand, allowing for very fast loading and extraction of shells. The walnut pistol grip stock is checkered. The case hardened frame is engraved with "Wyatt Earp." The chrome barrel bores are blue finished, and the sturdy hammers, featuring Colt's style, can be cocked together in a simple and safe manner. Hunters and performers in Cowboy Action Shooting events enjoy using the Wyatt Earp.
EMF-Company.com

READER'S CHOICE:

Cimarron Firearms Company's Doc Holliday Double Barrel Shotgun, Fredericksburg, TX

BEST SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

Shiloh Sharps' 1874 Long Range Express Big Timber, MT

Shiloh Sharps manufactures nine models of the 1874 Shiloh Sharps, and the 1874 Long Range Express is one of the most popular models enjoyed by classic gun enthusiasts. Buyers can customize every gun order individually, including several calibers, four grades of wood, multiple wood finishes, barrel length, weight and features—every minor detail and accessory an owner of an 1874 Shiloh Sharps could want or imagine.
ShilohRifle.com

READERS' CHOICE:

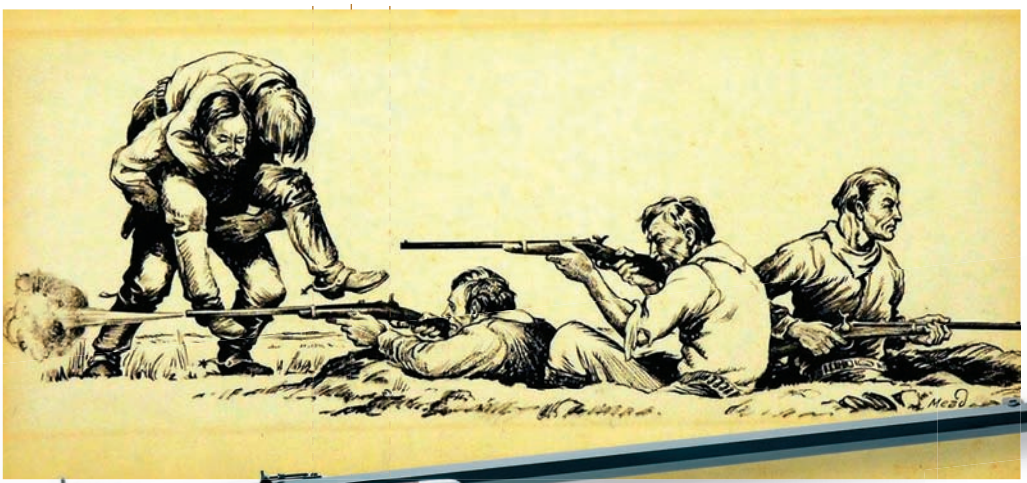
Uberti's 1885 High Wall Rifle Accokeek, MD



FIREARMS

Billy Dixon sealed his name as a legend with his famous 1,500-yard shot from his 1874 .50-90 Sharps Rifle that badly wounded a Comanche warrior at the Second Battle of Adobe Wells. Today, Old West firearm enthusiasts can enjoy owning a modern **Shiloh Sharps** recreation of the 1874 Shiloh Sharps, including the 1874 Long Range Express (below), one of their most popular models

– PAINTING-COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM/ FIREARM/COURTESY SHILOH SHARPS –

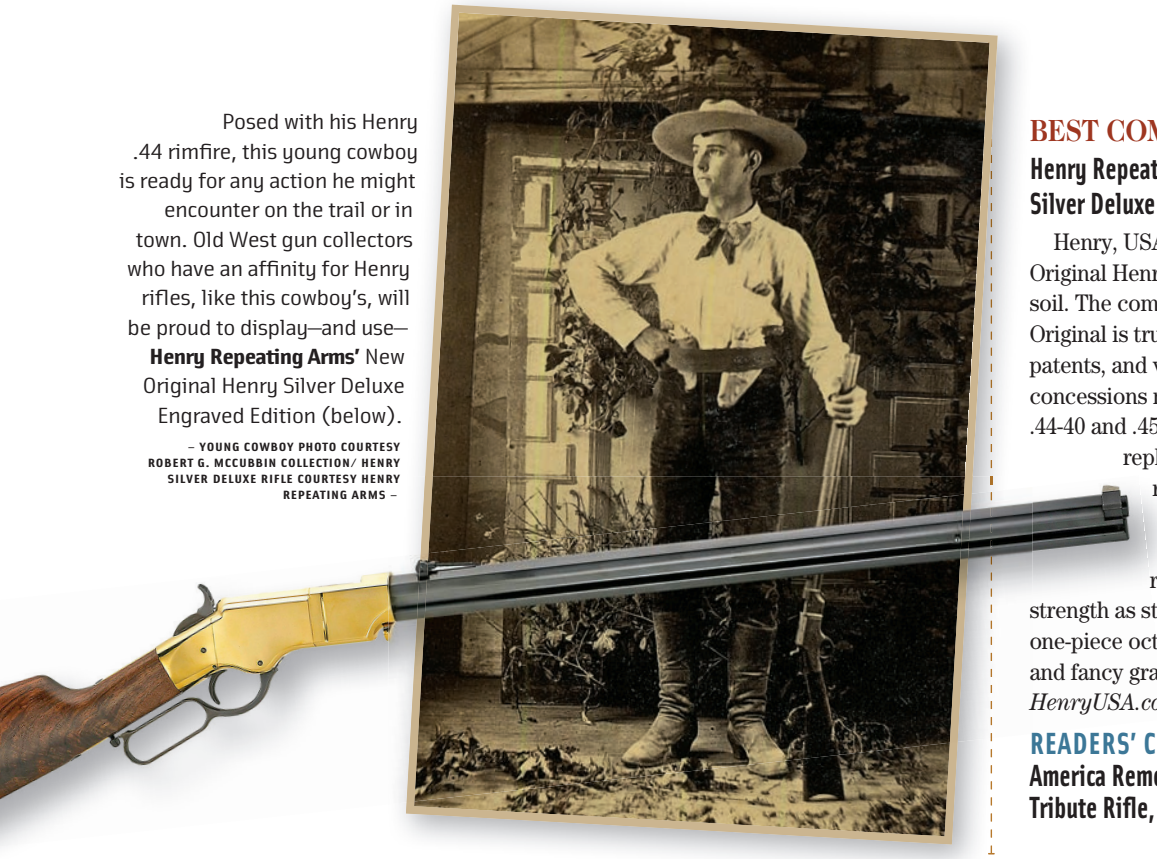






The E.M.F Company's E.M.F. Hartford Model 1878 Coach Gun evokes an era of Old West transportation when every stage driver had a driving partner armed with a double-barrel coach shotgun at the ready, and frontier lawmen kept the peace, standing down mobs with a short-barreled shotgun.

– E.M.F. HARTFORD MODEL 1878 COACH GUN SHOTGUN COURTESY THE E.M.F. COMPANY/HISTORIC STAGECOACH PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –



Posed with his Henry .44 rimfire, this young cowboy is ready for any action he might encounter on the trail or in town. Old West gun collectors who have an affinity for Henry rifles, like this cowboy's, will be proud to display—and use—**Henry Repeating Arms'** New Original Henry Silver Deluxe Engraved Edition (below).

– YOUNG COWBOY PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION/ HENRY SILVER DELUXE RIFLE COURTESY HENRY REPEATING ARMS –

BEST COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE

Henry Repeating Arms' New Original Henry Silver Deluxe Engraved Edition, Bayonne, NJ

Henry, USA, has brought back the Original Henry Rifle, made entirely on U.S. soil. The company states that this Henry Original is true to its 1860 patterns and patents, and virtually identical, aside from concessions necessary to adapt to the .44-40 and .45 Colt centerfire rounds that replaced the long-obsolete rimfires. Their models H011 and H011C use a specially formulated hardened brass receiver with the same tensile strength as steel and are fitted with a one-piece octagonal barrel and magazine, and fancy grade American walnut stocks. *HenryUSA.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

America Remembers' John Wayne 1873 Tribute Rifle, Ashland, VA

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WESTERN MOVIES DVDs & TV SHOWS

BY HENRY C. PARKE

The Future is Female?

In Westerns, the future is here!



In 1939, Claire Trevor's Dallas and John Wayne's Ringo Kid found solace and love as the two outsiders in John Ford's classic ensemble Western, *Stagecoach*. Trevor's blond prostitute seeking society's—and a man's— acceptance was an archetype audiences in the 1930s easily recognized, but today has been replaced with a new generation of strong Western women ready to fight to win the West.

– COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS –



Netflix's award-winning limited series *Godless* was rich in challenging roles for female actors, including Merritt Wever's (above, left) Emmy-winning performance as Mary Agnes and Michele Dockery's provocative interpretation of rancher Alice Fletcher.

– COURTESY NETFLIX –

Ever since *The Virginian*, Owen Wister's genre-defining Western novel, female characters have traditionally been portrayed as the civilizers. Even though in 1939's *Stagecoach*, we preferred the "bad" woman, Claire Trevor's Dallas, the respectable townswomen were hard at work civilizing their town by running Dallas out of it. But 1952's *High Noon*, richly borrowed (some might say plagiarized) from *The Virginian*'s final chapters, started changing the rules: the Mexican widow, played by Katie Jurado, was secretly the power of the town; and unlike *The Virginian*'s cowering schoolmarm, Marshal Will Kane's Quaker wife turned out to be the only sideman he needed in a shootout.

In the current crop of Westerns, the female characters have come so far to the fore that males are now weak, evil or subservient to women. As the man who's built the largest private ranch in America, *Yellowstone*'s Kevin Costner is at the story's core. But while he and his estranged son,



Veteran actress Evan Rachel Wood has twice been nominated for Emmys for her provocative lead role as Dolores Abernathy in HBO's *Westworld*. In season two of the Sci-Fi-Western, Wood and her female co-stars, Charlotte Hale and Thandie Newton, took center stage of the series storyline.

– COURTESY HBO –

played by Luke Grimes, are the nurturers, it's his lawyer daughter, played by Kelly Reilly, who's the real family soldier. In the substantially true story of *Woman Walks Ahead*, Jessica Chastain's Barbara Weldon is for a time all that stands between Sitting Bull (Michael Greyeyes) and destruction (Sam Rockwell). *Westworld*'s season two is a battle of wits between several female characters, real and robot, played by Evan Rachel Wood, Charlotte Hale and Thandie Newton, who won an Emmy for her performance. The males by and large are reduced to henchmen and villains.

Perhaps the most striking example is *Godless*. Here a town has lost nearly all of its men in a gold-mine collapse, and the town's women have to hold things together, and battle with crazy-evil characters like Frank Griffin (Jeff Daniels, who won an Emmy for the part). The "law" is represented by a wimp sheriff who's going blind (and his young, likable goofy deputy), and the sheriff is soon replaced by his sister, played by Merritt Wever in an Emmy-winning performance. The lead rancher who brings everyone together is a widow played by *Downton Abbey*'s Michele Dockery. As if Jeff Daniels needed villainy back-up, Kim Coates is the hissable rep for the mining company. An exceptionally fine Western, written and directed by Scott Frank, *Godless*'s success with audiences might be a matter of the third time being the charm.

A disaster leading to a Western town populated almost entirely by women was the premise of the sinister 2014 Lifetime Series *Strange Empire*, as well as that of *When Calls the Heart* (yet another mine collapse), a romantic Western series, based on the novel by Janette Oke, which has been laboring with little fanfare on the Hallmark Channel since 2014, and just began its sixth season in December.

Probably the most extreme of these role-switching Westerns was 1954's campy *Johnny Guitar*, in which a mannish saloon-operator (Joan Crawford) and a rancher (Mercedes McCambridge) battle over the romantic attentions of Scott Brady as the Dancin' Kid! There's also practically any Barbara Stanwyck Western—her ability to dominate all the men around her, yet remain feminine, was unique. More recently, we've had 2013's *Sweetwater*; when the husband of January Jones is murdered and the law won't help, she must go after the culprit. Then there are the girl outlaw gang films like 1994's *Bad Girls* with Madeline Stowe and Mary Stewart Masterson; 2003's *Gang of Roses*, the African-American version with Stacy Dash and Lil' Kim; and 2006's *Bandidas*, the Hispanic version with Salma Hyak and Penelope Cruz.

It's easy to say that the current crop of woman-dominated Westerns is partly a response to the "me, too" movement. That might help a project get green-lit, but doesn't take into account how long development takes. One of the best such films of recent years, 2015's *Jane Got a Gun*, was a passion project of its producer-star, Natalie Portman. A director quit, cast members quit, and when the original distributor went bankrupt, who rescued and released the movie? The Weinstein Company.

It's too early to say if men will worm their way back into Westerns in 2019, but we have plenty to look forward to. We'll have season two of *Yellowstone* and *The Son*, the feature film of *Deadwood*, and on Netflix, *The Highwaymen*, a movie starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson as the Texas Rangers who nailed Bonnie and Clyde.



In Woman Walks Ahead, Jessica Chastain stars as Brooklyn, New York artist-Indian activist Barbara Weldon, who goes West to paint Sitting Bull's portrait and is soon caught in the political turmoil of American Indian politics of 1889.

– COURTESY BLACK BICYCLE ENTERTAINMENT –

BEST 2018 WESTERN MOVIE

***Ballad of Lefty Brown* (Lionsgate)**

What would happen if John Wayne was murdered and Gabby Hayes had to advance from sidekick to lawman to avenge his partner? That's the fascinating question posed when a lawman-turned-senator (Peter Fonda) is ambushed, and Lefty (Bill Pullman, in the performance of his career), must identify and capture the culprit. Written and directed by Jared Moshe, the beautifully shot, often brutal film echoes the issues raised in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* and *Lonesome Dove* without imitating either.

READERS' CHOICE:

***Hostiles* (Lionsgate)**

BEST 2018 TV WESTERN

***Yellowstone* (Paramount TV)**

John Dutton (Kevin Costner) is the last of the great old land barons, his back to the wall defending his acres and legacy against condo-builders like Dan Jenkins (Danny Huston) and Tribal leaders like Thomas Rainwater (Gil Birmingham). With a son who loves/hates him (Luke Grimes) and a closeted son who loves himself (Wes Bentley), his unstable but fiercely loyal daughter (Kelly Reilly) is his best defense in this Taylor Sheridan (*Hell or High Water*, *Wind River*) series with the highest body-count of any family drama in memory.

READERS' CHOICE:

***Godless* (Netflix)**

BEST 2018 WESTERN FILM BOOK

***Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971* by Jeb Rosebrook with Stuart Rosebrook (BearManor Media)**

Jeb Rosebrook has written a "making of" book of a sort never seen before: the making of a classic movie from the point of view of the man who first conceived the story, and was there for pre-production and for every day of the shoot with director Sam Peckinpah and superstar Steve McQueen. Told with insight, humor and scrupulous attention to detail, this highly personal account of the making of arguably the best rodeo picture of all time, and Steve McQueen's personal favorite among his films, will compel you to re-watch it with new eyes.



Co-created by Taylor Sheridan and John Linson, Paramount Television's *Yellowstone* is the most ambitious Western series in decades. Filmed on location in Montana and Utah, the series stars Kevin Costner as modern Montana rancher John Dutton, seen in the saddle with co-star Brecken Merrill as his grandson Tate (in saddle) and Denim Richards as ranch hand Colby.

– COURTESY PARAMOUNT TV –

READERS' CHOICE:

***Cowboys, Creatures, and Classics: The Story of Republic Pictures* by Howard Kazanjian and Chris Enss (Lyons Press)**

BEST 2018 WESTERN TO STREAM

***Woman Walks Ahead* (A24 Films)**

In the 1890s, Brooklyn painter Catherine Weldon (Jessica Chastain) travels across country to Standing Rock Reservation, determined to paint the portrait of Sitting Bull (Michael Greyeyes). She finds herself embroiled in the troubles of Sitting Bull and the Sioux, first with the government's attempts to take their land, then with the rise of the Ghost Dance. With Sam Rockwell as the voice of the Army and whites in general, the history is correct in broad strokes, and the film is a surprisingly even-handed and compelling telling of the turbulent, tragic time.

READERS' CHOICE:

***Any Bullet Will Do* (Sony Entertainment)**

BEST 2018 BLU-RAY WESTERN MOVIE

***The Big Country* (60th Anniversary Special Edition) (Kino Lorber)**

William Wyler's film from Donald Hamilton's novel is truly *big*, without being overblown like the similarly themed *Duel in the Sun*. Sea captain James McKay (Gregory Peck) has come West to marry elegant Patricia Terrill (Carroll Baker), inadvertently thrusting himself into a range war between Patricia's father (Charles Bickford) and the prairie trash Hannasseys, led by Burl Ives. It's thrilling, with powerful support from Jean Simmons, Charlton Heston, and a star-making performance by Chuck Connors. The Blu-Ray contains bountiful special features.

READERS' CHOICE:

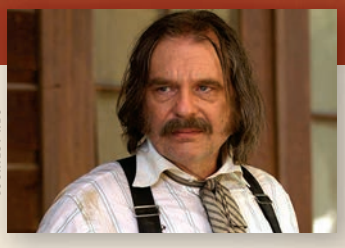
***7 Brides for 7 Brothers* (Warner Archive)**

BEST 2018 WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

***The William Castle Western Collection—The Fastest Guns of the West* (Mill Creek Entertainment)**

Before he became the king of gimmicky 1960s horror films like *The House on Haunted Hill*, William Castle was a "B" contract director at Columbia

WESTERN MOVIES
DVDs & TV SHOWS



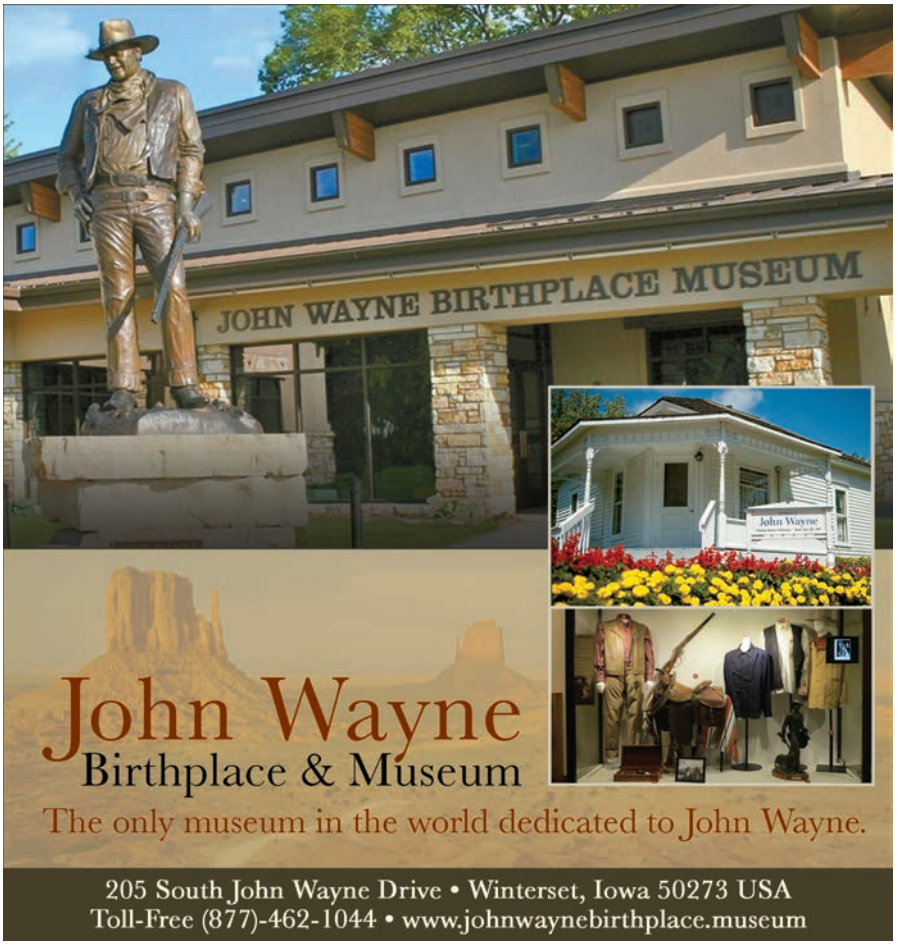
– COURTESY HBO –

LEON RIPPY RETURNS TO DEADWOOD AND THE NO. 10 SALOON

After a 12-year hiatus, Gene Autry's Melody Ranch Studio is getting remade back into *Deadwood* for the feature film follow-up to the series. Leon Rippy (above), returning as Tom Nuttall, proprietor of the No. 10 Saloon, where Wild Bill Hickok drew aces and eights, muses, "It'll be interesting to see the set. I know it's moved in time a decade, after Deadwood was burned down and rebuilt. There'll be electricity. And Deadwood had telephones prior to San Francisco; that was Hearst's doing; Gerald McCraney's character."

Rippy can't wait to work with series creator David Milch again. "I think he's one of the few the word brilliant truly applies to. Those still among us will be happy to return. I think Milch wants everybody to do a little bit of their stuff and give the fans a chance to see them again."

Of course, working with Milch won the original *Deadwood* had its challenges. "You never knew until 10 at night, when ten to 15 new pages would come, if you were working tomorrow. So it was always a fly-by-the-seat-of-your pants deal. Once there was a knock on my trailer door, it was late, and the guy hands me these pages. I said, 'Is this for tomorrow?' He said, 'Actually, they're lighting for it right now.' 'So I need to learn this between the trailer and the sound stage?' 'Yeah.' That keeps your bowels loose." To get back into the rhythm of the show, Rippy notes, "I'm brushing up on my profanity."



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WESTERN MOVIES DVDs & TV SHOWS

Pictures, and helmed the eight mostly Technicolor second feature Westerns in this set. Imitating successes in these breezy low-budgeters, *Conquest of Cochise* (1953) is Castle's version of *Broken Arrow* (1950), *The Gun That Won the West* (1955) is his take on *Springfield Rifle* (1952), and icons of Western history abound in *Masterson of Kansas* and *Jesse James vs. the Daltons*. Peppered with second-tier stars like George Montgomery, Dennis Morgan, Richard Denning, Robert Stack and Lex Barker, this collection highlights how much fun entertainment a filmmaker with more imagination than money can produce.

READERS' CHOICE:
The Durango Kid Collection **(Mill Creek Entertainment)**

BEST 2018 TV DVD

High Chaparral: Season One **(Shout Factory)**

Creator David Dortort's second monumental Western series, *The High Chaparral*, broke all the rules his first, *Bonanza*, had established, and others had slavishly followed. Unlike the Cartwrights, the Cannons were dysfunctional: John Cannon (Leif Ericson) was often a bully, his brother Buck (Cameron Mitchell) was an irresponsible drunk, his sweet wife (Joan Caulfield) was killed by Apaches in episode one, and he made a strategic marriage to Victoria Montoya (Linda Cristal) in episode two! *High Chaparral* set new TV Western standards with maximum on-location action and minimum soundstage work, and has never looked better!

READERS' CHOICE:
A Man Called Shenandoah **(Warner Archive)**

BEST 2018 SILENT WESTERN

The Covered Wagon **(1923) (Kino Lorber)**

Past and present merged seamlessly in the making of James Cruze's epic tale of an Oregon Trail crossing. Cruze, who shot his film near where he grew up, along the Utah-Nevada border, advertised for authentic wagons, and got more than a hundred, driven by offspring of those who'd made the journey. Although now only Alan Hale Sr., as the villain is familiar, the crew included former D.W. Griffith cameraman Karl Brown, who shot with almost documentary attention to detail; future director Dorothy Arzner as editor; future director Delmer Daves (*Cowboy*, the original *3:10 to Yuma*) as prop man; and future star Col. Tim McCoy as an Indian liaison.

READERS' CHOICE:
The Devil Horse **(Alpha Video)**



BEST 2018 WESTERN DOCUMENTARY

Injun Talk–with Deadline **(Alpha Video)**

In this 1946 half-hour short, filmed at a pow-wow at the Blackfeet Reservation by Two Medicine River, Col. Tim McCoy and the chiefs of several tribes tell the fascinating history of Indian sign-language. There was real concern that sign-language, then used mostly by elders, would be lost. McCoy was no casual signer; adjutant general of Wyoming before coming to Hollywood, he was considered one of the most articulate of its practitioners. The film is narrated by Ronald Colman.

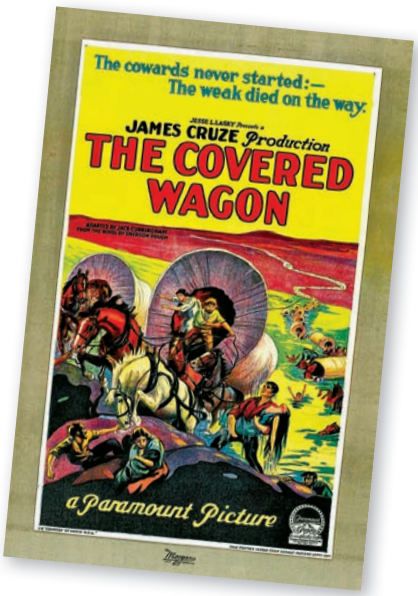
READERS' CHOICE:
The Men Who Built America
(Stephen David Entertainment)

BEST 2018 FOREIGN WESTERN

The Sisters Brothers **(Annapurna Pictures)**

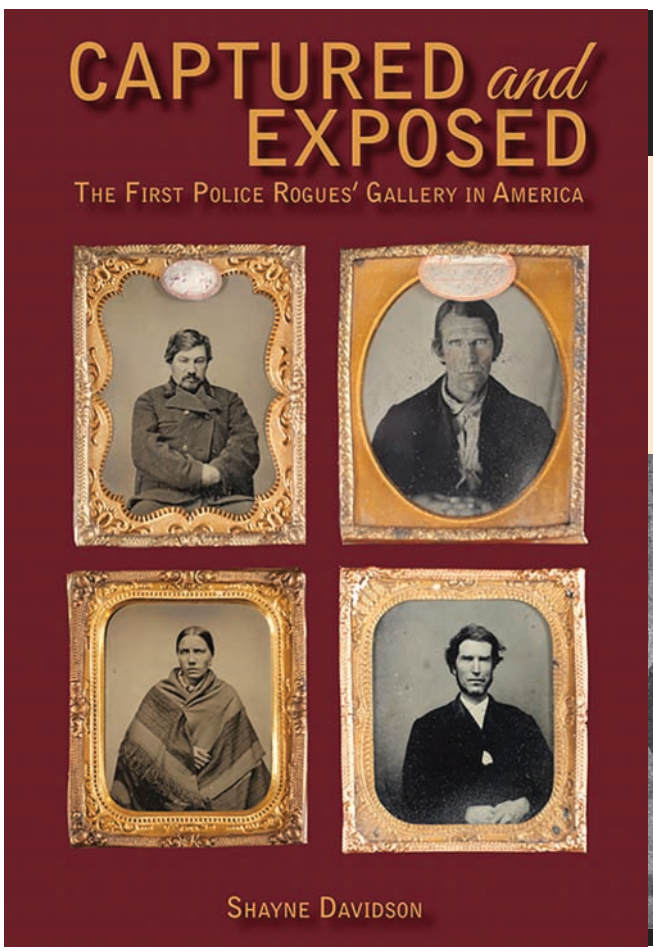
Don't be misled by the jokey but unfunny trailer: this is a humorous but solid hard-action Western with a thoroughly original premise. An inventor (Riz Ahmed) has developed a way to revolutionize prospecting, and the infamous Sisters Brothers (John C. Reilly and Joaquin Phoenix) are dispatched to steal the method and kill him. Shot in Spain and Romania by French writer/director Jacques Audiard, its quirky plot and fine performances brim with unexpected humanity.

READERS' CHOICE:
Five Fingers for Marseilles
(Uncork'd Entertainment)



Kino Lorber's re-release of the 1923 silent Western *The Covered Wagon* will be hailed by cinephiles worldwide for the company's beautiful restoration of one of Hollywood director James Cruze's most important and epic films. Filmed on location on the Utah–Arizona border, Cruze's production can be seen as a precursor to Raoul Walsh's *The Big Trail* (1930).

– COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES –



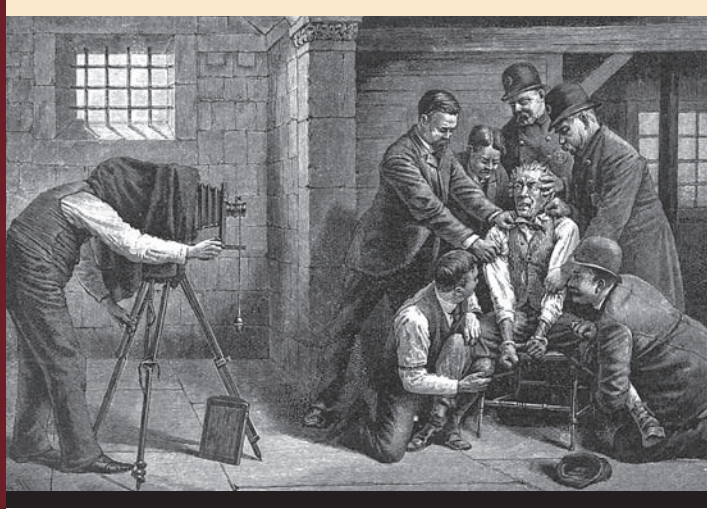
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WESTERN WEAR

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Getting Western

Across the West, artisans produce and sell the finest-made Western clothes, tack, hats, boots and jewelry.



In 1886 photographer T.W. Ingersoll photographed a youthful Theodore Roosevelt—who died prematurely a century ago in January 1919—standing with his favorite hunting pony in his best Western clothing and gear when he was a rancher and deputy in the Dakotas.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Growing up in Southern California, we had two Western wear stores within a few miles of our home: King's Western Wear in Van Nuys and Nudie's Western Wear in North Hollywood. I loved going to both stores knowing that I might be lucky enough to come home sporting a new cowboy hat, boots, jeans, belt or snap shirt. At eight years old, I was ready to go to Arizona for the summer and "get Western."

Although King's and Nudie's have long since shuttered their doors, hundreds of artisans and shop owners—on historic Main streets to rural home workshops—are keeping the spirit of the American West alive through their craftsmanship, hard work and dedication to their customers and communities. At *True West* we consider these men and women our partners in maintaining a bond between our shared past and our present Western history. Their artisanship reflects their passion for Western heritage, and through their work—and



Mildred Douglas, a 1988 inductee into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Museum in Amarillo, Texas, is famous for being an East Coast school girl who went West to join the 101 Ranch Wild West show. She became world famous as a trick rider, trick shooter, actress and two-time World Champion Girl Bronc Rider.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

your support—they are keeping alive the crafts of boot, hat, spur, tack, jewelry, leather, saddlemaking and forging.

In our 2019 annual Best of the West we honor and celebrate these artisans—and their dedication to crafting the finest in Western wear and tack. We encourage our *True West* readers to seek out their shops in person when traveling across the West or frequent their shops online. Your support of these small business owners and craftsmen and craftswomen will keep the spirit and heritage of the West thriving. And, whether or not you wear cowboy hats and boots every day for work, or you are buying a custom hat and boots for the first time, getting Western is just the right way to live.

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For details: *ConcordiaCemetery.org*

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WESTERN WEAR



Edward S. Curtis's 1905 portrait *Jicarilla Man*, captures a New Mexican Apache man's spirit and pride in his Western-Indian fashion that blends his finest traditional accessories and cowboy clothes.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

BEST WESTERN BOOTMAKER

Old Gringo, San Diego, CA

The owners of Old Gringo boots started the company in Chula Vista, California, in 2000 with the goal of producing superior, well-designed boots with the best leather craft possible. Old Gringo is famous for its unique Western, retro, vintage, contemporary, rock star and original equestrian designs.

READERS' CHOICE:
TIE: Lucchese Boots, El Paso, TX, Rockbuster Boots, El Paso, TX

BEST WESTERN HATMAKER

Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX

Catalena Hatters has built its international reputation amidst industry professionals and hat connoisseurs as the best custom handmade felt hat maker in the world by making every hat by hand, one at a time. Catalena Hatters is also famous for its felt hat restoration services and deep inventory of the best straw cowboy hats.

READERS' CHOICE:
TIE: O'Farrell Western Hats, Santa Fe, NM
Knudson Hat Co., Golden Gate, CA

BEST WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Recollections, Hawks, MI

Specialists in Victorian (including Civil War, Old West and pioneer) and Edwardian era designs, Recollections also has a wide variety of styles from the Revolutionary War/Georgian and Regency eras, the Roaring 20s, and 1950s, too. It offers a full selection of hats and other accessories to help the customer complete their fashion goal.

READERS' CHOICE:
Miller Ranch, Denver, CO

BEST PERIOD WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Patricia Wolf, Smithville, TX

For three decades, Patricia Wolf has been a pioneer in the Western lifestyle industry, specializing in apparel, fashion accessories, and home and ranch décor. Women and men who love ranch living, horses, and Western heritage admire Wolf's Western Americana theme.

READERS' CHOICE:
TIE: Recollections, Hawks, MI
Scully Leather, Oxnard, CA



Two cowgirls at the Bear Tooth Ranch in Nye, Montana, model contrasting turn-of-the-last-century Western fashion: both wear Montana peaked cowboy hats and oversized bandannas, while one models a Victorian-length dress in contrast to her friend's woolly chaps, fringed leather gloves, gunbelt and six-gun.

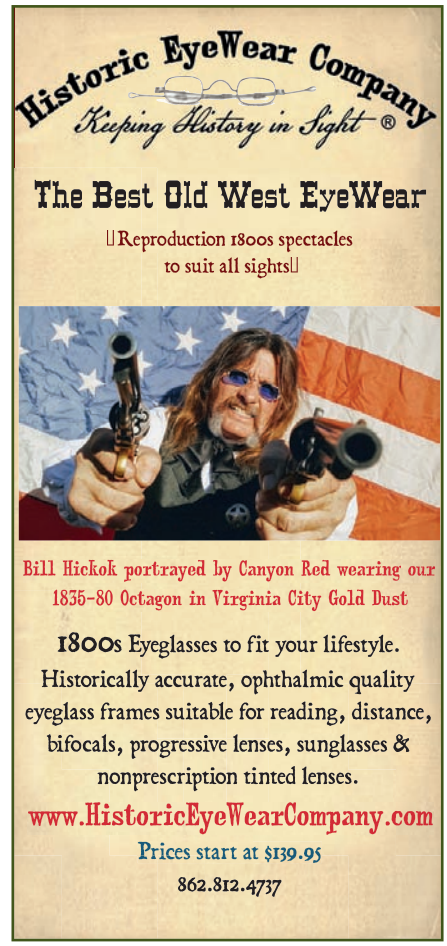
– COURTESY, DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY –



In May 1915, Los Angeles Rodeo La Fiesta de la Flores participants showed off their finest for publicity photos. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "Los Angeles, through her 'movie' people, produced numerous women riders, many of whom can sit the saddle…as well as the masculine tribe."

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –





HERITAGE TRAVEL

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

The Highway is My Home

From the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast, adventure awaits the heritage traveler ready to take the road less traveled across the West.

Truth be told, I love a long road trip across America and have enjoyed dozens of trips as a young man and as a father. My first travel memories are with my parents and sister Katherine driving from Los Angeles to Phoenix, the city giving way to the desert, the shimmering mirages of sunlight on the Mojave and mysterious, crumbling ghosts bypassed long before by the interstate. I credit my late father, Jeb Rosebrook, who died on August 31, 2018, with my love of the extended road trip. He regaled my sister and me with stories about his adventures as a young man on solo cross-country train and automobile trips from Virginia to Arizona.

We enjoyed a couple of those driving trips together, pledging to each other to eat in as many small cafés as possible—and to try to stay in a small town every night, if we could. We loved a good café breakfast such as the one we had at Maria's Kitchen east of El Paso, Texas, and one at the Brown Derby in Arapahoe, Nebraska. The coffee was hot, the eggs were perfect and the service was exceptional. We also never forgot to be thankful and appreciate good Samaritans, like the one who drove my dad a couple dozen miles from a rest stop to McCook, Nebraska, after I'd locked the keys in my truck. Still grateful today—and always will be.

Like my dad, *True West*'s editorial team has encouraged our readers to plan a road trip out West and discover history and America firsthand, from the ground up. In our annual Best of the West, we honor the hard-working men and women who dedicate themselves to maintaining our Western heritage. We encourage our readers to visit and frequent these wonderful Western venues—from small towns to big cities, museums to historic sites. We have updated the *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide* with a new directory of historic hotels, restaurants and saloons, and hope you will enjoy using it on your next Western road trip. Most important, we recommend you hit the road West and make those memories to share and inspire the next generation to call the highway their home.



On October 1, 1890, Congress established Yosemite National Park (right), America's third national park, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Photographer Carleton Watkins helped popularize the California destination and its federal protection in the central Sierra Nevada through his photographs, including this stunning 1865 portrait of Nevada Falls.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –



HERITAGE TRAVEL



Winter is a wonderful time of year to visit and live in Prescott, Arizona. One of the best known events held in early December is the Annual Prescott Chamber Christmas Parade and the Annual Courthouse Christmas Lighting (right), a local tradition for 64 years.

– CITY OF PRESCOTT OFFICE OF TOURISM –



Summertime residents of Cody, Wyoming, spend time touring the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's (left) five museums and enjoying the museums' events held throughout the season, making the northwestern Wyoming city the perfect second home for a lover of the Old West.

– COURTESY BBCW –

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

Prescott, AZ

The original Territorial capital of Arizona, Prescott celebrates its heritage throughout the year at local museums, hotels and restaurants. The mile-high city has mild winters with plenty of indoor and outdoor activities, including the popular Historic Downtown Prescott Walking Tours, the Annual Prescott Chamber Christmas Parade "A Hometown Christmas," the Annual Courthouse Christmas Lighting and Sharlot Hall's Annual Frontier Christmas "The Spirit of Christmas Past Visits Prescott." If you stay for the summer, don't miss Frontier Days, the Frontier Days Rodeo Parade and the World's Oldest Rodeo every Fourth of July.
Visit-Prescott.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Bandera, TX

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

Cody, WY

From the great outdoors to museums, Cody is one of the West's most Western towns in which one can live like an Old West cowboy. Start at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, then head downtown to tour, shop, eat and drink. Don't miss the Cody Nite Rodeo, Irma Hotel Gunfights, Old Trail Town and trail riding at one of the local stables. Hang your hat at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel downtown or contact the Cody Chamber for information on booking a once-in-a-lifetime cowboy experience at one of the local, historic guest ranches.
CodyChamber.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Sheridan, WY

BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN

Dodge City, KS

Take a trolley ride tour of Dodge City to discover the thrill of the Old West in the "Queen of the Cowtowns" at the Boot Hill Museum, Gunfighters Wax Museum, Trail of Fame, Home of Stone and Kansas Heritage Center. Every summer gunfighter re-enactors hold thrilling events along "Front Street" at the Boot Hill Museum.
VisitDodgeCity.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Tombstone, AZ



Historic

WICKENBURG

ARIZONA

Now in its 71st year, Gold Rush Days celebrates Wickenburg's origins as a historic ranching and gold mining center. Today, this heritage event draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. Join us!

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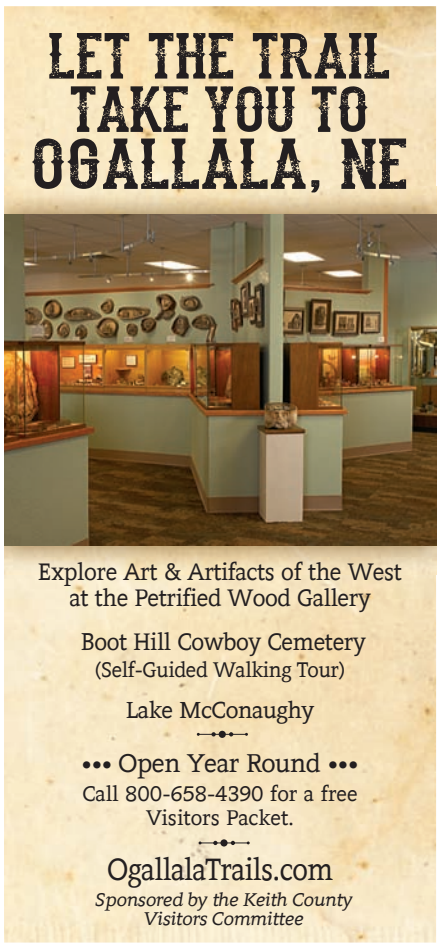
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LET'S RIDE





HERITAGE TRAVEL



The Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita, Kansas, is one of the state's premier Old West living history centers. Visitors to the museum will be immersed in the frontier life of Wichita when it was a key railhead on the famous Chisholm Trail in the 1870s.

– COURTESY KANSAS TOURISM –

BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN, RECREATED

Old Cowtown Museum, Wichita, KS

Wichita's Old Cowtown Museum is one of the premier living history centers in the state of Kansas. Dedicated to recreating the atmosphere of the frontier town's Wild West past when hundreds of thousands of cattle flowed into the city's stockyards off the Chisholm Trail, Cowtown reconnects visitors with history through artifacts in its 10,000-piece permanent collection. Cowtown's history programming recounts the story of Wichita's transformation from a frontier settlement to a modern town. Docents and staff bring Wichita's past to life for visitors of all ages through hands-on daily activities, special events and education programs.

READERS' CHOICE:

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer Grand Island, NE

BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

Taos, NM

For well over a century, the ancient northern New Mexico community of Taos has been a mecca for artists and visionaries. A community proud of its tri-cultural heritage, Taos became a destination and welcoming city for artists after Ernest Blumenschein and Bert Phillips moved there in 1898. In 1915, the Taos Society of Artists was founded, and today, 104 years later, Taos is known internationally as one of the world's premier cities for artists and art lovers. Begin your tour and stay in the city's heart, at Taos Plaza, home to the city's premier galleries, shops, inns and restaurants.

Taos.org

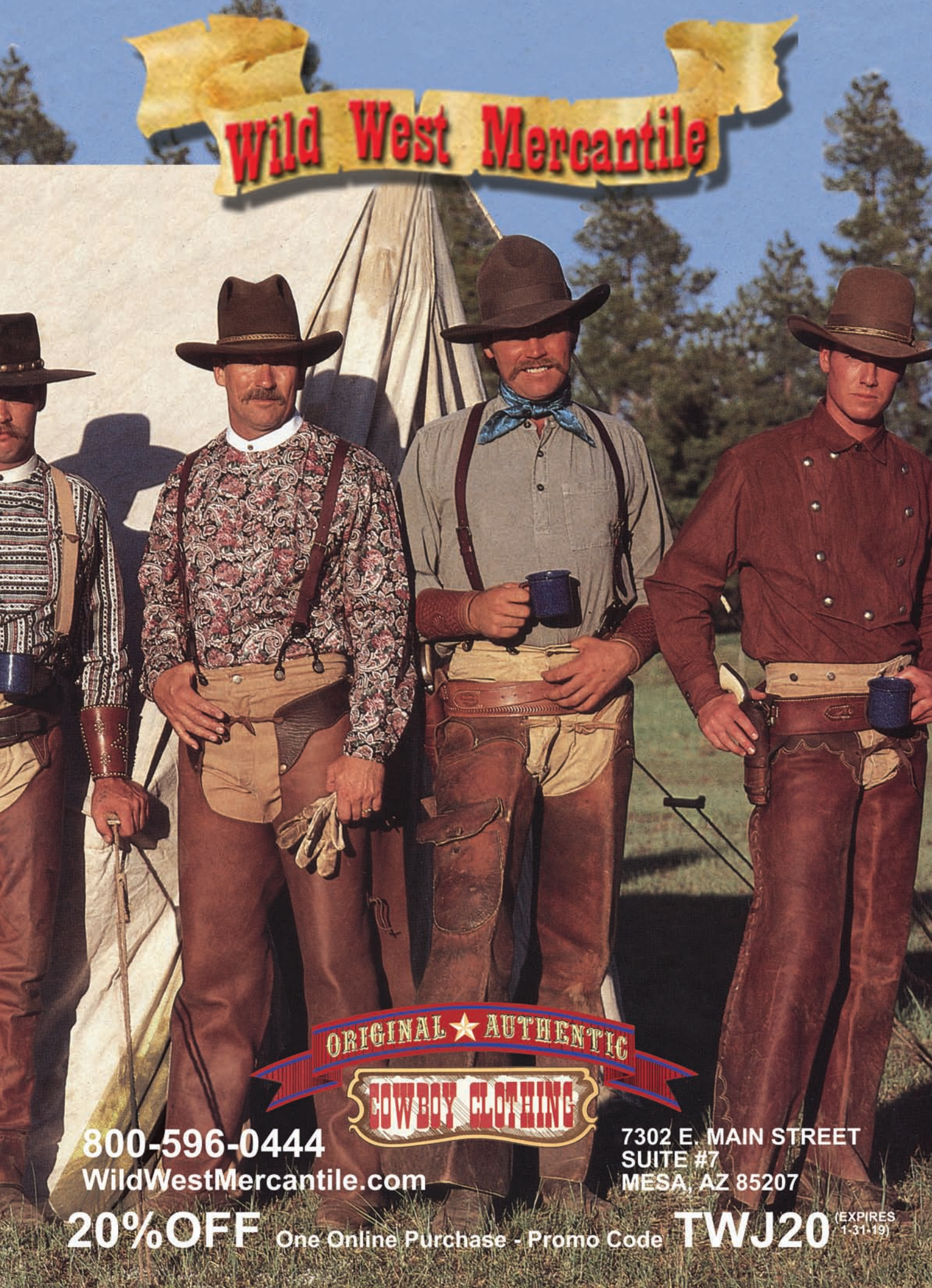
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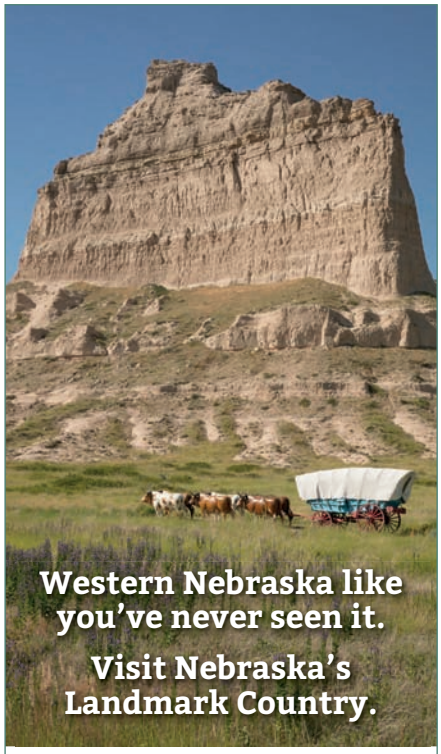
Toppenish, WA

BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT

Prescott, AZ

Mile-high Prescott was the original Territorial capital of Arizona and is rich in Western history with a walkable historic downtown with numerous restaurants, saloons and art galleries. A festival is held on the historic Courthouse Square almost every weekend, and every Fourth of July, Prescott Frontier Days—including the parade, and the World's Oldest


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HERITAGE TRAVEL



Visitors to Dodge City's Boot Hill Museum in the summertime will enjoy attending one of the best Old West gunfighter re-enactments held every day on the museum's re-created Front Street. Before and after the World Famous Boot Hill Gunfighters show (left), tour the award-winning Boot Hill Museum and take in the Long Branch Variety Show.

– COURTESY DODGE CITY CVB –

Rodeo—entertain thousands at the arena and downtown. The city's local Old West museums, Sharlot Hall, Smoki and Phippen Art Museum also offer historic programming throughout the year. *Visit-Prescott.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Durango, CO

BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN

Deadwood, SD

The city of Deadwood was founded in 1876 after gold was discovered nearby. Three fires in the boomtown led city leaders to rebuild the city in brick and stone. Today, visitors to the legendary Black Hills community will enjoy walking the streets of the National Historic Landmark, a designation Deadwood has enjoyed since 1961. When in the city Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Seth Bullock, Charlie Utter and Al Swearingen made famous, don't miss a tour of the Bullock Hotel, the Historic Adams House, Adams Museum, Mount Moriah Cemetery and one of the many experiential tours offered locally, including the Lawman's Patrol: Guided Walking Tours. *Deadwood.com*

READERS' CHOICE:
Old Trail Town, Cody, WY

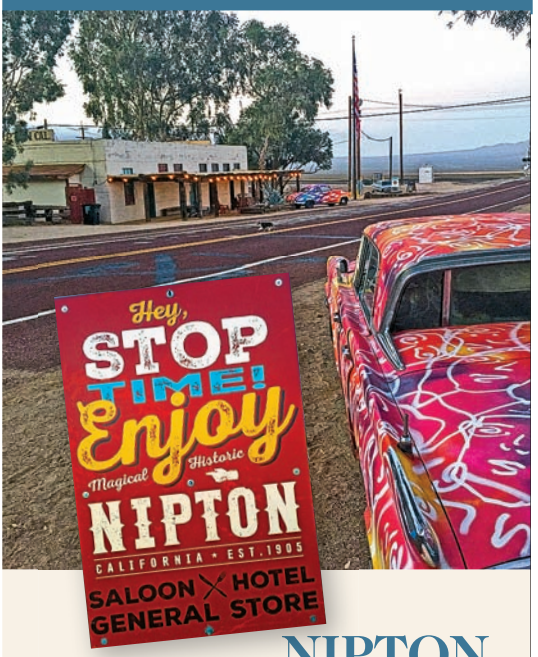
BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

Laramie, WY

Best known today as the home of the University of Wyoming, Laramie's heritage as an Old West city begins in the 1860s along the overland route of the Union Pacific rail line. Like many railroad camps, Laramie quickly gained a wild reputation for lawlessness. Today's visitors can tour 15 historic sites from Laramie's early years on the Legends of Laramie Tour, sponsored by the Laramie Area Visitor Center. The tour includes the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Historic Ivinson Mansion, the historic Laramie Union Pacific Train Station and the ghost town of Sherman at the Ames Monument. *VisitLaramie.org*

READERS' CHOICE:
Bisbee, AZ

THE BEST WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



NIPTON, CALIFORNIA

We've got a thing for wide spots in the road. You know, those little roadside attractions with one or two businesses, maybe five houses and a stray dog, or two.

Nipton, California, has a general store and a small hotel, built in 1904. They have five rooms in the Hotel California, and nine teepees and maybe four eco-cabins parked on the desert outside the tightly clustered trees of the town. It's so isolated, an alleycat jaywalks with impunity.

The service in Nipton is a tad spotty, but then that is part of the charm.

Inside tip: Ask for the Clara Bow Room.

Want to stay at the Hotel California, aka, Hotel Nippon and Nippeno Camp and Conference Center? Contact them at *Nippon.com*, *Hotel@Nipton.com* or (760) 856-2335.



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–Eagles, "Hotel California"

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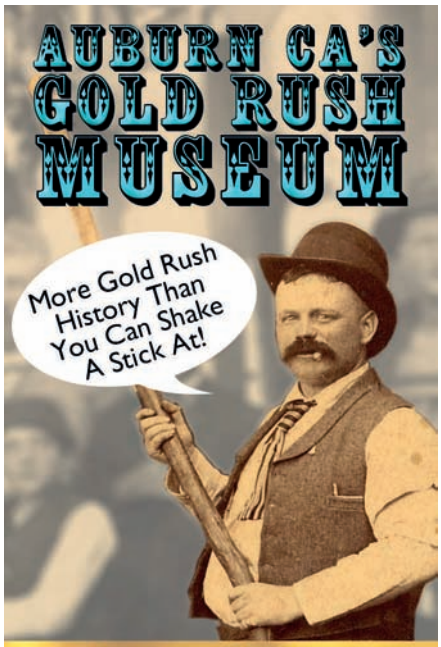
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HERITAGE TRAVEL



Fort Laramie National Historic Site (above) is one of the earliest and most significant American fur trading and military outposts in the Rocky Mountain West. Today, visitors touring the well-maintained grounds and restored historic buildings will enjoy guided tours, meet knowledgeable re-enactors and enjoy living history events as they walk where Old West history happened.

– COURTESY WYOMING TOURISM –

BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

Deadwood, SD

Historic Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the premiere Old West cities to visit in the Western United States. With its historic past in the Black Hills Gold Rush, Deadwood has been North Hills' destination for opportunity and entertainment since its hardscrabble founding in 1876. With numerous hotels, casinos, restaurants, saloons, museums and events throughout the year, including Wild Bill Days, Days of 76 and the Wild West Songwriters Festival, the city of Deadwood has an attraction, event and destination for everyone of all ages year-round. *Deadwood.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

Dodge City, KS

BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN

Prescott, AZ

Prescott's Courthouse Square and historic downtown welcomes visitors to enjoy the mile-high city with its heritage hotels, Whiskey Row shops and saloons,



A tour of the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site (above) in Laramie, Wyoming, is one of the major activities not to miss when on an Old West tour of the Albany County seat. Famous residents of the prison included Wild Bunch members Butch Cassidy, Bob Lee and future Butch Cassidy impersonator William T. Wilcox.

– COURTESY WYOMING TOURISM –

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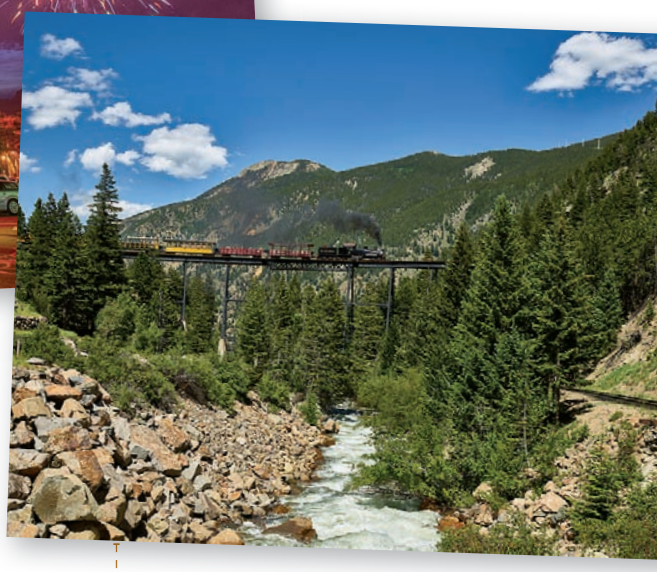
10th Avenue · Osage, 5 blocks West of Santa Fe Dr.

HERITAGE TRAVEL



The historic Strater Hotel (left) in downtown Durango, Colorado, is the perfect place to hang your hat for an Old West vacation and enjoy nightly entertainment at the Henry Strater Theatre and the great variety of restaurants and saloons in the very walkable city.

– SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY DURANGO CVB –



Ride back into yesteryear on the Georgetown Loop Railroad, a unique historic rail line. Originally built to get to the rich silver mines above the city, the Georgetown Loop entertains passengers year round today on its spectacular route into the mountains.

– COURTESY GATES FRONTIERS FUND COLORADO COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

and numerous art galleries, restaurants, museums and antique shops. The city, adjacent to Prescott National Forest, is also home to Yavapai College, Embry-Riddle University and an extension of Northern Arizona University.
Visit-Prescott.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Tombstone, AZ

BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE WEST

Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

El Paso's historic Concordia Cemetery is home to 60,000 beloved—and not so beloved—souls, including the notorious gunslinger John Wesley Hardin. Walk the grounds and remember the heroes, heroines and common folk who rest eternally in Concordia—Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Rangers, Civil War veterans, early Mormon pioneers and some local legends.
ConcordiaCemetery.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Boot Hill Cemetery, Dodge City, KS

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST

Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Laramie, WY

Originally established as a private fur-trading fort in 1834, Fort Laramie evolved into the largest and best-known military post on the Northern Plains before its abandonment in 1890. This "grand old post" witnessed the entire sweeping saga of America's Western expansion and Indian resistance to encroachment on their territories. Today, visitors to Fort Laramie National Historic site will experience a living history center with expert ranger and docent led tours, a great collection of restored and well-maintained 19th-century Army buildings and popular living history events through the summer months, including a frontier-style Fourth of July.

READERS' CHOICE:
Fort Davis National Historic Site
Fort Davis, TX

BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD OF THE WEST

Georgetown Loop Railroad
Georgetown, CO

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

READERS' CHOICE:
TIE: Cumbres & Toltec, Chama, NM, and Antonito, CO
Durango & Silverton Railroad, Durango and Silverton, CO

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Bandera, Texas, was one of the original herd gathering points for cattle drives north from Texas to Dodge City, Kansas, on the Great Western Cattle Trail. Today, the Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters celebrate the town's Wild West past with performances twice every Saturday behind the Bandera County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

– STUART ROSEBROOK –

HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING

The Cliff House at Pikes Peak
Manitou Springs, CO

From its humble beginnings as a stage stop to its current incarnation as a luxury resort, the Cliff House at Pikes Peak has been a landmark to history and development in Manitou Springs. For nearly 100 years, beginning in the 1880s, the Cliff House was an internationally famous resort for the rich and famous. In 1997, major restoration work began on the famous Victorian inn, and since 2007, under new ownership, the Cliff House has been fully restored and modernized to its historic, elegant standards of hospitality. The Cliff House has 54 guest rooms and luxury suites, each uniquely decorated in the style of the late 1800s, complemented by modern services and amenities. Guests and visitors will also enjoy the gourmet menu at the Cliff House Dining Room and relaxing in the Red Mountain Bar & Grill. *TheCliffHouse.com*

READERS' CHOICE:

The Occidental
Buffalo, WY

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

Great Western Cattle Trail
TX, OK, KS, NE, CO, SD, MT

Although the Great Western Cattle Trail and the Chisholm Trail have not yet received federal National Historic Trail status, the Great Western Cattle Trail has been traced, tracked, marked and honored with cement markers every six to ten miles from its southernmost points of origin on





the Texas-Mexico border, all the way to its farthest waypoints north in Canada. Over 800 volunteers, from three countries, across a 2,000-mile trail, helped track and set the seven-foot white-with-red-lettered historic markers of the Great Western Cattle Trail.
GreatWesternCattleTrail.com

READERS' CHOICE:
National Lewis and Clark Historic Trail
MO, KS, NE, SD, ND, MT, ID, WA, OR

BEST PRESERVATION EFFORT OF THE WEST

Dodge City/Boot Hill Museum
Dodge City, KS

Take a trolley ride tour of Dodge City to discover the thrill of the Old West in the "Queen of the Cowtowns" at the Boot Hill Museum, Gunfighters Wax Museum, Trail of Fame, Home of Stone and Kansas Heritage Center. Don't miss a tour of historic Fort Dodge, the historic Santa Fe Trail Tracks, Historic Santa Fe Depot and Dodge City's Historic Walking Tour. Every summer gunfighter re-enactors hold thrilling events along "Front Street" at the Boot Hill Museum.
VisitDodgeCity.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Fort Chadbourne, Bronte, TX

The three-day Defeat of Jesse James Days event (above) in Northfield, Minnesota, began in 1948 as a fall festival and has grown into one of West's most loved Old West re-enactment events. The re-enactment of the James-Younger Gang's failed attempt to rob the First National Bank in Northfield is a fan favorite.

– COURTESY DJJD –



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The Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, opened its glorious doors in 1893, and has been one of the West's grand dames of hospitality ever since. Today, guests can enjoy the most modern facilities, rooms, dining and entertainment while knowing they are relaxing where the rich and famous of yesteryear once retreated on their own Rocky Mountain vacations.

– COURTESY HOTEL COLORADO –

BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE" HOTEL

Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, CO

Since 1893, the luxurious Hotel Colorado, a "Grande Dame of the Rockies," has hosted presidents, celebrities and the rich and famous. Today, the Glenwood Springs landmark welcomes guests from around the world to enjoy its famous hospitality, fine dining and relaxing Rocky Mountain atmosphere. A favorite of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, the hotel was also frequented by numerous famous and infamous people, including "The Unsinkable" Molly Brown. Visitors wanting a special treat should request a stay in the Molly Brown Suite.
HotelColorado.com

READERS' CHOICE:
TIE: The Occidental, Buffalo, WY
Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan Inn, WY

BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

The Strater Hotel in the historic district of Durango, Colorado, is the perfect place to stay when vacationing in the Animas River Valley city made internationally famous by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Opened in 1887, the Strater is luxuriously maintained and preserved with antiques throughout the historic inn and its well-appointed rooms. Don't miss an evening in the Diamond Belle Saloon and dinner in the Mahogany Grill.
Strater.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY

BEST HERITAGE BED & BREAKFAST

Chamberlin Inn, Cody, WY

Visitors to Cody, Wyoming, seeking quaint, downtown accommodations near restaurants and shopping should consider the historic Chamberlin Inn. Guests can choose from several rooms and suites, a courthouse residence and cottage and garden studio apartments. A conservatory is a wonderful spot to read and relax or enjoy drinks from the bar, the Chamberlin Spirits. The second floor overlooks the nearby mountains and downtown Cody.
ChamberlinInn.com

READERS' CHOICE:
Virgil's Corner Bed & Breakfast
Tombstone, AZ

HERITAGE TRAVEL



When on an Old West tour of Cochise County, Arizona, Tombstone and its historic district is a top destination. Located on notorious Allen Street, Big Nose Kate's Saloon celebrates Tombstone's infamous past every day. Don't miss a chance to have a drink at the bar, the only one in town to survive the 1882 fire.

– COURTESY COCHISE COUNTY TOURISM –

BEST HISTORIC SALOON OF THE WEST

Big Nose Kate's, Tombstone, AZ

Big Nose Kate's Saloon stands in the same location as the Grand Hotel built in 1880. The night before the "Gunfight Behind the OK Corral," on October 26, 1881, Ike Clanton and the two McLaury brothers were guests in the Grand. While the original hotel burned in the great fire of May 25, 1882, the saloon has restored the building, moving from the basement to the main floor the only bar to survive the fire. So don't miss a chance to enjoy a cold beverage and meal on the same long bar that hosted the infamous lawmen and outlaws that made Tombstone "the town too tough to die."

BigNoseKate.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

BEST HISTORIC RESTAURANT

The Buckhorn Exchange
Denver, CO

Opened in 1893, the Buckhorn Exchange holds Colorado's first liquor license. Back then, Denver railroad workers scrambled every Friday to exchange their paychecks for gold and a token for a free lunch and a beer, which filled the restaurant's register. Today, the National Historic Landmark welcomes guests to dine a lunch or dinner and enjoy the menu known for its gourmet wild game, buffalo prime rib and classic desserts.

Buckhorn.com

READERS' CHOICE:

The Palace Restaurant and Saloon
Prescott, AZ

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HERITAGE TRAVEL



The Flying J Wranglers (right), a popular Western music band, regularly plays at the world-famous Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, New Mexico. When not performing at the symposium, the Flying J Wranglers entertain guests at the Flying J Ranch Supper & Western Stage Show in nearby Alto.

– COURTESY VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO TOURISM –



The Chandler Chuck Wagon Cook-Off is held annually the second week of November at Tumbleweed Ranch and has become one of the most popular events on the chuck wagon cook-off circuit. Fans of the Old West and chuck wagon cooking in cast-iron Dutch ovens will enjoy the great food and family-friendly atmosphere, as demonstrated by the Cowgirls Forever team serving up a five-course meal to the public.

– COURTESY THE CITY OF CHANDLER –

BEST CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFF

Chandler Chuck Wagon Cook-Off
Chandler, AZ

In 2019, the Cook-Off celebrates its tenth year. Held the second week of every November, the Old West style cook-off has quickly become a signature Chandler community event, with competitors entering from all over the country. Festival-goers will enjoy the one-day event at Tumbleweed Ranch where chuck wagon competitors wear period dress and prepare their meals with period equipment and cooking methods as if they were on an 1880s cattle drive.
PardnersOfTumbleWeedRanch.org

READERS' CHOICE:
Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY

BEST CHUCKWAGON SHOW & SUPPER

Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium
Ruidoso, NM

Founded by legendary New Mexico cowboy singer Ray Reed in 1990, the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium has grown from its humble roots in Glencoe, New Mexico, to one of the biggest annual festivals celebrating the cowboy way of life. Held at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino every October, the three-day event in 2019 will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The festival offer visitors world-class cowboy music, a championship chuckwagon cook-off, numerous events for the whole family and a Western Expo with over 110 vendors.
CowboySyposium.com

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

BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH

Concho Hills Guest Ranch, Magdalena, NM

Concho Hills Guest Ranch in the San Mateo Mountains, is in the heart of New Mexico's cattle country and the historic Magdalena Stock Driveway. Guests will enjoy the rural location at 7,400 feet with year around opportunities for horseback riding, ranching activities, exploring and hiking. Enjoy relaxing in the Southwest style adobe main house and guest quarters, stargazing at night, making new friends around the campfire and the relaxing solitude of a nature walk on the ranch property. Check in for a few days or a few weeks, but according to the owners, no matter what, you will "arrive as guests and leave as family."

Editor's Note: The ranch has limited internet; the best way to contact the owners is by mail or phone.

1522 Remuda Trail
Magdalena, NM 87825
575-772-5757

READERS' CHOICE:
Hunewill Guest Ranch, Bridgeport, CA

Muesums, History, & Culture
Russell County Kansas

Oil Patch Muesum



Fossil Station Muesum



Deines Cultural Center



Bowl Plaza



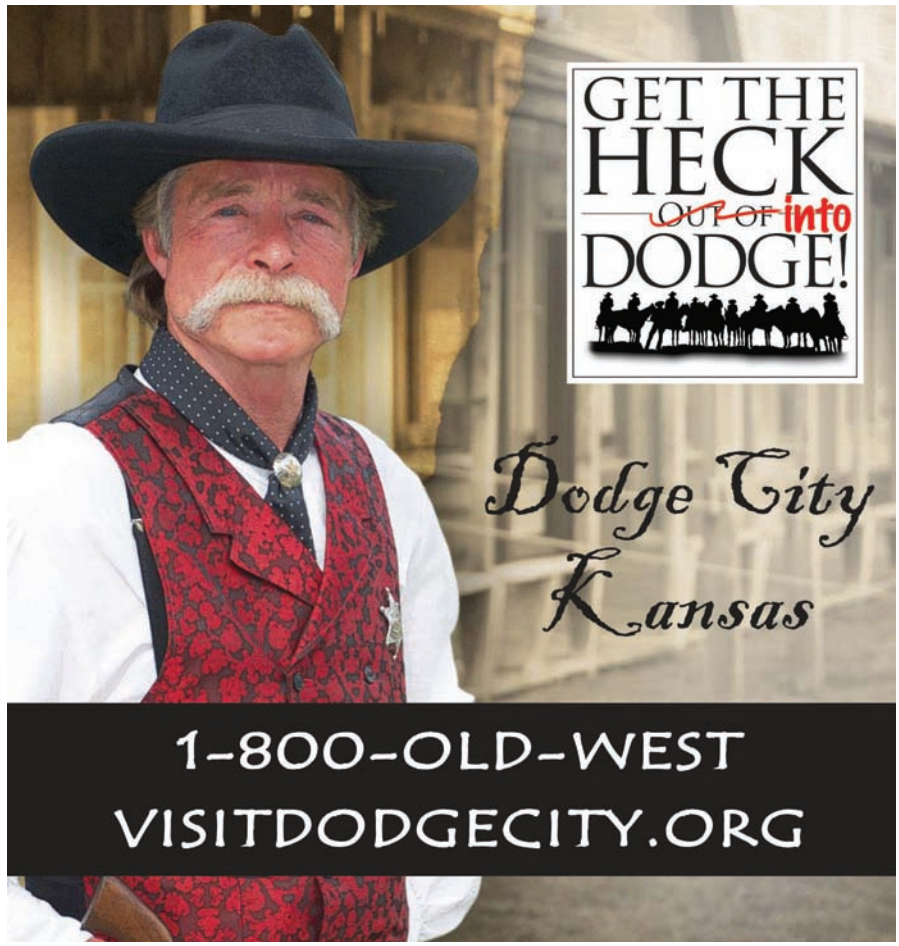
A Fairport Knight

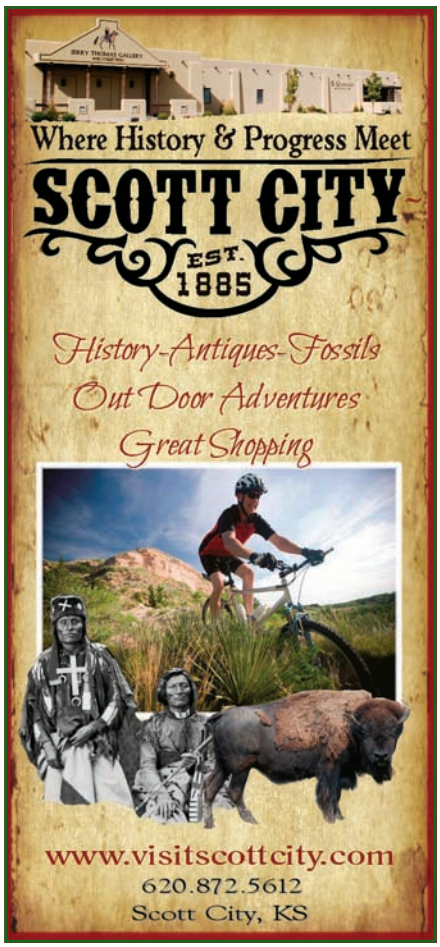


Wilson Lake

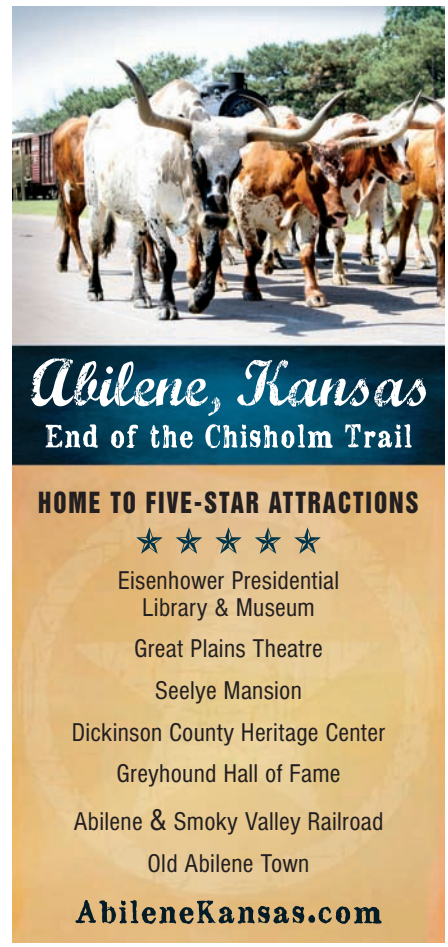


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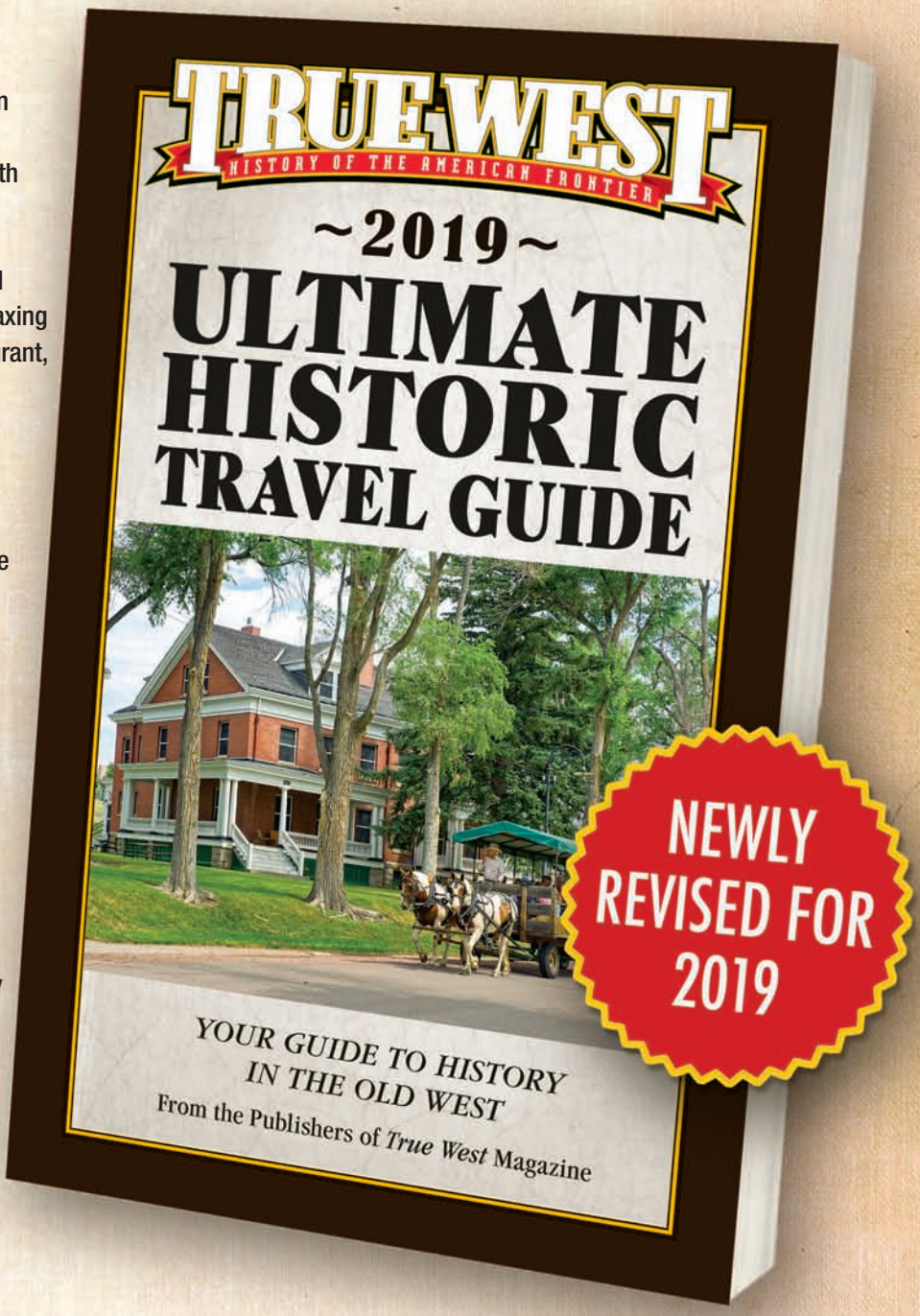






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HERITAGE TRAVEL

Since July 4,1888, the World's Oldest Rodeo (left) in Prescott, Arizona, has been entertaining audiences on Independence Day. Today, Prescott Frontier Days is an eight-day festival that immerses rodeo fans in daily performances, dances, music, parades and competition, including the fan-favorite, bull riding.

– MILLER PHOTO, COURTESY CITY OF PRESCOTT OFFICE OF TOURISM –

BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Lubbock, TX

The National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration is held every September in Lubbock, Texas, and is one of the biggest annual events in the West Texas city. The Cowboy Poetry Gathering, with dozens of performers, is one of the centerpieces of the three-day festival, which includes a chuckwagon cook-off, numerous Western, equestrian, cowboy and Native heritage demonstrations, family events, and the ever-popular famous Parade of the Horse.
Cowboy.org

READERS' CHOICE:

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering Prescott, AZ

BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING

Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering, Heber City, UT

In late October 2019, the Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering celebrates its 25th anniversary festival in Heber Valley, Utah. Entertainment for all ages includes regional favorites to international stars of Western music and cowboy poetry, including the Mountain Man Traders Camp, Buckaroo Fair and Mounted Shooters events.
HeberValleyCowboyPoetry.com

READERS' CHOICE:

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

BEST OLD WEST MOUNTED RE-ENACTMENT

Defeat of Jesse James Days Northfield, MN

Held the first weekend after Labor Day every September in Northfield, Minnesota, the Defeat of Jesse James Days offer a thrill-a-minute mounted re-enactment of the failed James-Younger Gang robbery of Northfield's First National Bank on September 7, 1876. The three-day event includes programming for all ages, but the highlight every day is the Raid Re-enactment—two on Friday, four on Saturday and two on Sunday—with enough action in every 30-minute show to ensure you leave believing you were there on that fateful day in 1876.
DJJD.org

READERS' CHOICE:

TIE: Little Bighorn Battlefield, Between Crow Agency and Garryowen, MT
Bandera Cattle Company, Bandera, TX

BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

Six Guns & Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX

The El Paso-based troupe Six Guns & Shady Ladies has entertained audiences all across the country since Bernie and Melissa Sargent founded it in 1998. With nearly 50 skits, the Wild West re-enactment group brings humor and history to every show, with thrilling gunfights, including the famous "Four Dead in Five Seconds."
SixGunsAndShadyLadies.Homestead.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

BEST WILD WEST SHOW

Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Cody, WY

The Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre's Buffalo Bill Wild West Show premiered in 2016 in the theatre and has already scheduled its second exciting year for June 21-July 29, 2017, Wednesday to Saturday evenings with a matinee every Saturday.

Held in the Historic Cody Theatre in downtown Cody, the musical celebrates Buffalo Bill Cody's dream of becoming the world's most famous entertainer, and includes cast members portraying many of the showman's famous friends, including Annie Oakley, Sitting Bull and Wild Bill Hickok.
CodyWildWestShow.com

READERS' CHOICE:

Whiskey Row Shootout, Prescott, AZ

BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton, OR

Since 1910, the Pendleton Round-Up has been held in the same location with no in-arena advertising. The Oregon Heritage Culture Event continues as the "epic drama of the West" with its wooden chutes and unique, timed run-down alley. The Round-Up is always held the second week of September, with the popular Westward Ho! Parade on Friday and Happy Canyon Pageant held every night Wednesday to Saturday.
PendletonRoundUp.com

READERS' CHOICE:

The World's Oldest Rodeo Prescott, AZ

Doc Holliday Redux

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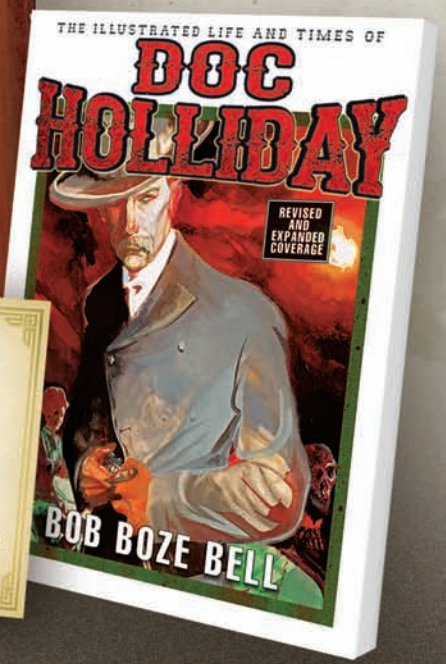
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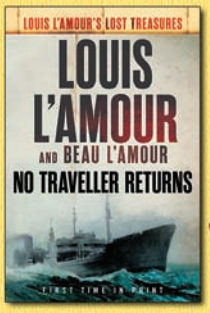
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ART SHOWS

LITCHFIELD PARK NATIVE AMERICAN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Litchfield Park, AZ, January 12-13: American Indian artists gather annually to display their best of jewelry, pottery, katsinas and beadwork.
623-935-9040 • *Litchfield-Park.org*

CAREFREE FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Carefree, AZ, January 18-20: High Sonoran Desert town closes its streets for Southwestern and American Indian art show and wine tastings.
480-837-5637 • *ThunderbirdArtists.com*

AUCTIONS

BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

Mesa, AZ, January 25-27: Bid on prized historical items and enjoy a showcase of Western Americana artifacts.
480-779-9378 • *OldWestEvents.com*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN MUSEUM'S HERITAGE DAYS

Apache Junction, AZ, January 12-13: Celebrate the history, lore and culture of the Superstition Mountains and Apacheland Movie Ranch.
480-983-4888 • *SuperstitionMountainMuseum.org*

HOLIDAY

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH TRAIN

Durango, CO, January 1: Start the New Year aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad's steam-powered train.
888-827-4607 • *DurangoTrain.com*

POETRY GATHERINGS

COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Golden, CO, January 17-20: Features cowboy poetry performances by Jerry Brooks, Jon Chandler, Connie Dover, Dave Stamey, and more.
720-213-6446 • *ColoradoCowboyGathering.com*

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 17-27: Since 1906, this show hosts livestock and horse sales and seminars, plus rodeo events, at National Western Complex.
303-296-6977 • *NationalWestern.com*

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 18-thru February: Held since 1896, Fort Worth's exposition livestock show and rodeo attract cowboys to its auctions, livestock and horse shows, rodeos and concerts.
817-877-2400 • *FWSSR.com*

COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 21: Held since 1995, this rodeo brings together cowboys from diverse cultures to celebrate their Western heritage.
817-922-9999 • *CowboysofColor.org*



TRUE WESTERNER AWARD PRESENTATION

Scottsdale, AZ, January 24: John Fusco will be presented with the 2019 True Westerner award along with the release of the updated version of Bob Boze Bell's book *The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday* at Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale.

TWMag.com:
View Western events on our website.

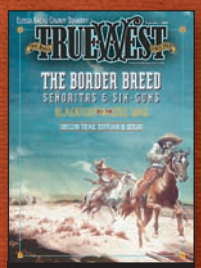


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Jan-2000
Wild Bill


Sep-2000
Border Breed



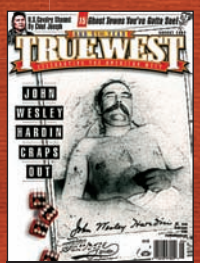
May/Jun-2001
Doc Holliday



Aug/Sep-2001
Wild Bill


Aug/Sep-2002
Defeat of Jesse James


Jul-2003
Doc & Wyatt


Aug-2004
John Wesley Hardin


Jan/Feb-2005
Rare Photos


Mar-2005
Deadwood/McShane


Dec-2006
Buffalo Gals & Guys


May-2007
Billy The Kid


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Mar-2013
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Dec-2014
Women Who Left Their Mark


Dec-15
First Mountain Man


Apr-2016
Lonesome Dove



Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and the Wild West History Association's vice president. His latest book is 2018's *Arizona Oddities: A Land of Anomalies and Tamales*. Send your question, with your city/state of residence, to marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu or Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327.

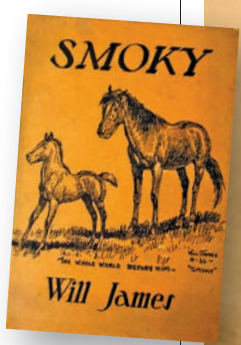
Goyahkla or Geronimo?

Did the Apache call their great leader Geronimo or his original name, Goyahkla?

Al Maurine
Tucson, Arizona

Geronimo, a prominent leader and shaman, was a Bedonkohe Apache. His given name was Goyahkla or, "The One Who Yawns." Some say the name Geronimo is a corruption of his given name; others believe he was such a brave and "take no prisoners" warrior that the Mexican soldiers invoked the name of Saint Jerome when facing him in battle. They had good reason to fear him as the Mexican government had put a bounty on Apache scalps, and soldiers had murdered his mother, wife and three daughters. As a result, he was usually on the vengeance trail against the Mexicans. So it's unlikely that the Apache would have used the Mexican name for Goyahkla.

What books on frontier horses would you recommend?



Koen Kop
Berlin, Germany

I highly recommend books by Will James, including *Smoky*, *Lone Cowboy*, *Horses I've Known* and *Scorpion*. Some of his books have been made into movies.

Did US cavalry soldiers wear yellow kerchiefs, as depicted in the movies?

David Lake
Boston, Massachusetts

Bandanas were not military issue, so their use was unofficial. But they were common—they came in handy during a dust storm, could help keep



Apache war chief, Geronimo, at age 78 in 1906.

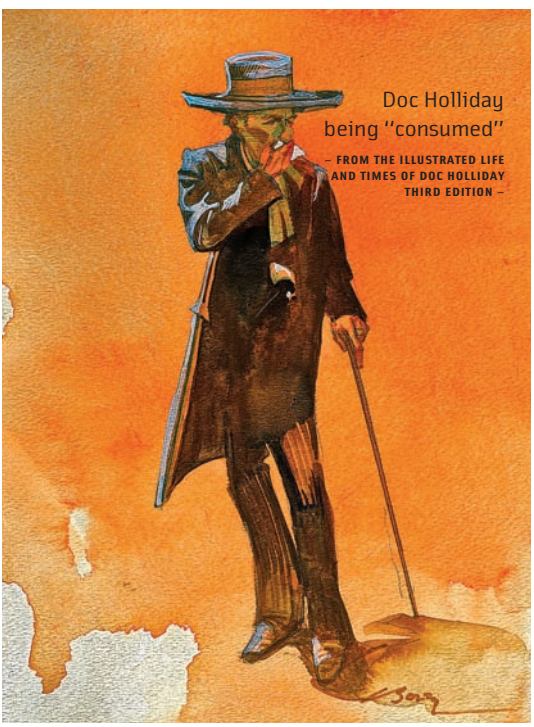
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In *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), John Wayne wore a yellow scarf.

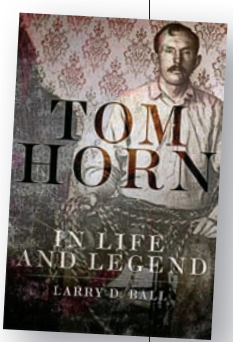
a rider warmer in winter, or it might just protect his neck from the hot sun. Sometimes a lieutenant's wife could secure enough material to make matching neckerchiefs for her husband's troop. But often, the soldiers made do with whatever they had.

But yellow was not a favored color since it made for an easy target. In fact, the uniform of the campaign cavalryman bore little resemblance to the yellow-striped and yellow neckerchief image of Hollywood fantasy. As Capt. Charles King noted, on the long scouts in Arizona, "you could not have told an officer from a private."



Tom Horn left threatening notes on the doors of alleged rustlers in the Montana/Wyoming region. Were any handwriting comparisons made between the notes and known samples of Horn's handwriting?

Chuck Carter
Plano, Texas



I asked Larry Ball, author of *Tom Horn: In Life and Legend* and he replied, "I am not aware that any handwriting comparison has ever been made. In fact, I have never seen one of the notes and am not aware that any note is still extant. Should one turn up, it would be a simple matter to compare it with Horn's existing correspondence."

What can you tell me about living with consumption in the Old West era?

Paul Gortarez
Phoenix, Arizona

Consumption is an early term for tuberculosis. People suffering from it were also called "lungers." For a time, in some areas, it was considered a romantic condition, afflicting artists and writers. In reality, it was a terrible disease, often fatal. Doctors in the East often advised those who'd contracted it to move to an arid place like Arizona.

Many did so and lived long lives, while others succumbed to it. For the most part, tuberculars were not quarantined, in part because it was believed to be hereditary, not contagious, until 1882. At that point, many were consigned to tent cities, segregated from the general population. Still, some folks—like Doc Holliday—freely roamed the West, often coughing blood into handkerchiefs and self-medicating through alcohol or drugs. Many slowly wasted away until their ultimate deaths.

What was drug use like in the Old West?

Shane King-Furgala
Irvine, California

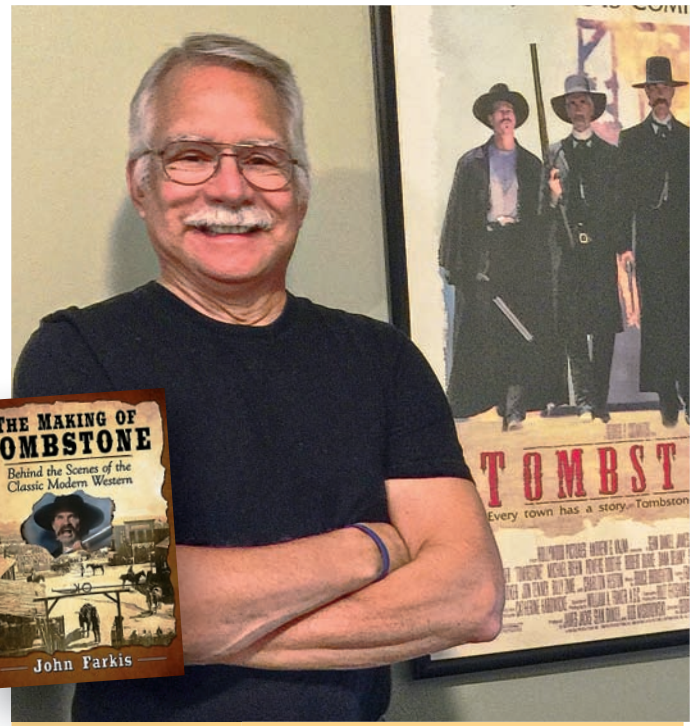


Drugs were pretty common and were legal—whether for killing pain or recreational use (or as an additive in Coca Cola).

The most popular painkillers were whiskey, morphine, opium and laudanum. These could be purchased over the counter at any drugstore. Initially, morphine was the most common narcotic on the frontier. It was first extracted in 1804 and was the first drug derived from a natural plant. It remains one of the most powerful pain relievers because it acts directly on the central nervous system. It's also one of the most addictive. Too large a dose can be deadly. Commercial marketing began in the 1820s. After the invention of the hypodermic needle in 1853 its use expanded.

Morphine was hard to make and difficult to obtain so its cousin opium—introduced by Chinese immigrants—became the drug of choice in the West. Prior to 1909 there were no restrictions on its import or use. It became a cure for morphine addiction, but as the prime ingredient in laudanum (along with morphine and alcohol), it was used for headaches, menstrual issues, psychological problems, and pretty much anything that ailed you. Opium dens (where the drug was smoked) operated in the Chinese sections of towns. They featured private rooms, couches, beds and prostitutes.

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



JOHN FARKIS, AUTHOR

John Farkis was born in Allen Park, Michigan, downriver from Detroit. After earning a business degree at Eastern Michigan University in 1972, he took a position as an accounting trainee in the automotive industry. Thirty-five years later, he retired as a general manager, director of operations and vice president in a Fortune 100 company. He is the author of four books including, *Not Thinkin'... Just Rememberin'...* and *Alamo Village: How a Texas Cattleman Brought Hollywood to the Old West*. His most recent book on the making of the film *Tombstone* was released by McFarland in December 2018. John and his wife, Jean, are currently enjoying retirement in their lake house, along with their dog, Rikki.

Most people don't realize *Tombstone* was not initially a box-office failure as some think. Released on Christmas Day, 1993, it really wasn't promoted at all by Disney/Buena Vista and many reviews were absolutely scathing with terms such as "aggressively overlong," "gratuitous hyperrealism," "incoherent" and "campy" peppering their comments. But then an interesting phenomena occurred; word of mouth. By the end of its second week, it was in the black and went on the gross $50.5 million after seven weeks.

The genius behind this movie is the film's first director and screenwriter Kevin Jarre. His absolute insistence on period correct costumes, saddles, firearms and dialogue brought an authenticity to the screen that is seldom seen. When the Earps arrived in Tombstone, you could almost taste the grit in the air and smell the horses on the street. Add to that the marvelous cast he assembled and the film was a can't miss.

Not many know that Billy Zane's sister, Lisa, was originally cast in the role of Josephine Marcus. In fact, Jarre wrote the part with her in mind, as she had been his girlfriend at the time. When Dana Delany came onboard, Lisa was moved to the role of Big Nose Kate. After Jarre was fired, Lisa left the set and was replaced by Joanna Pacula.

The reason why no one has followed up on Tombstone is that for many people Westerns seem so passé. Generally, those who appreciate this sort of film are of a certain age and they value strong characters, an effective storyline and magnificent scenery.

The one person behind the scenes who held it all together was Adam Taylor, first assistant director. If it wasn't for Taylor, the film wouldn't have been made. Director Cosmatos was brutal in his treatment of Taylor. After the day's filming was over, Buck Taylor (Turkey Creek Jack Johnson) would find his son in a trailer, head in hand, shaking with fury. But the next day, Adam Taylor would be out there again doing what he was supposed to do.

The best advice I ever received came from my father: "Try your hardest, do your best and good enough rarely is."

What history has taught me is that what you think you may know, isn't always true. Rarely are events simply random or happenstance. If you peel away the layers, it's usually more complex than not. Wyatt Earp was not all pure and honest. The Clantons and McLaurys were not all evil and corrupt. Cattle-rustling, politics, partisan news media, altercations and aggression, and misunderstandings and provocations (deliberate or unintentional), all culminated in the historic shootout at the O.K. Corral. It simply wasn't a question of a misdemeanor arrest gone wrong.

My first job was working for my dad in his trucking company. Changing tires on tractor-trailer rigs quickly taught me this was not something I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

I never dreamed I would be so lucky as to marry Jean. Not only is she my best friend and a constant source of love and inspiration, she also literally saved my life: twice!

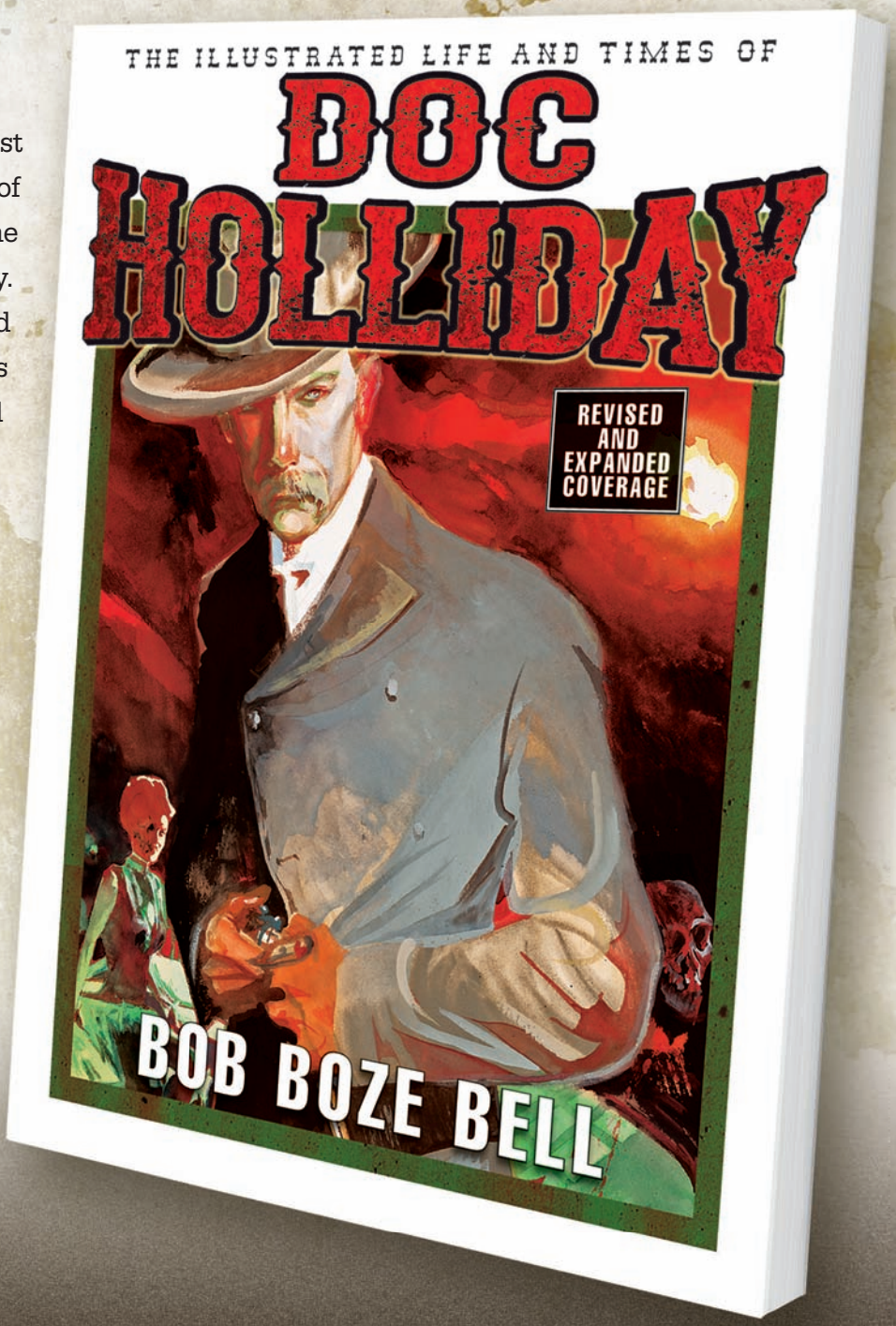
Although it may be sacrilegious, given the books I've written, for my money, the best Western ever made is *The Wild Bunch*. With intense violence, multiple camera placement and ground-breaking slow-motion action-sequences, Sam Peckinpah's film was both creative and revolutionary. An absolute masterpiece. *Tombstone* comes in an extremely close second.

The problem with Hollywood is sequels, retreads and CGI. Give me John Ford, Howard Hawks and Henry Hathaway any day. Although Marvel films are well-done and extremely entertaining, nothing beats a good, old John Wayne Western.

My favorite place in the West is Monument Valley and Moab. Truly, this is "where God put the West."

Just Finished In Time For The Holidays

Bob Boze Bell has just completed the third edition of his definitive chronicle on the life and times of Doc Holliday. This completely updated version fills in the gaps bringing forth all the untold stories and discoveries since the first edition was published 24 years ago. *The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday*, Third Edition, is in full color and features a wide array of Bell's amazing art depictions of the American West's most beloved gunslinger.



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W.R. Leigh (1866–1955). Image untitled. 1917 Winchester Guns and Cartridges calendar. Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, USA. Gift of Olin Corporation, Winchester Arms Collection. 1988.8.871

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