

**BEST WEST**

**COLLECTOR'S EDITION**

OUR 67TH YEAR JANUARY 2020

# TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

## WYATT EARP

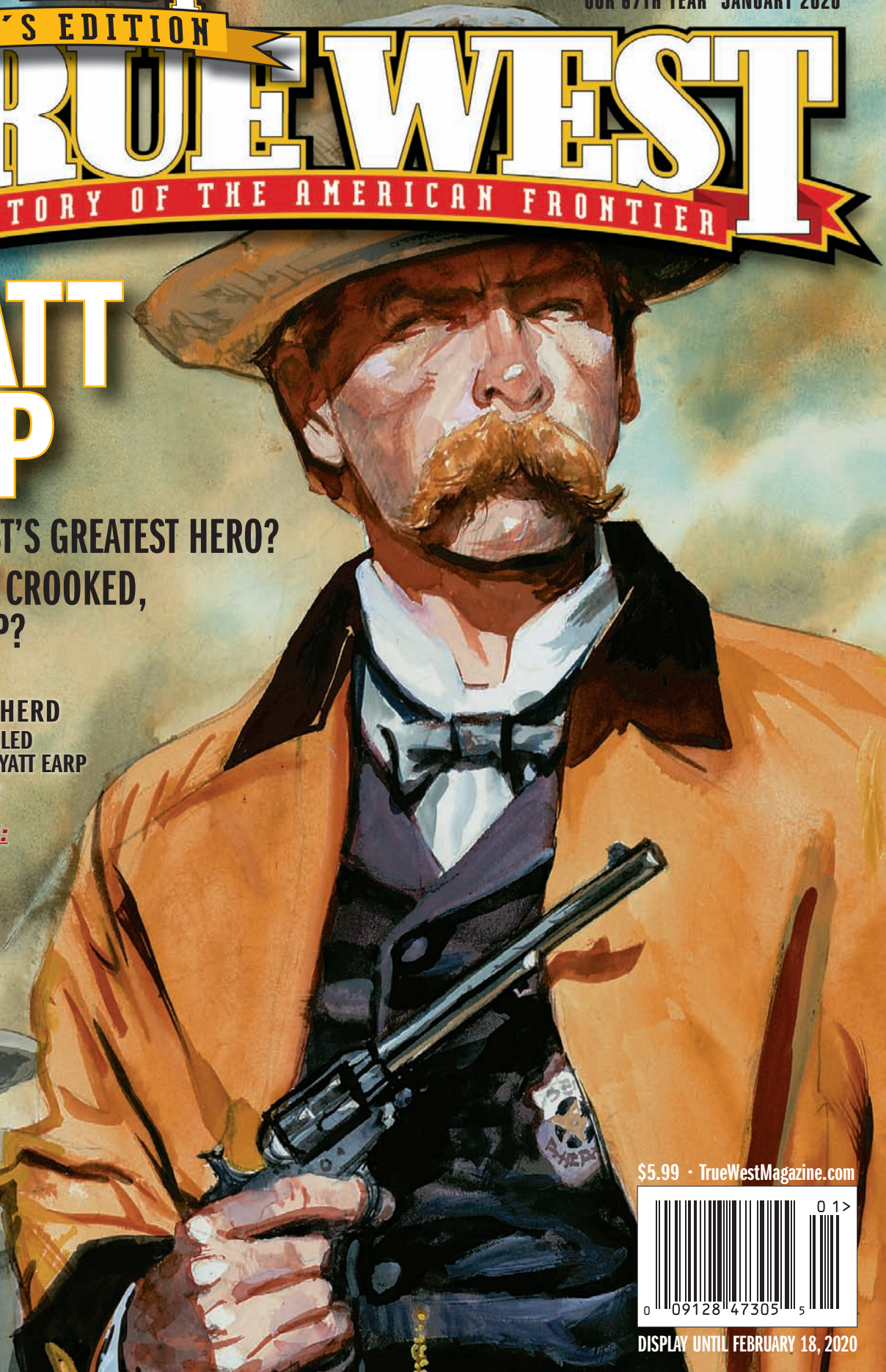
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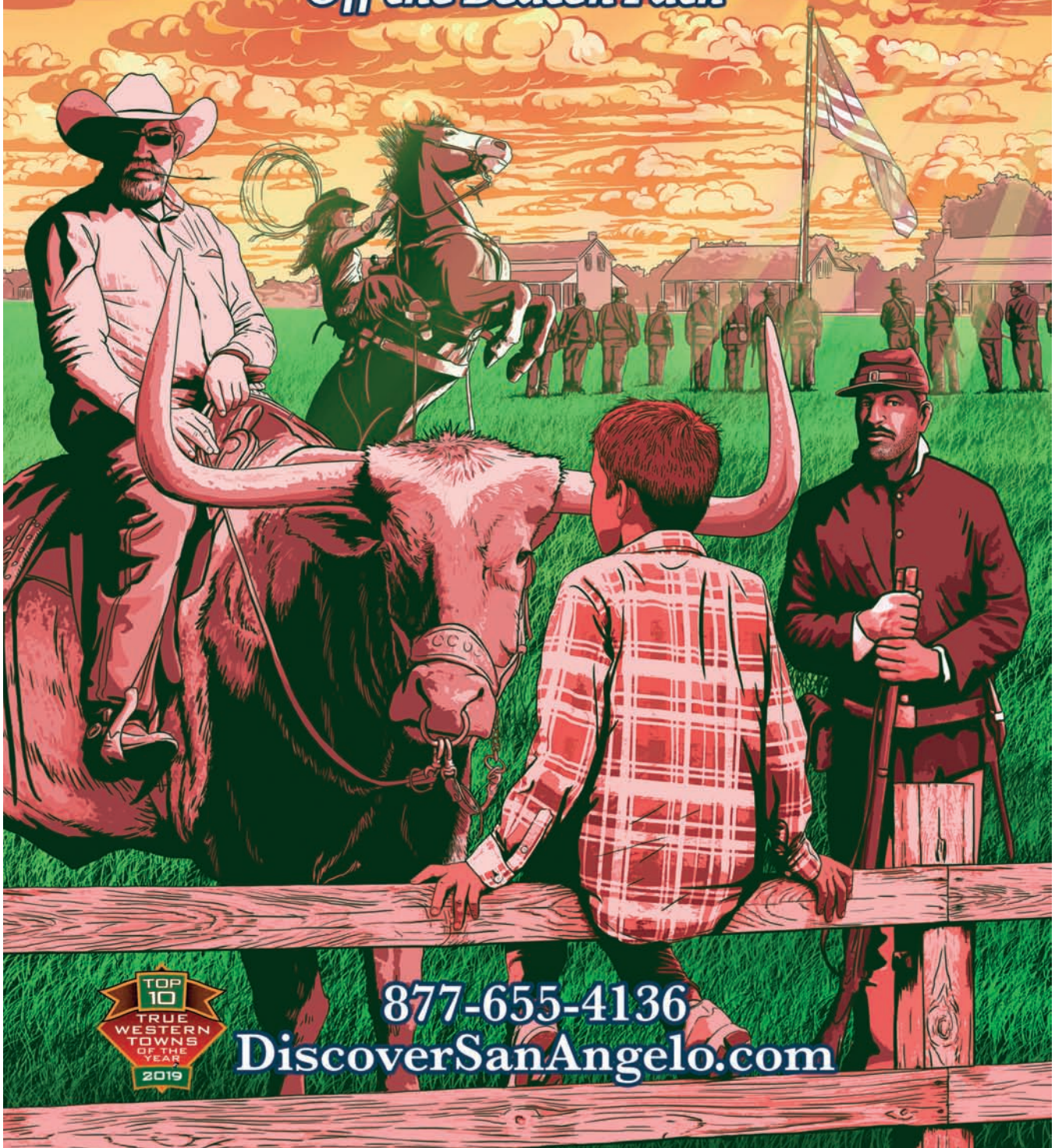
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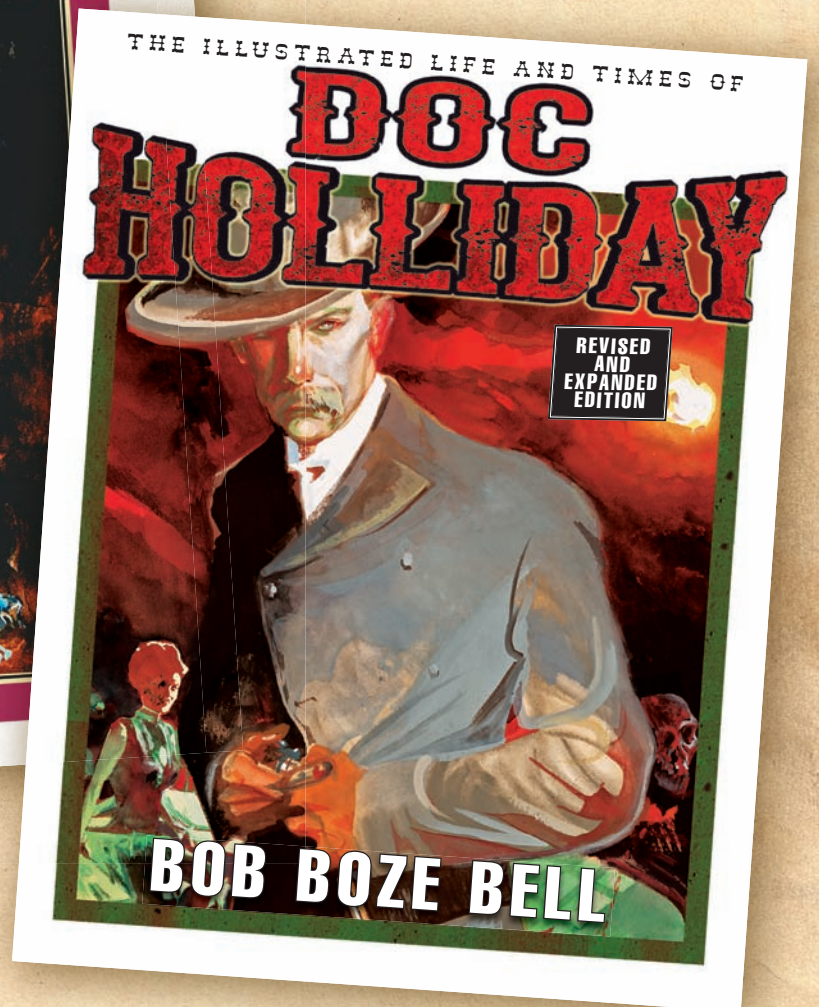
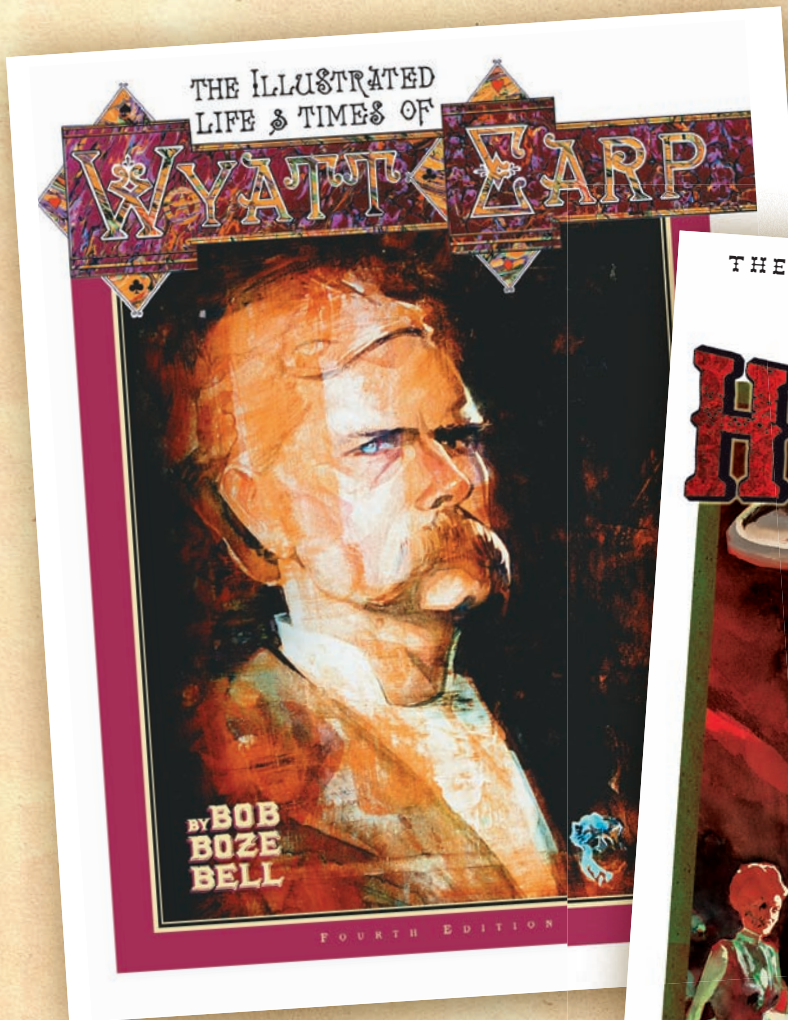


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He spent his early life in Pella, Iowa, where in 1870 he met his first wife, Urilla Sutherland, who died of typhoid fever. He was arrested several times during the next 2 years. He got the nickname, Peoria Bummer, meaning he was a loafer or vagrant. By 1874, he moved to Wichita, KS where his wife opened a brothel. In 1875, he was appointed to the Wichita police force and developed a good reputation as a lawman. He went on to Dodge City, KS and became an assistant city marshal, working with his brother, James. During the winter of 1878, he went to Texas to track down an outlaw and met Doc Holliday, who saved his life.

He moved from one boomtown to another. He left Dodge City with his brothers James and Virgil to Tombstone, AZ, where there was another silver boom. They clashed with a group known as the Cowboys. Since the Earps were lawmen, they naturally had conflicts with Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury, Ike Clanton and Billy Clanton, who threatened to kill the Earps. They finally met at the O.K. Corral on Oct. 26, 1881 where the Earps and Doc Holliday killed 3 of the Cowboys. A few months later Virgil was ambushed and maimed and Morgan was killed. Wyatt, Warren Earp, along with Doc Holliday and several others rode out after them, killing 3 of the Cowboys. Wyatt was never wounded in any of the gunfights. He left Tombstone and went to San Francisco, where he reunited with Josephine Marcus. They joined a gold rush to Eagle City, ID where they owned mining interests and a saloon. He made friends with many early Western actors in Hollywood. He even met John Wayne!

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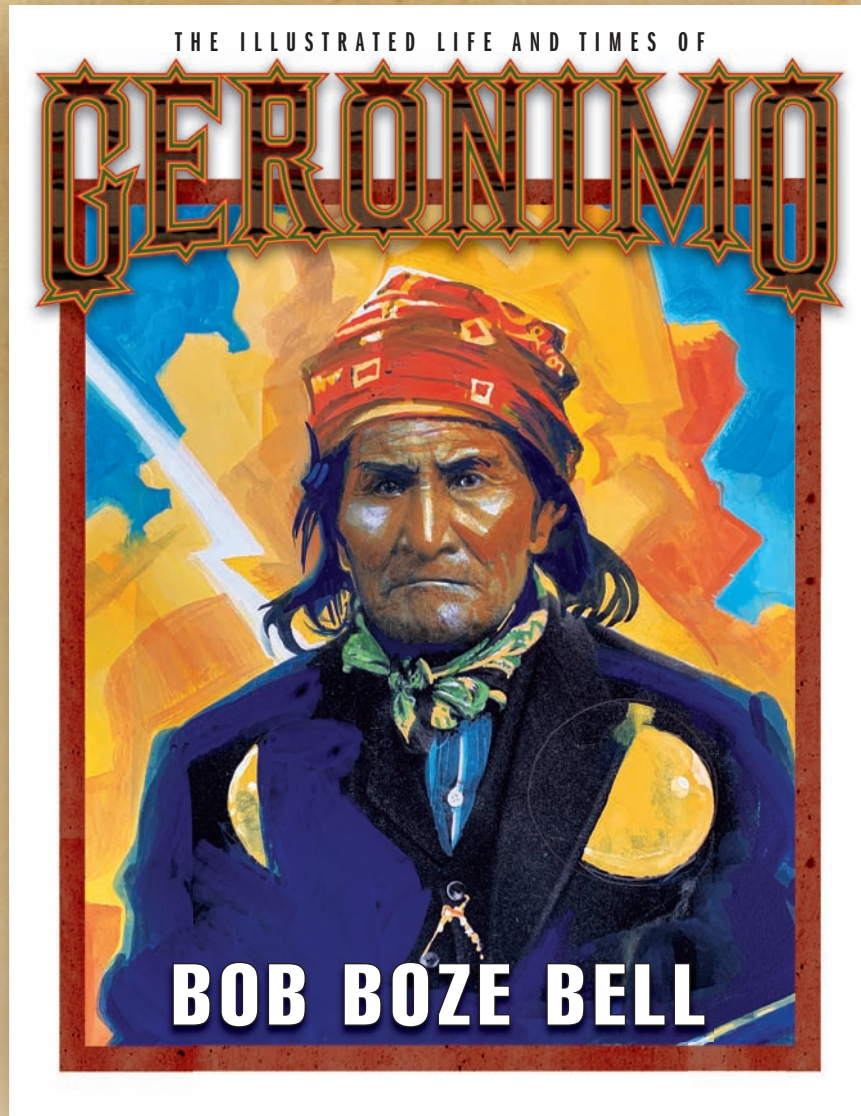


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*Photo By Richard Schultz*

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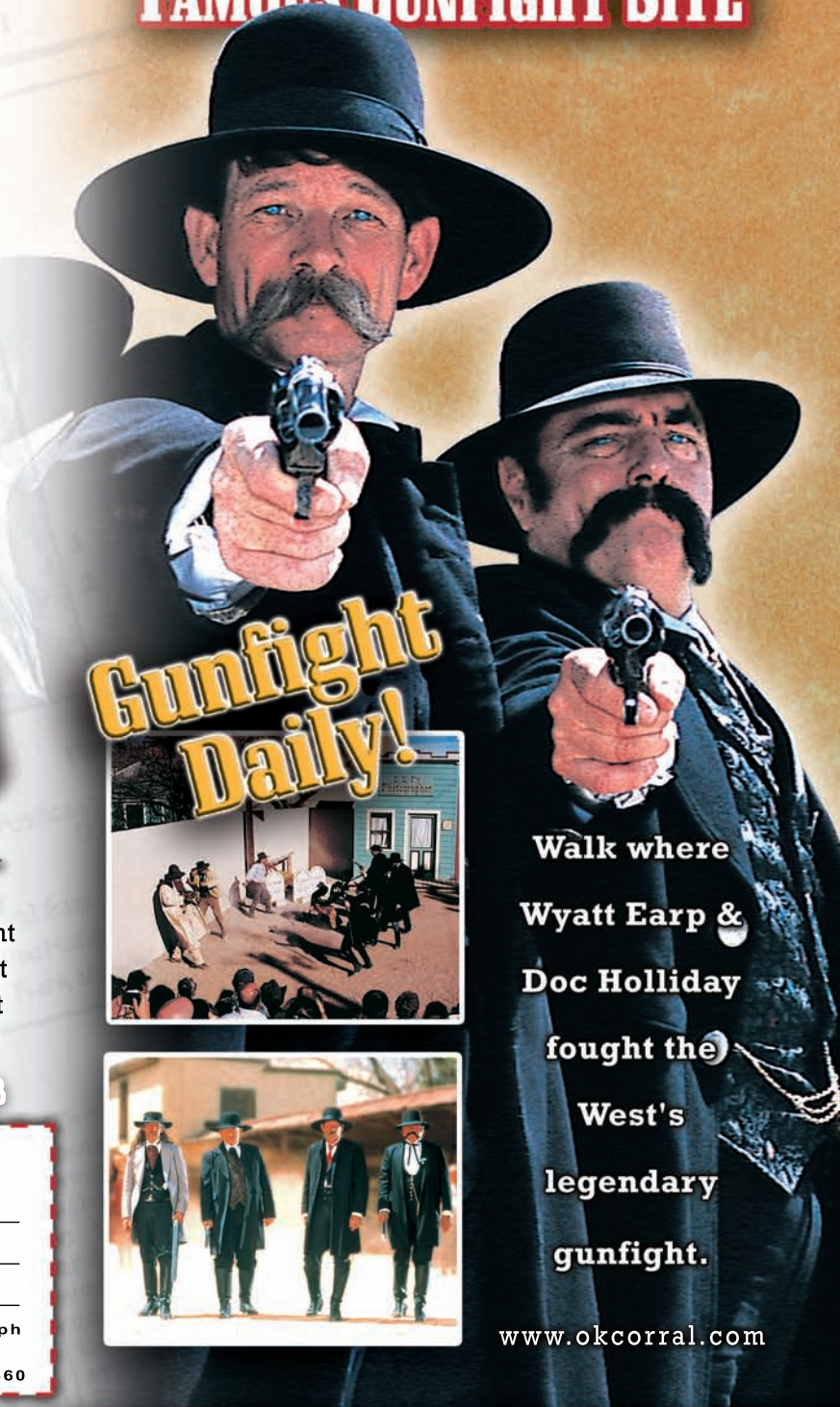
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— WYOMING —

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before heading out for another day of action. If it's late May, you're in luck; the **Eaton's Horse Drive (2)** is an annual tradition that captures the imagination of the community. Cowboys from **Eaton's Ranch** drive their herd in from winter grazing areas straight through town - down 5th St. in front of the **Sheridan Inn**, across Main, and out toward the ranch. If you're a guest at one of the ranches, it's time to saddle up for the pack trip of a lifetime. There's nothing like riding into the Bighorns with the sun at your back and the mountains towering above you. If you're not a guest at a ranch, you can book a pack trip with one of experienced local outfitters. Belly up to the bar at **The Mint (3)**, the famed former speakeasy on Main. Tip one back and take the trophy tour, explore history through photographs, and check

out thousands of brands on the walls. **Day 3.** Take your breakfast with a side of pie at the **Cowboy Cafe**, a beloved local dining spot. If you're here in the winter, we hope you'll stay for the **WYO Winter Rodeo (4)**, featuring championship skijoring. Head to **King's Saddlery (5)** to see masters of rope making and leather crafting at work, and try tossing a rope yourself in the **Don King Museum**. Or book an archery class at **Rocky Mountain Discount Sports**, and let your inner Robin Hood loose. You could spend your afternoon enjoying polo in **Big Horn**, or at a picnic at **Kendrick Park**; the horse shoe competitions at Kendrick can get fierce. They say timing is everything, and for the most authentic western experience in America, visit Sheridan during **WYO Rodeo Week (6)**, celebrating 90 years in July 2020. If you can't be here during the WYO, consider an immersive experience like the **Bots Sots Remount Horse Sale**, **Don King Days**, or the **Sheridan County Rodeo**. Keep an eye on our calendar for upcoming country music performances.

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# OPENING SHOT

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### **Tombstone, Arizona Territory, circa 1881**

Frontier photographers C.S. and Mollie Fly moved to Tombstone in December 1879. Thirteen months later, Tombstone was the newly minted Cochise County seat. C.S. made this image of Tombstone looking southeast from Comstock Hill in 1881, which was then a boomtown of 4,000 or so souls, 650 to 700 working in the local mines, and about 600 buildings. Note in the lower right foreground the large haystack, hay wagon, feedlot, stockyards and the entrance to the First Extension of the Mountain Maid Mine, in which the Earps owned shares.



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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The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad's construction in May 1869 transformed the settlement of the West, and we've got the photos. See more railroads on our "Coaches, Trains, Wagons, and Wheels" board. [Pinterest.com/TWMag.com](https://www.pinterest.com/TWMag.com)



Where did Doc Holliday spend his last days? Mark Boardman talks about Doc Holliday's final moments in his blog "He Died Alone." Keep up with our latest article posts and stay in-the-know by following us on Facebook.

[Facebook.com/TWMag.com](https://www.facebook.com/TWMag.com)



Bob Boze Bell poses next to some of his artwork in friend Ed Mell's gallery. Keep up with the author-illustrator-editor on his blog. [Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](https://www.blog.truewestmagazine.com)

Shown here are (from left) Yahnozza, Chappo, Fun and Geronimo, who is holding his 1873 Trapdoor Springfield Army model, photographed by C.S. Fly in 1886.

Follow us on Instagram for more historical photographs. [Instagram.com/TWMag](https://www.instagram.com/TWMag)



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The Man, the Myth and the Search for Order

—By Bob Boze Bell

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Glorified, fictionalized and hotly debated, the enigmatic lawman's life from antebellum Illinois to urban Los Angeles remains iconically fascinating 90 years after his death.

—By Casey Tefertiller

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Brothers Wyatt and Morgan's "bum" year pimping in Peoria, Illinois, primed them for their future as frontier boomtown opportunists on both sides of the law.

—By Roger Jay

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Before Wichita, Dodge City and Tombstone, the Earp brothers were more notorious than heroic.

—By Roy B. Young, Gary L. Roberts, Casey Tefertiller and John Boessenecker

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How the Cowboys ruled Tombstone before Wyatt Earp

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For a deeper dive on the Earps in *True West* Archives, subscribe today at [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com)



*The Walk Down* by Bob Boze Bell  
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

# New Eyes on the Earps and the Cowboys

*How a gang of young, upstart historians dug deep and got the goods on Tombstone's finest.*

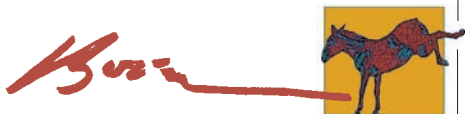
**I**t's no accident we held our 20th anniversary party on October 26 (see coverage on opposite page). In our world the date is a national holiday.

And speaking of the O.K. Corral, check out the amazingly clear photo of Tombstone at the time of the gunfight ("Opening Shot"). I have been studying this story for over forty years and I was still floored by some of the new findings. Perhaps the biggest reveal is that most of the Earp brothers were ne'er-do-wells, not just Wyatt. And, the biggest shock, to me, is how Virgil (long thought to be the straight arrow of the family) puts Wyatt in the shade in terms of hooliganism. Arson? Yes. Being shot by a prostitute? Yes. Fleecing innocent civilians? Yes. Cons and illegal gang activity? Boy howdy.

Meanwhile, brother James is run out of Utah for attempting to seduce a married Mormon and gets another guy killed in the process. Did I mention this is jaw-dropping stuff?

My good friend, and best-selling author, John Boessenecker fills in the story from the other side of the ledger, with a hard-nosed look at the Cowboys and their nefarious activities that include a possible assassination attempt on the President of the United States!

So, in this issue we not only salute the best of everything in our world, but we salute the brave and bold historians who dug deep and got the real stories. Long may their stories be told.



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



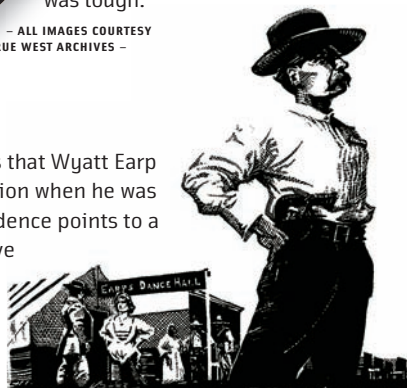
### Allie Oops!

Virgil's wife Allie has been remembered as a solid pioneer woman who was loyal to her lawman husband for her entire life. New evidence found by John Boessenecker uncovers a more sordid past as a prostitute. There were clues. When the author Frank Waters met her as a house cleaner in the 1940s in Los Angeles, she carried a flask tucked in her ankle boot. She wasn't a fan of her brother-in-law Wyatt, and thought the world of her late husband Virgil. She would no doubt be scandalized by the new revelations, or maybe not. She was tough.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

The old school of thought was that Wyatt Earp turned a blind eye toward prostitution when he was a Kansas lawdog, but new evidence points to a much more active role in the soiled dove trade, and that included more than one of the Earp boys.

- ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL -



**"All had seen the inside of a jail: Wyatt in Arkansas and Illinois, Jim in Montana, Virgil in Iowa, and Morgan in Illinois and Missouri. Wyatt and Jim were jailbreakers. Wyatt, Jim and Morgan had all been pimps. Virgil had been charged with both arson and fraud!"**

—John Boessenecker, *Ride the Devil's Herd*

BY JENNA LINK

# True West's 20th Anniversary Celebration

*On the anniversary of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, we celebrated in Cave Creek.*



October 26th, 2019, marked an important day in Old West history. Not only was this the day the gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place in 1881, but it was also the day that *True West* celebrated 20 years in the best damn town in the West!

In October of 1999, three moving vans showed up in the wash behind the Goat Sucker Saloon in Frontier Town and unloaded 46 years' worth of *True West* magazine back issues. Three years later, we moved to the *True West* Building, where we have been ever since.

It was an afternoon filled with fun, food, drinks and laughter as we celebrated the magazine that brings you the history of the American frontier!

*True West's* Bob Boze Bell, Marshall Trimble and Jana Bommersbach shared stories as we ate delicious sliders catered by Bryan's BBQ and sipped wine and beer while enjoying the beautiful desert foothills scenery of Cave Creek, Arizona.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate! As BBB said, "We'll see you at the forty!"

Over 100 fans of *True West* magazine showed up at the Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek, Arizona, and here they are posing for a class photo.



Cave Creek was abuzz with our party to celebrate 20 years in the coolest town in the West. We saw lots of friendly faces and met new friends who love the West as much as we do.



## TEXAS TRAIL OF FAME AWARD

Bob Alexander represented *True West* at the award ceremony in Texas on October 24, 2019, and by all accounts he did us proud. Alexander said, "Barry Corbin had nothing but superlatives about the magazine in his introduction" and here is the plaque on the street in Fort Worth.



Bob Alexander accepts the award for *True West* magazine. The presenter is the actor Barry Corbin.

— COURTESY BOB ALEXANDER —

Old Vaquero Saying

“Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.”



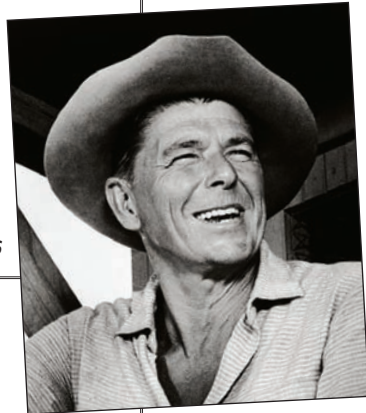
Quotes

“We live in a perpetually burning building, and what we must save from it, all the time, is love.”

–Tennessee Williams

“Unless you’re ashamed of yourself now and then, you’re not honest.”

– William Faulkner



Ronald Reagan in *Death Valley Days*.  
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“Education isn’t something you can finish.”

– Isaac Asimov

“Earth endangered by new strain of fact-resistant humans.”

–Scientific American

“The fire. The odor of burning juniper is the sweetest fragrance on the face of the earth, in my honest judgment; I doubt if all the smoking censers of Dante’s paradise could equal it. One breath of juniper smoke, like the perfume of sagebrush after rain, evokes in magical catalysis, like certain music, the space and light and clarity and piercing strangeness of the American West. Long may it burn.”

– Edward Abbey

“Only to the white man was nature a ‘wilderness.’”

– Luther Standing Bear

“Long before morning I knew that what I was seeking to discover was a thing I’d always known. That all courage was a form of constancy. That it is always himself that the coward abandoned first. After this all other betrayals come easily.”

– Cormac McCarthy

“The preservation of parks, wilderness and wildlife has also aided liberty by keeping alive the 19th-century sense of adventure and awe with which our forefathers greeted the American West. Many laws protecting environmental quality have promoted liberty by securing property against the destructive trespass of pollution. In our own time, the nearly universal appreciation of these preserved landscapes, restored waters and cleaner air through outdoor recreation is a modern expression of our freedom and leisure to enjoy the wonderful life that generations past have built for us.”

– President Ronald Reagan

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



# SEE THE WEST FROM A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE



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BY MARK BOARDMAN

# The Notes from Nome

*What happened to Wyatt Earp's 1900 written recollections of his adventures?*

**T**hree old friends gathered in the fall of 1900, each brought to Nome, Alaska, by circumstances surrounding the Gold Rush. They were 20 years and thousands of miles from where they'd first met, in the much warmer climes of southeastern Arizona. But those long-ago events were a major part of their talks.

Tombstone was the town where they'd become acquainted, around 1880. Wyatt Earp, gambler and lawman. John Clum, mayor and newspaper editor. George Whitwell Parsons, mining agent, librarian and diarist. In Nome, Earp was a saloonkeeper. Parsons was visiting on business. Clum was postal inspector for the territory.

And for about 10 days, they enjoyed a reunion. How do we know what they talked about during the Alaska days? Parsons' ever-continuing diary, in which he kept basic notes of daily events.

August 27: The three gathered at The Dexter Saloon, which Earp owned with Charlie Hoxie. *"Strange sight—Earp dealing faro in corner, rough miners and some joining in the chorus. Strange mixture."*

But there was also talk of the old days.

August 30: *"John Clum...and I had an oldtimer with Wyatt Earp tonight at his place [the Dexter Saloon], a regular old Arizona time, and Wyatt unlimbered for several hours and seemed glad to talk to us who knew the past. It was a very memorable evening."*

The usual image of Earp is of a fairly closed-mouthed guy, not terribly forthcoming about himself or his deeds. But apparently, in the company of old friends, in his element at a saloon and gambling hall, he let his hair down.

Now Parsons didn't give details on exactly what stories Earp shared. Did he talk about the street fight behind the O.K. Corral? The murder of brother Morgan and crippling of



Wyatt Earp (center) is shown with Norwegian frontiersman Ed Englestadt (at left) and former *Tombstone Epitaph* editor John Clum (at right) who was in Nome, Alaska Territory, to run the postal service. Earp and Clum would later meet up in Nome with their old Tombstone friend George W. Parsons in the summer of 1900, who recorded their visits together in his diary.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

older sibling Virgil? The Vendetta Ride? Doc Holliday?

Did Wyatt get the details right? Or were they colored by his biases and passage of time? Questions...unanswered.

And they would remain so for more than two decades, when Earp would sit down with John Flood in an attempt to provide his story. And when that effort failed, Earp and wife, Josie, worked with Stuart Lake on what turned out to be *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal* (published in 1931).

And both of those got things wrong. Either because Wyatt provided inaccurate information or because he provided little or no information, and the writers decided to fill in the blanks.

Which puts an even stronger spotlight on one of Parsons' Nome entries from 1900, this one from September 7. *"With Clum and Earp awhile tonight. John goes out on St.*

*Paul [a ship]. Witnessed Earp's and Clum's stories [as] signatory."* Parsons clarified the next day: *"The signatures I witnessed last night or tonight, I don't distinctly remember which, are to Earp's account of his adventures."*

Which adventures? Did he record the Arizona stories that he'd shared just nights before with Clum and Parsons? Why did Earp decide to write things down at this point?

We just don't know. They were never mentioned again. And they haven't been discovered.

Clum, Earp and Parsons all ended up in Los Angeles in the mid-1920s. By then, Wyatt was seeking help in preparing his autobiography. There were no more entries about Earp and an *"account of his adventures."*



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# WYATT EARP

## THE WEST'S DARK KNIGHT



### THE MAN, THE MYTH AND THE SEARCH FOR ORDER

Twenty years ago the scholarship on Wyatt Earp was a controversial mess. We had the glorifiers on one side and the debunkers and the bashers on the other, or, as Casey Tefertiller puts it, a “mass of contradictions amid a stew of controversy.” Thanks to some well-balanced and comprehensive research on Wyatt Earp by Tefertiller and many other hard-working researchers, scholars and history buffs, we now have a much clearer view. Culled from two new books—*A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story be Told* edited by Roy B. Young, Gary L. Roberts and Tefertiller and *Ride the Devil's Herd: Wyatt Earp's Epic Battle Against the West's Biggest Outlaw Gang* by John Boessenecker—that contain everything you ever wanted to know about the true life of the “Lion of Tombstone,” we can now see a balanced view of the actual man. Somewhere between the magnificent hero and the lowly villain lies the real man. Read on. You are about to meet him.

—Bob Boze Bell

“Of all the old-time lawmen of the boomtown West, Wyatt Earp remains perhaps the most controversial.”

—Gary L. Roberts, “Wyatt Earp: The Search for Order on the Last Frontier,” *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*

BY CASEY TEFERTILLER

# The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp

GLORIFIED, FICTIONALIZED AND HOTLY DEBATED, THE ENIGMATIC LAWMAN'S LIFE FROM ANTEBELLUM ILLINOIS TO URBAN LOS ANGELES REMAINS ICONICALLY FASCINATING 90 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH.

The Wyatt Earp everyone knew has gone away. More than once. Perhaps no figure in American history has endured such an odd ride through fame. He has been portrayed as a magnificent hero and a lowly villain; a glory-seeking braggart and humble introvert avoiding the spotlight.

Writers have created and debunked mythical Wyatt Earps, time after time. It is only in the last couple of decades that we are growing to understand Earp himself and the many controversies of his life.

This is part of what makes Earp and his adventures so enduring—he is a mass of contradictions amid a stew of controversy. Since those gunshots went off in the street outside the O.K. Corral, the debate has raged whether he was a murderer or a brave lawman saving his town from outlaws.

In his own time, as early as 1888, newspaper articles around the nation portrayed Earp as both a hero and a villain, telling exaggerated tales or lapsing into total fantasy. The contradictory legacy would continue into the

20th century, when two major books swept the nation telling of a heroic Earp that rode against injustice. Walter Noble Burns, in his 1928 *Tombstone: An Iliad of the Southwest*, and Stuart Lake, in his 1931 *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, both created the Earp of legend: a valiant law officer saving the citizenry from an onslaught of outlaws. The books spawned a series of movies, and the movies built a legend.

Then came that TV series, telling American children the remarkable—and supposedly true—story of an unparalleled lawman who shot to wound, not to kill. *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp* elevated him to a standard beyond reality. Even the lyrics to the theme song made him grand beyond belief: “The West it was lawless, but

one man was flawless,” the ballad flowed from the TV screen into the ears of the children of America. There were those who adamantly believed this was pure bunk.

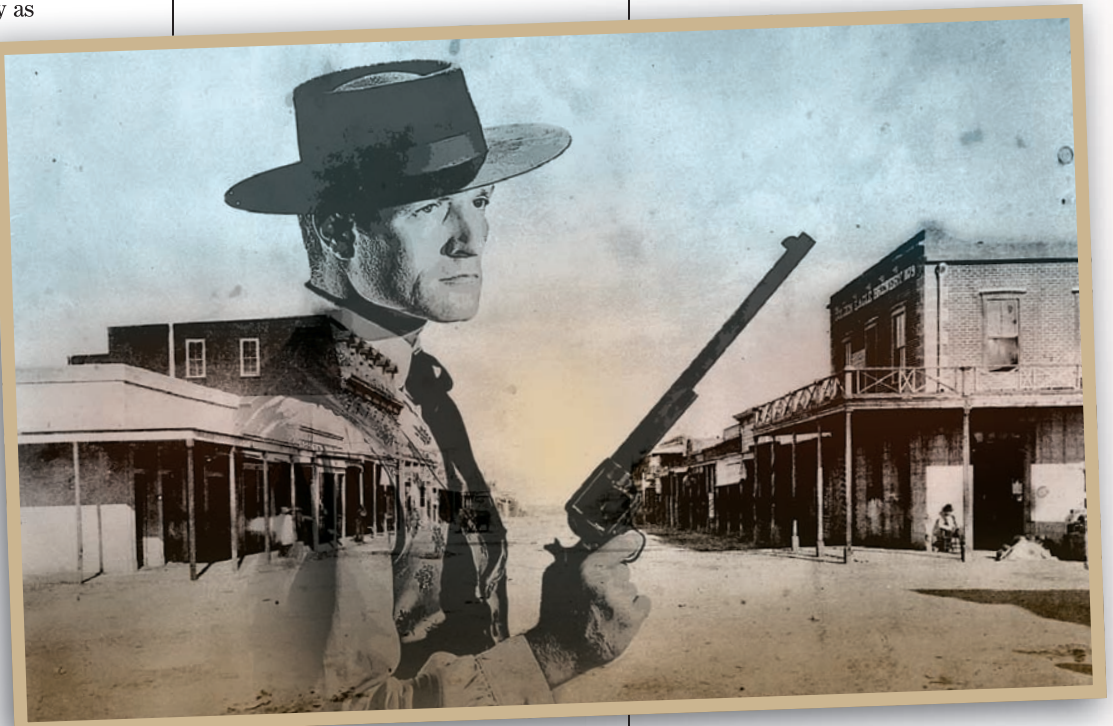
## Earps of the Imagination

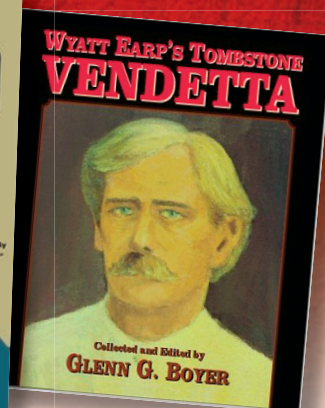
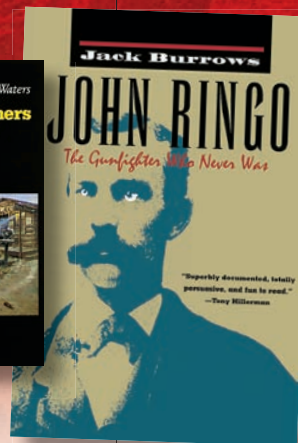
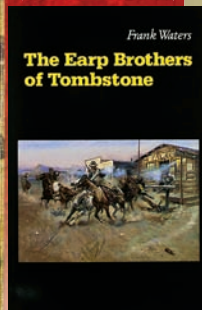
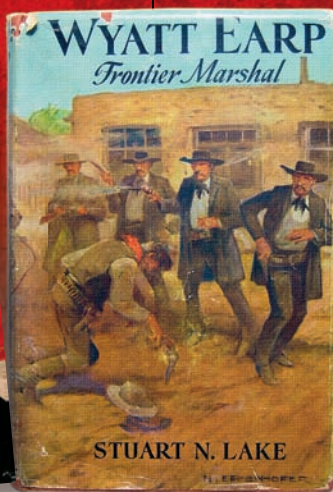
Burns, Lake, and the films were the glorifiers. They would be followed by the debunkers, the likes of Frank Waters and Ed Bartholomew, who portrayed Earp as the villainous head of a crime operation. The debunkers would be followed by the fabulists, a group of writers who fabricated stories for fun and profit. Glenn Boyer and Wayne Montgomery would be most notable among the throng.

Together, the three groups created Earps of the imagination. Readers could find any

The ABC television series *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, starring Hugh O'Brian in the title role, catapulted the Earp mythology to new levels, including the myth of his extra-long-barreled Buntline special.

— HISTORIC IMAGE OF TOMBSTONE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES / IMAGE OF HUGH O'BRIAN FROM “THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF WYATT EARP” COURTESY ABC/DESIGN BY DAN HARSHBERGER —





Wyatt Earp they desired, then passionately defend their beliefs by pointing to their sources.

A new era of Earp/Tombstone research began toward the end of the 20th century as researchers began seeking real sources rather than following legends. Jack Burrows's 1986 *John Ringo: The Gunfighter Who Never Was* stripped apart the Ringo legend and began a series of articles and books based on evidence rather than yarns.

Before any real understanding of Earp and his situations could come about, the credibility of past writers had to be assessed. That became a serious project for Gary Roberts, Jeff Morey, Roger Peterson, Burrows, and myself during the work done on my book, *Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend*. By this time, Burns and Lake had fallen into disrepute by researchers who had torn past the veneer and realized that many of the tales were highly exaggerated and inaccurate. That had been the role of the debunkers.

As I worked on my book, it became increasingly clear that the writings of Glenn Boyer, then the reigning authority in Earp research, were highly problematic. Further developments proved that many of his assertions were entirely false.

Investigation continued when Jeff Wheat and S.J. Reidhead located documents from debunker Frank Waters that demonstrated that he, too, had fabricated much of the material that he put forward as fact in his 1960 book *The Earp Brothers of Tombstone*.

It became obvious that the writings long considered the most important in the understanding of Wyatt Earp were often supplemented with imagination—little more than fiction.

Legend and fabrication built Wyatt Earp into one of the most recognizable names in

American history. Next came the challenge of finding the real Earp, the man beyond the legend and the truth about what occurred in those cowtowns and mining camps across the West.

### Seeking the Truth

We were all starting anew. What was once believed as gospel truth about Wyatt Earp, his adventures, and those who surrounded him had been washed away, and we had to start over. A whole new beginning.

Most of the articles in *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told* represent the new era of Earp research, the post-fabricator period where researchers have pored through original sources to present new and often shocking discoveries. The most salacious, of course, is the previously unknown period when Wyatt and Morgan Earp worked in bordellos in Peoria, Illinois, followed by Wyatt's stint on a floating brothel boat. All this came after Wyatt's escape from an Arkansas jail.

The new research shows an Earp who is anything but flawless, rather an Earp who went through a lifetime of achievement, struggle and disappointments. He made many poor decisions in his life and a few very good ones. He was...human.

During much of the 19th and early 20th century there was a belief that boys needed positive role models. Biographies should glorify their heroic subjects so that emerging men would have great figures on which to model their lives. Burns and Lake created an Earp who served as that type of a positive role model. Some of what they wrote was accurate, but the real Wyatt Earp was far more complicated, far more prone to human desire and poor decision-making.

We are only beginning the reanalysis of Earp and his times, yet the Wyatt Earp who is emerging is neither the plaster saint of Lake nor the repulsive villain portrayed by Waters. He is a man—a man who faced difficult and complicated choices. Sometimes he got them right. Sometimes he got them wrong. Sometimes he believed the right people. Sometimes he was naively misled.

Some writers have portrayed Earp as a glory hound, actively seeking publicity wherever he could find it. Even this is replete with contradictions. There are numerous reports from those who knew Earp telling how he refused to discuss the old days and always avoided talking about the killing and mayhem. Friends and family members alike portrayed a very modest man who avoided the spotlight. In 1925, he wrote to old acquaintance John Hays Hammond, "Notoriety has been the bane of my life. I detest it, and I never have put forth any effort to check the tales that have been published in recent years of the exploits in which my brothers and I are supposed to have been the principal participants. None of them are correct...."

Yet, near the end of his life, the man who had so tried to elude publicity, decided to try and have his story told, with the aid of silent-picture superstar William S. Hart. Hart suggested a biography be written to precede the flicker, and Earp agreed. During this period, two writers—Fredrick Bechdolt and Frank Lockwood—met with Earp and would later recount how Earp talked at length about killings, the very subjects he had avoided for so many years. Bechdolt and Lockwood even said that Earp claimed to have killed outlaw leader John Ringo on the way out of Arizona, which is impossible, since Ringo's death



William S. Hart idolized Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson. Hart visited Masterson (standing behind the seated Hart) at his newspaper job in October 1921 and had this photograph taken with his hero (left). Masterson died typing at his desk on October 25, 1921. He was two weeks shy of his 69th birthday. Hart dedicated his next movie, 1923's *Wild Bill Hickok* (far left) to Masterson. The film starred (left to right) Hart as Hickok and Bert Lindley as Wyatt Earp. Hart hired the real Wyatt Earp to serve as a technical advisor on the film. The film was the first to feature Earp on the silver screen, but another decade passed before Hollywood caught on to his enduring appeal.

came four months after Earp left Arizona. Earp did not make the claim of killing Ringo to Lake.

### In Search of the Real Wyatt Earp

So who was Earp? A glory hound or the same man who had shied from publicity for so many long years, trying to avoid undue attention? Or, does it make him a very human character who clumsily tried to adjust to different situations? A simple man of great complexity.

I believe all this makes for a far more interesting Wyatt Earp. He made many mistakes, but when the time to stand tall came to him, he showed enormous bravery. He is defined by his courage rather than wisdom or judgment.

I further believe that children are better served by understanding that heroes have human failings, too. Only by understanding the humanity—flaws and strengths alike—do we make future generations recognize they can strive for greatness, even with their own deficiencies.

Much of what the previous eras of writers claimed must simply be eradicated from the mind. One of Boyer's more unusual assertions was that Lake had dug up a little-known, mostly forgotten lawman and turned him into a national figure. This is simply not true.

Even in his own time, Earp built quite a reputation. In

1889, he came North from his home in San Diego for a visit to the races in Sonoma County, north of San Francisco. On August 24, the *Santa Rosa Democrat* wrote, "Wyatt Earp is little given to talking about himself. And yet he has a reputation as wide as the continent—a fame made by deeds rather than words."

This level of fame came after his time as a Kansas lawman and the gunfight in Tombstone, after which he led the Vendetta that captured national attention. He would draw far more attention for his ill-fated decision to referee the Sharkey-Fitzsimmons fight in 1896, when he awarded the victory to underdog Tom Sharkey on a foul, leaving Bob Fitzsimmons and a thousand of dissenters to charge that he had been bought off and fixed the fight. Newspapers across the nation mocked Earp, and the fight would be recalled for decades, with various writers rehashing the claims against him.

By the 1920s, a nostalgia period set in, with numerous recollections appearing in

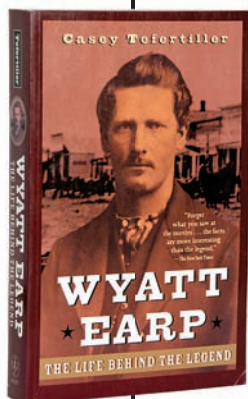
newspapers across the country telling of the still-in-living-memory Old West. Many of these articles centered on Tombstone—a saga that is the epitome of the West of Imagination. And, many of them were flat-out false, yet they served to elevate Earp's recognition around the nation. In 1923, William S. Hart used Earp as a character in his movie, *Wild Bill Hickok*. Bert Lindley played Earp, and

newspaper stories appeared around the nation telling of the film. Burns's book followed in 1927 and sold well nationally.

When Earp died in 1929, his obituary appeared in the *New York Times* and most other papers around the United States. Earp was anything but forgotten when Lake's biography appeared.

With the advent of online newspaper resources, we are finding new information with regularity and continually learning as more and more papers become available. One of the most interesting discoveries is ongoing. Kansas researcher Roger Myers found several articles concerning the long-disputed confrontation between Earp and Clay Allison in the streets of Dodge City. After Myers published his findings in *Wild West*, researchers Bob Cash and Chris Penn continued scouring old newspapers and located stories that further support the authenticity of such a confrontation. What happened is not like the absurd representation by Lake of Earp facing Allison down in the middle of the street, but rather a canny outwitting, where Bat Masterson held a gun in the distance as Earp convinces Allison that any action would be fatal for him.

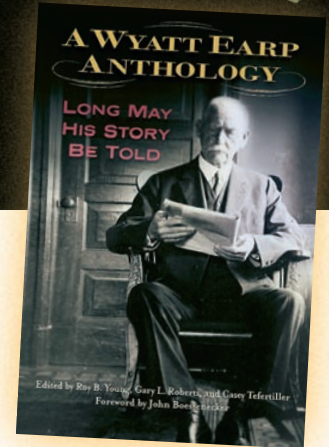
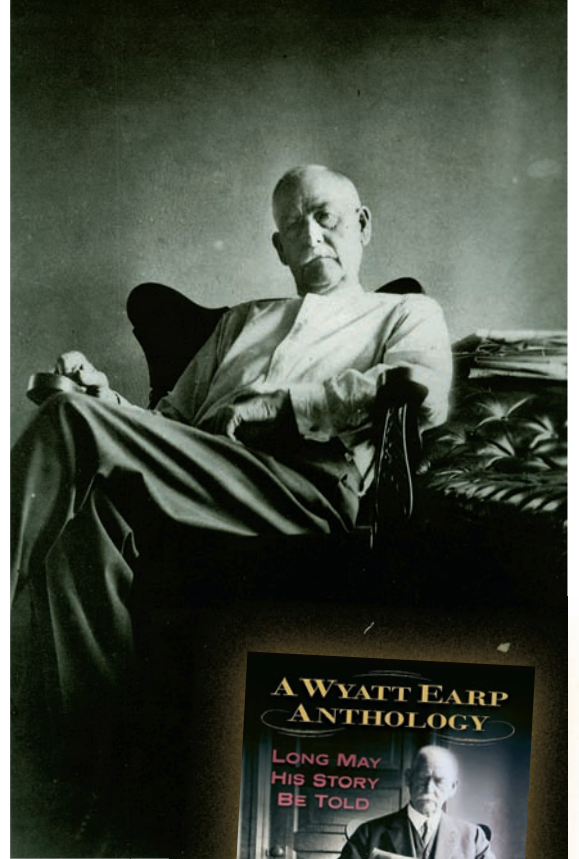
We are constantly learning more, as creative researchers discover new sources of information. When I first began researching, Gary Roberts told me that the general belief around the field was that everything that could be found about Earp had already been discovered. The only significant unknown material lay in the files of Boyer or longtime Earp researcher John Gilchriese, who claimed to possess an enormous number of





Wyatt Earp in 1923 (right) outlived most of his frontier contemporaries, ironically living out his last days with Josephine Marcus in a rented bungalow in downtown Los Angeles. He and Josephine's ashes are buried in the same plot in the Hills of Eternity Memorial Park in Colma, California (above). The Earps' current headstone is the third or fourth to grace the famous couple's final resting place. The Marcus family allowed a fans group from Southern California to place the new marker in 1998-'99.

— GRAVE PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/WYATT EARP PHOTO COURTESY JEFF MOREY —



documents he would be using in his Earp biography, a book that has never been published. Both Gilchriese and Boyer served as bottlenecks on Earp research, with aspiring historians assuming they could not penetrate the field. If they did, they would be met with humiliation when one of the giants revealed a secret that disproved their work. Boyer's mysterious collection, of course, turned out to be mythological.

## Epilogue

Gilchriese's collection went to auction and did not contain the many treasures he claimed.

We have reached a new level in Earp research. So many are doing such good work, and *A Wyatt Earp Anthology* is a tribute to the many dedicated historians who are trying to find the truth of this

mysterious legend and the many controversies that surrounded him. The work is far from finished, and future generations of researchers will keep hunting as we develop a better understanding.

Many Wyatt Earps have come and gone since the real man's ashes were interred in a small cemetery south of San Francisco. Only now are we starting to understand the actual Wyatt Earp and the many ordeals he confronted.



Casey Tefertiller is the award-winning author of *Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend*. "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp" is excerpted from the Prologue to *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told* edited by Roy B. Young, Gary L. Roberts and Casey Tefertiller, with a foreword by John Boessenecker (University of North Texas Press, 2019).

Wyatt Earp's funeral attracted a who's who of Hollywood. Honorary pall bearers for the frontiersman were (left to right) W.J. Hunsaker (Wyatt's attorney in Tombstone and the "Dean of the Los Angeles Bar"), George Parsons, John Clum, William. S. Hart, Wilson Mizner and Tom Mix.



BY ROGER JAY

# Earps Gone Wild

**BROTHERS WYATT AND MORGAN'S "BUM" YEAR PIMPING IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS, PRIMED THEM FOR THEIR FUTURE AS FRONTIER BOOMTOWN OPPORTUNISTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LAW.**

The propeller boat *S.P. Carter* churned through the choppy waters of the Illinois River three miles below Peoria. Aboard, Capt. Samuel Gill and eight stalwarts of his city police force peered into the darkness of the September night. Glimmers flitted like fireflies off the port bow not far ahead. The captain whispered, "That's her," and signaled the pilot to cut the engine. Silent now but for the soft lapping of the water against her sides, *S.P. Carter* glided to shore some yards above the outline of a common

keelboat about 50 feet long, moored to the bank. It was what the natives called a "gunboat," familiar to the officers of the law. On the deck perched a house with four doors—one at each end, one on each side. There was no one to be seen, but gleams of light slanted through windows in the house, and the squeals of catgut and thumps of dancing feet rose and fell on the wind.

Captain Gill gathered his men around him and drew up a plan of action. With officers O'Connor, Wason and Strong at his heels,

*Root's Peoria City Directory for 1872-73* lists Wyatt Earp living at the same address as Jane Haspel—Washington Street near the corner of Hamilton (right). Since the city directory went to press on March 1, 1872, and canvassing for it would have taken at least several months, it is probable Wyatt was residing in the Haspel brothel, not merely patronizing it, at the time of his arrest.

— LITHOGRAPH OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AND SANBORN MAP OF PEORIA COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —





he stole along the weed-strewn riverbank and slipped aboard the gunboat, his men fanning out, posting themselves next to three of the doors. The crew of *S.P. Carter*, which had drifted down on the current and anchored next to the other boat, guarded the last exit. Captain Gill edged up to a window and ran his eye over the scene within, illuminated by smoky lamplight. The bar, the dance floor, the revelers, the warren of sleeping quarters—all confirmed his suspicions.

For some days complaints had reached his ears about this boat tied up at Wesley Bend, beyond the city limits but by ordinance still within his jurisdiction. A young man from the lower end of Peoria had gone there night after night to carouse and then stagger home and abuse his mother; one of the denizens of the boat had marched into the uproarious Bunker Hill section of town and boldly stoned a house, settling old scores. And, as if these scenes from Donnybrook Fair were not alarming enough, intimations even more troubling to civic rectitude had become public knowledge. It would not do. In Captain Gill's mind, the gunboat had overstayed its welcome. He put a patrol whistle to his lips and blew a sharp blast. His men charged through the four doors. The fiddler and the dancers scattered, but there was no escape. In one of the eight bedrooms, a man cursed and threw on his clothes, while the woman with him broke out in knowing laughter and told him to give up. He was well and truly

caught. The police shouldered open other bedroom doors and pounced on the dazed and startled inhabitants of the floating brothel. Among them were the owner, an experienced pimp from Beardstown, 90 miles downriver, and in another room the owner's bartender and right-hand man, a rough-house slugger named Wyatt Earp, who'd brawled his way through the tie camps of the transcontinental railway a few years earlier, and Earp's wife, Sarah.

Events make clear that this was the Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp of O.K. Corral fame and enduring Western legend—a man in his mid-20s who was already acquiring a reputation, though of dubious prospect. And the gunboat incident of September 7, 1872, was not the first collision between him and the Peoria police that year.

On February 24, he and his brother Morgan had been seized in a raid on Jane Haspel's brothel, in the city's red-light district, close by the train yards, transient boardinghouses and hotels catering to commercial travelers. At a hearing shortly afterward, a prostitute nabbed with the Earps cinches their guilt, giving testimony to the effect that they had not been entrapped but had knowingly consorted with her, and each man paid a fine of \$20 and costs. The raid was part of a campaign launched by the new mayor and his superintendent of police—Samuel Gill—to placate the “moral element” among their constituents by putting well-publicized pressure on the flesh trade. On this occasion,

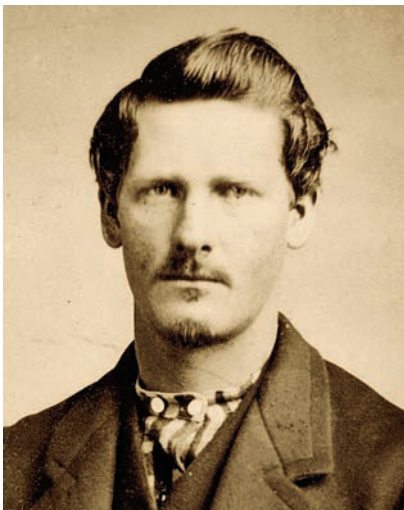
the amount of the fine suggests the Earps were convicted of being nothing more than “johns.”

Two months afterward, on April 24, the prostitute who had turned state's evidence against the Earps—Minnie Randall—committed suicide by swallowing six grains of morphine. The *Peoria Daily Transcript* noted that she had been an inmate of the McClellan building on Main Street, a house of ill fame within several blocks of Jane Haspel's. It further remarked that the deceased had been stopping at McClellan's with the notorious prostitute Sally Haspel.

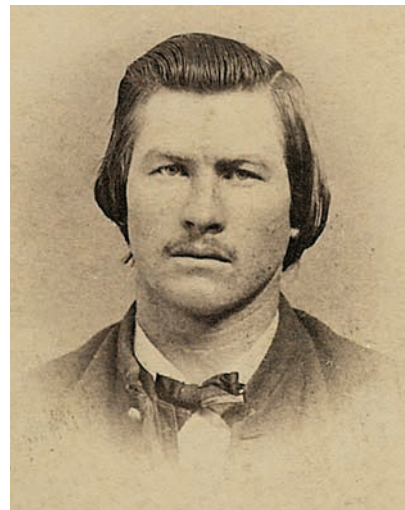
Less than three weeks later, Wyatt and Morgan Earp were again jailed by Captain Gill's police force, as reported in the May 11, 1872, edition of the *Daily Transcript*: “That hotbed of iniquity, the McClellan Institute on Main Street near Water was pulled on Thursday night [May 9], and as usual quite a number of inmates transient and otherwise were found therein. Wyatt [sic] Earp and his brother Morgan Earp were each fined \$44.55 and as they had not the money and would not work, they languish in the cold and silent calaboose.”

The madam of the McClellan Institute was Jennie Green, whose previous residence had been a hovel situated in an alley near the corner of Washington and Hamilton streets, within spitting distance of Jane Haspel's back door. The amount of the fines levied against Wyatt and Morgan suggests that the arresting officers considered them to be pimps and charged them as such.

## WYATT EARP



## VIRGIL EARP



The brothers cannot have relished the time spent in the city jail, however refractory they chose to be about working off their fines.

It may be that after serving their sentences, Wyatt and Morgan left Peoria—Wyatt temporarily and Morgan for good. In a memoir, their sister Adelia recounts how on her 11th birthday, June 16, 1872, they visited her at the family farm in Missouri and gave her “a whole package of pretty clothes.” By Adelia’s account, Wyatt and Morgan had returned from buffalo hunting with “quite a heap of money.”

The generally accurate recollections given by Earp when he had nothing to hide lead one to believe he concocted a plausible tale to account for the time he lingered in Peoria. Still, he and Morgan may have returned to his father’s farm in June 1872 and made a memorable appearance at their young sister’s birthday party. How they could have flashed “quite a heap of money” when neither could stump up enough to pay a \$44.55 fine a month earlier is another matter.

If Wyatt did return to his family, the visit was a brief one, for probably no later than August he was back in Peoria or Beardstown or points in between. Somewhere he had to have teamed up with John T. Walton, owner of the floating brothel.

### What Played in Peoria

Seeking to profit from human weakness and need, Wyatt and Morgan Earp found themselves caught in a double bind. First of all, they were outsiders, and, as such, parasitic, if not pestilential, in the eyes of the

**On Friday last James Earp, on bail by Messrs. Valiton and Scott, under grant of a new trial for grand larceny, having with others committed some diabolism among the bagnios down street, was returned by his bondsmen to the Sheriff and again committed to jail.**

community. In 1872, “bummer” meant more to a Peorian than a mere good-for-nothing; it carried connotations of vagrant, vagabond, confidence trickster and applied specifically to the tide of unwanted immigrants that rushed down the Illinois River following the great Chicago fire of 1871.

Identified with these invaders, the Earps paid a price. Substantial fines appear to have driven them out of town by early summer, and when Wyatt returned on the gunboat in September (floating downriver like Detritus from the scorched Sodom to the north), he came in for another mulcting from the authorities and a tongue-lashing from the press that bid him be gone and carry on his business at “Hell’s gate.”

**JAIL DELIVERY.**  
Escape of Littlefield, Hughes, Earp, and Thompson.

On last Friday night, Charles Littlefield, under sentence of two years for horse stealing; Samuel Hughes, one year for shooting John O’Neil; James Earp, one year for larceny, and James Thompson, one year for stealing a horse from Chas. McCartney, broke jail. There are two prisoners remaining—Sheehan of Gallatin and Doran of Cable. They could just as well have gone had they wished. The escape was made by sawing through the solid timber floor into the privy vault, thence drifting horizontally through the stone foundation and two or three feet of dirt until past the outer foundation logs sufficient to let them up outside the jail. The remaining prisoners say the work has been going on some three or four months, Littlefield being the leading spirit. Our readers will remember the

In 1871–’72, Wyatt and Morgan Earp spent most of their time in Peoria, Illinois, pimping and living in sporting houses with well-known local prostitutes.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Editor’s Note: “Earps Gone Wild” is excerpted from “The Peoria Bummer: Wyatt Earp’s Lost Year” by the late Roger Jay in *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story be Told*.

**Kid on Houses of Prostitution—A New Secret Society—The Peoria Postmaster-ship.**

PEORIA, Ill., Jan. 13.—Chief of Police Gill has commenced pulling houses of ill-fame, swooping down on two of them last night with his force, and arraigning the inmates in the Police Court this morning. The city authorities are determined to drive these institutions from the city, in which determination they are sustained by all good citizens.

A new secret society, known as the Independent Order of Good Fellows, has been organized in this city. Its plan is similar to that of the Odd Fellows, and combines a kind of mutual insurance association with the other features. General D. W. Magee has been confirmed Postmaster for another term. A well-laid plan was made for ousting him, but it was a failure.

BY ROY B. YOUNG, GARY L. ROBERTS,  
CASEY TEFERTILLER AND JOHN BOESSENECKER

# The Earp Rap Sheet

## BEFORE WICHITA, DODGE CITY AND TOMBSTONE, THE EARP BROTHERS WERE MORE NOTORIOUS THAN HEROIC.

Wyatt Earp's life history is checkered with good and bad events from his early manhood in Missouri to his final days in California. In most published biographical treatments, his shadowy past has generally been glossed over by those who see him as a lawman hero. Were he to have been a 21st-century character, his early unlawful actions—especially in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and Illinois—would have been scrutinized with background checks and investigations, and he would never have achieved notoriety as a lawman in Kansas or Arizona.

Today, more people in the general population are aware of the legends and myths about Wyatt Earp than are aware of the truth. Whether considering factual history or historical fiction about Earp, the emphasis is consistently on his career as a lawman. What has failed to receive due emphasis is that Wyatt spent more years running from the law than he did chasing lawbreakers.

—Roy B. Young

**Summer 1869:** Wyatt is involved in a barroom incident with a railroad brakeman named Thomas D. Pinard, at Waltown's Hotel (and brothel) in Beardstown, Illinois. Pinard draws a pistol, and Wyatt shoots him in the hip.

**Fall 1869:** Wyatt joins the Earp family in Lamar, Missouri.

**November 17, 1869:** Wyatt is appointed constable of Lamar Township, when his father, Nicholas P. Earp, resigns to become Lamar's justice of the peace.

**January 1870:** Wyatt marries Aurilla Sutherland and on March 3 he is named constable of Lamar, when the town is incorporated.

**August 29, 1870:** Wyatt buys a home in Lamar, and settles down with his young wife, Aurilla.

**September 1870:** James Earp is arrested for burglary in Deer Lodge, Montana Territory. He is convicted but granted a new trial.

**Late October or early November 1870:** Aurilla Sutherland Earp dies of typhus or typhoid, possibly while giving birth to a stillborn child.

**November 7, 1870:** Wyatt sells his home in Lamar, the day before he is reelected constable, over his half brother Newton and two others. Soon thereafter, Morgan, Virgil and Wyatt fight a bloody street brawl with Aurilla's brothers and friends, who may blame Wyatt for the death of their sister.

**January 1871:** Charges are filed against Wyatt for the mismanagement of funds owed the county, and he is replaced as constable of Lamar by Morris B. Earll. James Earp is arrested for brawling in a bordello in Deer Lodge. He and other prisoners escape on February 24. Captured and put back in jail, James secures his release and leaves Montana for Utah.

**March 1871:** Wyatt leaves Lamar along with Eckmon "Ed" Kennedy, a young stage driver, ahead of additional charges brought against him in the Barton County Court. Along the way they are joined by John Shown likely from Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky, where the Earp family had previously lived.

**April 6, 1871:** Wyatt, Kennedy and Shown are arrested for horse theft on March 28, 1871, from James M. "Jim" Keys near Fort Gibson in the Indian Territory.

**May 8, 1871:** Wyatt escapes from the Van Buren, Arkansas, jail with Shown and five other men; seven days later a grand jury indicts Earp, Kennedy and Shown.

**June 1871:** Kennedy is acquitted at Fort Smith, Arkansas; Earp and Shown are never caught.

**October 1871:** James Earp is run out of Utah by an angry mob of Mormon men for James's beating of one of their friends who objected to James's attempted seduction of his wife. While fleeing Utah, James befriends Ed Bennett, who is later mistakenly killed by the posse after James, while the Earp desperado rides east to join the rest of the family in Illinois.

**February 1872–September 1872:** Wyatt and his brother Morgan join Virgil Earp in Peoria, Illinois, where he is working as a bartender. Wyatt and Morgan work as enforcers in local brothels, and are arrested on several occasions as "johns" and "pimps" for their activities related to prostitution. During this time, Wyatt also becomes involved with a prostitute named Sally Haspel, who may have been his wife, aka Sarah Haspel Earp.

**Summer 1873:** James Earp with his new wife, Bessie Catchim, whom he married in April, open a bordello in Wichita, Kansas. In May 1874, Bessie is charged with prostitution, along with Sally Earp, who was most likely Sarah Haspel of Peoria, the "wife" of Wyatt.

**November 1873:** Virgil Earp is arrested in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on suspicion of arson, and is convicted in January 1874. A legal error or such puts him back in jail for a retrial. He is released in May, after almost five months in the city's jail known as "Fort Moss."

**July 23, 1874:** Virgil is shot in a Council Bluffs bordello by prostitute "Wild Madge." He recovers and starts an illegal saloon. In December he is charged with selling alcohol without a license.

**May 27, 1874:** Wyatt is arrested in Wichita, Kansas, for fighting, the same day that Charlie Sanders is killed by a Texan.

**Spring 1875:** Virgil joins Doc Baggs' gang of confidence men. While in Omaha he meets former prostitute Allie Sullivan, the future Mrs. Virgil Earp. Virgil is arrested in March with Baggs and other gang members for fleecing a man out of \$1,200 in a rigged game of three-card monte.



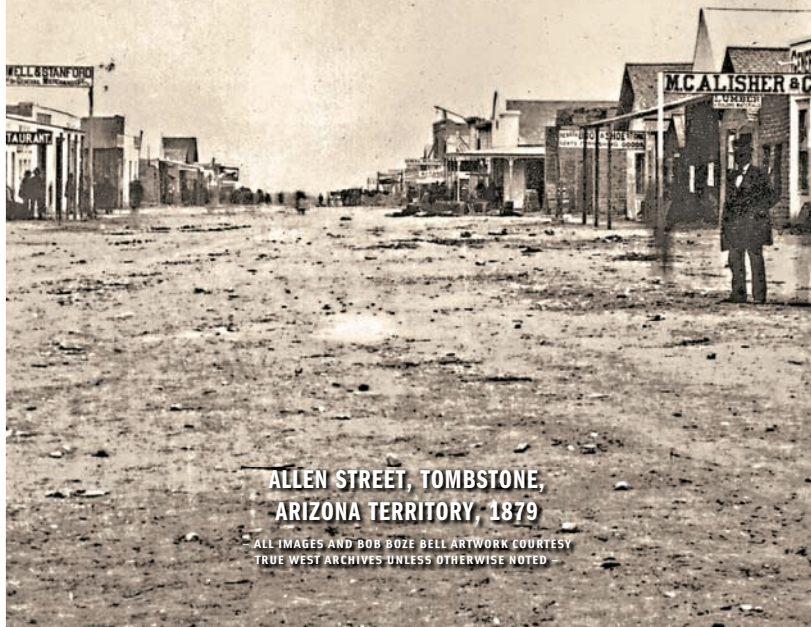
**Editor's Note:** "The Earp Rap Sheet—Before Wichita, Dodge City and Tombstone, the Earp Brothers Were More Notorious Than Heroic" is excerpted from Roy B. Young's "Wyatt Earp, Outlaw of the Cherokee Nation" in *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*. The timeline is excerpted from John Boessenecker's *Ride the Devil's Herd* and "The Life of Wyatt Earp—A Timeline," by Casey Tefertiller and Gary L. Roberts, in *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*.

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

# Ride the Devil's Herd

## HOW THE COWBOYS RULED TOMBSTONE BEFORE WYATT EARP

The Cowboys were the Old West's biggest outlaw gang. In Arizona and New Mexico, they committed highway robberies, waylaid Mexican pack trains, stole thousands of heads of cattle on both sides of the international border and murdered at least 35 men. The Cowboys worked closely with dishonest ranchers who helped them smuggle and conceal purloined livestock, and with crooked butchers and cattle dealers who were happy to buy cheap, stolen beef. They were unopposed in Arizona Territory until they ran headlong into the disreputable but deadly Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp, and their dentist-gambler pal, Doc Holliday.

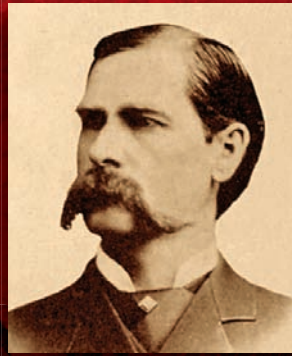


ALLEN STREET, TOMBSTONE,  
ARIZONA TERRITORY, 1879

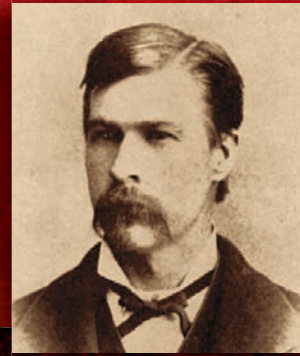
ALL IMAGES AND BOB BOZE BELL ARTWORK COURTESY  
TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



VIRGIL EARP, 38



WYATT EARP, 33



MORGAN EARP, 30



The Cowboys' genesis lay in the savvy and the six-shooters of John Kinney, one of the most notorious outlaws of the American Southwest. Several desperadoes who became leading lights of the Cowboys rode with John Kinney in Texas and New Mexico Territory, playing bloody roles in the El Paso Salt War and the Lincoln County War. Two of them were Bob Martin and Curly Bill Brocius. In November 1878 they broke jail near El Paso and fled to southeastern Arizona Territory. It was an isolated frontier, with no settlements, no towns, no border, no law enforcement—just mountains and desert and mesquite and Apaches.

During the next two years, Bob Martin and Curly Bill were joined by numerous badmen and fugitives, including

desperadoes John Ringo, Pony Diehl, Cactus Bill Graham, Sherman McMaster, Jim Wallace, Billy Leonard, Jim Crane, Harry “the Kid” Head, Luther King, Frank Stilwell, Pete Spence, Jimmy Hughes and Dick Lloyd. They formed a loose-knit gang of about 100 outlaws which operated in small bands on both sides of the border. Their number would eventually grow to as many as 200. Mexicans dubbed them “*Tejanos*,” or Texans; Americans called them the Cowboys. Although the term “cow-boy” had been in common use in New England in the late 1700s, by 1879 it took on a sinister meaning in Arizona and New Mexico. As one frontier journalist explained, “The cowboy is a cross between a *vaquero* and a highwayman.”

While most of the Cowboys were Anglo, the band included some Hispanics, including Florentino Sais, a *mestizo* with strong Indian features. He first came to prominence as a member of the gang of Guadalupe Celaya, a Mexican revolutionary who morphed into a bandit. In September 1878 Sais, Celaya and other members of the gang committed one of frontier Arizona's most infamous murders. At Barrel Springs in Davidson Canyon, 33 miles southeast of Tucson, they ambushed and killed Captain John Hicks Adams and his mining partner, Cornelius Finley. Adams was one of California's most famous lawmen and bandit hunters and had served as sheriff in San Jose. He and Finley had just been sworn in as deputy U.S. marshals. Florentino Sais managed to escape justice, but more than three years later he would meet his fate in the deadly guns of Wyatt Earp.

In 1878, the mining camp of Tombstone sprang up, and it quickly became the Cowboys' favorite watering hole. On the night of April 8, 1879, Charley Snow, a killer and rapist who rode in the Lincoln County War, got liquored up in Tombstone. He soon ran into Frank Patterson, a 25-year-old fellow Cowboy who owned a ranch next to that of Tom and Frank McLauray on the Babocomari River. The pair had a violent quarrel which ended when Patterson drew his pistol and shot Snow down. One of the witnesses later said that the New Mexico desperado "was not dangerously wounded." Officers arrested Patterson, but because Snow recovered from his wound, and the fracas more or less resembled mutual combat, Patterson escaped indictment.

Before long, Patterson was involved in a much deadlier affair. On November 9, 1879, an old prospector, John Van Houten, was found bludgeoned to death near the Brunckow Mine, not far from Charleston, a new mining camp situated nine miles southwest of Tombstone. Deputy sheriffs quickly arrested three of the Cowboys—Frank Patterson, Pete Spence and Frank Stilwell—as well as three other suspects.



### NEW MEXICO TERRITORY RUSTLERS

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

They were accused of trying to jump Van Houten's mining claim. As was customary in that time and place, all gained their release due to lack of evidence. The three Cowboys—especially Stilwell and Spence—would be heard from again and again in the years that followed, and Stilwell would not survive his final encounter with Wyatt Earp.

Bob Martin and Curly Bill made frequent raids across the border to steal cattle from Mexican rancheros. One of their targets was the Corralitos Mining and Cattle Company. Its owner, Ramon Lujan, had been joined by one of his American partners, Major George B. Zimpelman, whose unfair treatment of Hispanics had triggered the El Paso Salt War in 1877. Zimpelman, born in Germany in 1842, had emigrated to Texas with his parents at age 16. Tough as nails, he served with great distinction in Terry's Texas Rangers during the Civil War and received multiple wounds in combat. Later he won election as sheriff in Austin, holding office until 1876. Zimpelman became wealthy investing in businesses, mines and ranches in Texas and Mexico. By the summer of 1880 he had moved to Mexico to help manage the Corralitos operations. Because of the repeated Cowboy raids, Zimpelman brought

several men with him from El Paso, among them Thomas Moad, a former stage driver and Texas Ranger, who, three years later, would be the first El Paso policeman to be killed in the line of duty. These Texans, along with Mexican recruits, were known as Zimpelman's Guards. Martin and Curly Bill had picked a tough outfit to tangle with.

In early August 1880, Bob Martin, Curly Bill and Miller McCallister, the latter a crooked butcher, with several other Cowboys, rounded up 300 head of cattle on the Corralitos ranch and started for the border. The theft was quickly discovered and Major Zimpelman, with Tom Moad, a black cowhand, and 14 of his Guards and *vaqueros*, took to the saddle. They cut the rustlers' sign and trailed them north. In Janos, Mexican volunteers joined the pursuers and they spent two more days tracking the outlaws across the border. On August 8 the posse found the outlaws holed up in a stockade in the mountains of New Mexico's



Above is a local watering hole owned by J.W. Stewart. The photographer has labeled this photo as the "First House in Charleston." In the background is Gird's home (left) and the mills in Millville (right).

— CHARLES A. FARCLOT, COURTESY ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

# The Cowboys



**Tom Harper**, the notorious Cowboy, was hanged in Tucson on July 8, 1881.

- RICHARD LAPIDUS COLLECTION -



**PETE SPENCE**



**CURLY BILL**



**Jimmy Hughes's** nickname was "Pet of the San Simon." He was one of the youngest of the Cowboys.

- AUTHOR'S COLLECTION -



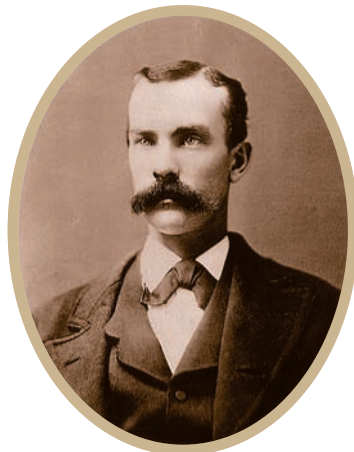
**Pong Diehl**, the partner of John Kinney in New Mexico, was one of the leaders of the Cowboys in Arizona. Wyatt Earp believed he was one of the men who ambushed Virgil in Tombstone.

- ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY -

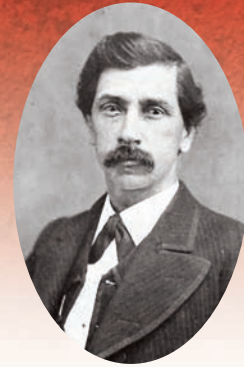


**FRANK STILWELL**

- COURTESY ROY B. YOUNG -



**JOHN RINGO**



Cowboy **Nicanor Rodriguez** was a notorious stage robber who rode with Bob Martin in 1876.

- AUTHOR'S COLLECTION -



**Nick Hughes** was one of the leaders of the Cowboys in the 1870s.

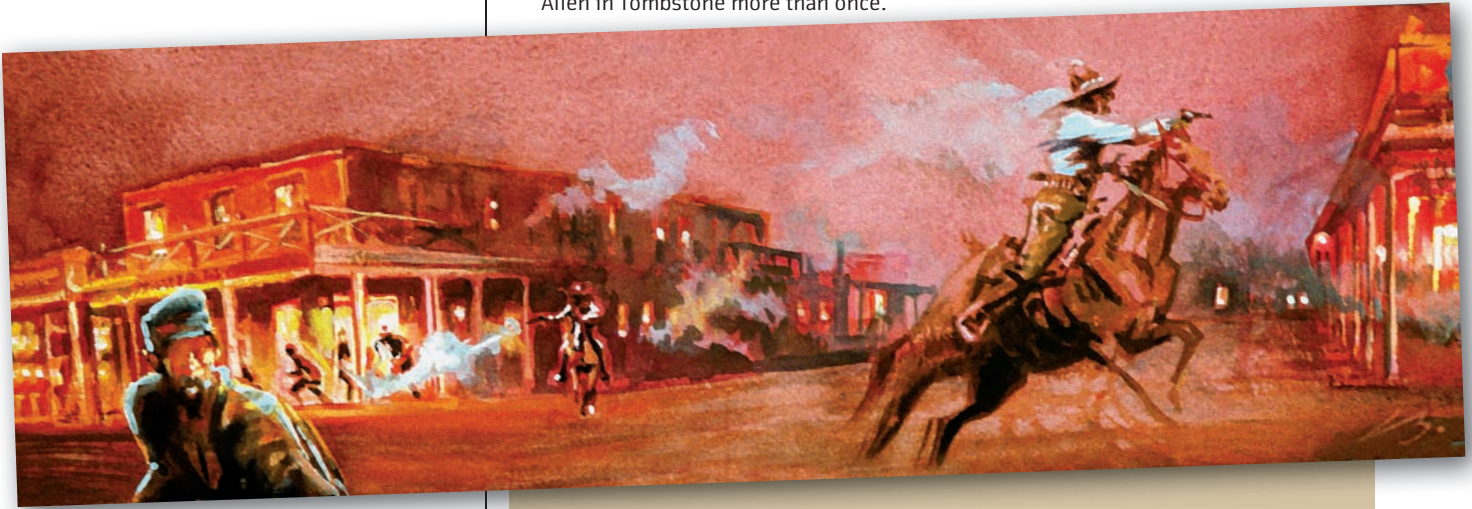
- AUTHOR'S COLLECTION -



**Joe Hill**, whose true name was Joe Olney, was one of the leaders of the Cowboys.

- DAVID JOHNSON COLLECTION -

Curly Bill and pards shot up Fifth and Allen in Tombstone more than once.



boothel. According to James C. Hancock, a pioneer who knew some of the Cowboys, their fortress was made of posts that enclosed a small cave under an overhanging boulder. Hancock identified Curly Bill, Cactus Bill Graham and an old man named Scotty as three of the Cowboys trapped in the stockade.

Martin and his men were, as always, heavily armed with six-shooters and Winchesters. While some of Zimpelman's Guards quickly rounded up the herd of stolen cattle, the rest surrounded the stockade. The Cowboys immediately opened fire and the Guards returned it, shot for shot, giving Miller McCallister a minor flesh wound in the neck. According to Hancock, "The Mexicans would put their hats on a stick and every time Bill Graham would 'cut loose' at it, until finally Curly Bill told him to quit shooting at the hats as the Mexicans were doing that so as to get them to shoot all their cartridges away and the clean them up, but Graham could not resist and Curly Bill told him if he did not quit he would take his cartridges away from him, which he eventually did."

Above the din of gunfire Curly Bill shouted to Graham, "Now, if they make a rush on us, I will give your cartridges back but not until they do." Explained Hancock, "Every time a Mexican showed himself the least bit Curly Bill would get him. Curly Bill never lost his nerve or got 'rattled' under any circumstances." The Cowboys winged one Mexican and the black cowboy and wounded two of the posse's horses. Finally Tom Moad caught a glimpse of Curly Bill

## From Parson's Diary More Cowboy Bullying

JANUARY 10, 1881

*"Some more bullying by the cowboys. 'Curly Bill' and others captured Charleston the other night and played the devil generally—breaking up a religious meeting by chasing the minister out of the house—putting out lights with pistol balls and going through the town. I think it was tonight they captured the Alhambra saloon here and raced through the town firing pistols."*

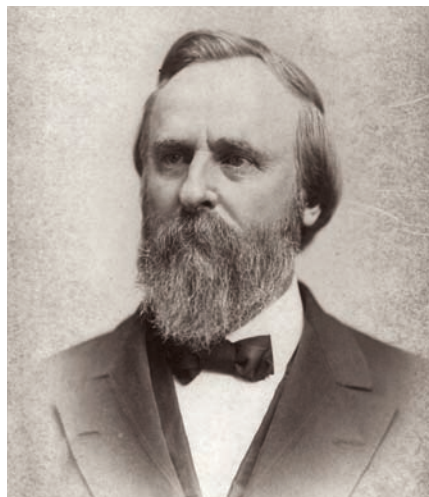
In a further confirmation, in his May 13 entry, Parsons encounters an itinerant preacher who he calls McKane (actually Joseph McCann). "He is the one Curly Bill made dance and commanded to preach and pray, shot out lights, etc., at Charleston recently. He won't discuss the matter."



and squeezed off a rifle round. The bullet grazed the side of Curly Bill's head and knocked him to the ground. But the Cowboys were unfazed and stubbornly defended their stockade with rifle- and pistol-fire. Zimpelman finally decided to withdraw for fear of having some of his men killed. The Cowboys brought the wounded Curly Bill to safety and sent for a doctor in Silver City. Curly quickly recovered. The governor of Chihuahua complained about the raid to U.S. authorities, charging that the outlaws "belong to the band which is under the leadership of the notorious criminal Robert E. Martin." He pleaded for "speedy pursuit and punishment" and added, "otherwise, between these outlaws and the Indians, cattle raising...will be crushed out entirely on the northeastern frontier of the state."

A few weeks later, Mexicans somehow managed to capture Bob Martin and he was jailed in Ascension. Probably through bribery, a local judge promptly released him. An outraged Mexican lawyer wrote to the governor of Chihuahua: "If the outlaw Martin, who is the leader of these Texans, had not been unjustly acquitted, we should now be at peace; though Martin was arrested by order of the government, he was protected by the district judge, and we, whose blood is now being shed, are today suffering the fatal consequences of that protection." Pleading for help from the Mexican government, he railed against "the scandalous deeds which are constantly perpetrated by Texan outlaws" and warned of "the total ruin of all the inhabitants, for they have already lost all their horses, and the greater part of their meat cattle." But Bob Martin escaped back to his hideout in New Mexico. He did not live long. Three months later he was slain by fellow Cowboys in a quarrel over stolen horses.

With Martin's death, Curly Bill Brocius quickly came to the forefront as the most notorious Cowboy leader. But the Cowboys' most brazen episode did not involve smuggling or raiding or shooting. In October 1880, President Rutherford B. Hayes made a



A rumored Cowboy attack, led by Curly Bill Brocius, on Republican President Rutherford B. Hayes's presidential train on a planned stop in Willcox, Arizona Territory, in October 1880, led Gen. Willcox to add 25 guards and order the train not to stop en route to Lordsburg, New Mexico Territory, from Tucson.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

hugely publicized railroad excursion to the Pacific Coast. His trip back to Washington, D.C., was on the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads, which at that time had not been completed. After visiting Yosemite and Los Angeles, California, Hayes entrained for Arizona and reached Tucson on October 24. Large crowds greeted the president, who was accompanied by numerous dignitaries—including Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman—and their wives. After a carriage tour of the Tucson's Old Pueblo, they were to proceed east through San Simon station to the railhead near Lordsburg, New Mexico. From there the presidential party would board horse-drawn U.S. Army ambulances for the 180-mile overland journey to the Santa Fe railhead in San Marcial, New Mexico. It was an extremely risky trip through the very heart of Apacheria. Reported the *Phoenix Herald*, "The party traveled by special train, one engine, baggage car and three coaches and were unaccompanied by a military escort, and this through a frontier country—something

that the ruler of no other nation on the globe would think of doing."

But the danger did not come from Apaches. Just as the president's party was to depart Tucson that evening, they received a message that the Cowboys had threatened to stop the train when it reached San Simon station. General Orlando Willcox, commander of the army in Arizona, boarded the coaches with several of his staff. At Benson the train stopped and Gen. Willcox telegraphed ahead to Fort Bowie. He ordered a detachment of the 6th Cavalry to ride to San Simon, 14 miles northeast of the fort, to guard against the Cowboys. When the train reached Willcox—a stop named after the general—he had his telegraph operator tap the line and send a confirming message to Fort Bowie. This message did not go through, either because the lines were accidentally down or the Cowboys had cut them. Then General Willcox called for civilian volunteers to accompany the president, and 25 armed men quickly scrambled aboard. When they reached San Simon that night, Willcox ordered the train to keep on without stopping. A Tucson journalist who accompanied the train reported from the railhead in Lordsburg that "happily, nothing occurred, the party arriving here in good spirits, most of them being purposely kept in ignorance of the previous night's adventures."

Fresh from threatening the President of the United States, a group of Cowboys—which included Curly Bill Brocius—turned their horses toward Tombstone. As they loped their Texas mustangs across the cactus-studded desert, looking forward to raising hell in Tombstone, they could not have imagined what waited for them. The Cowboys' epic confrontation with Wyatt Earp and his brothers was about to begin.



"Ride the Devil's Herd: How the Cowboys Ruled Tombstone before Wyatt Earp" by **John Boessenecker** is an exclusive excerpt from the award-winning San Francisco author's newest book, *Ride the Devil's Herd: Wyatt Earp's Epic Battle Against the West's Biggest Outlaw Gang*, to be released by Hanover Square Press in March 2020.

TRUE WEST  
EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## WYATT GOES ROGUE

### WYATT'S POSSE VS FLORENTINO SAIS

NUMBER TWO FOR MORG



Recent scholarship by author John Boessenecker has linked Cruz to actually being Philomeno (Florentino) Sais, a deadly member of the Guadalupe Celaya gang. If true, this totally changes our perspective of the "hapless" woodcutter.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Mark Boardman, Allen Barra, Timothy W. Fattig, Paul Cool and John Boessenecker.

MARCH 21-22, 1882

**F**resh from avenging the murder of Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan by killing Frank Stilwell at the train station in Tucson, Arizona, Wyatt and his Vendetta riders, seven or eight in all, return to Tombstone.

When Sheriff John Behan receives a warrant to arrest the Earp party for the Stilwell killing, the sheriff tries to talk to Wyatt. Wyatt replies, "I have seen you once too often," and quickly rides out of town with the others, never to return to Tombstone again.

On March 22, the Vendetta riders set off to find the next conspirator, Pete Spence, at his wood camp in the South Pass of the Dragoons. The teamster at the camp, Theodore D. Judah, later describes what happens next: Wyatt "immediately asked where Pete Spence was...he also asked after Indian Charley [sic] a half-breed, and I told him that he wasn't there.... He asked me when Pete Spence would be out in the camp again."

Disappointed by Judah's responses, Wyatt turns his attention to the camp's

Mexican laborers. With Sherman McMaster serving as his translator, Wyatt asks them if they have seen any horses in the area with saddles on—a sure sign of the Cowboys the posse is seeking. He again receives no help.

Wyatt and his men ride off toward the main road to Tombstone. Judah and a laborer start up a hill to see what Wyatt and his men are up to. "We had not gone 20 feet," Judah later testifies, "before we heard shooting... We walked up the hill further [sic] and saw [the Earp posse] on the other side of the road, on top of the hill," and we watched them for about three minutes.

Laborers Manuel Acosta and Epimania Vegas see Philomeno (Florentino) Sais (aka Florentino Cruz and Indian Charley) flee from the Earp party. "The pursuing party spread out, some on each side, and others immediately following," Acosta later says. Vegas adds, "I saw the man that was shot running and jumping from side to side. I saw him fall."

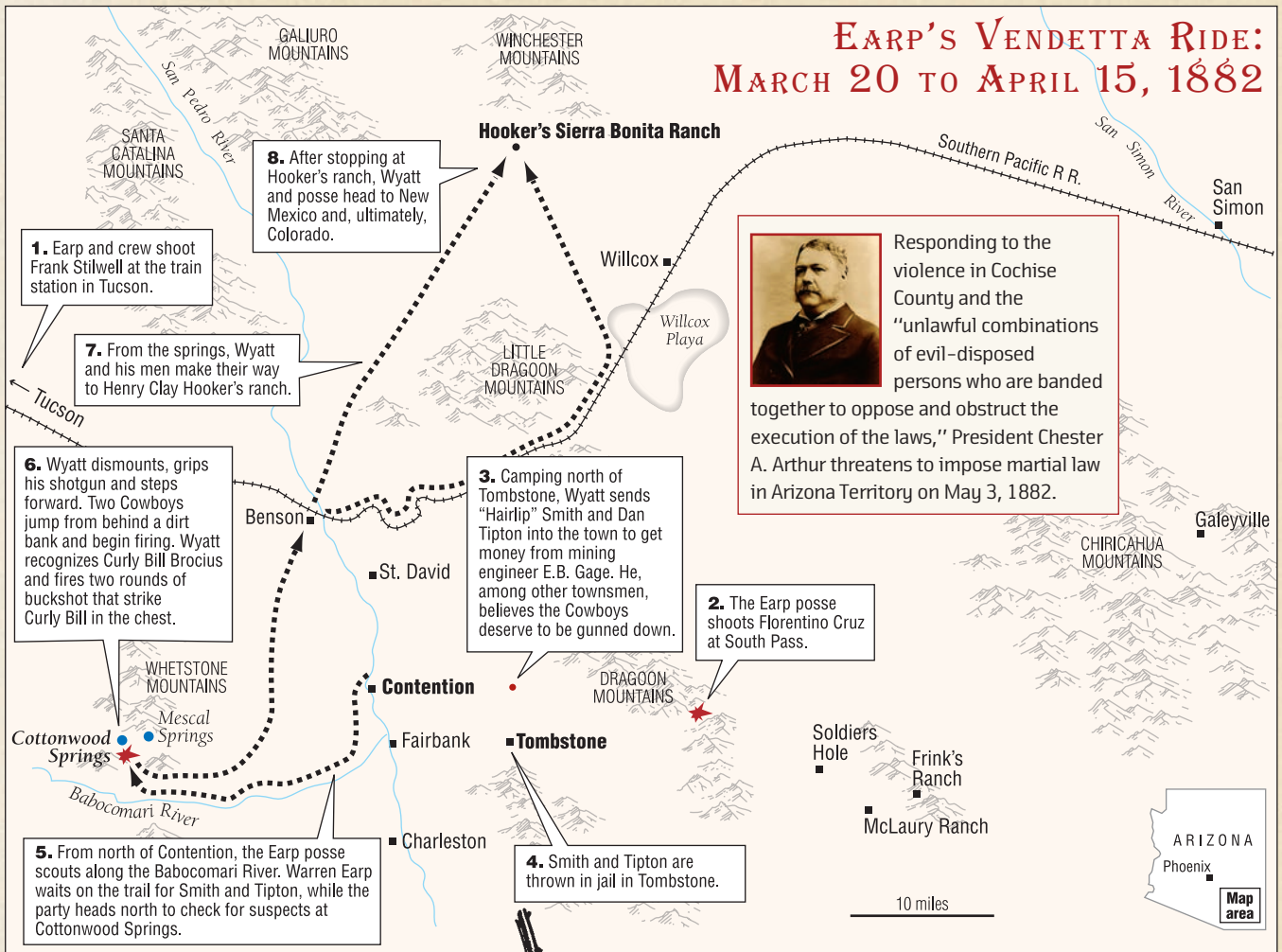
Sais is found with four wounds. Wyatt's tally is now two for Morgan.



Wood camps, such as this one near the Silver King mine in Arizona, supply fuel for boilers in the mills. Pete Spence has a similar camp in the South Pass of the Dragoons. The Earp posse visits the camp while looking for Spence and Sais. But Spence has surrendered to Sheriff John Behan, who allows Spence to keep a pistol in his jail cell for protection. Florentino Sais is not so lucky.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

# EARP'S VENDETTA RIDE: MARCH 20 TO APRIL 15, 1882



## Inside Information

When Wyatt returns to Tombstone on March 21, he is a wanted man. Quickly finishing up his business in town, Wyatt leaves that night and camps two miles north of town. The next morning, someone in the know brings him a copy of the coroner's report. Listed on it are the chief suspects behind Morgan's killing: "John Doe" Freis, Hank Swilling and Florentino Sais, aka Indian Charley. This information, no doubt, leads Wyatt to the South Pass wood camp where Sais works.



## Autopsy Results

Dr. George E. Goodfellow, who conducted the autopsy on Sais's body, stated that: "The first shot entered at the right temple, penetrating the brain; the second produced a slight flesh wound in the right shoulder; the third entered on the right side of the body near the liver, and made its exit to the right of the spine.... The fourth struck in the left thigh." The coroner's jury decided that a half-breed Indian known as Charley died from gunshot wounds "inflicted by Wyatt Earp, Warren Earp, J.H. Holliday, Sherman McMasters [sic], Texas Jack Johnson and two men whose names are unknown to the jury."



Famed frontier lawman Wyatt Earp goes rogue after the assassination of his brother Morgan.

## Two Views of a Fight

### Judah's Account

At the coroner's inquest for the killing of Sais, teamster Theodore Judah's testimony conflicts with some of what Wyatt told his biographer Stuart Lake, which Lake recorded in 1929's *Frontier Marshal*.

Judah testifies that six riders arrived at Spence's ranch. He says that during Wyatt's interrogation, he told Wyatt that he had left Spence behind in Tombstone at 9 a.m. (Actually, Spence had turned himself in to Sheriff Behan for protection against the Earps; he was even allowed to carry a pistol in his jail cell.)

Judah then testifies about what he saw on the hilltop after hearing the gunshots. He says he saw the Earp party "on the other side of the road, on top of the hill" and that "two or three got off their horses and were there two or three minutes." Then the Earp party departed down the road, heading east (away from Tombstone), until they disappeared into the hills.

After the Vendetta riders left, Judah says he went back to the camp and worked until evening. Only after that did he go out in search of Sais and discover his body, riddled with bullets.

### Earp's Account

Nearly half a century later, Wyatt Earp tells Lake that he rode into the camp and immediately recognized Indian Charley (Sais). While he questioned Judah, he waited for Sais to "betray himself."



Wyatt and crew rode down Sais, who was caught afoot while hunting strays. Wyatt, and one or two others, dismounted and grilled Sais for several minutes until Earp dispatched him. Just like he had at the Stilwell shooting, Doc Holliday probably plugged Sais as well.

Sure enough, Sais began running up an incline. When the suspect was about 100 yards up the draw, Wyatt ordered crack-shot Sherm McMaster to bring him down. ("Don't kill him; I want him to talk.") After the shot rang out, Sais grabbed his left thigh and collapsed.

Wyatt gathered up Sais who, with the help of translations from Sherman McMaster, "broke down and offered to tell what he knew of the outlaw plots." Sais ratted out the shooters of Virgil Earp (Frank Stilwell, John Ringo and Hank Swilling, the bastard son of the late Jack Swilling, founder of Phoenix) and of Morgan (Frank Stilwell shot Morgan, while Curly Bill Brocius and Hank Swilling shot at Wyatt, but their shots missed). Sais also said he heard Stilwell brag he had killed one Earp and put another, Virgil, "out of business." (Sais also ratted out the perpetrators of the December 15, 1881, attack on Earp family friend John Clum.)

In response, Wyatt asked Sais, "Neither of my brothers nor I ever harmed you, did

we?" Sais replied no. "Then what made you help kill my brother?"

Sais told Wyatt that the Cowboys were his friends and that Curly Bill had given him \$25 to stand watch. ("That \$25 business just about burned me up," Wyatt admitted to Lake.)

Wyatt challenged Sais to a duel, giving him the chance to draw his weapon any time he liked. Counting to three in Spanish, Wyatt drew and the "Buntline Special flashed from the holster and roared three times."

### BBB's Take

Instead of Sais's long confession, he probably didn't have time to say much. It is more likely Wyatt, still reeling from the loss of his favorite brother, snapped and simply killed the hapless Sais.

After all, a mere 96 hours after the assassination of Morgan, two suspects had paid for his death with their lives.

If you believe the legend, a third (and maybe more) was about to join them.

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After killing Florentino Sais, Wyatt Earp had one more deadly encounter at Cottonwood Springs in the Whetstone Mountains (see map; newspapers of the day state it was at nearby Iron Springs). During that gunbattle on March 24, he may, or may not, have killed Curly Bill Brocius and wounded others.

With several posses on their trail, Wyatt and his men made a plan to flee Arizona by way of Silver City, New Mexico. After a stop at Henry Clay Hooker's ranch in Arizona, and a near miss with John Behan's posse, the crew decamped for New Mexico and, ultimately, Colorado. Arizona authorities were unsuccessful in trying to extradite the fugitives.

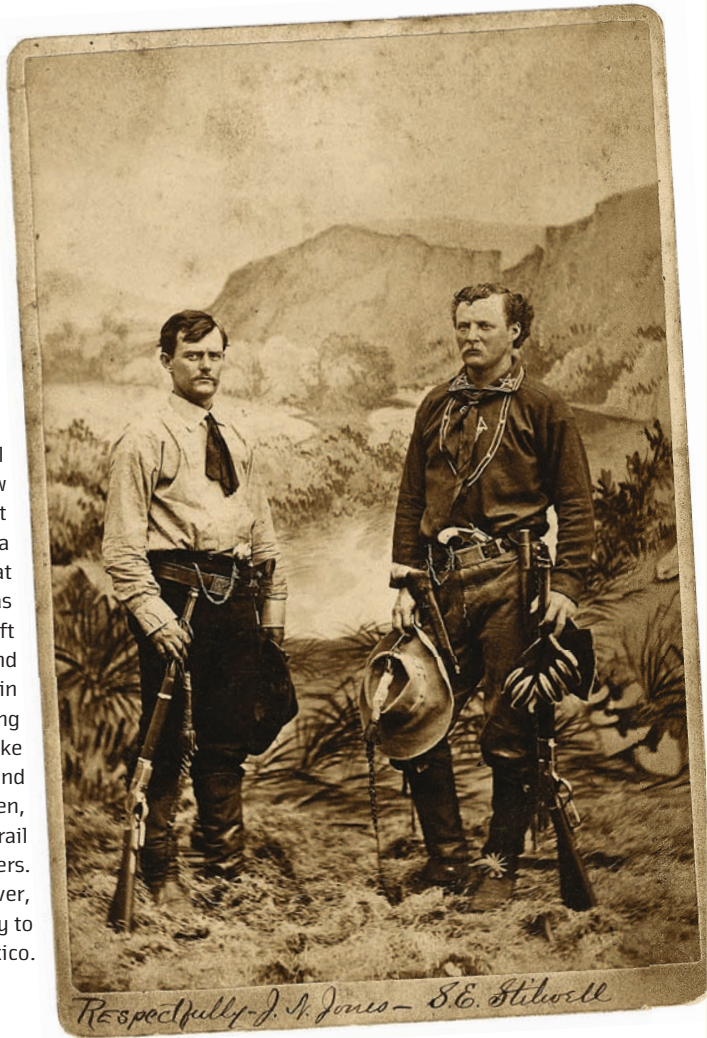
Dan Tipton stayed with the Earp party all the way to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Wyatt and Doc Holliday had a falling out (allegedly over Doc calling Wyatt a "jew boy" based on his budding romantic relationship with Behan's ex, Josephine Sarah Marcus). The group split up, with Tipton and Doc traveling together to Colorado.

As author Casey Tefertiller so aptly puts it, "The Vendetta that had enthralled newspaper readers of the West had ended. The flow of blood would quickly be replaced by a flood of ink."

Because of the bloodbath, Arizona politics turned ugly. At the next election virtually any candidate (read: Republican) aligned with the Earps, lost at the polls.

**Recommended:** *Classic Gunfights: Volume II: Blaze Away! The 25 Gunfights Behind the O.K. Corral* by Bob Boze Bell, published by Tri Star-Boze Publications; *Inventing Wyatt Earp: His Life and Many Legends* by Allen Barra, published by Carroll & Graf Publishers; and *Ride The Devil's Herd* by John Boessenecker, published by Hanover Square Press.

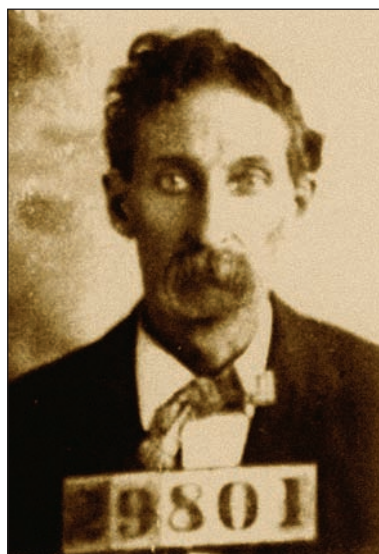
Soon after US Army scout Jack Stilwell (at right, with fellow Fort Sill Army scout James N. Jones, circa 1874) learned that his brother Frank was killed in Tucson, he left Fort Davis, Texas, and arrived in Tombstone in March 1882. Traveling with Johnny Ringo, Ike Clanton, Pete Spence and a posse of some 30 men, Jack takes up the trail for his brother's killers. By that time, however, the Earp party is ready to decamp for New Mexico.



## Spying for the Earps

After the killing of Florentino Sais, Wyatt Earp sent Dan Tipton (right) and Origen "Hairlip" Charlie Smith into Tombstone on a two-fold mission: convince mining magnate E.B. Gage to give them \$1,000 to fund the Vendetta posse, and scout around to see what Sheriff Behan and the Cowboys were doing. No doubt suspicious, Behan ended up arresting the two on March 23, on charges of resisting arrest and conspiracy.

Both men were released on bail, raised by Bob Hatch (owner of the saloon where Morgan Earp had been shot and killed) and others, on March 25. The hollow charges were dropped. Smith headed off immediately to rejoin Wyatt's crew. Tipton stayed in Tombstone until he heard from Wyatt, then he collected the money from Gage (and possibly another \$1,000 from unknown donors) and made his way to Henry Clay Hooker's Sierra Bonita Ranch north of Willcox, where he rejoined the Earp riders on March 27.



BY MICHAEL ENGELHARD

## LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

# Frederick Schwatka

*From fighting in the Great Sioux War to daring exploits in Alaska, the Oregon cavalryman had the right stuff.*



Army 1st Lt. Frederick G. Schwatka graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1871. After serving across the West in military campaigns in the Apache and Sioux wars, as well as earning his law degree and medical license, he received the life-changing assignment—Army commander of the Franklin Search Expedition of 1878–'80.

— COURTESY OF BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE —

The route north had been circuitous. A former West Point graduate, the corpulent, spectacled and balding Frederick Schwatka sported a mustachio, studied law and medicine and served with the 3rd Cavalry. He led the initial charge at Slim Buttes on the Great Sioux Reservation, a dash Charles Schreyvogel rousing painted. Avenging Custer after the grueling “Horsemeat March” of 1876, Gen. George Crook destroyed American Horse’s village before repelling a Crazy Horse counterattack. On the first day of fighting, Lieutenant Schwatka, heading 25 troopers, galloped through the dust that crazed

Oglala ponies were kicking up, firing his pistols at tipis.

In 1878 he volunteered his pluck for an American Geographical Society search for relics of Sir John Franklin’s Northwest Passage expedition, missing since 1845. During this 11-month, 3,251-mile dogsled journey in –60-degree weather, Schwatka hunted muskoxen and—when in Rome...—ate like the Inuit and slept in “peculiarly constructed domes of snow.” He located naval artifacts, wreckage from one of Franklin’s longboats, and skeletal remains of four bodies scattered about.

Active, with a keen mind, Schwatka acquired Native language vocabularies while dabbling in botany and zoology. He built and launched rafts after crossing the Chilkoot Pass for a U.S. Army reconnaissance 13 years before the Klondike strike brought gold-hungry crowds. His party floated the Yukon River source to sea. At 1,300 miles, it was the longest journey by logs at the time, “the most difficult part of which was unknown.” They dodged “boulders,” sweepers (buoyant toppled trees), and “water like small geysers” that “made matters very uninviting for navigation in any sort of craft.”

In 1886, his reputation won Schwatka the leadership of a *New York Times* expedition to North America’s second-highest peak, Mount St. Elias. The precipitous climb astride the new territory’s contested Yukon-Alaska border began in Icy Bay. After less than two weeks of facing fast, silt-swollen creeks and Tyndall Glacier’s crevasses, Schwatka—in poor physical shape—sickened and aborted the first documented summit attempt.

He lies buried in Salem, Oregon. His grave—marked unlike those of most Franklin men—lacks the lecturer’s eloquence. *Died Nov. 2, 1892*, the plain headstone reads. And, summing up a short lifetime’s passions: *Explorer*. ❏

As a longtime rafting guide and Alaska resident, **Michael Engelhard** admires Schwatka’s long-distance feat. Trained as an anthropologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he loves this explorer’s attention to ethnographic detail.

**T**he man sprawled in a Portland doorway still clutched what had killed him: a bottle of laudanum. Overdosing the previous year, he’d fallen from a hotel balcony and lingered on death’s threshold. No mere drug addict or bum, the 43-year-old son of Scottish and German immigrants had returned to Oregon, where he’d lived in his teens, to lecture about his exploits as an Arctic adventurer—if one of the less famous ones. Laudanum eased his recurring stomach pains, caused perhaps by “an excess of conviviality.”



Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka.



Frederick G. Schwatka posed in his Arctic outfit at San Francisco's famous Bradley & Rulofson Studio, circa 1884. Schwatka likely stood for the photo just before he resigned his Army officer commission in July 1884 to lead explorations sponsored by the *New York Times*.

- THE 1889 WOODCUT FROM "RUNDSCHAU FÜR GEOGRAPHIE UND STATISTIK" COURTESY OF TRIPOTA/ PHOTO COURTESY OF BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE -

In 1891, Frederick Schwatka published *A Summer in Alaska*, which recounted his rafting expedition with the U.S. Army to survey the Yukon River in 1883.

- COURTESY OF HATHITRUST -



**TRUE WEST**  
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

**BEST of the WEST**  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY



**Our 18th Annual  
Celebration of the Absolute  
Best of the West!**



A huge congratulation to our 2020 *True West* Best of the West honorees! Our staff, readers, writers, photographers, contributors, chamber leaders, preservation activists, museum directors, tribal leaders, public officials, small-business owners, filmmakers, artists, artisans, advertising partners and dedicated docents, volunteers and re-enactors have all contributed to our success during the past year, and in doing so, have helped keep the spirit of the Old West alive and thriving for today and tomorrow.


In 2019, *True West* celebrated its 20th year of ownership and executive editorial management by Bob Boze Bell. The magazine, which was founded by Joe Small in Austin, Texas, in 1953, entered its 67th year and was honored on October 24, 2019, with a star on the Texas Trail of Fame at the historic Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District in Fort Worth, Texas. *True West* was honored to be inducted into such a prestigious hall of fame in recognition of its “significant contribution to our Western way of life.”

In the past year, *True West's* editorial staff and contributors have traveled the West to report on its history, uncover new twists on its past and celebrate past and present culture keepers. In 2019, Tombstone, Arizona, was feted as the country's best True Western Town, while Western Spirit: Scottsdale's museum of the West was recognized as the nation's top Western museum. A major reason the Arizona museum—which was founded in 2015—earned such lofty recognition was because of its dedicated and visionary museum director, Michael Fox, who *True West* is honoring with its True Westerner of the Year Award. To learn more about Fox and SMOW, read Bob Boze Bell's interview with him on pages 38-39.

*True West's* editors thank our subscribers for their ongoing support of the magazine and hope our 2020 Best of the West selections inspire their reading, patronage, curiosity and travels deep into the heart of the American West. Looking forward to 2020, the editorial team has a big year planned of cutting-edge Old West history, with contributions from the

best writers and historians working today, including, in this issue, lauded Western historians John Boessenecker and Casey Terfertiller. In addition, to enhance your reading and travel experiences, we've just launched our new online *True West* Archives—with all 66 years' worth of issues available electronically through subscription. To stoke your curiosity and for more information on how you can enjoy nearly seven decades of the best Western history, we are launching a monthly *True West Classic*, beginning with pages 104-107 of this issue.

So, saddle up, it is time to ride with the *True West* team into another exciting year of Old West history and adventure.



In 2019, the biggest history event of the year was the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at the Golden Spike Ceremony at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, on May 10, 1869. Union Pacific Railroad photographer Andrew J. Russell took a series of photographs, including this image of the mixed crowd of railroad dignitaries, engineers, workers and families gathered between the Central Pacific and Union Pacific locomotives just before the rail workers' champagne toast, laying of the last rail and the hammering of the Golden Spike. Note Salt Lake City photographer C.R. Savage's camera in the lower right corner of the image.



**BEST of the WEST**  
**TRUE WESTERNER**  
**OF THE YEAR**

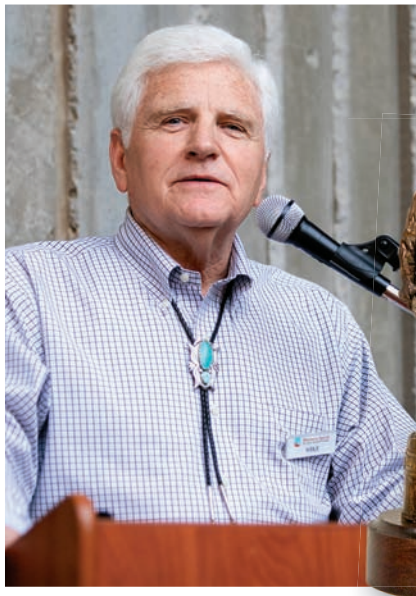
PRESENTING THE WEST FROM A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE

**MICHAEL J. FOX**

On October 14, 2019, Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West had a breakout night in a breakout year for a museum just five years old. The doors swung open on a beautiful desert night for a special members-only preview of the groundbreaking, once-in-a-lifetime exhibition "Maynard Dixon's American West."

Under the direction of founding museum director/CEO Michael J. Fox and the creative team of the museum's curator, Tricia Loscher; Scottsdale art collector and museum benefactor Abe Hays; and Western art historian and Medicine Man Gallery owner Mark Sublette, who wrote the accompanying catalogue *Maynard Dixon's American West: Along the Distant Mesa*, the show is a defining moment in the museum's five-year history—and in the career of the director. Fox not only worked behind the scenes from 2007 to 2015 to bring the museum to fruition from concept to reality, he has been the day-to-day director, master of ceremonies and lead fundraiser for the nonprofit venture in the heart of Old Scottsdale in an era when new major art museums are rare across the country. In recognition of his inspiring leadership, visionary direction and belief in the creation of Scottsdale's Museum of the West—fulfilling a dream of the city's late Mayor Herb Drinkwater—*True West* magazine is proud to honor Michael J. Fox with the seventh annual True Westerner Award.

Raised in Madison, Wisconsin, where he attended a Dominican high school and



Michael J. Fox will receive *True West's* True Westerner Award (inset) in honor of his distinctive career in managing and leading Western art museums, which has culminated in his greatest public history legacy, the award-winning Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

— COURTESY SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST —

washed dishes to pay for the tuition, Fox was encouraged by his parents to be the best he could be. He was active in sports, especially football, in which he excelled as a wide receiver (named to All City and a college football scholarship), and he was the president of both his freshman and senior classes. From there he attended The Cheshire Academy in Connecticut where he met students from all over the country. He served in a top-secret law enforcement group during the Vietnam War, and taught at the state police academy for a year, and then decided to pursue a career in public service. He says, "I chose nonprofit work, specifically the American Cancer Society."

In 1972, Fox moved from Wisconsin to Arizona. He has worked in the nonprofit sector much of his adult life, with most of his professional career dedicated to museum management in Arizona, including senior or executive management positions at the Phoenix Art Museum, the Heard

Museum and the Museum of Northern Arizona.

The most comprehensive retrospective ever showcasing Maynard Dixon's life and artistic career opened at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West on October 14, 2019. The public will have the opportunity to view the extraordinary exhibition until August 2, 2020.

— BOB BOZE BELL —





Maynard Dixon's 1935 48-x-72-inch oil on canvas *Desert Journey* is one of the Western artist's masterpieces featured in the "Maynard Dixon's American West" exhibition at Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

- COURTESY AMERICAN MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART, THE ANSCHUTZ COLLECTION, DENVER, COLORADO -

After seven years in Flagstaff, Fox moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as the director of the Mohammad Ali Center, where he took Ali's dream and built it into a lasting legacy. Then he returned to Arizona to help support and launch Scottsdale Museum of the West.

The Scottsdale endeavor had a long gestation with numerous groups and individuals trying to make it fly. In 2007 a

handful of locals formed a not-for-profit entity which brought in Fox and made the dream a reality.

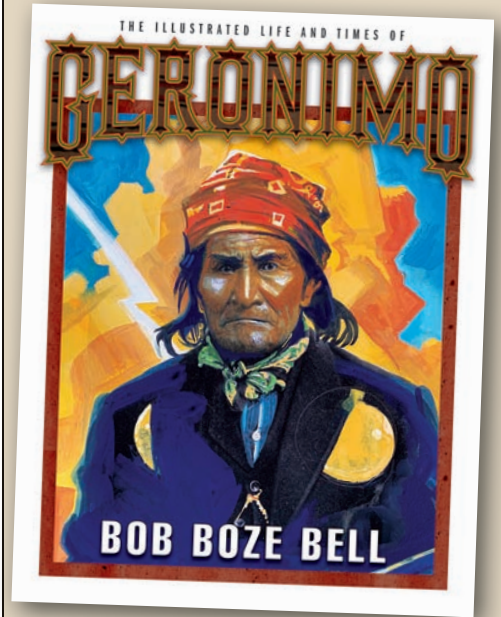
Scottsdale's Museum of the West's success can be attributed to Fox's leadership, his ability to inspire loyalty in donors and benefactors, and the resulting modern, interactive museum space for all generations, which simultaneously reflects the past, present and future of Western art. ❏



Scottsdale's Museum of the West director/CEO Mike Fox and curator Tricia Loscher enjoy an evening at the museum with artist John Coleman and his wife Sue.

Coleman's art is currently showcased at the museum in an exhibit titled "Of Spirit and Flame: John Coleman Bronzes from the Collection of Frankie and Howard Alper."

- LOREN ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY -



- BOB BOZE BELL -

## TRUE WESTERN AWARD PRESENTATION AND GERONIMO ART SHOW

On January 16, 2020, *True West* magazine will present the seventh annual True Westerner Award to Scottsdale's Museum of the West director/CEO Michael J. Fox from 6 to 8 p.m.

Following the award ceremony will be the book premiere of *The Illustrated Life & Times of Geronimo* by Bob Boze Bell and an art show of 30 original paintings from the book on display and for sale in the theater.

Light refreshments and beverages will be served in the courtyard. Come early and enjoy the festivities. This should be a night to remember!

**Western Spirit:**  
**Scottsdale's Museum of the West**  
 3830 N. Marshall Way  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251



ALCHESAY CUTS THE SKY  
 - BOB BOZE BELL -

# ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BY JOHN LANGELLIER

## Changing of the Guard

*Western art dealers and buyers will remember 2019 as a watershed year in Old West collecting.*



During his lifetime Glen Swanson (left) amassed significant holdings of frontier military artifacts and images. He was both a collector and an artist, as evidenced by the bronze he sculpted of George Custer ready to ride into battle at Little Bighorn.

— COURTESY OF GLEN SWANSON PRODUCTIONS —



A Springfield Model 1873 U.S. cavalry carbine, serial number 19573, is marked with “J Martin” engraved in the stock. Martin carried the last message from Custer requesting ammunition packs to be rushed to the command as it prepared to fight overwhelming odds. The weapon was among many prized pieces from Glen Swanson’s extraordinary collection. Ballistic testing confirmed this carbine’s use at the Little Bighorn.

— COURTESY OF GLEN SWANSON PRODUCTIONS —

Similarly, Douglas McChristian’s outstanding study collection focusing on the enlisted man of the Indian Wars went to Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo, Texas. This acquisition, obtained in January 2019, is slated to serve as the centerpiece for future exhibitions, all because of McChristian’s impressive labors and intimate knowledge of his subject.

During that same month, the storied Robert G. McCubbin collection of historic photographs and artifacts took the forefront in Brian Lebel’s 29th Mesa Old West Show & Auction. A much-anticipated, dazzling array of iconic images and objects came on the

block after being carefully selected during McCubbin’s lifetime with the discriminating eye of an aficionado.

Further, January of 2019 marked yet another milestone with Hindman LLC acquiring Leslie Hindman Auctioneers and Cowan’s Auctions. While the highly respected Wes Cowan remains active, the merger once more reflects the evolving landscape of Western art and collectibles.

Despite these momentous sea changes, the market remained solid. For instance, during July of 2019, the Coeur d’Alene Art Auction cleared an impressive \$17 million with buyer’s premiums included. Moreover,

September, which is a bellwether month for Western art sales, opened strong with more than a \$1 million gross at the 14th annual Quest for the West® Art Show and Sale, held September 6-7 in Indianapolis at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. Notably, this is a fixed-price, luck-of-the-draw sale, rather than an auction, with all artworks remaining on exhibition at the Eiteljorg Museum through October 6.

Of equal importance is that every one of the pieces was provided by living artists as were the 271 lots offered at the September 20-21 38th Annual Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale. According to the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, the organization responsible for the event: “More than \$1,023,000 worth of art was sold when the gavel dropped on the last art piece.” Included in this figure was the live auction’s highest-selling piece by Ron Kingswood.

As 2018 drew to a close, I readily agreed to assume duties for *True West*’s “Collecting the West” column. The new assignment came at a time when many major private holdings were about to change hands, such as the magnificent Custer and Little Bighorn treasures assembled over decades by the late Glen Swanson. During June of 2018, Heritage Auctions offered some of the first selections from Swanson’s incredible holdings in a live sale appropriately titled “Legends of the West.” Since then, other items periodically have been sold.

Among the many items with provenance acquired by the discerning Douglas McChristian was a modified enlisted 1872-pattern cavalry dress coat and an 1886-pattern cavalry forage cap with the insignia of Troop 4th U.S. Cavalry, the unit of the original owner, Private Patrick McMenamín.

— COURTESY CORY ROBINSON, FORT CONCHO NATIONAL LANDMARK —



Titled *Feast Day*, the painting sold for \$31,625 with the 15 percent buyer's premium.

In contrast, on September 13-14, the 30th Annual Jackson Hole Art Auction hosted at the community's Center for the Arts, presented a mixture of living artists and past masters. The cover for the impressive catalog for this event, Carl Rungius's (1869-1959) *Alaskan Wilderness*, proved the star of the show, fetching the highest price at \$642,500 with buyer's premium. Additional standouts included Olaf Wieghorst's *The Last March*, which brought nearly double its low estimate at an impressive \$93,600, and Charlie Dye's iconic Western scene, *Remuda*, that reached its high-end estimate, at the same price. Additionally, 17 new artist world records were achieved.

All in all, despite several key players withdrawing from the collectible art scene, or playing different roles, the future seems bright as new faces enter the stage. ❏

**John Langellier**, a frequent contributor to *True West* for over a decade, as well as author of dozens of books, received his BA and MA in history from the University of San Diego and his PhD from Kansas State University.



Carl Rungius's 40¼-by-50¼-inch oil on canvas *Alaskan Wilderness* brought the top bid at the 30th Annual Jackson Hole Art Auction. The final price was \$642,500.

— COURTESY JACKSON HOLE ART AUCTION —

H. David Wright's 48-by-60-inch-oil on panel *Colonel Crockett's Last Serenade—The Alamo, March 1, 1836* was among the many works available at the Quest for the West® Art Show and Sale, held at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. The purchase price was \$56,000.

— COURTESY OF THE EITELJORG MUSEUM —



Ron Kingswood's *Feast Day*, a 60-by-40-inch oil on canvas, netted \$31,625 at the 38th Annual Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale.

— COURTESY BUFFALO BILL ART SHOW & SALE —

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**January 8, 2020**

**Online Only Gun Auction-#2028**

Rock Island Auction Company (Rock Island, IL)

[RockIslandAuction.com](http://RockIslandAuction.com) • 800-238-8022

**January 25-26, 2020**

**30th Annual Mesa Old West Show & Auction**

Brian Lebel's Old West Events (Mesa, AZ)

[OldWestEvents.com](http://OldWestEvents.com) • 480-779-9378

**February 6, 2020**

**Field & Range Firearms**

Morphy Auctions (Denver, PA)

[MorphyAuctions.com](http://MorphyAuctions.com) • 877-968-8880



# ART AND COLLECTIBLES

## BEST AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION

### Eddie Basha Collection Museum, Chandler, AZ

The Eddie Basha Collection, an internationally acclaimed collection of American Indian and contemporary Western American art, is housed in the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery. Arizona grocery entrepreneur and lauded civic leader Eddie Basha began collecting Western art in 1971, quickly developing a personal passion and appreciation for the history of the West, American Indian culture and Western art. With over 3,500

pieces of Western art, much

of it by Native artists, the Eddie Basha Collection has gained a reputation as one of the finest American Indian art exhibitions in the the country.

*EddieBashaCollection.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** BBCW Plains Indian Museum, Cody, WY

## 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 ART COLLECTOR

### Tim Peterson, Cape Cod, MA

Renowned and highly respected Western art collector Tim Peterson developed a passion for the West and Western art during his childhood in the Midwest. Today, Peterson's Family Collection is on loan at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, showcased in the second-floor "Courage and Crossroads: A Visual Journey through the Early American West" exhibition. Peterson also recently collaborated with the museum to exhibit his Paul Calle collection in "Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon," and his Maynard Dixon collection in "Maynard Dixon's American West."

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tom Petrie (Petrie Institute of Western American Art) Denver Art Museum, CO

In 1930, Edward L. Curtis published the final volume of his 20-volume life's work, *The North American Indian*. His portrait of Oglala Sioux Chief Stinking Bear was made in South Dakota in 1905.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

## BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTION

### National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK

Founded in 1955 in Oklahoma's capital city, the museum is one of the preeminent museums in the United States dedicated to the cultural history and heritage of the American West. Annually more than 10 million visitors tour its Western art galleries, Old West and American Indian history exhibitions and its three halls of fame: the Hall of Great Westerners, Hall of Great Western Performers and Rodeo Hall of Fame. The Annual Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale, held every June to August, is considered one of the premier Western art shows and sales in the United States.

*NationalCowboyMuseum.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX/ The Brinton Museum, Big Horn, WY



Edward Curtis made his portrait of an unnamed Oglala Chief in South Dakota in 1905. A year later, on the strength of his first portraits, Curtis received financial backing for his project from New York banker J.P. Morgan.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**JAN 24-26, 2020 ★ MESA, AZ**

**30TH ANNUAL - BRIAN LEBEL'S**  
**OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION**

**WESTERN AMERICANA ANTIQUE SHOW**

Weekend Dealer Show with 180+ National Vendors

**Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Sunday, January 26, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

\$10 daily or purchase online and SAVE!

Friday, Jan 24th Early Buy-in, \$100, 8am-5pm

**SHOW LOCATION**

Mesa Convention Center

263 N. Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

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**WESTERN AMERICANA AUCTION**

Exciting Live Friday and Saturday Night Auctions!

**Friday, January 24, 6:00 pm**

The Cordy Rich Collection of

Fine Antique American Firearms

**Saturday, January 25, 5:00 pm**

30th Annual Old West Auction

**AUCTION LOCATION**

Delta Marriott Mesa (Next door to the Show)

Purchase Auction catalogs online or by phone.

480-779-9378 | #MesaOldWest

**OldWestEvents.com**

**ART  
AND  
COLLECTIBLES**



Edward Curtis believed he needed to live with the different tribes to earn their trust, and one tribe he visited more than once was the Hopi in Arizona. His portrait of the Hopi Snake Priest was made during an early visit in 1900.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —

**BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR**

**Johnny Morris, Ridgedale, MO**

For the second year in a row, Johnny Morris ranks as *True West's* best Western history collector. Morris is the founder of Bass Pro Shops, Big Cedar Lodge, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, Tracker Boats, Top of the Rock and more. He was born and raised in the Ozarks of Missouri. His success in Bass Pro Shops has never taken him far from his home in the Ozarks, where thousands annually visit his Top of the Rock resort and the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, home to Morris's Western art collection, artifacts and arrowheads. Morris also owns and operates the 350,000-square-foot Johnny Morris's Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri.

**READERS' CHOICE: Abe Hayes, Arizona West Galleries, Scottsdale, AZ**

**BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION**

**Harold Warp Pioneer Village, Minden, NE**

Travel to Minden, Nebraska, and discover how the pioneers settled America. Over 50,000 historic items are on display at the museum campus of 26 buildings, including a Pony Express station, depot, livery stockade and sod house. A motel and campground are conveniently located adjacent to the history-rich complex. *PioneerVillage.org*

**READERS' CHOICE: Pioneer Memorial Museum, Salt Lake City, UT**

**BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION**

**Brian Lebel's Old West Auction Santa Fe, NM and Mesa, AZ**

In 2019, Brian Lebel's Old West Auction handled the auctioning of one of the most significant private Western memorabilia and photo collections ever put under the gavel—the Robert G. McCubbin Collection. In 2020, Lebel's annual auctions are highly anticipated by sellers and buyers and the following are currently scheduled: the 20th Annual Old West Show & Auction in Mesa, Arizona, January 25-26, 2020, and the 31st Annual Cody Old West Show & Auction in Santa Fe, June 27-28, 2020. *OldWestEvents.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX**

**BEST WESTERN COLLECTIBLES GALLERY**

**Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ**

For over 15 years, Cowboy Legacy Gallery owner Bill Welch has welcomed customers to his gallery with Western collectibles and art dating back to the early 19th century. Welch's dedicated buyers are from around the world, due to

his reputation for offering the best Western art, antiques, artifacts and cowboy collectibles, including saddles, bits, spurs and chaps.

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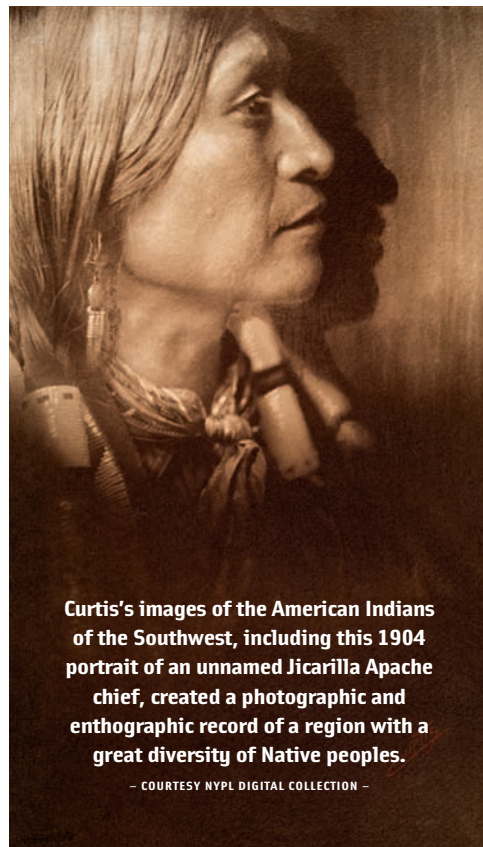
**READERS' CHOICE: Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY**

**BEST OLD WEST ART AUCTION**

**Heritage Auction Galleries, Dallas, TX**

Heritage Auctions in Dallas is an internationally recognized leader in selling Western art, movie posters and collectibles. Major Western artists' originals auctioned in 2019 included pieces by Frank Earle Schoonover, Henry Farny, Maynard Dixon, Fritz Scholder, Albert Bierstadt, Olaf Wieghorst and Paul Pletka. *HA.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale, AZ**



Curtis's images of the American Indians of the Southwest, including this 1904 portrait of an unnamed Jicarilla Apache chief, created a photographic and ethnographic record of a region with a great diversity of Native peoples.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTION —

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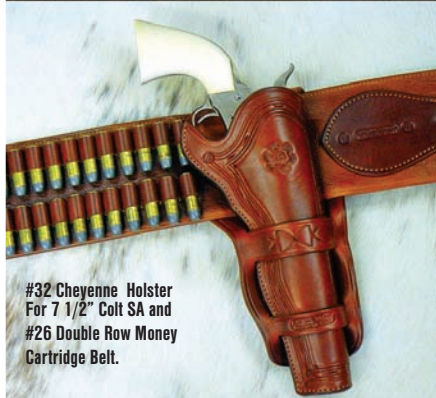
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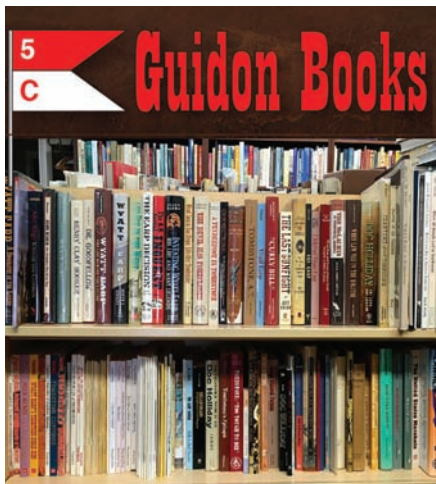
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During his 30-year North American Indian photography project, Curtis worked closely with tribal members across the continent to capture their culture outside of the studio, including this 1906 photograph of Apache Gaan Mountain Spirit dancers.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

### BEST OLD WEST FIREARMS AUCTION

#### Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA

Internationally recognized for its annual firearm auctions, Morphy holds at least five auctions a year in which firearms are the centerpiece of the event. Well-known to collectors is Morphy's Edged Weapons, Armor & Militaria, Field & Range Firearms, and Extraordinary, Sporting & Collector Firearms, the latter two held twice each year. Auctions in 2019 featured several items from the Western military collections of Dr. Frank Wagner and the late Glenn Swanson, with Morphy's Extraordinary, Sporting & Collector Firearms auction on October 22-23 realizing over \$10 million in sales. [MorphyAuctions.com](http://MorphyAuctions.com).

**READERS' CHOICE:** Brian Lebel's Old West Auction, NM & AZ

### BEST WESTERN PAINTER

#### Maynard Dixon

The West's greatest artist was recently showcased at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West's "Maynard Dixon's American West" exhibition, which debuted October 14, 2019, and in Mark Sublette's accompanying catalog *Maynard Dixon's American West: Along the Distant Mesa*. You might make a case that there are better painters, but in the end, Maynard Dixon is the West's greatest artist. He made the transition from early

20th-century illustration to modern, contemporary Western art with integrity and authenticity.

**READERS' CHOICE:** C.M. Russell

### BEST WESTERN PAINTER (LIVING)

#### Logan Maxwell Hagege

Born and raised in Southern California, Logan Maxwell Hagege (pronounced Ah-jejj) has quickly become one of the most respected young Western artists. He splits his time between Los Angeles and a rural isolated studio-cabin in Arizona. Hagege, a contemporary artist recently featured at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, is well-known for his contemporary Western art that features Southwestern American Indians, cowboys and bucking broncs and landscapes. Art critics have compared the award-winning artist to Maynard Dixon and Ed Mell. [LoganHegege.com](http://LoganHegege.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Sherry Blanchard Stuart, Scottsdale, AZ

### BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY

#### Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, AZ

Founded by Dr. Mark Sublette, a former physician, Medicine Man Gallery is internationally recognized as one of the finest dealers of Maynard Dixon artwork. Sublette is also well-known for showcasing Early American and Western

# ART AND COLLECTIBLES

paintings, antiques, American Indian art, and works by contemporary Western artists and sculptors, Taos Society of Artists and Cowboy Artists of America. [MedicineManGallery.com](http://MedicineManGallery.com).

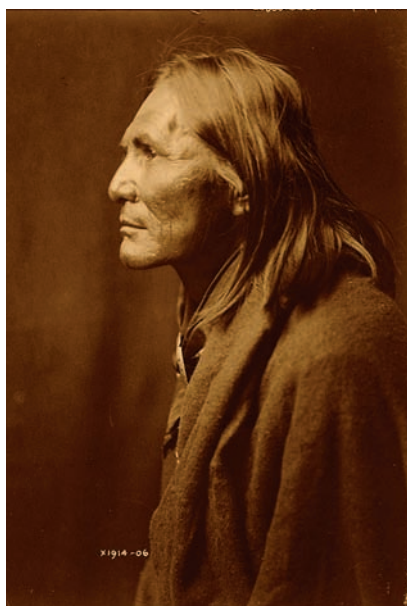
**READERS' CHOICE:** Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

## BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

### Tubac, AZ

Tubac Presidio was the first Spanish fort in present-day Arizona and is famous for being the launch point of the Anza Expedition to San Francisco in 1775. In 1856, pioneer Charles Poston made it the headquarters of his mining company. Today, in addition to Tubac Presidio State Park, Tubac has become one of Arizona's best known art colonies with one of the largest communities of art galleries in the Southwest. Visitors should start their tour at the Tubac Center of the Arts. Tubac's 61st Festival of the Arts will be February 5-9, 2020. [TubacArts.org](http://TubacArts.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Santa Fe, NM



In 1907, White Mountain Apache leader Alchesay sat for his portrait with Curtis. The humble man had served Gen. George Crook as a scout in the Apache Wars, earning the Medal of Honor for his bravery in battle.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

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# FIREARMS

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER



## Keeping the Faith

*Four replica firearms companies stand out for keeping the spirit of the Old West alive and well.*



For 2019, EMF Co. introduced the Gambler's Royale. This rakish looking, single-action certainly gives the appearance of that "fifth ace," perhaps carried by a "knight of the green cloth." It boasts handsome Victorian laser engraving, deep blue and bright finish, and black grips. Whether shooting from a standing position, or from the saddle, EMF six guns are popular with Cowboy Action shooters of all breeds. Above, Cowboy Mounted Shooter Greg Worley gallops through the course with his EMF Great Western II six-shooters.

— GUN PHOTO COURTESY EMF CO., ACTION PHOTO COURTESY GREG WORLEY —

**F**or Old West gun enthusiasts, this may well be the best time to be alive, thanks to several companies offering quality authentic replicas of the firearms and accessories of the American frontier. Look at some of the classic arms to be had by the modern gun buff: There are Sharps buffalo guns, Springfield trapdoor cavalry carbines, Henry and Winchester repeaters, Spencer lever guns, Colt, Remington and Smith & Wesson revolvers and much more. After spending nearly half a century as a

professional writer and gun handler, I have determined that four firms have done the most to make these Wild West arms available. Each of the four outfits have maintained high quality and authenticity in their replicas, while also introducing new historical models. Listed in alphabetical order, here are my top four replica gun companies.



Cimarron Fire Arms brought out its 1894 rifle (below), a spitting-image copy of a late 1890s Winchester. Featuring top ejection, like the original '94s, this handsome replica has a 26-inch octagon barrel, a color case hardened receiver, and is available in .30-30, or .38-55 chamberings. An optional Lyman No.2 tang sight is offered, and a .25-20 version is scheduled for the near future. Using standard iron sights, the author bagged this 8-point Texas hill country whitetail deer (left) with a 101-yard shot, using Cimarron's new 1894, carbine.

- GUN PHOTO FROM CIMARRON FIRE ARMS, HUNT PHOTO COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER -



### CIMARRON FIREARMS

Cimarron Firearms has been one of the leaders in the Old West gun field for the past 37-plus years. Founder and president Mike Harvey has been responsible for introducing several replicas, like the Colt conversion revolvers, the 1872 Open Top, Civil War Henry, the Thunderer birds head-gripped, single-action revolver and more. He also spurred replica manufacturers into making more accurate replicas by supplying them with original arms to use as a guide. For example, he's had the 1873 single-action revolvers totally reshaped, period stampings added, and many importer's marks were hidden, all while improving their finish, function and accuracy. This has been Cimarron's *modus operandi* for its complete line of replicas and more modern guns, like its 1911 semi-auto pistols. In 2019, Cimarron brought out an 1894 rifle that boasts the original features of a late 1890s Winchester, rather than today's versions, along with a '62 Pocket Navy Conversion with a 6-inch barrel (3-incher also offered) in .380 ACP caliber. Cimarron is also producing a martially marked, Original Finish Colt Walker, emulating those vintage six-guns issued

to Capt. Sam Walker's troops in 1847. Cimarron is devoted to providing the most authentic replica firearms possible. In fact, Cimarron demands authenticity.

[Cimarron-Firearms.com](http://Cimarron-Firearms.com)

### EMF COMPANY

The oldest company of the replica outfits is the EMF Company (Early and Modern Firearms), and it has been supplying Old West gun fanciers with replica firearms since 1956. Importing guns from such renown Italian replica manufacturers as F.A.P. F.LLI. Pietta, A. Uberti, and D. Pedersolli & Co., EMF offers an extensive variety of black powder and metallic cartridge replicas. Besides the popular percussion Colts and Remingtons, EMF offers black powder

replicas like the LeMat Civil War revolver, Starr single and double-action six guns, and the .50 caliber Smith breech loading (Civil War-era) carbine. Their cartridge gun line encompasses the 1887 lever-action shotgun, 1873, 1886 and 1892 lever guns, along with several versions of the classic 1873 single-action revolver, including the popular bird's head-gripped models and many other replicas. Last year saw the introduction of the handsome, laser-engraved, blued and polished steel framed peacemaker clone with a one-piece black grip. As part of EMF's dedication to the preservation of our Western heritage, the company has been instrumental in the growth of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) and the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) through its support and sponsorship over the years. In

fact, it was the first company to step forward as a SASS sponsor—at its very birth.

[EMF-Company.com](http://EMF-Company.com)



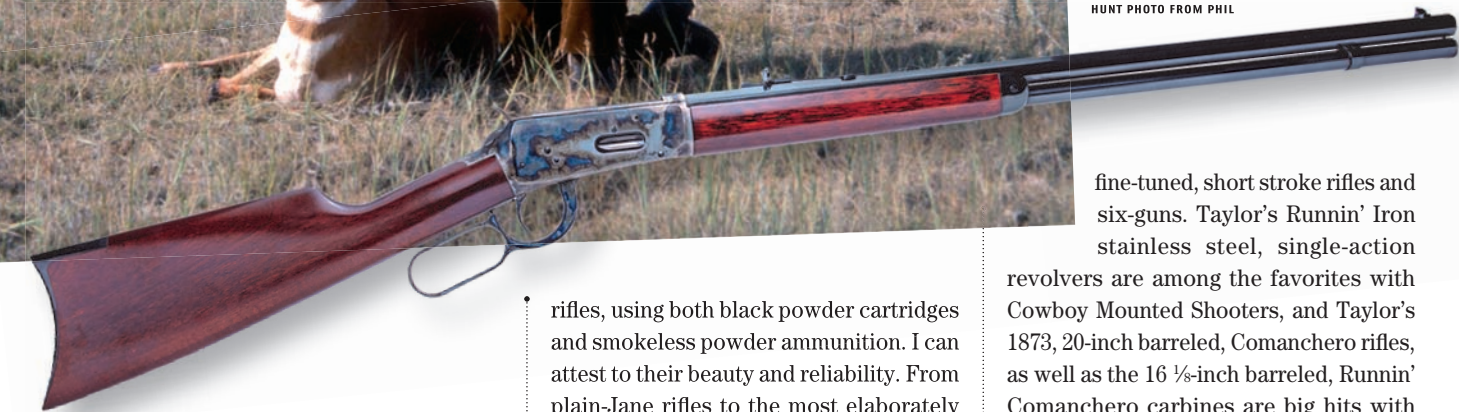
New in 2019 is Taylor's & Company's "Devil Anse" peacemaker-styled six-shooter, designed with the infamous Kentucky & West Virginia family feud in mind. It has a sleek look with a blued forged steel frame, blued finish parts, case hardened hammer, and a matte black-finished Navy-size wood grip. Taylor's offers over 50 variations of standard-stocked or birds head-gripped six guns.

- COURTESY TAYLOR'S & COMPANY -



Shiloh Sharps, like this beautiful Long Range Express rifle (below), look and handle exactly like the original “Old Reliable” rifles of the 1870s. Every Shiloh Sharps is painstakingly crafted to meet each customer’s personal specifications, and they’ve earned a well-deserved reputation for being the most authentic and one of the best single-shot rifles extant! The author has often hunted with his Shilohs. Here he is with a 15 1/4-inch Wyoming pronghorn (left), taken with his Shiloh “Big Fifty” (.50–90) Sharps.

— GUN PHOTO COURTESY SHILOH RIFLE MFG. CO., HUNT PHOTO FROM PHIL



### SHILOH RIFLE MFG. CO.

Shiloh is the name for top-of-the-line Sharps replicas. For decades, its guns have been known for perfection, down to the last detail. And the company is known for making actor Tom Selleck’s famed *Quigley Down Under* buffalo rifle. Whether it is the popular 1874 model, or the 1877, so-called “English” model, Shiloh’s Sharps look and handle exactly like the original “Old Reliable” rifles of the 1870s. No mass production arms here, rather every Sharps is painstakingly crafted in Montana to meet each customer’s personal specifications. The company has earned a well-deserved reputation for producing the most authentic, and one of the best single-shot rifles in existence. Shiloh’s Sharps rifles are not only firearms artistry, they also shoot like a house on fire! Besides enjoying endless hours of casual plinking and target shooting with them, I’ve hunted mule deer, pronghorn and buffalo with my Shiloh

rifles, using both black powder cartridges and smokeless powder ammunition. I can attest to their beauty and reliability. From plain-Jane rifles to the most elaborately decorated models, each Shiloh Sharps is a straight-shooting work of art. I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, “If Christian Sharps were alive today, I’m certain he’d be proud to put his name on a Shiloh Sharps.”

*ShilohRifle.com*

### TAYLOR’S & COMPANY

Since 1988, Taylor’s & Company has been providing Old West gun buffs with quality handguns and longarms that boast authentic lines and straight-shooting capabilities. Along with historical replicas, Taylor’s has also introduced several competition revolvers, rifles and scatterguns designed for the competitive SASS and CMSA shooters. The company imports traditional hunting arms, period shooting irons for living history re-enactors and more modern firearms for self-defense purposes. On the shooting line or in the saddle, Cowboy competitors enjoy Taylor’s competition-ready,

fine-tuned, short stroke rifles and six-guns. Taylor’s Runnin’ Iron stainless steel, single-action

revolvers are among the favorites with Cowboy Mounted Shooters, and Taylor’s 1873, 20-inch barreled, Comanchero rifles, as well as the 16 1/8-inch barreled, Runnin’ Comanchero carbines are big hits with winning competitors in both SASS and the CMSA. New in 2019 is Taylor’s “Devil Anse” peacemaker-styled six-shooter, designed with the infamous Kentucky & West Virginia family feud in mind. It has a sleek look with a blued forged-steel frame, blued finish parts, case-hardened hammer and a matte-black-finished Navy-size wood grip, making it stand out among any collection.

*Taylor’sFirearms.com*

If you’re looking for a frontier firearm, I don’t think you could do better than to check out these outfits. After all, they’ve been keeping the faith for Old West firearms enthusiasts with their offerings for a long time.



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

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- CIMARRON FIREARMS 1866 YELLOWBOY SHORT RIFLE, AMERICAN QUARTERHORSE ASSOCIATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION SHOWN, PHOTO COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS -



# FIREARMS

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*FrontierGunLeather.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Old West Reproductions, Florence, MT**

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*TurnbullRestorian.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: The Gun Engraver - Jim Downing, Springfield, MO**

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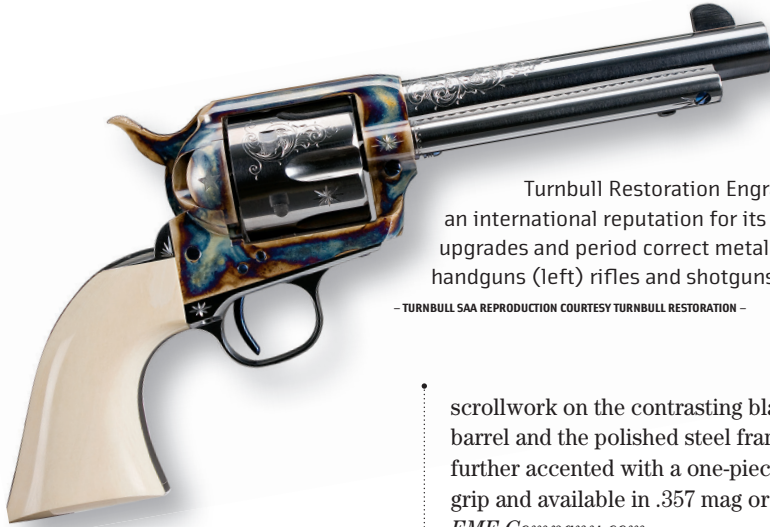
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Turnbull Restoration Engraving of Bloomfield, New York, has an international reputation for its excellence in restoration, custom upgrades and period correct metal finishes and engraving on handguns (left) rifles and shotguns.

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### BEST COWBOY ACTION PISTOL

**EMF Great Western II Gambler's Royale, Santa Ana, CA**

The Great Western II Gambler's Royale, is an exacting replica of the 1873 Colt Single Action Army revolver from EMF Company and manufactured by FAP F.LLI Pietta. This new revolver is elegantly engraved with Victorian

scrollwork on the contrasting black barrel and the polished steel frame. It is further accented with a one-piece black grip and available in .357 mag or .45 LC. [EMF-Company.com](http://EMF-Company.com)

**READERS' CHOICE: Uberti USA El Patron Grizzly Paw, Acokeek, MD**

### BEST COWBOY ACTION RIFLE

**Cimarron Firearms 1866 Yellowboy Fredericksburg, TX**

In 1866, Winchester introduced the 1866 Yellowboy lever-action rifle as the first true cowboy lever-action rifle. Built to carry in a cowboy-style saddle

scabbard, the Yellowboy had a convenient new type of loading gate, devised by Winchester plant superintendent Nelson King. The gate passed cartridges through the side of the receiver. The gun was popular and sold well nationally as well as internationally. Cimarron Firearms' reproduction of the 1866 Yellowboy is built for the collector or the hunter and remains a favorite among Old West enthusiasts.

[Cimmaron-Firearms.com](http://Cimmaron-Firearms.com)

**READERS' CHOICE: Henry Repeating Arms: The New Original Henry Bayonne, NJ**

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# FIREARMS



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— SHILOH SHARPS 1874 SADDLE RIFLE COURTESY SHILOH SHARPS —

## BEST COWBOY ACTION SHOTGUN

**Taylor's & Co. 1887 Lever Action Shotgun**  
Winchester, VA

Old West enthusiasts and cowboy action shotgun shooters all agree that Taylor's & Co.'s 1887 Lever Action Shotgun is one of the best on the market. Based on John Browning's design for the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, it is considered the first repeating shotgun. Fast and accurate with a five-round magazine, plus one in the chamber, the shotgun is an

excellent choice for hunting. The stock and forearm are made of American walnut.  
*Taylorfirearms.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Cimarron Firearms**  
**1897 Pump Action Shotgun,**  
Fredericksburg, TX

## BEST SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

**Shiloh's Sharps 1874 Saddle Rifle,**  
**.30-40K, Big Timber, MT**

Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing makes nine models of the 1874 Shiloh Sharps with such precision, that their gun parts are

the only ones in the world that fit the original 19th century models. Nearly every significant action and part of the Shiloh's Sharps Saddle Rifle can be customized to the exact specifications of the buyer, including caliber, barrel length, weight, features, wood for the stock and much, much more.

*ShilohRifle.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Uberti 1873 Trapdoor**  
**Army Model, .45-70, Accokeek, MD**

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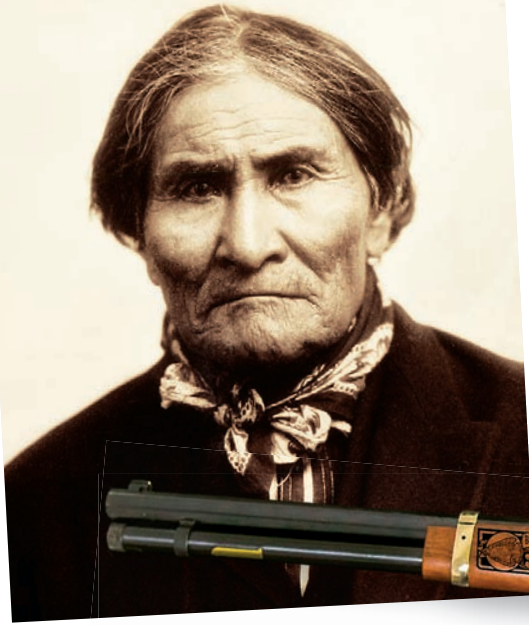
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*HeroesAndPatriotsLLC.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Henry Repeating Arms – American Rodeo Tribute Edition, Bayonne, NJ



Only 50 of the fully-functional commemorative Henry Big Boy rifles dedicated to the Apache leader Geronimo (above) will be produced. A collector who purchases the special edition .45LC caliber rifle will have a museum-quality firearm in their collection.

– GERONIMO PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/GERONIMO COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE PHOTO COURTESY HEROES AND PATRIOTS, INC –

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# WESTERN FARE

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

## Delmonico's of the West

*Famed New York steakhouse of yore set the standard for fine restaurants on the Western frontier.*

**M**any people know the famed New York City steakhouse, Delmonico's, but most probably don't realize the influence it had on the frontier. Culinary delights such as *Lobster à la Newberg*, Baked Alaska (originally called Florida Alaska), Chicken ala King (originally Keene), Delmonico potatoes and steak (a ribeye) and Eggs Benedict graced frontier menus.

The original Delmonico's Steak House Restaurant, which opened in New York City in 1837, set many of the restaurant standards used today and was reportedly the first to use menus, tablecloths and serve women in private dining rooms. The top chef was Charles Ranhofer, who was the first French chef to bring the grandeur of his country's cuisine to America. He ran



From the 1860s to the 1880s, Delmonico's expanded to 10 locations in New York City—including this Delmonico's at Fifth Avenue and 26th Street in 1888—setting a restaurant standard emulated by restaurateurs in cities across the West.

*Lobster à la Newberg* was invented at this location in 1876.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —



Delmonico's historic location at New York City's Union Square (14th Street and Fifth Avenue) was opened by the founders' nephew, Lorenzo Delmonico, in 1862. Soon thereafter Chef Charles Ranhofer (left, center) was hired and for 35 years was one of the city's most celebrated chefs.

Delmonico's kitchen for nearly 35 years and is credited with creating those well-known culinary delights. He authored a detailed cookbook titled *The Epicurean*, which was published in 1894.

Because Delmonico's was synonymous with elegant dining and fine cuisine, many Easterners who went to the West named their restaurants after the New York icon.

While Delmonico's had had 10 locations in the city during the 1800s, it was not a chain. Restaurateurs in Tombstone, Arizona; Idaho City, Idaho; Portland, Oregon; San Francisco, California; Camp Douglas, Utah; and scores of other towns across the frontier called their restaurants Delmonico's. Of course they weren't associated with the New York Delmonico's, but diners knew the

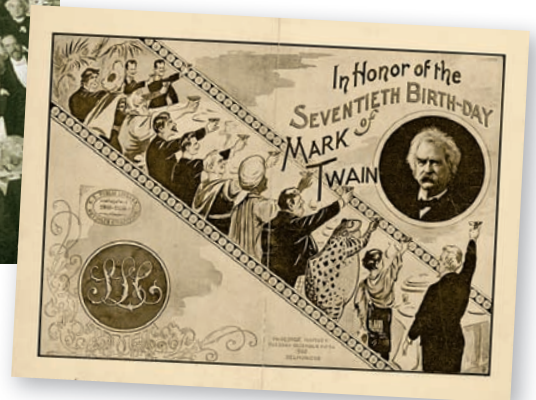


The First Panel of the Sheriff's Jury (left) met at Delmonico's for its annual banquet on January 17, 1908. The controversial panels of New York's wealthy and powerful men held their lavish dinners at Delmonico's for many years.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Mark Twain was known to be a regular patron of Delmonico's restaurants in New York City. On Tuesday, December 5, 1905, George Harvey, president of Harper and Brothers publishers, hosted a special 70th birthday party in honor of his imprint's most lauded author (right).

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —



name and had great expectations. Even restaurant reviewers at Kansas' *The Fort Scott Weekly Monitor* compared their local cooks to those at Delmonico's. They wrote, "The supper was perfection, and would challenge the cookery at Delmonico's, New York."

Even cowboys like Sam Long, who worked on a ranch along the Colorado River in Texas, knew the reputation of Delmonico's. In the August 12, 1900, New Orleans' *The Times Democrat* editorial column "By the By!" his lifelong ambition to have dinner at Delmonico's in New York City before he died was recounted. Sam believed that eating there would be the topmost pinnacle of human luxury. He said, "It's shorley the limit, boys," and frequently declared, "And if I could stack up against just once I'd be willin' to come back to the cow camp and turn up my toes." No one, including Sam, ever dreamed that would happen, but luck was on Sam's side when a rich New Yorker visited his ranch. After hearing Sam's aspiration, the New Yorker invited him on an all-expense paid visit to fulfill his dream.

When his fellow rowdies learned Sam was going to Delmonico's, they advised him to order outlandish dishes, like rattlesnake eggs or cactus pie, to befuddle the staff. When

Sam got back from his New York adventure his buddies asked him all about his experience. He told them, "Well, fellers, I have ter admit they brung me what I ordered. The cowboys excitedly asked what he ordered and Sam replied, "I got so bad skeered after I set down that I plumb forgot to order all you tole me to and ordered ham an' eggs."

Many of Delmonico's signature dishes still appear on menus across America. If you aren't lucky like Sam was, you can sample some of Delmonico's signature dishes in historic settings in the West. Sample Mary's Bay Benedict, which is Wyoming's Lake Yellowstone Hotel's take on Eggs Benedict. Pop into California's Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa's Santé restaurant for its take on Baked Alaska or visit the Cliff House Hotel in Manitou Springs, Colorado, to experience its signature ribeye steak. Until you can dine at one of these historic locales, enjoy this original Delmonico's Florida Alaska at home.



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

## FLORIDA ALASKA AKA BAKED ALASKA

Makes 2

1 cup sugar

1/3 cup water

3 egg whites, room temperature

Sponge cake (walnut is traditional)

Apricot compote/jam or banana ice cream (vanilla can be substituted)

Place the sugar and water into a saucepan and boil until it reaches 240° and set aside. When the sugar drops to 230°, begin beating the egg whites in a large bowl. Slowly stream in the sugar while beating. Continue until firm peaks appear.

Put this egg white-and-sugar meringue into a piping bag. Cut the cake into three-inch rounds and place on a lined baking sheet. Place 2 tablespoons of compote onto the round. Scoop a generous portion of ice cream onto the compote. Pipe the meringue around the ice cream and cake until it is completely enclosed. Bake a 425° for 4 minutes until the meringue is slightly browned and crispy.

*Optional method:* Place the dessert on rotating cake stand. Spin the stand slowly while using a cooking torch to slightly brown and crisp the meringue.

Recipe courtesy of Delmonico's Restaurant, New York, New York

**SKIN CANCERS KILL  
BUT ARE PREVENTABLE**



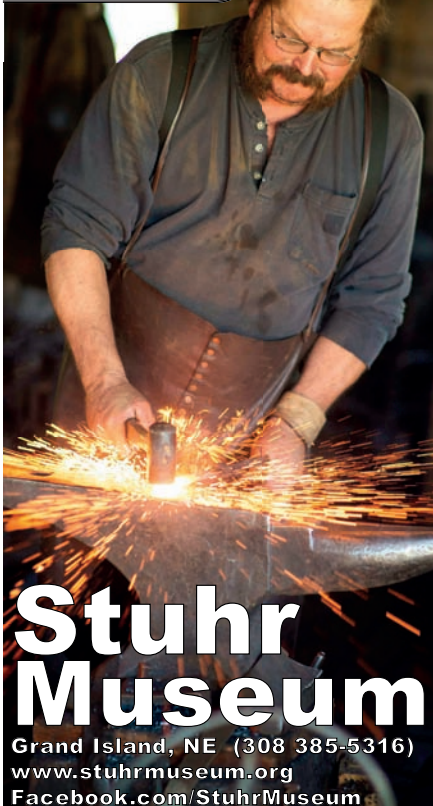
Krista (1972 - 2018)

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Chinese restaurateur Quong Kee opened The Can Can Saloon at 4th and Allen streets in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, in 1879. While the saloon-restaurant had a variety of owners, the Can Can had a reputation for good food and fine dining until it closed in 1921.

**BEST HISTORIC SALOON  
OF THE WEST**

**Diamond Belle Saloon, Durango, CO**

Famous for live music, the Diamond Belle brings saloon girls and Victorian-era bartenders together with guests as they belly up to the historic bar at the Strater Hotel. The saloon is steeped in craftsmanship at every level, and visitors enjoy fabulous food and creative drinks within the iconic saloon at the historic hotel in the heart of downtown Durango.

*Strater.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Saloon #10,  
Deadwood, SD**

**BEST HISTORIC  
RESTAURANT**

**Big Nose Kate's Saloon,  
Tombstone, AZ**

Tombstone's Big Nose Kate's Saloon was once the Grand Hotel, originally built in 1881. On October 25, 1881, the night before the Gunfight Behind the OK Corral, the Clantons and the McLaurys were guests here. This was the place to stay! A number of changes have been made to the structure since it burned down and has been rebuilt. The bar area, housed in the basement of the old hotel, is now located on the

main level. In the basement is a gift shop, but the tunnel leading to the mine shafts still exists. The saloon holds the Grand Hotel's



Two cookies prepare a meal at the tail of Texas rancher Burk Burnett's Four-6 Ranch chuck wagon for a 1905 wolf-hunting trip in southwestern Oklahoma for special guests President Theodore Roosevelt and Comanche leader Quanah Parker.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

# WESTERN FARE

original long bar, the only one that survived the fire of 1882 and is still serving thirsty patrons. Imagine setting your elbows down on the very place that the Earps, Doc Holliday and the Clantons once did!

*BigNoseKatesTombstone.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO

## BEST CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFF

**Llano Chuck Wagon Cookoff, Llano, TX**

Held every April since 2005 in this quintessential Texas Hill Country town, the Llano Chuck Wagon Cookoff celebrates the Old West with a chuckwagon authenticity contest, a traditional chuckwagon cookoff and live music on Saturday.

*LlanoChuckwagonCookoff.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Chandler Chuck Wagon Cookoff, Chandler, AZ

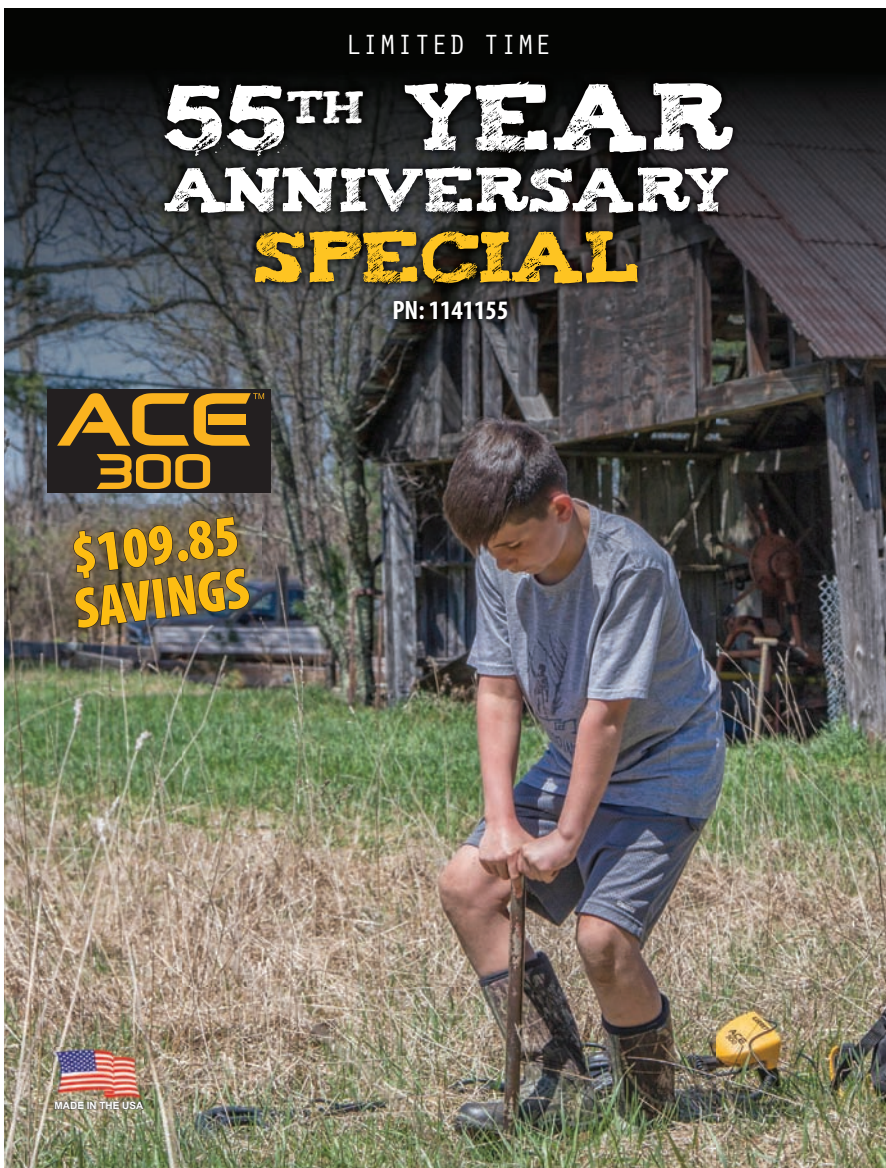
## BEST CHUCKWAGON SHOW & SUPPER

**National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Lubbock, TX**

Western heritage is celebrated annually at the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, Texas, with several living history events, including the ever-popular Chuck Wagon Cookoff. Attendees will be entertained by cowboy poetry and storytelling, Western writers and authors, panels, film and movie seminars, horse handling demonstrations, a horse-themed parade, American Indian activities and presentations, exhibits of Western artworks and merchandise and a Youth Wild West Day.

*Cowboy.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, Ruidoso, NM



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# WESTERN PRESERVATION



BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

## Passion Wins the Day

*In 2019, two Old West Saviors stood out for their dedication to the preservation of our Western heritage.*



Shirley McClintock's efforts to save Council Groves' 1861 Stone House has led to the creation of a Santa Fe Trail historic district (left) in Council Grove, Kansas.

— COURTESY SHIRLEY MCCLINTOCK —

Douglas McChristian (far right) donated his extensive Western collection to Fort Concho National Landmark, including this 1874 Dyer cartridge pouch (inset) which is attributed to Private Andrew David, Troop D, 9th U.S. Cavalry.

— COURTESY FORT CONCHO NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK —



It's probably obvious from my writing, but I love people who are passionate about what they're doing. That's why writing this column on Old West Saviors is such a joy, because I get to meet people all year who have often moved heaven and earth to reach their goals.

Every single column every year reflects that kind of passion and dedication and hard-knocks and stumbles and perseverance. So, when my editors asked me to pick my favorite column of 2019, I knew a choice was impossible.

Here's as close as I got: Two saviors who stand out as pure delights in a long list of delights.

One began: "Of course, he'd become one of the frontier's most ardent historians and collectors because history called early to Doug McChristian."

The other began: "No, no, no, no!" That's what they told Shirley McClintock when she asked her neighbors to save an old building along the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas."

I never had the privilege of knowing Doug McChristian. He had passed by the time I learned of his lifelong dedication that made this National Park Service ranger and research historian the nation's expert on the life of frontier soldiers.

He knew what they ate, what they wore what they shot, what they used—sometimes his research was so thorough, he not only identified an antique firearm, but could state the name of the soldier who used it.

When he died in 2018, his life's collection was donated to Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas, where it is on display for others passionate about frontier soldiers. The collection originally included 700 items that had already been meticulously cataloged and labeled, as well as 750 books and monographs. Then his wife, Frances, threw in another 100 items. And his passion lives on!

I did have the honor of talking with Shirley McClintock, who is not a woman anyone says “no” to for long. She just kept pushing until everyone else realized that dump of a place she wanted to save was really a beautiful 1861 stone building. It’s now the Trail Days Cafe and Museum—and serves food that represents everyone who’s lived on this dirty trail, from American Indians to German immigrants to Swedish farmers.

Then she kept adding to the neighborhood, saving other historic buildings. She shows no signs of slowing down in saving Kansas history!

“I was like the lone ranger,” Shirley says—except she also credits her faith in God as giving her the strength to carry on.

See why I so love writing this column?



**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*

### BEST WESTERN MUSEUM Western Spirit Scottsdale Museum, Scottsdale, AZ

The museum’s curators want visitors to “see the West from a whole new perspective,” and they deliver. In addition to the ongoing Peterson Family’s “**Courage and Crossroads: A Visual Journey** through the Early American West” the “Abe Hays Family Spirit of the West Collection,” “Of Spirit and Flame: John Coleman Bronzes from the Collection of Frankie and Howard Alper” and “Canvas of Clay: Hopi Pottery Masterworks from The Allan and Judith Cooke Collection,” the museum featured exhibitions titled “New Beginnings: An American Story of Romantics and Modernists in the West,” “Will James Cowboy Artist and Author,” “Photographs by Barry M. Goldwater: The Arizona Highways Collection,” “Paul Calle’s Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon,” “Maynard Dixon’s American West” and “By Beauty Obsessed: Gilbert Waldman Collects the West.” [ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org](http://ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org)

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



### BEST PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING

**Judge Isaac C. Parker’s Courthouse,  
Jail & Gallows, Fort Smith National Historic  
Site, Fort Smith, AR**

The Fort Smith National Historic Site in Fort Smith, Arkansas, celebrated its bicentennial in 2018, and one of the centerpiece of the frontier outpost’s preservation efforts is the Judge Isaac C. Parker Courthouse, Jail & Gallows. Parker, who served as the judge of United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas from 1875 to 1896, earned the notorious moniker of “the hanging judge” during his lengthy tenure, but in fact out of 8,500 guilty felony cases, only 160 were sentenced to death and 79 hanged. Tour the museum, courthouse, jail, gallows and surrounding campus to learn of the significance of the court and fort’s role in 19th-century American history. [NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)

**READERS’ CHOICE:** Fort Davis Historic Site, Fort Davis, TX

### BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

**Santa Fe National Historic Trail, CO, KS,  
MO, NM, OK, TX**

The bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail will commence in 2020 in anticipation of the commercial highway’s humble beginnings in 1821. The international highway, W between the United States and

Lieutenant Colonel George Custer posed with the Osage Scouts who served with the 7th Cavalry at Fort Dodge, Kansas, in 1868. Today, the fort, which was built strategically along the Santa Fe Trail, and the Custer House can be toured.

— COURTESY NPS.GOV

the newly independent Republic of Mexico’s state of Santa Fe de Nuevo México, changed North American history and began American citizens’ settlement in the far Southwest. Today, travelers can enjoy revisiting the historic highway from western Missouri to New Mexico, with trail markers, civic centers, main streets, museums and historic sites marking the way for exploration and education about the trail’s significance. [NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)

**READERS’ CHOICE:** Chisholm Trail, KS, OK, TX

### BEST PRESERVATION EFFORT OF THE WEST

**Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum, Pawnee, OK**

Wild West entertainer Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie once called the 500-acre ranch his home. Today, the fully furnished circa 1910 14-room mansion is completely decorated with Lillie family photographs, artwork and memorabilia. Tour the museum’s exhibits and learn about Pawnee Bill, his popular Wild West shows and the Pawnee tribe. During the second weekend in June, the ranch hosts Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show.



Judge Isaac C. Parker's federal courthouse, jail and gallows have been restored at Fort Smith National Historic Site in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Parker presided over the court from 1873-1896, with many of the cases originating from crimes committed on Arkansas's neighbor, the federally administered Indian Territory.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

Visitors enjoy the drive-through exhibit pasture, where longhorns, bison and draft horses are on exhibit. The Wild West promoter's mansion has recently reopened to visitors with major renovations to its foundation and significant parts of the interior updated to its original appearance.

*OKHistory.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, KS



### BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE WEST

#### Boot Hill Graveyard, Tombstone, AZ

Originally known as the City Cemetery (1878-1884), Tombstone's old cemetery was renamed Boot Hill Graveyard around 1929 when the city's boosters started Helldorado Days to spur tourism to the historic Cochise County mining town. Citizens from all walks of life were buried in the cemetery, but because of neglect, many graves had become unmarked and the local citizenry worked hard to re-identify the graves. Today, visitors to Tombstone's Boot Hill will learn a great deal about its early residents through the restored markers of those interred during the town's earliest years.

*TombstoneBootHillGiftShop.com*

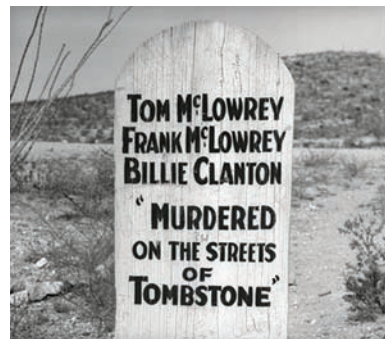
**READERS' CHOICE:** Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

In October, Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West opened the exhibition "Maynard Dixon's American West." The show, which highlights the work and life of the master Western artist, includes Chuck Abbott's 1940 Tucson, Arizona, portrait, *Edith Hamlin and Maynard Dixon*, and will be on display until August 2, 2020.

- COURTESY "MAYNARD DIXON'S AMERICAN WEST," MEDICINE MAN GALLERY, TUCSON, ARIZONA -

Local citizens restored the long-neglected Boot Hill Graveyard in Tombstone, Arizona, in the late 1920s and early 1930s, painting headstones for the famous and not-so-famous known to have been buried in the original City Cemetery. Today, it is one of the historic town's most popular attractions.

- LEE RUSSELL, 1940, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



### BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST

#### Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX

Stroll the grounds of National Historic Landmark Fort Concho, tour its museum to learn about the daily life of a frontier soldier, visit 23 original and restored buildings and enjoy annual living history events hosted by re-enactors in period military uniforms. *FortConcho.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, La Junta, CO / Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Fort Laramie, WY

### BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN RE-CREATED

#### Old Trail Town Museum, Cody, WY

The vision of Wyoming native Bob Edgar, Old Trail Town Museum is the largest collection of historic pioneer structures in the state of Wyoming. With statewide support from ranchers, friends and historic preservationists, Edgar has assembled the living history museum on Cody's original townsite with 26 buildings (circa 1879-1901), 100 horse-drawn vehicles and a unique and extensive exhibition of Wyoming pioneer and Indian memorabilia and artifacts.

*OldTrailTown.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS / Usher's Ferry Historic Village, Cedar Rapids, IA

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Eddie Basha was a close friend of Cowboy Artists of America co-founder Joe Beeler and the Eddie Basha Collection reflects Basha's appreciation for the membership's best works, including CAA emeritus member and American Indian artist Fred Fellows' oil on canvas *A Trip to the Trading Post* (above).

— ALL ARTWORK AND MUSEUM IMAGES COURTESY THE EDDIE BASHA COLLECTION, MESA, ARIZONA —

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

# A Gift From the Patron Saint of Western Art

*One visit might not be enough to see all in the Basha Gallery.*

**E**ddie Basha, Jr. knew what love at first sight was—it happened to him twice, on the same summer day in 1972.

That was the day he met one burgeoning Western artist in the flesh and another through an art catalog, but there was no mistake, he was gobsmacked.

The romance had been set in motion a couple weeks earlier, when Eddie and friends had come from his summer home in Prescott to Sedona, Arizona, to meet Joe and Sharon Beeler. But they weren't at home. That didn't stop the party from picnicking on their patio and Eddie—being the curious type—wandering around the living room in their unlocked house. What he saw stunned him—Joe's bronzes so perfect, the word “magnificent” keep going through his mind.

On the way back to Prescott, the group stopped for a drink at The Spirit Room in Jerome—a popular watering hole since before statehood—and Eddie finally reached Beeler by phone. He offered to buy three of Beeler's bronzes, perhaps sounding like a seasoned collector. In reality, the 33-year-old Basha was just doubling his collection with these purchases. (Joe Beeler would always get a kick out of recounting that first sale to Eddie, musing, “On reflection, purchasing art from a bar in Jerome must have some implications.”)

And then came the day when Eddie Basha drove to Sedona to collect his first Joe Beeler bronzes and to meet face-to-face.

There was an instant rapport. The two men liked each other right away, but then, both were known as exceptionally likable men. Eddie would be remembered by his

native state as an “Arizona treasure” with a “heart as big as the state.” Joe would be remembered by Western author Don Dedera as “that rare person who can boss around somebody else's dog.”

As the men got to know one another that day in 1972, Joe shared a catalog from the recent show of the Cowboy Artists of America—a group he helped create in 1965 at the Oak Creek Tavern in downtown Sedona.

As Eddie recalled, when paging through the catalog and coming to a painting by John Clymer, he “went bananas.”

He tried to call Clymer in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, but they didn't connect. And then a couple months later, Eddie was perusing the O'Brien's Art Emporium in Scottsdale when he was taken by a painting of a buffalo. He had no idea of the artist—it was the

## WESTERN PRESERVATION

subject that drew him. He remembered being euphoric when he discovered it was a Clymer. The price tag was \$9,000. Eddie needed credit to cover the cost. He'd go on to own many of Clymer's most important paintings—most of them considered "10s." And he'd forge an intimate friendship with John and Doris Clymer, just as he and his family did with Joe and Sharon Beeler.

Then he discovered others who moved his heart and inspired him to write a check. He was particularly partial to the artists aligning themselves with the Cowboy Artists of America, and he made himself a goal: "It was my intent to acquire the minimum of one of each Cowboy Artists' work," he'd



Visitors to the Eddie Basha Collection will discover that many of the artists that Basha collected became his close friends. One such artist was John Clymer, whose art is exhibited in the John Clymer Gallery (above).



Cowboy Artist Roy Anderson had an illustrious career as a professional illustrator before relocating to Arizona to pursue a full-time career as a fine artist. He particularly liked to paint American Indians, such as his gouache on paper *Buffalo Robe*.

recall years later. You have to wonder if he ever giggled over how modest that goal was compared to what he'd bring home.

By the time he died in 2013, Eddie Basha had amazed one of the largest privately owned collections of contemporary Western American and American Indian art. He became known as "The Patron Saint of Western Art." And true to his heart, he

created a free, public gallery to showcase his collection in Chandler, Arizona.

"Eddie loved history and this collection was living history to him," notes his widow, Nadine Basha.

But no one can deny there was a definite "thrill of the hunt" in his collecting. As the Cowboy Artists shows grew more famous—hosted by the Phoenix Art Museum from 1973 to 2011—the frenzy to get the choice pieces grew so strong, the museum created a "lottery" for sales.

Everyone interested in a painting could add their name—only once—to the pot, and whoever's name was drawn would have the honor of writing the check. Eddie Basha never liked those odds, and the stories are legendary about the "army" of family and friends he'd assemble to put their names in all the pots of all the pieces he wanted. He usually went home with at least a couple of them.

"The most dangerous place in the world was between Eddie and a painting he'd want to buy," says Brad Richardson of Scottsdale's Legacy Gallery.

Longtime Phoenix Art Museum Director Jim Ballinger remembers fearing Eddie was

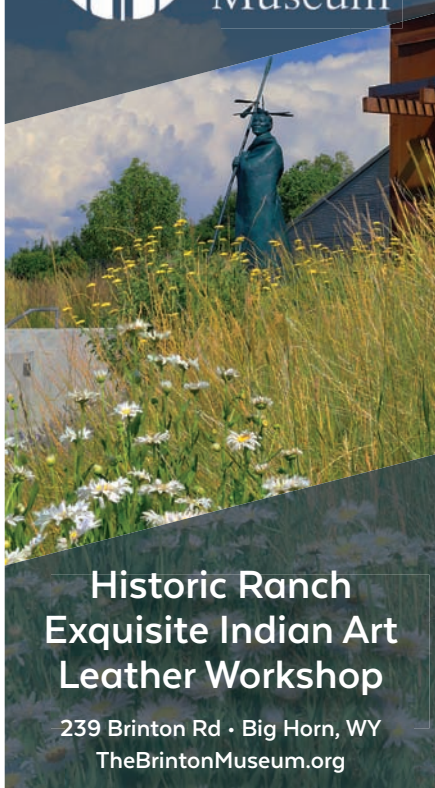
angry at him the first year the Cowboy Artists were in Phoenix. Instead of his usual affable greeting, Eddie just whizzed on by, ignoring Ballinger. Nadine had to explain her husband: "Oh, he's focused." Ballinger saw the same



Basha acquired Cowboy Artist R. Brownell McGrew's *Yellow Hairs Son*. First known as a landscape artist, Brownell became inspired to paint the Hopi and Navajo people after a trip to northeastern Arizona in the mid-1950s.



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Cowboy Artist James Reynolds' oil on canvas *The Changeover* is one of many pieces in the Eddie Basha Collection that depicts the historic Old West. Reynolds returned from World War II and worked in Los Angeles for decades before moving to Sedona, Arizona, to pursue his dream of being a Western artist.

pattern year after year, as Western art caught on and brought in seven-figure sales.

Eddie always said he owed it all—his love of Western art, his zeal for collecting, the gallery he'd create—to his dad's youngest sister. Aunt Zelma inspired Eddie, first getting him interested in art when he was a boy as she babysat, and then pushing him to create a hobby as he took over the family grocery business in 1968. In her honor, he named his showplace the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery.

The gallery opened in 1992 in Chandler at the original Bashes' grocery store site that is now its corporate headquarters. Eddie annexed a storage area, measuring 2,277 square feet, had it cleaned out, and opened his collection free to the public so they could share the exciting history he adored, with its grandeur and strength.

Over the years, the space has been expanded and remodeled several times, so that today it covers 11,000 square feet of floor space and 27,000 square feet of display space. Within its walls are more Joe Beelers—sculptures, paintings and personal drawings he made for his "brother" Eddie over the years—and more John Clymer paintings than can be found anywhere else. But the gallery also contains the work of an entire cast of renowned Western artists, including Roy Andersen, Harely Brown, Cecil Calnimpetwa, Greg Campbell, John Coleman, Deborah Copenhaver and Fred

Fellows, Martin Grelle, Maria Martinez, Bill Nebeker, Bill Terping, Baje Whitethrone and dozens more.

In all, more than 3,000 pieces fill the gallery, including the first painting Eddie ever bought: a Don Doxey still life of a leather jacket thrown over a chair. "I bought it because it reminded me of my father," he said.

That tells a lot about Eddie Basha's approach to amassing such a treasure trove: "I never bought art as an investment," he said. "I always bought as a collector." And to be certain everyone understood just how personal this was, he declared, "This is the essence of my life."

Experts agree. "Eddie had no peer as a collector," notes historian Don Hedgpeth. "He had a tremendous taste for art," notes artist Fred Fellows. "If not for his patronage, Western art would never have become what it is," says Joe Beeler's son, Jody.

Historian B. Byron Price admits he is in "hog heaven" in the Basha Gallery. "His collection is the history of Western and native American art. I can see people are overwhelmed and can't absorb it all—it's like taking a drink from a fire hose."

For the artists he collected, Eddie Basha was like "royalty," as John Coleman put it. Or, as Harley Brown noted, "An Eddie Basha thumbs-up wasn't a trivial moment. Artists would flip. It was like being invited by Clint Eastwood to be in a movie."

For gallery visitors there is amazement that one man could gather such quality art over a lifetime. Eddie was particularly happy that Chandler fourth-graders tour his gallery every year. "This gallery is allowing us to continue to pass forward to the next generation the importance of the West," said Dana Melcher, art coordinator for the Chandler Public Schools.

In 2000, Eddie was named an honorary member of the Cowboy Artists of America—a plaque noting the honor hangs at the entrance of his gallery. In 2001, the gallery won the Arizona Governor's Arts Award. In 2011, *True West* named it the "Best Western Art Gallery." It is typically open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 22402 S. Basha Road, Chandler, Arizona.


An art book about Eddie and his collection—showcasing many of the outstanding pieces—is scheduled for publication in 2020. ✦

**Jana Bommersbach** is a *True West* editor and author of seven books. Her eighth will be the upcoming biography of Eddie Basha and his amazing art collection, now in production and designed by renowned artist Carol Harlason.



Like many of her contemporary Western artists, Deborah Copenhaver Fellows grew up ranching, working horses and competing in rodeos. Her 31-inch high bronze *She Rode Good Horses* reflects her life in ranching and art. She and her husband, Fred, may be the only couple who both have art in the Eddie Basha Collection.

*a. R. Mitchell*  
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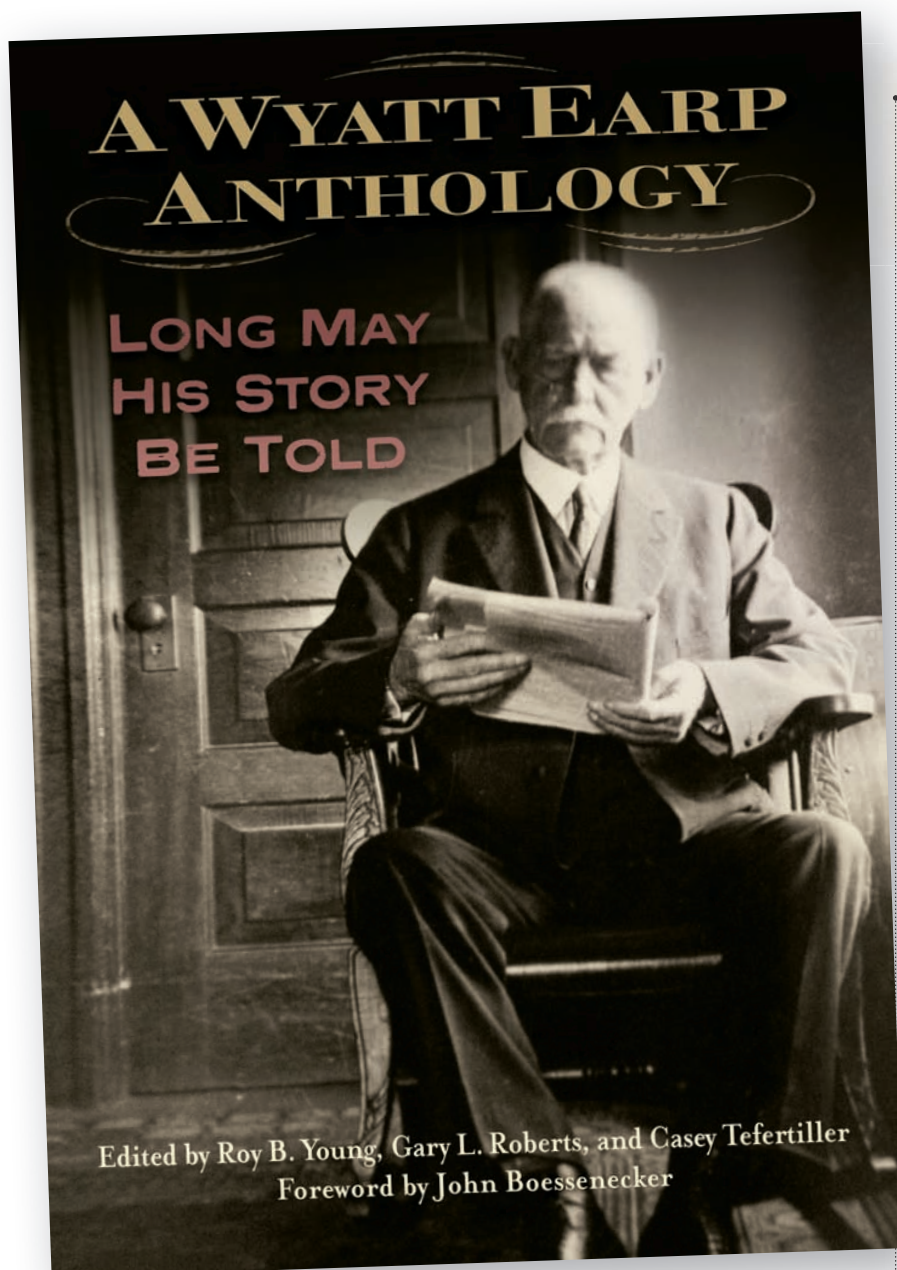
# WESTERN BOOKS

BY STUART ROSEBROOK



## Courage in the Face of Change

*Western history and fiction publishing is at a crossroads, and only brave publishers and good storytelling will save the day.*

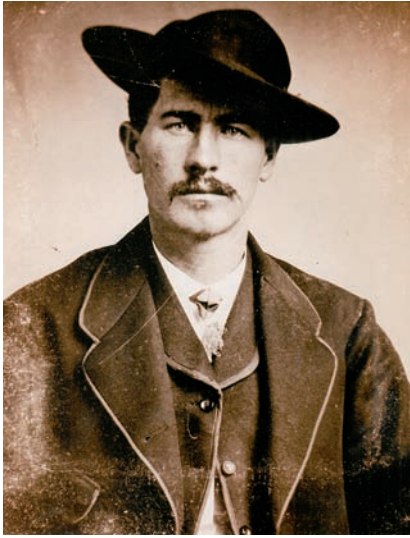


— COVER COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS —

In the last seven years, the book industry has metamorphized exponentially. Indie authors, digital books, print-on-demand, audiobooks and internet sales have changed how we write, market, sell and buy books. Yet three absolutes remain true in the Western book industry: intriguing characters, solid research and great storytelling still sell books. Yes, marketing, packaging and formatting all play a role, but readers of Old West history and fiction still want to be entertained, educated, inspired and illuminated, no matter what format it is packaged in.

For the 2020 Best of the West Western Books section, I have revamped the annual review to include an excerpt from *True West's* book of the year and consolidated the rest of the section to reflect the Best of the West departments. Throughout the year, I will be writing about Western books, publishing trends, genres and even my favorite bookstores, in my monthly “Rough Drafts” column.

What does the future hold for Western publishing in 2020? I remain hopeful and believe the Old West genre can grow stronger in the marketplace—especially if authors continue to deliver dramatic, entertaining, well-researched and character-driven fiction and history. To illustrate that point, this issue of *True West* includes an exclusive pre-press excerpt from award-winning Western historian John Boessenecker’s newest book from Hanover Square Press, *Ride the Devil’s Herd: Wyatt Earp’s Epic Battle Against the West’s Biggest Outlaw Gang*, on pages 32-37. Due out in March 2020, *Ride the Devil’s Herd*



Wyatt Earp had his portrait made when living in Wichita, Kansas, in 1874. According to the editors of *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*, “some believe the photo is actually Virgil Earp. As young men they were strikingly similar in appearance.”

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

should quickly become one of the most talked about history books in the New Year—a trend that can benefit all of us who love reading about our favorite topic—the Old West.

## WESTERN HISTORY

### EDITORS' AND READERS' CHOICE: Best Authors and Historical Nonfiction Book of the Year

*A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told*, edited by Roy B. Young, Gary L. Roberts and Casey Tefertiller, foreword by John Boessenecker (University of North Texas Press) [UNTPress.unt.edu](http://UNTPress.unt.edu)

Our *True West* Western Book of the Year and Authors/Editors of the Year awards go to *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told*, edited by Roy B. Young, Gary L. Roberts and Gary Tefertiller. Published by the University of North Texas Press with a foreword by John Boessenecker, *A Wyatt Earp Anthology* is the most ambitious Western history book published in 2019. The comprehensive tome is nearly 900 pages long, three inches thick and includes a contributors' list that is a who's who of

Earp chroniclers, including *True West*'s Bob Boze Bell. For students and scholars of Western history, the anthology is also an important new piece of Western historiography that bridges Frederick Jackson Turner's groundbreaking 1890 frontier thesis “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” and contemporary Western history scholarship. Critical essays that analyze the Earpian story are among the major strengths of the volume.

Gary L. Roberts' Chapter One essay “Wyatt Earp: The Search for Order on the Last Frontier” ignites the imagination and resets how we all should reconsider the significance of Earp in American history:

*Of all the old-time lawmen of the boomtown West, Wyatt Earp remains perhaps the most controversial. In part this is because the Homeric themes of Wyatt Earp's legend have cut him loose from significant historical issues, thereby reducing the debate about him to a quarrel over the details of his life in order to prove him a hero or a villain. In the process, the substantial role he did play has been so obscured and trivialized that Wyatt Earp the man remains compelling, idolized, damned, and still strangely without substance.*

*Biographer Stuart N. Lake described Wyatt Earp as an “epitomizing symbol of a powerful factor—an economic factor, if you will—all important in the history of the Western United States of America.” And he was, although Earp represented not so much “the exact combination of breeding and human experience which laid the foundations of Western empire,” to use Lake's phrase, as the forces of modernization in America's Age of*

*Exploitation. Wyatt Earp was an instrument of change, a transition figure from the traditional frontier to the modern West, epitomizing the individualism, mobility, materialism, and violence that characterized the Gilded Age.*

*Wyatt Earp was a foot soldier in what historian Robert H. Weibe called “the search for order” in the late nineteenth century. Earp subscribed to the principles that dominated the time and served the forces of change for good and for ill. His world was one in which “survival of the fittest” was more than a social philosophy. Although not a complex man, he lived his life according to a code that seemed right to him, if not to those who judged him later. As a peace officer and an entrepreneur in the boomtown West, Earp threw his lot with conservative men of power. He embraced the Republicanism, capitalism, and Social Darwinism of railroad tycoons and industrial barons and served as their agent in the process of capitalist incorporation on the urban frontier.*

For more on Earp and his infamous life as recounted in *A Wyatt Earp Anthology*, read excerpts by Tefertiller, Young, Roberts and the late Roger Jay on pages 22-31. ❖

Wyatt Earp lived his life across the West after Tombstone, but he and Josephine regularly returned to the Southwest to seek their fortune in boomtowns such as Tonapah, Nevada, in 1902 (inset), and in their own mining camp near Vidal, California, in 1920.





In *A Sinister Splendor*, his 2019 novel of the Mexican War, award-winning author and singer-songwriter Mike Blakely eloquently brings voice to the historic characters of the conflict between two countries, including Gen. John E. Wool (left) seen here entering Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, circa 1847.

— PHOTO COURTESY YALE'S BEINECKE LIBRARY/COVER COURTESY FORGE BOOKS —

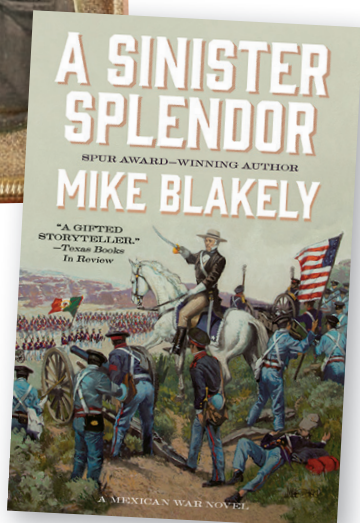
## WESTERN FICTION

In 2019, fans of Western history and biography were confronted with a changing landscape of publishers while classic Old West fiction fans had three primary publishers to satisfy their reading needs: Wolfpack, Pinnacle/Kensington and FiveStar. Wolfpack, which began as an e-book company with a print-on-demand format available via Amazon—where most of its books are sold—is also expanding in 2019-'20 into bookstores across the country. Pinnacle Westerns continue to dominate the mass-market paperback market, with a major portion of its sales in Walmart. Forge of New York should be remembered as the top publisher of Western fiction in hardcover and trade paperback format, while the number of houses publishing Old West fiction is negligible. Beyond the traditional Western, fans of Western fiction are reading Romance, Mystery and even Sci-Fi Westerns set mostly outside of the 19th century, although Romance and Mystery genres include titles with characters and stories set in the traditional Old West format. University presses do not publish a lot of fiction, but in 2019 the University of New Mexico reissued a series of 94-year-old Max Evans' novels in anticipation of publishing his latest novel *The King of Taos* in 2020.

### BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST AND NOVEL

**Michael Blakely for *A Sinister Splendor: A Mexican War Novel* (Forge)**

The 20th novel by three-time Western Writers of America Spur Award-winner Mike Blakely is an instant classic and the



best novelization of the oft-overlooked conflict since Jeff Shaara's *Gone for Soldiers* (Ballantine, 2000). Well-organized, tightly written and smartly paced, the book keeps the reader on the front lines of the war's development and subsequent battles between August 1845 and February 1847. The author, a native Texan, explains in his introduction, "It was an era not so unlike our own—a period of controversy and partisan politics, of great promise and frightening uncertainty, of dangerous ambitions and delusions of glory. The results of the Mexican War still shape and haunt us to this very day."

*MichaelBlakely.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: Yakima Henry (Wolfpack), *The Cost of Dying* (Pinnacle) *Blood on the Moon* (Five Star)**

### BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

**Pinnacle/Kensington Books, New York, NY**

An imprint of Kensington, Pinnacle Books is the last publisher of mass-market Western

paperbacks, once a giant segment of the publishing marketplace. Today, Pinnacle's Western division, much of it managed by veteran editor Gary Goldstein, continues to succeed with the ever-popular William W. Johnstone series, and a strong stable of veteran authors.

**READERS' CHOICE: Five Star Publishing, Waterville, ME**

### BEST DIGITAL WESTERN FICTION PRESS

**Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV**

A relative newcomer when compared to its competition on the East Coast, Wolfpack Publishing, founded by veteran author Larry Martin and marketing expert Mike Bray, has quickly become the best hybrid publisher of Western novels in the country. Started as a digital backlist publisher, the company has evolved with Bray with his publishing team, Rachel Del Grosso and Lauren Bridges, into one of the most successful book publishers in the digital e-book era.

*WolfpackPublishing.com*

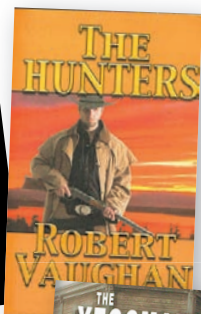
**READERS' CHOICE: Pinnacle Books**

### WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHING

History and biography publishing are in a completely different era than their fiction cousin. New York/East Coast-based houses are publishing fewer and



— COVERS COURTESY PINNACLE/KENSINGTON BOOKS —



— COVERS COURTESY WOLFPACK PUBLISHING —

fewer volumes of 19th-century Western history, with the exception of Globe-Pequot's TwoDot imprint, while most university presses have discontinued or become highly selective about the number of 19th-century Western history books they publish annually. The University of Oklahoma Press, which has dominated the marketplace for at least a decade, and the University of North Texas Press and Texas A&M Press have emerged as the leaders in publishing 19th-century Western history in the past year. The University of Nebraska Press continues to publish Old West titles under its Bison Books imprint, albeit fewer each year.

### BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER AND UNIVERSITY PRESS

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK

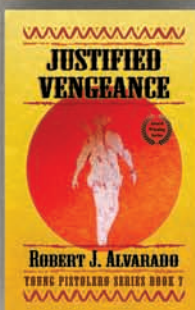
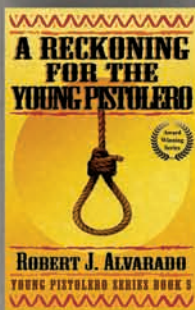
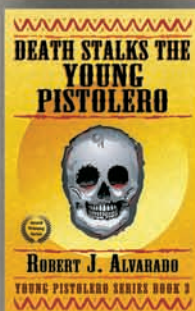
The University of Oklahoma Press is the standard bearer for publishing the history of the North American West, including military, Indian, frontier settlement and Western art and culture. Fans of Western Law and Order history should follow closely the University of North Texas Press and Two Dot/Rowman Littlefield's fast-growing catalog of Old West titles.

[OUPRESS.com](http://OUPRESS.com)

**READERS' CHOICE: TIE:** University of North Texas Press, Denton, TX / TwoDot, New York, NY

# Young Pistolero Series

by Robert J. Alvarado



This award-winning saga is set primarily in the Southwest where Americans are settling after the Mexican-American War. The territories are undergoing unique and savage change as they shed 300 years of Spanish rule. The saga is told through the life of a young peasant, a fugitive on the run riding a stolen Appaloosa stallion. He enters Texas in 1866 to find life on this side of the border holds new dangers along with the promise of a new life. The author integrates historical aspects into a tale, rich with both good and evil, in a time when the Wild West was in full swing.

*Alvarado's novel could be the basis for a television western, because of its engrossing plot and its clear depiction of heroes and villains*

—Dr. Jennie Nelson, PhD in Rhetoric and Writing, Carnegie Mellon University, post-graduate professor of writing, University of Idaho

*Mr. Alvarado vividly illustrates many rugged times after the Civil and Mexican American Wars through the eyes of a 17 year old peon who comes to the U.S. and adapts and grows into a hero. The Young Pistolero is a great new historical western series!*

—Richard Golenda, post Secondary and College History Teacher and post Chairman of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation

*The author's descriptions, dialogue, and conversations are so right on that it will make the reader feel as if they were right there in the midst of all of it. 2015-2017 #1 Top Ten Fiction*

—Corina Martinez Chaudhry, Latino Author

Published by Sierra Press. Available online in both print and electronic formats from Amazon and other major outlets.

For more information: [YoungPistolero.com](http://YoungPistolero.com)

## BOOKSELLING

Lovers of Old West fiction and history who remember the glory days of newsstands and bookstore racks filled with Western paperbacks, and those who have bemoaned the disappearance of their favorite mass-market genre from their local book dealer, should rediscover the category through their local independent bookstores and internet giant *Amazon.com*.

Blasphemy, you say? No, actually it's not. Independent specialty bookstores are the

fastest growing brick-and-mortar sector in the bookselling business and are key partners with the publishing companies. So, this holiday season and in 2020, make a pledge to support your local bookstore!

### BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

**Cactus Book Shop,  
San Angelo, TX**

After a tour of historic Fort Concho, don't miss a chance to visit the downtown San Angelo landmark Cactus Book Shop. With shelves overflowing with Western Americana, West Texas history and Texana, there is something for everyone who loves the Old West. And, don't forget Cactus has the largest selection of Elmer Kelton in the country. In 1948, the



Cactus Book Shop in downtown San Angelo, Texas, is a bucket-list destination for Western history and fiction bibliophiles, especially collectors of Texas history and Elmer Kelton novels.

— COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB —

Texas native Kelton moved to San Angelo where he authored over 40 books during his storied career.

*CactusBookshop.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Guidon Books, Scottsdale, AZ



— COVERS COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS —

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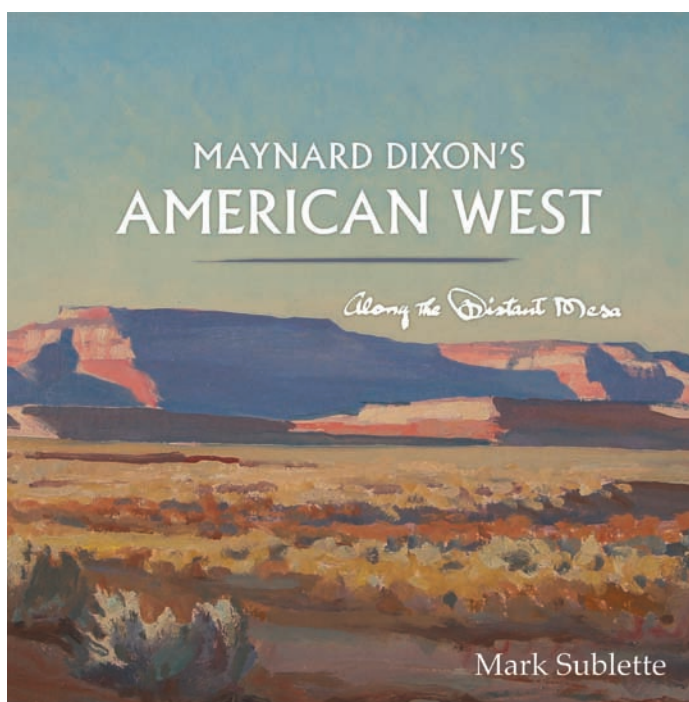
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—John Langellier, editor of *The Thunderbird Remembered: Maynard Dixon, the Man and the Artist*

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## Wyatt Earp (1869-1870) The Lost Story by Marshall Bulle



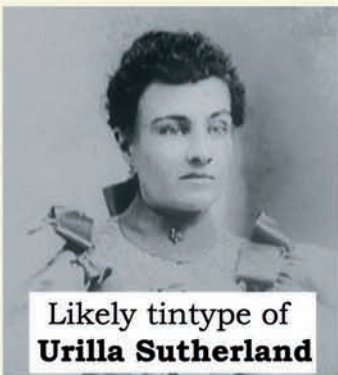
(A portrait likely worth millions)

Shown to the left is a photo of a 36"x 22" portrait photograph in its original restored frame of the most famous 1800s old west frontier lawmen, Wyatt Earp. It was taken by photographer Candace Reed under a skylight (*which is still there*) in Quincy, IL in early 1870. Her ad in the 1866 Quincy directory read that she could make life-size pictures. More than three years of intense research has not produced another 1870s portrait photo this large. Yet, another one does exist of Wyatt's first wife Urilla Sutherland which was taken at the same time for display purposes for Mrs. Reed's studio. Urilla was in an identical frame when Wyatt and her were sold at auction (*likely by mistake*) from a museum's excess inventory in Manitowoc, WI, each going to different buyers. In pristine condition, with no light damage, Wyatt's portrait was undoubtedly stored in the dark for much of its existence. No ad can begin to have adequate space to present the

explosive evidence found in our book which is available at [www.frontiershadows.com](http://www.frontiershadows.com). It has convinced a lot of historians that some photos, which have been published as being Wyatt Earp, cannot possibly be him, but instead the one seen above is him. A few writers who have staked their reputations on unsustainable claims that those photos were Wyatt Earp have been up in arms ever since this portrait surfaced. Like desperadoes they hastily went for their guns after stumbling intoxicated out of the saloon of self-importance. A simple appointment to view the portrait and examine all the evidence with the two men who spent over three years thoroughly investigating it might have changed their minds.

We think the woman seen in the photo below on the left (*likely a tintype*) is Wyatt's first wife Urilla Sutherland. She showed up in one Earp book incorrectly identified as "Bessie", the wife of Morgan Earp. A number of known photos of Bessie make it very clear she is not Bessie. The author told us he did not recall where he got the photo. It is notable that one of the women connected to the sale of the two portraits identified her as that same woman in the matching portrait that was sold with Wyatt. Being the first to see and copy photos of Urilla's siblings from the Sutherland family photo album, which included Urilla's sister

Velma (*courtesy of Brent and Jenny Sutherland*) was sure exciting. The uncanny resemblance between these two likely sisters is too much of a coincidence. If you have information on the location of the tintype (*seen to the far left*) or the missing 36"x 22" matching portrait of Urilla Sutherland please contact-



Likely tintype of  
**Urilla Sutherland**




**Velma Sutherland**  
(Urilla's sister)

**Gary Stover at (303) 875-4271**  
or- [garyantique@gmail.com](mailto:garyantique@gmail.com)

# WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

BY HENRY C. PARKE



## Westerns are Everywhere— Except in Theaters

*The small screen tells the big stories.*



In *The Kid*, one of the very few theatrically released Westerns in 2019, Dane DeHaan starred in the title role. As Billy the Kid, DeHaan shared the screen with a big cast, including Chris Pratt as fictional Grant Cutler, Ethan Hawke as famed lawman Pat Garrett and the film's director, Vincent D'Onofrio, who co-starred as Sheriff Romero.

— COURTESY LIONSGATE —

**T**here's been a quiet explosion of Western film releases in 2019—from indies to international productions. The irony is that when it comes to watching Westerns, the bigger the screen, the better, but while it's been a big year for small-screen Westerns, it's been a tiny year for theatrical releases. *The Kid*, Vincent D'Onofrio's vision of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett through the eyes of a young boy, and *The Mustang*, Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre's true tale of a violent

convict who learns to train wild horses, gained respect and playdates, were released during the year, but they took in only \$1.5 million and \$5 million, respectively.

The three biggest Western hits of the year were by subscription. Netflix had a double-barreled success: the Coen Brothers' delightful anthology film, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*; and Westernish *The Highwaymen*, starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson as the retired Texas Rangers who gunned down Bonnie and Clyde. And David Milch

and HBO ended an unintended 13-year cliff-hanger with *Deadwood—The Movie*, all three receiving exceptional viewership and critical response.

There were two Western series this year, a 100 percent increase over any year this century. And remarkably, although the settings are separated by a century, the stories were hard to tell apart. In both, the star—Kevin Costner in *Yellowstone* and Pierce Brosnan in *The Son*—is a widower trying to protect his oil and cattle empire. Each has a

closeted gay son lawyer with political aspirations, a loyal and feisty daughter (a granddaughter in *Son*), plus a married son who left both the family business and his wife and child, but returns to both to help save the empire. Both prodigal sons are supposed to be their story's moral compass, but in fact are whiny bores. While the Paramount Network's *Yellowstone* will have a season three, sadly, AMC's *The Son* will not.

The resurgence of the genre in recent years has been exclusively in adult Westerns. There has been no exciting but kid-appealing Western to draw new converts since *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. The INSP Channel has moved to bridge that gap, producing its first original Western feature, *The Legend of 5 Mile Cave*, focusing on a young boy's dime-novel-fueled obsession with a legendary gunman—and a fabled treasure.

INSP had already carved a niche for itself with “Western-adjacent” original programming. Its in-house production *The Cowboy Way*, following the real-life exploits of three likable Alabama cattlemen for five seasons, has now been joined with *The Ultimate*



John Fusco's original Netflix film *The Highwaymen* had the cinematic qualities of a classic Western and the production design of a Depression-era crime noir. Casting Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson, who starred respectively as legendary Texas lawmen Frank Hamer and Maney Gault, translated to strong critical support and streaming viewership.

— COURTESY NETFLIX —



Directors Ethan and Joel Coen turned upside down a century of well-worn Western characters, storylines and themes in their alt-Western *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*, a six-part chapter film that debuted in theaters before streaming on Netflix at the end of 2018. Tim Blake Nelson starred in the title role as a singing cowboy who was also a sadistic killer.

— COURTESY NETFLIX —

*Cowboy Showdown*, a six-night event in which a dozen cowpokes demonstrate their ranching skills, battling for ownership of a herd of cattle, under the steely gaze of Trace Adkins and cowboying experts. The Paramount Network has *The Last Cowboy*, following a dozen rodeo cowboys preparing for a Las Vegas reining competition with a million-dollar purse.

It was a surprisingly busy year for international Westerns, including films from Brazil (*Bacurau*), Colombia (*Luz*), Bolivia (*Santa Clara*), South Africa (*Flatland*), Argentina (*Pistolero*), Turkey (*Bozkir Kuslara Bak Kuslara*) and Australia (*The True History of the Kelly Gang*). The British-made *Day of the Stranger* proclaims itself an “Acid Western,” and Spain's busy Chip Baker Group produced its third Spaghetti Western, *The Price of Death*.

*Never Grow Old*, shot in Ireland and Luxembourg, features an unusually dynamic John Cusack as a villain destroying a religious town. Emile Hirsch stars as the undertaker, who you keep expecting to save the town, but who instead lurks in corners, looking pensive, until it's too late to matter. From Germany comes *Adamstown*, wherein an American Indian curse forces banished animals to return in the form of actors in laughable makeup. By far the best of the foreign Westerns available for viewing is Indonesia's *Buffalo Boys*.

Among the low-budget indie Westerns, *Bill Tilghman and the Outlaws*, set in the earliest days of silent cinema, is a tongue-in-cheek tale suggested by the practice of making early Westerns with real outlaws and lawmen, and features Robert Carradine as Frank James and Darby Hinton as Cole Younger.

The best of the indies are pretty dark. With *The Outsider* as his sixth Western, country-music powerhouse Trace Adkins handsomely carries the film as a dirty lawman who must track down a son who is far worse. In *Eminence Hill*, an outlaw and his gang are pursued by lawmen as they track and kill the jury that hung his brother. With rich support by Dominique Swain, Barry Corbin and Lance Henriksen, the real surprise is that the unfamiliar leads, Owen Conway, Clint James and Charlie Motley, carry the bulk of the plot so effectively.

The theatrical film that brought the most interest to the genre this year was, unexpectedly, not a Western, but a movie about people who make them: *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. It seems wrong to describe a Quentin Tarantino film, featuring Charles Manson, as a delightful fable, but that's just what it is. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Rick Dalton, once the star of the series *Bounty Law* (modeled on *Wanted: Dead or Alive*), then a star of Spaghetti Westerns, and now reduced to playing a guest-villain on *Lancer*.



Leo DiCaprio played multi-faceted, fictional 1960s Western-action star Rick Dalton in Quentin Tarrantino's 2019 *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. The controversial film director's epic is an homage to TV Westerns, studio production, Los Angeles and Hollywood culture during the Manson Cult crime-spree of 1969.

- COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES -

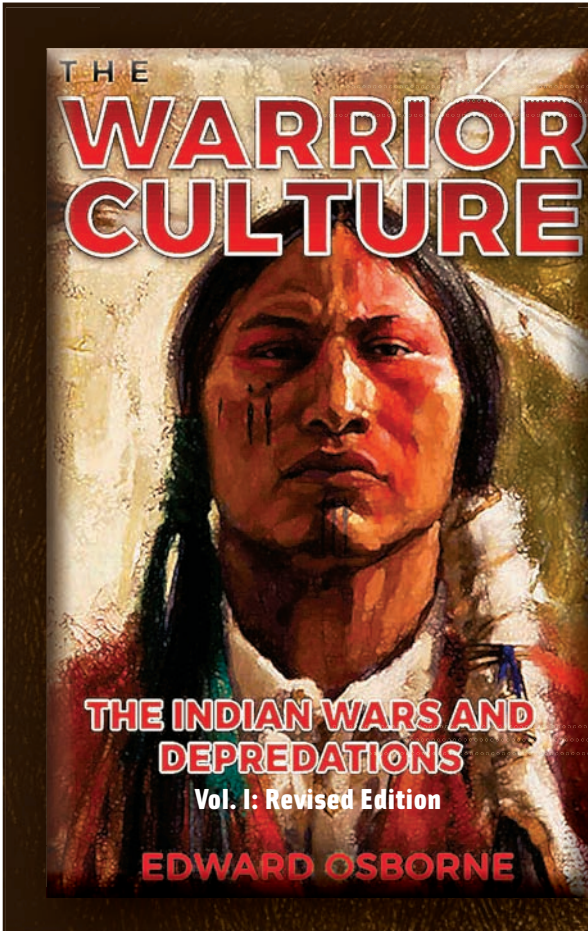
George gasped, "Clayton! Is that you?!" and began to cry. After an hour visit, during which George assured them that the hippies were there with his permission, and taking care of him, the Moores left. "Two weeks later we heard—along with the rest of the world—of the Tate/LaBianca murders executed by the Manson family living on Spahn Ranch."

In the film, Spahn is portrayed by Bruce Dern, who reluctantly took on the role when his friend, Burt Reynolds, died before he could be filmed. Dern has been busy in Westerns this year, also playing the head of the horse-training program in *The Mustang*, and a dying former Confederate officer in

Tarrantino has proposed turning *Bounty Law* into an actual series, in the "original" black and white, of course.

Particularly memorable is the chilling sequence when Brad Pitt, as Rick's stunt double, takes a drive out to Spahn Ranch, a dilapidated movie town, to check on his old friend, George Spahn. It's so convincing because it's so true: it was in fact TV's Lone Ranger, Clayton Moore, who took his

11-year-old daughter, Dawn, to visit. Dawn remembers the ranch just as it was portrayed in the film. "Rusted out pickups, straggly dogs, disintegrating horse corrals and falling-down facades were in every direction. And hippies. Lots of young people in peasant blouses and headbands all gathered quietly as we drove up." Clayton explained what he wanted. When they entered the disintegrating trailer, her father announcing himself,



This is a thought-provoking "revisionist" history that will open many eyes to the true nature of the Plains Indians. My book challenges many of the orthodox propagandistic interpretations. "In this same vein, it will examine the pro-Indian political agenda generated by the Left-wing academics in today's colleges and universities." Using extensive Primary sources, I have found that the Plains Indians were butchers and horse thieves. "I will also examine the battles of The Great Sioux Uprising of 1862, Sand Creek-1864 and the infamous Fetterman Massacre of 1866.

Available for purchase at  
*Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble*



- COURTESY INSPIRATION NETWORK -

While not a lot of Westerns were made in 2019, studios, networks and filmmakers know they still have a broad spectrum of fans, as demonstrated by the family-friendly Inspiration network's first Western, *The Legend of 5 Mile Cave* (above), and Focus Features' hard-hitting, R-rated prison drama, *The Mustang* (inset).



- COURTESY FOCUS FEATURES -

**BEST 2019 WESTERN MOVIE**

*The Mustang* (Focus Features)

Roman Coleman (Matthias Schoenaerts), a Nevadan imprisoned for a horrendous crime, seeks redemption through a

program that trains convicts to train wild horses. Bruce Dern is the stern but forgiving head of the program, and Gideon Adlon is the daughter the inarticulate Roman wants so desperately to reconnect with.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *The Kid* (Lionsgate)

*Badland*. The twice Oscar-nominated 83-year-old actor returns to the form time after time. "A lot of people will tell you that the reason they don't make them anymore is because *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*—those are the Westerns to the kids now. But you and I know there's always a

place for a Western. The stories are great, the times are great, and for the most part it really happened." Once upon a time...

✎ **Henry C. Parke**, a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: *Henry'sWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*

## Historian-led tours through America's past

Join one of our guided excursions to explore well-known, as well as forgotten and out-of-the-way locales that tell the tale of American history. For over two decades, we've been crafting comprehensive bus and walking tours of the historic ground where the nation's story unfolded, focusing principally on the American Civil War, the Indian Wars, and the Wild West. By laying eyes on the actual sites, and walking the ground in conversation with the most authoritative and dedicated guides, we gain a renewed and deeper understanding of the events that transpired there.

View all 2020 tour itineraries at: [whtours.org](http://whtours.org)

### The Apache Wars

**Spring 2020:** Phoenix, AZ – 8 days with major emphasis on the campaigns involving Cochise, Victorio and Geronimo. Other themes expand on United States military operations in the area, and the Civil War in New Mexico. Expert guide: retired National Park Service historian Neil Mangum.

### Billy the Kid

**Summer 2020:** Albuquerque. Ride along for a 4-day, deep dive into the life & legend of Billy the Kid, and the Lincoln County War, with guided tours of the sites and scenes of Billy's life, and death, incl. Mesilla, Blazer's Mill, Tunstall murder site, Old Lincoln Days, Puerto de Luna, and The Kid's grave at Ft. Sumner.

### The Overland Campaign of 1864

**Sept. 2020:** Richmond, VA – *Grant versus Lee* – 4 days on the battlefields with author & historian Gordon Rhea, exploring the sites associated with Gordon's incomparable scholarship. We'll start with the Wilderness, and continue through the Battles for Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna River, Cold Harbor, and the transition to the Petersburg Campaign.

### War on the Northern Plains

**Oct. 2020:** Billings & Sheridan – 4 days covering many sites, including the Fetterman Fight, Dull Knife battlefield, the Rosebud, and culminating in "Custer's Last Stand," with former Little Bighorn battlefield historian Neil Mangum.

For more info, drop us a line at [LastStandHill@icloud.com](mailto:LastStandHill@icloud.com) or visit us on Facebook: @HistoryOutings

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# WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS



## BEST 2019 TV WESTERN SERIES

***The Son* (AMC)**  
Based on Philipp Meyer's novel, *The Son* is the best Western series since AMC's own *Hell On*

*Wheels*. The story of Eli McCullough is told in two eras, with Jacob Lofland as the teenage captive who is raised as a Comanche, and Pierce Brosnan as the aging oil mogul whose ruthless ways grew from his early fight to survive.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Yellowstone* (Paramount Network)

## BEST 2019 TV WESTERN MOVIE

***Deadwood: The Movie* (HBO)**

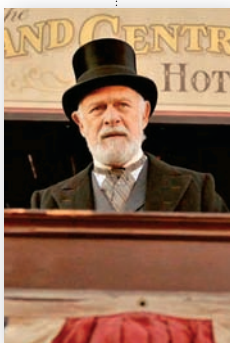
With his exceptional cast and crew, writer David Milch recaptured the lost world of *Deadwood*, and thrust it a decade into its future. He not only concluded the dangling story, but showed the changes of time; most visually striking, Timothy Olyphant's Sheriff Seth Bullock matured into the visage of Wyatt Earp.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (Netflix)

## BEST 2019 WESTERN FILM BOOK

***The Wild Bunch—Sam Peckinpah, a Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Film*, by W. K. Stratton (Bloomsbury Publishing)**

The proof that this volume is, for now, the definitive telling of the making of a beloved—and often reviled—classic American film is the fact that every time I ask a question of anyone who was



involved with *The Wild Bunch*, the immediate response is, "Didn't you read Stratton's book?"

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Ennio Morricone in His Own Words* (Oxford University Press)

## BEST 2019 WESTERN TO STREAM

***The Outsider* (Cinedigm)**

A marshal (Trace Adkins) returns to his town to learn a Chinese railroad worker (John Foo) is on a homicidal rampage because the marshal's own son

(Kaiwai Lyman) has raped and murdered the man's wife. Shot almost entirely at night, in the rain, *The Outsider* is a revenge Western that focuses more on the pursuers than the pursued.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Eminence Hill* (Uncork'd Entertainment)

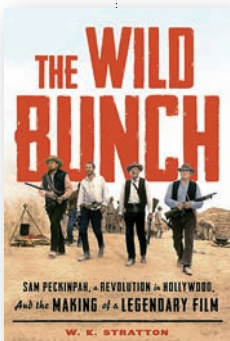
## BEST 2019 BLU-RAY WESTERN MOVIE

***Forty Guns* (Criterion Collection)**

No one got more joy out of making a Western than the man who would fire a gun rather than call "Action!," Sam Fuller. Here, rancher Barbara Stanwyck has surrounded herself with 40 gunmen, but not one is man enough for her, once she meets lawman Barry Sullivan. The breathtaking black-and-white Cinemascope will

make you wonder why anyone bothers with color.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Wagon Master* (Warner Brothers Archive)



## BEST 2019 WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

***The Lone Ranger Double Feature* (Universal)**

What better time than the 70th anniversary of television's first Western series, to return to those thrilling days of yesteryear! *The Lone Ranger* (1956) and *The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold* (1958), starring Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels, are not cut-together episodes, but original, full-length movies, and a delight for viewers of all ages.



**READERS' CHOICE:** *Red Ryder—The Complete Cinecolor Collection* (VCI)

## BEST 2019 TV DVD

***The High Chaparral—Season 3, "The High Chaparral—The Final Season"* (Shout Factory)**

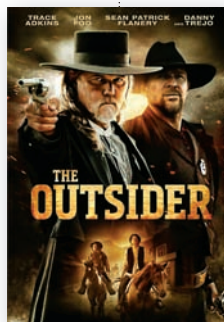
The last two years of *Chaparral* were a continuing struggle with anti-violence censorship, but David Dortort and his writers coped by focusing more on character than blazing action. In the final season, Blue Cannon (Mark Slade) was replaced by a half-Pawnee teen named Wind (Rudy Ramos), who gave the show a shot of adrenalin. Ramos now plays a continuing character on *Yellowstone*.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *The High Chaparral—Season 3, "The High Chaparral—The Final Season"* (Shout Factory)

## BEST 2019 SILENT WESTERN

***White Gold* (1927, Grapevine Video)**

Holland-born Jetta Goudal stars as the lovely young Mexican bride of Alec Carson (Kenneth Thomson). But Carson's father resents



sharing his son's attention, and when a drifter shows interest in her, her father-in-law sees a perfect opportunity.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *The Call of the Desert* (1930, Alpha Home Entertainment)

**BEST 2019 WESTERN DOCUMENTARY**



*Sad Hill Unearthed* (Hark)

Half a century ago, Sergio Leone hired a thousand soldiers from Generalissimo Franco to build

a 5,000-grave fake cemetery in Burgos, for the climactic scene of *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. Beginning a year before the 50th anniversary, local fans, and fanatics from all over Europe, joined to unearth the vanished monumental set. Their devotion is mesmerizing.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *And With Him Came The West* (Grasshopper Film)

**BEST 2019 FOREIGN WESTERN**

*Buffalo Boys* (Indonesia, Samuel Goldwyn Films)



Exiled brothers Suwo (Yoshi Sudarso) and Jamar (Ario Bayu), raised by their uncle as

cowboys in the American West, return to Java to avenge their father, the sultan, as only pistol-packin' cowboys can, against the evil Dutch colonizers. *Buffalo Boys* is full of action, exuberance, sorrow, humor, history and startlingly beautiful sights.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Never Grow Old* (Ireland and Luxembourg, Saban)

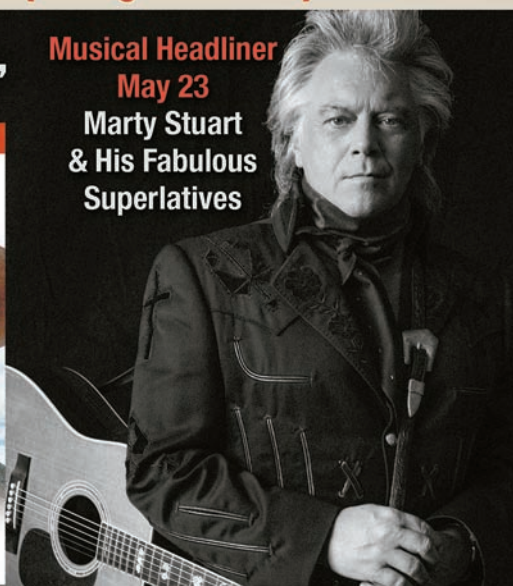
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# HERITAGE TRAVEL

BY STUART ROSEBROOK



## Highways to History

*Follow byways and scenic roads to discover the heartbeat—and heritage—of the American West.*



**In 1872, Timothy O'Sullivan joined Army Engineer Lt. George M. Wheeler on his western expedition to map the United States west of the 100th meridian, including the environs surrounding the Grand Canyon. The confluence of the Paria and Colorado rivers can be visited today at Lee's Ferry adjacent to Lonely Dell homestead and Lee's Ferry Campground.**

— ALL PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN  
COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS UNLESS  
OTHERWISE NOTED —

**F**or well over six decades the editors of *True West* magazine have been encouraging its readers to hit the road and travel the blue highways and back roads of the Western United States to discover firsthand where history happened. Since those first issues of 1953, the interstate system has

crisscrossed the country, dozens of historic railroads have been saved and restored, and the national preservation movement has assisted the renovation of thousands of historic sites and buildings across the West. In addition, federal and state agencies have created scenic highway and byway systems that promote travel to the most scenic—and,

in many locations, most isolated wild—places in the country.

In 1968, Congress awarded the National Park Service the management of the National Historic and National Scenic trails systems. Currently, there are 19 Historic Trails you can drive and 11 Scenic Trails you can hike. In 2020, the commemoration

of the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail will launch ahead of the 2021 anniversary year with museum exhibits, events and exhibitions on the nation's first commercial Western highway.

Along those thousands of miles of scenic routes, travelers will discover that our annual Best of the West Travel honorees are dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Old West alive in their communities for today's and tomorrow's generations. Without their passion and dedication to the heritage of their communities—efforts we at True West are honored to promote—much of our history would be lost. We encourage you to plan the trip of a lifetime and head West to discover your own personal trail of Western history.



Timothy O'Sullivan's photographic record of the West was not limited to geology; the intrepid photographer was one of the first to spend considerable time recording the historic structures of the Spanish Empire and in the Southwest. The Roman Catholic San Miguel Church, as seen here in 1873, was built at the Zuni Pueblo in 1630. Today San Miguel is open for self-guided tours but is not an active church.



Timothy O'Sullivan's 1873 photo of the south side of Inscription Rock east of Zuni, New Mexico, captures the majesty of the ancient resting spot and beacon for travelers in the region.

Today, the National Park Service protects the historic site as El Morro National Monument.

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

#### San Angelo, TX

Visitors to San Angelo can stroll back in time on the city's oldest boulevard, Concho Street, before attending the 17-day San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo, January 31 to February 16, 2020. The rodeo is one of the nation's largest

annual PRCA events and the livestock show has over 5,500 4-H and FFA exhibitors. Don't miss a tour of the Santa Fe Depot and Railway Museum at the historic station on the south side of downtown or a walk around Fort Concho's grounds, museum and 23 original and restored buildings.

[SanAngelo.org](http://SanAngelo.org)

### READERS' CHOICE: Prescott, AZ

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

#### Sheridan, WY

In 1882 John D. Loucks founded Sheridan, which he named in honor of his commanding officer in the Civil War. The gateway city to the Big Horn Mountains and Little Big Horn country of Montana, Sheridan became an economic center for the bi-state region after the railroad arrived in 1892. Today, visitors can stroll



Timothy O'Sullivan's awe-inspiring photograph of the White House Ruins in Canyon de Chelly greatly influenced further ethological surveys and, eventually, permanent protection of the ancient Puebloan cultural site as part of Canyon de Chelly National Monument on the Navajo Nation.

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 Iverson Mansion, the historic Laramie Union Pacific Train Station and the ghost town of Sherman at the Ames Monument. Don't miss Laramie Jubilee Days' rodeo and festival, including a carnival and parade, July 4-12, 2020.

*VisitLaramie.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Virginia City, NV

### **BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN**

**Guthrie, OK**

Guthrie was founded in April 1889 during the land-rush for Unassigned Lands in central Oklahoma (Indian Territory). The historic first Territorial capital and state capital of Oklahoma went from tents to brick and stone buildings within a few months. The local preservation movement, city leaders, local citizens and the Oklahoma Historical Society have worked together on a series of initiatives to preserve Guthrie's architectural legacy. The Capitol Townsite Historic District is a National Historic Landmark. A tour of the city should start at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum.

*CityOfGuthrie.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Deadwood, SD

### **BEST LIVING HISTORY FARM MUSEUM**

**Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Museum, Olathe, KS**

Open year round, the living history center entertains and educates visitors about 1860s Kansas frontier life. All

historic downtown, visit local landmarks, King Ropes and the Mint Bar, tour the local Brinton, Sheridan County and Bozeman Trail museums and stay at Buffalo Bill Cody's fully restored Sheridan Inn. In 2020, Sheridan will celebrate the 90th Annual WYO Rodeo, which will be held July 6-12, a highlight of every summer in the historic city.

*SheridanWyoming.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Cody, WY

### **BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN**

**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. From the end of May to late September, the professional re-enactment group, Deadwood Alive, puts on three free Main Street Shootouts during the day and the Trial of Jack McCall in the evening, Monday through Saturday.

*Deadwood.com / DeadwoodAlive.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tombstone, AZ

### **BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT**

**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

## HERITAGE TRAVEL

generations will enjoy learning about the day-to-day responsibilities of farm living, including the raising and caring of horses, chickens and other livestock. Don't miss a tour of the Agricultural Heritage Barn and its farm implement and wagon collection.

*Mahaffie.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE

### BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

**Trail of Fame, Dodge City, KS**

Sidewalk medallions and statues along Dodge City's Trail of Fame commemorate the city's famous and infamous denizens—including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday—and the actors who have portrayed them. Some celebrities have signed and left handprints in the concrete near their medallions. Pick up a map for the free walking tour at the information center. Don't miss the newest statue on the Trail of Fame, a life-sized statue of James Arness as *Gunsmoke's* iconic Marshall Matt Dillon.

*DodgeCityTrailofFame.org*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Louis L'Amour Walking Tour, Jamestown, ND

### BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

**Prescott, AZ**

The original territorial capital of Arizona, Prescott's promotions have made the city a popular destination in the state of Arizona. Check with the Chamber of Commerce for a full calendar of annual Old West events held at the Courthouse Plaza. Don't miss Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo every Fourth of July.

*Visit-Prescott.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Deadwood, SD

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O'Sullivan photographed the Chacoan and Puebloan site in the San Juan River basin near Farmington, New Mexico. Today, the pueblo cultural site is protected and managed by the Salmon Ruins Museum.

Poets Gathering, Prescott Holiday Parade and Sharlot Hall's Frontier Christmas. Day drives

from Prescott lead to adventures

in historic Arizona towns of Jerome, Sedona, Cottonwood, Cornville, Camp Verde, Wickenburg, Williams, Flagstaff and Kingman.

*Visit-Prescott.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tombstone, AZ

## BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN

Prescott, AZ

Prescott's Courthouse Square and historic downtown welcomes visitors and residents to enjoy the mile-high city with

its heritage hotels, Whiskey Row shops and saloons, and numerous art galleries, restaurants, museums and antique shops. Annual Old West events enjoyed by all generations include the Prescott Bluegrass Festival, Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo, Arizona Cowboy



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[GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Cumbres & Toltec, CO/NM



O'Sullivan went to great lengths as a member of George King's Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel to photograph the landmark buttes above Green River City in southwestern Wyoming. The remarkable photo was first published in 1872.

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Louisa Gardner Swain, first woman in the world to cast a vote in a civil election under the same rights of equality as men. The vote she cast at the age of seventy years took place in Laramie, Wyoming, September 6, 1870. Wyoming women's rights were guaranteed, and Laramie, Wyoming women deserve much of the credit for that success!

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O'Sullivan photographed the unique geological site Witches Rock in Echo Canyon near Echo, Utah, as a member of King's Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel in 1869. A landmark sign on Old US 30/Echo Canyon Road north of town allows the visitor a good view of the landmark.

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## HERITAGE TRAVEL

### BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE" HOTWEL

#### The Occidental, Buffalo, WY

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

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O'Sullivan's large-format black-and-white glass plate camera gave the artist the ability to capture great detail in his landscapes, as seen in his photo of an alpine lake in California's Sierra Nevada in 1871.



celebration of writer Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire mystery novels and television series set in Big Horn Country.

*OccidentalWyoming.com*

**READERS' CHOICE: TIE:** The Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, CO/ Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, WY

**BEST HERITAGE HOTEL**

**Strater Hotel, Durango, CO**

Located in the heart of the San Juan Mountains on the banks of the Animas River in southwestern Colorado, Durango is home to the Historic Strater Hotel, a Victorian-era inn built in 1887 in the downtown district. The fully restored

hotel is located within walking distance of the world-famous Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, which takes passengers on a breathtaking round-trip ride into history on the narrow-gauge railroad to Silverton and back. When staying at the Strater Hotel, don't miss

dining at the Mahogany Grill, enjoying libations at the hotel's two saloons and taking in a show at the world-famous Henry Strater Theatre.

*Strater.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY

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O'Sullivan's photo of the tufa rock pyramid and domes on Lake Pyramid, Nevada, was made in 1867 on the 40th Parallel Survey with George King. The largest desert lake in the state, the 125,000-acre body of water and its famous landmarks are managed by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.



**BEST DUDE RANCH OF THE WEST**

**Rankin Ranch, Caliente, CA**

The Rankin Ranch was founded in 1863. Located on 31,000 acres in the Walker Basin in the Tehachapi Mountains near the southern end of Sequoia National Forest, the historic ranch has been open to the public since 1965. Six generations of the Rankin family have worked the cattle ranch since its founding and today's proprietors, Bill and Glenda, work side by side with their children and grandchildren to provide guests a superior Old West experience on one of California's oldest ranches.

*RankinRanch.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera, TX

**BEST HERITAGE BED & BREAKFAST**

**Hacienda Rancho de Chimayó, Chimayo, NM**

For 55 years, visionary owner and proprietor Florence "Mrs. J" Jaramillo, named a Culinary Treasure of the State of New Mexico, has hosted guests in her renowned restaurant and bed-and-breakfast at the family's restored ancestral home. A true country retreat,

the Victorian hacienda has seven rooms, each opening onto its own private garden. The restaurant is famous for its spicy New Mexico cuisine, with many of the menu items developed by Mrs. J and her late husband, Arturo, from family and local recipes.

*RanchoDeChimayo.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Old Central Fire House Bed & Brew, San Angelo, TX

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# Discover Where History Happened in the Old West

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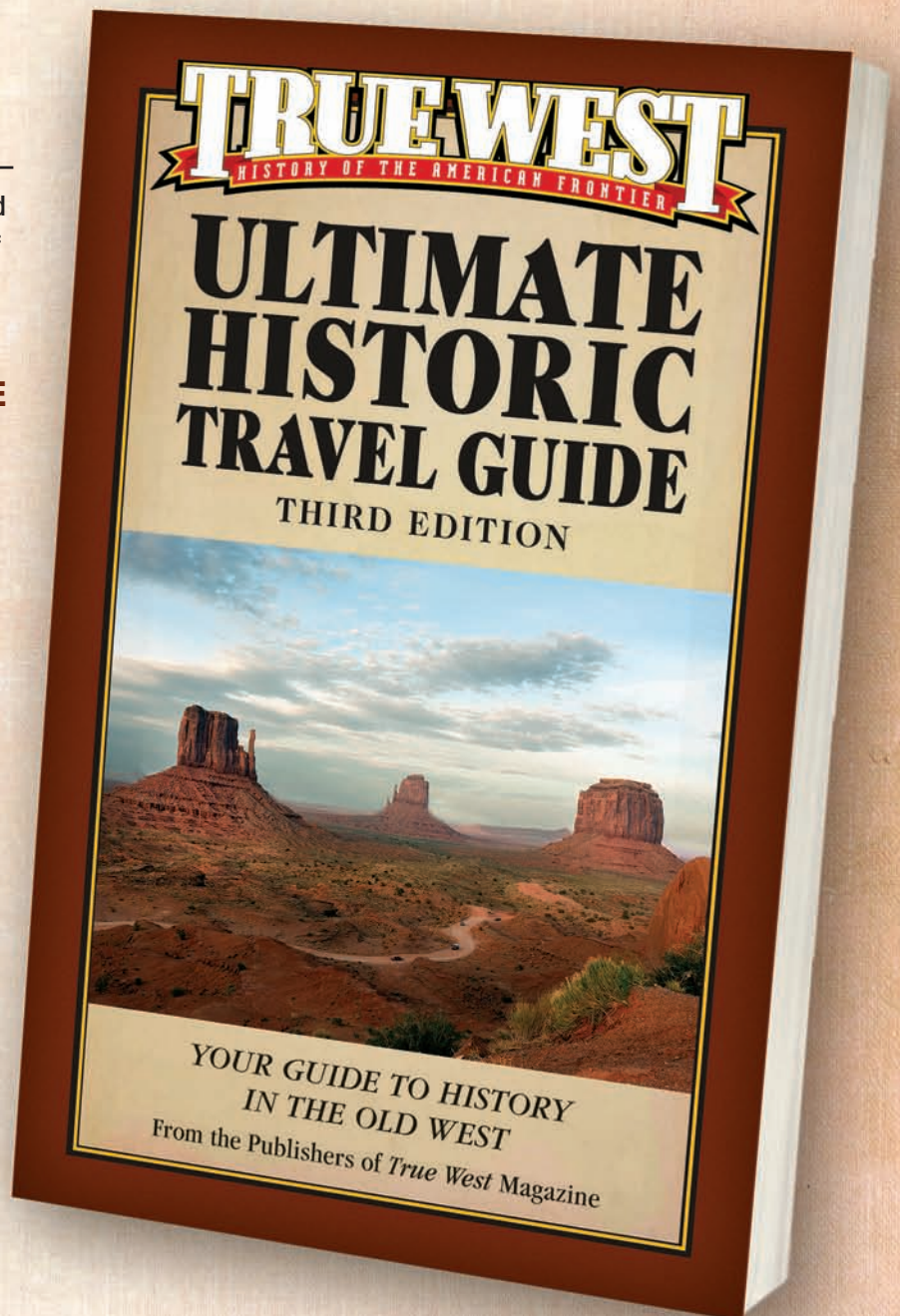
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O'Sullivan's masterful photograph looking north at Shoshone Falls of the Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho, was made in 1868 on the King Survey. Today, visitors to Shoshone Falls Scenic Attraction, known popularly as the "Niagra of the West," can be easily viewed from a platform above the falls. Note the man standing in the foreground.



**BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH**

**Flying E Guest Ranch, Wickenburg, AZ**

A giant set of spurs welcomes guests to Wickenburg's Flying E Guest and Cattle Ranch, a popular winter retreat and dude ranch destination since its founding in 1946. A working cattle ranch that once had its own airstrip, the Flying E is considered one of the best all-inclusive dude ranches in the American Southwest. It offers luxurious lodging, family-style dining, horseback riding, team horse penning, tennis, swimming and much, much more. [FlyingERanch.com](http://FlyingERanch.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch, Winston, NM

**BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING**

**Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, Prescott, AZ**

One of the nation's most celebrated cowboy poetry events, the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering will be held August 6-8, 2020. For more than three decades, the gathering has celebrated the traditions,

history and culture of cowboy music and poetry. Every year the popular event attracts more than three dozen poets and singers who share their love and passion for the working cowboy and ranching way of life through verse and song. [AZCowboysPoets.org](http://AZCowboysPoets.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango, CO



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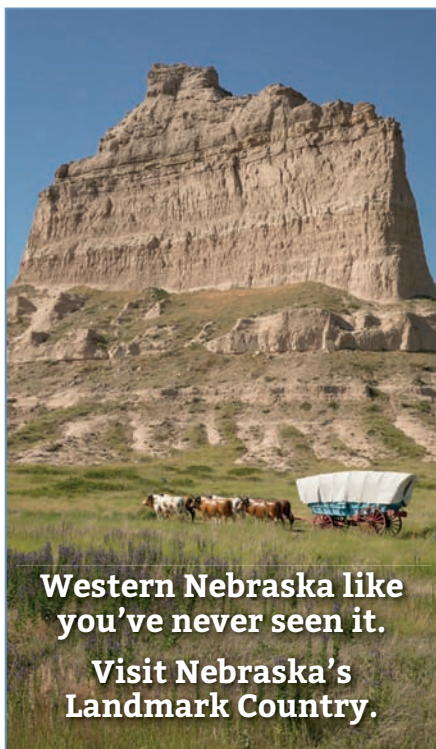
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The King Survey visited the Washakie Badlands in Wyoming in 1869. O'Sullivan often included members of the survey team in his images to provide a measure of scale to the surrounding geology. The badlands are in the Washakie Basin in Sweetwater County in southeastern Wyoming.

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### BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING

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

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

*RedSteagallCowboyGathering.com*

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

### BEST OLD WEST MOUNTED RE-ENACTMENT

#### Battle of the Little Bighorn Re-enactment, Crow Agency, MT

Near Garryowen, Montana, on the Crow Nation, the Real Bird Family hosts

the annual re-enactment of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Watch Native braves and Cavalry troopers crash through the river, and battle along its banks, where some believe Custer was killed. The re-enactment is held over two weekends in June in conjunction with the annual anniversary of the battle. In 2020, it will be held June 20-21 and 27-28.

*LittleBighornReenactment.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Green River Rendezvous, Pinedale, WY

### BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

#### Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the "Official Old West Ambassadors" of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on Whiskey Row, participate in re-enactment events and parades,

# HERITAGE TRAVEL

including Prescott's famous Frontier Days Parade, throughout Arizona, donating all profits to local charities. [PrescottRegulators.org](http://PrescottRegulators.org)

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

## 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 and has become one of the city's most popular summer entertainment events. 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. In 2020, the Wild West Show will be held July 1-5 and July 8 to August 7.

[CodyWildWestShow.com](http://CodyWildWestShow.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Whiskey Row Shootout, Prescott, AZ/OK Corral, Tombstone, AZ

## BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

**The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ**

Since July 4, 1888, the Prescott Frontier Days rodeo has been held over the Fourth of July weekend. The World's Oldest Rodeo will celebrate its 133rd annual performance with eight shows from June 29 to July 5, 2020. In conjunction with the rodeo, the always popular annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 4.

[WorldOldestRodeo.com](http://WorldOldestRodeo.com)




**READERS' CHOICE:** Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY


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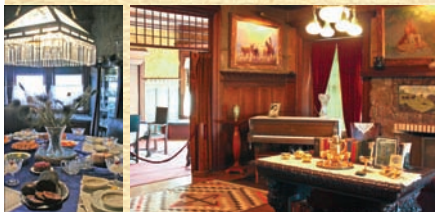
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### Pawnee Bill's Wild West Festival & Show Reenactment June 13th & 14th, 2020!

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[PawneeBillRanch.org](http://PawneeBillRanch.org)

## Wide Spot in the Road

# The Laws Railroad Museum

*Volunteers dedicated to the Old West have kept a beloved historic site alive near Bishop, California.*

BY AUDREY T. HINGLEY



The Laws Railroad Museum is a gem of a historic park nestled in the Owens River Valley 4.5 miles north of Bishop, California, off U.S. Highway 395. Visitors will enjoy touring the site, which features the *Slim Princess*, No. 9 Southern Pacific locomotive, a restored 1909 Baldwin steam locomotive adjacent to the Laws Depot, the park museum and the historical buildings.

— PHOTOS BY AUDREY T. HINGLEY —

Over 20,000 visitors make their way to Laws Railroad Museum and Historic Site annually, but Laws is bypassed by drivers on California's U.S. Highway 395 who pass the turn-off onto U.S. Highway 6 in downtown Bishop, seeking higher-profile attractions.

That's a shame, because Laws offers an authentic look into Old West history centered around—but not limited to—trains.

Growing up in anticipation of the narrow-gauge Carson & Colorado Railway (originating in Mound House, Nevada, near Carson City and ending up in Keeler, California), Laws was ready when the first train arrived in 1883: depot, agent's house, water tanks and hand-operated locomotive turntable were already there. "Before the train, there was no Laws," says Pam Vaughan, Laws' photo archivist and co-author of *Bishop: Images of America*.

Volunteer and self-described "train guy" Jim Morrow says, "They built [the narrow

gauge railroad] mainly because it was cheaper and because [the route] went over mountainous areas. Narrow gauge are lighter-weight rails with not as much grading [required], so construction costs are cheaper."

At its zenith, Laws boasted homes, two general stores, a hotel, blacksmith's shop, barbershop and post office. Nearby ranchers transported crops and livestock, rail provided shipping for area mines, and Laws became a popular supply shipping point for booming Nevada gold towns. Passenger service was also available. Originally known as Bishop Station, the town became Laws to honor Southern Pacific superintendent R.J. Laws after Southern Pacific bought the line in 1900.

By the 1950s people still occasionally traveled on the *Slim Princess*, one of the last narrow-gauge common carriers west of the Rockies. But in 1959 Southern Pacific, citing "declining and unpredictable use of the line," decided to cease Laws

## HERITAGE TRAVEL

operations. A final 1960 trip ended the train's 77-year run.

As once-booming Laws deteriorated and vandalism threatened its remains, a handful of local volunteers formed a historical society focused on preservation in 1964. Southern Pacific gifted 11 acres to Inyo County, which reached an agreement to have the new group take over the site.

After Paramount Studios came to Laws in 1965 to film parts of Steve McQueen's movie *Nevada Smith* (1966), movie prop structures remained once filming was complete. Authentic buildings were saved, and more original structures donated to recreate Laws for its 1966 opening as a museum.

Now on the National Registry of Historic Places, Laws has nearly 50 structures filled with artifacts used by cowboys, ranchers and tradesmen, from saddle collections to a wagon display with a newly built replica of a 20 Mule Team Borax wagon. A reproduction gold mining operation includes stamp mill and operational arrastra, a simple mine milling machine/ore-crusher.

Don't forget *No. 9*, a restored 1909 Baldwin steam locomotive with six 19th-century rolling stock cars, a restored self-propelled 1927 Brill Rail Death Valley motorcar (train rides available on selected dates), a tungsten mine train, an 1881 baggage/passenger car awaiting restoration, and old box cars.

When you visit, remember the volunteers who saved this part of Old West history. ❏

**Audrey T. Hingley** is an award-winning travel writer and author who lives in Urbanna, Virginia, with her husband and dog.

### Plan Your Visit!

#### LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITE

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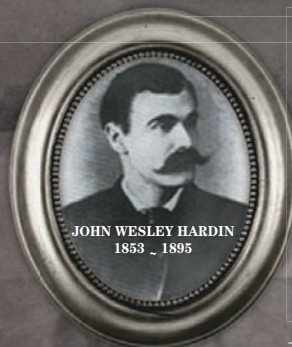
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Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin - August 15, 2020 at 6 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise—and on October 17, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for the annual "Walk Through History."

Exciting Monthly night time Ghost Tours held Saturday nights, 9-11pm, at Concordia Cemetery. Visit our Facebook Page @concordiacemetery for more information and dates.

Don't miss Dia De Los Muertos; Day of the Dead, November 7, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours, shrines, exhibits and more.

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# WESTERN WEAR

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

## Cowboy Up!

*Western wear-makers honor the heritage of the Old West with dedication to their craft and customers.*



In 1895, Captain Hugh Scott (center, without a hat) of the 7th Cavalry and his wife and friends posed in their best hunting camp attire—reflecting the varied fashion trends of the era—while on a hunting trip on the Washita River Indian Reservation in Oklahoma.

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**W**hen I was in graduate school I worked part-time at Shepler's Western Wear in Scottsdale, Arizona. The famous Wichita, Kansas, store and catalog company had expanded across the country and its storefront inspired thousands to buy their first pair of cowboy boots and custom-shaped cowboy hat, while also serving the day-to-day needs of working cowboys and cowgirls. I loved selling the

West, knowing I was keeping the Western spirit alive, one customer, one hat and one pair of boots at a time.

Almost 30 years later, American Western wear—especially cowboy hats and boots—are still recognized icons of the Old West. Across the United States, artisans, manufacturers, small business owners and entrepreneurs work diligently every day to maintain the legacy of the 19th-century craftsmen and craftswomen who developed the styles of Western hats, boots, clothing,

tack and gear for work and play. Many of these modern “Old West Pioneers” have dedicated themselves to their craft, and their family-owned-and-operated storefronts anchor Main Streets across America. We encourage our readers, while they are traveling the country, to seek out these traditional purveyors and makers of Western wear and gear. Your support of their businesses and artisanship keeps the Old West alive for today...and tomorrow. ❏

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**READERS' CHOICE:** Lucchese, El Paso, TX

**BEST WESTERN HATMAKER**

**Knudsen Hat Co, Richmond, CA**

Western actor Bruce Boxleitner is just one of many actors who have worn one of Bill Knudsen's cowboy hats on film and television, and there is a reason for that: Knudsen specializes in making custom historical and movie character hats, finishing each one by hand.

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*KnudsenHats.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX

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*RockyMountainClothing.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Recollections, Hawks, MI

**BEST PERIOD WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER**

**The Frontier Clothing Company, Los Angeles, CA**

Founder Larry Bitterman opened his doors in 1989. Originally known as Old Frontier Clothing Company, Bitterman's company is one of a few in the United States that produces authentic, high-quality traditional Old West clothing that is fashionable, innovative and durable. Frontier Clothing Company sells men's and women's clothing, outerwear, accessories and custom cowboy hats. *FrontierIS.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Scully/Wahmaker, Oxnard, CA



WPA photographer Russell Lee's portrait of a man trying on new boots at a bootmaker's shop in Alpine, Texas, in May 1939 captures the essence of boot-buying: the customer's hope that the pair they want are a perfect fit.

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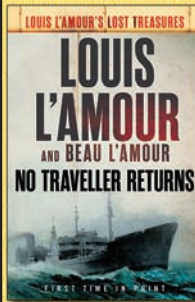
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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JANUARY 2020



*Cowboys and Indians:  
John Wayne, 1986 by  
Andy Warhol*

— COURTESY THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM, PITTSBURGH; FOUNDING COLLECTION, CONTRIBUTION THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC. — 1998.1.2493.1

## ART SHOWS

### 28TH INVITATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Litchfield Park, AZ, January 11-12: The fine arts and cultural festival features approximately 100 Native American artists, a variety of Native American art, entertainment and learning opportunities throughout the weekend. 623-935-9040 • [Litchfield-Park.org](http://Litchfield-Park.org)

### 27TH ANNUAL CAREFREE FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Carefree, AZ, January 17-19: The popular art and wine event conjoins more than 155 juried fine artisans from throughout the United States and abroad with an elaborate collection of domestic and imported wines for tasting. 480-837-5637 • [ThunderbirdArtists.com](http://ThunderbirdArtists.com)

## AUCTIONS

### 30TH ANNUAL MESA OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

Mesa, AZ, January 25-26: 2020: Bid on 300 lots of authentic Western fine art and artifacts at the 30th annual live Mesa Old West Auction. Shop over 180 vendors of authentic Western art, antiques, apparel, jewelry, collectibles, historical artifacts, cowboy gear, Native American arts,

antique firearms, decor, books, boots and much more at the 30th annual show and sale. 480-779-WEST • [OldWestEvents.com](http://OldWestEvents.com)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### LIVING HISTORY FAIR

Watertown, SD, January 25-26: See live demonstrations and actors recreating how our ancestors lived, worked and played. Be a part of this historic event by attending the Living History Fair. 605-886-7335 • [VisitWatertownSD.com](http://VisitWatertownSD.com)

### MONTANA WINTER FAIR

Lewistown, MT, January 18-26: In 2020, the Montana Winter Fair celebrates 75 years of promoting Montana agriculture and our enviable Western way of life. 406-538-2200 • [MontanaWinterFair.com](http://MontanaWinterFair.com)

### SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN MUSEUM'S APACHELAND/HERITAGE DAYS

Apache Junction, AZ, January 11-12: The Yellow Bird Indian Dancers will perform twice daily at the celebration of the history and culture of the Superstition Mountains and ApacheLand Movie Ranch. 480-983-4888 • [SuperstitionMountainMuseum.org](http://SuperstitionMountainMuseum.org)

## WARHOL AND THE WEST

Oklahoma City, OK, January 31 through May 10: "Warhol and the West" presents the full range of Western imagery produced by Andy Warhol. This body of work furthers our understanding of how the American West infiltrates the public's imagination through contemporary art and popular culture. 405-478-2250 • [NationalCowboyMuseum.org](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.org)

## POETRY GATHERINGS

### COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Golden, CO, January 16-19: Experience cowboy poetry performances by Vic Anderson, Patty Clayton, Glenn Moreland and Washtub Jerry, and much more. 720-213-6446 • [ColoradoCowboyGathering.com](http://ColoradoCowboyGathering.com)

### NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Elko, NV, January 27-February 1: This week of poetry, music, dancing, workshops, exhibits, conversations, food and fellowship is rooted in tradition but focused on today's rural West. 775-738-7508 • [NationalCowboyPoetryGathering.org](http://NationalCowboyPoetryGathering.org)

## RODEOS

### COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 20: Held since 1995, this rodeo brings together cowboys from diverse cultures to celebrate their Western heritage. 817-922-9999 • [CowboysOfColor.org](http://CowboysOfColor.org)

### AMERICAN FINALS RODEO

Tulsa, OK, January 24-26: Watch the top 15 cowboys and cowgirls compete in a variety of Western events. While there, be sure to check out the event's free Western trade show. 918-456-9814 • [ACRARodeo.com](http://ACRARodeo.com)

## STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

### NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 11-26: Since 1906, this show has hosted livestock and horse sales and seminars, plus rodeo events, at National Western Complex. 303-296-6977 • [NationalWestern.com](http://NationalWestern.com)

### FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 17-February 8: 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](http://FWSSR.com)

## TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.

# Bogus Marshals, Tintypes and Rebel Yells



Deputy U.S. Marshal Edward W. Johnson, left, lost his right arm soon after this photograph was taken. He's standing beside Texas Ranger Lorenzo K. Creekman and Parker County Deputy Sheriff E.A. Hutchison.

— COURTESY GEORGE T. JACKSON, JR. —

## What was the relationship between U.S. marshals and town marshals or county sheriffs?

Chase Appleby  
Venice, Florida

A deputy U.S. marshal was responsible for federal crimes, and a town marshal or county sheriff had authority dealing with town or county crimes respectively. Many times, county sheriffs or town marshals were also deputized as deputy U.S. marshals. Virgil Earp is a good example as he was marshal of Tombstone and a deputy U.S. marshal.

But being a U.S. marshal was a full-time, administrative job. A person in that position rarely made arrests. So *Gunsmoke's* Matt Dillon being a U.S. marshal in Dodge City was bogus. The town marshal, county sheriff and their

deputies would have been responsible for the day-to-day job of upholding the law. (Incidentally, *Gunsmoke* is still my all-time favorite TV Western.)

## Did Old West prisoners have access to health care?

Forrest Sutton  
Austin, Texas

Health care in Old West prisons and jails varied widely. Most prisons had some kind of medical facility or infirmary to treat the sick, but actual medical care was limited.

For example, the infirmary of the territorial prison at Yuma had 12 beds. Doctors were available sporadically—usually called in from the neighboring community—and few served longer than a year. A Dr. Cotter served from 1893 to 1896. During his tenure he established the prison hospital. Adding to the problem: the jails/prisons were filthy and full of germs, so sickness was rampant.

## Did the Indians really whoop and holler during battles?

Rick Clark  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Attacking warriors from most tribes did use yells and screams to terrify and discombobulate their foes. Apaches were



Apache War Dance

— BOB BOZE BELL —



## Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales*; History Press, 2018. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

experts at terrifying their prey, running behind rocks and cover to unleash screams and arrows.

It wasn't just American Indians who used that strategy. Just about all cultures used battle cries. It was pretty universal, then and now. A good example is the Rebel Yell, used by Confederates during the Civil War.

## In *The Searchers*, John Wayne is seen wearing a straw hat. Is that authentic?

Lewis McMullen  
Henderson, Tennessee

Straw hats were quite common in the Southwest. Soldiers, Indians, settlers, farmers and cowboys all wore them. Soldiers could buy them at the sutlers store for around 50 cents. Felt hats were more popular in the cooler months, but when the weather heated up they switched to straws. The big drawback: straw hats didn't hold up in the rain or snow.



Geronimo, probably the most photographed Indian in history, posed in different hats, including a straw hat in this photo taken at Mt. Vernon Barracks near Mobile, Alabama, between 1887 and 1894.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

## Who was Lou Cooley?

Paul Gortez  
Phoenix, Arizona

Cooley played a major role in the Wyatt Earp Vendetta Ride. He worked as a stage driver in Tombstone and had

friends in Wells Fargo management. He also acted as a special agent. In April 1882, when Wyatt Earp was staying at Henry Clay Hooker's Sierra Bonita Ranch, Cooley brought him \$1,000 expense money, provided by Wells Fargo General Superintendent John Valentine. Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan learned of the plan and arrested Cooley, charging him with aiding Wyatt. Judge Wells Spicer dismissed the case, calling the charges "frivolous."

**An article in the July 2019 issue of True West says the photographer of the authenticated Billy the Kid tintype is unknown. Yet it also claims that he left his thumbprints on the ferrotype while developing. Could he not be traced by those?**

Bob Powers  
Cincinnati, Ohio

The U.S. courts first began accepting fingerprints in 1911, although some identification was done in the 1890s. The tintypist could not be traced unless there was a record of his prints, which is unlikely. I ran this by Dan Buck, an expert on the subject of fingerprints, and he replied: "Well, yes, if the tintypist was arrested and printed by the FBI in 1930, then maybe." ❏



An unknown photographer left his thumbprints—but not his name—on this ferrotype of William Bonney.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

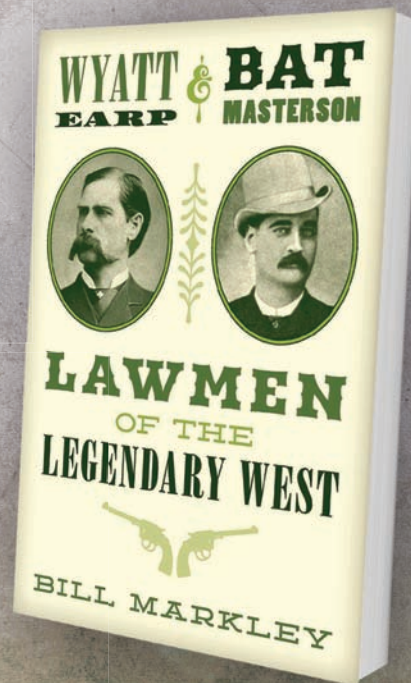
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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**It often seems that** no one ever learns anything from history—see the unmitigated bitter and deadly tribal revolts staged in Afghanistan, the graveyard of empires that plagued the Persian Empire as it lost the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE.

**History is not about revealed truth,** it is a process that never stops. Like water in the West, it's for fighting over.

**During the first seconds of January 1, 2000, I thought,** "Goodbye, twentieth century. You belong to us historians now."

**Moving from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Oceanside, California,** in 1959 was like time-traveling fifty years into the future

**My mother and father were** smart, funny, inspiring Republicans who let us watch *Rocky and Bullwinkle* while we ate dinner.

**Building a raft and floating the Mississippi** in 1969 inspired me to write a book that took 50 years to get published.

**Transferring from BYU to UC Santa Cruz** in late 1968 was like moving from Stalingrad to Paris.

**Living in the mountains of North Carolina taught** me everything I wanted to know about poverty.

**My favorite instrument is** still a pedal steel guitar.

**Mother Maybelle Carter sang** the American heart.

**If I could ask Mark Twain one question** it would be, "Why didn't you drown that jerk Tom Sawyer in the final pages of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to make it the perfect novel?"

**If I could have a piece of pie with Jim Bridger,** I'd ask him to take me to Colter's Hell.

**South Pass is** where Nature ran out of mountains.

**If I could have explored America in 1491,** I could answer the unanswerable questions in our nation's history.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints needs** a shorter name. (Hint: I'll never be a Saint but will always be a Mormon.)

**Walt Whitman was** right: sex is spiritual.

**Brigham Young,** a lifelong Democrat, invented today's anti-government Republican Party in 1851.



## WILL BAGLEY, HISTORIAN

Will Bagley has written or edited 25 books on overland emigration, frontier violence, railroads, mining and the Mormons. He rafted down the Mississippi River in 1969, performed country music from Wyoming to Nevada, and has forgotten everything he learned as journeyman carpenter. Between 2000 and 2004, the *Salt Lake Tribune* published about 225 of his columns and articles. Bagley has won too many prizes to list here, but his favorite is Western Writers of America's Owen Wister Award.

**Marriage usually works** better the second time.

**Historian Dale Morgan showed** me every event in history is connected to every other historical event.

**A novelist relies on imagination** to create a new world. A historian relies on imagination and research to create a new perspective on what made our world.

**My greatest challenge as a historian is** understanding motives, especially why people lie: It never works.

**Building a cabinet and writing history are** both about organizing the job.

**The best advice I ever received was** to never expect to make a living as a writer unless you can't do anything else.

**What history has taught me is** that leaders pay no attention to history. Otherwise, a nation founded after winning a rebellion against the world's largest empire would never have become the world's largest empire.





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