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TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

JULY/AUGUST 2020
OUR 67TH YEAR

OUTLAWS!

PEARL HART AND A POSSE OF WILD WOMEN

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

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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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Shell Canyon's stunning waterfalls can be found near the Bighorn Mountains east of Greybull, Wyoming. Uncover more Western travel tips on our "Travel to the Old West" board. [Pinterest.com/TWMag.com](https://www.pinterest.com/TWMag.com)



COURTESY LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT ARCHIVES

Marcus Reno is shown circa 1880, the year before an inquiry investigated his role at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, during which he fled the scene. Was he a coward? Share your opinion on Old West events on True West's Facebook page.

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Bob Boze Bell had a Pendejo on his mind this month, prompting him to forge this Daily Whip Out: *El Pendejo Takes A Stroll*. See more Daily Whip Outs from True West's Executive Editor on his blog.

[Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](https://www.blog.truewestmagazine.com)



COURTESY CBS

Robert Duvall won a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television for his iconic role as former Texas Ranger Capt. Augustus "Gus" McCrae in the CBS/Motown production of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*. Follow us on Instagram for daily Old West facts and photos.

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Pearl Hart and a posse of sharpshooting Western women shaped the West from the barroom to the courthouse.

—By Jana Bommersbach

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It was a century ago that American women were granted suffrage, but they had been proving their equality in the settlement of the West long before.

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The true story of how a small-town Texas girl became legendary madam Big Bertha.

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From Lewis and Clark until Prohibition, the golden elixir was as good as gold.

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The 1873 .45-70 Trapdoor Springfield was issued to troopers just before the Battle of Little Bighorn, and its success and failure that fateful June day in 1876 is still highly debated.

—By John Langellier

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Life on the Western frontier was not easy for anyone, but strong-willed women who settled the West were determined to not just survive, but to thrive.

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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

— COVER PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Old Vaquero Saying



“The frontier is hard on women and cattle.”

Quotes

“In the unrest of the masses I augur great good. It is by their realizing that their condition of life is not what it ought to be that vast improvements may be accomplished.”

– Leland Stanford

“A mind that is characterized by unrest will not be tranquil even in the presence of great calm.”



– Dalai Lama

“Many receive advice, only the wise profit from it.”

– Harper Lee

“...what thrills me about trains is not their size or their equipment but the fact that they are moving, that they embody a connection between unseen places.”

– Marianne Wiggins

“I’ve learned by hanging out in Hollywood, where I disagree politically with most people, that most people’s hearts are in the right place, and the only thing we have to argue about is the way to solve the problems.”

– Tom Selleck

“Until philosophers hold power, neither states nor individuals will have rest from trouble.”

– Plato

“We got to the moon on Christmas Eve 1968, at the end of a poor year for this country. We had Vietnam. We had civil unrest. We had the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. But we went around the moon and saw the far side for the first time. A script writer couldn’t have done a better job of raising people’s hope.”

– Jim Lovell

“Even in the best and most peacefully civilized countries many occasions arise when a woman versed in the knowledge and use of firearms may find that information and skill of great importance.”

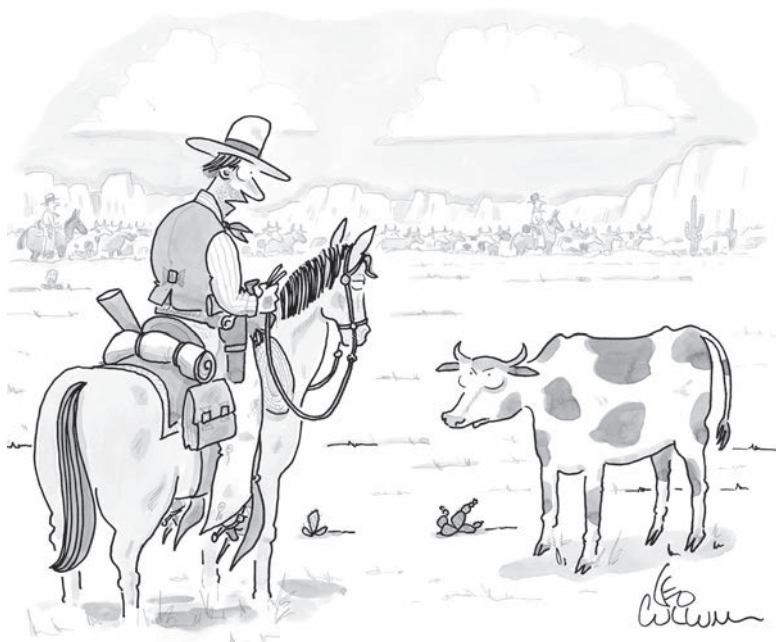
– Annie Oakley

The summer before Annie Oakley sailed for England with Buffalo Bill’s *Wild West*, she posed for this photograph at Anderson Studio in New York.

– COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS –

“Don’t wish it was easier, wish you were better. Don’t wish for less problems, wish for more skills. Don’t wish for less challenges, wish for more wisdom. The major value in life is not what you get. The major value in life is what you become.”

– Jim Rhon



“No one is making you do anything you don’t want. I’m just saying we’re all headed for Dodge City and we think you should come along.”

– CARTOON COLLECTIONS.COM –

A Plague Hits Close to Home

A lost family connection is reclaimed.

As the family story goes, in the summer of 1905, when my grandfather Robert Guess was a teenager, he contracted diphtheria while tending cattle at a remote waterhole and became so sick he couldn't remount his horse. A traveling family found him and helped him onto his horse, and he rode home, only to contaminate his two sisters with the dreaded plague.

His sisters, Lorry Pearl Guess, age 10, and Sadie Arcane Guess, age 7, both died from the deadly disease (along with a brother, Ruben Levi Guess, age 3) and were buried in the Orange, New Mexico, cemetery with a temporary marker that misspelled their surname as "Guest children." While growing up, my grandmother often told this story and hoped that some-day someone in our family would find those graves and give them a proper headstone.

In 1991, I flew my mother and her older sister, Sadie Pearl (named for the two sisters), and my two kids, to El Paso, where we rented a car, bought a bag of cement, and drove out past Cornudas and Dell City, Texas, to the Orange Cemetery, where we mounted a proper headstone on their graves.

I kept the original marker and I often look at it in my studio to remind myself of the sacrifice made by so many women in the settling of the West. I love their bravery and their tenacity, and in this issue you will meet more just like them.

The Quest

In the summer of 1991, I had a proper memorial marker created and we took off for New Mexico. L to r: Sadie Pearl Duncan, BBB, Bobbie Guess Bell and Tommy Bell.

The Guess family (below) posed for a rare photograph in front of their home in Otero County, New Mexico. L to r: John Guess, Dolce Guess, Robert Guess (standing in back), Lorry Pearl Guess, Sadie Arcane Guess and William Guess.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



We knew the general location of the Orange Cemetery from a topo map, but luckily, a waitress in Cornudas, Texas, drew us a map of the right back roads to take to find the graves. We wouldn't have found it without her directions.



This temporary, misspelled marker, "Guest Children" was all that marked the graves for more than 84 years.



Overwhelmed with emotion, Sadie Pearl reacted to finally being able to honor the two Guess girls she was named for.



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

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Sharlot Hall's Name is Writ Large in Arizona History

But few know the depth of her legacy.

Sharlot Hall wasn't just "a woman ahead of her time"—writer, poet, historian—she was at the center of important chapters in Arizona history.

The most famous is the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, called the "crown jewel" of Northern Arizona museums. It's an educational and cultural center, with monthly living history events showcasing life on the frontier. The centerpiece is the 1864 Governor's Mansion that Sharlot restored and made her home for the last 16 years of her life. She filled it with artifacts she collected for years from Arizona pioneers.

Today the museum has 11 exhibit buildings—six of them historic—and 40,000 artifacts that continue Sharlot's passion for her beloved Arizona.

But her legacy is so much larger.

Arizona and New Mexico can thank Sharlot Hall that they're separate states. Before her powerful poetry and blazing boosterism, President Teddy Roosevelt planned to combine both territories into one state. It was 1906 and Arizona was horrified—New Mexico approved, but then, Santa Fe was to be the capital. Sharlot penned a defiant poem praising Arizona that was reprinted and put on every congressman's desk. Eastern papers said it was the tipping point that killed "jointure."

Three years later, in early 1909, the Arizona Territorial Legislature created the office of official historian. The job was custom-made for Sharlot, who'd already spent 15 years gathering pioneer histories and artifacts—on her own time and on her own dime. But there were two problems: Sharlot was a woman, and she was a Republican in a territory controlled by Democratic men. When the job went to a man, the women of Arizona threw a fit—they didn't care about Sharlot's sex or



Raised on the Orchard Ranch in Yavapai County south of Prescott, Sharlot Hall grew up to be one of the most influential citizens and chroniclers of Arizona Territorial history. In 1909, Hall broke new boundaries for women when she was named official Territorial historian, one of the first women in the country to hold a state level job.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

her politics, but insisted the most qualified person should get the job.

A couple months later, the new Republican President William Howard Taft appointed a new Republican governor of the Territory, and Richard Sloan immediately fired the man and installed Sharlot. That made her one of the first women in the nation to hold public office.

She was the territorial historian until Arizona became the 48th state on February 14, 1912. The first governor was Democrat George W.P. Hunt. He didn't let Sharlot keep the job, but gave it to a man.

But this wasn't the only mean-spirited thing Hunt did to Sharlot, who he clearly saw as "too uppity." He had been chairman of the Constitutional Convention in 1910. The women of Arizona—fighting for the vote for more than a quarter century by then—helped pack the convention with progressives with the goal of getting woman suffrage in the original constitution. But Hunt didn't repay their hard work, and refused to add votes for women. Historians now say this was "payback" for Sharlot holding the historian job—petty politics, circa 1910.

From grand to petty, Arizona history has many chapters on Miss Sharlot Hall.



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 three true crime books, a children's book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.



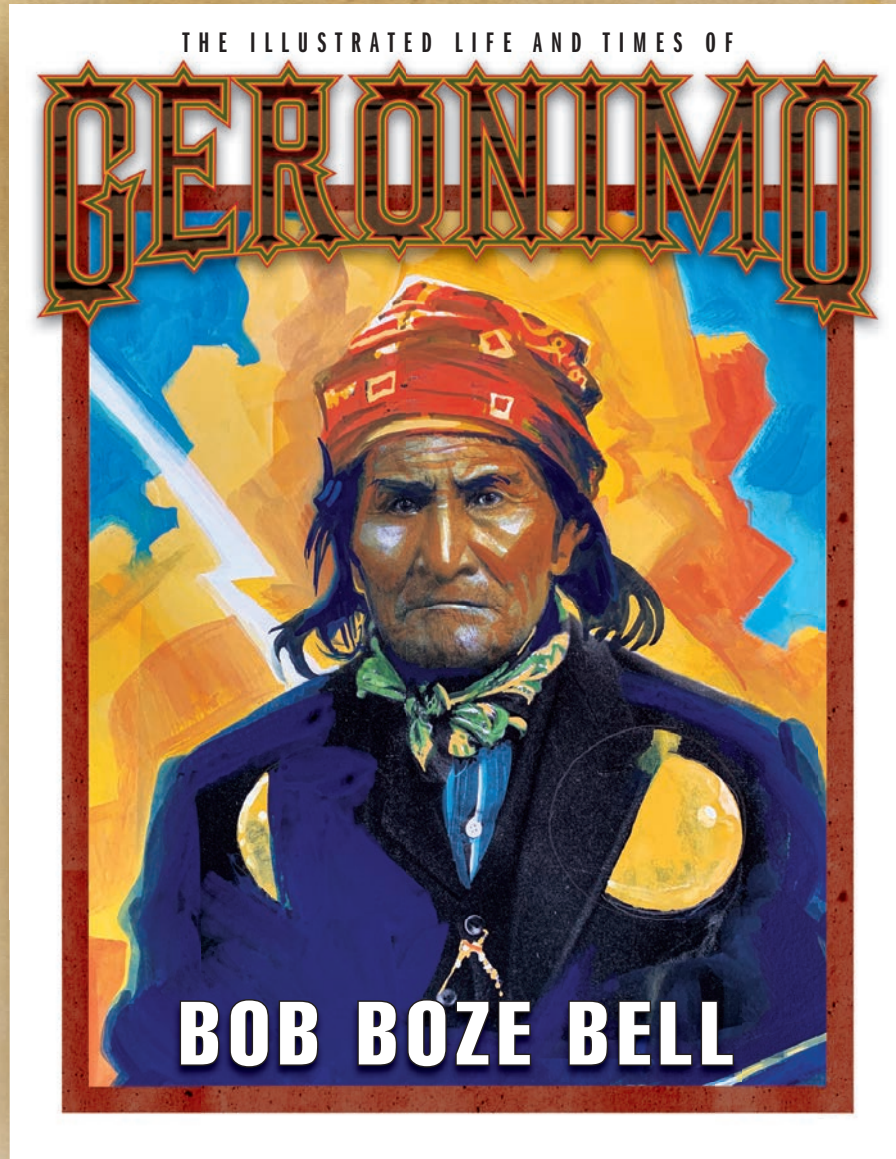
Today, Sharlot Hall Museum is one of Arizona's foremost living history centers, archives and museums, but if it was not for the intrepid Arizona pioneer, Sharlot Hall, the historic Territorial Governor's Mansion—and hundreds of artifacts and documents—would not have been saved and preserved for present and future generations.

— COURTESY PRESCOTT CVB —

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—Paul Andrew Hutton



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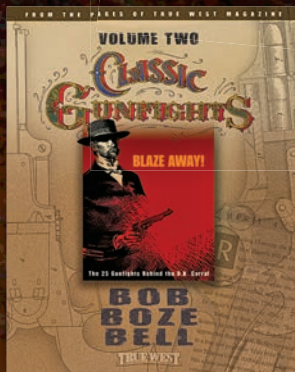
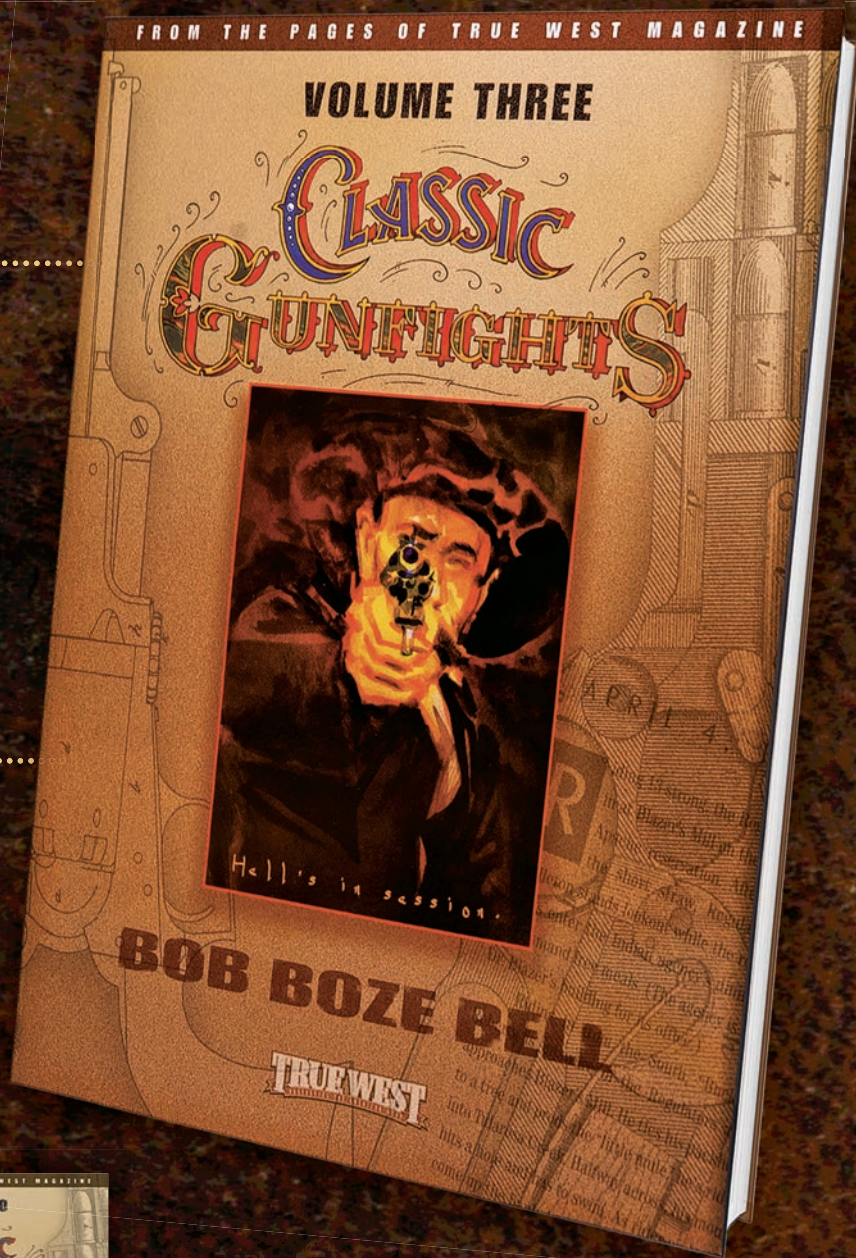
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Cimarron's Old Model 1894 Rifle

Known as America's Deer Rifle, this 126-year-old lever-action is back again in its original 1890s configuration.



Cimarron's 1894 rifle is a spitting image of the John Browning-designed Winchester lever-action of the 1890s. The 26-inch, octagon-barreled rifle features a handsome color case-hardened receiver, like the '94s which were discontinued in the mid-1930s. It is offered in .30 WCF (.30-30) and .38-55, with plans on adding .32-40 WCF, and .25-35 WCF to the lineup.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

It's been called "America's Deer Rifle," and has stood the test of time. John Browning's 1894 lever gun has enjoyed almost continuous production by various companies up through the present. However, through the years, it has gone through some minor changes, such as the current production's replacing of the original top cartridge eject feature to an angle eject, that allows for the mounting of a telescopic sight. It has also had the addition of a cross bolt safety, rather than the original half-cock safety notch in the hammer. Nevertheless, the rifle is a classic that's been enjoyed by millions for 126 years.

For purists who want to enjoy the 1894 model as it was originally manufactured, Cimarron Firearms has brought out a handsome Italian-import replica of the 1894 lever-action rifle and carbine that looks and functions exactly like a '94 that would have left the factory before 1900. This Fredericksburg, Texas, outfit is offering its old-style 1894 rifle in either .38-55, or .30 WCF (.30-30)—both currently smokeless powder rounds, with .25-35, and .32-40 versions scheduled for the near future. The rifle features a 26-inch blued octagonal barrel, nose cap and butt plate, and a color case hardened receiver, hammer, lever and trigger. The carbine wears a blued receiver, butt plate, and a traditional 20-inch, blued round barrel, with a color case hardened lever, hammer and trigger. Stocks are



Long a favorite with outdoorsmen, the 1894 rifle boasts powerful hunting loads, rapid-fire capabilities and ease of handling. It's been considered by many as the ultimate perfection in a lever-action rifle. This photo, taken in a Tacoma, Washington, studio around 1900, shows a man and his '94 model, ready to venture into the cold north country.

— COURTESY HERB PECK, JR. COLLECTION —

European walnut. A dovetailed blade front sight and an adjustable buckhorn rear sight complete this handsome package.

I had an opportunity to give one of Cimarron's 1894 carbines in .30-30 caliber a good workout while hunting on its Blue Moon Ranch, just outside of Fredericksburg.

On my first day out, I bagged a nice little 6-point whitetail buck with a 40-yard shot, while using Federal's 150-grain soft point ammo. The next few days I spotted virtually no game! However, on the last afternoon, I decided to hunt one more time. For this final quest I used Remington's 170-grain, soft

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The carbine sports a 20-inch round barrel, and all metal parts are blued, except the color case-hardened hammer, trigger and lever. Patterned after 1894 models manufactured in the early years of this lever gun's production, Cimarron's 1894 rifle and carbine both feature top cartridge ejection and a hammer safety, rather than the side cartridge eject and cross bolt safety of today's '94 rifles.



Using the Cimarron 1894 carbine in .30 WCF, stoked with Remington's 170-grain Soft Point ammo, the author bagged this eight-point whitetail deer from a distance of 101 yards. A second six-point buck was also taken at 40 yards with this carbine, using Federal's 150-grain SP loading. Plenty of tasty venison resulted, thanks to Cimarron's 1894.

— PHIL SPANGENBERGER —

point loads. Holing up in a blind that faced an open pasture, I waited for a considerable time with no game sightings. About the time I figured it would be another "dry" day, a pair of does appeared, browsing about 175 yards from my blind. Although I had doe tags, I decided I still had plenty of daylight to give it a few more minutes to see if a buck might appear.

Sure enough, from a large clump of mesquite bushes, out walked a nice buck. Carefully checking out his rack, I decided to go for him, but he was a bit too far for me to risk a clean shot with open iron sights. Slowly, all three deer worked their way back and forth across the open ground, angling ever closer to me. Finally, after what seemed

like an eternity, the buck started browsing near a live oak tree, at what later measured 101 yards distance. Noticing the does starting to work their way farther from me, I decided it was now or never, as I knew the buck would follow. Carefully, as he shrank behind those iron sights, I settled them right in his heart/shoulder area, I gently squeezed the five-pound crisp trigger of the Cimarron, and fired. The buck jumped straight up, turned and ran back into the mesquite. Quickly, I exited the blind, walked carefully toward the bushes, and there he was, lying there with a clean heart shot. I was ecstatic. I and the Cimarron '94 had both done our part, and I wound up bringing home plenty of fresh venison from my hunts.

If you're a fan of the old 1894 model lever-action, or would like to give one a try, give the Cimarron 1894 a look. It's made in the configuration of the original 1890s rifle and I honestly don't think you could do any better.



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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DIXIE'S BLACK POWDER BIBLE

If you're a target shooter, hunter, antique gun collector or historical re-enactor, you need a copy of *Dixie Gun Works' 2020 Catalog*. Often referred to as the "Black Powder Bible" because its pages are chock full of gun gear, this year's 624-page edition includes around 10,000 items.

In it are muzzle-loading and cartridge firearms, gun parts and accessories, shooting supplies, edged weapons, replica historical clothing, books and much more. More than a merchandise catalog, it also has 50 pages of general gun information, including technical loading data, historical arms production dates, government inspector's marks listing, and more. For the past 66 years, Dixie Gun Works has been a leader in supplying black powder and nostalgia-oriented shooters with the tools they've needed.

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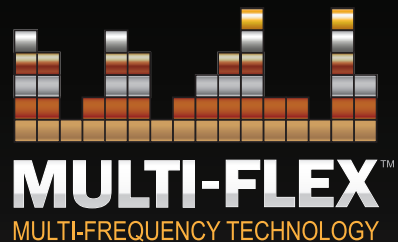
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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Locked and Loaded!

Pearl Hart and a posse of sharpshooting Western women shaped the West from the barroom to the courthouse.

Sharpshooter. If that word immediately conjures the image of a man with a gun, think again. History is peppered with female sharpshooters, and a gun wasn't their only weapon of choice—some used their sharp tongue and wits to hit their marks; some used it all.

Among the most notorious was Pearl Hart, who never even pulled a trigger.

Under five feet and a hundred pounds, this “Lady Bandit” ambushed her way into the history books in 1899: the only known female stagecoach robber pulling off one of the last stagecoach heists in America.

But it was her castrating tongue that captured the attention of the nation and made her a celebrity. Men hated what she had to say; women loved it!

Pearl Hart's celebrity began about 5 p.m. on May 29, 1899 in Arizona Territory. She was masquerading as a man in a gray shirt and dungarees with her long hair tucked under a dirty white sombrero and her feet in boots that were obviously too big. She and her boyfriend, Joe Boot, laid in wait in Cane Springs Canyon between Florence and Globe, waiting for Henry Bacon's stage with its three passengers. As she ordered

them out of the stage, one of the men left his revolver lying on the seat. Henry never tried to draw the gun he carried.

The press used twisted logic—and erased one of the guns—to explain how four men could be so disarmed by such a slight woman: “They were so pop-eyed with amazement that no resistance was offered, even though the driver was armed.”

Far more cutting was Pearl's take on the situation: “Really, I can't see why men carry revolvers, because they almost invariably give them up at the very time they were made to be used.”

She and Joe made off with \$431.20; Bacon's Colt .45; a .44 and a gold watch—minus the \$1 “charitable contribution” they left each victim so the guys could pay for supper that night.

But while the robbery was slick, escaping eluded the couple, who got lost and were found just a mile or so from the holdup by Sheriff William C. Truman. They were jailed in Florence, where the sheriff was dismayed to find the men of the press were constant visitors, fascinated by this tiny, pretty 28-year-old bandit who provided such great copy.

Like her letter to prosecutors: “I shall not consent to be tried under a law which my sex had no voice in making.”

Like the mocking poem she wrote to commemorate her crime:

While the birds were sweetly singing, and the men stood up in line,

And the silver softly ringing as it touched this palm of mine;

There we took away their money, but left them enough to eat,

And the men looked so funny as they vaulted to their seats.

Across the nation, women championed this example of “Western womanhood,” with the popular *Cosmopolitan* magazine printing a massive story on her life and crime. *The Arizona Star* named her a “woman suffragette,” which may have been only conjecture by the newspaper's co-owner, Josephine Brawley Hughes, leader of Arizona's Suffragette Association. Other Arizona papers, campaigning for statehood, which was still 13 years away, bellowed that this kind of adoration for lawlessness wasn't helping the cause.

Pearl's trial brought another black eye for Arizona—her jury voted 11 to 1 to acquit her! Judge Fletcher Doan berated the jury for ignoring Pearl's confession.



In 1899, Pearl Hart and her boyfriend, Joe Boot, gained national attention for robbing the Globe to Florence, Arizona Territory, stagecoach. While jailed during her trial at the Pinal County Courthouse in Florence in November 1899, Hart wrote her life story and posed for a series of photographs dressed as a man with an unloaded rifle and pistol. The photos were featured in the October 1899 issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —



When Pearl was in the Florence jail during her November 1899 trial for stagecoach robbery, she posed not only as a masculine gun-toting bandit, but as a feminine, fashionable, modest woman of her time, wearing a broad-brimmed hat topped with a flourish of fresh-flowers (above).



She was quickly retried for stealing Henry Bacon's \$10 pistol, and this second jury found her guilty. The judge gave her five years in the Yuma Territorial Prison.

Joe Boot, meanwhile—hardly seen as a darling—was handily convicted of the stage robbery and got a 30-year sentence. The robbers arrived at the Yuma Territorial Prison together, and Pearl put another notch in her celebrity bonnet—she was the only female prisoner.

But, alas, neither of the robbers served their time. Joe simply put on his boots and walked away after serving less than two years and was never heard from again.

On December 15, 1902, Pearl was paroled by Territorial Governor A.O.

Brodie, released with a train ticket to St. Louis and, by some accounts, “pockets full of cash.” It took 50 years to find out why, when the late governor's secretary finally told Arizona historian and newspaper columnist Bert Fireman that they had to get her out of town because she was pregnant. Arizona author Winn Brown reports, “Only three men had been allowed to visit without supervision—and one of them was the governor himself.” If there ever were a baby, there is no record of it.

Pearl eventually returned to Arizona, married a Globe cowboy and lived out her life quietly.

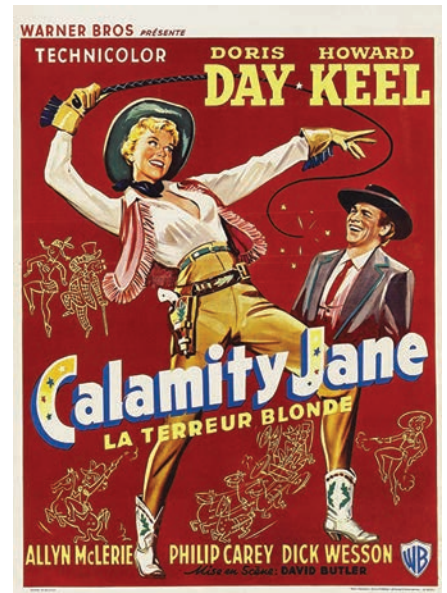
It took a lot to convict Pearl Hart, much to the consternation and shame of Arizona Territory. Pearl was so cute and loveable, the first jury acquitted her of the robbery, but a second jury finally convicted her and gave her five years in the Territorial Prison for stealing Henry Bacon's gun. She arrived in Yuma as the only female inmate. Her intake papers say she had \$7 in her pocket, a foot size of 2 ½ and bad teeth. It noted she didn't drink, but did use tobacco and morphine. She was prisoner Number 1559. She stayed until December 15, 1902, when she was suspiciously paroled.

In late 1897, Calamity Jane Canary and cowboy Teddy Blue Abbott, wearing each other's hats, shared drinks at a saloon in Gilt Edge, Montana, where she was living for the winter. Teddy Blue, who lived nearby on his Three Deuce Ranch, had come to town to repay her 50 cents, which he had borrowed in Miles City in 1883.



Only Hollywood can transform one of the West's most enigmatic, notorious and conflicted characters—Martha Jane Canary, aka Calamity Jane—into an enchanting, sharpshooting, song-and-dance frontier woman, played by none other than Doris Day. Since Warner Brothers' 1953 *Calamity Jane*, which received international distribution (including in France), Calamity has continued to fascinate filmmakers. Most recently, Calamity was a primary character in HBO's *Deadwood*.

— COURTESY WARNER BROS. —



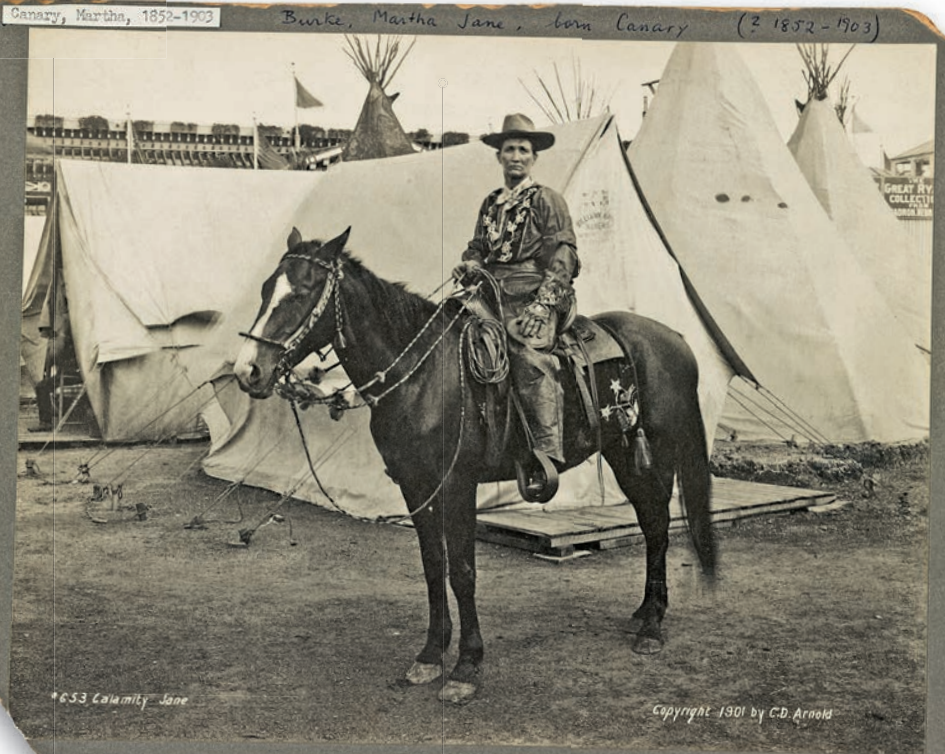
Queen of the West

In contrast, Calamity Jane was never quiet. This larger-than-life-Western legend—her real name was Martha Canary—perplexed historians, who either wanted to dismiss her as “just a whore” or exalt her as “the West’s Joan of Arc.”

In reality, she was an Army muleskinner and in 1893 joined Buffalo Bill’s *Wild West* show. But mainly, she was a woman who lived life on her own terms, and most folks were uncomfortable because she preferred buckskin breeches to buckskin dresses.

She famously said, “I figure if a girl wants to be a legend, she should go ahead and be one.”

Although portrayed as a notorious ruin, the *Deadwood* paper gives us a very different look at Calamity Jane in an 1880s article: “She has always been known for her friendliness, generosity and happy cordial manner. It didn’t matter to her whether a person was rich or poor, white or black, or what their circumstances were; Calamity Jane was just the same to all. Her purse was always



open to help a hungry fellow.”

She finally got some of her due in the HBO series *Deadwood*, in which she was one of the few sympathetic characters. The series showed her, correctly, nursing men during a smallpox epidemic. She’s buried in *Deadwood*, near her beloved Wild Bill Hickok.

Calamity Jane was 49 years old when she made her last major public appearance at the Pan-American Exhibition and riding in Frederick Cummins’ Indian Congress parade at the World’s Fair in Buffalo, New York, in August 1901. A household name since she’d been fictionalized in Beadle’s 1877 Half-Dime Library *Deadwood Dick* series, Martha Jane Canary died two years later from the effects of over-drinking in Terry, South Dakota.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



Known as the "Queen of Oklahoma Outlaws," Myra Maybelle "Belle" Shirley Reed Starr was born at her parents' farm in Carthage, Missouri, on February 5, 1848. After the Civil War, Starr's life went sideways after she married criminal Jim Reed. Soon thereafter, Belle joined her first husband in his criminal enterprises.

Hof Lead and Cold Blood

A woman who actually deserved her bad reputation was Belle Starr, labeled the "Bandit Queen."

She was romanticized as a lovely lady with loose morals and a hot pistol, who ran with the James and Younger gangs. It's said she cleaned out crooked poker games with her six-shooters and was seen galloping down a main street with her guns blazing.

The most obsessed man in the West over Myra Maybelle Starr was the "hanging judge" Isaac C. Parker. He did get her imprisoned once—for a mere nine months—for horse theft. After her release, she continued her ways, and although she was arrested several times, Judge Parker couldn't make the charges stick.

"I am a friend to any brave and gallant outlaw," she's reported to have said.

Her life ended on February 3, 1889, when she was shot in the back as she rode to her home. She was buried on her ranch in Oklahoma and lies under a marble headstone engraved with this epitaph written by her daughter Pearl:

*"Shed not for her the bitter tear,
 "Nor give the heart to vain regret;
 "'Tis but the casket that lies here,
 "The gem that filled it sparkles yet."*

In May 1886, after already serving nine months in a Michigan prison, Belle Starr was captured at Younger's Bend, Indian Territory, and brought back to Fort Smith, Arkansas, by Deputy U.S. Marshal Benjamin Tyner Hughes (right). Arraigned on charges of theft, she escaped conviction and a second prison term. Three years later, she was shotgunned to death just short of her 41st birthday. Her murder remains unsolved.

First fictionalized in cinema in the 1924 silent film *Court Martial*,

outlaw Belle Starr has become a frequently used character in popular culture. In 1941, Gene Tierney starred in the title role of the big budget *Belle Starr*, opposite Randolph Scott and Dana Andrews. Most recently, the Oklahoma bandit was portrayed by Amber Sweet in the 2019 film, *Hell on the Border*.

— COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX —



Annie Oakley's career as a trick shooter began when she and her husband, Frank Butler, also a renowned marksman, joined Buffalo Bill's *Wild West* in 1885. Her prowess with firearms earned her medals and special commendations from royal courts and competitions around the world.

Dynamite Comes in Small Packages

Two Western women who used the gun most effectively—most spectacularly, most profitably—were both performers for Buffalo Bill's show.

Everyone knows Annie Oakley, a pint-sized woman who showed an accuracy that made men jealous. They watched her hit 4,772 glass balls out of 5,000 shot into the air. She could hit a playing card from 90 feet, riddling it five times before it hit the ground. That display alone named free tickets with holes punched in them, "Annie Oakley's." One of her most popular tricks was splitting a playing card, edge on, from 30 paces. She shot dimes tossed in the air and cigarettes from her husband's lips.

Born Phoebe Ann Mosey on August 13, 1860, in Ohio, Annie became an international star who performed for royalty.

That doesn't mean it was easy. While she was acclaimed and adored around the world, she also faced the power of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. In 1904, his papers published a story saying Annie Oakley had been arrested for stealing to support a cocaine habit. It was a false story. The woman actually arrested was a burlesque performer who told Chicago police that her name was Annie Oakley. Obviously, the Hearst papers never double-checked to see if it was the Annie Oakley. But papers across the nation ran the Hearst story, relying on its accuracy.

When they discovered the mistake, most papers printed a retraction and an apology for the libelous story. But Hearst doubled-down, refusing to acknowledge the mistake and instead, he sent investigators to dig up dirt on the real Annie Oakley. He found none.

Annie spent the next six years winning 54 of 55 libel lawsuits against newspapers—paying far more in legal fees than she won in judgments, but that didn't matter. What mattered to her was restoring her reputation.

She did, and then built on it. She was 62 on March 5, 1922, when she broke all existing records for women's trap shooting. She smashed 98 out of 100 clay targets.

She died four years later and remains to this day a favorite Western icon.



In 1902, Annie Oakley posed with an unknown costar in her new stage show, *The Western Girl*. A year earlier she suffered terrible injuries to her back in a train accident and had to stop touring with Buffalo Bill's *Wild West*.

- COURTESY BBCW_P.69.71 -



From 1885 until 1924, Annie Oakley was one of the most renowned female entertainers in the world. Less than ten years after Oakley's passing at the age of 66, Barbara Stanwyck starred in the title role of RKO's *Annie Oakley*, a cinematic classic that assured that "Little Sure Shot" would remain a permanent, and highly original, icon of American entertainment.

- COURTESY RKO -



Sharpshooter Extraordinaire

The other female trick shooter is nowhere near as famous, even though she was as good a shot as Annie—some say even better, as Lillian Smith’s biographer Julia Bricklin titled the book *America’s Best Female Sharpshooter*.

The women were rivals, with a dignified Annie objecting to the more flamboyant Lillian. Tiny Annie sneered at Lillian’s “ample figure” and chided her poor grammar. While Lillian boldly declared that “Oakley was done for” once her own skills were revealed.

The brag wasn’t empty. Lillian could shoot her rifle from her right shoulder, her left shoulder, upside down and backward, over her shoulder or sighted with a hand mirror. She hardly ever missed.

Lillian was just 14 in 1885 when she showed off her skills at a San Francisco exhibition. Using a Winchester, she burst 100 glass balls in two minutes, 35 seconds—one second faster than the record held by William Frank “Doc” Carver.

Buffalo Bill was so sure of her marksmanship, he offered a purse of \$10,000 to anyone who could out-shoot her—the equivalent of \$266,000 today.

It appears that Annie convinced Buffalo Bill to fire Lillian, who vanished for a time into obscurity. Then around 1900, she reappeared, remade as a Sioux princess named Wenona. She performed in other Wild West shows—*Pawnee Bill’s*, *Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West*—but her glory days were over, although till the very end, she could still shoot like hell.



Trick shooter and entertainer Lillian Smith was 29 years old on August 3, 1901, when she posed with Geronimo as part of the Pan-American Exhibition at the World’s Fair in Buffalo, New York. Earlier in the day, Smith, Geronimo and Calamity Jane had participated in Frederick Cummins’ Indian Congress parade.



Lillian Francis Smith was only 15 years old when she debuted in Buffalo Bill’s 1886–87 *Wild West* show and thrilled audiences with her marksmanship and trick-riding equestrian skills. The young Californian found herself in a rivalry with fellow sharpshooter Annie Oakley, a relationship that would define the rest of her career.

A few years after Lillian Smith found herself left out of Buffalo Bill’s *Wild West* tour because of Annie Oakley, Smith and her third husband, Charles “Frank” Hafley, reinvented her as Princess Wenona, daughter of Crazy Horse. In 1904, Smith and Hafley, a sharpshooter in his own right, had their own show, *California Frank’s Wild West*.



The Mother of Wyoming Suffrage

Perhaps the greatest Western female sharpshooter of all is a woman who never picked up a gun but used her sharp mind and sharp tongue to start a movement that would eventually arouse the entire nation. Esther Hobart Slack Morris is known as the “mother of woman suffrage in Wyoming.” It was a title bestowed on her by her newspaper editor son, Ed Slack.

History says that in 1869, she invited influential Democrats and Republicans to her Cheyenne home for a “tea party” and wouldn’t let them depart until they pledged to vote for female suffrage. Some historians doubt that story, but most think the proof is in the pudding, for in 1869, Wyoming Territory became the first to give women the vote. That was 51 years before the 19th Amendment extended the vote to women.

And where Wyoming went, the rest of the West followed. By the time the Susan B. Anthony Amendment became law, every Western state except New Mexico had granted women full voting rights—the envy of suffragettes everywhere else.

P.S. In 1870, Esther became the first woman in the nation to hold public office when she was appointed a justice in South Pass City, Wyoming.

She was obviously a force to be reckoned with, as were all the women who dared speak up, stand up or shoot up. Sharpshooters, all!

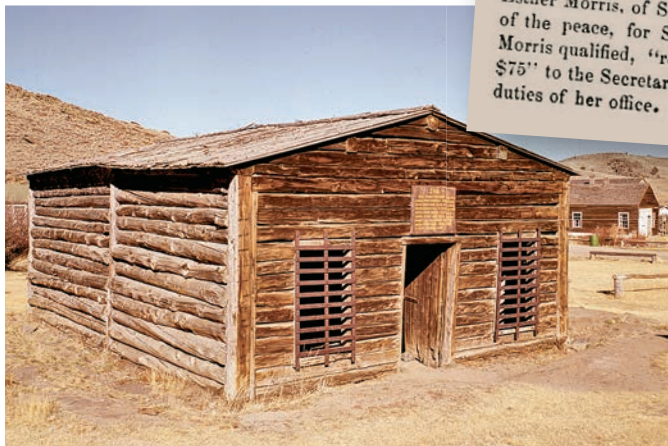
Jana Bommersbach is an acclaimed Arizona journalist and longtime writer for *True West* magazine, who has specialized in women of the Old West. This year she is being inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame.



Esther Hobart Morris was 55 years old in February 1870 when she received her appointment to the bench as the Wyoming Territory South Pass District’s justice of the peace. She was the first woman in modern times to serve as a judge. Although her term in office lasted just eight months, she went on to become a well-recognized leader of the national woman suffrage movement.

Esther Morris’s appointment as the first female justice of the peace garnered attention in the nation’s newspapers, including Pennsylvania’s *Altoona Tribune* (inset). Her first case included prosecuting and jailing her predecessor for not handing over the docket and paperwork for his office in protest of her appointment. She locked him up in the Sweetwater County Jail (below) in South Pass City.

— PHOTO OF SWEETWATER JAIL COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/NEWSPAPERS.COM —



Esther H. Morris was born in Tioga County, New York, on August 8, 1814. Her significant role in Wyoming history and the national suffrage movement is immortalized in the U.S. Capitol’s Hall of Columns. Morris died at 87 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on April 3, 1902, and is interred in the city’s Lakeview Cemetery.

A WOMAN ON THE BENCH.

The Great Joke of Wyoming—How the Wags Served Mrs. Judge Morris’ Husband—A Wife Committing her Spouse.

My last gave in brief the history of the passage of the Woman’s Suffrage act in Wyoming. I will now give some of the practical working of woman suffrage and woman office holding. The first action taken under the provisions of this law was the appointment by the Secretary, as acting Governor, of Mrs. Esther Morris, of South Pass City, as a justice of the peace, for Sweetwater county. Mrs. Morris qualified, “remitted the usual fee of \$75” to the Secretary, and entered upon the duties of her office.

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Homesteaders, Heroines

It was a century ago that American women were granted suffrage, but they had been proving their equality in the settlement of the West long before.

“It is curious how quickly one’s animal instinct of survival comes to the fore in primitive lands,” recalled Edith Eudora Kohl in her homesteading memoir *Land of the Burnt Thigh: A Lively Story of Women Homesteaders on the South Dakota Frontier*. The year was 1907, and Edith and her sister Ida Mary had settled on their homestead claim 30 miles southeast of Pierre. “It was a frontier saying that homesteading was a gamble: ‘Yeah, the United States government is betting you 160 acres of land that you can’t live on it eight months.’ Ida and I weren’t betting; we were holding on, living down to the grass roots. The big problem was no longer how to get off the homestead, but how to keep soul and body together on it.”

Edith and Ida weren’t the first or the last single women 21 years old or older to try their hands at—and be challenged

The Crisman Sisters, l.-r.: Harriet, Elizabeth, Lucie and Ruth, Near Gosheen Settlement on Lieben Creek, Custer County, Nebraska, 1886

— SOLOMON D. BUTCHER, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



and Hell-Raisers

by—homesteading Western lands. The 1862 Homestead Act—and later the Kincaid Act of 1904 that doubled the homestead from 160 to 320 acres—gave single, widowed, divorced and abandoned women the right to homestead. And they did it successfully at a greater rate than men.

Homesteading proved to be an acceptable enterprise for single women (married women could keep their claims after marriage) in the West, and those who settled the West outside of homesteading or were married had fewer rights under the law and in the courts.

In the post-Civil War Gilded Age era, pioneer women fought for suffrage, labor laws, religious and educational freedom, and regulations for food production and medicine. They were leaders in the anti-saloon movement and pushed for laws against gambling and prostitution. In 1919, Prohibition became the law of the land with the 18th Amendment and a year later, women gained the vote with the 19th Amendment. While many of these rights took years to pass, women—especially minority women of the West—have had to fight even harder for equality in the 20th and 21st centuries. We celebrate these Western women, who when down to “the grass roots” did not pull up stakes, but instead discovered their “animal instinct of survival.”



Annie Rogers, aka Della Moore, Outlaw and Prostitute, ca. 1900

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Nellie Brown, Cowgirl, ca. 1880s

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Sarah Crutcher, Cowgirl, Lawton, Oklahoma, 1917

— LEWIS W. HINE, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





Camping Party in Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico, 1898

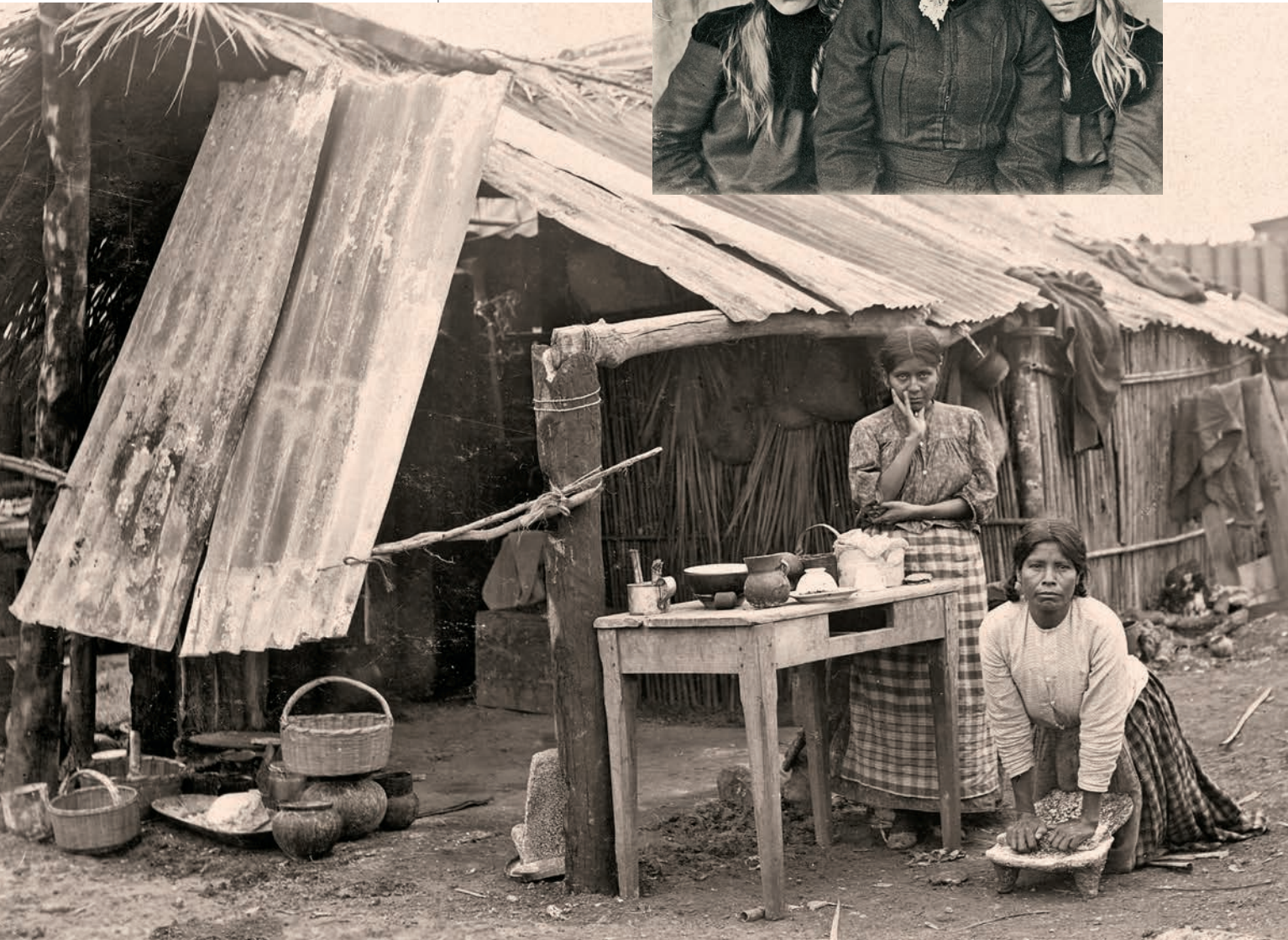
- FRANK E. DOWNS, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Mother and Two Daughters, ca. 1890-1910

- MARY STELLA MOWBRAY, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

Women Cooking, Mexico, 1898

- MAYO & WEED, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -



Ida Bell Wells-Barnett,
Suffragette, Journalist and
Civil Rights Pioneer
Chicago, Illinois, ca. 1893

- SALLIE E. GARRITY, NATIONAL PORTRAIT
GALLERY, NO.A900072C_1, WASHINGTON, D.C. -



Frances Louisa Clayton,
aka Jack Williams, Civil War Veteran,
Union Army of Missouri, ca. 1865

- SAMUEL MASURY, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -





Lotta Crabtree, Entertainer, ca. 1868
- JEREMIAH GURNEY & SON, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



Winnebago Women,
St. Paul, Minnesota,
ca. 1858-1869

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -



Mother and Daughter,
San Jose, California, ca. 1856

- JAMES A. CLAYTON, COURTESY BEINECKE
LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

Chinese-American Women,
San Francisco, California,
ca. 1870s

- CARLTON WATKINS, COURTESY BEINECKE
LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -



Prostitutes, Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, ca. 1900

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

BY JAN MACKELL COLLINS

Satin, Lace and Cherry Pie

The true story of how a small-town Texas girl became legendary madam, Big Bertha.

Ten-year-old Laura Frazier gazed up at the large lady in the open door. “She almost filled the entire doorway,” Laura later remembered. The girl had talked her mother into letting her sell magazine subscriptions to earn money for a scooter. Little did she know, however, that the woman standing before her was Big Bertha, proprietress of the best-known parlor house in Williams, Arizona. “She kind of scared me, but I gave her my best sales pitch,” Laura said. “She opened the door and ‘scooped’ me inside.” Laura followed the madam to the kitchen. “Now honey,” Bertha said, “you just sit down and have a piece of cherry pie while I go find my purse.”

Bertha was kind like that. Born Cordelia “Cordie” Bell Curbow (aka Kirbo) in Georgia in 1881, the future madam moved to Texas as a child. She grew up learning the meaning of true Southern hospitality, a trait she carried with her even after she fled the Lone Star State following a short-lived marriage and the death of a baby. Life on the road was tough for any 17-year-old—especially Bertha, who first embarked on a career of prostitution in New Mexico Territory. While there, the girl shot a man over some unknown skirmish. Afterwards, the authorities “basically ran her out of town because she was underage,” according to Bertha’s great-great niece, Michelle Bowers.

For nearly 20 years, Bertha traveled from place to place, apparently changing her name as often as she changed her stockings. Not until 1917 did she resurface, as Cordie



The only known portrait of Bertha, wearing a most fetching hat, was taken on a visit to California sometime in the early 1900s, when she was in her thirties.

— COURTESY MICHELLE BOWERS —

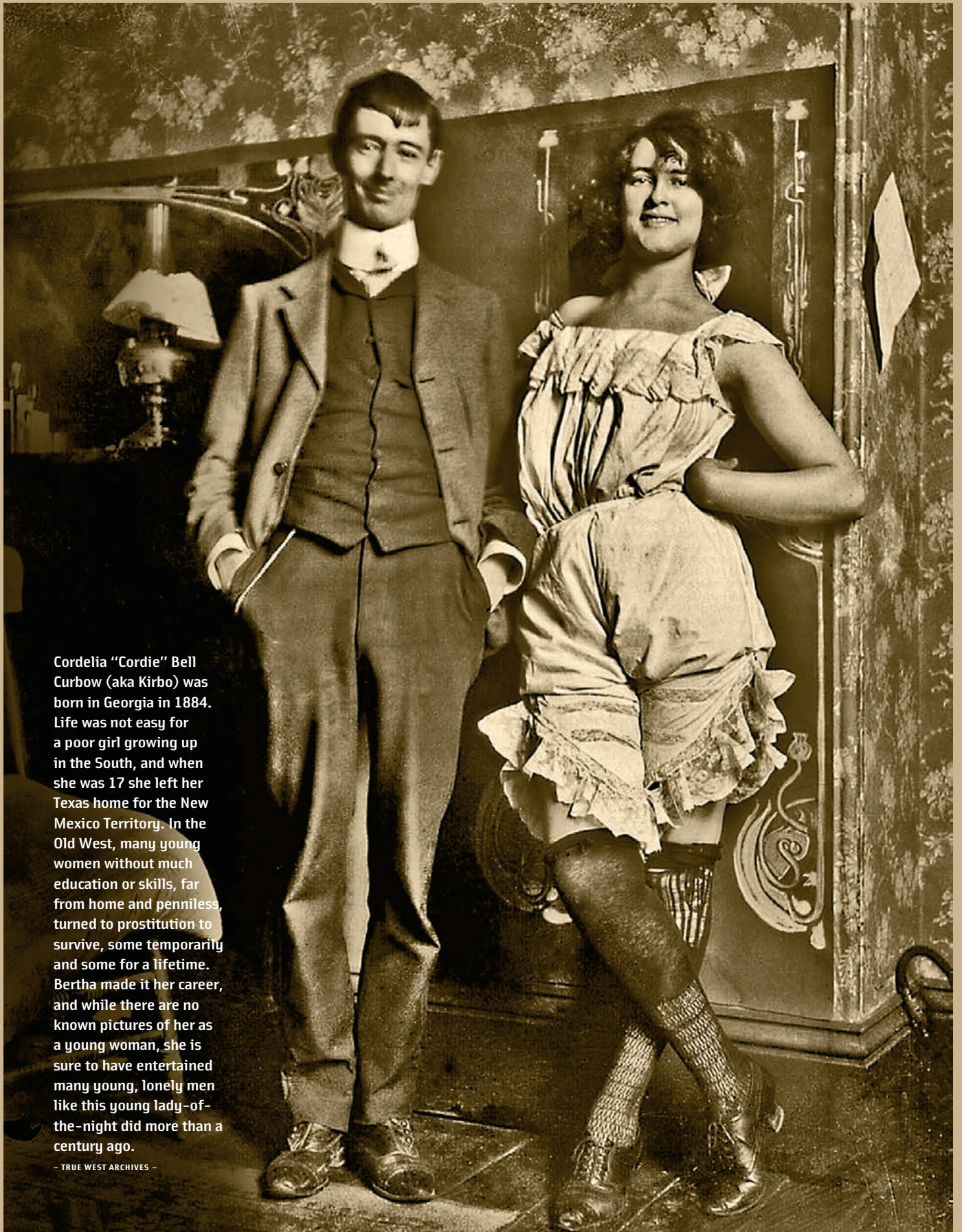
Kirbo, in Arizona. On November 1, she married Wiley “Whitey” Whited in Clarkdale. The union appeared blissful, but Bertha had dreams of her own. By 1923 she was running the Arizona Rooms in Miami, Arizona. The large wooden affair was not far from the town’s most notorious brothel, the Keystone Hotel.

Bertha preferred not to keep all of her eggs in one basket. In a 2012 interview, Laura Frazier Cole guessed that it was around 1924 when she met the madam in Williams, over 200 miles from Miami. Bertha may have first

worked for Longino Mora in the Tetzlaff Building, a brothel which is now home to a delightful bakery/bed and breakfast called the Red Garter Inn. “I was led to believe by an old-timer, Nick Otero, that Bertha was working in my building prior to getting her own house,” says the building’s current owner, John Holst. Laura said the Red Garter was called the Fashion Apartments when she was a girl, and that ladies of the night could be seen waving from an upstairs balcony in the evenings.

Laura’s memories of Bertha were quite vivid. That day at Bertha’s, as she sat eating her cherry pie, another “real pretty lady in a fancy housecoat” visited with her. The woman “asked a lot of questions about the magazine, and told me she would buy a subscription, too.” When Bertha came back and paid Laura, the girl was instructed to “go across the street to Mr. Martin’s plumbing shop and tell Mr. Martin that ‘Big Bertha’ said he would buy a subscription, too.” Martin was not interested at first, but when Laura told him who referred her, he replied, “Oh, Bertha sent you here?” and promptly bought every subscription the girl had left.

Later, Laura remembered seeing Bertha as she and her employees strolled down the street in their finery. Laura and her mother were sitting in the family car. Upon spotting Bertha in her “red satin dress and high heels,” Laura got out and started toward the women. To her mother, she said, “There comes a friend of mine. I know that lady.



Cordelia "Cordie" Bell Curbow (aka Kirbo) was born in Georgia in 1884. Life was not easy for a poor girl growing up in the South, and when she was 17 she left her Texas home for the New Mexico Territory. In the Old West, many young women without much education or skills, far from home and penniless, turned to prostitution to survive, some temporarily and some for a lifetime. Bertha made it her career, and while there are no known pictures of her as a young woman, she is sure to have entertained many young, lonely men like this young lady-of-the-night did more than a century ago.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

She is so nice and pretty. I just want to go talk to her and hug her.” The girl was ordered back into the car and hid on the floor, lest Bertha see her and think she was being rude. “When we got home, my mother told me that was the end of my magazine sales,” Laura said.

Later, Bertha opened “Bertha’s House,” at the corner of 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. But she also alternated her time in Williams with visits to Miami. Both she and Whited were there in 1928—although the couple had parted sometime before 1927, when Whited married someone else. Bertha, meanwhile, was running the Copper City Hotel on Sullivan Street and renting a room at the Garden Rooms, pretty much right next door to the old Arizona Rooms. Her landlord, George Downen, also dabbled in billiard rooms and pool halls, and it was he who would eventually set Bertha’s heart aflutter.

At the time she met Downen, Bertha was still quite busy with her brothel in Williams. She also maintained a relationship with Whited, who had relocated to Williams by the time he died of a heart attack in 1939. It was “C. B. Whited,” not the man’s wife, who informed authorities of his death. Bertha told the census taker in 1940 that she was indeed a widow. More notable is that for the first time in official documents, Bertha’s employees appeared in the census. They were 33-year-old Frankie LaMarr, 28-year-old Helen Johnson, and 22-year-old Carol Willison.

Later that same year, Bertha’s nephew, John Kirbo, and his wife, Jewel, came to visit from Texas. “She had some ranch land, and she made him foreman,” says Michelle



A much older Bertha posed in front of a rooming house, possibly the Arizona Rooms, which she ran in Miami, Arizona, during the early 1920s.

— COURTESY MICHELLE BOWERS —

Atlantic & Pacific’s steel rails reached the northern Arizona outpost of Williams in 1882, and soon Railroad Avenue became a lively crossroads for locals, out-of-towners, cowboys and tourists. By the time Big Bertha arrived to take up residence on Railroad Avenue in the Tetzlaff Building in 1924—two years before Route 66 arrived—Williams had become a Santa Fe Railway town and the gateway to the Grand Canyon with its popular railroad to the South Rim of the national park.

— COURTESY BRIAN LEBEL’S OLD WEST AUCTIONS —



Bowers. Obviously, certain members of Bertha's family knew, and accepted, what she did for a living—a rare instance in the days when most women in the prostitution profession were shunned by their relatives. John also accompanied his aunt to Miami on at least one occasion, where she warmed her friendship with George Downen. But the man had a wife, Cora. When Cora died unexpectedly in 1946, Bertha took her place.

When, where, or even if the Downens officially married remains unknown. The couple portrayed themselves as husband and wife, however, when they both left Arizona for Hot Springs (now known as Truth or Consequences), New Mexico. They may have retired, although Bertha's family



Bertha's nephew, John Kirbo, posed atop the Arizona Rooms in Miami, Arizona. Kirbo's visit, along with some family letters, verify that Bertha's family accepted her as a leading madam in Arizona.

- COURTESY MICHELLE BOWERS -

believes they ran a hotel, and possibly another brothel, there. Their last years together appear to have been blissful. Downen died in Phoenix in 1952. Bertha followed three years later and was buried next to him in Hot Springs Cemetery. Back in Williams,

those who knew the well-liked madam faded into the past, along with her real name and any information about her. Today, she is simply referred to as "Big Bertha," the flamboyant and friendly madam of Railroad Avenue.



Jan MacKell Collins is the author of several books about prostitution in the West, including *Good Time Girls of Arizona and New Mexico: A Red-Light History of the Southwest*.



The Red Garter (above) in Williams' historic Tetzlaff Building once featured a fancy bordello upstairs with eight bedrooms, which was accessed by an outside staircase alternately known as the "Cowboy Endurance Test."

- COURTESY JAN MACKELL COLLINS -



An unidentified madam posed with Longino Mora (with cane) and friends in Williams.

- COURTESY RED GARTER INN -

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

WHEN WHISKEY RULED THE WEST

**FROM LEWIS AND CLARK UNTIL PROHIBITION,
THE GOLDEN ELIXIR WAS AS GOOD AS GOLD.**

Whiskey's role in shaping the West, and its rise to prominence over rum or vodka, has its roots in the early days of the United States. Its story began with early colonists who learned to distill spirits from their new agricultural bounty of corn, wheat, barley and rye. That continued with our founding fathers, which led to the Whiskey Rebellion. Whiskey also has strong ties to early explorers, mountain men, pioneers, the railroads and more. It was sold as medicine, used to barter with, and fueled the temperance movement. Because whiskey's main ingredients were easily grown all over North America, the art of distilling spread as rapidly as settlers into newly settled regions. Whiskey was quick and easy to produce, and distilling grains into alcohol made them more valuable, more transportable and more easily stored for long periods. The popularity of whiskey grew, and as whiskey's popularity increased, so did its value as a trade good.

Whiskey on the Frontier

Early explorers Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Zebulon Pike took whiskey along with them on their expeditions. In addition to its being a standard Army ration, it was

used as a reward for their men and for trading purposes. By the time Lewis and Clark set off on their expedition, the Indians along their planned route were already accustomed to the use of whiskey as a trade good and—in fact—demanded it. French Canadian traders had already established the whiskey negotiation as part of their regular commerce with the tribes they encountered. Major Thomas Biddle, who would be on the later Yellowstone Expedition up the Missouri, wrote, “So violent is the attachment of the Indian for it [liquor] that he who gives most is sure to obtain furs, while should anyone attempt to trade without it, he is sure of losing ground with this antagonist. No bargain is ever made without it.”

Later, trappers like Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, James Beckwourth and Jedediah Smith carried it with them as a trade good after they, too, learned that the



Abraham M. Bininger began selling bourbon and whiskey from his New York City store in 1778. In 1849, his heirs' Bininger's Old Kentucky Bourbon Reserve 1849 was the first bottled bourbon in the country.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Whiskey, bourbon and rye were readily available for sale along with the women in the hundreds of legal bordellos in America, including in New Orleans' infamous Storyville red-light district where the unnamed "Raleigh Rye Girl" was photographed circa 1912.

- PHOTO BY ERNEST J. BELLOCO, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



An early buffalo-hide camp along the Arkansas River in southwestern Kansas, Dodge City became queen of the cow camps after Texans started driving their cattle up the Western Trail to the new railhead in 1876. H.B. Bell founded the Varieties Dance Hall in 1877 just south of the tracks. It became a popular whiskey watering-hole for thirsty gamblers, harlots and cowboys, including Bat Masterson's younger brother George (bartender behind the bar).

Native peoples wouldn't trade with them if they didn't include whiskey in the bargaining process. Beckwourth recalled a trading rendezvous: "The absent parties began to arrive, one after the other, at the rendezvous. Shortly after, General Ashley and Mr. Sublet [Sublette] came in, accompanied with three hundred pack mules, well laden with goods and all things necessary for the mountaineers and the Indian trade. It may well be supposed that the arrival of such a vast amount of luxuries from the East did not pass off without a general celebration. Mirth, songs, dancing, shouting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sorts of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent, were freely indulged in. The unpacking of the medicine water contributed not a little to the heightening of our festivities."

Missouri played an important role in the settling of the West. It served as a starting point for traders and pioneers in wagons where goods of all kinds were shipped up the Missouri River to the West, and it served as a major hub for the whiskey business. It's where most of the emigrant trails began, including the Santa Fe and Oregon. As a flood of emigrants rolled their wagons, handcarts and livestock across the West, the lives of the peoples who already called the West home would never be the same. Whiskey's popularity as a trade good made it an essential tool in opening up new territory, but its influence compounded the damage that was emigration's legacy for Native peoples. In 1833 whiskey was trading at \$5 per pint or \$40 per gallon—the cost for whiskey in New York was between \$29 and \$36 per gallon. (In today's money, \$40 would be about \$990.) Supply and demand ruled, and whiskey became a hot commodity. Distillers and others in the business in Missouri enjoyed a good trade in the late 1860s and early 1870s because they were able to ship products to many western cities from the port city of St. Louis.

The Insatiable West

As whiskey became more profitable as a commodity, producers had a hard time keeping up with the demand. Businessmen who wanted to turn a quick profit and fill their coffers created "rectified" whiskey products that were watered down or doctored with other cheaper ingredients like tobacco juice, kerosene, or grain alcohol—hence the term "rotgut." Straight whiskey was aged in new oak barrels for a minimum of two years, whereas rectified whiskey was usually consumed immediately, requiring no aging, and was often further distilled. Many whiskey peddlers and saloon owners made their own version of whiskey. Elixirs and bitters were also available and were another common way that both men and women pioneers could get drunk.

With its value as a trade commodity firmly established in the West, it was only natural that as the frontier expanded so did whiskey-based entrepreneurship. Pioneers opened a variety of whiskey-related businesses, and a host of other enterprises were formed in the West to support its swelling population. Businesses like stage-coaches, freighters, glass and bottle companies, barrel makers, distributors, hotels, railroads, cities, gamblers, distillers, mining, salesmen and saloons all thrived because of whiskey.



Boom and Bust

Businesses all across the West boomed with whiskey, but none more than the saloons, dance halls and brothels. Other than the distillers themselves, the men and women involved with these businesses undoubtedly had the biggest connection

Three years after Fort Keough's commanding officer Gen. Nelson Miles evicted the fort's whiskey-selling sutlers, the enterprising merchants had built two towns—Milestown, and then Miles City—to serve the thirsty soldiers and cowboys who had flooded into eastern Montana following the end of the Great Sioux War.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



to, and profited the most from, whiskey's influence. They were the epicenter of most towns, the place where men gathered to get their news, talk politics and unwind, further establishing whiskey's influence in the shaping of the West. In money towns like Tombstone, Arizona, Virginia City, Nevada, or Dodge City, Kansas, popular whiskey drinks of the day included Whiskey Cocktails, Whiskey Slings, Whiskey Punches, Rock and Rye and Stone Fences. Only in rural or poorer towns would saloon owners serve their customers a simple shot of rotgut or cheap whiskey in dimly lit, ramshackle watering holes.

Whiskey had become the popular tippie of the American West, but its rise was about to fall. As the turn-of-the-century neared, so did the push for regulation and temperance. The Bottled in Bond Act was enacted in 1897 because, until then, the government did not regulate what was put in whiskey bottles and sold to the public. The act was a significant regulatory reform and ensured that 100 percent of the liquid sold as single-malt whiskey was distilled in the same distilling season, by a single distiller, and that the spirit had been aged for a minimum of four years in a federally bonded warehouse. The Women's Christian Temperance Union had been created in the 1870s and was pushing for Prohibition. State prohibition laws, and eventually national Prohibition, were passed and brought another chapter of scrutiny, economics and opportunities to control markets. When the repeal of Prohibition allowed whiskey back on the market, it was regulated and

mass-produced, and the love affair between the American West and whiskey was all but over.

Whiskey in the West Today

Today, that's all changed and America is back in love with the golden elixir. The whiskey industry is experiencing a renaissance of distillers and their spirits—and a significant number of distillers are now located in the American West. Single barrel bourbons, single malt Scotches, whiskey festivals with educational whiskey seminars, whiskey magazines and much-improved and expanded distillery tours are paving the way for the small-batch distiller and the American brown spirit's revival. Small-batch distillers are being propelled by a combination of modern trends in consumer products, including celebrating local heritage and interest in unique artisanal products. The emphasis on buying quality local products from people who share details about their origins also plays a role. Novel product innovations have also allowed the smaller distilleries to gain recognition.

Some of today's artisan distillers are experimenting with blue corn, oats, quinoa, amaranth and other exotic ingredients. Balcones Distilling in Waco, Texas, created its Baby Blue whiskey from roasted heirloom blue corn, and its Brimstone whiskey is smoked with sunbaked Texas scrub oak. While some distillers are using exotic ingredients that the pioneers

didn't even know existed, others are using technological distilling methods. It's quite possible that Western frontier whiskey-makers may have experimented with the maturation process by adding smoked woodchips or tree bark to the barrel to speed the flavor process, as is being done today at Boothill Distillery in Dodge City, Kansas. It uses 75 percent corn, 25 percent wheat whiskey mash and it is aged in 30-gallon barrels for a month with added oak spirals for extra infusion. The modern trend in Western whiskey-making is not to return to quantity and lower cost, but to emphasize quality and innovation.



Sherry Monahan has been writing about food and beverage on the frontier since 1998. She was curious about why whiskey, and not rum or vodka, is associated with the West. That led her to write a book titled *Golden Elixir of the West*, which explores that and a whole lot more about whiskey in the West.



Pre-dating the ratification of the 18th Amendment prohibiting the distilling and consumption of alcohol in the United States in 1919, Congress passed the Anti-Canteen Law prohibiting the sale of alcohol on all military installations. The temperance and anti-saloon leagues pointed to Army posts across the country as great dens of iniquity and alcoholism, much of their language and propaganda shaded with prejudice and racism, especially anti-Irish and anti-black.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



In the gold mining town of Deadwood, founded in 1876, saloons ran nearly 24 hours a day to satisfy the thirsts of the thousands of miners seeking their bonanza in the Black Hills. Almost all of the whiskey would have arrived in casks and been served straight from the barrel or decanted into jugs or bottles. Only the well-heeled might have a bottled whiskey in private reserve.

- COURTESY DEADWOOD INC., ADAMS MUSEUM -



The Palace Saloon in Prescott is the oldest continuously operating bar in the state of Arizona. It opened as the Cabinet Saloon in 1874 and its famous bar was pulled out of the burning saloon in 1900 and returned as the saloon's centerpiece after it was rebuilt and reopened in 1901. Today, the Palace Restaurant and Saloon anchors Prescott's historic Whiskey Row.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Between the construction of a fresh water supply and the arrival of the railroad in 1905, Las Vegas became a sustainable city, including the legendary vice district, Block 16. The Arizona Club, on the east side of North 1st Street, was originally just a drinking establishment, but in 1912 its owners added a second-story bordello.

It was so popular, it earned the nickname "Queen of Block 16."

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

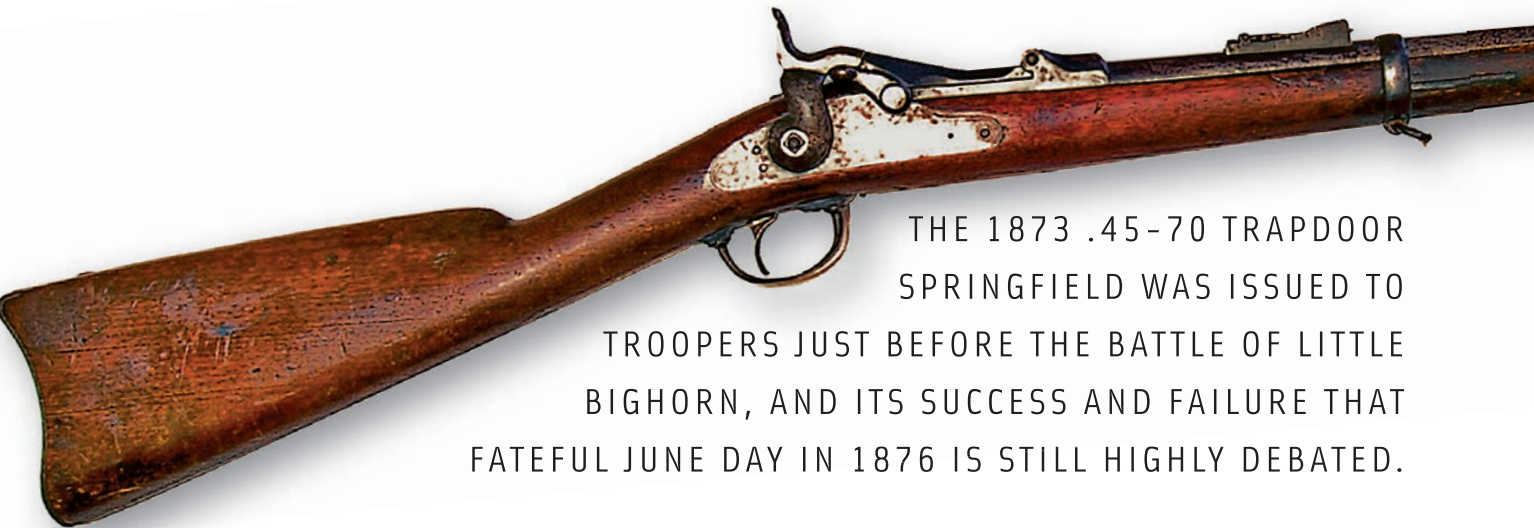


Buffalo Bill Cody and patrons pause between drinks in front of the cherrywood bar at his Irma Hotel in Cody, Wyoming. United Kingdom's Queen Victoria, a personal friend of the American showman, shipped the regal Victorian bar from Great Britain to be a centerpiece of his inn, which was named for his daughter.

- COURTESY BBCW, PN.89.112.21262.10, CODY, WYOMING -

BY JOHN P. LANGELLIER

Battle Tested, Battle Scarred



THE 1873 .45-70 TRAPDOOR
SPRINGFIELD WAS ISSUED TO
TROOPERS JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE OF LITTLE
BIGHORN, AND ITS SUCCESS AND FAILURE THAT
FATEFUL JUNE DAY IN 1876 IS STILL HIGHLY DEBATED.

On June 25, 1876, the 7th US Cavalry crossed the Wolf Mountains and moved into the valley of the Little Bighorn. Custer was confident of his ability to handle whatever he ran up against, convinced that the Indians would follow their usual practice of scattering before a show of force and completely unaware that he was descending upon one of the largest concentrations of hostile American Indian tribes ever assembled on the Plains. Perhaps as many as 6,000 to 7,000 Sioux and Northern Cheyenne, with as many as 2,000 warriors under such capable leaders as Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Gall, Crow King, Lame Deer, Hump and Two Moon, confronted Custer in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The foot soldiers were armed with updated Springfield Model 1873 rifles, and mounted troopers carried carbines. Both were provided ample ammunition.


Around noon on this Sunday in June, Custer dispatched Capt. Frederick W. Benteen leading three companies to scout to the left of the command. This was not an unusual move for a force still attempting to fix the location of an elusive enemy and expecting

him to slip away on contact. It is also possible that Custer, knowing the value of the principle of surprise, hoped to catch his foe unawares. At about 12:30 p.m., still two miles short of the river when the upper end of a village came into view, Custer advanced three more companies under Reno with instructions to cross the river and charge the American Indian camp. With five companies, Custer moved off to the right, still screened by a fold of ground preventing him from observing the extent of his opposition. Perhaps his thought was to hit the Indians from the flank—letting Reno hold the enemy by the nose while Custer kicked him in the seat of the pants. As Custer progressed, he rushed Sgt. Daniel Kanipe to the rear to hurry the pack train and its reinforced one-company escort, urging it forward into what soon erupted into a firefight. Shortly afterward he dispatched Trumpeter John Martin (aka the Italian-born Giovanni Martino) with a last message to Benteen that a “big village” lay ahead and to “be quick—bring packs,” which would have contained important extra ammunition, if the firefight had lasted any length of time, which it did not.

Indeed, the main phase of the Battle of the Little Bighorn ended in something like two hours or less. Reno, charging down the river with three companies and some Arikara scouts, ran into hordes of American Indians, not retreating, but advancing, perhaps mindful of their creditable performance against Crook the week before and certainly motivated by a desire to protect their women and children and cover a withdrawal of the villages. Greatly outnumbered, suffering heavy casualties, and in danger of being overrun, Reno withdrew to the bluffs across the river and dug in.

In the meantime, Custer and the five companies with him, about 230 strong, moved briskly along the bluffs above the river until, some four miles away, they were beyond supporting distance and out of sight of the rest of the command. They were brought to bay and overwhelmed by an Indian force that heavily outnumbered them. Many troopers were struck down before they could mount a defense.

In the wake of the ignominious debacle, a shocked nation, including many in the US Army, questioned the outcome. How could

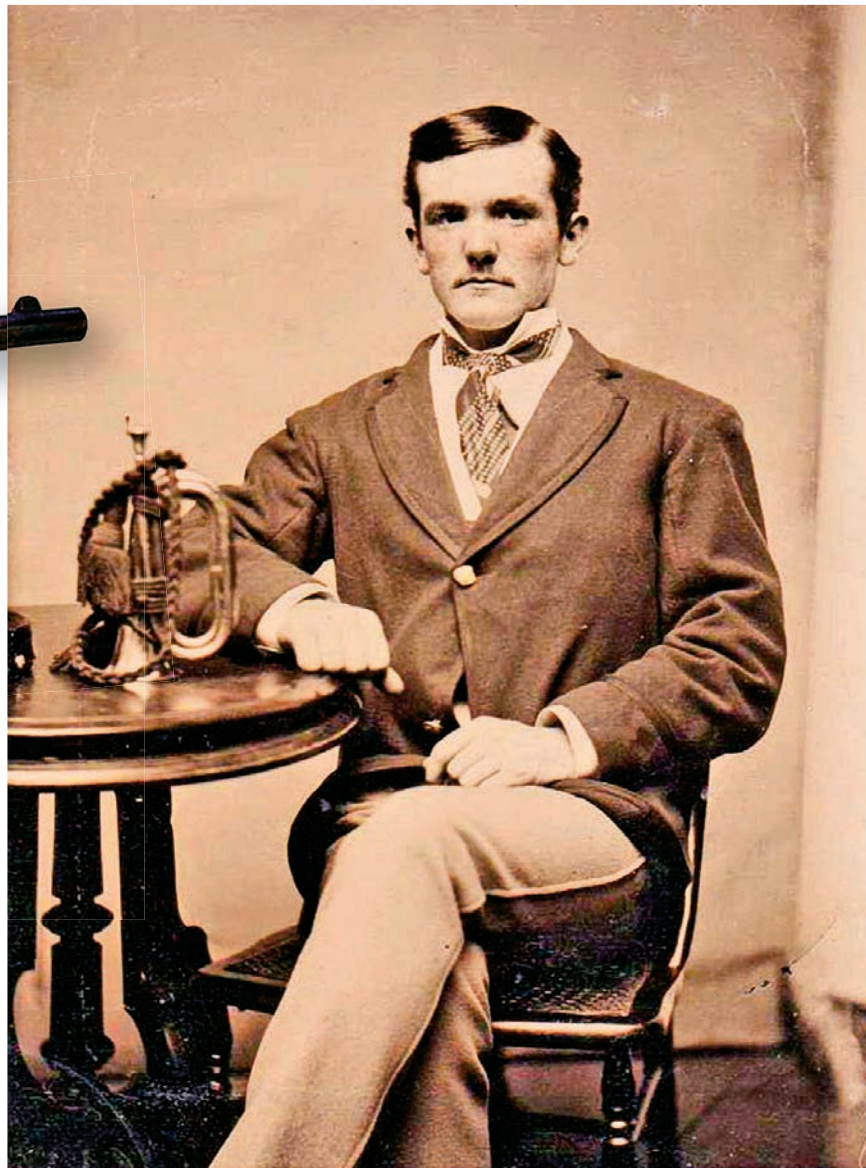


Extensive archeological investigations at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and ballistic analysis have shed light on the legendary clash. This Model 1873 carbine (serial number 19573) was one of the weapons that tested positive for use at the battlefield and, based on the carved name “J. MARTIN” and “H” for his company (see insets), it very likely had been issued to Trumpeter John Martin. Martin delivered the last message from Lt. Col. George A. Custer imploring Capt. Frederick W. Benteen to rush reinforcements and more ammunition to the ill-fated battalion.

— COURTESY GLEN SWANSON COLLECTION —

the “Boy General” and his hard-riding, elite 7th Cavalry be vanquished?

Among the answers was a contention that firearms had played a major role in the Little Bighorn tragedy. Writing just two years after the battle from a fort in Montana that bore Custer’s name, one officer repeated a theory that began to circulate within some elements of the Army. In an unsigned letter published in *The Army and Navy Journal* on November 30, 1878, he wrote: “When our men are engaged in actual combat with a wily foe, it would be nothing more than fair that our government should supply our soldiers with the best rifles and carbines in the civilized world. If we are several years behind in regards to best rifles, it is time for us to wake up and see if something cannot be done to place us on equal footing, not with civilized nations, but with red men themselves.”



What this critic and others failed to admit was—as 1st Lt. Holmes Offley Paulding, a surgeon who attended to the survivors of the slaughter, noted—“cavalrymen...as a general thing are about as well fitted to travel through hostile country as puling [sic] infants.” The fact was that during the second day of the Little Bighorn fight, officers with Major Reno’s surrounded force had to give permission to their men to fire, in order to conserve ammunition as they realized most of the troopers were poor shots. Edward Godfrey, a lieutenant with the 7th Cavalry, later recalled seeing one of the men pull “the trigger. There was a perceptible dropping of the muzzle, and a flinch, but no report. He had forgotten to cock his piece.”

The Trapdoor in Tribal Hands

Unlike the troops they faced, American Indians could not look to a central support system for the Springfield and other arms they obtained from the whites through diverse means. This meant that innovative methods of reloading ammunition and maintaining or repairing broken weapons relied on the creativity of each warrior. A fractured wrist of a stock could not be sent back to the arsenal for replacement. Wetted rawhide and perhaps glue made from bison and even a bit of stray wire might be wrapped around the break so the hard-to-obtain firearm could continue in service. Also, because the weapon was not government-issue as it was to a soldier, but instead a personal piece of



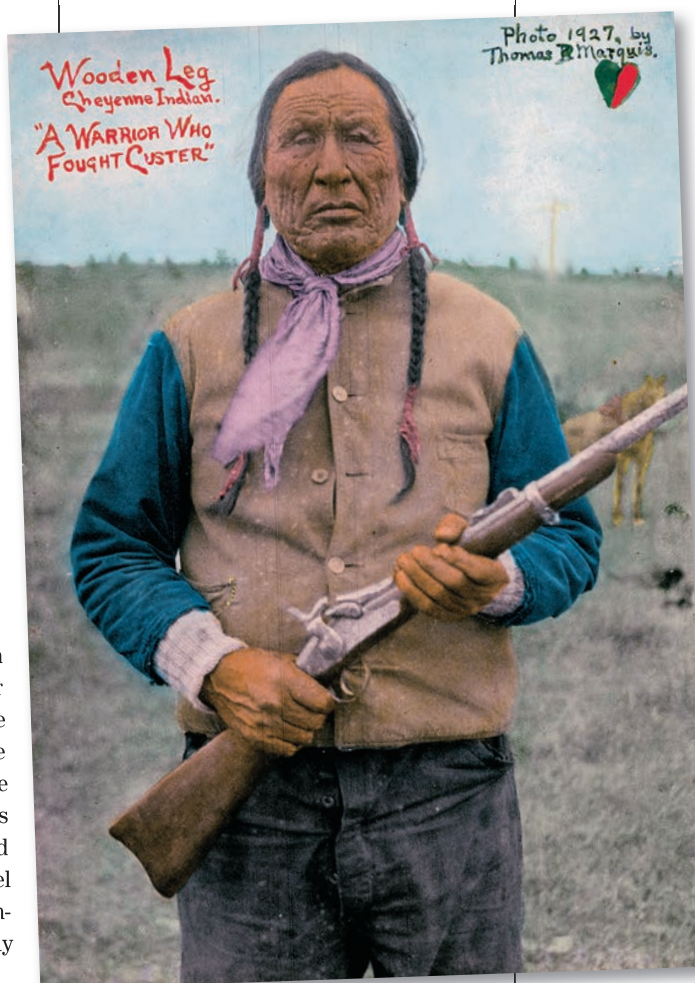
war regalia, it might be decorated with brass trade tacks, carvings or other additions to distinguish it as the property of a proud fighting man and capable hunter. Proficiency with armaments of many kinds was a given for most tribesmen who gained honor from valor in warfare and raiding as well as protecting their people and providing game to sustain them as a staple of their diets. This is not to say that American Indians were sharpshooters; most had little or no understanding of the use of sights, and accuracy was not very good, especially if fired from a galloping horse or from underneath the animal's chest as it galloped, which was the practice of many of the Plains warriors.

Reno's Defense

Midday on June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer had divided the regiment into three contingents, retaining the main body of five companies under his immediate control and splitting the remainder of his force into two other elements under Maj. Marcus Reno and Capt. Frederick W. Benteen. Reno's battalion was the first to reach the edge of the Indian camp where he dismounted his men in accordance with US Army tactics of the time. One trooper was detailed to take his mount and three others from his four-man squad to the rear while his comrades, who now were on foot, fanned out with fellow troopers to move forward in single-file toward their objective. Their single-shot Model 1873 Springfield carbines, despite the contention that their cartridges frequently

Superior firepower kept the Indians at bay for the first hour of the fight at Little Bighorn. Wolf Tooth and his warriors stayed way back in the tall grass, away from the long range of the soldier's Springfields. (The .45-70 caliber trapdoor carbines can accurately fire 300 yards beyond a Winchester.) As more and more warriors spilled onto the battlefield from the Reno sector, however, the Custer skirmishers were overwhelmed by the increasing numbers of Indians stalking them in the tall grass. The Indians had at least 200 repeating rifles, according to archaeologists.

— ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL —



Northern Cheyenne Wooden Leg, holding a post-1878 model Springfield Carbine, posed during the 1927 Little Bighorn Battle Reunion for photographer-historian Dr. Thomas B. Marquis. Marquis, who was also a physician to the Northern Cheyenne, had befriended Wooden Leg two decades before and eventually published a biography of Wooden Leg, who was just 18 when he fought at the Battle of Rosebud and Little Bighorn.



On January 17, 1891, Young Man Afraid of his Horses, a respected war leader of the Oglala Sioux, posed with his Springfield carbine outside his tipi on the Pine Ridge Reservation for photographer George E. Treager. Young Man was an ally of Oglala Sioux leaders Red Cloud and Crazy Horse in the Red Cloud War of 1866–68. His Springfield may be an 1866 model with a leather wrap and brass tack repair to the flimsy stocks that were known to crack in battle.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT PHOTO ARCHIVES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —



U. S. Springfield Carbine, Caliber .45, Serial No. 45462, taken from a slain 7th Cavalry trooper by WHITE MOON on June 25, 1876. WHITE MOON was a Northern Cheyenne Warrior and participated in the Custer Battle. This carbine was given to Dr. Thomas B. Marquis on June 24, 1927, at the time this picture was taken. WHITE MOON was 77 years old at the time and died in May, 1931.

A-12

jammed in the breech, performed well. Unfortunately, Reno's battalion soon stirred up a hornets' nest of Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors. Wielding an array of weapons from bows and arrows to war clubs, lances and an assortment of firearms including Winchesters, the warriors

repulsed Reno's attack. Reno would join Benteen across the river on high ground where the retreating survivors holed up for several days, avoiding the fate of Custer and his ill-fated followers, all of whom died after a brief, bloody "last stand."



John P. Langellier specializes in US military history of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. "Battle Tested, Battle Scarred," is excerpted from his book *The "Trapdoor" Springfield: From the Little Bighorn to San Juan Hill* (Osprey Publishing, Oxford, UK, 2018).



In 1872, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer posed in his buckskins and fur cap, with his .50–70 Springfield rifle, most likely an 1866 model with a possible Allin conversion. Prior to the Battle of Rosebud and Little Bighorn, Brig. Gen. George Crook and Custer were issued an updated 1873 Springfield "trapdoor" .45–70. Crook and Custer's soldiers were the first to use them in battle and the mixed results—based on post-battle analysis of accuracy and ammunition spent—are still debated by historians today.

For this photograph, White Moon, a Northern Cheyenne who fought at the Battle of Little Bighorn, held a US Springfield carbine, caliber .45, serial no. 48482, he took from a slain 7th Cavalry trooper on June 25, 1876. He gave the carbine to Thomas B. Marquis on June 24, 1927, soon after the doctor-historian took his picture. White Moon was 77 years old when he participated with fellow Northern Cheyenne Wooden Leg, Little Sun, Wolf Chief and Big Beaver at the 51st Little Bighorn Battle Reunion. He died in May 1931.

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

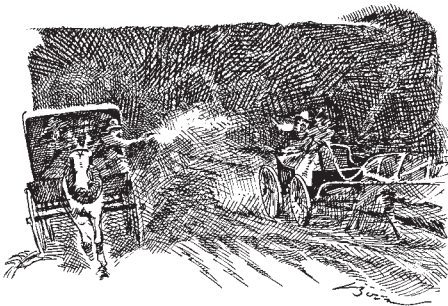
CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE NUDE DUEL THAT WILL NOT DIE

WHORES BANG AWAY

NOTORIOUS NARCISSIST NICKED IN NECK

HISTORY IS A CRUEL TRICK PLAYED ON THE DEAD BY THE LIVING



Denver's first drive-by shooting takes place as Mattie and Cortez are making their way "home" after the fight at Olympic Park. A carriage pulls alongside theirs, and a shot is fired. Mattie's man is hit in the neck.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Subscribers can read the original full-length "Nude Duel" story from December 2015 in *True West's* Archives or in Bob Boze Bell's *Classic Gunfighters, Volume 1*. Both are available through TrueWestMagazine.com.

AUGUST 24, 1877

Awild picnic is in progress just outside the city limits of Denver, Colorado. The notorious brothel owner, Mattie Silks, is among the party crowd. She is with her "kept man," Cortez Thomson, a handsome, fleet-footed gambler.

After numerous rounds of drinking games and bawdy fun, Mattie notices a voluptuous business rival, Katie Fulton, displaying an extreme amount of affection toward her man. Words are exchanged and threats are made. Neither soiled dove backs down.

A duel is suggested and agreed to, with Cort acting as Mattie's second and Sam Thatcher as a second for Katie. Pistols are produced. To facilitate better aim, both women strip to the waist. In classic dueling fashion, the two women step off the required paces, turn and fire.

In the twilight, a cry is heard, and a body falls to the ground. Everyone rushes forward through the billowing gunsmoke to see which queen of the demimonde is still standing. To the crowd's, and perhaps the shooter's, surprise, both prostitutes are still on their feet. Cort, however, writhes on the ground with a bullet in his neck.

Great story, but there's one problem: It didn't happen.

Here's the real story: A half-dozen of the "sporting crowd" are celebrating Cort's stunning win against the noted Sam Doherty in a 125-yard foot race. With at least \$2,000 in winnings (which Mattie had personally bet on Cort), the revelry begins in earnest.

By evening, Cort, Mattie, Katie, her "friend" Sam and possibly two others have ended up on the banks of the South Platte River to drink at the spot that the *Rocky Mountain News* bemoans is a "resort for fast men and for fast women."

Although the cause is unknown, an argument ensues between Mattie and Katie, whereupon Cort steps between the two and punches Katie in the face, knocking her down. Sam tries to protect Katie from further attack, but he is decked. When Katie attempts to fight her assailant, she's knocked down a second time. A kick in the face breaks

her nose. In the melee, Cort pulls a pistol, which someone jostles loose from his grip, and it falls in the grass.

The fight breaks up, and the bleeding, dishevelled combatants stagger to their respective carriages and head toward the city limits. Beyond Olympic Park, a carriage draws up beside Cort's carriage. A shot is then fired, and Mattie's man is grazed in the neck. Cort survives—end of story.

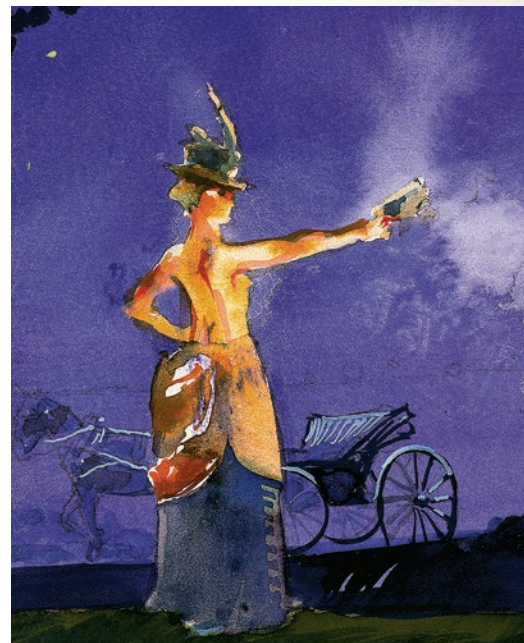
According to popular belief, the assailant's carriage contains Katie and Sam. The shot is said to be fired from the pistol that Cort dropped in the grass.

So where did the "naked" duel story come from?

Two newspapers reported the park altercation: *The Times* and *Rocky Mountain News*. Although the two reports are specific about what happened (no duel), when referring to the opposing sides, one paper states the periphery partisans are "seconds."

In 1939, Forbes Parkhill will write a book titled *The Wildest of the West*. While researching, he pounces on the word "seconds," which is often applied to duels. (One who assists or supports another in a duel is a "second.")

Colorado Heritage editor Clark Secrest says, "Every year the *Rocky Mountain News* publishes the Mattie Silks duel story, and every year we write to them that it never happened, and every year they run a retraction. The story will probably never die."





Katie Fulton



A short and “Rubenesque” Mattie Silks in 1880 (right). She will marry three times (Cort is her second husband), but she will later claim Cort was her first love. She dies on January 7, 1929, at age 83 (assuming her birth year was really 1846), leaving \$4,000 in real estate and \$2,500 in jewelry.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Mattie Silks and Katie Fulton square off (below) and fire. Hit by the shot, Cortez Thomson grabs his neck (middle right). Did Mattie strip off topless, or did she take off just her outer garments (above). Actually, neither, as we shall see.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Katie Fulton left Denver on the next train bound for Kansas City, but she soon returned. On September 3, 1877, she had another confrontation with Mattie Silks, who decked Katie once again, reinjuring her nose. After the fight, Madam Fulton left for good.



The altercation took place at Olympic Park (also called Denver Park), which is today called Confluence Park. The park now has extensive bike paths and picnic areas.



Mattie Silks and Cortez Thomson (various writers misspell it as “Thompson”) had a stormy union, but she stuck with him for 30 years. By all accounts, he was a no-good drunk.



Cort continued to race, although he was arrested for throwing a foot race in August 1880. (Perhaps his legs were beginning to deteriorate.) Mattie supported him through several of her fortunes and periodically sent him to dry out at a cattle ranch she owned near Wray, Colorado. He died in a Wray hotel on April 10, 1900.



Recommended: *Hell's Belles: Prostitution, Vice and Crime in Early Denver* by Clark Secrest, published by the University Press of Colorado.



BY CANDY MOULTON

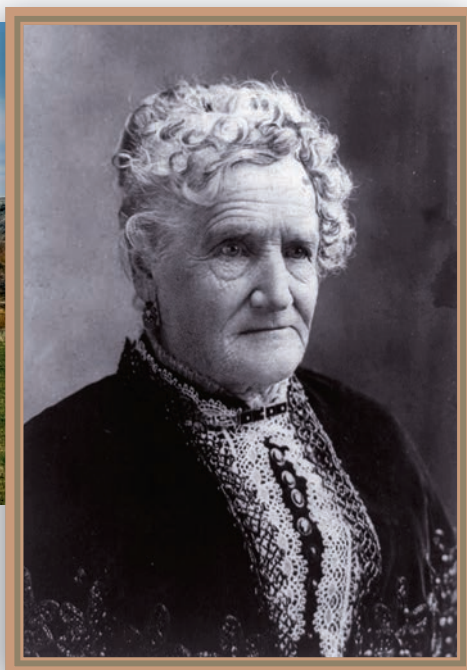
We Won't Back Down

Western women led the way for woman suffrage 50 years before 19th Amendment became the law of the land.



South Pass City is a popular Wyoming State Historic Site with over two dozen original buildings and sites of the mining boomtown restored and open to tour 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. South Pass City's Esther Morris, the nation's first female justice of the peace, is honored in an exhibit in her son's former residence, the E.A. Slack Cabin.

- COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM -



Placer gold strikes led to the establishment of South Pass City in 1867, and the region quickly swelled in population, contributing to the establishment of Wyoming Territory in 1868. Just a year later, the territory became the epicenter of woman suffrage in the nation when a representative to the Territorial legislative convention from South Pass City introduced woman suffrage legislation.

While men had to propose and endorse the woman suffrage bill, Esther Hobart Morris is credited for her role in the movement. In 1868, her husband, John Morris, and her eldest son came to South Pass City, where John opened a saloon. Esther and two younger sons arrived in the mining camp in 1869. She quickly established a presence in the community. In one meeting in her home with E.G. Nickerson and

William Bright, candidates for the Territorial Legislature, she discussed and gained assurance from the men that they would support a suffrage bill.

Bright subsequently introduced the legislation, which was approved, and Wyoming Territory's woman suffrage bill was signed into law on December 10, 1869—a full 50 years before women gained the right to vote in the national woman suffrage bill of 1920.

While some of the men supporting the legislation may have been swayed by arguments that women were deserving of the vote, another factor contributed to the success in passing the bill. There were far more men in the territory than women, and the men anticipated they could attract additional women if they had a greater grant of rights. In addition to the right for women to vote, the Territorial Legislature also

While her tenure on the bench was only eight months, Esther Morris's single term as Wyoming Territorial justice of the peace from February to October 1870 made national headlines and earned her the nickname "terror of all rogues" from the editors of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

approved legislation that allowed women to serve on juries and in the courts.

Louisa Swain of Laramie was the first woman to vote in Wyoming Territory, casting her ballot on September 6, 1870. That same year, Esther Hobart Morris became the first female justice of the peace in the United States, when she was appointed to the position to replace J. W. Stillman in South Pass City.

Original buildings from South Pass City have been restored at the mining camp that



The Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, will celebrate the centennial of woman suffrage—and the state being the first to grant women the vote—with the special exhibition “Women in Wyoming.”

— COURTESY BBCW —

is now a Wyoming State Historic Site, west of Lander off Wyoming Highway 28. One of those buildings recognizes the role Esther Hobart Morris played in women’s rights in Wyoming Territory.

In Lander, visit the Pioneer Museum, which has a small exhibit about Morris and woman suffrage that includes personal items that belonged to Morris. The adjacent Museum of the American West includes a collection of original buildings from throughout the region, ranging from homestead cabins to a church.

The portrait and interview exhibit “Women in Wyoming,” at the Buffalo Bill

Center of the West in Cody, highlights some of the “bold, strong, and impactful” women who shaped the region. The exhibit is on display until early August.

Utah, which was not yet a territory, also approved suffrage for women early, and women in that area cast the first ballots in the nation—predating even the ballot cast by Louisa Swain in Wyoming Territory. “Sisters for Suffrage: How Utah Women Won the Vote” recognizes the role Mormon women and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Relief Society had in gaining suffrage. The exhibit at the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City remains in place until January 2021.

Oregon Trail pioneer Abigail Scott Duniway taught school in Oregon and later became a newspaper journalist and champion of the woman suffrage movement in the Pacific Northwest, working tirelessly to gain equal rights for women in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Among the new exhibits on display are “Nevertheless, They Persisted: The Nineteenth Amendment and Women’s

Voting Rights” that remains in place until November 8 at the Oregon Historical Society and “Votes for Women: 100 Years and Counting” on display through August at the Washington State History Museum.

Suffrage by Referendum

Colorado, a state that approved woman suffrage by referendum in 1893, highlights its role in the woman suffrage movement with a History Colorado exhibit, “Bold Women. Change History” that is now showing in the carriage house of the Byers-Evans House Museum in Denver. The exhibit provides information about leaders of the suffrage movement in Colorado, and includes a ballot from the 1893 election as well as a ballot box from the same era.

Other Western states granted woman suffrage before it became a nationally recognized right in 1920, and there will be programs and celebrations across the region. Workshops and other activities will take place in Wichita, Kansas, for the official Kansas Celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial, August 13-16, with a separate celebration at the Leavenworth Heritage Center in Leavenworth, Kansas, on August 15.

The Los Angeles School District has designated August 18 as “Remembering Women’s Suffrage Day.” The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will host a centennial celebration on August 23. The exhibit “The Right is Ours: Women Win the Vote” on display at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre through November 3.



Eighteen years after the women of the Wyoming Territory were granted suffrage and voted in their first Territorial elections, woman suffrage in the soon-to-be Western state was a front-page story in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* on November 24, 1888.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



On February 14, 1870, Seraph Young (inset) became the first woman in the United States to cast her vote in a public election at the polling station at the Salt Lake City Hall (left) two days after the Utah Territorial Legislature granted suffrage to Utah women. Learn more about Utah's role in woman suffrage at a current exhibit at the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City's Temple Square.

— UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM/IMAGE OF SERAPH YOUNG
COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Women Lead the States

In addition to gaining the right to vote, serve on juries, and sit as judges in courts, Wyoming women led the way politically when Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first female governor in the nation when she was elected in 1925 to fill the unexpired term of her husband, William Ross, who died in office. Nellie Tayloe Ross later became the director of the U.S. Mint.

Just 15 days after Nellie Tayloe Ross was sworn in as governor of Wyoming, Miriam “Ma” Ferguson took the oath of office as governor of Texas. Ferguson’s first term was filled with political strife and controversy. She achieved an anti-mask law against the Ku Klux Klan, but the courts overturned it; she cut the state budget, but was charged with granting state road contracts to her friends in exchange for kickbacks; she pardoned around 100 convicts a month and was accused of accepting bribes of cash and land. Ferguson

lost her bid for re-election in 1926, but made a political comeback in 1932. Though not as controversial in her second term as governor, Ma Ferguson did continue with her liberal practice of pardoning criminals.

The West established the role of equal rights for women decades before it became a national right. The national leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony won greater national recognition for their work for woman suffrage, but Western women truly led the way.



Candy Moulton recommends a Sunday afternoon visit to South Pass City, *No Place for a Woman: The Struggle for Suffrage in the Wild West* by Chris Enss, and a burger at the Gannett Grill in Lander, Wyoming.

A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

The first woman to cast a vote with a government expedition in the West took place on November 24, 1805, when the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition selected a location to camp for the winter. In addition to the official expedition members, Clark’s slave, York, and Sacajawea, the Shoshone woman who accompanied the expedition, and who Clark often called Janey, also voted that day. The votes of each member of the Corps of Discovery were recorded by Capt. William Clark. York agreed with the men that they should cross the Columbia River and find a place to winter and Clark wrote: “Janey in favour of a place where there is plenty of Potas [potatoes].” The decision led the expedition to establish Fort Clatsop, a site that is now protected as

part of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park near Seaside, Oregon.

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: *Atlantic City Mercantile, Atlantic City, WY; Wyoming Rib & Chop House, Cheyenne, WY; The Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO; White Horse Saloon, Hotel & Cafe, Spirit Lake, ID; Red Iguana, Salt Lake City, UT*

GOOD LODGING: *Irma Hotel, Cody, WY; Historic Plains Hotel, Cheyenne, WY; Brown Palace, Denver, CO; Hotel 43, Boise, ID; Peery Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT*

A statue of Sacajewea greets visitors to the recreated Fort Clatsop at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

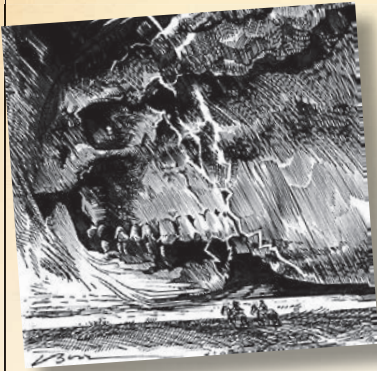
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TRUE WEST MOMENTS

An Old West Scourge

As dangerous as the Wild West was, all the battles and armed conflicts paled when compared to the deadly foe of smallpox. An airborne scourge for centuries, smallpox arrived in the New World with the Spanish in 1509 and spread from the Caribbean to the North American Indian population where it decimated entire tribes. Although vaccination campaigns began in the early 1800s, the disease was not eradicated until the 1970s.



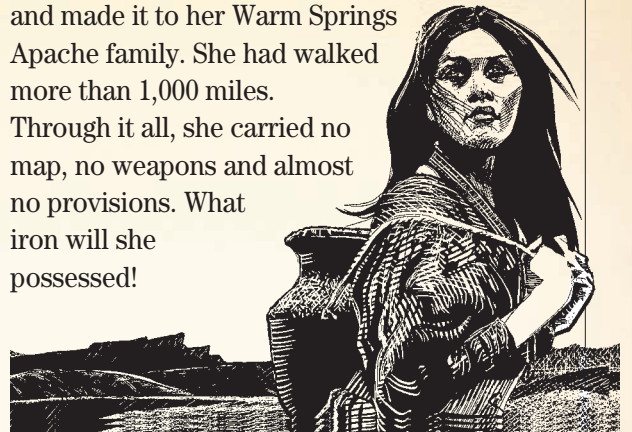
Not So Gentle Tamers

Although some have portrayed early Arizona pioneer women as being “gentle tamers” the term does a bit of disservice to the toughness of these women. Whether they were wrangling ornery kids, or dispatching hogs, chickens, scorpions and rattlesnakes, the women who lived in Arizona Territory had to be tough. We, their offspring, admire and thank them for their grit.



Apache Endurance

Captured by Sonoran mercenaries near Esqueda, Sonora, Mexico (south of present-day Douglas, Arizona), in the mid-1860s, Dilcthe was sold into slavery and shipped to the Baja Peninsula, where she ended up as an indentured servant at a hacienda. She and several others escaped, outrunning and outsmarting the mounted search parties sent to track them down. Crossing the Colorado River near Yuma (she couldn't swim), Dilcthe evaded ambush by Yuma raiders and made it to her Warm Springs Apache family. She had walked more than 1,000 miles. Through it all, she carried no map, no weapons and almost no provisions. What iron will she possessed!



30-Love at Fort Apache

In 1874, newlywed Martha Summerhayes accompanied her soldier husband on a grueling three-month journey from Fort Russell, Wyoming, to Arizona, where he had been transferred. The couple traveled by train to San Francisco, California, by packet to Cabo San Lucas and Guaymas, by steamer to Yuma, Arizona, and Fort Mohave and finally by wagon (he walked) to Fort Whipple, Fort Verde, up the Mogollon Rim and on to the lonely outpost called Fort Apache. Pregnant with her first child, Martha unpacked, then ventured out to see what the other wives were doing. To her surprise, she found a young lieutenant's wife playing tennis. Yes, tennis in the wilds of Arizona in 1874. Smashing!

Failure is Impossible

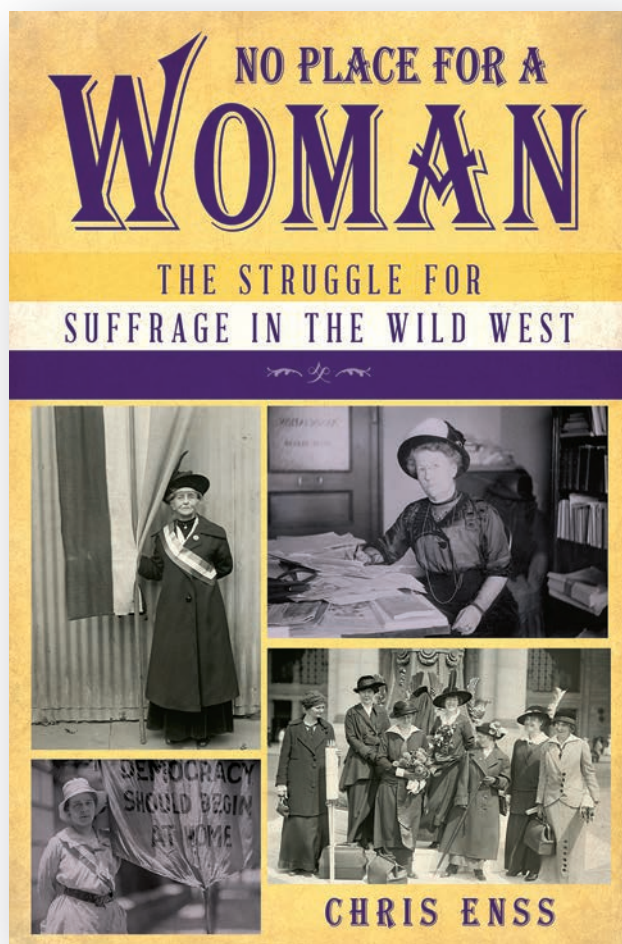
Chris Enss's take on woman suffrage in the West in *No Place for a Woman*; a new Spillane-Collins noir Western; the Civil War out West; and women on the range.

On August 18, 2020, the citizenry of the United States will commemorate the centennial of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution and American women's right to vote. The Tennessee State Legislature receives credit for being the 31st state to ratify the Susan B. Anthony Suffrage Amendment, but their historic votes represent the culmination of three generations of women seeking suffrage under the Constitution, and many of the women who led the charge lived in the Western United States. Chris Enss's latest history book, *No Place for a Woman: The Struggle for Suffrage in the Wild West* (TwoDot, \$26.95), brings voice to those courageous and determined women, many of whom received suffrage up to a half century earlier than their American sisters because of progressive and practical politics in Western territories and states. The first to vote in a general election were women in the Territory of Wyoming. Enss writes: "Wyoming Territory's motives for extending the vote to women probably had more to do with publicity and attracting female settlers to the territory than with any desire to establish a more egalitarian society. However, individual men's interests in the idea of women's rights had their roots in diverse ideologies."

As a primer on gender equality in the West, Enss's *No Place for a Woman* provides the reader with chapters organized geographically and chronologically, each peppered with anecdotal timelines, sidebars and biographical profiles of women influential to the Western suffrage movement. Additionally, the timeline of woman suffrage

in the United States in Turner's introduction is useful and informative as a tool to refer to while reading about the many different leaders and events that shaped the suffrage fight from 1776 to 1984. But, Enss notes, "in the hundred years since Tennessee ratified the 19th Amendment, formalizing American women's place as equal voting citizens under the Constitution of the United States, the fight for the franchise has not ended."

Enss continues to be one of the top producers of popular Western history and *No Place for a Woman* is a great new addition to the Enss Library of the Old West. With the full support of TwoDot's editor, Erin H. Turner, who contributed a wonderful and informative introduction, Enss's highly readable volume should be considered a textbook for high school or introductory Western history college courses. More importantly, in the midst of our national struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic during the 19th Amendment centennial commemoration, we are reminded that our citizens have the fortitude and determination to overcome the most insurmountable odds. As Enss writes



so eloquently about the women who led the fight for the right to vote—and convinced their fellow men and women to trust them and do the right things for the country— "[W]e should not ignore the sacrifices and radical adjustment of thinking that were the required elements of success."

—Stuart Rosebrook



PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY

This month, I'd like to spotlight the creative talent of our columnists and contributors, who collectively have published dozens, if not hundreds, of titles and columns, and received numerous accolades and awards for their writing. Check out these titles and their websites:

Leo W. Banks: *Double Wide and Champagne Cowboys*; LeoWBanks.com.

Johnny D. Boggs: *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012 and Return to Red River*; JohnnyDBoggs.com.

Jana Bommersbach: *Cattle Kate: A Novel and The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd*; JanaBommersbach.com.

Jan MacKell Collins: *Brothels, Bordellos & Bad Girls: Prostitution in Colorado, 1860-1930 and Good Time Girls of Arizona and New Mexico: A Red-Light History of the American Southwest*; JanMackellCollins.com.

John P. Langellier: *The "Trapdoor" Springfield: From the Little Bighorn to San Juan Hill and Fighting for Uncle Sam: Buffalo Soldiers in the Frontier Army*; Amazon.com.

Sherry Monahan: *The Golden Elixir of the West: Whiskey and the Shaping of America and California Madams*; SherryMonahan.com.

Candy Moulton: *The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in the Wild West from 1840-1900 and Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People*; CandyMoulton.com.

Phil Spangenberg: For over 15 years Phil has been the Firearms Editor for *True West*. Subscribe to the magazine, including the archives, and enjoy the best of Phil's writing about Old West firearms; TrueWestMagazine.com.

Marshall Trimble: *AZ Oddities, Land of Anomalies and Tamales and A Roadside History of Arizona*; MarshallTrimble.com.

Bonus: Recent Books on Western women featured in this issue:

Esther Hobart Morris: The Unembellished Story of the Nation's First Female Judge by Kathryn Swim Cummings (High Plains Press, 2019); HighPlainsPress.com.

Calamity: The Many Lives of Calamity Jane by Karen Jones (Yale University, 2020); YaleBooks.Yale.edu.

—Stuart Rosebrook

TWO WOMEN RETAKING THE WEST BY STORM!

Esther Hobart Morris
The Unembellished Story of the Nation's First Female Judge

In 1870 Esther Morris became the first woman judge in the nation and the face of the Woman Suffrage movement in the United States.

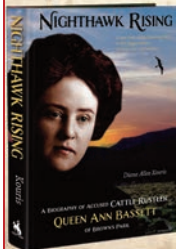
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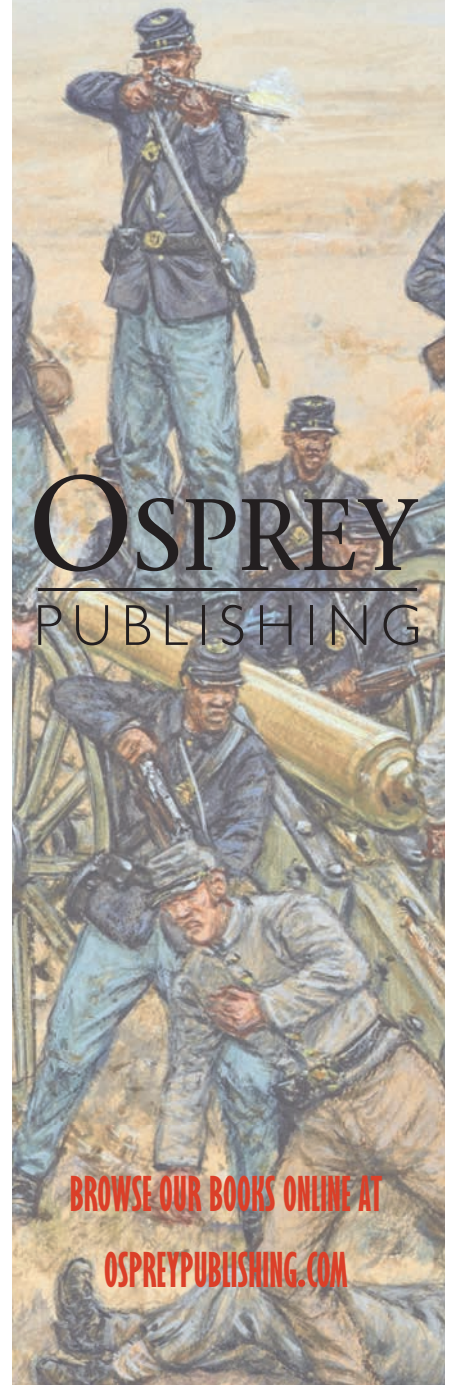
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I, the Sheriff

Lawman Caleb York, whose gun is quick, has a mad-dog killer meaner than William Quantrill and a killer blizzard to deal with in *Hot Lead, Cold Justice* (Kensington, \$25). Max Allan Collins again brings the fifth installment of the series—which started as a Western screenplay written by crime novelist Mickey Spillane for John Wayne—to fruition. While Spillane (1918-2006) was never considered a wordsmith like Raymond Chandler or Loren D. Estleman, he was a master of plotting, and Collins, a Thriller Award-nominee this year for *Girl Most Likely*, gives fans of traditional Westerns what they expect, sprinkling in period detail with action galore. *Hot Lead, Cold Justice* is a lot like a Louis L'Amour novel, only with more violence and sex.

—Johnny D. Boggs, author of
Taos Lightning

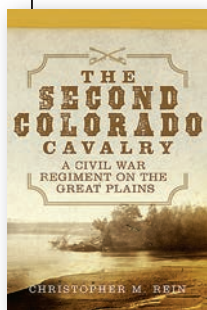


North and South Clash in the West

The earliest writings on the American Civil War tended to focus on military operations in the South, but with the passage of time, some authors looked westward, albeit in titles aimed at a general readership. Later generations brought more academic scholarship to bear. *The Second Colorado Cavalry: A Civil War Regiment on the Great Plains* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$34.95) by Christopher M. Rein demonstrates the trend toward thoughtful analysis. As David Sutherland succinctly stated on the dust jacket: “Christopher Rein’s rich and deft combination of military, social, and environmental history forcefully illustrates the complexity of the Civil War.” Sutherland added that Rein offers “far more than a regimental history,” in that he “connects the conflict between

North and South to the conquest of the Great Plains....” *The Second Colorado Cavalry* is a welcome addition to the field.

—John Langellier,
author of *Union
Infantryman, 1861-1865*



Getting Western Texas-Style

Once readers get used to award-winning filmmaker Eric Heisner’s present-tense style of writing in *Along to Presidio: A Western Novel* (Lean Dog Productions, \$24.95), they’ll find a Western rich in character and scope. In a nameless West Texas town, the good-natured Colbert brothers experience the brutality of big man Dutch Werner’s unruly tribe. Appointed marshal and deputies, the brothers soon find themselves administering a dubious brand of law and order that skirts the fine line between justice and vengeance. The blood-soaked conclusion is inevitable, but plays out with cinematic style. The book is available in digital format, but the hard-cover—with its beautiful dust cover—is an attractive package that best shows off the fine pencil art of illustrator Ethan Pro.

—Richard Prosch, author of *Peregrine: The Collected John Coburn Western Tales*



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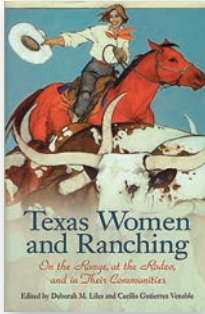
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Western Women of Grit

Deborah M. Liles and Cecelia Gutierrez Venable's fine collection, *Texas Women and Ranching: On the Range, at the Rodeo, and in Their Communities* (Texas A&M University Press, \$32), offers thorough

and engaging accounts of Texan women on ranches during the last two centuries. Emerging from presentations delivered at a Texas State Historical Association meeting, these diverse essays contribute to the growing scholarship on women's roles in the Western traditions of ranching. These hardy and determined women, living with their husbands and families on often tough and dry Texas ranches, held their own. Many of them, during decades of widowhood, ran ranches on their own, continued to raise their children and contributed to their local, regional and national cultures through their toughness and determination. These were ladies with grit.

—Bonney MacDonald, *WTAMU Series Editor on the American West with Texas A&M University Press*



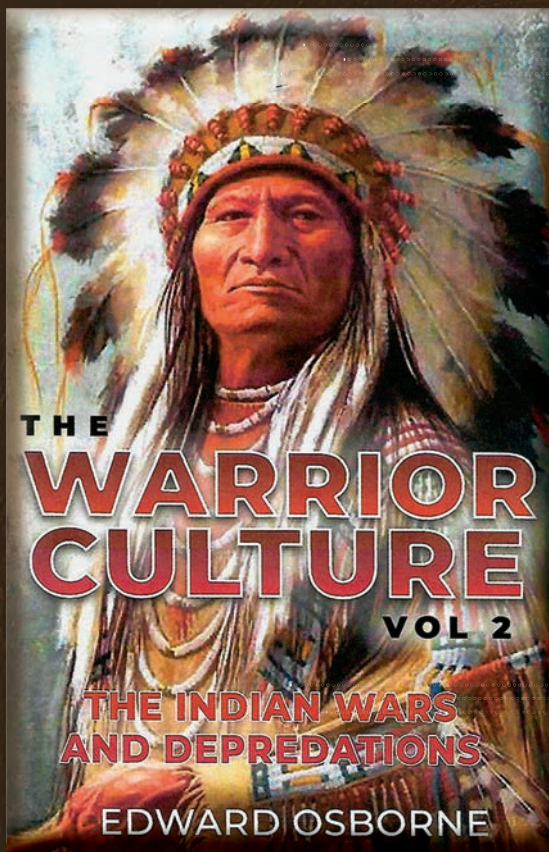
PHOTO BY BOB NOLL

WYOMING AUTHOR'S TOP MEMOIRS OF 19TH-CENTURY FRONTIER WOMEN

Candy Moulton of Encampment, Wyoming, has traveled more miles by wagon train than any working journalist today. Her books include *Wagon Wheels: A Contemporary Journey on the Oregon Trail* (co-authored with Ben Kern, High Plains Press), and 2020 Spur Award Finalist *The Mormon Handcart Migration: 'Toungue nor pen can never tell the story'* (Oklahoma, 2020). Candy recommends these frontier female memoirs, but notes there are many more good accounts that would be on a longer list.

1 ***A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*** (Isabella Bird, Pinnacle Press): Bird traveled alone on foot or horseback throughout Colorado in 1873, recording her travels—including climbing Colorado's mountains and dealing with snowstorms—in letters to her sister, that later became the book.

- 2 ***Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage*** (Carrie Adell Strahorn, 2 volumes, University of Nebraska Press): After Carrie joined her husband out West in 1877, she started writing about her travels. Her memoir describes over three decades of Western adventures.
- 3 ***Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails*** (Kenneth L. Holmes, Editor, Arthur H. Clark Co.): This 11-volume series is essential for anyone wanting to understand the women who traveled overland in the U.S. in the 19th century
- 4 ***Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847*** (Stella M. Drumm, Editor, Bison Books): Magoffin's diary of her travels with her Santa Fe Trail trader husband is arguably the best account of the region during the time period.
- 5 ***My Army Life and the Fort Phil. Kearney Massacre: The Classic Account of an Infantry Lieutenant's Wife on the Great Plains During the Indian Wars*** (Frances C. Carrigan, J. B. Lippincott): In one of the most important accounts by a frontier Army wife, Frances Grummond lost her first husband, Army Lt. William Grummond, in the 1866 Fetterman fight.



“Even more important than its expansion of battle history, *Warrior Culture and the Indian Wars* includes a focus on the lasting modern impacts of Custer’s Last Stand and the battle of Wounded Knee...” “Osborne’s observations and questions are thought-provoking...” “Authoritative, controversial, and steeped in footnoted references and scholarship, *Warrior Culture: The Indian Wars* is highly recommended for any college-level reader or western history enthusiast...”

— Diane Donovan, *Midwest Book Review*

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E-book, now Available

A Fistful of Ladies

Women may love Westerns, but only a handful have directed one.



Following in the tradition of the Western genre's best directors, Kelly Reichardt prefers to film her Westerns as close to locations in the script as possible. In 2009, when given the opportunity to direct her first film about a westward bound wagon train—*Meek's Cutoff*—she took her cast and crew to the rolling grasslands and high desert of eastern Oregon.

— COURTESY EVENSTAR FILMS —

Westerns have always had a sizable female following. But while we've long had female on-screen icons like Maureen O'Hara and Barbara Stanwyck, less than a half-dozen have sat in the director's chair.

In the "silent" days of 1913, Canadian Nell Shipman began writing and starring in Westerns. By 1920, she was co-directing her own features in which, rather than playing the typical waif in need of rescue, the outdoorswoman was more likely to rescue the male lead.



Shipman retired in 1924, and it would be 35 years before another woman would take on the mantle. Sixteen-year-old British beauty Ida Lupino was already a star when, in 1934, she came to Hollywood. Continuing to act, in 1949 she began to write and direct tough *films noir*. Ten years later she directed her first Western, an episode of *Hotel de Paree*. Series star Earl Holliman, recalls, "She was a movie star, and I had watched her for years. Directors who've acted can be very helpful. She was sharp, knew exactly what she wanted, where she wanted the cameras." Still, on her first Western, communication wasn't always easy. "She was English, and she talked about when the heavies go up to the bar, 'to have a couple of hookers,'

An early trailblazer in international cinema, Nell Shipman (near left) produced, directed and starred in the 1923 American silent Western film, *The Grub Stake*.

— COURTESY NELL SHIPMAN PRODUCTIONS —

which in England means a tall whiskey. And the assistant director asks the producers, "Where will we get these hookers?" Ida was talking about drinks; they were talking about whores." Lupino would go on to direct episodes of *Have Gun-Will Travel*, *The Rifleman*, *The Virginian* and others.

Nine years later, Lina Wertmuller, the first woman ever nominated for a Best Director Oscar, became the first, and probably only woman to direct a Spaghetti Western. *The Belle Starr Story* was shooting in Yugoslavia when star Elsa Martinelli insisted the director be replaced, with Wertmuller. "I thought it was a great move," recalls male lead Robert Woods. "I love her films; she's a true artist." Wertmuller worked for hours on scenes with Martinelli, and wrote her a poignant speech about Woods' character being the only man she ever loved. "Then halfway through the picture, they had the Indian girl kill me! But I still got my sixty grand."



While actress Ida Lupino is well-known for her career in front of the camera from the 1930s to the 1970s, including *The Virginian* (above, holding the baby) and other TV Westerns, Lupino's groundbreaking time behind the camera was truly remarkable. She directed episodes of *Hotel de Paree*, *Have Gun-Will Travel*, *The Rifleman*, *Daniel Boone* and *The Virginian*.

- IDA LUPINO WITH CAMERA COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/
IDA LUPINO ON "THE VIRGINIAN" COURTESY NBC TELEVISION -

Now in the 21st century, Kelly Reichardt has directed two fine, critically acclaimed Westerns. *Meek's Cutoff* (2010) is the story of a tiny wagon train whose Oregon Trail journey is waylaid when wagon master Meek takes them on a "shortcut." Her new film, *The First Cow*, is the seriocomic story of the first cow introduced into an Oregon frontier and the entrepreneurs who build a business on filched milk. The director did not set out to make Westerns. "The only Western image that really impressed me as a kid growing up in Miami was the Marlboro Man." In *Meek's Cutoff*, "[there's a] bossy man on a horse, a wandering Indian, wagons, oxen and cooking over an open fire. So, the Western was hanging over me while making that film. The visual language of the genre is strong. With *First Cow* I didn't feel I was walking in the footprint of the genre. I could do whatever I wanted, maybe because many of my influences came from Asian films and French painters."

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Director Lina Wertmuller broke numerous glass ceilings as a female film director, including being the first to be nominated for an Oscar and the only woman to date to direct a Spaghetti Western, *The Belle Starr Story* (1968).

- COURTESY UNITED PRODUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL -

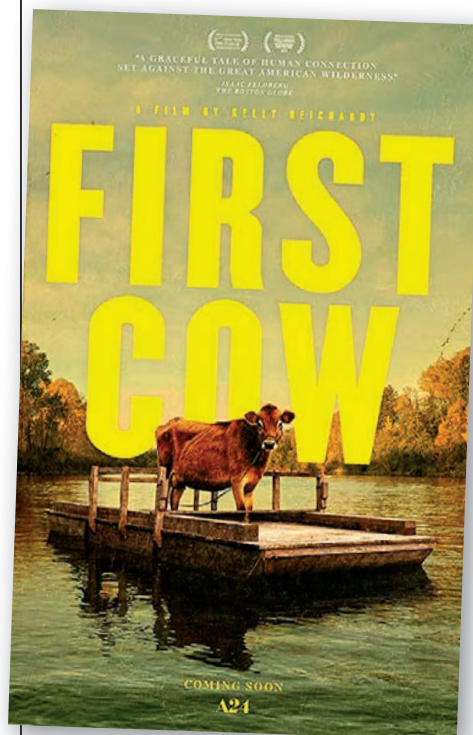
What challenges does she face making period pictures? “Harsh landscapes, extreme weather, rattlesnakes, oxen and a volatile actor. *Meek’s* pushed people to their limits and brought out the best and worst in us all. The rewards, to name a few: times of a perfect synchronicity with crew, actors and nature; the lovely

animals; shared research.” That shared research, which included the lead actors, produced films of startling accuracy. About *Meek’s*, she said, “The art department research brought [Production Designer] David Doernberg and me in contact with a lot of strange and interesting people. Michelle Williams was reading the diaries from the pioneer women, and Zoe Kazan had been researching the frontier since



Ten years since Kelly Reichardt (above) went to eastern Oregon to direct her first Western, *Meek’s Cutoff*, the award-winning filmmaker returned to the northwestern state to make *First Cow*, a film about the early days of the Oregon Territory.

- IMAGE OF KELLY REICHARDT BY STEPHEN LOVEKIN COURTESY GETTY IMAGES AND “FIRST COW” POSTER COURTESY FILM SCIENCE -



she was a little girl obsessed with *Little House on the Prairie*.”

First Cow is not as grim as *Meek's*, but Reichardt doesn't call it a comedy. "I really don't put it in any certain category. I think it has weight and humor and a searching quality. But it was fun cutting the film and it often made me laugh."

Considering the striking but nontraditional beauty of the films, it's no surprise that Reichardt and cinematographer Christopher Blauvelt have many influences. "Winslow Homer for certain, and Robert Adams' photography, pioneer wildlife photographer William L. Finely, the paintings of Michael Brophy, who also took me on scouts out in the high desert of Oregon. The Westerns of Anthony Mann and Budd Boetticher."

Would more women assuming the Top Hand role make a significant change in Westerns? "The genre already is what it is. That language is already in stone. Now that more women are getting the chance to direct, they can comment on the genre, but creating a whole new language for it is probably impossible."

BLU-RAY REVIEW

BEND OF THE RIVER (1952)



- COURTESY UNIVERSAL -

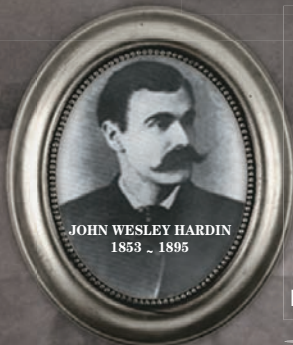
(KINO LORBER, Blu-ray \$29.95) The second of five legendary Western collaborations between director Anthony Mann and James Stewart, *Bend of the River* is tough, intense, exuberant and beautiful. In this study of the corrupting effect of sudden wealth, Stewart must use force to get his pioneer community's desperately needed—and paid for—supplies when a local gold-strike presents a more lucrative market to the heartless, once-friendly townspeople. Arthur Kennedy and Julie Adams offer strong support.



Henry C. Parke, Western Films Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter and blogs at HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com. His book of interviews, *Indians and Cowboys*, will be published later this year.

Concordia Cemetery

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The Wild, Wild West

Now, more than ever, it's time to rediscover your favorite Westerns and enjoy recent productions that keep the Old West alive in film and television.

With extra time at home during the ongoing pandemic, *True West's* editorial staff thought it would be fun to share with readers our favorite Western movies and television series—including recent productions streaming over your favorite channels, as well as some great online sources for hard-to-find classics.

Fans of Western film and television can vouch for the fact that there seem to be more choices than ever on cable and streaming services. Yet, when scrolling through the thousands of titles on your favorite

on-demand network, you might suddenly discover yourself in some sort of déjà-vu rerun of being at a 1990s video store with thousands of titles staring back at you, and none appealing enough to rent.

Luckily, the Western fan stuck at home can escape the television-streaming blues and rediscover the fun of building a personal home collection of hard-to-find Western film and television. Here are five film distributors/retailers we recommend perfect for curing the “Stay-at-home-I don't have a Western-to-watch-Blues”:



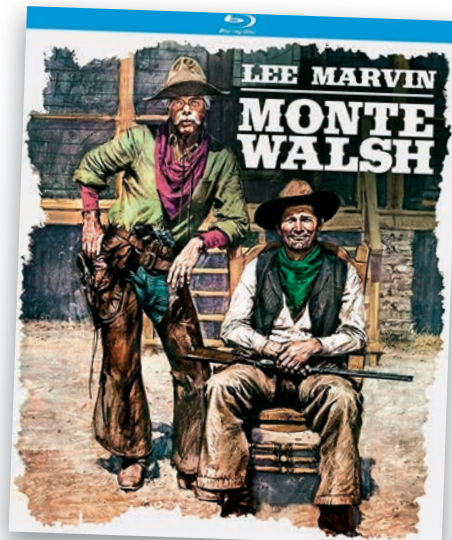
The Criterion Collection is unique among its competitors as it not only is a leader in restoration and remastering of Western cinema classics on DVD and Blu-ray, such as Marlon Brando's 1961 *One-Eyed Jacks*, but also has a direct subscription streaming service offering more than 2,000 titles from the Silent Era to the present.

— COURTESY THE CRITERION COLLECTION —

THE CRITERION COLLECTION

A pioneer in state-of-the-art film remastering, The Criterion Collection has saved hundreds of films worldwide since it was founded in 1984. Early collectors of laserdiscs will remember early Criterion film restorations, but today Western fans will discover on DVD and Blu-ray masterpieces such as *Stagecoach* (1939), *Red River* (1947), *3:10 to Yuma* (1957) and *One-Eyed Jacks* (1961). Criterion is also the only one of the five companies to host its own subscription streaming service with more than 2,000 movies to watch digitally for \$11 a month or \$100 a year.

Criterion.com



Rereleased under its Kino Lorber Studio Classics label, the 1970 cowboy classic *Monte Walsh* starring Lee Marvin and Jack Palance—offered in Blu-ray, Anamorphic, NTSC and Widescreen—is perfect for the Western cinephile.

— COURTESY KINO LORBER STUDIO CLASSICS —

KINO LORBER

Founded in 2009, Kino Lorber is internationally acclaimed for its restoration and distribution of film classics under the Kino Classics and Kino Lorber Studio Classics' banners. Western film fans will discover a broad selection of DVD and Blu-ray titles to choose from including *Rawhide* (1950), *Monte Walsh* (1970) and *Junior Bonner* (1972).

KinoLorber.com

MILL CREEK ENTERTAINMENT

One of the nation's largest distributors to retail outlets of DVD, Blu-ray and digital streaming entertainment, Mill Creek offers 40 titles including *Lonesome Dove* (CBS, 1989). The Minnesota company's also offers *Buffalo Gals*, *Bonanza*, *The Lone Ranger*, *The Greatest Western Heroes* (a 12-DVD set) and *The Definitive TV Western Collection* with 600 episodes.

MillCreekEnt.com

VCI ENTERTAINMENT

Film, serial, B-movie and television fans worldwide owe a great thanks to Bill Blair, the visionary film buff from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who more than 60 years ago founded United Films, a 16-mm film distributor. Today, VCI Entertainment is still a family enterprise that shares its passion for film history as one of the largest retailers of B-movie Western double features, Western serials and hard to find Westerns.

VCIEntertainment.com

**WARNER ARCHIVES—
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For the Western cinema and TV aficionado, Warner Brothers is synonymous with the genre, especially since Errol Flynn starred in *Dodge City* (1939), *Santa Fe Trail* (1940) and *They Died With Their Boots On* (1941). Warner's popular Western series included *Cheyenne*, *Maverick* and *Lawman*. Later, John Wayne and Clint Eastwood became well-known for their Warner productions, and the studio has lots of the Western duos' best Westerns in DVD and Blu-ray formats.

WarnerBros.com



Clint Eastwood fans will discover many of the star's Western titles, including the 1976 blockbuster *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, for purchase as a DVD or Blu-ray at Warner Brothers' Warner Archives—Western Collection (WarnerBros.com).

If the film is available digitally, the streaming service offering it is listed under the film's title.

— COURTESY WARNER BROS. —



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BY STUART ROSEBROOK

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Tack up with one of these great companies and live large like one of your cowboy-movie heroes.

North American companies, from Stetson to Shiloh Sharps, make it easy for you to wear and enjoy the Old West clothes, hats, boots, firearms, leather, tack, wild rags and historic glasses worn by the movie stars on the Silver Screen.

A century ago, early Western stars Tom Mix, Buck Jones, William S. Hart and others inspired a Roaring Twenties cowboy look in iconic American fashion. Working cowboys, buckaroos and vaqueros defined the clothes, tack and tools required for hard work. Everything the cowboy owned, from his spurs to his pistol, from his hat to his boots, was necessary for his work—and his survival.

Today, more than 150 years since John B. Stetson invented the cowboy hat, North American and international artisans and manufacturers have made it easier than ever for the Western cinema fan to own the same clothes, hats, leatherwork, wild rags, eyeglasses and firearms used and worn by the greatest Western film stars in their most iconic roles.



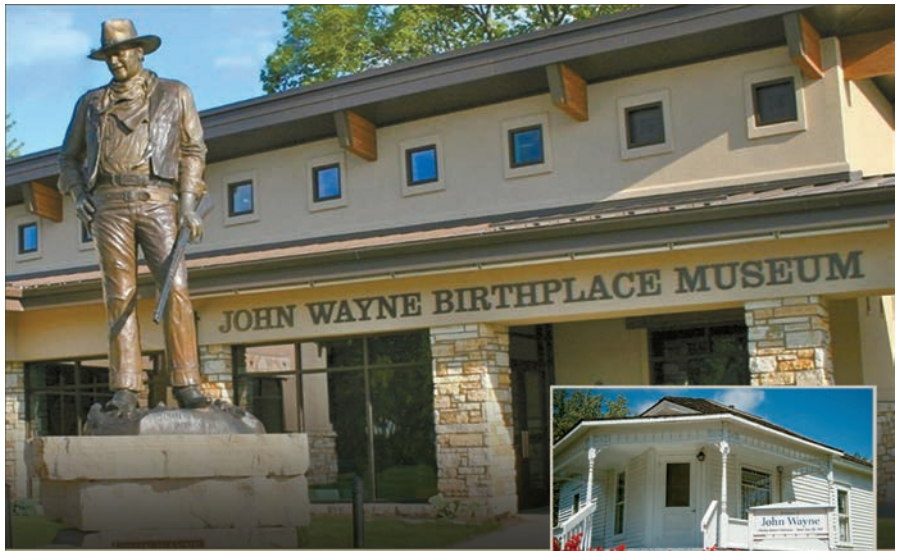
John Wayne's title role in *Hondo* became one of the most famous roles in his 50-year career on the Silver Screen. Fans of Wayne who want to dress like the Duke can wear a Hondo from KnudsenHats.com (above), order a similarly styled cotton bib shirt (no fringes or leather) from CattleKate.com and a wild rag to go with it from CowboyWildRags.com.

— COURTESY KNUDSEN HATS —

The 1993 production of *Tombstone* sparked new interest in historically accurate Western clothing, hats, firearms and accessories. Nearly three decades later, fans who want to wear costumes like (l.-r.) Val Kilmer, Sam Elliott, Kurt Russell and Bill Paxton wore in the film can find hats made by Knudsen Hat Company (KnudsenHats.com), O'Farrell Hat Company (OFarrellHatCo.com), Catalena Hatters (CatalenaHatters.com); a wild rag made by Cowboy Images Wild Rags (CowboyWildRags.com); and Tombstone-style frock coats and blazers from Cattle Kate's (CattleKate.com).

— COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES —





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John Bianchi's Frontier Gun Leather company in Rancho Mirage, California, has been supplying the finest handmade, hand-tooled leather gunbelts and holsters to firearms owners, law enforcement and Hollywood stars for over 60 years. One of Bianchi's first Western star customers was John Wayne, who sketched out exactly the type of gunbelt and holster he wanted, which Bianchi created and named the Half Breed Gunbelt and Holster Combo (above). Bianchi's combo represented a transition-style from the straight cut gunbelts of the 1870s to 1880s and the Buscadero Gunbelt of the late 1920s. Wayne wore it in *El Dorado* and *The Shootist* (above).

- GUNBELT IMAGE COURTESY JOHN BIANCHI AND FRONTIER GUN LEATHER/STILL FROM "THE SHOOTIST" COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES -

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The Shiloh Sharps Company (ShilohSharps.com) of Big Timber, Montana, made the "Quigley" 1874 Shiloh Sharps for Tom Selleck's (right) role as Matthew Quigley in the 1990 film *Quigley Down Under*. Selleck, who costarred with the late Alan Rickman (far right), used with great accuracy the powerful .45-70 caliber rifle with Semi Buckhorn rear sight. Fans who admire the costumes of Selleck and his cast members, including Selleck's wild rag and Rickman's frock coat, can find similar accessories and jackets at CowboyWildRags.com and CattleKate.com.

- SHILOH SHARPS "QUIGLEY" PHOTO COURTESY SHILOHSHARPS.COM/"QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER" IMAGE COURTESY MGM -



CBS's 1989 mini-series *Lonesome Dove*, starring (l.-r.) Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones as Larry McMurry's characters Gus McCrae and Woodrow F. Call, inspired a revival of Old West wear for fans and re-enactors looking for traditional mid- to late-19th century men's and women's frontier clothing. Hat companies, including CatalenaHatters.com (inset, above left), KnudsenHats.com and OFarrellHatCo.com (above), make a Gus McCrae-style cowboy hat. Knudsen makes a Captain Woodrow F. Call replica. Old West-style shirts, cowboy pants and suspenders similar to those worn in the classic mini-series are available through CattleKate.com, while wild rags can be purchased from Cattle Kate's and at CowboyWildRags.com.

- "LONESOME DOVE" IMAGE COURTESY CBS/GUS STYLE HAT COURTESY CATALENA HATTERS -

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The original Hawken rifle, knife and scabbard carried by legendary mountain man Jeremiah Johnson are on display at the Cody Firearms Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center for the West in Cody, Wyoming.


- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING, USA. GIFT OF F.W. ROEBLING, III. 2000.14.1, 2.1, 2.2 -




In 1971, Robert Redford and Della Bolton as Swan (above, left) starred in *Jeremiah Johnson*. Filmed entirely on location in Utah and Arizona, the biopic of the mountain man was adapted from Vardis Fisher's novel *Mountain Man* and Raymond W. Thorp and Raymond Bunker's biography *Crow Killer*. Johnson was known to carry a Hawken .50 caliber rifle, which Redford prominently used (above) in the film. Firearms collectors and users interested in making their own historically accurate Hawken similar to the one the real Johnson would have carried, can order their Hawken Rifle Kit (finished rifles, left) from the Oak Harbor, Washington, based Hawken Shop (TheHawkenShop.com).

- "JEREMIAH JOHNSON" MOVIE STILL COURTESY WARNER BROS./ FINISHED HAWKEN RIFLES COURTESY THE HAWKEN SHOP -

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You can hang 'em high or paint the town red with this 1851 Navy cartridge conversion revolver (above). Either way, this spitting image replica of the 1851 Navy model



used by the lead actor in the spaghetti Westerns of the 1960s will surely set you apart from other six-gunners. Retaining a Civil War-era, black powder style loading lever, yet converted to handle modern factory smokeless cartridges in .38 Colt or .38 S&W Special, this 7 1/2-inch, octagonal-barreled smokewagon is finished in blue and color case-hardening, with a brass back strap and trigger guard. However, its handsome period varnished-walnut grips are uniquely inlaid with the signature sterling silver rattlesnake used by Clint Eastwood's (left) "Man with No Name" character in Sergio Leone's "Dollars Trilogy." The snake gives this revolver the appearance of being coiled and ready to strike! Here's

a cartridge conversion six-gun, introduced by Cimarron (Cimarron-Firearms.com) that stands out from the crowd. The "Man with No Name" poncho can also be ordered from Cimarron.

- CLINT EASTWOOD PHOTO COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS/1851 NAVY REVOLVER COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS -



Historic Spectacles

Historical re-enactors seek out the most accurate clothing and accessories for their attempts at interpreting the past for themselves and their organizations. The Historic Eyewear Company of Vail, Arizona, has been providing historically authentic spectacle frames for American Frontier, Victorian Era, Civil War and Old West aficionados since 2004. Founders Thomas and Doreen Valenza sell mid-1830s to 1900 period-correct eyeglasses, with ophthalmic corrections as needed.

In the movies and television, many actors who require vision correction in real life have chosen to be propped with historically accurate spectacles in their Western productions, including Gene Hackman in *The Quick and the Dead* and Saul Rubinek in *Unforgiven*. Recently, the producers of the Broadway production of *Hamilton* had all the spectacles for the show made by Historic Eyewear.

If you are seeking the right pair of historic eyewear for your re-enactment costume or for day-to-day use, contact the Historic Eyewear Company at HistoricEyewearCompany.com.



Jason Priestley, who wears corrective glasses in real life, had his character, Billy Breckinridge in *Tombstone*, wear the period-correct K-Bridge oval spectacle frames with spring-steel curl temples.

- COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES -

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BY LEO W. BANKS

Lubbock, Texas

A little bit country, a little bit rock and a whole lot of Texas is ready to be discovered in the West Texas town.



The National Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock is the state's most significant living history museum and archive dedicated to the study and preservation of ranching history in the Lone Star State. After a tour of the center's museum, visitors can tour the 27-acre park's 50 historic Texas ranch structures, which were relocated, restored and preserved on-site.

— COURTESY TRAVEL TEXAS —

Thomas Saltus Lubbock was a man of adventure and action. He fought for Texas independence and served with a Confederate cavalry unit in the first Battle of Bull Run in 1861. He died of typhus the following year but lives on in the West Texas town named for him at its 1890 founding.

Farming, ranching and the railroad helped Lubbock grow to become the so-called Hub City. Home to Texas Tech University, the high plains community today is a center for art, culture, history and especially music.

“We’re far from the dusty Western town of popular image,” says Kristie Caviness, director of marketing and communication for Lubbock Economic Development Alliance. “We attract six million visitors a year, but we still feel like a small town. Lubbock is a big city with little-city love.”

The area’s music history traces to rock ‘n’ roll icon Buddy Holly, born in Lubbock in 1936. The Buddy Holly Center tells his story through an array of memorabilia, from tour itineraries, stage clothes and fan letters to his Fender Stratocaster guitar.

In the foyer, see a replica of Holly’s Model J200 Gibson guitar signed by Sir Paul McCartney. Outside stands a large sculpture of Holly’s signature horn-rimmed glasses.

“We have live music in bars and restaurants seven nights a week,” says Caviness, adding that the Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Science is expected to open downtown in September.

The National Ranching Heritage Center boasts 50 historic structures—dating from the 1780s to the 1950s—that have been relocated, restored and furnished to their time



LUBBOCK IS *Uncorked*

Road trip to the 806 this fall to celebrate the harvest season and attend the Lubbock Uncorked festival! Savor a variety of Texas High Plains wines, along with food trucks and live music.

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period. Walk the 27-acre grounds, smartphone in hand, to see photos and listen to stories about each building.

The center's 44,000-square-foot museum has an exhibit on Charles Goodnight, the most famous Texas rancher of them all. The saddle-makers' room showcases the work of some of Texas's greatest craftsmen, including Carl Darr, who made 1,586 saddles in his storied career.

On the first Friday of every month, walk downtown's First Friday Art Trail to visit galleries showing the work of talented local artisans.

The Caviel Museum of African-American History opens during the Art Trail. Billie and Alfred Caviel operated a pharmacy in Lubbock for 49 years and hoped their building would eventually become a museum. It opened in 2015 and displays artwork and photos that speak to an often-unknown side of west Texas culture.

The Depot Entertainment District features live music at venues like the Cactus Theater, which opened in 1938. Songwriters gather at Blue Light Live every Monday to show their talent, and in October and November, the club hosts a popular singer-songwriter competition.

The joint hops. The goatees alone are worth a look.

West Texas produces 90 percent of the state's wine grapes, which means plenty of wineries to tour. McPherson Cellars hosts patio nights in the warm weather. Sip one of its award-winning wines while listening to, yes, more live music.

At Flint Custom Hat Shop, get your old model blocked and resized, or get fitted for a brand new flat-brimmed straw job. Owner Jared Kesli makes every hat by hand and takes great care with his creations.

The Silent Wings Museum honors World War II glider pilots, most of whom were trained in Lubbock. Watch a short documentary, walk through an interactive gallery to get a feel for combat and peer inside a glider suspended from the ceiling.

In the Davies Gallery at the Museum of Texas Tech University, see an extensive

To plan your trip, stop at *Visit Lubbock, Wells Fargo Center, 1500 Broadway, 6th floor.*

J.J. GIBSON MEMORIAL PARK

Nineteen bronze longhorns weighing 750 pounds each stand in natural settings throughout the park, part of the Ranching Heritage Center. The steers, some bearing famous Texas brands, are meant to commemorate the era of the cattle drives. An estimated five million wild Longhorns roamed Texas after the Civil War.

Depts.TTU.edu

WEST TEXAS WALK OF FAME

Across from the Buddy Holly Center, see an eight-foot bronze of Buddy Holly and plaques honoring others who've contributed to the arts of West Texas. Names include singer/songwriter Mac Davis and Holly's good friend Waylon Jennings, born 25 miles from Lubbock.

CivicLubbock.com

FINE COWBOY BOOTS

Ruben Cobos learned boot-making in Mexico, and today the master craftsman and his family still produce old-fashioned hand-made boots using the finest leather. Pick up a pair at RC Custom Boots.

RCCustomBoots.com

AMERICAN WINDMILL MUSEUM

At the largest windmill museum in the world, see 200 windmills housed in two buildings and outside. Marvel at the sight of 70 historic windmills dotting 28 acres of rolling Texas hillside. Check out the 4,000 feet of train track that runs overhead and all around two levels of the museum.

Windmill.com



Texas historian Walter Prescott Webb famously wrote in his seminal work *The Great Plains* that the windmill was an American pioneer invention created out of necessity when faced with the rigors of settling the dry, wind-blown Western plains. Visitors to the American Windmill Museum in Lubbock can see firsthand the creativity and innovation of windmill inventors at the world's largest public collection of restored windmills.

— COURTESY LUBBOCK CVB —

collection of American Indian pottery and hand-made rugs.

Lubbock Lake Landmark explains 12,000 years of human habitation in the area. Take one of its popular night hikes under a star-filled sky through Yellow Horse Draw.

The landmark 1908 Four Sixes Barn was moved from the Guthrie, Texas, ranch headquarters to the National Ranching Heritage Center in 1981.

— COURTESY LUBBOCK CVB —

FUN FACT: Buddy Holly co-wrote his 1957 hit song, "That'll be the Day," after hearing John Wayne use the line several times in his classic Western, *The Searchers*.



Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. His newest mystery novel is titled *Champagne Cowboys*.





Lubbock's 32nd Annual National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration is scheduled for September 11-13. The fan-favorite event features live Western music, a horse-themed parade, American Indian dance performances and the renowned National Championship Chuck Wagon Cookoff (above).

- COURTESY LUBBOCK CVB -



Grant Speed's larger-than-life Buddy Holly statue is the centerpiece of the Buddy and Maria Elena Holly Plaza and West Texas Walk of Fame at the corner of Crickets Avenue and 19th Street across from the Buddy Holly Museum in the Lubbock Depot Entertainment District.

- COURTESY TRAVEL TEXAS -

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BY STUART ROSEBROOK

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The Georgetown Loop Railroad in Georgetown, Colorado, opened for service in 1881. The historic line, originally known as the Georgetown, Breckinridge & Leadville Railway, was restored and reopened in 1984 after being closed for nearly five decades.

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

“All aboard!!” shouts the conductor. Do you remember the first time you heard those thrilling words before your first railroad adventure began? I do. It was at Union Station in Los Angeles in 1975, and my parents, my sister and I were departing on a cross-country Amtrak vacation from L.A. to Washington, D.C., via Chicago on the Southwest Limited. The adventure was a once-in-a-lifetime-trip, and I’ve been hooked on rail travel and trains ever since.

The next summer I rode on my first heritage railway, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. It was August of America’s Bicentennial and I rode with a 125 fellow Orme Summer Camp campers and counselors. They were from all over the country and even the world, and we sat in awe in the cool, mountain morning hours

as the steam train pulled us up the grade into the Animas River Canyon of the San Juan Mountains. There was still snow on the highest fourteens and the ride through the narrow canyons, over high-trestle bridges clinging to cliffs over rushing streams of snowmelt, remain thrilling and unforgettable moments. Arriving in the old mining town of Silverton, it seemed as if we had stepped back a century, or living an old Western movie. I’ve never forgotten either of those rail trips, and whenever I have had the opportunity to take a train trip with my family—and share the thrill and power of the locomotive, the leisure of the shared adventure and the beauty of nature as it passes outside the window—I’ve done so. And I highly recommend you consider doing the same.

All across the Western United States heritage railways and railroad museums are reopening and ready for customers. Many of America’s historic trains and rolling stock collections are in small towns, maintained by small businesses with dedicated owners, employees and volunteers working just the summer season. So, as we all are train lovers at *True West*, we hope you will include a heritage railway adventure and a tour of a railroad museum—or two or three—on your next venture out West!

EDITOR’S NOTE

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, all historic railways are operating with a modified schedule. Always check the railroad’s website for the latest information on train schedules and changes in regional pandemic restrictions.

SOUTHWEST & PACIFIC COAST

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN

From 1882 to 1986, the Austin and Northwestern Railroad operated regionally until its closure in 1986. Today, the Austin Steam Train Association operates the railway on the Austin Western Railroad as a heritage passenger line, offering family-friendly train trips including The Hill Country Flyer, Day Out with Thomas, Bertram Flyer and North Pole Flyer.

Train service on the popular Texas capital railway restarted on June 9 with passengers required to wear face masks, which can be purchased in the ASTA Concession Car. Seating has also been reduced by 50 percent for the 2020 season. Pre-ticketed passengers who do not feel well can exchange their ticket any time prior to their departure for another ride during the 2020 summer and fall seasons.

Cedar Park, TX • AustinSteamTrain.org

CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD

The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad's San Juan Extension arrived in the Village of Chama in January 1881 and operated until the 1960s. Local boosters worked to save the most scenic section of the line between Chama, New Mexico, and Antonito, Colorado. The two states jointly bought the route, tracks and stations, opening the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad to passenger service.

The Cumbres & Toltec is scheduled to be open June 13 through October 18, 2020. Check regularly with the railway for announcements of schedule changes and special trains, including the Wildflower Botany, Dark Sky and Sunset Dinner trains. Chama, NM and Antonito, CO
CumbresToltec.com



The Cumbres & Toltec Railroad

- COURTESY CUMBRES & TOLTEC RAILROAD -



The Grand Canyon Railway

- COURTESY GRAND CANYON RAILWAY -

GRAND CANYON RAILWAY

On September 17, 1901, the Santa Fe Railway launched the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams to the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon line remained a favorite of tourists until automobile tourism led to its closure in 1968. Passenger service restarted in 1989 as the Grand Canyon Railway, with daily service to and from the national park, plus special packages and train events, such as Steam Saturdays the first Saturday of the month, May through October.

The railway, hotel and RV park reopened on June 15. Xanterra, which operates the railroad, is currently taking reservations for train excursions this summer and fall, as well as for the ever-popular wintertime Polar Express.

Williams, AZ • TheTrain.com

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

Ely has been a mining town since gold was discovered there in 1878. After the early 1900s copper boom, the Nevada Northern Railway was built in 1905-'06. The National Historic Landmark railway usually operates passenger trains daily, January through June and September through December, except on



Austin Steam Train

- COURTESY AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN -

Tuesdays and holidays. The Nevada Northern has exciting passenger car options, Saturday specialty trains, the Haunted Ghost Train, Santa's Reindeer Flyer and the Winter Steam Spectacular. The hands-on engineer training program is unique in the country.

Seasonal rail service restarted on May 29. Passengers are required to wear face masks inside any coach or building. Ticketing will be reduced to create state-required social distancing on the passenger train.

Ely, NV • NNRY.com

THE SACRAMENTO SOUTHERN RAILROAD

For 37 years, passengers have boarded the Sacramento Southern Railroad at the Old Sacramento depot. Tickets are purchased at the California State Railroad Museum, and riders can choose between closed coach cars, open-air gondolas and the first-class observation car. Either the *Granite Rock No. 10* steam locomotive or one of the vintage diesel locomotives from the museum's collection will pull the excursion train.

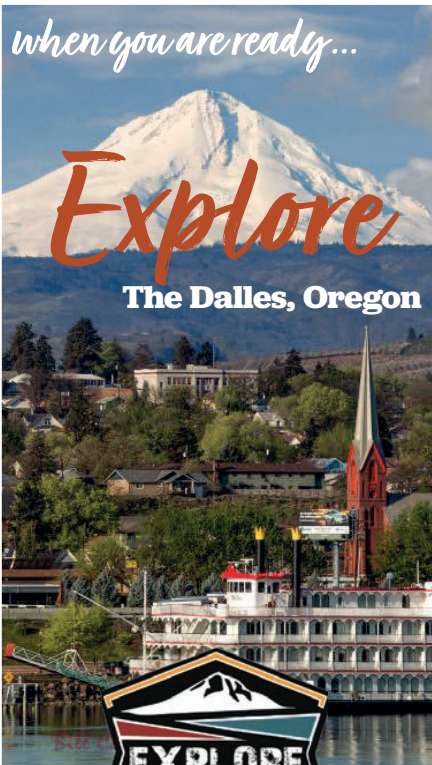
Currently, the museum and associated facilities in Old Sacramento State Historic Park including the Sacramento Southern Railroad are closed because of the COVID-19



The Nevada Northern Railway


- COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA -

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The Dalles, Oregon



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1-800-255-3385



The Sacramento Southern Railroad
- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

outbreak. Keep up to date with all California state park reopenings at Parks.Ca.gov.
Sacramento, CA
CaliforniaRailroad.Museum

SKUNK TRAIN

The Mendocino Railway Company's Skunk Train is headquartered amid the redwoods of Fort Bragg, California. Modern-day travelers on the "Redwood Route" will travel over the California Western Railroad line built as a logging train in 1885. Today, the Skunk Train offers two major passenger trains: the Pudding Creek Express from Fort Bragg and the Northspur Flyer from Willits.

Currently, the Skunk Train has ceased all operations until further notice. Railbike trips have resumed for local residents, limited to six bikes per trip, observed social distancing of at least six feet and mandatory facial coverings.
Fort Bragg and Willits, CA • SkunkTrain.org

VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE RAILROAD

A true vestige of the original transcontinental railroad, the Virginia & Truckee Railroad was completed between the state capital, Carson City, and Virginia City in 1870, and by 1872 it was connected to the Central Pacific in Reno. In 1975, entrepreneur Robert Gray reopened the V&T and usually operates it as a tourist train between Memorial Day and October but, because of COVID-19, rail services have been suspended until June 20.

The popular railroad operates seven departures a day from Virginia City's original 1870 Depot to Gold Hill. Annual specialty train experiences still scheduled include Civil War Days & Battle, Pumpkin Patch, Day Out with Thomas and Candy Cane Express trains.
Virginia City and Gold Hill, NV
VirginiaTruckee.com



Virginia and Truckee Railroad
- COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA -



Skunk Train
- COURTESY SKUNK TRAIN -



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REGIONAL RAILROAD FAVORITES

True West's editorial team commends heritage railway companies across the country for keeping our nation's rich rail history alive for present and future generations. These railways, like the featured railroads, are active partners in maintaining that history in their communities. As travel restrictions lift, please consider supporting them with a rail trip in the near future.



Alder Gulch Short Line, Virginia City, MT

- COURTESY ALDER GULCH RAILROAD -

Alder Gulch Short Line Railroad

Virginia City, MT • VirginiaCityMT.com

Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad

Boone, IA • BSVRR.com

Cuyahoga Valley Railroad

Peninsula, OH • CSVR.com

Eagle Cap Excursion Train

Wallowa, OR • EagleCaptainRides.com

Grapevine Vintage Railroad

Grapevine, TX • GrapevineTexasUSA.com

Kettle Valley Steam Railway

Summerland, B.C., Canada • KettleValleyRail.org

Lake Whatcom Railway

Wickhershaw, WA • LakeWhatcomRailway.com

Lumber Jack Steam Train

Laona, WI • Camp5Museum.org

Midland Railway

Baldwin City, KS • MidlandRailway.org

Mount Hood Railroad

Hood River, OR • MtHoodRR.com

Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad & Museum

Elbe, WA • MRSR.com

Royal Gorge Route Railroad

Canon City, CO • RoyalGorgeRoute.com

Sumpter Valley Railroad

Baker City, OR • SumpterValleyRailroad.org

Thunder Mountain Line, Horseshoe

Bend, ID • ThunderMountainLine.com

Tennessee Valley Railroad

Chattanooga, TN • ChattanoogaFun.com

Texas State Railroad

Rusk, TX • TexasStateRR.com

Trains & Travel International

Portola, CA • TrainTrips.biz

Verde Canyon Railroad

Clarkdale, AZ • VerdeCanyonRR.com

White Pass & Yukon Route

Skagway, AK • WPRY.com

Whitewater Valley Railroad

Connersville, IN • WhiteWaterValleyRR.org

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ROCKY MOUNTAINS & GREAT BASIN



Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

— COURTESY D&SNGRR —



Georgetown Loop Railroad

— COURTESY GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD —

BLACK HILLS CENTRAL RAILROAD

Regular train service reached Hill City, South Dakota, in the 1890s. Over time, steam locomotives gave way to diesel-driven trains. Since 1957, steam train entrepreneurs William B. Heckman and Robert Freer's dream of the Black Hills Central Railroad's 1880 Train has been thrilling passengers every summer with both diesel and steam-driven trains.

In 2020, the railroad will operate its regular schedule from June 1 to October 11 and its Holiday Express from November 27 to December 27. Special trains scheduled during the summer months include the Wine Express, Oktoberfest, Steam Train Double Header and Old West Shootouts. Hill City, SD • 1880Train.com



The Black Hills Central Railroad

— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

CHARLIE RUSSELL CHEW CHOO

In most years, the Charlie Russell Chew Choo keeps the spirit of railroading in Montana alive with round-trip dinner train trips on a spur track from May to October and the popular North Pole Adventure in

The Charlie Russell Chew Choo

— COURTESY CHARLIE RUSSELL CHEW CHOO —

November and December. The train travels on tracks built in 1912-'13 between Lewistown and Great Falls.

In 2020, however, because of COVID-19, dinner trains have been canceled in May and June. The first dinner train will leave the Hanover Boarding Station on July 3, and will run three times every month until October 3. The North Pole Adventure trains kick off the holiday season on November 28 and will run Saturdays and Sundays through December 19.

Lewistown, MT • MontanaDinnerTrain.com

DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad steamed into town on August 5, 1881, and in less than 11 months the tracks to Silverton had been completed. Since 1959 the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad has operated as a tourist train from May to October, with limited special trains in the winter and spring.

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad has extended the dates of closure due to COVID-19 pandemic. All excursion and event trains have been annulled through early to mid-June, or until further notice. The Durango railroad depot, museum and gift shops also remain closed during this time. Durango, CO • DurangoTrain.com

GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD

In 1884, the engineering marvel, the Georgetown Loop, was completed as part of the Georgetown, Breckinridge and Leadville Railroad. While the silver economy did not sustain the construction of the line but to a few miles past Silver Plume, the line was rebuilt and restored in the 1970s and 1980s, and the Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park is the centerpiece attraction of the historic town.

The Georgetown Loop is scheduled to operate every day from June 5 to October 15, with all cars for the start of the season open-air for passengers' safety and health. Special Oktoberfest Trains are scheduled for October 16 through 18 and 23 through 25, and Holiday Trains ready to run November 7 through January 3, 2021.

Georgetown, CO • GeorgetownLoopRR.com

HEBER VALLEY RAILROAD

The Rio Grande Western arrived in Heber City on September 21, 1899. In 1992, the Heber Valley Railroad was restored and began operating as a historic passenger rail line. The train service runs from mid-January to early November. Check with the railroad for specific times, dates and specialty trains.

Special rules for the 2020 season require visitors and passengers to wear a mask or face protection when in the depot, when boarding/deboarding the train, and any other





Heber Valley Railroad

- COURTESY HEBER VALLEY RAILROAD -

times when social distancing is not possible. While on the train, when seated as a family/group, passengers may remove masks. Passengers should bring a mask or face covering, or purchase one for \$1.

Heber Valley, UT • HeberValleyRR.org

LEADVILLE COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Originally the Denver, South Park & Pacific and Colorado & Southern, the highest elevation railroad in the United States

reached Leadville in 1880. The Colorado & Southern continued to operate regularly to and from Leadville until 1981. Since 1988, the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad has been thrilling passengers on its two-and-a-half-hour journey through the San Isabel National Forest in sight of the state's two highest peaks.

The Leadville Train, with its open-air cars, opened on May 23 and, until further notice, will operate until November 1. When inquiring about schedules and ticket purchases, ask about Wildflower, Fall Weekend and BBQ special trains.

Leadville, CO • Leadville-Train.com




The Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad

- COURTESY LEADVILLE, COLORADO & SOUTHERN -

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MIDWEST & SOUTH

ABILENE & SMOKY VALLEY RAILROAD

Timed to meet the first trail drives to Abilene, Kansas, the Kansas & Pacific Railroad first arrived in the cow town in 1867. The A&SVRR operates from May to October, with many exciting ride and tour opportunities for passengers, including steam-driven service on a limited basis, dinner trains and the Silver Flyer Railbus.

The popular passenger train service will operate on a modified schedule in 2020, with trains running at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Face mask use is optional and left to the passengers' discretion. A third car is being added as needed to help with social distancing. The open-air cars are most popular.
Abilene, KS • ASVRR.org

ARKANSAS & MISSOURI RAILROAD

The modern A&MRR started in 1986, primarily for freight service, but also as a popular passenger tourist line that keeps a regular, limited schedule from January to November. Its trips between Springdale and Van Buren, and Van Buren to Winslow, both take tourists through the beautiful Boston Range of the Ozarks.

The railroad will reopen on July 11 with a modified schedule: on Saturdays the Springdale to Van Buren train departs at 8 a.m. and the Van Buren to Winslow train will leave at 11 a.m.; on Sundays the Springdale to Winslow train will leave the station at 1 p.m. Passengers are required to wear face masks. Check the A&MRR website and Facebook page regularly for updates on schedules and specialty trains for the fall season.
Springdale, AR • AMRailroad.com



The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad
- COURTESY ARKANSAS & MISSOURI RAILROAD -



The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad
- COURTESY ABILENE, KANSAS, CVB -



Great Smoky Mountains Railroad
- COURTESY VISITNC.COM -

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD

When the Murphy Branch of the Western North Carolina Railroad was built in 1894 it changed the lives of generations of residents of Western North Carolina. Passenger service ran until 1948, and freight trains ceased in 1985. Heritage passenger rail service began in 1998 and has remained one of the most popular rail lines in the region.

Regular passenger train operations, the museum and gift shop reopened on June 4. First Class service is suspended until August 1. All reservations must be booked prior to arrival. Social distancing of six feet between seating and in public areas is required. Face coverings must be worn in the parking lot, in Bryson City Depot and throughout your visit and train ride.
Bryson City, NC • GSMR.com



RAILROAD MUSEUMS



Colorado Railroad Museum, Golden, CO
- COURTESY COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM -

Fortunately for railroad enthusiasts, the Western U.S. is home to a wonderful world of railroad museums. Schedule a visit to a local rail museum and discover the rich heritage and diversity of railway history in our country.

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum
Tucson, AZ • TucsonHistoricDepot.com

California State Railroad Museum
Sacramento, CA • CSRMF.org

Colorado Railroad Museum
Golden, CO • ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org

Union Pacific Railroad Museum
Council Bluffs, IA • UPRRMuseum.org

Great Overland Station
Topeka, KS • GreatOverlandStation.org

National Museum of Transportation
St. Louis, MO • TNMOT.org

Livingston Depot Center
Livingston, MT • LivingstonDepot.org

Durham Museum
Omaha, NE • DurhamMuseum.org

Golden Spike Tower & Visitors Center
North Platte, NE • GoldenSpikeTower.com

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
Ely, NV • GreatBasinHeritage.org

Nevada State Railroad Museum
Carson City, NV • NSRM-Friends.org

Oklahoma Railway Museum
Oklahoma City, OK • OklahomaRailwayMuseum.org

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
Chattanooga, TN • TVRail.com

Galveston Railroad Museum
Galveston, TX • GalvestonRRMuseum.org

Museum of the American Railroad
Frisco, TX • MuseumOfTheAmericanRailroad.com

Golden Spike NHS
Brigham City, UT • NPS.gov

Union Station
Ogden, UT • TheUnionStation.org

Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad and Museum
Elbe, WA • MRSR.com

Northern Pacific Railway Museum
Toppish, WA • NPRYMuseum.org

Cheyenne Depot Museum, Cheyenne
WY • CheyenneDepotMuseum.org

Douglas Railroad Interpretive Center
Douglas, WY • ConverseCountyTourism.com

Laramie Historic Railroad Depot
Laramie, WY • LaramieDepot.org

TRAIN RESERVATIONS
512.402.3830 • AustinSteamTrain.org

Austin Steam Train Association
Cedar Park, TX 78613

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WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JULY/AUGUST 2020

ART SHOWS

"HOLD YOUR HORSES" AT HIPPEN ART MUSEUM
Prescott, AZ, August 1-September 20: Horse lovers, art enthusiasts and Western art collectors will be enthralled with this annual exhibition and sale titled "Hold Your Horses!"
928-778-1385 • PhippenArtMuseum.org

AMERICA'S HORSE IN ART

Amarillo, TX, August 15-October 17: This benefit sale of horses depicted in pencil, paintings and sculptures, features a signature piece by Kathryn Leitner.
806-376-5181 • AQHA.com

FAIRS

ELKO COUNTY FAIR & HORSE RACES

Elko, NV, August 28-September 7: This year, the Elko County Fair celebrates its 100th anniversary. With several different events and a variety of entertainment; there's something for everyone to enjoy at the fair.
775-738-3616 • ElkoCountyFair.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

LONGMIRE DAYS

Buffalo, WY, July 16-19: Robert Taylor and actors from the hit series *Longmire* gather to celebrate cowboy culture and Old West heritage.
307-684-5544 • BuffaloWY.com

OREGON TRAIL DAYS

Gering, NE, July 13-16: A kickoff barbecue, old-fashioned parades and live music are just some of the highlights of the annual weekend celebration of the pioneers who settled western Nebraska.
308-632-2133 • OregonTrailDays.com

LARAMIE JUBILEE DAYS

Laramie, WY, July 4-12: Wyoming's hometown honors the Western lifestyle with a kid's horse show, PRCA rodeo, parade and carnival.
800-445-5303 • VisitLaramie.org

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Bandera, TX, July 25-26: Honor cowboys at this dinner and concert under the stars, on the Frontier Times Museum grounds.
830-796-3864 • BanderaCowboyCapital.com

BUFFALO BILL DAYS

Golden, CO, July 23-26: The four-day event honors the Wild West showman with a "100 Years in Golden" theme parade, concerts and Wild West activities.
303-279-3342 • BuffaloBillDays.com

COWBOY WAY JUBILEE

San Angelo, TX, July 23-26: A three-day event presents "Everything Cowboy" with Western music, Western films and TV shows and Hollywood celebrities.
580-768-5559 • CowboyWayJubilee.com

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Sturgis, SD, August 7-16: Five hundred thousand riders and concert fanatics converge in the Black Hills to attend this annual South Dakota event, now in its 80th year.
605-720-0800 • SturgisMotorcycleRally.com

ANNUAL DOC HOLLI-DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, August 7-9: Help celebrate the life and legend of Doc Holliday in Tombstone to experience the town like you never have before.
520-457-9317 • TombstoneChamber.com

PERFORMANCE OF SALADO LEGENDS

Salado, TX, July 18, 25 & August 1: Discover Old West history under the stars at the Tablerock Amphitheatre in an epic drama chosen by the Library of Congress as a "Local Legacy."
254-947-9205 • Tablerock.org



- COURTESY SALADO LEGENDS -

CHAMA DAYS

Chama, NM, August 7-9: The three-day event includes a double elimination softball tournament, two-day rodeo event, parade and dances.
800-477-0149 • NewMexico.org

MUSIC

VIVA BIG BEND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Alpine, Marfa, Fort Davis and Marathon, TX, July 23-26: More than 50 bands in 10 venues perform Texas music in desert mountain landscapes or against peculiarities such as the Marfa lights.
432-729-4772 (Marfa County Tourism)
VivaBigBend.com

ROUND BARN RENDEZVOUS

Arcadia, OK, August 9: Come by this iconic Route 66 stop as local artists fill the Round Barn with the sound of acoustic music in a free live concert in a unique setting—a hayloft on the second floor of the barn.
405-833-1350 • ArcadiaRoundBarn.com

POETRY GATHERINGS

ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING

Prescott, AZ, August 6-8: For nearly 33 years the gathering has been a featured event with a mission to perpetuate and preserve the culture, traditions and history of cowboy poetry and music.
On June 2 the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19 health restrictions and is being rescheduled for 2021.
928-713-6323 • AZCowboyPoets.org

POW WOWS

FIRST PEOPLES POW WOW & DANCE

Sheridan, WY, July 10: On the lawn of the Sheridan Inn, American Indian dancers and drum teams perform traditional ceremonies.
307-673-7121 • SheridanWyo.org

RE-ENACTMENTS

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN SECRET SOCIETY

El Paso, TX, August 15: John Wesley Hardin's death in 1895 is re-enacted at historic Concordia Cemetery, where the gunfighter is buried.
915-842-8200 • ConcordiaCemetery.org

RENDEZVOUS

GREEN RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Pinedale, WY, July 9-12: This 1833 mountain man encampment honors rendezvous culture with fur trade lectures and a pageant.
307-367-4136 • VisitPinedale.org

RODEOS

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS/ WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

Prescott, AZ, June-July 5: The 133rd annual World's Oldest Rodeo takes place at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. Since 1888, this traditional event has occurred annually over the 4th of July weekend with eight breathtaking performances.
866-407-6336 • WorldsOldestRodeo.com

THE DAYS OF '76

Deadwood, SD, July 21-25: The Days of '76, which also includes parades on historic Main Street, has been a staple each summer in Deadwood for 98 years.
605-578-1657 • DaysOf76.com

SILVER STATE STAMPEDE

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Bowlegged Cowboys, Wagon Bosses and Apaches



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. Please always include your name, city and state.

If all of the cowboys in *True West* and other publications made their livelihood by sitting in the saddle on horseback, why do I never see any photos showing bowlegged cowboys?

Larry Doehling,
Surprise, Nebraska

I believe the “bowlegged” cowboy is more of a cartoonish myth that looked good on a postcard. My uncle was a cowboy in Western Colorado all his life and wasn’t bowlegged. I’ve been bowlegged for a few minutes after 10 hours in the saddle, but I don’t think I’ve ever seen one for real.

Were there really wagon masters on wagon trains? If so, what type of authority did they have?

Russell Kaldenberg and Judyth Reed
Trona, California

Emigrants heading West usually had a wagon master who knew the trails and had experience getting safely through the trials and travails of the trip. He had the same authority as a ship’s captain. It was the wagon master’s job to maintain discipline, and that was the key to surviving the trip.

Who were John Sontag and Chris Evans?

Douglas Johnson
St. Paul, Minnesota

Evans and Sontag were a couple of notorious California train robbers. For a while, they were joined by Sontag’s younger brother, George Contant. They were basically folk heroes—guys who stood up against the powerful railroads—until they killed three lawmen. At that point, the law got hot on their trail. Contant was caught and sent to prison, but the other two stayed on the outlaw trail.

A posse led by Marshal George Gard caught up with the suspects just north of Visalia at a place called Stone Corral. On June 11, 1893, a fight broke out. Sontag was mortally wounded and died a few weeks later. Evans lost an eye and part of his left arm from gunshots, but he managed to escape. Ultimately, he was corralled in 1894 and spent 17 years in prison. George Contant got out of jail in 1909 and wrote a “crime does not pay” book. Exactly when and where he died are unknown.

In older age, working cowboys may walk a bit bent over and stiff-legged from years of working cattle in the saddle, but these younger Oklahoma cowboys show no signs of the bowlegged popular-culture cowpuncher caricature.

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Charles M. Russell’s *The Wagon Boss* captures the reality and the romanticism of the “captain of the plains,” who had ultimate authority to enforce the wagon trains’ criminal code—including banishment and hanging—for capital crimes such as theft, assault, rape and murder.

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I read in a book that the Vulture Mine would have had even more gold recorded except for “high-graders.” Who are they?

Greg Williams
Apache Junction, Arizona

A high-grader is someone, usually an employee, working in a mine who steals high-grade ore and sells it. For example, he might stash a chunk of ore in his lunch pail, or in his clothes, take it home that evening, and process it himself or sell it. A high-grader’s counterpart in the cow business is a hired hand who puts his own brand on the boss’s calves until he accumulates a herd of his own.

Some say the old Dutchman, Jacob Walz, acquired his “lost treasure” high-grading ore from the Vulture, the richest lode gold mine in Arizona history, but that’s doubtful. Mine owners took measures to counter high-graders by having changing rooms where employees left their work clothes at the mine.





American and Mexican propaganda painted a picture of a savage group of Apache Indians who showed no mercy to anyone. It was a hard land and it took formidable people on all sides to survive.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Did Apaches really torture male captives to death?

Gary Gatlin
Show Low, Arizona

The Apaches were a very diversified, complicated group made up of many clans and bands. Like all groups, they were each a universe within a universe. Some of them took scalps and some didn't. Some raped women captives, while others didn't. Some were truthful and others (think Geronimo) were untrustworthy.

Long before the Anglo-Americans came West, the Mexicans and Apaches fought a long, brutal war. Women on both sides were usually enslaved or sold as slaves. Young children were usually adopted into the captive group or sold as slaves. Male captives on both sides were tortured and killed. During the 1830s, Mexicans placed a bounty on Apache scalps, and the Apaches retaliated in kind. When the Americans gained control of the Southwest in the 1840s and 1850s, they forbade slave-trading but that wasn't always successful.

So, were male captives tortured to death? Yes—but not on a consistent basis, and not by all Apache bands.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

A North Dakota childhood... imagine a cozy fleece blanket on a cold night with a warm chocolate chip cookie and cold milk on the nightstand. That kind of safety, security and love gives you a head start in life.

My parents were the best cheerleaders any child could want. I won the parents lottery with Rudy and Willetta Bommersbach.

Spring on the Northern Plains has its own fabulous smell as trees bud and grass grows and you can find asparagus growing wild—though I always ate it raw until I moved away—and everything spells “promise.”

A good potluck always includes “comfort food” like a macaroni-tomato-hamburger casserole (named Funeral Hotdish for its most common use) and tons of chocolate bars and cakes.

A teacher who most influenced my life was Jerry Tjaden, our Gwinner principal, who told me I should be a writer and created a reading list for my voracious need to read.

A summer vacation always meant coming “home,” for years to both the lake home we had on Ottertail Lake near Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and the regular house in Hankinson, North Dakota.

I discovered journalism with William Faulkner’s *The Bridge of Andau*, a 1957 nonfiction book about the Hungarian Revolution. It incited me to become a journalist, and then to my delight, I discovered the First Amendment gave me the constitutional right to ask anybody anything!

My first newspaper job was at *The Flint Journal* in Flint, Michigan. I went from rural North Dakota to a metropolitan area; from a monolithic society to a mixed society.

In 1972 I moved to Arizona to work for *The Arizona Republic*. I was astonished to see such “giant pineapples” in Phoenix, which turn out to be palm trees.

Without newspapers we face political blindness and ignorance. Complex issues aren’t explored in a sound bite or a tweet, and if we reduce our understanding to that, we’re doomed.

If I could have met Cattle Kate, I’d have asked her where she got her gumption; her stand-up-for-herself when women weren’t supposed to; her strength on the harsh landscape of Wyoming Territory.

Women in the West were, pound for pound, as strong, as courageous, as fearless, as anxious, as determined, as scared, as make-do, as imaginative, as obstinate as any man. They just didn’t shoot as many guns.



— PHOTO BY TOM DOELEY —

JANA BOMMERSBACH, JOURNALIST, HISTORIAN, NOVELIST

Jana Bommersbach is an acclaimed journalist/author who has been writing for *True West* since 2003. She wrote the monthly “Women of the West,” profiling women often overlooked by history, and now writes the “Old West Savior” column. She has been Arizona’s Journalist of the Year and holds two lifetime achievement awards. She is the author of seven books, including the historical novel, *Cattle Kate*. In 2020, she is being inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame.

Writing a novel is both a lonely activity and better than sex.

If I could interview Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul... I actually did interview Alice Paul in 1972. She sternly eyed me and asked, “What have you done for women?” I was a 20-something graduate student and stammered, “Nothing.” She glowered and demanded, “Then go do something.”

Arizona was the unwanted stepchild of the territories, and remains a weird place to this day. But there are places where the beauty is so breathtaking, you know there’s a God, and She loves Arizona.

Preserving our past is an imperative, as it is so rich and teaches us so much. That’s why I adore writing the “Old West Savior” column—I get to meet wonderful people who honor our heritage.

Being inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame is the greatest honor of my life! To think I’ll be included with a remarkable list of 120 women who impacted Arizona is breathtaking.

What history has taught me... That the West is America’s valedictorian for grit and determination—an honor shared by those who were always here and those who emigrated. To fully appreciate that status, we must know the stories of the women of the West, as well as the men of the West. Both are owed their due.



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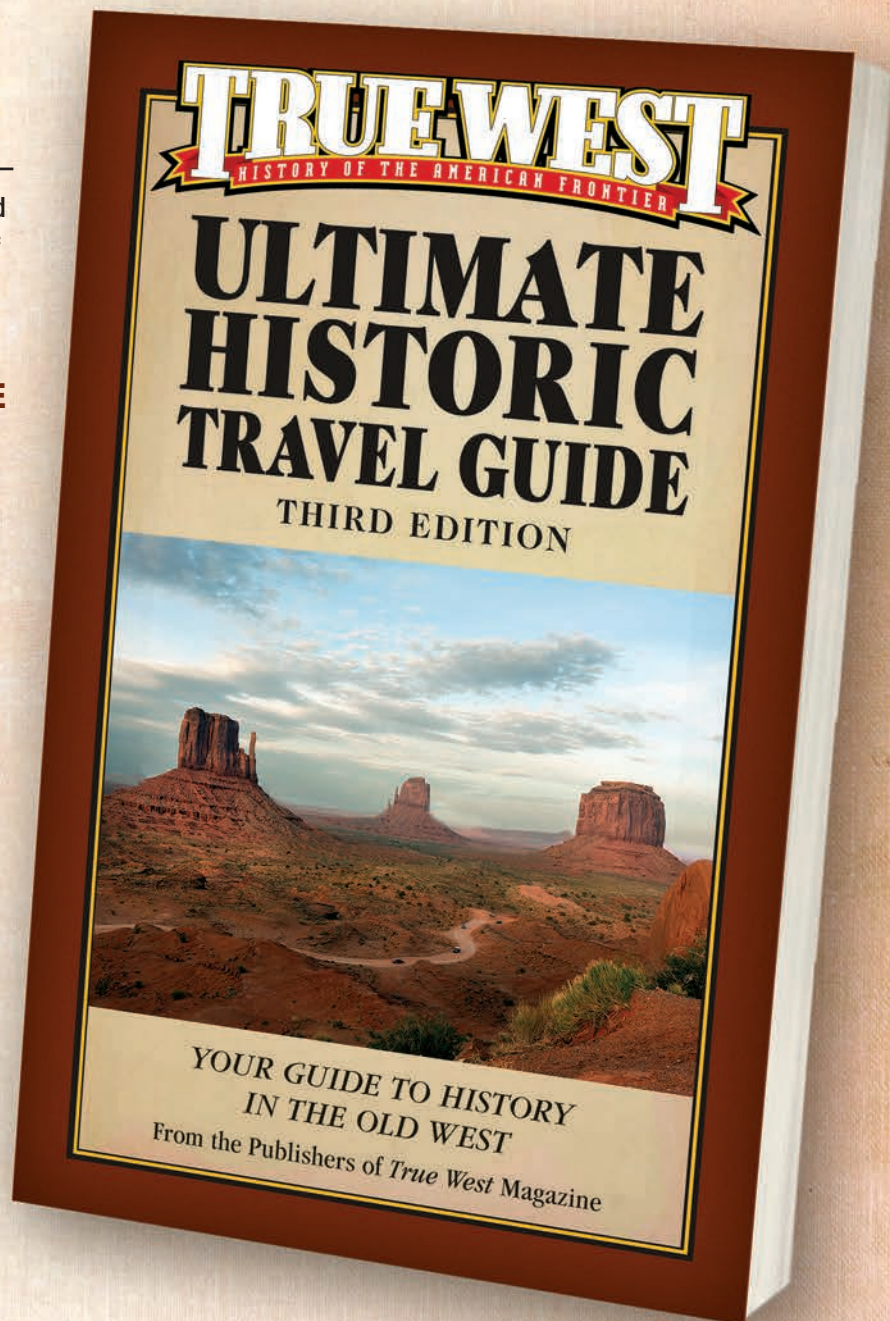
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