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By September of 1872 the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad had made its way to Dodge City which would lead to major growth for the city. Dodge City was once considered the Buffalo capital and was also nicknamed "Stinker" due to buffalo hunters bringing vast amounts of buffalo hides to the city. Almost a million hides had come through the city from 1872-1874, and by 1875 almost all the buffalo had been decimated. Dodge City has been in the mouths of many historians and has been the basis for many books, shows, and movies such as Gunsmoke and Wyatt Earp, making this city a must see destination for many tourists that want to come see and feel the Old West sensation. Dodge City has without a doubt established itself as one of the Americas most famous lawless cities in a time when guns ruled the streets.

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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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*La Querida at Midnight* is just one of many pieces Bob Boze Bell has created for an upcoming book.

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ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL



This F. Jay Haynes photograph of the Gatling gun and crew has been mislabeled for years... and may date closer to the Battle of the Little Bighorn than previously thought. Get daily facts and photos from our True West editors on our Facebook page!

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*The Eagle Dancer Potawatomi* reveals how much artist Z.S. Liang, who was born in China, is inspired by American Indian cultures and traditions. Discover more about the art of the West on our Western Art board.

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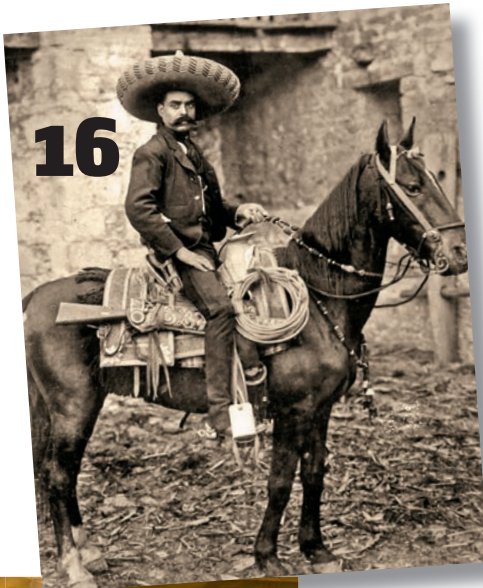
Alchesay wore many hats—and scarves—in his day, sometimes appearing as a cowboy, and other times as a hunter-warrior. Find more photos of your favorite Old West icons on our Instagram.

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Firearms fans are finding old-time black powder replicas offer a “time travel” shooting experience.

—By Phil Spangenberg

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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

Old Vaquero Saying



“Marry a short girl and keep your guns on the top shelf. She still might get ya, but you’ll hear her dragging the chair across the floor.”

Quotes

“On the brightest and warmest days, my desert is most itself because sunshine and warmth are the very essence of its character.”

– Joseph Wood Krutch

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”



– Theodore Roosevelt

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

“Without democracy, freedom is a chimera.”

– Octavio Paz

“The whole secret of a successful life is to find out what is one’s destiny to do, and then do it.”

– Henry Ford

“You start by writing to live. You end by writing so as not to die.”

– Carlos Fuentes

“The world began when I was born and the world is mine to win.”

– Badger Clark

“Instinct is a marvelous thing. It can neither be explained nor ignored.”

– Agatha Christie



Emiliano Zapata

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

“I am fighting for my own cause, which is the cause of the common people.”

– Emiliano Zapata

“The horse is a mirror to your soul. And sometimes you might not like what you see in the mirror.”

– Buck Brannaman

“In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

– Thomas Jefferson

*A small quiet drinking town with a cattle problem*

– A sign over a Plush, Oregon, store where buckaroos congregate

“When I was your age, I had to walk ten feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.”

– Old Boomer Saying



The Vesparados

DITFE

# Assassination Nation

*Get ready to tangle with epic events and tragic stats on the revolution road.*

**I**n this issue we take on the bloody conflagration known as the Mexican Revolution (1910 to 1920). It's actually half revolution and half Civil War and a blood bath at both ends. The statistics are off the charts with an estimated 1.5 million deaths from fighting—more than all the U.S. death totals from all the wars we have fought! Follow that up with the Spanish Influenza pandemic raging from 1918 to 1920, when 90 percent of the indigenous population was wiped out (estimated at 8 million souls), and all the firing squad executions and the assassinations (both Zapata and Villa were betrayed and killed, plus three presidents fell to the assassins' hands), and it is hard to make sense of it all.

But we corralled the best scholars, writers and researchers of the Mexican Revolution (see Salomé Hernández's "¡Viva Zapata! ¡Tierra y Libertad!" on pages 16-21 and Lynda A. Sánchez's "Mata Hari of the Mexican Revolution" on pages 22-27) to give you a balanced overview of all the carnage and what it actually means.

As Pancho Villa biographer Friedrich Katz puts it, "As in the history of most revolutions, the bloodiest phase of the Mexican Revolution occurred not when the revolutionaries were fighting the old regime but when they began to fight each other." So the Mexican Revolution morphed into a Civil War from 1915 to 1920.

It is not for the squeamish at heart, and the controversy the war engendered is still with us. As one of the alleged masterminds behind the assassination of Pancho Villa put it on his deathbed, "I'm not a murderer. I rid humanity of a monster."



## Mexico Reaps The Whirlwind

The bloody battlefields of the Mexican Revolution gave rise to some larger-than-life legends, namely Zapata and Villa. Both are covered and given their due in this issue.

— ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL —



This brilliant cartoon sums up what many of us have long felt about the Mexican sombrero. And in this issue, we finally celebrate the magnificent sugarloaf!

— CALVIN AND HOBBS © 1986 WATTERSON. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. —



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

OUR READERS REMIND US OF THE VARIABLES AND VAGARIES OF HISTORIC TRUTHS, “WELL-ESTABLISHED” FACTS, HEADLINES AND HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

## REMEMBERING FORREST FENN 1930–2020

Forrest Fenn, the recipient of *True West*'s True Westerner award in 2014, died at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, of natural causes on September 7, 2020, at the age of 90. Fenn, an internationally beloved member of the Santa Fe art dealer and collector community, was also the author of several books and a decorated Air Force fighter pilot. In the past decade, Fenn had become famous for the treasure hunt he initiated in his 2010 memoir, *The Thrill of the Chase*. The book's poem about a mysterious buried treasure inspired hundreds of thousands to try to solve its clues and search for the bonanza in the outback of the American West. Fenn confirmed the treasure was found in Wyoming in June 2020.

*True West*'s Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell, who knew him for over two decades, fondly remembers Fenn's friendship, sharp wit and love of the West. “Forrest was always so full of mischief and fun. He had that twinkle in his eye,” Bob recalls. “He could also be blunt and direct, which kept you on your toes. He was also quite generous of his time and once insisted on driving me to the airport—a 120-mile round trip!—because he wanted to ‘chat’ about the Old West. I will miss that.”

Fenn is survived by his wife, Peggy, and daughters Kelly and Zoe.

## ROBERT E. LEE AND MONUMENTS TO WAR

The quote attributed to Robert E. Lee in the September 2020 “Truth be Known” column has circulated in various forms recently, about the legal and uncivil criminal removal of Confederate statues.

Under the nearly verbatim quote, a credit line reads: “—Robert E. Lee on Confederate Monuments.” But this is out of context. Here is the actual quote which was first listed in *Personal Reminiscences of General Robert E. Lee*, compiled by J. William Jones and published originally in 1875:

“I think it wisest not to keep open the sores of war, but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavor to obliterate the examples of civil strife and to commit to oblivion the feelings engendered.”

Lee's writing didn't concern only Confederate statues, but also Union statues and any reminder of war. Lee was writing to David McConaughy of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association in 1869, stating he “would not attend an Identification meeting to look at preservation of the Battlefield.”

According to his biographers, Lee was almost evangelical in his belief that all monuments to war and battlefields should not be preserved. The statement is used out of context to attack the Confederacy, rebel flags and Southern history. Lee felt it was wrong to glorify war with mementos of war; statues of any warrior bothered him, and all his biographers make his views clear on this subject. However, Lee did not believe soldiers killed for a cause should be forgotten and pushed away. He was in favor of statues in Confederate cemeteries. Lee also feared Confederate monuments (especially of him) would offend the Federals and he was still a “prisoner of war on parole.”

*Coy Prather  
Montalba, Texas*

*Thank you for your detailed explanation of Robert E. Lee's quote on monuments and war. It is this type of dialogue that will help our country discuss our past—and preserve it—with greater understanding and empathy in the present and future.*



— BOB BOZE BELL —

## BISCUIT HUMOR

In response to Sherry Monahan's September 2020 Frontier Fair column “The Humble Biscuit,” Carl Brockman of San Angelo, Texas, offers this cow-camp story he heard long ago:

A cowboy wanting to complain about the biscuits, but knowing he would get in trouble with the cook said, “Your biscuits are raw on top, salty as hell in the middle and burned on the bottom, but mmm, they sure taste good!”

*We love Old West humor—and biscuits—at True West, so don't hesitate to share them both with the editor!*

## CORRECTION

In Johnny D. Boggs' “Top Ten Western Art Museums” article in the September 2020 issue, we published *The Rains Across* by Ralph Waldo Emerson Myers, and incorrectly credited it of the art collection to the Taos Art Museum, when in fact it should have been credited as from the Collection of The Couse Foundation, The Couse-Sharp Historic Site, Taos, New Mexico.



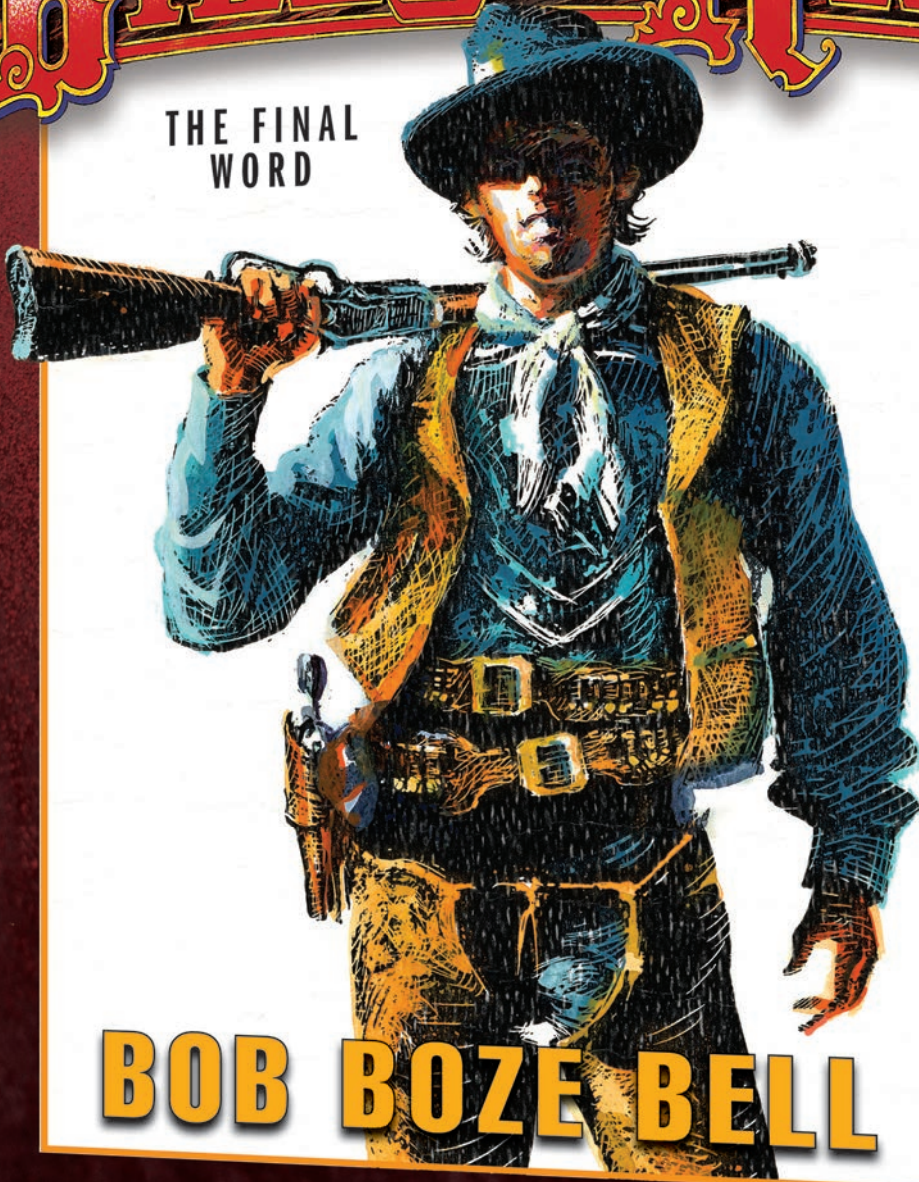
*The Rains Across*  
by Ralph Waldo Emerson Myers  
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BY MARK BOARDMAN

# Eyewitness to Mayhem?

*Did Big Nose Kate watch the Tombstone shootout?*

**A**round 3 p.m., October 26, 1881. Guns exploded in an empty lot on Fremont Street in Tombstone, Arizona Territory. Most bystanders ducked for cover, although a few watched the proceedings. That may have included a person staring out a side window at Fly's Boarding House, the building that bracketed the south side of the lot.

Mary Katherine Haroney was also known as Kate Elder, and she's gone down in history as "Big Nose" Kate. She was Doc Holliday's paramour, and they were staying at Fly's. She had seen tensions build through the day. She overheard Cowboy Ike Clanton—armed with a rifle—come to the boardinghouse and ask Molly Fly if Doc was around. Molly lied and said no. Kate awoke Doc and told him that Ike was on the prowl. Doc armed himself and went out, returning only after the fight.

Kate said she saw the shootout, peering out a window as the guns went off. Outside of a couple of details, her account of the incident was remarkably accurate. But in telling the tale, she said it occurred in the late morning (when it was mid-afternoon). And she said Ike Clanton ran before the guns went off (he left after the first few shots).

But that's understandable—when you take into account that Kate (then going by her married name of Cummings) was recounting the fight 58 years afterwards in a letter to a niece. And that's raised questions. Why did Kate wait so long to recall the street fight? There's no evidence she said anything about it in the years before. And Kate was 89 years old! Were her memories that accurate—or had she gotten the story from another source? Those questions have led at least some people



Wyatt Earp (above) stands to the right, slightly behind his brother Virgil, and remains at the northwest corner of Fly's lodging house for most of the fight.

Behind him we can see Kate peering through the lodging house window. She relates, "This lady friend [Mrs. Fly] and I went to the side window, which faced the vacant lot. One shot went through the window, just two panes above us.

My friend left the window, but I stayed there until the fight was over."

(including historians) to doubt that Kate actually witnessed the shootout.

She might have had an opportunity to give eyewitness testimony soon after the event. The Spicer Hearing included several accounts of the fight—but not Kate's. Why she was not called is a mystery. And she left town during the hearing, which indicates she knew she wouldn't take the witness stand, or didn't want to.

So the debate continues: did Kate witness the street fight or not? We may never know for sure.

But her recollections include a remarkable point, post-fight. Doc came back to their room and sat on the bed and began weeping. "That was awful—awful!" If that happened, Doc wasn't the cold-blooded killer portrayed in many books.

Kate died just a few months after writing the letter. She didn't leave much behind—except a letter that may or may not have given an eyewitness account of the Gunfight near the O.K. Corral.



Doc Holliday and Big Nose Kate Elder, aka Mary Katherine Haroney, had been together in Tombstone since March of 1881. Seven months later the two would split for good after the infamous shootout behind the O.K. Corral.

— ARTWORK BY BOB BOZE BELL —



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## CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS V. I, II & III

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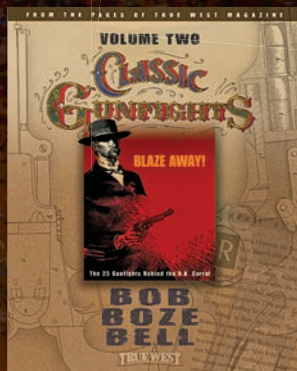
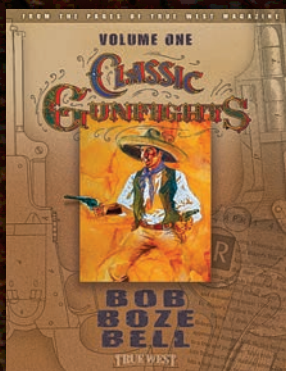
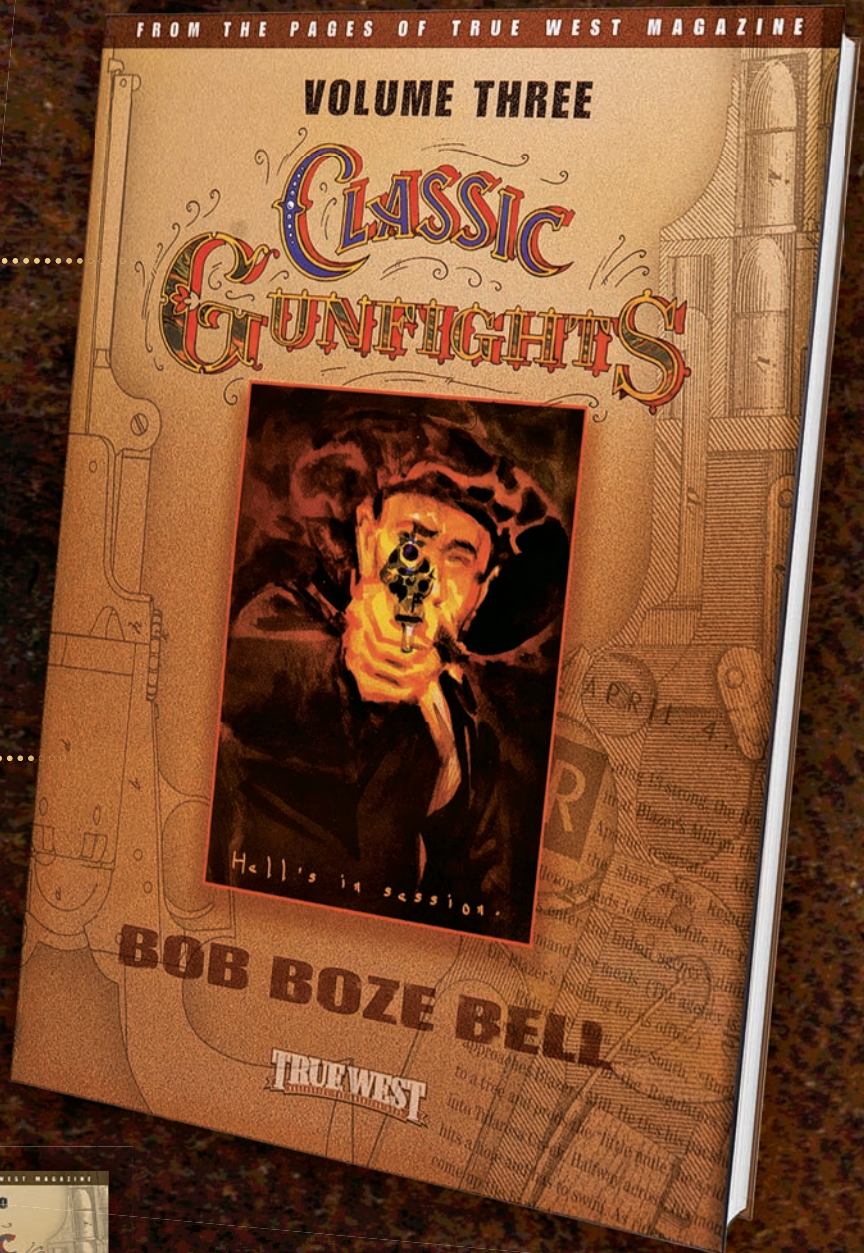
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**TRUE WEST**  
MAGAZINE

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

# Home On The Range Cabin “...And the Skies Are Not Cloudy All Day”

*Going “home” to a sweet moment in American history.*

**D**r. Brewster M. Higley had some troubles when he homesteaded in north central Kansas in 1872. There was “a little problem with the bottle,” and he’d already gone through four wives. But he had no trouble voicing the nirvana he found on his farm along West Beaver Creek in Smith County.

As he sat on the bank one day, he penned a poem titled “My Western Home” to mark his contentment: “Oh give me a home, where the buffalo roam...”

It’s a safe bet that every reader can finish that poem, these 148 years later, as it’s embedded in American Western folklore—and has been named one of the top 100 Western songs of all time.

There’s no better place to sing the song than the one-room cabin that Dr. Higley and his friends built shortly after the poem was penned.

“If you visit and sit outside the cabin with no one around, you can feel what he’s saying,” notes El Dean Holthus, whose late aunt and uncle saved the cabin from ruin, and now invites visitors to experience the restored home of “Home on the Range.”

History tells us that Dr. Higley gave his poem to a friend, Don Kelly, who was a member of a family band, and he set it to music. And the words sound sweeter than ever to a nation that is struggling with division: “Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word...”

Holthus says the original cabin was probably a dugout with three sides in limestone and a log front. But over the years, the dirt



The Home on the Range Cabin is popular all over the world, El Dean Holthus has learned, as he’s met visitors from Germany, Russia, Poland, Denmark and China. “One day I met a girl from Bombay, India, who told me she sang the song every day.”

— PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL G. SAFT/PEOPLE’S HEARTLAND FOUNDATION —

fell away. He says Dr. Higley and his fifth wife lived in the cabin until 1885, and then others moved in until the turn of the century. Then it became a chicken coop, and that’s what it was when his Uncle Pete and Aunt Ellen Rust bought the land.

He remembers that someone once offered them a nifty price if they’d sell the decrepit cabin so it could be moved to a tourist spot. They refused and instead worked to have it restored. In 1947, the Kansas Legislature made “Home on the Range” the state song, and in 1954, the state did a renovation on the cabin that took some big liberties. Those were corrected in 2013 during a complete restoration.

El Dean Holthus’s aunt and uncle, Ellen and Pete Rust, owned the property with the Home on the Range Cabin when it was a chicken coop.

— COURTESY EL DEAN HOLTHUS/PEOPLE’S HEARTLAND FOUNDATION —

Holthus says it’s believed this is probably the only limestone log cabin in the entire country that is still on its original site.

The cabin is privately owned and managed by the People’s Heartland Foundation. Holthus says the foundation is developing trails and informational memorials so visitors can learn more about Kansas Territory.

And he thinks visitors today might be seeking the same solitude Dr. Higley found. “I think he wanted to get away,” he says. “It’s a peaceful place.”

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*.

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

# Guns of Mexico's Freedom Fighters

*During Mexico's 1910 Revolution, rebel forces fought with muzzle-loaders, lever-action and bolt-action repeaters—even machine guns.*



Mexican Revolutionaries' rifles ran the entire gamut of small arms of the era. This period image shows a squad of freedom fighters taking aim with a variety of lever-action Winchesters, Mauser bolt-actions and a single-shot Remington Rolling Block rifle.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

This vaquero was fortunate to acquire a 7x57mm, 1895 Mauser carbine, which was lighter and easier to use on horseback than the long infantry rifle. In the typical fashion of the freedom fighters from south of the border, he's carrying two bandoleers of cartridges for his carabina. Many of Villa's and Zapata's troops carried as many as four or more bandoleros of ammunition.

Backed by Diaz's corrupt government, the Mexican Federal Army was well equipped by Germany, which showed great interest in Mexico at the time, and armed them mostly with 7mm Model 1895 Mauser, bolt-action rifles. Various Mexican regimes purchased Model 1902 and 1912 Mausers and some Japanese 7mm Arisaka rifles. The Federales also imported a number of semi-auto, 7x57mm Mondragón rifles, designed in Mexico, but mostly manufactured in Switzerland (later, in 1908 Mexico). Many of these federal arms eventually made their way to the *Revolucionarios*, who relied almost entirely on captured or privately purchased arms.

One of the most popular arms with the *Revolucionarios* was Winchester's Model 1894 lever gun in .30-30 caliber, as seen in this photo of a simply dressed, but well-armed and beautifully tacked out vaquero.

Although the popular Mexican folk song, "*Carabina Treinta Treinta*" (.30-30 Carbine) is thought to be a song from the Mexican Revolution of 1910, it was actually from the 1949 Mexican movie *¡Arriba el Norte!*. Nevertheless, the song reflects Mexico's fight for freedom from oppression.

Ammunition for handguns ranged from the smallest .22 rimfires, .32 S&W and .38 Short, to the beefy American frontier-era rifle/revolver loads like .38-40, .44-40 and .45 Colt, loaded in such six-guns as 1873 Colt single actions and their later double actions. Colt Bisleys (said to be a personal favorite of Pancho Villa), Remingtons, S&Ws, Merwin

**W**hether they served with Pancho Villa in the north, Emiliano Zapata in the south, or any number of guerilla bands, the men, women and children who fought against oppression in Mexico's 1910 Revolution armed themselves with almost any firearm they could lay their hands on. The citizen freedom fighters—vaqueros, farmers, city workers and rural *peones*—fought the Mexican Federal Army and the United States Army during the Punitive Expedition of 1916. As guerilla leader Emiliano Zapata told an elderly volunteer in 1913, who was armed with only a crude, homemade shotgun, "If it shoots, it's welcome in the Revolution."

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Zapatista commander Refugio Sanchez and some of his men posed for this 1914 portrait of Mexico's freedom fighters. Interestingly, Sanchez carries a Colt "Lightning" pump rifle, while his compadre to the right sports a Model 1899 Savage, in either .303 Savage, or most likely the easier to acquire .30-30 Winchester round.

Zapata's army was unique in that he allowed women, known as *soldaderas*, to join the ranks and serve as combatants (a few even became officers), while other revolutionary forces allowed the women to follow the men but not to fight. In this photo, *Mujeres Patriotas* brandish their sabers, revolvers and bandoleers of ammunition for Mexican photographer Flores Perez.



In this seldom seen photograph, Pancho Villa holds a 7mm Hotchkiss machine gun, and is accompanied by his friend, Karl von Hoffman (wearing light cardigan sweater), an adventurer, soldier, author, explorer and the cinematographer of the 1914 D.W. Griffith movie, *The Life of General Villa*, featuring the general himself. Hoffman's knowledge of machine guns was of great value to Villa.

Hulberts and others were also heavily used. For shoulder arms, besides captured Mausers, the most popular arms of the mounted rebel vaqueros were the slab-sided, lightweight and saddle-friendly 1873 and 1892 Winchesters, along with various models of like-chambered Marlins. These arms would preferably carry the .38-40 and .44-40 rounds. Later models, like Winchester's 1894 models, were especially favored in the .30 WCF. That company's 1895 model would likely be stoked with .30-40 Krag, and .30-06 Springfield. Any arm produced up through the time of the revolt could have been used.

Bolt-action rifles carried high-powered military smokeless rifle ammunition, including the 7x57mm Mauser, .30-06 Springfield and .30-40 Krag. Even hunting rifle rounds that were scrounged up saw use, including the popular .38-56 Winchester, designed for the 1886 Winchester lever action and employed in the 1895 Marlin lever gun, as well as the various .40, .45 and .50 caliber loads produced for such sporting arms. Other old, but still deadly calibers, including the all-but-obsolete black powder .45-70 Government load, which could be used in 1881 Marlins and 1886 Winchesters, surplus



Women and children followed both the federal and the revolutionist armies, sometimes fighting alongside them.

This little rebel girl is typical of the *soldaderas*, or “Adelitas,” as the women camp followers and combatants were often called. She’s loaded down with a Winchester lever gun and what appears to be an Iver Johnson revolver in her holster, along with two bandoleers of rifle ammo and a waist belt full of cartuchos.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

1873 Springfield “trapdoors” and the like would not be turned away. Except for the .30-30 round, which the revolutionists usually seemed to be able to get lots of, obtaining quantities of other types of sporting ammo was difficult.

Another breed of firearm used in the Revolution, including Villa’s 1916 raid on Columbus, New Mexico, was the single-shot Remington Rolling Block rifle. Mexico’s government Rurales mounted police carried M-1897 Remington Rolling Block carbines in 7.92mm Mauser chambering, and a number of these *carabinas*, were “repatriated” by the rebels.

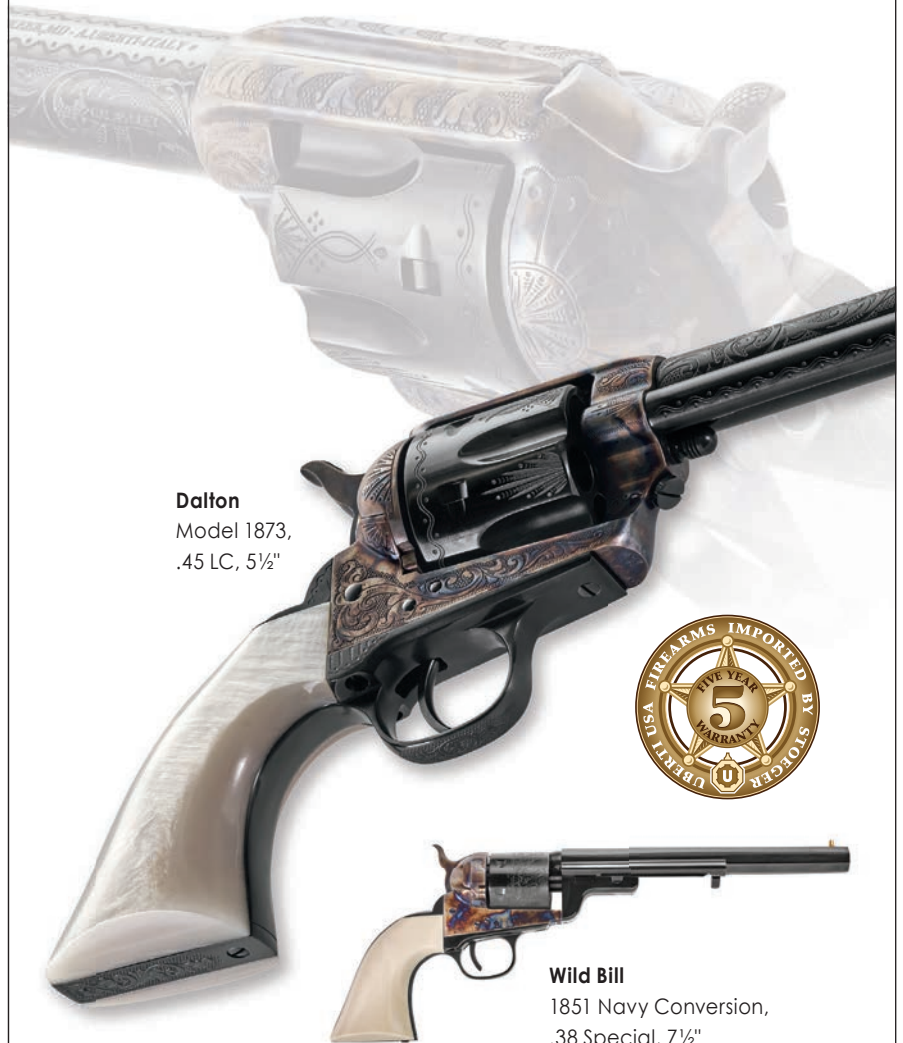
Machine guns ran the gamut from old Colt M-1895, 7mm “Potato diggers,” a few Gatling guns, a handful of Lewis guns (likely stolen from American forces), a few 1896 Hotchkiss 7mm machine guns, Model 1911 Madsens and some German Maxims.

The *Revolucionarios* rose from a small band of ill-equipped vaqueros, working class townspeople and rural peasants, to become a formidable and victorious fighting force that lived off the land, gathered what weapons they could and eluded their enemies with regularity, while waging war to the cries of *Viva Villa!*, *Viva Zapata* and *Viva la Revolucion!*



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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HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

BY SALOMÉ HERNÁNDEZ

# ¡VIVA ZAPATA! ¡TIERRA Y LIBERTAD!

## A CENTURY AFTER THE END OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION, REVOLUTIONARY EMILIANO ZAPATA STILL INSPIRES POLITICAL REFORM AND JUSTICE.

The iconic pictures of the Mexican soldier and his *soldadera* wearing bandoliers embody the Mexican Revolution that began in 1910 south of our border. It ended ten years later, on November 30, 1920, after many military victories and political maneuvers, with the investiture of President Álvaro Obregón. But in September 1926, the *New York Times* reported that the Yaqui Indians initiated one of its last volleys, “kidnapping” Obregón on a train trip to Sonora. They had supported his revolutionary battles, but they now insisted he keep his promises to protect their land. Promises were made, but again Obregón fell short. Now, back to the revolution, what followed the initial proclamation were twists and turns that eventually pitted revolutionary against revolutionary: 10 long years with coups, civil wars, battles, assassinations and quite a few presidents.

### CALL FOR REVOLT AGAINST DIAZ

In 1910 Francisco Madero made the call to arms. His best-known followers and the heroes of the revolution are Francisco “Pancho” Villa, leader of the Northern Army, and Emiliano Zapata, general of the Southern Army. They rose to back Madero in his struggle against the dictator, Porfirio Díaz, a conservative who supported the landowning elite and foreigners to the detriment of the Mexican middle class and poor, especially the Indians and landless peasants. This struggle had been part of Zapata’s life a decade before the revolution drew him in. To Villa, it was new.

### ZAPATA THE AGRARIAN HERO

In the southern state of Morelos, Zapata had years of experience fighting Díaz’s repressive actions. He had suffered at the hands of landowning *hacendados*, who wanted to control the land and water of the region (with



Díaz’s help). He did not have to be told of the exploitation and suffering; he had felt it. With other peasant leaders, Zapata formed the Liberation Army of the South and marched to fight the *federales*, playing a major role in Díaz’s defeat. He participated

in the pivotal southern Battle of Cuautla, which Díaz admits convinced him to renounce his presidency.

The Battle of Cuautla was especially difficult for Zapata, although his force outnumbered the *federales* ten to one. The elite federal force, of 300 to 400, was firmly ensconced in the town and at the highest points with machine guns—promising never to surrender. Zapata was used to guerrilla or fast attack tactics like his northern brother, Villa. Cuautla was a siege. Initially, several attacks were repulsed with a high casualty rate for Zapatistas. He lost more than 1,000 soldiers to machine guns and hand-to-hand fighting against Díaz’s elite. Eventually, Zapatistas used petroleum to burn out many of the *federales*. Due to that, and to running out of water and ammunition, the elite survivors fled on May 21, 1911.

To the north, in the Battle of Ciudad Juárez in 1911, Villa, Madero and Pascual Orozco decided to lay siege to Ciudad Juárez. Madero, fearing U.S. intervention on its border, ordered a successful attack. Coupled with other defeats, a week later Díaz resigned and left for Europe.

Neither Villa nor Zapata had military training, so the victories were remarkable. Villa is often remembered because of his battles and “bandit-like” activities, mostly confined to Northern Mexico, including his incursion into the U.S. Villa is a controversial figure because of these activities. While publicly espousing the cause of the downtrodden peasants, many believe he joined the cause because he saw it as an opportunity to advance

In 1909, at the age of 30, Emiliano Zapata was elected village chief of his native Anenecuilco, a village in Mexico’s state of Morelos. Zapata was highly regarded by his community for his prowess as a *vaquero*, and in his rise to fame and power as a revolutionary, he became identified by his sugarloaf sombrero and *charro* style.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED—



On November 24, 1914, the southern forces of Zapata, wearing the Zapatistas' signature sugarloaf sombreros, occupied Mexico City after the final forces loyal to Carranza had evacuated. Twelve days later the 20,000 Zapatistas would be joined by 35,000 Stetson-clad Villistas in a show of revolutionary force never seen in Mexico City before or since.



and was in it only for himself. None can deny, however, that he led the army to important victories that brought positive change. The fact that he robbed from the rich landowning *hacendados*, banks and train companies caught the attention of U.S. leaders, who called him a Robin Hood.

### MADERO'S SHORT PRESIDENCY

It did not take long for Madero, as president, to renounce the Zapatistas as bandits and send federal troops under Victoriano Huerta to put down their "rebellion," using a scorched earth policy. Losing trust in Madero, Zapata put out his Plan of Ayala in November 1911. Zapata denounced Madero and called for substantial land reforms, redistributing lands to the peasants. His slogan, "Land and Liberty," was born. Zapata refused to disarm and fled to the mountains ahead of General Huerta's attacks. Huerta destroyed villages, removed inhabitants and forcibly constricted the men to the army or labor camps. Zapata consolidated his troops and his role as defender of the peasants, eventually pushing Huerta out. Huerta returned to Mexico City and

lead a coup against Madero, who was ultimately assassinated in 1914.

### HUERTA'S BETRAYAL

Zapata left his southern stronghold and journeyed to the outskirts of Mexico City joining forces with the Constitutionalist forces in northern Mexico led by Venustiano Carranza and Álvaro Obregón, to contain Huerta. They ousted Huerta in July 1914. Zapata's presence prevented Huerta from sending his entire army against Villa and the others in the north, allowing them—especially Villa—victory.

### VILLA AS ROBIN HOOD

While he had done well with his local lieutenants, Villa's growing international fame attracted journalists and foreign mercenaries with experience to his side. John Reed, a leftist journalist, spent four months with him and wrote *Insurgent Mexico*, that cemented Villa's reputation as a Robin Hood. Reed described the military leaders as "unpaid, ill-clad, undisciplined; their officers merely the bravest among them armed only with aged Springfields and a handful of cartridges apiece." Such was his

On December 6, 1914, after the two tigers of the Mexican revolution, Pancho Villa, center in the president's chair, and Emiliano Zapata, entered Mexico City on horseback at the head of their armies, they took over President Eulalio Gutierrez's office in the Presidential Palace. While Gutierrez is notably absent from the image, Villa's adjutant Tomas Urbina sits to his boss's right and Villa's greatly feared bodyguard stands to his left (partially blocked) in the campaign hat.





On December 4, 1914, northern revolutionary leader Pancho Villa met Emiliano Zapata at the southern leaders' headquarters in Xochimilco to plan their takeover of the country—and who they wanted to assassinate. Two days later, the already legendary Mexican revolutionary leaders rode together with 55,000 of their men down the main boulevards of Mexico City to the National Palace.

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reputation and he was invited to Fort Bliss to meet Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing—who tried to track him down two years later.

He raised money attacking haciendas and trains and through donations, which he used to modernize the army he took south, defeating Huerta in various battles, especially the Battle of Zacatecas in 1914. Unfortunately, the battle delayed him, and Carranza entered Mexico City ahead of Villa. Conflict was brewing.

### CARRANZA WANTS POWER

Months later, in October 1914, Carranza called for a meeting. Villa refused to go and it was moved. In the Convention of Aguascalientes, they tried to reach an agreement, to no avail. Carranza expected to be designated president, but another was chosen. Carranza left, setting up a government in Veracruz on December 6. Mexico descended into civil war. Zapata reiterated his adherence to the Plan de Ayala, again reinforced his support of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, trying to bring reforms and the protections they had fought for. This legacy cemented a long-lasting peasant following, which Villa never achieved.

### MEETING OF ZAPATA AND VILLA

Zapata's army had taken Mexico City, and, interestingly, the peasant soldiers did not pillage and rape as had other armies, rather they surprisingly asked residents for food and water. On December 7, 1914, Zapata met his counterpart, Villa. The two leaders. Zapata, tall and thin and dressed as a *charro*; Villa at 180 pounds with a more robust body, dressed

in khakis and a pith helmet. Although allies, they did not truly trust each other. One observer described the meeting as a coy encounter “like two country sweethearts.” Villa accepted Zapata's Plan de Ayala and promised to fight with Zapata until a civilian president could be seated.

The two had several things in common. First, their popular origins appealed to the populace—the peasants. Neither would sell them out. Villa was driven to banditry. With the death of his “hero,” Madero, he took to robbing the rich and helping the poor in a haphazard manner. Second, they had an immediate common target—Carranza, the current nominal leader who had forgotten the revolutionary principles.

Zapata kept to his southern region, venturing out only as needed. The son of a horse trainer, he rose to power as a peasant leader. At his apex, he preferred wearing the traditional *charro* attire, slim silver-buttoned pants with pastel scarves; breaking horses (his father's profession); and drinking. Like Villa, he sought the company of many a young damsel. Zapata struggled to recover the lost lands of the peasants, whose fierce loyalty was as unwavering as his dedication to the cause. Zapata used this time well and got down to enacting some agrarian reforms, trying to establish a Rural Loan bank and reorganize the sugar industry. He asked President Wilson's envoy to meet with him, but Wilson had already recognized Carranza

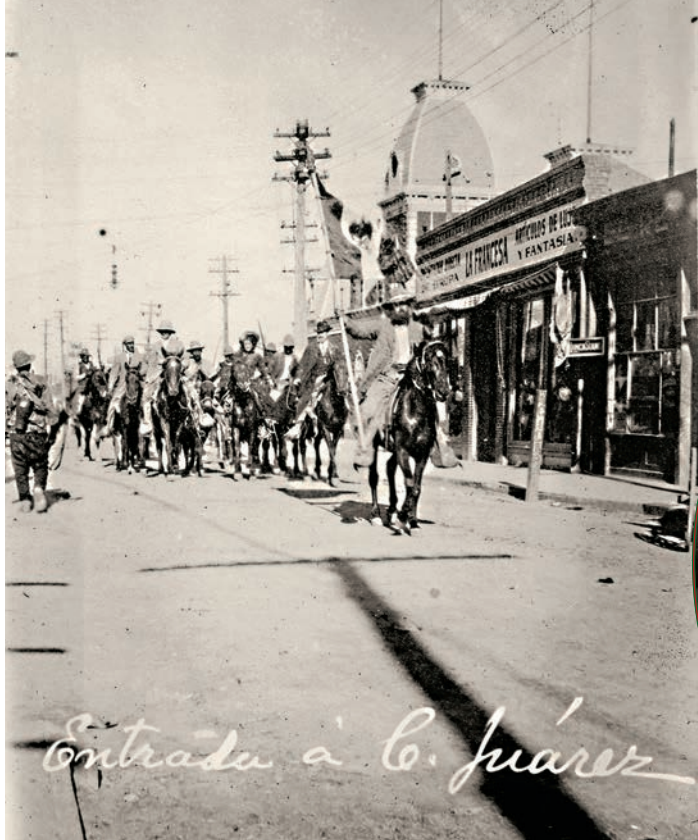
The two leaders used their uncanny military skills with mobile forces and guerilla forces. To succeed they used the

support of the lieutenants, who flocked around them from the countryside and the common people who followed them. Villa eventually had some foreign help, but the local leaders had little military experience.

### CARRANZA AS PRESIDENT

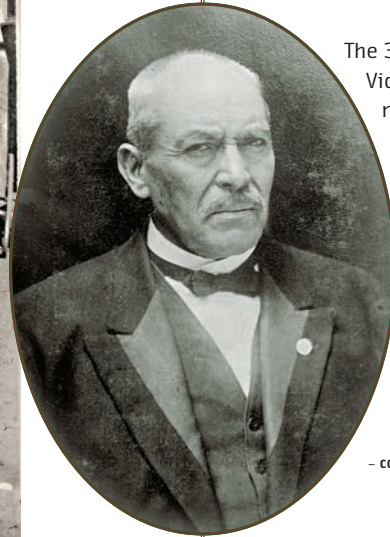
Carranza called a constitutional convention and was elected president. From Veracruz, Carranza and Obregon, a superior tactician, waged a publicity campaign against Villa, portraying him as a sociopathic bandit. Villa was eventually forced out of Mexico City. With Carranza as his adversary, Villa roamed the north. Soon thereafter, Obregon defeated Villa in the Battle of Celaya and other northern battles, thus consolidating his power. The Division of the North was left in tatters. Villa was on the run. Desperate and disappointed with the U.S., he began to plan an incursion into the U.S. for more arms. In March of 1916, Villa committed his most audacious attack against the U.S., an incursion into Columbus, New Mexico, causing the death of dozens of Americans. President Wilson sent an expeditionary/punitive force under Pershing to capture Villa, but he eluded it for close to one year.

Meanwhile, Zapata occupied Puebla in 1917 but had to return to the south. William Gates, the new U.S. envoy, met Zapata. Gates wrote about him in a series of articles in which he contrasted Zapata's orderly “constitutional zone” with the chaos of the rest of Mexico. Carranza attacked and Zapata had no choice but to fight against another scorched-earth offensive. After



On May 10, 1911, Pancho Villa, Pasqual Orozco, Venustiano Carranza and Francisco I. Madero's combined northern forces defeated President Porfirio Díaz's troops and occupied Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. Eight days later, Zapata's Southern army defeated the federalists at Cuautla, Morelos, which led to Díaz's peace negotiations and exile.

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The 35th president of Mexico, Victoriano Huerta, was nicknamed "the jackal" by his opponents. Huerta's 17-month authoritarian reign in the presidential palace following the overthrow of President Francisco Madero is remembered as a failure that did not receive support from either Zapata or Villa.

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haciendas and villages. Many southern and northern leaders, including Villa, reached deals with the government. He was pardoned and retired to his ranch. Later, as many feared Villa would rise again, he too was assassinated on the streets of Parral on June 20, 1923.

Capitalizing on their role in the Obregón victory, some of the Zapatista leaders were

given political positions and ensured some gains for the peasants. Full protection was never achieved.

### LAST MAN STANDING

None of the original rebels achieved ultimate success. Interestingly, neither Zapata nor Villa sought national power. Zapata specifically fixed his goal as agrarian reform. Some argue that they were uneducated, provincial and tied to a vanishing rural way of life. The Constitutionalists—more often opportunists from the north, like their leader Alvaro Obregón—were more like entrepreneurs. Obregón used the Yaqui lands himself and doled out land to his cohorts. To keep the masses quiet, there was some token distribution to the peasants, but not as Zapata had envisioned. Radical ideas like agrarian reform circulated, were

many battles and much suffering, Zapata took back Morelos in 1917. He was able to influence the writing of the Mexican Constitution, which would include Article 27 as a response to his agrarian demands. He continued the struggle until 1919, when Col. Jesus Guajardo lured him to a hacienda, where, coincidentally, Zapata was ambushed and killed by Carrancista soldiers.

### OBREGÓN THE NON-REVOLUTIONARY

Zapata's generals aligned with Obregón against Carranza, who was killed as he fled Mexico City with the treasury and documents. Obregon became president. The end was near. After ten years of war, war-weary peones returned to their



Emiliano Zapata's betrayal and assassination by Col. Jesus Guajardo's men at the Chinameca hacienda on April 9, 1919, secured his place as a martyr of the Mexican Revolution.



The last known portrait of Zapata, the agrarian revolutionary, has remained an icon of Mexican political reformists for over a century.

implemented in some places, and indeed, became part of the Constitution of 1917. Some argued that little changed, as much went back to the status quo during a political counter revolution.

But many things did change. The country was opened and ideas flourished. It was not until the administration of Lazaro Cardenas that some real political changes were made. Yet, 70 years later, the neo-Zapatistas found it again necessary to rise again—proof that Zapata's agrarian dream had not been realized. Zapata's dedication inspired the late 20th-century movement to fulfill the continued struggle of the peasants for justice.



**Dr. Salomé Hernández** received her PhD from the University of New Mexico, specializing in Spanish Borderlands and Western history. After a career as a Foreign Service Officer, she has returned to the Southwest and her first love—history.

**"Zapata was the embodiment of sullen, suspicious, defiant, insolent brute force."**

*—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 11, 1914*



BY LYNDA A. SÁNCHEZ

# THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION'S MATA HARI

THE TRUE STORY OF THE MYSTERIOUS  
AND ELUSIVE HELENE PONTIPIRANI

**THE** elements of this story are as old as war—a beautiful spy, betrayal, a warning given and not taken, a pistol left for protection and the destruction of a town—and created one of the most unusual of victories for the revolutionaries in war-torn Mexico. No one, until it was too late, could believe that Helene had deceived them, and so easily. Above all others, Rosa King felt the betrayal more acutely. General Victoriano Huerta “turned to Helene, standing beside me, radiant with triumph and more beautiful than ever. And as he bent low over her hand I little realized what I had done to him and to myself by introducing her...”

Posing as a journalist, Helene doubled as a spy for Pancho Villa and Zapata, thus making her vulnerable in a world dominated by men, and yet that very vulnerability brought her great power and success. As with so many spies, there are, to date, no known photos of the woman, although descriptions of Helene are quite dramatic. She was “dark and fascinating” as a classic beauty who had no qualms about trading sexual favors for military information. As a *periodista* (journalist) she was given access to military and civilian power centers, and social gatherings.

King and Pontipirani met in Mexico City in 1914. Pontipirani was in demand as a “sophisticated young beauty,” who was constantly invited to all of the best fiestas of the elegant city. She claimed to represent a number of French newspapers covering the Mexican Revolution, and Rosa King

was a natural and easy contact because she ran the Bella Vista Hotel, described at the time as Cuernavaca’s finest. King got along well with all sides and was respected by everyone. The rebels needed information on how to best defeat the *federales*, thus the Romanian correspondent deliberately



Hotel “La Bella Vista” Cuernavaca, Mexico.

The hotel became a neutral, engaging and elegant setting for many years after Rosa King restored it and made it the centerpiece of the plaza in Cuernavaca.

*Federales* revolutionaries, President Huerta and opposing generals felt safe and welcome there. It also became the headquarters for the treacherous Helene and her espionage activities.

— COURTESY AUTHOR’S COLLECTION —

developed a friendship with Rosa King. Arriving in the pueblo under the wing of Mrs. King, she could observe and report on conditions in that logistically important locale with little suspicion.

## HELENE

She also needed to get a travel permit from el presidente, Victoriano Huerta, an incompetent and foolish old man who was easily swayed by a pretty girl’s flirtatious

ways. During their visit Helene was described as lovely and patrician, dressed all in gray with a smart hat that showed off her black hair and lustrous curls. “Helene’s eyes fairly darted sparks. That is what I like in people [she said to Huerta], the power, the force that makes things happen...”

Needless to say, General Huerta magnanimously granted the permit, noting he would put a double guard on the train to protect both women. He did warn them, however, to return to Mexico City as soon as possible for their own safety. He was pleasant enough, but in July 1914, a few months after his encounter with Helene, he was ousted from power.

Unfortunately, the violence and chaos of war had caused life in beautiful Cuernavaca to become one of strife and deprivation. The ancient city had an almost abandoned, desolate feel hanging over it, and the valley guarded by the famous Mexican volcanos Iztaccihuatl and Popocateptl appeared that way too. The once-grand homes were boarded up and no one walked the streets after dark. A few vagrants and lonely dogs were reminders of the hardships now facing the people. Fountains no longer graced gardens, and cascading flowers of violet and pink bougainvillea had long since withered. Zapata had first taken the city in 1911, but federal forces forced them to retreat and now it was a cat-and-mouse game. The military officers were bored, and a sense of neglect possessed them even as Helene and Rosa arrived at the Bella Vista.

Rosa wrote: “I could not help laughing at their stupefaction and delight when

## THE LADY IN GRAY

Helene Pontipirani was deceitful, manipulative, smart as a whip, patrician and beautiful—the perfect combination for a spy. Her portrait is inspired from specific descriptions by Rosa King in her 1936 memoir *Tempest Over Mexico*.

— "THE LADY IN GRAY" BY BOB BOZE BELL —



Artist Carroll Bill's woodcut illustration from Rosa King's *Tempest Over Mexico* depicts the elegance of the fiestas at the Bella Vista. *Bailes*, dinners and special teas were featured.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



they caught sight of Helene Pontipirani. It was a long time since they had seen a girl like that. The girl herself ignored them. Only her heightened color and a subtle accentuation of her grace revealed that she was aware of the frank Latin stares. She went upstairs to her room immediately, carrying the small bag she had brought. I recall now that she would let no one else touch it.”

## CHANGING PERSONALITIES

Once settled in, her real work began. She changed personality almost overnight and began to flirt and become so popular with the *militares* that they competed for her to accompany them on rides or to galas. It appeared that she would do anything to get them to talk and reveal locations, plans, movements of soldiers to and from various strategic sites. King was dismayed and troubled by this sudden change in behavior. She tried to warn Helene that as a stranger in Mexico she needed to abide by cultural mores of behavior appropriate for single young women of that era. Pontipirani laughed at and ignored Rosa's pleas. Helene was at ease with these violent men and the fawning younger officers. Many, at their own peril, fell to her charm.

Pontipirani was often accompanied by the commanding general of

Helene knew how to handle men such as *El Presidente* General Victoriano Huerta, seated in center, and his cabinet. The day she and Rosa King visited, it was obvious Huerta was completely charmed by the beautiful, deceptive lady in gray.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

the area and through him we now understand her final treachery. As mysteriously as she came into the community, so too did she prepare to depart, and suddenly one morning, she was granted a permit to leave for the north. At this juncture Helene felt that she should at least warn Señora King of pending danger and thus she urged Rosa to accompany her—to take the same train on which the spy was traveling. Because she respected and actually liked Rosa, she explained perhaps more than she would have ordinarily. Exiting

immediately with her would be the only way King could safely reach Mexico City in the near future.

King refused to leave her beloved hotel and employees. Obviously frustrated, Pontipirani presented her with a pistol for her protection, however King declined the offer of a weapon. Nonetheless, Pontipirani left the pistol behind in a final gesture—bittersweet, no doubt—but still hoping to protect a woman she had grown to admire.

## ABANDONING CUERNAVACA

Shortly after the train departed, the rails were destroyed by a powerful dynamite blast. It was not only the terrible destruction of the rails and train being blown all to hell, but the only rail line to Mexico City was no more, and beautiful Cuernavaca was left to the mercy of Zapata. (He laid siege to the city in May of 1914. It fell in August, but then he lost control in this seesaw of counter moves in 1916.) Nevertheless, the damage had been done and the *federales* were doomed, as well. Twisted wreckage of the train and people's broken bodies were scattered everywhere. The ultimate





Trains were used as weapons, as transportation and as symbols of power. When the rail lines were blown all to hell in and out of Cuernavaca by the Zapatistas as a result of Helene's betrayal, it was the death knell for thousands.

— COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER —

death of over 6,000 people made this a huge win for the rebels in 1914.

Pontipirani wrote to Rosa King after her departure from Cuernavaca. In the letter, Pontipirani explained her position and begged King's forgiveness for her part in the destruction of Cuernavaca. She reminded King that she had left a warning and even a pistol. But King apparently was not in a forgiving mood. She never replied. Rumors floated back to her in Cuernavaca that the body of a beautiful younger woman had been found in a canyon near the train wreck, but then once she received the note from Helene, King realized the woman had survived and would continue her dangerous game with history.

Along with thousands of Cuernavaca's residents, Rosa King had to abandon the city. Their flight through the mountains was a traumatic experience. Attacked repeatedly by bandits and other starving refugees, they were often killed by bullets but just as much by starvation, fatigue, cold and lack of water. And Rosa was haunted by the words of the commanding general when he told her that Helene was really a spy for Villa! His men had caught several traitorous *campesinos* (peasants) with handwritten messages from Helene to posts outside of the city. Each one was damning, and the carrier was shot on the spot, but no one knows how many of them got through. Apparently enough did so that the timing was perfect—and damage and carnage overwhelming.

### **Pancho Villa Bandit Revolutionary**

Pancho Villa, through sheer brute strength and rough charisma, gathered around him people who were opposites. Despite his crude ways and people's disdain of the illiterate bandit general, people knew that only Villa could rally the *campesinos* to his side. Helene bragged to Rosa King that she worked for both generals. Her successful spying resulted in the destruction of beautiful Cuernavaca.

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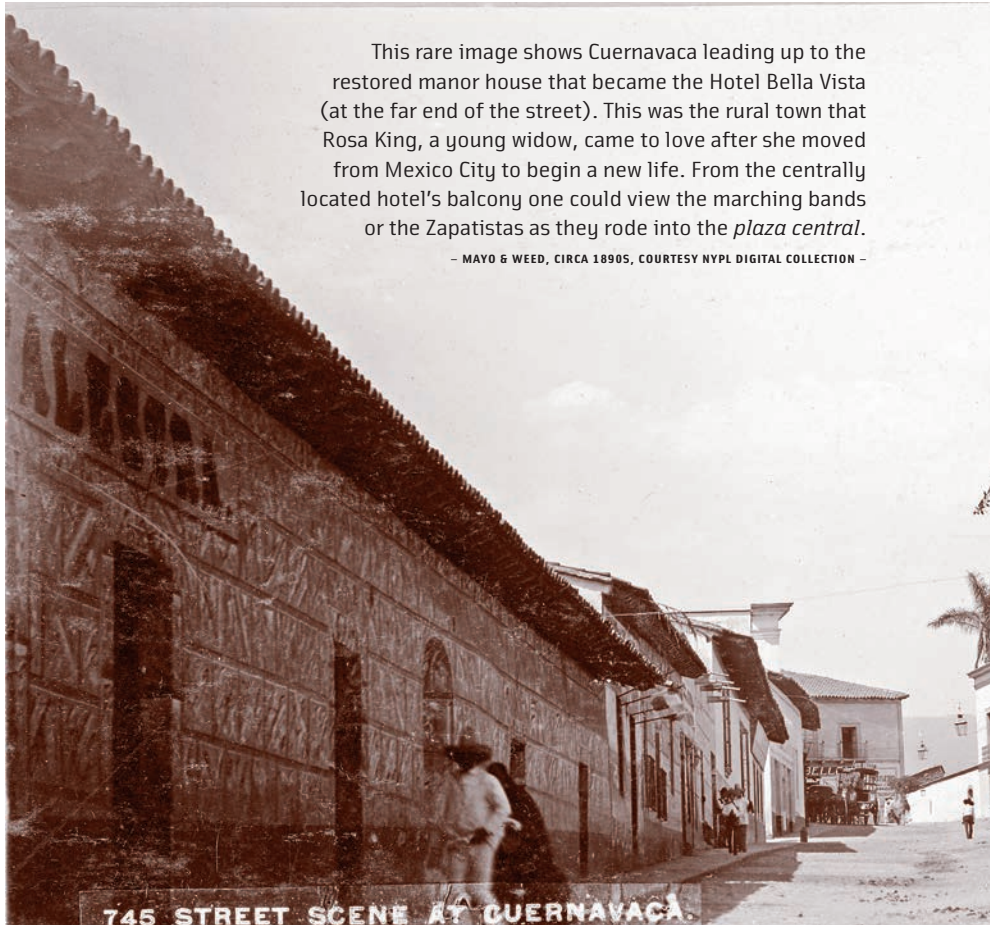
## THE VILLA MYSTIQUE

The mystique of Villa and his appeal to the people was undeniable. Some feared and even hated the man, but they believed in the revolution. He brought together many individuals who were opposites like Helene, King, General Angeles, General/President Huerta, President Madero, Zapata and many others. Villa gathered to his side and on the battlefield some of the most cultured and distinguished people of his time, and, despite his crude ways, they all understood for the times, he was the general who could get things done...at least in the beginning years. Helene Pontipirani had bragged to Rosa King much later that she worked for both men in their fight for justice against the wealthy *hacendados*.

King wrote that Villa was "the picturesque ruffian from the north in whose service Helene Pontipirani had betrayed Cuernavaca and me... I often wondered why, of all the Revolutionary leaders it had been Pancho Villa who won the allegiance of Helene... Stories of her escapades in other lands have drifted to my ears, but I am sure that she was not a spy for merely mercenary reasons. I think there must have been... something decadent in her that was fascinated by brutal, primitive

Revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, seated in center and surrounded by his advisors, fought long and hard for *tierra y libertad* (land and freedom). He was assassinated in 1919, but his spirit continues to ride the hills of his beloved Morelos...ever the guardian of his people.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



This rare image shows Cuernavaca leading up to the restored manor house that became the Hotel Bella Vista (at the far end of the street). This was the rural town that Rosa King, a young widow, came to love after she moved from Mexico City to begin a new life. From the centrally located hotel's balcony one could view the marching bands or the Zapatistas as they rode into the *plaza central*.

- MAYO & WEED, CIRCA 1890S, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTION -

strength... Helene, that wild girl who left misery and suffering from the time she exited her parents' home..."

Eventually the people won, and Helene disappeared into the mists of time. Did she die of ill health? Was she caught and executed, or did she escape to Europe or the United States and continue her very dangerous game for other revolutionary movements? The beginning drumbeats of yet another war were being heralded with the opening shots of World War I (1914-1918). Her talents would be very useful there too.



Historian **Lynda Sánchez** is a contributing editor of *True West*. She would like to extend a special thank you to William S. Bryan, Dr. Michael Farmer, Ginger Moore, Frank Puncer and the family of Rosa E. King for their valuable assistance.



Rosa sent Vera and her son, Norman, to safety in Vera Cruz and on to relatives in the U.S. Vera visited her mother prior to the siege, but luckily was not caught up in the horrific retreat over the mountains. Before fleeing, Rosa had sewn 8,000 pesos into the hem of her skirt.

- IMAGES COURTESY THE ROSA KING FAMILY -

## ROSA ELEANOR KING: A WOMAN OF THE WORLD



"A *soldadera* placed tequila in her mouth and nose to revive her and she soldiered on," recalled Rosa King in her memoir *Tempest Over Mexico*. Later known as the Duchess of Cuernavaca, Rosa often spoke about the trek across the mountains. Suffering great damage to her back after her mule was shot, King almost plunged to her death; Captain Chacon dragged her to safety.

Rosa King was a "proper" English lady who ultimately preferred adventure to the usual life led by a woman of her position. Born in India in 1867, Rosa was raised on a tea plantation during the years of the British Empire's exciting expansion. Fate brought her to Mexico where she married and was later widowed in 1905. It was a dramatic and life-changing experience for her. Always facing challenges head-on, she turned to the world of Aztec, conquistador and revolutionary battalions. Restoration of an almost 400-year-old ruin of a hacienda's manor house in Cuernavaca took up her time during those early years, and she named it the Hotel Bella Vista. People from all walks of life came through the magical doors of the hotel, and into her tearoom, or, if staying the night, they enjoyed dances and company of *militares*, leaders and counter revolutionaries. Rosa was known and respected by all sides, and her hotel was "neutral ground."

She wrote: "I should probably have left with the other foreigners when the revolutionary troubles began. As it was, when I invested everything I had in the Bella Vista, I cast in my fortunes with the town; and from that time on everything that happened to Mexico was bound to happen to me also."

Helene Pontipirani, for a while, was part of the exciting give-and-take of those afternoons and evenings, but she also helped destroy a genteel lifestyle never to be experienced again. That Rosa was devastated by the betrayal is well documented in her 1935 autobiography, *Tempest Over Mexico*. It was more a biography of the town she called home, written in her beautiful poetic style, and it is there that she was buried in 1955. No doubt, when Rosa departed her beloved Cuernavaca on the final journey, those who had survived the tragedy of the Mexican Revolution, and fled with her over the rugged mountain trails, also sensed that "the wings of our hearts fell" as the thud-thud of la *tierra mejicana* fell upon her coffin. The old-timers who knew her as the "Duchess of Cuernavaca" also were the ones who understood that surviving the brutal destruction of the rail line between Mexico City and Cuernavaca and living the remainder of her life in an exotic and dangerous land was an astounding tribute to this gutsy and talented Englishwoman.



THE  
RISE  
&  
FALL  
OF  
THE



MEXICAN

SUGAR

BY BOB BOZE BELL AND STUART ROSEBROOK





Rurales wait for their horses to detrain before setting out for Aguascalientes May 18, 1914.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

# LOAF

Although the signature high-crowned Mexican sombrero may rarely be worn today, it remains a powerful symbol of Mexico's struggle a century ago for liberty, equality and freedom.

**O**n November 30, 1920, recently elected Álvaro Obregón, a general in the Mexican Revolution, was sworn into the Republic of

Mexico's office of president. Obregón, a one-time ally and rival of Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, two of Mexico's renowned revolutionary leaders, had survived a decade of war (he lost his right arm in the 1915 Battle of Celelya with Villa), assassinations and 11 presidents before being duly elected to the nation's highest office.

For his 1920 address to the nation from the Presidential Palace in Mexico City (above), Obregón stood with his closest generals and advisors, none of whom are wearing hats. None are even holding a sugarloaf, the headgear of Zapata and the Zapatistas, which had become a symbol of the revolution and the agrarian reform movement. The significance of Obregón and his men holding their hats without a sugarloaf in sight is two-fold: first, with hat in hand, his presidency would unite a Mexican nation that had lost 1.5 million people in the revolution and was now battling the international pandemic of the Spanish flu; and, second, the sugarloaf, which had become such a powerful symbol of Obregón's revolutionary rival Zapata, was no longer recognized as a unifying symbol of national reform.

Flash forward a century later: the Mexican government is fighting an international pandemic, struggling economically and facing pressure from latter-day Zapatistas fighting for the rights of indigenous people and agrarian reform. Internationally, Emiliano Zapata's signature sugarloaf, adopted and worn symbolically and practically by his revolutionary followers, is still culturally recognized in artwork and society as a powerful icon of revolution. Yet, as headgear, the high-crowned sombrero, has become as anachronistic as an American revolutionary tri-corner hat, the Che Guevara beret or the Maoist Red Guard cap.

What led to the demise of the



Obregón's decision to address the crowd with his men holding their hats was the beginning of the end of the high-crowned sugarloaf sombrero as popular headgear. Interestingly, 41 years later, U.S. President-elect John F. Kennedy went hatless at his inauguration in a symbolic, tip of the hat to a new, youthful era in America.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

sugarloaf? For at least 50 years prior to Mexican President Obregón taking office, the sugarloaf had been a popular and practical hat worn all across Mexico. Its tall crown, which in period photographs seems to have no height restrictions, helped cool the heads of miners, farmers, vaqueros and workers in the hot sun. Even across the border in the vast ranching and mining region of the desert American Southwest, the sugarloaf was popular, famously worn by Billy the Kid and Judge Roy Bean. But the reasons for the demise of the sugarloaf are as simple as you can't drive a pickup truck wearing the high-crowned, broad-brimmed hat and as complicated as the political history of Mexico the past 100 years.

It also didn't help that the sugarloaf became symbolic, depicted in the caricature of the "lazy Mexican." The image of a perpetual sleeping *peón* with a huge sombrero down over his eyes and a serape draped over his slumping shoulders became a very negative stereotype, and by the 1960s, the Mexican people had abandoned the style completely.

Today, antique sugarloaf sombreros have become highly collectible, even museum pieces, while across Mexico and the United States, shorter-crowned, broad-brimmed highly decorated sombreros—similar to the elaborately embroidered *charro* sugarloaf worn by Zapata in the early 20th

century—are made and worn with pride as national symbols of Mexican culture and history. In the U.S., a few hatmakers, including Jim Boeke of River Junction Trading Company in McGregor, Iowa, and R.J. Preston of Nobscot, Oklahoma, custom-make Mexican sugarloafs. But, for the most part, the high-crowned, broad-brimmed sugarloaf—humble in origin, symbolically revolutionary and iconically memorialized—can only be enjoyed in the surviving black-and-white images of war, work and leisure recorded more than a century ago.



Sugarloafs at Work on Docks of Vera Cruz, 1909

— COURTESY DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS —



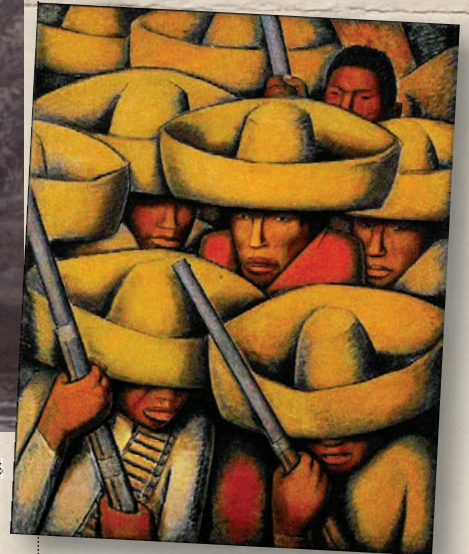
Men Wearing Charro Costumes, Tampico, Mexico, circa 1890-1930



José Tomás de Cuéllar sat for his portrait between 1850 and 1867 for what appears to be a rare, early photo of an embroidered, charro-style sombrero, although it lacks the curled brim and its crown is hidden from view.



English diplomat to Mexico Charles L. Wyke posed, circa 1860-1876, in a broad-brimmed Boss of the Plains, Stetson-style short-crowned hat that pre-dates the high-crowned sugarloaf sombrero, which gained popularity in the later decades of the 19th century.



Alfredo Ramos Martínez was among the Mexican artists who helped perpetuate the iconic revolutionary imagery of the sugarloaf sombrero in his 1932 oil, *Zapatistas*.

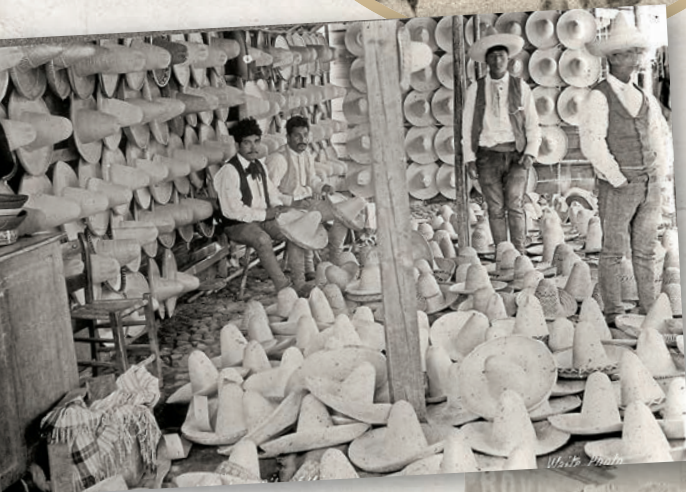
Mexican Cabellero,  
circa 1870s

- COURTESY  
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COLLECTIONS -



Las Peones Group Near Rascon, 1880

- WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



Sombrero Shop, Mexico City,  
circa 1909-1920



Tomas Urbina and A. Iluarte, Division of  
the North Revolutionaries, circa 1913



Man Peddling Corn Husks to be  
used as Wrapping Paper, 1890

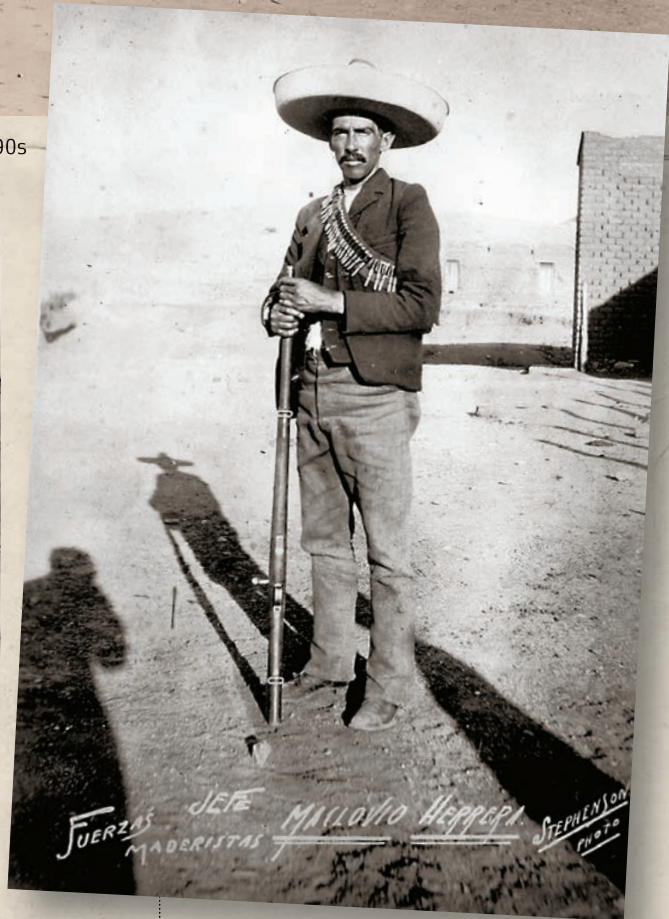


Scene at Torreon, circa 1890s  
 - COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -



Revolutionaries Hacienda Fuego,  
 April 10, 1911

M. Herrera,  
 circa 1913





Emiliano Zapata (center) and his followers and soldiers adopted the sugarloaf sombrero as the symbolic and recognizable headgear of the Mexican agrarian revolution.

The portrait, made at Hotel Coliseo, Mexico City, June 24, 1911, shows (l.-r. standing): Tirso Espinosa, Gildardo Magana, M. Mejia, Abram Martinez, Jesus Jáuregui and Rodolfo Magana; seated: Eufemio Zapata (Emiliano's brother), Emiliano Zapata and Próculo Capistrán.



Col. Emilio's  
Kosterlisky Rangers,  
circa 1906

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



Francisco "Pancho" Villa (at the "X"),  
Calixto Contreras (4th from left) and  
Fidel Avila (third from right) at Hacienda  
de Bustillos, Chihuahua, 1911



Capt. Castello of the Guard of  
Honor, 1911



Insurrection Cavalry Patrol, circa  
1910-1915

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



*Rurales in Sugarloafs on a Bridge, n.d.*

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



*Insurrectos and Their Women, 1910*



*Gen. Pascual Orozco and His Staff, circa 1910-1915*



*Mexican Raiders, circa 1915-1920*



Maya Indians Joining Obregon, 1911



In 1911, political writer and journalist Lázaro Gutiérrez de Lara (center) posed with Mexican revolutionary soldiers, mostly women, on the base of the Benito Juárez monument in Ciudad Juárez.

- WALTER H. HORNE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

A highly collectible 1890s Mexican gold beaver sombrero is a classic example of the high-crowned sugarloaf worn throughout the country for five decades before its popularity and practicality faded in the mid-20th century.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



TRUE WEST  
EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## COMBATE DE LOS MALAMIGOS (THE BATTLE OF BAD FRIENDS)

### VILLA VS CALLES

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE,  
WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?

PANCHO GETS WHIPPED AND  
THREE OF HIS ADVERSARIES  
BECOME PRESIDENT OF  
MEXICO!



The "Lion of the North" meets his match  
at Agua Prieta.

- ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL -

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Greg Scott, Cindy Hayostek,  
Samuel K. Dolan and John S.D. Eisenhower

NOVEMBER 1, 1915

**M**oving into position two miles east of Agua Prieta, Pancho Villa and a force of 6,000 soldiers spread out along a low ridge, shielding them from the fire of the border town defenders. At 1:37 p.m., a vigorous artillery shelling begins with Villa's big guns unleashing round after round on their objective. Several small buildings and a flour mill are hit and set afire. Under cover of the artillery barrage, Villa's infantry advances forward, which draws the fire of the Calles defenders, including their own heavy artillery.

Incredibly, as the Villista infantry troops advance toward a slaughterhouse they veer off to the border fence and beg a line of American spectators for water!

By 3:15 p.m. Villa's second wave of attackers advanced a quarter mile and they also went to the fence and begged for water. The main attack came at 2 a.m., but even the darkness did not protect them as the Carranza defenders utilized searchlights to repel the invaders. By dawn, no attackers had breached the mine-strewn battlefield, or the town itself.

Another attack was attempted on the west side of Agua Prieta on the morning of November 2, but it too was repulsed. Villa and his troops stumbled on to Naco to reassemble, but some 1,400 of his troops deserted him. The battle was over and so was the cavalry charge.



### The End of the Cavalry Charge

Pancho Villa was known for his cavalry charges "of unthinking machismo," usually unleashed at around midnight for full surprise effect. After the annihilation of his forces at the Battle of Celaya the previous April—by Obregon, by the way—Villa hedged his cavalry charges at Agua Prieta. Still, 200 Villista horses were killed and left on the battlefield, so some habits die hard.

## “Agua Prieta will be mine!”

—Pancho Villa



— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

### No Stranger to Agua Prieta

In a bizarre prelude to the battle, back in 1914, both Gen. Álvaro Obregón and Gen. Pancho Villa visited the border town together, coming in on the train from El Paso (the same train that brings in the Carranza reinforcements). The two men were allies at that time and they brought their cars along on the train and unloaded them and went to dinners in their honor in Douglas and gave speeches in Agua Prieta. All that changed when Villa broke with Carranza and Obregón sided with Carranza.

But in October 19, 1915, the U.S. recognized the Constitutionalists as Mexico's government. This gave Carranza the legitimacy he needed and Villa was now on the outside looking in. He needed ammunition and he saw Agua Prieta as low-hanging fruit. He would be terribly mistaken at this notion.

### All Roads Lead to Agua Prieta

His fortunes in decline, and in need of a win, Pancho Villa mounts an offensive to invade Sonora and capture what he believes to be the poorly defended outpost of Agua Prieta. He intends to then live off the land and take Hermosillo, defeat the rest of the state and then dictate terms to current Mexican president Venustiano Carranza, who is making his life so difficult. Villa leaves Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, with 40 cannons and about 6,000 men on October 18, 1915. His spies inform him there are only 1,200 troops at Agua Prieta and he should take it easily.

On **October 22**, Joseph D. Lillywhite, a Mormon settler from Colonia Morelos, rides 60 miles in record time to warn the troops at Agua Prieta that Villa is coming.

Reinforcements are brought in by train on the U.S. side of the border, including the 7th and 20th U.S. regiments from El Paso, Texas.

By **October 29**, 160 cannons and 26 machine guns arrive in Douglas, Arizona, and are carted across the border into Agua Prieta and placed in dugouts and trenches circling the outpost.

On **October 30**, the vanguard of Villa's troops camp on Texas John Slaughter's ranch and beg for water and strip a field of corn.

On **October 31**, three trains from El Paso arrive delivering 1,650 Mexican troops to bolster the outpost of Agua Prieta.

On the afternoon of **November 1** at 1:37 p.m. the Villa troops begin a “vigorous shelling” of Agua Prieta.

At 2 a.m. on **November 2**, Villa launches three attacks but by 7 a.m. he is not any closer. He launches a fourth attack on the west side of the town but never penetrates the town. Defeated, Villa and his surviving troops straggle westward to Naco.



Álvaro Obregón



Elias Calles



Lázaro Cardenas



Venustiano Carranza

## The Defenders

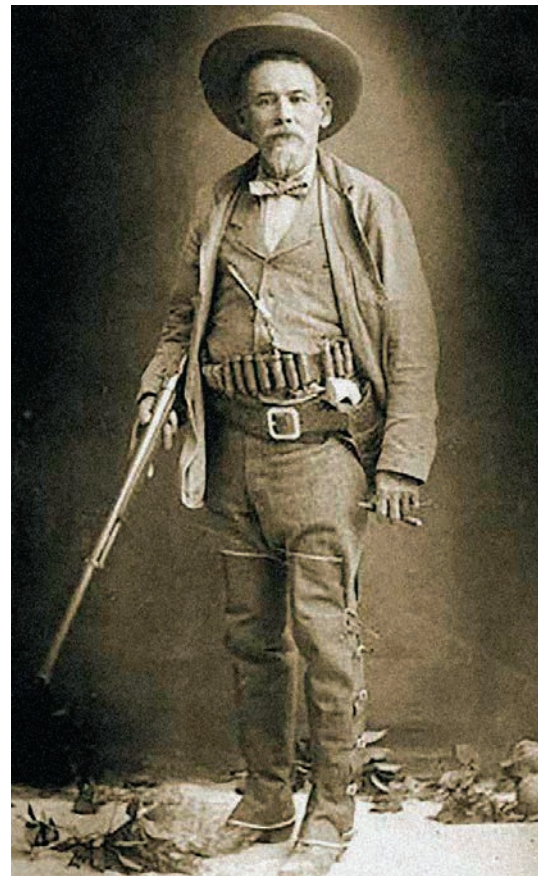
Álvaro Obregón, the youngest of 18 children, grew up poor (his father's estate was stolen from him). He became a successful chickpea salesman and later a military leader, outsmarting Pancho Villa at the Battle of Celaya, where Obregón went up against 30,000 cavalymen with only 12,000 infantrymen, and won, killing 6,000 Villistas and capturing 4,000. Obregón executed all the captured officers (120!) and then lost his arm as Villa attacked again at a hacienda near Leon and a cannon shell took off his right arm. The battle at Agua Prieta will be a rematch and Pancho wants revenge.

General Plutarco Calles built on Obregón's experience at Celaya, constructing extensive fortifications around Agua Prieta with deep trenches, barbed wire and a whole bunch of Hotchkiss machine gun nests. Villa still believed that a swift cavalry charge would win the day in about five hours.

The front machine gun nests were manned by 20-year-old Col. Lázaro Cárdenas, the future 44th president of Mexico.

## Slaughter Before The Slaughter

On October 30, 1915, Villa's vanguard camped near Texas John Slaughter's ranch at San Bernardino, on the Mexican side. Several Villa officers rode over to talk to the ex-Tombstone lawman. They asked for provisions but Slaughter told them the 9th Cavalry detachment on his ranch forbade him from selling anything to them from his ranch store. The Villa officers rode away empty-handed, but their Mexican troops later found a Slaughter cornfield and stripped it clean.



## Actual Scene of the Battlefield



Although this photo was taken some time after the battle you can still clearly see the Calle trenches in the mid-distance that stopped Villa's charges over and over again. The Slaughter Ranch is about where the mountains are, 18 miles to the east. These are the mountains where Geroimo parlayed with General Crook 29 years earlier. The Villista cavalry tried to flank Calles' defenders from the south (where the mark is, at mid-right), but were unsuccessful. Two hundred horses were killed in the slaughter.

- COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY -

Both Calles and Obregón embraced the new style of fighting with long trenches, machine guns, barbed wire and land mines. Oh, and klieg lights. The battle of Agua Prieta was the end of the cavalry charge.

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Both sides enlisted very young boys to fight at Agua Prieta. Some were as young as ten years old.

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MARKETS  
NEW YORK CITY  
Cotton, 10c  
Wheat, 1.12 @ 1.17  
Rice, 40c

# The Bisbee Daily Review

WEATHER  
Southern California  
and Arizona—Fair.

BISBEE, ARIZONA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1915.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## VILLA LAUNCHES ATTACK ON CARRANZA STRONGHOLD; WILL CONTINUE FIGHT TODAY

### Eighty per cent Law Is Held Unconstitutional

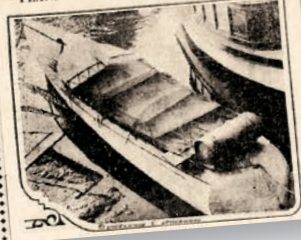
#### JUSTICE HUGHES DECLARES LAW VIOLATES RIGHTS

Celebrated Case Terminates in Supreme Court of the United States in Victory for Petitioner for Injunction.

MIKE RAICH, BISBEE MAN, IS PETITIONER

LEFFLON, Nov. 1.—The nation's highest court yesterday upheld the federal thousand-egg law, with the effect of striking a blow to the copper trust.

#### MOTOR BOAT IN WHICH GERMAN SALES PLANNED TO CARRY DEADLY EXPLOSIVES



## "LION OF THE NORTH" MAKES FIRST BID FOR MUCH-COVED PORT OF AGUA PRIETA WITH TERRIFIC ARTILLERY FIRE

### Two Americans are Wounded; One Civilian Near Death; Infantryman Shot Through the Legs

Three Searchlights Play on Attackers During the Night; Sortie By Villa Troops Made Shortly after Ten O'clock With Object of Forcing Calles to Set Off the Mines in Area Surrounding Trenches and Barbed Wire Entanglements; Copper Queen Smelter Closes Down in Fear That Its Employees Would Be Put in Jeopardy if They Worked During the Fight.

## Dispatches

"Reinforcements for Calles have begun to arrive through the United States...the first of nine trains bearing Carranza troops, and equipment from Laredo [Texas] arrived late today for Agua Prieta.

"Further information, concerning Villa forces, was given by Juan Mendoza aged 16, who was wounded in the leg during a skirmish at Gallardo yesterday and brought to the Carranza hospital at Agua Prieta.

"We have had no beans or flour since we left Casas Grandes," the boy declared. "Our food has been just plain vaca—cow." Mendoza declared "the Villa men were tired and hungry."

**DOUGLAS, Nov. 1 (11 p.m.)**—Corporal M. Jones, Company G. Seventh Infantry, stationed with his company near

the United States customs house, was shot through both legs in a sharp firing between 9 and 10 o'clock tonight. The soldier was taken to the Y.M.C.A. building. His wound is not considered dangerous.

**DOUGLAS, Nov. 2 (2 a.m.)**—The fighting has commenced at 1 o'clock and has grown apace and the bullets from the Mexican rifles are flying over the southern part of Douglas. The artillery bombardment is terrific.

**DOUGLAS, Nov. 2 (3:15 a.m.)**—Though the firing has abated somewhat there is every indication the fighting will continue all morning. Villa's big guns seem to have stopped and Calles'



Carranza's troops with U.S. troops on train in pursuit of Villa.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

artillery appears to be, alone, active in this division."

"It was apparent at sundown that Villa had extended his lines to the south and west in an enveloping movement, striving to get to the west of Agua Prieta whence a dash could be made should opportunity afford."

"[General] Calles reported his losses today as eight killed and 24 wounded. He claimed the dash of the Villa troops to the Agua Prieta barbed wire entanglements had been repulsed with a loss of at least 200 to the Villa troops."

One of the Villa attackers, Captain Estrella has been wounded. He crawled over the boundary "west of the slaughter house where he was found by Sheriff Harry Wheeler and taken to the Twenty-Second infantry camp hospital."

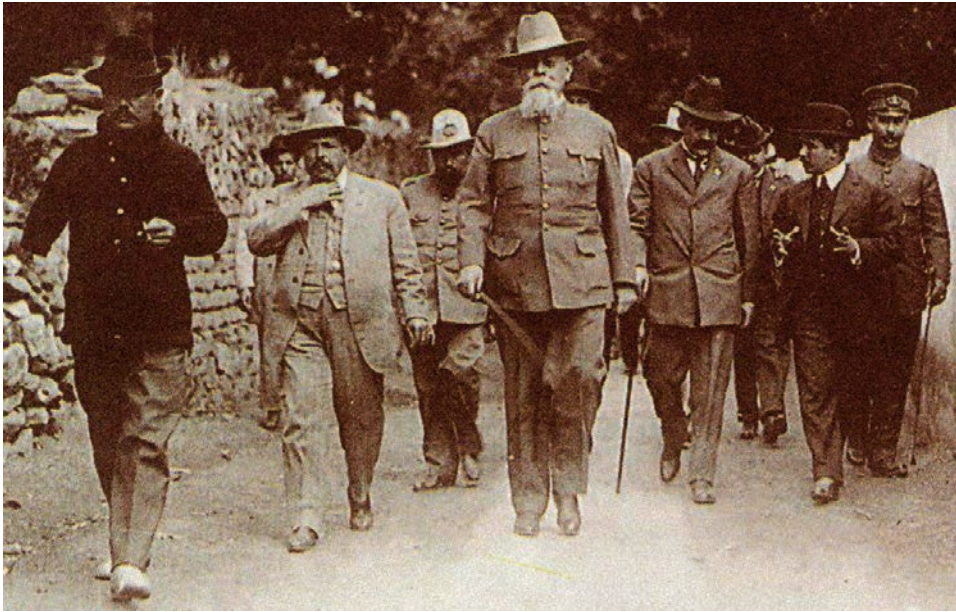
—All Dispatches are from The Bisbee Daily Review, October 31 to November 1-2, 1915



BIG BATTLE FAUGHT NOV 2, 1915  
CARRANZA SOLDIERS  
DEFENDING AGUA  
PRIETA MEXICO OPP  
DOUGLAS ARIZ  
CARRANZA HAD 12000  
MEN AGAINST F. VILLAS 18000 AND HE WITH DREW WITH A HEAVY LOSS (190)

An incredible photograph shows Carranza's soldiers defending Agua Prieta from the trenches, November 2, 1915.

— COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY —



## Los Malamigos

The irony of the Agua Prieta fight is that all the combatants are former allies—Villa, Álvaro Obregón (above left), Plutarco Elias Calles and Lázaro Cárdenas. The latter three fighting for Carranza (above, center), face off at Agua Prieta over one of the provisions that no military commander should be eligible to run for the office of president of Mexico.

Three of the commanders at Agua Prieta later became president of Mexico: Obregón, Calles and Cardenas.



As the sun rose on November 2, 1915, Villa's soldiers, horses and equipment littered the plains of Agua Prieta in front of Calles' well-defended trenches.

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After the battle, rumors circulated that the electricity for the searchlights used by Calles and his troops in the fight came from the Phelps Dodge's Copper Queen smelter, but that is not true. Electricity for Agua Prieta did originate from Douglas, but the grid was separate from the smelter.



Douglas residents woke up on November 3rd and many found bullet holes in the walls of their homes. The Gadsen Hotel, the Bank of Douglas and the Phelps Dodge Mercantile all were hit by stray bullets.



Villa and what was left of his command, trudged south to attack Hermosillo but the results there were the same. Defeated and discouraged, the troops turned toward home but they were attacked when they approached the village of San Pedro de la Cueva and several advance guard Villistas were killed. In a rage, Villa executed every male in the village, including the priest.



Still smarting over U.S. involvement, Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico, on March 9, 1916, but by that time the revolution had progressed beyond Villa's grasp and he was eventually assassinated in 1923.



This is an excerpt from the forthcoming book, *The Illustrated Life & Times of Pancho Villa* by Bob Boze Bell, to be published in 2021.



## CLASSIC TRUE WEST

### FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

**Editor's Note:** Award-winning Western historian Leon C. Metz is a longtime contributor to *True West* magazine and a deeply respected chronicler of his adopted hometown of El Paso, Texas, and the Southwestern Border region. If you'd like to read more of Metz's articles on the West, please go to [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com) and subscribe for full access to nearly 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

# Pancho Villa and the El Paso Connection

**¡AY CHIHUAHUA! HOW THIS STRATEGIC U.S. TOWN LAUNCHED THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.**

**BY LEON C. METZ**

Although Pancho Villa—whose real name was Doroteo Arango—is the best-known figure of the Mexican Revolution, Villa would perhaps never have gained such recognition were it not for Porfirio Díaz.

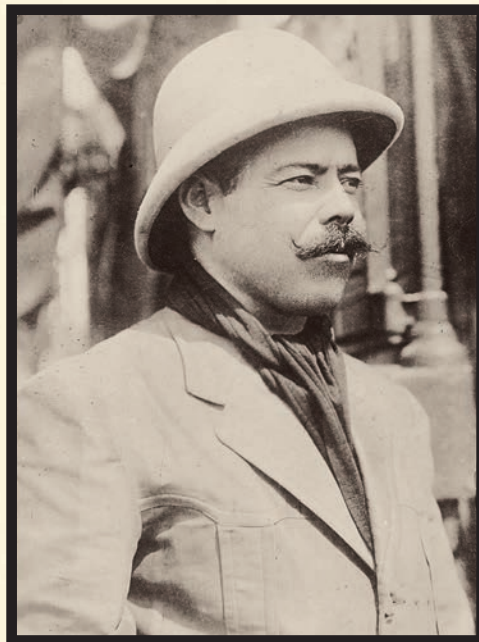
In many respects, Díaz was an outstanding, accomplished president. To a large extent, he modernized the country, opened schools and encouraged business. One of his greatest achievements involved lacing the nation with railroads, which exposed the country to additional trade, particularly with its northern neighbor, the United States, a powerhouse otherwise known—and often feared—throughout Mexico as the “Northern Colossus.”

Despite his initial popularity, most historians today consider Díaz as corrupt as the government he led. Little economic improvement filtered down. While Díaz brought relative peace to Mexico, he also brought centralized tyranny.

### Revolt Against President Díaz

As president of Mexico since May 1877 (aside from stepping aside for one term), Díaz found himself confronted by sporadic, northern Mexico revolutionary outbreaks in mid-October 1909. A year later, for Mexico's celebration of its centennial of independence from France, President Díaz invited the world's most powerful and wealthy to the capital, plying them with imported delicacies and pageantry. But this man, whose Mexican bloodline also was predominately Indian, ordered other Indians off the streets, lest their poverty offend visitors.

By early 1910, these outbreaks took place particularly across the Rio Grande from El



When “The Centaur of the North,” Pancho Villa, first met Emiliano Zapata in December 1914, he famously wore an English pith helmet (above), while Zapata wore his signature sugarloaf sombrero.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Paso—the northern riverside neighbor of Juárez. From this Juárez borderlands would arise the intellectual and predominate storm center of the approaching Mexican Revolution.

But why would a revolutionary movement essentially commence so far north in Mexico, especially alongside the Rio Grande, a site where bullets might rain on El Paso? The answer was location, location, location. Neighboring El Paso offered refuge, transportation, weapons, communications, freedom of

movement and a sympathetic population of Mexican exiles and American nationals. As the largest Mexican community leaning against the international border, El Paso became an uneasy haven for Mexican revolutionaries. Rebel clarion calls from there found listeners and advocates on both sides of the Rio Grande.

### Rise of Francisco Madero

Díaz carried a heavy stick, retaining a relatively trained, well-equipped army. Still, it was an army rife with graft, with men serving not always because they wanted to, but because they were forced to. Díaz was not so much a president, as he was a dictator.

Poorly led but nearly impossible to suppress, the uprisings did little more than provide President Díaz's army with an opportunity to drench portions of the nation in blood. Yet the federal army's inability to ensure peace also meant it could not ensure national stability.

The radicals, themselves, were rarely military leaders, in the accepted sense, as their primary strength laid in arousing and stimulating passions. So military leadership fell to Francisco Madero, a staunchly liberal but wealthy Mexican, who had been born in Coahuila on October 30, 1873. In San Antonio, Madero had written what he called his “Plan of San Luis Potosí”—named for the Mexican city in which he had formulated it. This whistling indictment of the Díaz regime, a tract laced with incendiary charges and accusations, called for restricted presidential terms. It also proclaimed Juárez as the provisional capital of national government, even though that community was federally occupied.



Two years after Gens. Villa and Orozco commanded Francisco Madero's forces and captured Ciudad Juárez on May 10, 1911, they enjoyed some ice cream at the Elite Confectionary in El Paso, Texas. (The hat-less Orozco is seated across from Villa, who holds his hat on his knees.) As a result of the 1911 battle, Dictator Porfirio Díaz was forced to resign on May 25.

As one violent incident followed another, President Díaz sent one-fifth of his ragged army north to contain the rebels. By New Year's Eve 1910, federal soldiers were patrolling Juárez. The Juárez Society of First Ladies did not dance. Juárez civil authorities compelled every adult male in town to step before the mayor and declare insurrecto innocence or admit guilt. Those who could not prove their innocence were shot. Meanwhile, over in El Paso, circulars in Spanish pleaded for regional sympathizers to rise up and help overthrow the dictator.

As violence intensified in Juárez, eight riderless Mexican cavalry horses galloped north across the Stanton Street international bridge into El Paso on February 2, 1911, following the Battle of Rancho Madia, near San Ignacio, Chihuahua. Blood splattered their saddles. Fifteen additional riderless horses arrived in El Paso a half hour later.

### Villa Takes Charge

With events churning toward a Juárez showdown, as Mexican soldiers, led by the capable Gen. Juan Navarro, patrolled the streets, Madero hesitated. To attack Juárez

and possibly lose would mean the probable end of his career and, perhaps, his life and liberty. Therefore, Madero blinked; he decided the ancient community of Casas Grandes, 145 miles south, was a more effective initial target. The area had been abandoned by Pueblo farmers and was primarily a railroad stop, with its principal buildings clustered around a central plaza. Madero assumed that from this remote area, he could choke off incoming supplies to Juárez—and capture the bordertown later.

He assumed incorrectly, and lost the battle of Casas Grandes, with *The El Paso Herald* reporting 57 dead Mexican insurgents and 40 captured, of whom 16 were Americans and two were Germans.

Pancho Villa, however, was not afraid that an attack on Juárez could hit El Paso, north across the Rio Grande from Juárez—and lead to problems with the U.S. While El Pasoans had fears of bullets dropping on their city, they nevertheless largely supported the Revolution. The top (fifth) floor of the downtown Caples Building in El Paso became a revolutionary headquarters, among other things, luring American soldiers-of-fortune to the cause from all over the United States. And the El Paso Sheldon-Payne Arms company, near the international bridge, not only advanced money for weapons freight charges, but also refrained from charging commissions. After the shooting started at Juárez in May, many insurrectionists became popularly known as the Trenta-Trenta Muchachos, the "30-30 Boys."

When Gens. Pascual Orozco and Villa won the decisive battle in Juárez, the capture



Pancho Villa's troops entered Juárez to fight the historic battle in 1911.

forced Díaz to abdicate his rule. Madero stepped in as Mexico's president. Yet the rebels viewed Madero as a weak leader, and the Mexican Revolution continued to rage. Juárez fell at least 10 times during the revolution, making it—in my judgment—the most fought over city in North America.

Although most folks believe the Mexican Revolution commenced with Villa's raid on Columbus, New Mexico, in March 1916, it was this initial fall of Juárez, with the help of its neighboring American city El Paso, that truly fired the opening volley.

The Mexican Revolution came to a close by the end of 1920. Villa retired, and Álvaro Obregón, who had brought relative peace to the nation, was elected president. ✪

## TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Leon C. Metz's original article in the March 2009 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Metz's articles on the West and subscribe to *True West Archives*, go to [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com).

*Our past awaits you!*

BY CANDY MOULTON

# Peak to Peak

*Bold. Inspirational. Sacred. Rugged.*

**O**n September 13, 2001, two days after a horrific attack of terrorism tore at the core of our nation, I did what other Americans did: Got up and went to work. On this day, doing research for a book and a *True West* article, I drove through the Colorado Rockies, visiting ghost towns and still-vibrant communities. I stepped into a small chapel in Cripple Creek at noon to pray with people I did not know for a nation still reeling from the attacks of 9/11.

In the afternoon, I drove to the top of Pikes Peak. I had never been there. I had dutifully listened to the warning given at the base of the mountains: Be careful on the descent. Don't use your brakes too much; they could get hot and give out. It is a steep road.

At the top of the mountain, I left my car to take in the grandeur. It felt like I had the entire mountain to myself; the wind buffeted, but the view inspired. This was where America's anthem was penned. This mountain was where explorer/adventurer Zebulon Pike had come in 1806, the first Euro-American to trod the rocky landscape. This was where the ancestors of my dear friend, Northern Ute spiritual leader Clifford Duncan, came for sustenance and ceremony.

The pre-autumn air was chilly, but standing there on that mountain was healing. The mountain itself inspired strength, resolve. The tears that ran down my cheeks as I stood alone on a mountaintop were a release from the tension of the prior two days since America had been attacked. But I knew then that as long as we had these natural landscapes, these places of respite,



When explorer John C. Fremont went West in the summer of 1842, he charted territory across Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, where he famously planted the American flag on one of the range's peaks, today known as Fremont Peak.

- FREMONT LITHOGRAPH COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/WIND RIVER RANGE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

our souls and resolve would remain strong. It was a powerful, healing moment.

As John Muir so accurately phrased it: "The mountains are calling and I must go."

I have always lived in the mountains. Even during my four years away from "home" for college, the mountains were visible; a drive of less than an hour could put me in the Sunlight Basin of northern Wyoming or high in the Snowy Range of southern Wyoming. The peaks of the Rockies always have been tangible and tempting, though I am a road warrior, not a mountain climber, so I freely admit my exploration of them has been by road tripping, not hiking.

The Utes call the mountain we recognize as Pikes Peak, *Tava*. For them it is where they came to this world and it became a fortress against their enemies. The massive peak awed and inspired 19th-century explorer

Zebulon Pike and his name is attached to this landmark west of Colorado Springs. Pikes Peak inspired Katherine Lee Bates, and her anthem "America the Beautiful" made it America's Mountain.

The new visitor center atop Pikes Peak will interpret all of these themes: "The Place, A Sacred World, An Empire for Liberty, America's Mountain, and The Pike Today." It is a good place to begin a journey to some of the great peaks of the Rocky Mountains.

From Pikes Peak, head north on Highway 67 toward Woodland Park, and continue to Idaho Springs, then take Highway 119 to Blackhawk. This peak-to-peak highway ultimately passes Longs Peak named for Stephen Long, who first spied it on his explorations in 1820, and takes you into Estes Park. The route is through the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. Leaving



Latter-day mountain man Harry Yount (right), the first gamekeeper of Yellowstone National Park, was esteemed by his peers for his knowledge of the Rocky Mountain West and was a key member of the Hayden Survey of the Yellowstone region in 1871. His prowess was acknowledged by the naming of the highest mountain in the Teton Wilderness Younts Peak.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Few men knew the Rocky Mountain West as well as mountain man Jim Bridger, who spent over four decades trapping and exploring its peaks and valleys along the Continental Divide.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

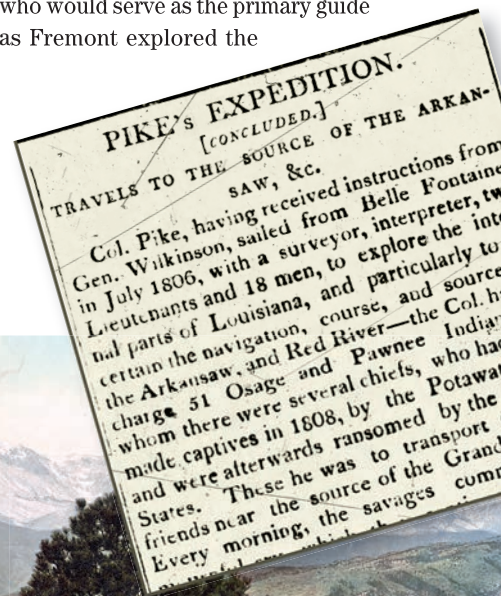
Estes Park, travel on US 34—Trail Ridge Road, the highest elevation highway in the country—through Rocky Mountain Park to Grand Lake and Granby, before turning north through North Park and into Wyoming.

Jim Bridger came west in 1825 as one of William Ashley's "enterprising young men." For the next 40 years, Bridger traipsed throughout the Rocky Mountains trapping beaver, exploring, leading parties of emigrants, drawing maps, learning the country. And his name is attached to Bridger Peak along the Continental Divide, midway between Encampment and Savery, Wyoming.

A mountain man rendezvous takes place at the Grand Encampment Museum in late July each year. This modern-day gathering features black-powder shooting, a trader's row where you can purchase mountain goods from moccasins to felt hats and capotes. The Little Snake River Museum in Savery has the original cabin built and used by mountain man James Baker, one of

Baker's guns and other exhibits including one newly opened in August that focuses on the sheep ranching industry.

Continuing north through Rawlins, take Highway 287 to Lander. The mountains to the west are the Wind River Range, location of Fremont Peak, named for John C. Fremont, who left Washington, D.C., on May 2, 1842, traveling to St. Louis where he spent nearly three weeks at Chouteau's Landing. There he organized and equipped a party that included German cartographer and scientist Charles Preuss and Kit Carson, who would serve as the primary guide as Fremont explored the



Zebulon Pike's 1811 expedition across the southern plains and Rockies of Louisiana Territory was followed closely by American newspapers. In the September 7, 1811, edition of the Pittsfield, Massachusetts *Pittsfield Sun*, the editor reported that "Col.

Pike was prevented from attempting to ascend it, by the great cold which prevailed, the nakedness of his men, and the dread of not finding provisions. It was ascertained that the perpendicular height of the north mountain, from the level of the prairie was 10,381 feet—it is seen at a great distance."

— PIKE'S PEAK BY WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/NEWSPAPER CLIPPING COURTESY NEWSPAPER.COM —





Peak-bagging and following historic trails across the Rocky Mountain West does not have to be done entirely in the wilderness on back roads; book a room at the renowned Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado, and enjoy a retreat in one of the West's most luxurious hotels.

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West. This first exploratory trip by Fremont took him over the route of the Oregon Trail. In Wyoming, Fremont followed the North Platte and Sweetwater rivers, which led him to South Pass. Then he turned north into the Wind River Mountains, placing a flag on one high summit that ultimately became Fremont Peak, before returning to the east.

The following year, Fremont came west again, this time initially guided by mountain man Thomas "Broken Hand" Fitzpatrick, and again accompanied by Preuss, who collected plant specimens, made topographical sketches, and undertook other scientific explorations. Carson was along as well, and he also served as a guide for Fremont.

The South Pass region became the main route for pioneers traveling to Oregon, argonauts headed to California's gold rush, and Mormons en-route to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Gold discoveries in the area at the end of the overland trail period, led to the establishment of South Pass City, now a Wyoming State Historic Site.

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# A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Harry Yount served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was captured and held in a Confederate prison but was released in a prisoner exchange and returned to fight for the Union. After the Civil War, Yount came west with the Hayden Geological Survey. He spent years trapping and prospecting before Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz hired Yount as the first gamekeeper in Yellowstone National Park in 1880.

Yount earned the nickname “Rocky Mountain Harry Yount,” and Horace Albright, the second director of the National Park Service, called him the “father of the ranger services,” as well as the first national park ranger. During the Hayden Survey his name was attached to Younts Peak, the highest peak in the Teton Wilderness between Jackson Hole and Cody, Wyoming, and near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River.

The peaks of the Rockies named for explorers and adventurers Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, Jim Bridger, John C. Fremont and Harry Yount are just a few of the many craggy landmarks on the peak-to-peak route.

Candy Moulton hangs her hat near Encampment, Wyoming.



## FORT BRIDGER

In 1842, mountain man Jim Bridger joined with Louis Vasquez to establish a trading post at a key site along what would become the busiest “highway” of the 19th century—the Oregon-California Trail. Bridger’s post provided all manner of supplies, from mules and oxen to clothing and other goods (much of it made by Indian women) to food, wagon parts and household goods. Bridger, who took part in every major rendezvous of the fur trade era, knew well what kinds of goods people would want. His trading post later came under the control of the Mormons, and then of the frontier Army. It is now a Wyoming State Historic site with a recreation of the original Bridger Post and structures that date back to the military era.



Jim Bridger’s Cabin at Fort Bridger Wyoming State Historic Site provides a window into the fur trapper’s life at his trading post on the crossroads of the West’s emigrant trails to Oregon, California and Utah.

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## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

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**BY SHERRY MONAHAN**

# They Earned a Living on Their Feet

*Women of grit and grace brought home cooking to their restaurants across the West.*



In this 1880s photo, San Antonio's famous "Chili Queens" serve chili con carne on the city's Military Plaza. Women, mostly Hispanic, sold and served Mexican delicacies in open-air restaurants with communal tables from dawn to dusk on the city's plazas from the 1860s to the 1930s.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**T**here is a misconception about working women in the Wild West. Many hard-working women served while standing on their feet, and not their backs. Either single or widowed, they needed to earn a living, so many ran restaurants, cafes, boardinghouses or other businesses that provided food on the frontier. Some of them cooked their own meals, while others only managed their business.

Tombstone, Arizona, is a good example of a place where women owned or managed food establishments. Nellie Cashman was well known for her culinary prowess, but she had competition. In 1882 alone, Tombstone's female entrepreneurs included Mrs. Florence Hemsath, Mrs. Jessie Brown, Mrs. Frances Cunningham, Miss Kate Killilea and Mrs. Lucy Young. Food served at their restaurants included everything from home-style cooking to classic French cuisine, which was trendy at the time. They served breakfast items like German pancakes, eggs and hash, and main meals like chicken fricassees and pot pies, lobster, consommé, croquettes,

oysters in all styles, fresh fish, vegetables and countless desserts.

Many women owned ice cream parlors, and Wyatt Earp was known to frequent one on Fourth Street in Tombstone. Mrs. Flint ran one in Reno, Nevada, and the paper advertised, "Drop into Mrs. Flint's restaurant any evening and try her ice cream. Take your wife, mother or best girl along to enjoy with you." Mrs. Soffori had a restaurant in San Antonio, Texas, where she offered all the staples, but had an ice cream gallery and ladies' parlor, where women were given special attention. Some, like Mrs. Wolf in Correctionville, Iowa, offered delicious confections at her restaurant. Women were enterprising on the frontier, and Mrs. Cornado of Carson City, Nevada, called on Mrs. Pete Taylor's restaurant or Mrs. Scofield's candy stores to take orders for her tamales.

Miss K. Swanson operated her Auditorium restaurant on the fifth floor in Spokane, Washington, in 1896 and served a scrumptious Thanksgiving dinner from 2 to 5 p.m. Her dishes included lobster soup, traditional roast turkey with cranberry sauce, sweet

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potatoes and mashed potatoes. Desserts included plum pudding, fruitcake, lady fingers, Charlotte Russe, macarons, ice cream and nuts and candies. Two years later she fell ill and sold the business, but she landed back on her feet with the Kootenay Café across the border in B.C., Canada.

Newspaper ads often included terms that made people feel like restaurants run by women were wholesome and homey. In Tecumseh, Oklahoma, the paper noted, "Tables loaded down with good things to eat at Mrs. Webb's" and "Best meals and cleanest tables in town at Mrs. Webb's." Deadwood, South Dakota, had Mrs. Gardner's restaurant and rooming house where the paper reported, "Remember that the place to get your meals and nice furnished rooms is at Mrs. Gardner's." They also noted in March 1881 that she was offering the first radishes of the season along with roasted or stewed chicken and chicken pot pie in addition to her regular bill of fare. She had competition from Mrs. Bryant whose place was popular because it served "good substantial food" that was not surpassed.

Croquettes were popular at many of these restaurants, and now you can try this historic recipe at home.



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

### CHICKEN CROQUETTES

- 2 cups chicken, cooked and minced
- 1 teaspoon parsley, chopped
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ¼ teaspoon celery seed
- ¼ teaspoon minced onion
- 1 cup white sauce or gravy
- 1 egg, beaten
- breadcrumbs
- oil

Mix the first six ingredients together and stir well. Add enough of the white sauce to moisten the mixture, but do not allow it to become too soft. Form the mixture into desired shapes of balls, cylinders, etc. Gently roll in eggs and then in the breadcrumbs.

Add enough oil to come up about an inch in the frying pan and heat over medium-high heat. Gently place the croquettes in the hot oil and cook until they are golden brown. Drain on a towel.



Recipe adapted from the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, November 22, 1883.

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## Last Ride Across Hi-Lo

Max Evans's final novel *The King of Taos*, a literary Western, and new biographies of outlaws *Cherokee Bill* and *Willis Newton*.

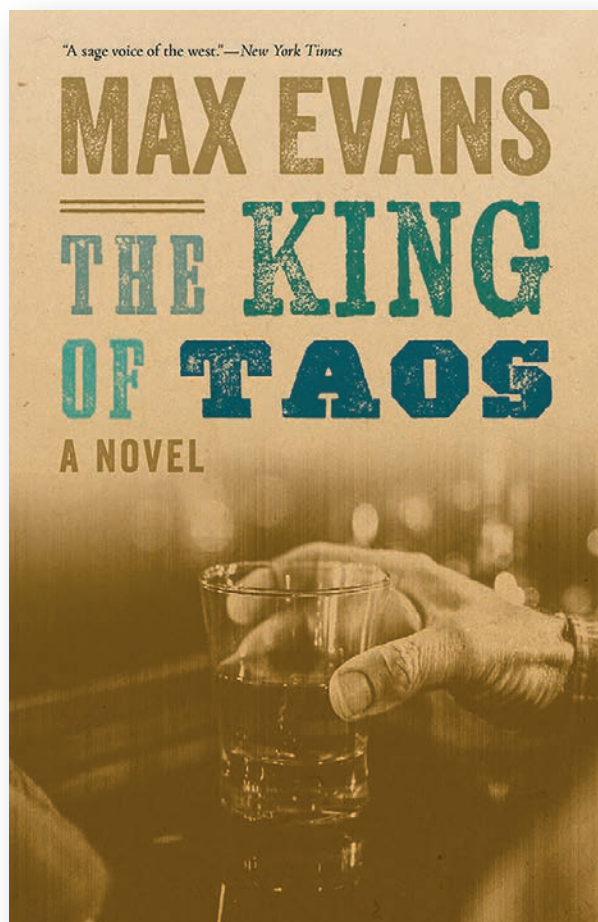
**M**ax Evans, a mentor, close friend and hero of mine, lived long enough to see his final novel *The King of Taos: A Novel* (University of New Mexico Press, \$24.95) published, but unfortunately two weeks later he suffered a fall at home and died on August 26, 2020, three days before his 96th birthday. Max, who had turned back to painting more than once, had sworn to me he was done writing. But for years he had spoken passionately about his long-lost manuscript *The King of Taos*, and was thrilled to see it published and in print. In my opinion, Evans was an author akin to James Joyce, John Steinbeck and J.P.S. Brown. Max wrote about the men and women and the land of northern New Mexico he dubbed “Hi-Lo Country.” *The King of Taos* was his last to revisit the Hi-Lo and his life experiences as a struggling artist and writer among the many personalities who made Taos their home in the first decade after World War II. Max recalled in his author’s note: “Amid a few world-remembered artists and those wishing to be so existed a small group of people who came together for a while, bonded by their mutual love of wine and talk.... I couldn’t help but observe them from my upper-story studio window. I became fascinated with their easy camaraderie and generosity with bottles of cheap wine. I knew there was a story here that I had to tell in fiction so I could get nearer the fun of it all.”

*King of Taos* is Evans’s 18th book published by the University of New Mexico Press and joins *The Rounders*, *For Love of a Horse*, *War and Music: A Medley of Love* and *Faraway Blue* as the fifth volume in the

university press’s recently issued Max Evans Library. In 2018, Max called me elated that his novels were being reissued by his favorite press, and that the *King of Taos* manuscript might finally be published, although he knew it would take great efforts by many—and even a spiritual intervention of great magnitude—to make it happen. I believe anyone who reads *King of Taos* and savors Evans’s writing, will not only be inspired, but have their own personal spiritual awakening through Max’s prose and the fictional-life experiences of his characters, especially through the novel’s semi-autobiographical character Zacharias Chacon.

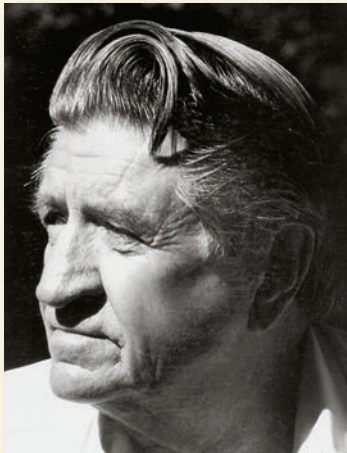
“Zacharias, the untitled leader of the band-of-brother imbibers, paved the way,” Max says, “without a bulldozer, for my gaining membership and acceptance to live in some reality that led to his creation.”

Evans, who was a World War II veteran of the Omaha Beach landings, Normandy Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge, lived a very adventurous and colorful life as a cowboy, miner, roper, artist, author, screenwriter, actor, filmmaker, husband and father. Born in Ropes, Texas, the Western Writers of America Hall of Fame member lived most of his life in New Mexico,



including as a member of the Taos Artist community, where he met his wife, Pat, the daughter of a Taos trader. Evans is survived by his wife of 71 years, and his twin daughters Charlotte and Sheryl. While he has now moved on after a thousand years to what he called “The Great Mystery in the Sky,” we are fortunate to have one last memorable Hi-Lo adventure in prose from Max, who would remind us all “to have fun, and keep spurrin’!”

—Stuart Rosebrook



— COURTESY MAX EVANS —

## Remembering Max Evans 1924-2020

I first met Max Evans when I was 10 years old. Sam Peckinpah had introduced Max to my late father, Jeb Rosebrook, believing that they would be good friends as well as compadres in the writing game of Hollywood. And they were. As were my mother, Dorothy, and Max's wife, Pat. Max quickly became a frequent visitor to my parents' home in North Hollywood, California, and many evenings were spent at the dining room table listening to tales about the West, writing and film.

Over the years, I also had the opportunity on multiple occasions to visit Max and Pat in Albuquerque, including a memorable second-annual 70th birthday party in late August 1995. If we weren't enjoying some of Pat's delicious homemade Mexican food, we were at lunch at Max's favorite Chinese restaurant. Max was always encouraging of my own writing and research and was a dedicated reader of *True West*. We also spoke quite often about his close friend, director and writer Sam Peckinpah, and Max's novels he still hoped to see produced as films, including *My Pardner*, *One-Eyed Sky*, *The Great Wedding* and *Xavier's Folly*, which was the novel and script that Sam suggested Max work on with my father in 1973.

Max, who believed he was well over a 1,000 years old, was also a very mystical man who believed in the deep, spiritual connections that bound us together. If you read Max's novels, you will discover an author who wrote about New Mexico and the Southwest, just as James Joyce wrote of Dublin and Ireland—with poignancy, humor and a firsthand, intimate knowledge of the people and place that he loved so much, the Hi-Lo Country.

*Vayo con dios*, Max. I love you and damned if I will ever forget you.

—Stuart Rosebrook

# LEE MARTIN



## FAST RIDE TO BOOT HILL

With more plot twists and turns than a Grand Canyon hiking trail, "Fast Ride to Boot Hill: The Legend of Ben Hawks" is an inherently riveting read from cover to cover — and showcases author Lee Martin's impressive mastery of the western action/adventure genre. Certain to be an immediate and enduringly popular addition to community library Western Fiction collections, "Fast Ride to Boot Hill: The Legend of Ben Hawks" is an especially recommended addition to the personal reading lists of all dedicated western novel fans.

— Library Bookwatch: January 2020, James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, Midwest Book Review

"Torn between Old West justice and revenge, reluctant gunslinger Ben Hawks crosses trails with an ornery rancher, a gritty marshal, and feisty women (including his own mother) on his hunt for cunning murderer Brian Avery. Fans of classic westerns should enjoy riding with Ben through Lee Martin's fast-paced, twisty tale."

— Howard Weinstein, New York Times best-selling author of *Galloway's Gamble*

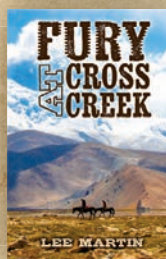


## IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

"In this novel, fate seemingly unites individuals with intersecting pasts in California. The narrative, too, is believable, as some of the chance encounters among characters aren't as coincidental as they initially appear. The author's concise writing generates lucid passages and a brisk, progressively intense story, courtesy of an increasingly threatening George.

A swiftly paced, entertaining melodrama with a fine cast of characters."

— Kirkus Indie, Kirkus Media LLC

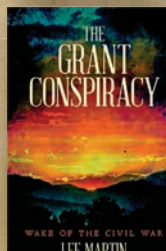


## FURY AT CROSS CREEK

When Laredo learns his true identity, he becomes a living target as he and the scout who raised him ride into the same deadly feud.

"A fast paced Western actioner that is sure to please. Reminiscent of the Hatfields and McCoys. Fans of quick-shooting action, damsels in distress, and a righteous ending are sure to enjoy this new Western thriller."

— Linell Jeppsen, author of *Far West: The Diary of Eleanor Higgins*.



## GRANT CONSPIRACY

In 1880 Colorado, a lawyer, newspaper woman and black veteran try to protect Grant from an evil law firm seeking revenge for losing their fortunes on Black Friday.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLOAK & DAGGER: "Lee Martin's *The Grant Conspiracy* plays out like a game of checkers with bodies piling up and the surviving characters vying for the final position."

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



## DEAD MAN'S WALK

A vengeful young gunman tracks his last man to Yellow Creek but tangles with a conniving old lawman, a boy with law books, and a beautiful woman who belongs to the man he hunts.



Another of many of Lee Martin's early and current 23 Western novels to be available on Amazon in Kindle, paperback and large print, including *Shadow on the Mesa*, for which Martin wrote the highly rated movie with Kevin Sorbo.

IN MEMORIAM

# Max Evans



1924–2020

BELOVED  
COWBOY,  
RANCHER,  
SOLDIER,  
ARTIST, AND  
AWARD-WINNING  
AUTHOR



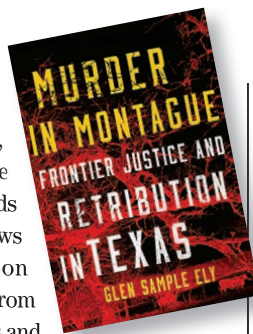
UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO PRESS

## Frontier Justice

In August 1876, Texas settlers were accustomed to raids from Indians, outlaws depredating upon livestock, danger from ruffians of all sorts and vigilante actions taking the place of an effective court system. But worse than those tragic events, the assault on the England family in Montague County shocked everyone. Rev. William England, wife, Selena, and stepchildren Isaiah and Susie were all murdered in their home. Why? No one could provide an answer.

Men were arrested, charged and tried. Guilt was established on the deathbed statement of Selena England. The hangman's noose was ready and justice would be served. But then the death sentence was commuted to life. Glen Sample Ely's *Murder in Montague: Frontier Justice and Retribution in Texas* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$21.95) is a compelling story of frontier justice at its best.

—Chuck Parsons, author of  
Texas Ranger Lee Hall: From the  
Red River to the Rio Grande



## Revenge Ride, Redemption Ride

In a debut novel, *All Things Left Wild* (Blackstone Publishing, \$27.99), set in the early 20th century, James Wade offers a bloody tale on separate tracks, two journeys triggered by the Bentley brothers'



misguided and tragic robbery and a murder. Shelby and Caleb Bentley calamitously, out of shame and dumb inspiration, botch a robbery that kills the young son of an Arizona gentleman-rancher, Randall Dawson. One brother,

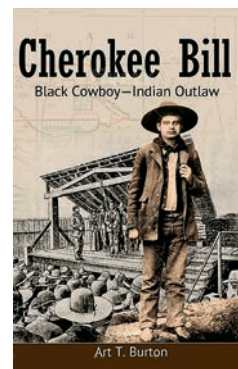
Caleb, is wiser and braver...inspired to seek redemption through deeds of daring and deeds of love. The brothers are trailed by good-hearted, semi-incompetent Randall Dawson...seeking vengeance...if only, at first, to prove his manhood. Written with elegant prose that might remind a reader of Cormac McCarthy, Wade's novel announces the coming of an astonishing young talent, a fictioneer for the Western genre's best future.

—Red Shuttleworth, author of  
Eight Monologues: From Americana West

## Alias Cherokee Bill

Art T. Burton, best known for his authoritative studies on lawman Bass Reeves and other black frontiersmen, provides an insightful look at Crawford Goldsby, the part-black, part-Indian outlaw of the 1890s—better known as Cherokee Bill—who was hanged in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1896. In *Cherokee Bill: Black Cowboy—Indian Outlaw* (Eakin Press, \$17.95), Burton does what he does best: sift through myriad legends to find the facts. "I came not here to talk but to die," Goldsby said on the gallows. "Proceed with the killing business." Cherokee Bill's story is filled with romance, violence, murder, revenge and an all-star cast of historical figures, including Reeves, Ned Christie, Henry Starr and Judge Isaac Parker.

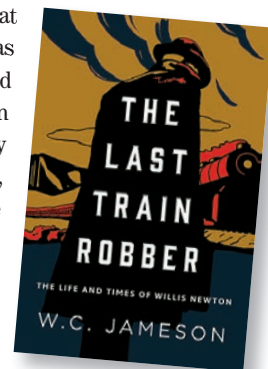
—Johnny D. Boggs, author of  
A Thousand Texas Longhorns



## Living To Tell The Tale

They robbed a record-breaking six trains and 80 banks before being caught in 1924, but the Newton Gang hasn't grabbed the American imagination like the Dalton or James gangs. Now, prolific Western author W.C. Jameson aims to rectify that with *The Last Train Robber: The Life and Times of Willis Newton* (Rowman & Littlefield, \$24.95). James takes us through the life of gang leader Willis, from his boyhood start in crime in central Texas to his death, in 1979, at the age of 90. "He was daring, bold, brash, and colorful," Jameson writes. Unlike so many of his contemporaries, Willis lived to tell the tale. And Jameson brings us that tale in an authoritative, well-researched book about the last of the old-time outlaws.

—Max McCoy, author of  
Elevations: A Personal Exploration  
of the Arkansas River



- COURTESY SAMUEL K. DOLAN -



### AUTHOR-PRODUCER SHARES HIS LOVE OF BORDERLAND LAW AND ORDER HISTORY

Samuel K. Dolan was raised in Northern Arizona and has a lifelong fascination with Western American history. Dolan got his start in film and TV while working on *Tombstone* in 1993. His credits include *Wild West Tech*, *Navajo Cops* and *A Distant Shore: African Americans of D-Day*, for which he won an Emmy. He has written two books on Western law and order: *Cowboys and Gangsters: Stories of an Untamed Southwest* (2016) and soon to be released *Hell Paso: Life and Death in the Old West's Most Dangerous Town*. He recommends these titles:

- 1 ***The Life and Times of Pancho Villa*** by Friedrich Katz (Stanford University Press, 1998). Katz's biography of Villa is both an ambitious depiction of the life of the Mexican Revolution's best-known figure and a brilliantly written overview of the entire conflict.
- 2 ***The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade, 1910-1920*** by Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler (University of New Mexico Press): Harris and Sadler's well-researched and objectively written book is an epic and covers a really controversial chapter in the long story of America's most famous lawmen.
- 3 ***When Law Was in the Holster: The Frontier Life of Bob Paul*** by John Boessenecker (University of Oklahoma Press): All of Boessenecker's books are well researched and wonderfully written, but I'm especially fond of this biography of lawman Bob Paul, a long overlooked peace officer of California and Arizona Territory.
- 4 ***The Arizona Rangers*** by Bill O'Neal (Eakin Press): O'Neal's book on the overlooked Arizona Rangers of the early 20th century made a big impression on me and helped inspire a lot of my own research.
- 5 ***Desert Lawmen: The High Sheriffs of New Mexico and Arizona, 1846-1912*** by Larry D. Ball (University of New Mexico Press): Ball's volume on New Mexican and Arizona county sheriffs and their deputies covers everything from the political and administrative, to the day-to-day experiences of lawmen.

# TWO 2020 WILL ROGERS MEDALLION AWARD FINALISTS IN NONFICTION

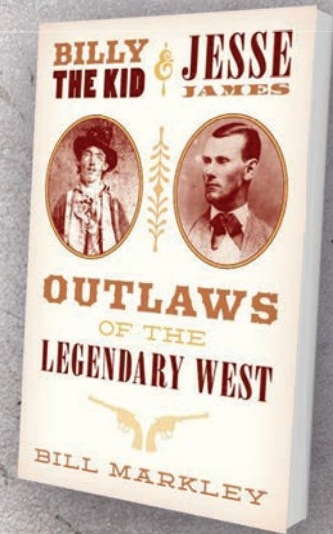
## WHICH OUTLAW MADE THE WILD WEST WILDER : BILLY THE KID OR JESSE JAMES?

This book is rollicking good fun - and serious history too.

— Nancy Plain, President of Western Writers of America

Anyone who loves Old West history will enjoy the Western novelist-historian's easy-to-read style, his sense of place, his ability to present the facts and his seemingly uncynical perspective about the ongoing debates that swirl around the two outlaws.

—Stuart Rosebrook, Editor of *True West* Magazine



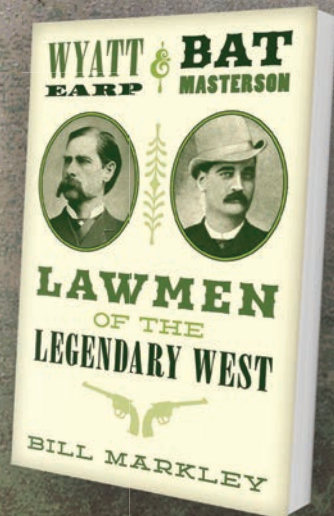
## WHICH LAWMAN DID THE MOST TO TAME THE FRONTIER - WYATT EARP OR BAT MASTERSON?

Markley presents his intriguing saga in lively prose.

—Bill O'Neal, author, *Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters*

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—Loren Estleman, author, *Wild Justice*



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BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# The Horizon West

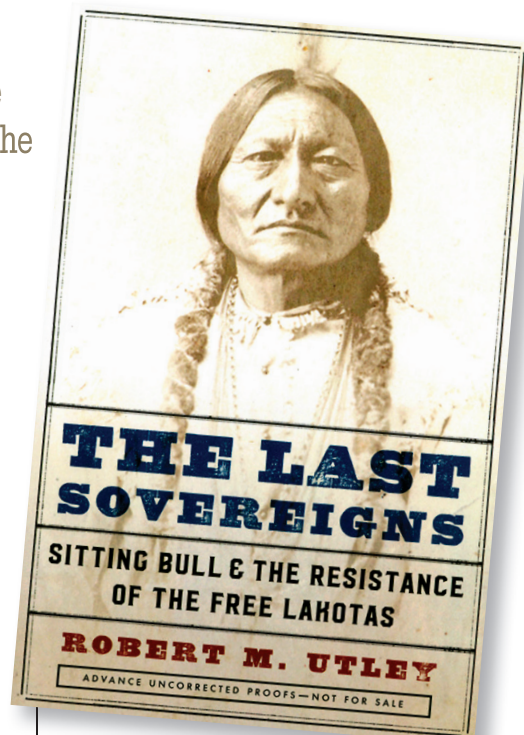
Western book publishing is experiencing a banner year in 2020 despite the pandemic.

After nine years in Iowa City, Iowa, our family packed up in early August and pointed the cars West to Prescott Valley, Arizona. Driving 1,500 miles on crowded interstates and nearly empty two-lane highways across the southern plains allowed plenty of time for thoughtful reflection on the current status of Western publishing. What I concluded was actually always in front of me, prodding me forward, the vast and inspiring Western horizon, filled with all its beauty, complexities, history, stories and people.

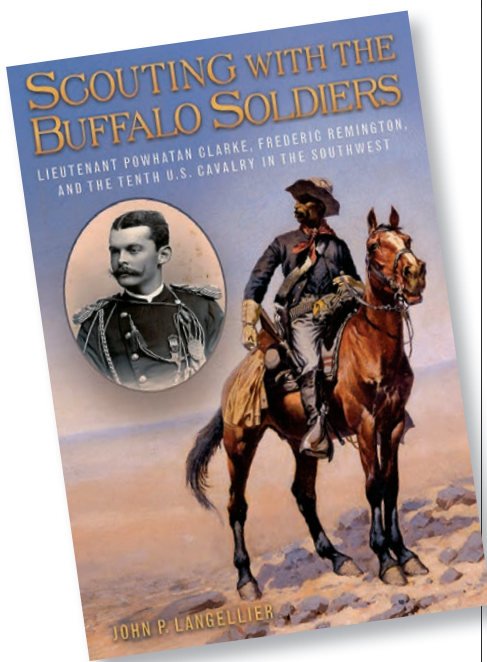
And who wouldn't come to this conclusion when in the same year two of America's greatest writers of the 20th century, nonagenarians Robert M. Utley and Max Evans (see pages 52-53) would publish their seminal books, *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* and *The King of Taos*, respectively?

## New and Classic Favorites of 2020

Bob Utley's *The Last Sovereigns* is the Western historian's crowning achievement and should be at the top of everyone's history reading list in 2020. As Utley poignantly writes in his preface, "The story of the last free Lakotas gives us a new appreciation of Native resistance in the



waning years of Indigenous free life. The drama of these four years is at times heroic and thrilling, at other times heartbreaking and brutal. As the fortunes of these last free Lakotas change, we follow Sitting Bull to the climax of both his life and the free life of the Lakotas." Thanks to the



University of Nebraska Press's Bison Books imprint, Utley's *The Last Sovereigns* joins reissues of Utley's *Billy the Kid*, *Frontier Regulars*, *Frontiersmen in Blue*, *After Lewis and Clark*, and *Custer and the Great Controversy*.

Speaking of nonagenarians, in last year's November book review section I reviewed 95-year-old Frank H. Newell's first novel, *The Lantern*, an early 20th-century Western set in his native Nebraska. At press time in 2020 we are awaiting the follow-up from the Green Valley, Arizona, resident. Newell, who spent his career in editing and publishing, is also the sponsor of the Frank H. Newell Creative Writing Prize at his alma mater, Willamette University.

The University of North Texas Press continues to be a leader in Western history publishing with new titles from regular *True West* contributor and columnist John Langellier, *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington, and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in the Southwest*, Doug Duke's *Firearms of the Texas Rangers: From the Frontier Era to the Modern Age*, and the greatly anticipated *The Earps Invade Southern California: Bootlegging Los Angeles, Santa Monica and the Old Soldiers' Home* by Don Chaput and Dr. David D. De Haas.

TwoDot Publishing has emerged as the best publisher of popular Old West history. Recent titles that Western history fans should acquire for their reading pleasure include Michael F. Blake's *Go West Mr. President: Theodore Roosevelt's Great*

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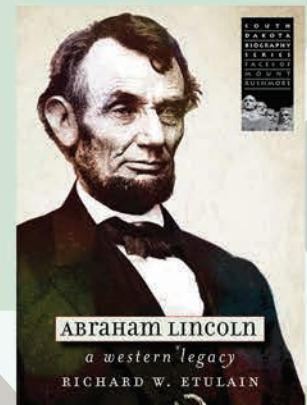
Mary Aguirre  
Arizona Women's Hall of Fame

**Sherriff John Behan**  
Wyatt Earps' Nemesis

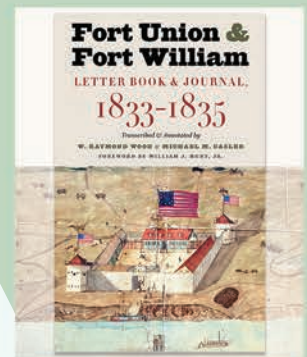
**WESTPORT'S TARNISHED STAR**  
-IN DEFENSE OF JORNY BEHAN-  
FIRST SHERIFF OF COCHISE COUNTY  
by Annette Gray

**Annette Gray**

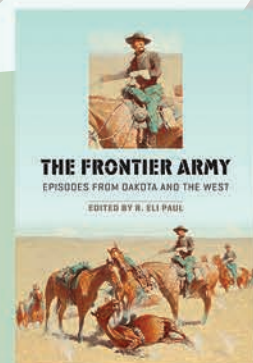
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—Journal of Arizona History

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*Loop Tour of 1903*; Victoria Wilcox's *The World of Doc Holliday: History and Historic Images*; Jefferson Glass's *Empire: The Pioneer Legacy of an American Ranch Family*; and Linda Wommack's *Growing Up with the Wild Bunch: The Story of Pioneer Legend Josie Bassett*.

Screenwriter and author Lee Martin has had a busy 2020, publishing classic Westerns *Dead Man's Walk*, *Fury at Sweetwater Pass*, *The Maverick Gun*, *Revenge at Rawhide* and *Fast Ride to Boot Hill*. Her Darringer Brothers' series (seven volumes to date) is also back in print with all titles from Vaca Mountain Press available in multiple formats through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

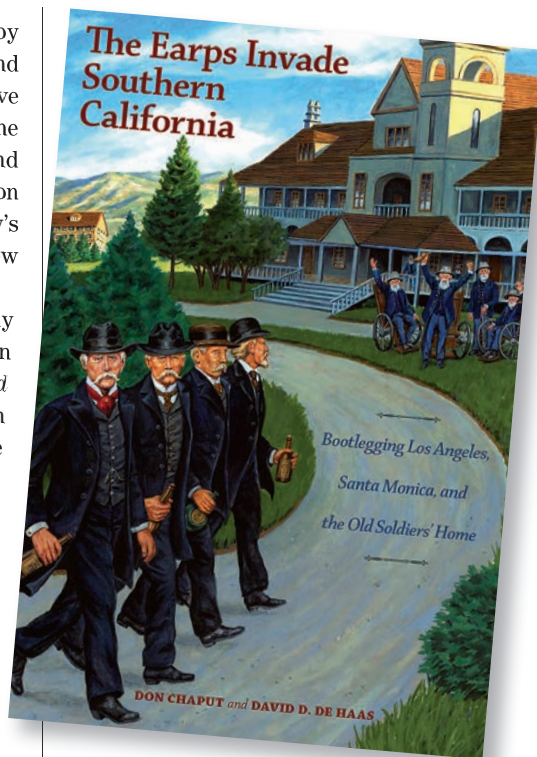
In "retirement," South Dakota author Bill Markley has kept himself busy writing Western history for TwoDot publishing, including three in his "Lawmen of the Legendary West" series—*Billy the Kid and Jesse James*, *Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson*, and *Geronimo and Sitting Bull*—which will hit the bookstores in May 2021.

A unique new perspective on Western American-Indian relations has just been published by Outskirts Press: *Dinosaurs and Indians: Paleontology Resource*

*Dispossession From Sioux Lands* by Lawrence W. Bradley. Most scholars and students of the U.S. Indian Wars and Native land dispossession have not considered the role 19th-century Eastern scientists and academics played in the nation's acquisition of traditional Indian lands, but Bradley's detailed research opens an entirely new perspective on Manifest Destiny.

Labrador Publishing has recently published Texas law-enforcement veteran John Layne's follow-up second novel *Red River Reunion*, a Texas-ranger Western that takes place in 1877. Layne knows the lay of the land, the history, the people—and the law and order—he writes about. His first novel, *Gunslingers: A Story of the Old West*, should be next up on your reading list!

For many years, the South Dakota Historical Society Press has been a small but exemplary publisher of Western biography. The Pierre-based press's most recent addition to its catalog, Richard W. Etulain's *Abraham Lincoln: A Western Legacy*, should be on everyone's list to read in 2020. In this insightfully written biography, Etulain succinctly provides an insight to the



nation-building motivations and goals of the 16th president, who unfortunately was not able to see his vision for his beloved nation fulfilled because of an assassin's bullet.

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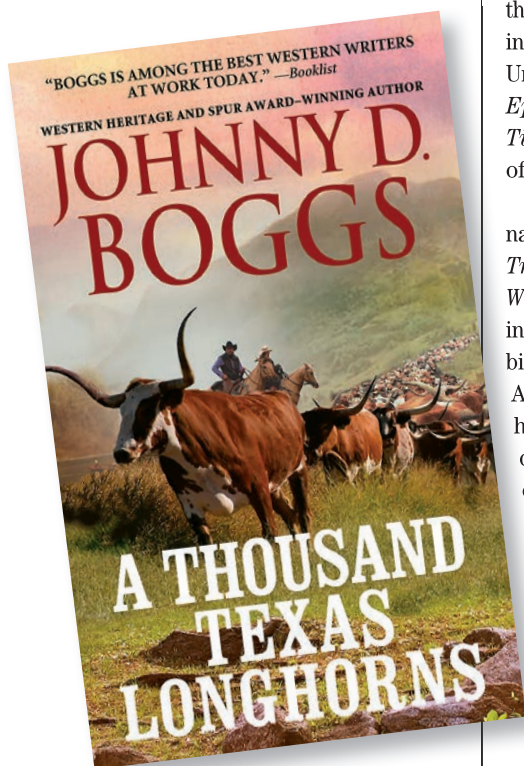
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Speaking of Richard Etulain, he has had a busy year, as the University of Oklahoma Press just published *Thunder in the West: The Life and Legends of Billy the Kid* and



*Billy the Kid: A Reader's Guide*. Anyone who follows the Kid will want these two selections in their library.

If the articles in this issue on Zapata and the Mexican Revolution piqued your interest in the subject, then I also recommend the University of Oklahoma's recently published *Epic Mexico: A History from Earliest Times* by Terry Rugeley, a retired professor of Mexican and Latin American history.

Canadian author Annette Gray's second narrative history, *Journey of the Heart: A True Story of a Southern Belle in the "Wild West"* (Graywest Books), was first published in 2001, but was recently reissued. Gray's biography of Missouri-born Mamie Bernard Aguirre, who came to the Southwest with her husband on the Santa Fe Trail, is a dramatic story of the trials and tribulations of a woman's life in the mid- to late-19th-century West.

Los Angeles screenwriter Hobart Carraway Jr.'s self-published debut novel *Bass Reeves: The Buffalo Marshal* is the latest dramatization of the famed black Deputy U.S. Marshal who served the legendary Fort Smith, Arkansas, federal court Judge Isaac Parker. Reeves, the

first black marshal to serve west of the Mississippi River, lived a dramatic life, and Carraway captures his spirit and stature as a lawman in this classic historical Western.

Multi-genre author Gary L. Pullman is back with *On the Track of Vengeance*, the fourth volume in his "An Adventure in the Old West" series (Campbell & Rogers). The series follows the adventures of bounty hunter Bane Messenger, who, in this latest series entry, has been deputized into the U.S. marshals service to chase down a gang of railroad saboteurs.

Western fiction remains a hot genre for Wolfpack Publishing, FiveStar and Pinnacle. A new title that just hit my desk is by True West's Johnny D. Boggs. This, his latest Old West trail-driving novel, *A Thousand Texas Longhorns* (Pinnacle), will be on sale October 27, 2020.

Bantam continues to publish new and reissued Louis L'Amour titles from the "L'Amour Lost Treasures" series. The latest Western reissues in 2020 include *Comstock Lode*, *Passin' Through*, *The Ferguson Rifle* and *The Lonesome Gods*, all of which contain informative bonus materials.



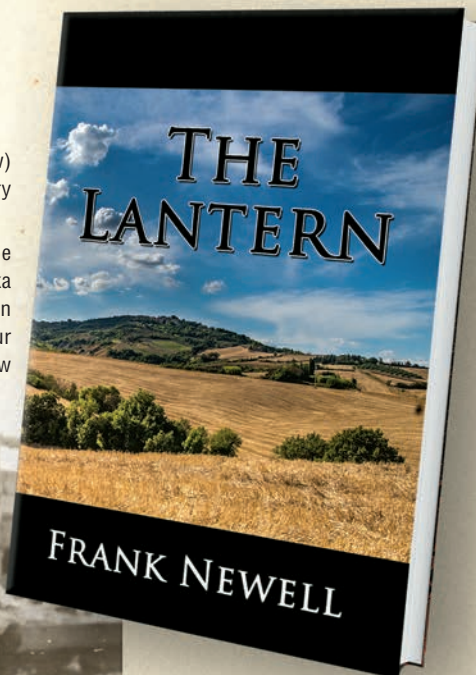
## A STORY ABOUT A STOIC MAN OF THE PLAINS

**Careyhurst Ranch, WY, 1923.** General manager Walt Newell (far right in the photo below) and Governor Bob Carey (white shirt) talk with the cowboys. Walt Newell's extraordinary life is the inspiration behind the novel *The Lantern*, written by Walt's son Frank.

*The Lantern* depicts ranching in Wyoming beginning in 1913, life as a WWI soldier with the Converse County Cowboys, and later, farming Indian land of the Logan Valley in Nebraska during the Depression Era. But there's a lot more to the story: a man's lifelong devotion to two women (one he marries and one unwinable), and his innocence shattered by four times taking a life to save his own. Names have been changed to protect privacy, in view of plot details enhanced by vivid imagination.



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Frank Newell's novel, *The Lantern*.

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# WESTERN MOVIES

DVD & TV SERIES  
BY HENRY C. PARKE

## Earl Holliman

One of Hollywood's finest gentlemen of the silver screen recalls his early career in Westerns.



Earl Holliman (above) fought hard to be cast in Hal Wallis's 1956 Paramount production of *The Rainmaker*. Cast as Jim Curry opposite Burt Lancaster, Katharine Hepburn and Lloyd Bridges, Holliman earned a Golden Globe award for best supporting actor in 1957.

— COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES —



**T**he *Sons of Katie Elder*, *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*, *Giant*. With such an extensive resume of classic Westerns, it's easy to forget that Earl Holliman is best-known for playing Angie Dickinson's partner on *Police Woman*. Looking back from age 92 with astonishing recall, he admits, "I can't remember ever wanting to be anything other than an actor. I'd say, 'I'm going to Hollywood and be a movie star.' I just fell in love with what I saw up on the picture-show screen in Texas and Louisiana."

During World War II, Earl enlisted, then was sent back to high school when the Navy learned he was only 15. Earl reenlisted. Stationed in California, he'd visit the Hollywood Canteen, where, he says, "I'd meet stars I'd seen in the movies, and would work with later, like Ida Lupino, Roddy McDowell,

Early in Holliman's career he co-starred with Kirk Douglas in two Hal Wallis Paramount Westerns, as lawman Charlie Bassett in *The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (above, left) and as outlaw Rick Belden in *Last Train from Gun Hill*.

Dane Clark." After discharge he worked at various jobs and attended Pasadena Playhouse on the G.I. Bill.

Holliman had his first solid Western role in 1953 as one of Spencer Tracy's sons—along with Richard Widmark and Hugh O'Brien, all teaming against "half-breed" brother Robert Wagner—in *Broken Lance*. "I was a big fan of Spencer Tracy and [his longtime love] Katharine Hepburn. He was very kind to me."

In *The Burning Hills*, Holliman was the bad guy, opposite Natalie Wood and Tab Hunter, and Stuart Heisler directed a thrilling, no-holds-barred brawl between Holliman and Hunter. Surprisingly, it was physically tougher to work with Wood because, "nobody ever told her how you pull your punches. In the first scene, I come onto her, and she hit me so hard on the side of my head, I really saw stars. And we had to do it twice!"



In 1965, Earl Holliman co-starred with John Wayne, Dean Martin and Michael Anderson Jr. in another Hal Wallis production for Paramount Pictures, *The Sons of Katie Elder*.  
 — COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES —

*Shane* director George Stevens was making his epic film *Giant*, and watched *Broken Lance* to check out New Mexico locations. He saw Holliman, and cast him as Bob Dace. “I was so excited because, my God, George Stevens was another one of those icons. I read the book from cover to cover; I closed it with disappointment because Bob Dace is only mentioned twice, once when he’s four years old, picking up mountain oysters.” Happily, Stevens had built up the role.

Holliman was cast as lawman Charlie Bassett in *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*, his first time working with stars Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas, and soon would play, “the greatest part I ever had,” the kid brother whose sister (Katharine Hepburn) is mesmerized by Burt Lancaster as The Rainmaker. Holliman had to fight for it, because Producer Hal Wallis thought at 27, Holliman was too old, and the New York office was pushing Elvis Presley for the part. On Tracy’s recommendation, Hepburn went to bat for him, and while watching a screen test for another character, the playwright N. Richard Nash “pointed his finger to the screen, said, “That’s the boy I wrote it for.” It was the role he’d win his Golden Globe for.

In *Trooper Hook*, Barbara Stanwyck was a rescued white captive with a half-Indian child; Joel McCrea was the soldier

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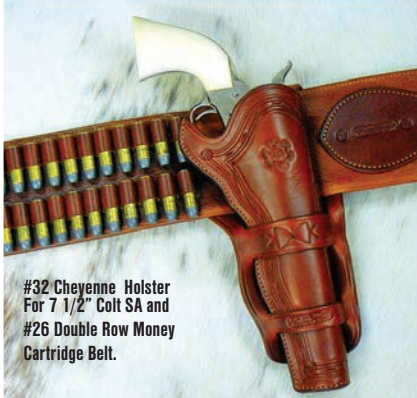
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Earl Holliman (second from left) in his first big role played Denny Devereaux, the son of Spencer Tracy (left) in *Broken Lance*. Hugh O'Brian, Richard Widmark and Robert Wagner co-starred as Tracy's sons and Holliman's brothers in the big-budget, 1954 20th-Century Fox Western family melodrama.

detailed to return her to her husband; and Holliman was the charming young drifter who becomes their ally. He became great friends with both stars, even though he'd beaten out McCrea's son, Jody, for the part. "Joel and I went to a sneak preview, the titles came on, it said 'Joel McCrea, Barbara Stanwyck, Earl Holliman in *Trooper Hook*.' I was stunned; it was the first time my name appeared above the title. Joel said, 'Hey, that's good billing!' He hit me so hard with his elbow that he could have knocked me out of my seat."

In *Last Train From Gun Hill*, Holliman's character rapes and murders an Indian woman, not knowing she's the wife of sheriff Kirk Douglas, who is a close friend of Holliman's father, Anthony Quinn. Kirk, who produced, worried, "I don't think Earl Holliman is a threat to me." But he learned." The savage fight between the two in a burning hotel room, with Holliman handcuffed to the bed, is legendary. There's a remarkable scene where Quinn humiliates his son, "and I'm so needy and unloved. It was a whole different side of the character." It wasn't in the original script. "That was added by Kirk, and it was really generous of him."

In 1965, Holliman played brother to John Wayne, Dean Martin and Michael Anderson Jr., in *The Sons of Katie Elder*. "Acting with John Wayne, you would never have known that he'd just come back from having his lung removed, because he gave it his all. He was the same John Wayne that he always was in front of that camera."

At age 15, Holliman hitchhiked to Hollywood. "I went to Grauman's Chinese Theatre, and looked at all the stars on Hollywood Boulevard, The Walk of Fame. In front was Joel McCrea's star, then a space, then Greta Garbo. Now, between them, is

Earl Holliman's star. Every time I have a chance, I tell that story. And I say, hang on to your dreams, because they can come true."

## BLU-RAY REVIEW



### The Man From the Alamo (1953)/ They Came to Cordura (1959)

(Mill Creek Entertainment, Blu-ray, \$19.98) Presented together, two disillusioned yet rewarding studies of cowardice and heroism. In *They Came to Cordura*, Gary Cooper is a disgraced Army major searching battlefields in the wake of Pancho Villa's incursion for Medal of Honor candidates. In *The Man From the Alamo*, Glenn Ford is forced to escape The Alamo before Santa Anna's final siege, is branded a coward, and must avenge his family's slaughter and lead a wagon train to safety.

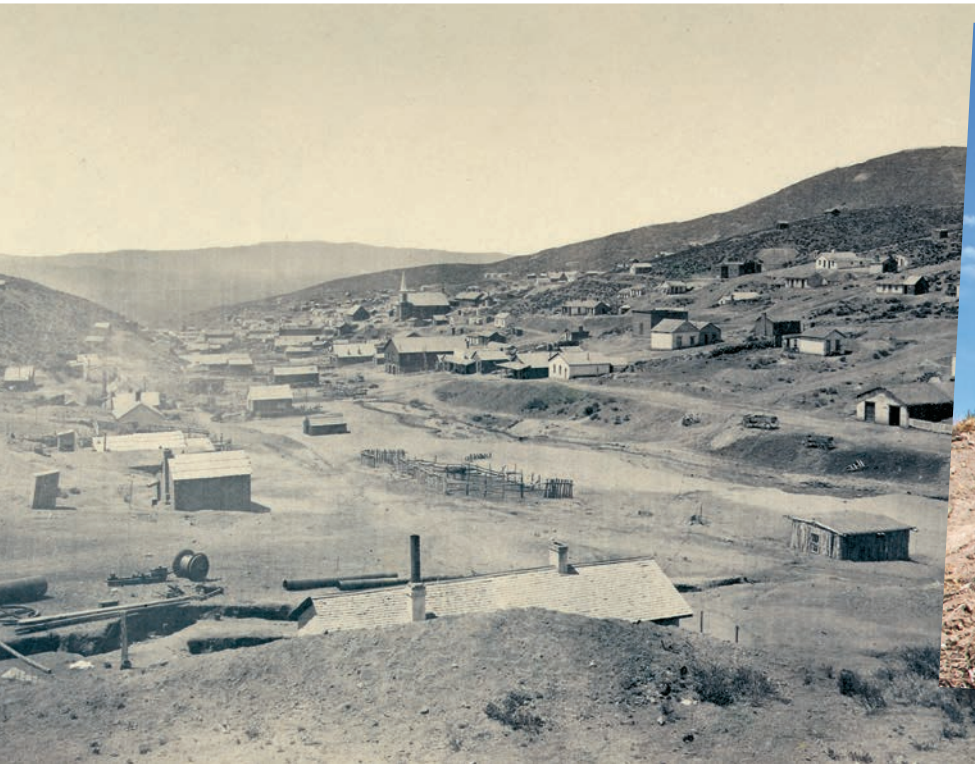


Henry C. Parke, Western Films Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter and blogs at [HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com](http://HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com). His book of interviews, *Indians and Cowboys*, will be published later this year.

BY LEO W. BANKS

# Austin, Nevada

*The Old West is alive in the friendliest town on the loneliest highway.*



Photographer Timothy O'Sullivan was a member of Clarence King's Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel when he photographed Austin, Nevada, in 1868. In just six years the silver boomtown along the old Pony Express Trail in the desert of central Nevada had attracted over 10,000 residents.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

**A**ustin's founding happened in 1862 when a Pony Express horse kicked over a rock and behold—a jackpot in silver! But that's only one version of how this town was born. Another has it that William Talcott made the strike while hauling wood out of Pony Canyon.

The resulting boom drew 10,000 people and lasted until the mines played out in the 1880s.

Whatever the truth, both stories live on in this central Nevada community, home to fewer than 200 hearty souls. "We're in the Toiyabe Mountains at 6,600 feet and small," says Candace Kelly, office coordinator for the chamber of commerce. "Our school system has seven full-time children, but we're friendly and have lots of history."

Three of Austin's churches are among the West's oldest. St. George's Episcopal was built in 1878 and is still in use. The 1866 Methodist Church serves as Austin's town hall.

St. Augustine's Catholic Church, built of native brick and stone, held its first mass on Christmas Eve 1866, and the priest charged \$1 admission to limit the crowd. The building, one of 11 on the National Register of Historic Places, is being restored as a cultural center.

With its church spires reaching to the sky, the so-called City of Churches is great for picture-taking, and walkers love the authenticity of an old mining outpost.

Other buildings on the Register include the 1871 courthouse and Nevada's oldest

bank building, built in 1863 and now the town library.

The Stokes Castle, the grandiose vision of mining magnate Anson Philip Stokes, stands on a bluff above U.S. 50 near the western entrance of Austin as a testament to the wealth generated by silver in Nevada in the 19th century.

bank building, built in 1863 and now the town library.

The quaint Austin Museum, open only in warm weather, showcases vintage furniture and clothing, mining gear, antique saddles and old photos.

Stop at Jason's Art Gallery to buy striking samples of Nevada turquoise. The International Café & Bar began as a hotel in Virginia City, built in 1859. Parts of it were moved to Austin in 1863 and it's still there, serving food and drinks in an historic atmosphere.

Over July 4th weekend, the town holds a parade and barbecue, and in September folks love the Prospector's Dream Wine Walk and Sunset Dinner.

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Like many of Nevada's earliest 19th-century communities, the discovery of rich silver veins led to Austin's boom and bust mining economy. The Austin Historical Society Museum's exhibits tell the story of the day-to-day life of a silver miner in the area.

In exchange for buying a ticket, participants get a wineglass, and accompanied by live music, walk down Main Street where business owners pour them a drink. That evening, the group—some 150 people—gather at Stokes Castle for dinner.

"The setting overlooks the Reese River Valley at sunset and is so beautiful," says Kelly.

Mine owner Anson Stokes built the castle in 1897. Visitors can't go inside, but the three-story structure, modeled after a Medieval tower Stokes saw near Rome, is well worth a look.

At the county building, get a map of original Pony Express stations along Highway 50, which runs through town. *Life* magazine in 1986 dubbed it the "Loneliest Highway in America."

The Cold Springs and Sand Springs stations are now rock ruins, but historical markers tell the story of the lonely outposts. At Sand Springs: "A few rough poles stuck in the sand and covered with cloth. Several holes have been shoveled out of the sand. These are the springs. Warm and unwholesome."—William C. Moss, August 22, 1861.

The endless open country around town offers bountiful outdoor fun. Spencer Hot Springs has pools to soothe your weary bones. Set between the Toiyabe and Toquima ranges, likely snow-covered in winter, the views are tremendous as you drop into steaming, 140-degree water and say, "Ahhh!"



Austin is well known for its historic architecture, including three of the West's oldest settler-built churches, including St. George's Episcopal Church, an active parish since 1878.

At Toquima Caves, hike a short trail up stone steps to an array of yellow, black and white pictographs, painted by ancient Shoshones. If the weather's right, drive the gravel road through Kingston Canyon, 30 miles away, to see scenery alive with wildlife.

**FUN FACT:** In 1868, Austin authorities hanged murderer Rufus Anderson three times. On the first two tries, he fell through the trap and thudded to the ground, alive. As horrified onlookers protested, Rufus was roped to a chair and hanged sitting down.



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



A pioneer home exhibit at the Austin Historical Society Museum provides a window into the daily lives of women and families in the central Nevada boomtown. Before the railroad arrived in 1880, all household goods came by freight wagon.

# WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



The historic city of Austin, Nevada, welcomes visitors to explore its historic downtown.

To start your trip, visit the Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce, 122 Main Street. [AustinNevada.com](http://AustinNevada.com)

## HIGHWAY 50 SURVIVAL KIT

Stop at the chamber for a Highway 50 Survival Kit, a booklet about the road. After the chamber stamps it, mail the book to the Nevada Commission on Tourism, which will send back a certificate stating, "I survived the loneliest highway in America." Says Kelly: "We just had people from the Netherlands come in a second time. Europeans especially are fascinated by the vastness of the Nevada landscape."

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

## SEE THE GRIDLEY STORE

Reuel Gridley became famous in 1864 for losing a bet that forced him to carry a 50-pound sack of flour down Main Street. To raise money for Civil War veterans, the sack was auctioned off many times around the West, accumulating \$275,000. Mark Twain told Gridley's story in *Roughing It*. The store, built in 1863 and on the National Register, is closed to the public.

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Twenty-four miles from Austin off Highway 50, see remarkable rock carvings dating to 10,000 B.C. At the overlook, watch for wild burros roaming the valley.

[BLM.gov](http://BLM.gov)

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# Cap & Ball Six-Guns

## A Smoke-



This EMF Co. replica of the Paterson Colt, with its unique folding trigger, and the stagecoach robbery scene roll engraved on the cylinder, is an accurate, working reproduction of the gun that revolutionized revolvers for all time. Despite a lack of sales of the original Paterson Colt to the general public, praise from the Texas Rangers and U.S. Army officers fighting in the swamps of Florida, proved that inventor Samuel Colt had the right idea.

- COURTESY EMF CO. -



Considered by many arms students as the ultimate in design and practicality in big-bore cap and ball Colt revolvers, the Model 1860 Army .44, as shown by this handsome Uberti USA, blued and color case hardened replica, remains a favorite with black powder handgunners today.

- COURTESY UBERTI USA -



# Filled Adventure

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

Firearms fans are finding old-timey black powder revolver replicas offer a “time travel” shooting experience.



Rincon's (now Prado, in southern California's Riverside County) three constables, circa 1863, stand ready with tools of their trade. Left to right: W.B. Roberts has his thumb on his cocked 1860 Army Colt, while John Ralph and W.B.'s brother, George, hold their New Model Remington Army and '60 Colt a bit more leisurely, yet showing readiness to uphold the law.

— COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER —

Celebrating 200 years of the Texas Rangers, Cimarron is producing a special run of a museum-quality "Walker's Walker" replica, aged to look like used originals of the 1,000 1847 Walker Colts issued to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen during the Mexican War. Each of the military .44 revolvers will be stamped with "U.S.," company designation and issue number. An additional 100 civilian models will be stamped with the original serial numbers.

- COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS -



## 1847 WALKER & DRAGOONS

In the midst of the U.S.' war with Mexico, former Texas Ranger Sam Walker, serving with the U.S. Mounted Rifles, sought help from Samuel Colt in hopes of obtaining an improved and more powerful revolver for his men fighting in Mexico. The result was the Walker model, and despite only 1,100 of these massive, four-pound, nine-ounce (unloaded) six-shooters being produced, this iconic six-gun's power, accuracy and great range helped spread the word of Col. Colt's "repeating pistols," and put him back in the gun business. The .44 caliber Walker, sometimes referred to as the "Victorian Magnum," remained the most powerful commercially produced revolver until the introduction of the .357 Magnum, in 1935. Improvements on the Walker, like shortening the barrel from nine to 7½ inches, and adding a loading lever catch, led to more orders worldwide. Three different further improved "Dagoon" models were produced over the next 14 years with an estimated 19,700 of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Models turned out. To view an original military Colt Walker, and various Dagoon Colts, visit the Cody Firearms Museum, the Texas Ranger Museum, and the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas.

Although the percussion ignition system, often called "cap and ball," only reigned for about 45 years (roughly 1820-1865—the shortest lifespan of any firearms ignition system), this period has captured the imaginations of gun fans worldwide. In America alone it was the opening of our Western frontier, the era of the fur trappers, the California Gold Rush, The Mexican War, the struggle for Texas's independence and the fight at the Alamo. Pre-Civil War conflicts in "Bloody Kansas," and Missouri and the Civil War, all happened during the caplock's heyday. The rest of the world, too, saw powerful European nations exploring and colonizing much of the globe with stirring events like India's Sepoy Mutiny, The Crimean War, the exploration of Africa and many other of dramatic history-changing events.

While myriad styles of weaponry were utilized in these undertakings, the advent of the practical revolver is arguably the most appealing to today's shooters. The era of the percussion system was also a time of great change—the age of the industrial revolution, the beginning of mass production and interchangeable parts. Of importance to firearms fans, it signaled the arrival of the repeating pistol, changing the way men fought, and often serving, as the old saying goes, as the great equalizer.

Today's European-made, replica cap and ball revolvers stir the memories of those deeds and misdeeds back to life through historical re-enactments, competition shoots and other venues that feature the epic events and the people who played a part in them. The modern black powder handgun enthusiast has more choices for obtaining a working replica of these legendary smoke wagons than at any time since their introduction. Here's a sampling of some of them, and where one might view an original example of the historic guns. Check out our Suppliers sidebar, and contact them to see what models each importer offers.

## PATERSON

This is the pistol that revolutionized revolvers. The unique design, with a cylinder that revolved, rather than the barrel, as in some earlier revolving handgun attempts, made it a practical repeating handgun when compared to other pistols of the era. Patented in 1836, this five-shot handgun got off to a slow start, despite making quite a reputation for itself, especially in the fledgling Republic of Texas, fighting the Comanches. However, the lack of sales caused inventor Samuel Colt to close down his Patent Arms Manufacturing Co. Nonetheless, the Paterson proved its mettle, not only on the Texas frontier, but in the swamps of Florida, during the Second Seminole War. Although only around 3,200 Patersons left the factory, they paved the way for all future revolvers. Loading and firing a Paterson revolver offers the experience of shooting the first practical revolver in history. Examples of an original Paterson may be viewed at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, California, and Texas Patersons are on display at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, in Waco, Texas; the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and the Cody Firearms Museum, in Cody, Wyoming.



Original Dance & Brothers revolvers were made in a larger .44-bore Dagoon size and the .36 caliber Navy configuration, however only 500 guns were ever produced. Dixie Gun works offers the Navy-sized replicas of this Texas Rebel six-gun.

- COURTESY DIXIE GUN WORKS -



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# 1851 NAVY

Undoubtedly the most famous cap and ball revolver of all, it could easily be called the "Percussion Peacemaker." From the moment this Colt was introduced in 1850, the handsome .36 caliber was sought after by those hardy adventurers who needed a reliable holster-sized six-gun. From the gold country of California, throughout the West, and across the globe, it became a favorite with adventurous American and European soldiers and explorers. The '51 Navy made its mark as the best balanced six-shooter of its time. Favored by cavalymen on both sides of the Civil War, the Navy Colt was also packed by famed frontiersmen John Wesley Hardin, the James Younger Gang, the Pawnee scouts and none other than the "Prince of Pistoleers," James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. With nearly a quarter of a million produced until 1873, the 1851 Navy did more to make the West wild than any other six-shooter of its time. You can see one of Wild Bill's Navy Colts at the Autry Museum of the American West, in Los Angeles, and another of Hickok's Colts at Cody, Wyoming's Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

This pair of 1870s Texans—one a Ranger (left), and the other a rancher—proudly display their 1851 Navy Colts, one of the most popular six-shooters of the percussion era. It has earned the moniker "Percussion Peacemaker" with some shooters and is arguably the best-selling replica of all modern black powder cap and ball revolvers.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



By far the most popular model cap & ball six-gun with modern-day black powder handgunners is the .36 caliber, 1851 Navy Colt. Imported by several companies, this handsome copy from EMF Co., features an authentic color case hardened frame, lever, hammer and trigger, and a blued octagonal barrel and roll-engraved cylinder.

- COURTESY EMF CO. -

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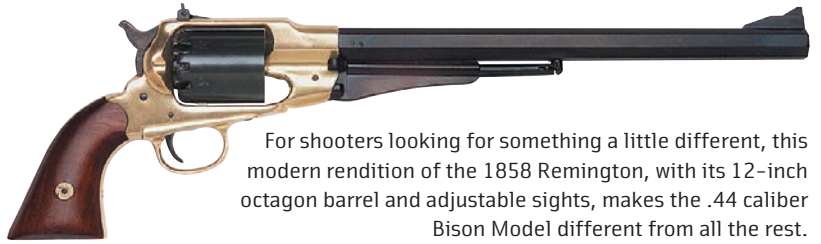
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## 1860 ARMY

Fully 127,156 of the 1860 Army model were sold to the U.S. Government during the Civil War, making it the major revolver in use by the Union forces during our nation's bloodiest conflict. From 1860-1873, the .44 caliber six-gun was produced in both military and civilian models, with round or full-fluted cylinders, combining much of the power of the earlier dragoons, but boasting improved ballistics, better balance and a lighter two-pound, 11-ounce weight. The 1860's streamlined styling of rounded contours and eight-inch round barrel represented a distinct departure from the squared-edge profiles of Colt's earlier models, and the older model's hinged loading lever was replaced with the improved, so-called "creeping" (rack and pinion-style) lever. After the Civil War, the 1860 went on to serve for several years on the frontier, and was used by the Texas Rangers, Wells Fargo detective James Hume, Mormon "Avenging Angel" Porter Rockwell and many other Westerners. Original '60 Army Colts are on display at the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia; Cody Firearms Museum; at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.



For shooters looking for something a little different, this modern rendition of the 1858 Remington, with its 12-inch octagon barrel and adjustable sights, makes the .44 caliber Bison Model different from all the rest.

-COURTESY TRADITIONS PERFORMANCE FIREARMS -

## REMINGTON ARMY

Colt's 1860 Army's stiffest competition came from the Remington Army .44, with around 106,000 purchased by the U.S. Government. It was rated among the best six-guns of its time. Remington's top-strap

frame was a popular feature, and aided in keeping exploded caps from falling into its inner workings, reducing the chance of jamming. Now commonly known as the "1858 Remington," it was prized by troopers on both sides during our War Between the States. After hostilities between the North and South ceased, the Remington went west



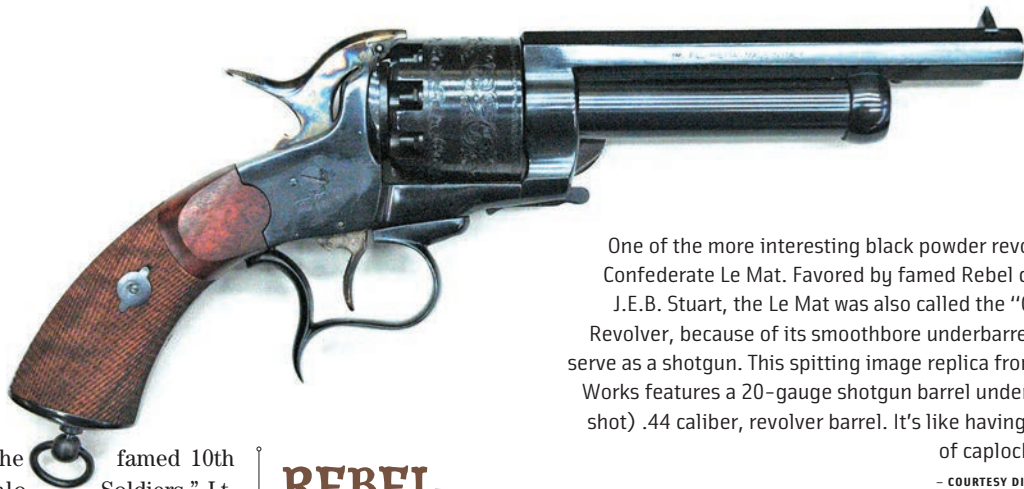
Historically, the new Model Army Remington, popularly known as the "1858" model, was the second most used revolver during the Civil War. This attractive eight-inch barreled, .44 caliber clone comes from Taylor's & Company. Stainless steel and laser-engraved versions also are available.

- COURTESY TAYLOR'S & COMPANY -

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One of the more interesting black powder revolvers is the Confederate Le Mat. Favored by famed Rebel cavalry Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, the Le Mat was also called the "Grape Shot" Revolver, because of its smoothbore underbarrel that could serve as a shotgun. This spitting image replica from Dixie Gun Works features a 20-gauge shotgun barrel under the (nine-shot) .44 caliber, revolver barrel. It's like having a regiment of caplock firepower.

- COURTESY DIXIE GUN WORKS -

to see use by the famed 10th Cavalry "Buffalo Soldiers," Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody, who said of his Remington Army, "It never failed me!" The Remington's reputation was such that 122,000 guns were made from 1863-1875. Additionally, up through 1878, about 28,000 of the .36-bore Remington Navy Models were also produced. Many of each model saw extensive use, especially on the frontier. Original Remingtons are displayed at the Cody Firearms Museum, the National Firearms Museum and the J.M. Davis Firearms Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma.

## REBEL REVOLVERS

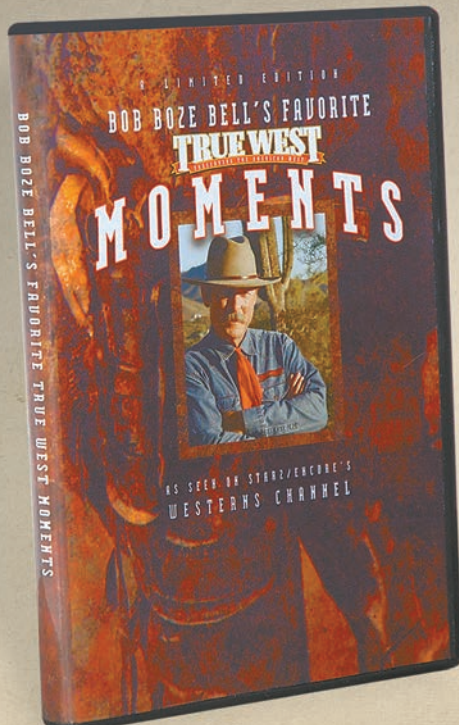
While Rebel revolvers are often considered as brass-framed clones of the Colt cap and ball six-guns, only a couple of southern companies—Griswold & Gunnison and Schneider & Glassick—made brass-framed Colt lookalikes. What these "Johnny Reb" pistols do have in common are subtle changes from the models they copied, largely due to time, raw material and other economic factors. Guns like the brass-framed Spiller & Burr (a Whitney copy) and

the iron-framed guns, including revolvers like the Navy Colt-like Leech & Rigdon, the Colt Dragoon-sized and Navy-sized clones produced by the Dance Brothers of Texas, and Georgia's Columbus Firearms Manufacturing Company Colt copies, are good examples. A number of secessionists' arms were imported from England, like the Kerr revolver, and from Europe, including the French Le Mat. Regardless of origin, these Confederate revolvers helped keep

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Dixie Gun Works offers over 30 different caplock revolvers, including this .36 caliber replica of the rare Confederate Spiller & Burr revolver. With only 1,451 original guns produced, this brass-frame, octagon-barreled six-gun was a copy of the Northern-made Whitney.

- COURTESY DIXIE GUN WORKS -

Union forces at bay for four years of bloody fighting. Several original Confederate revolvers are on display at the American Civil War Museum, in Richmond, Virginia; the Cody Firearms Museum; and the Panhandle Plains Museum.

Currently, only a few replicas of southern wheel guns are offered. Framed in yellow brass are the 1851 Navy Colt-style, Griswold & Gunnison replica, and the Spiller & Burr copy of the Whitney. Available in steel

frames are Texas's Dance & Brothers' .36 caliber model, The Leech & Rigdon .36, and the all-blued Le Mat, with its nine-shot, .44-bore cylinder, and the .65 caliber (20 gauge) under-barrel. Interestingly, some outfits offer brass-framed copies of Remington Armies and smaller pocket-type arms, as "Rebel" revolvers, although no such Confederate copies have ever come to light. However, they do tend to have that "Johnny Reb" look about them.

Due to the fortunes of war, only a small number of Confederate revolvers saw service. Many southern arsenals and arms factories quickly fell into the hands of Yankee troops, but the arms that did manage to make their way to Southern soldiers saw their fair share of combat, and today, original Rebel arms of any kind command extremely high prices, due to their scarcity.



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## POCKET REVOLVERS

For today's shooter who see themselves as perhaps a gambling gent, or maybe a Pinkerton agent, a number of percussion pocket pistols are available. Historically, these vest pocket cap and ball guns, small as they were, often made the difference between life and death in locales like San Francisco's Barbary Coast or the treacherous Natchez Trace in the Mississippi River country.

Besides the frontier, America's cities were ripe with crime, and the public was looking for a quality, accurate pocket-sized defensive firearm. By eliminating many of the steps necessary in producing his big Dragoon revolvers, Samuel Colt was able to create his first pocket revolver, known as the 1848 Baby Dragoon, a five-shot, .31 caliber pistol, but made without a loading lever (also called the "rammer"). From 1847-1850, Colt turned out about 15,000 of these pistols.

With the introduction of the 1849 Pocket Model, featuring the addition of a loading lever, and having a rounded trigger guard, this improved revolver quickly became popular with many Forty-Niners, including miners, gamblers, merchants and the sporting ladies. Incidentally, because the Wells Fargo stagecoach lines purchased some Baby Dragoons, along with '49 Models without loading levers, modern-day gun collectors have dubbed such rammerless pocket pistols the "Wells Fargo



Cimarron Firearms' authentic replica of the .31 caliber, five-shot, 1849 pocket Colt comes with an attached loading lever, and the "Wells Fargo" version shown here without the rammer. It copies those pocket pistols issued to the stagecoach lines' employees during the California Gold Rush. Both of Cimarron's replicas sport four-inch octagonal barrels.

- COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS -

Model." This "five-shooter" became so popular—especially in the four-inch barrel length—that a full 340,000 guns were turned out before production ended in 1873, making it the most produced percussion firearm made by Colt.

Not to be outdone, Remington brought out its pocket version of the Army model. Their spur-trigger, .31 caliber five-shot model was manufactured from 1865-1873. With an estimated 25,000 turned out, Remington offered the gentleman—or lady—of the day, a pocket-sized revolver with its rugged top-strap frame. Several various pocket models, including the rare 1848 Baby Dragoon, are on display at the Panhandle Plains Museum, the National Firearms Museum and the Cody Firearms Museum.



In 1849, Colt introduced his .31 caliber Pocket Model, which quickly became a hit with miners, gamblers, merchants and the ladies, as evidenced by this 1850s daguerreotype of a young Kentucky lass. This "five-shooter" became so popular for self-defense, that a full 340,000 guns were turned out before production ended in 1873, making it the most produced percussion firearm made by Colt.

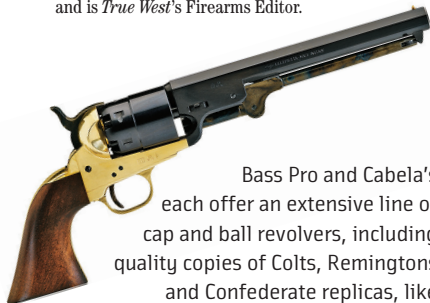
- COURTESY HERB PECK, JR. COLLECTION -

# TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

With such a selection of famous cap and ball revolvers, coupled with economic pricing, today's leisure shooter, Cowboy Action competitor or re-enactor has a chance to obtain not only their favorite percussion revolver, but a number of them. Each model has its own distinctive feel, however they all shoot extremely well. Take it from someone who has enjoyed decades of shooting cap and ball revolvers, they're affordable and fun. "Popping caps" with any of these historic revolvers offers a time travel, smoke-filled adventure.



Phil Spangenberg is a lifelong black powder shooter and professional gun writer, having written for *Guns & Ammo*. He's a world-traveled Wild West showman, Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West's* Firearms Editor.



Bass Pro and Cabela's each offer an extensive line of cap and ball revolvers, including quality copies of Colts, Remingtons and Confederate replicas, like this brass-framed .36 caliber, Griswold & Gunnison clone.

- COURTESY BASS PRO SHOPS -

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR NOVEMBER 2020

## ART SHOWS

### 12TH ANNUAL GRAND CANYON CELEBRATION OF ART EXHIBIT & SALE

Grand Canyon, AZ, November 2020-January 2021: Celebration of Art is a wonderful tradition at Grand Canyon National Park. Paintings from the 12th Annual Celebration of Art will be available for sale at [Shop.GrandCanyon.org](http://Shop.GrandCanyon.org). Proceeds from the event go toward a fund to establish a dedicated art venue and educational programming at Grand Canyon. 928-638-2481 • [GrandCanyon.org](http://GrandCanyon.org)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### 18TH ANNUAL WILD WEST DAYS

Cave Creek, AZ, November 6-8: Wild West Days, one of Arizona's largest Western celebrations, and a Town of Cave Creek signature event, will celebrate by welcoming over 10,000 people to the heart of one of America's most authentic Western towns. 480-437-1196 • [WildWestDaysCaveCreek.com](http://WildWestDaysCaveCreek.com)

## HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

### NORTH POLE FLYER

Austin, TX, November 21-December 13: Ride from Cedar Park to Bertram in train cars decorated for the winter holiday season. 512-477-8468 • [AustinSteamTrain.org](http://AustinSteamTrain.org)

### SANTA'S LIGHTED FOREST AND NORTH POLE ADVENTURE

Georgetown, CO, November 16-December 24: Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and candy canes from Santa and his helpers aboard decorated train coaches. 888-456-6777 • [GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com)

### STARLIGHT PARADE

The Dalles, OR, November 27: This former fur-trade town brings cowboy Christmas to life with lighted parade floats and merry jingles. 541-296-2231 • [TheDallesChamber.com](http://TheDallesChamber.com)

## RODEOS

### WRCA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RANCH RODEO

Amarillo, TX, November 12-15: Top ranch teams compete in the world championship hosted by the Working Ranch Cowboys Association. 806-374-9722 • [WRCA.org](http://WRCA.org)



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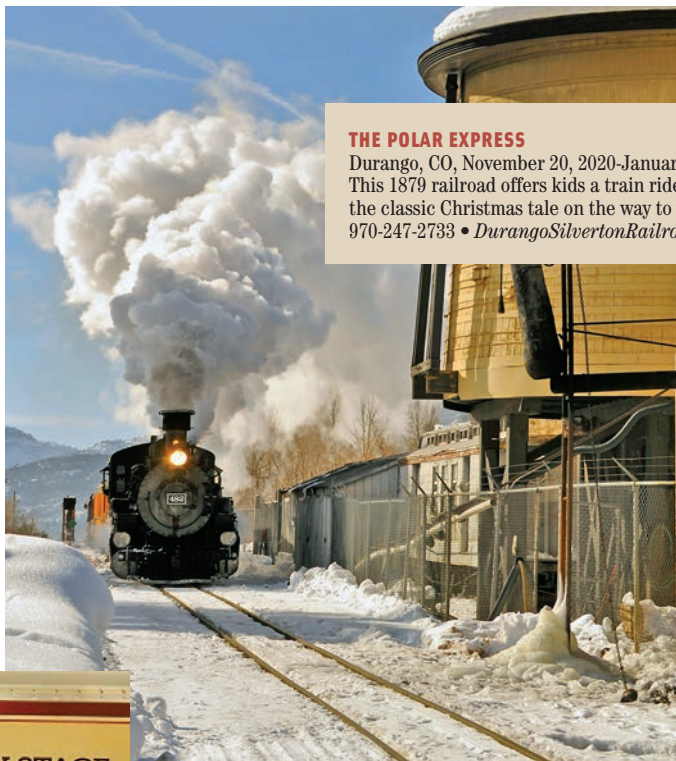
View Western events on our website.



### ARTWALK ALPINE

Alpine, TX, November 20-21: View historical and contemporary life in West Texas art, while local musicians serenade with live music. 432-837-3067 • [ArtwalkAlpine.com](http://ArtwalkAlpine.com)

- OLAF GROWALD, COURTESY ALPINE, TEXAS, CVB -



### THE POLAR EXPRESS

Durango, CO, November 20, 2020-January 2, 2021: This 1879 railroad offers kids a train ride that shares the classic Christmas tale on the way to visit Santa. 970-247-2733 • [DurangoSilvertonRailroad.com](http://DurangoSilvertonRailroad.com)

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### 41ST ANNUAL WICKENBURG BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Wickenburg, AZ, November 13-15: The Four Corner States Bluegrass Festival, sponsored by the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce, is one of the oldest bluegrass festivals in the Southwest. At the festival you will find food and drink concessions, arts and crafts and a designated Kids Zone. 928-684-5479 • [WickenburgChamber.com](http://WickenburgChamber.com)

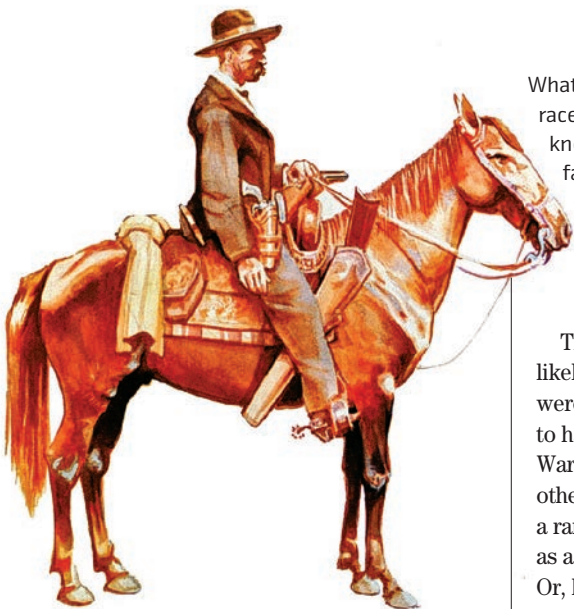
# Wyatt's Stallion, the Apache Kid and the Code of the West



**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales*; History Press, 2018. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at [marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu). Please always include your name, city and state.



## What became of Wyatt Earp's horse, Dick Naylor?

Richard Schott  
Fort Collins, Colorado

It seems Dick Naylor just disappeared from the pages of history. We know he was Wyatt's favorite racehorse. Billy Clanton stole him soon after the Earps arrived in Tombstone. Wyatt retrieved him several months later in Charleston, and Virgil was riding him the evening Billy Claiborne was being transported to Tombstone after killing a man in Charleston.

Wyatt had a lot on his plate in the coming months and his stallion isn't mentioned. Was he riding him on his vendetta? Is he the horse who tried to unload Wyatt at Cottonwood Springs? He didn't have him when he and Doc left Arizona. Did he give/sell him to one of his friends on his posse? Wyatt did a lot of wheeling and dealing when he was in Tombstone. Apparently, he didn't feel it was worth mentioning.

What was the fate of Wyatt Earp's racehorse, Dick Naylor? We may never know, but his stallion remains the most famous of all horses of the Earp-Cowboy clashes in Cochise County.

— BOB BOZE BELL —

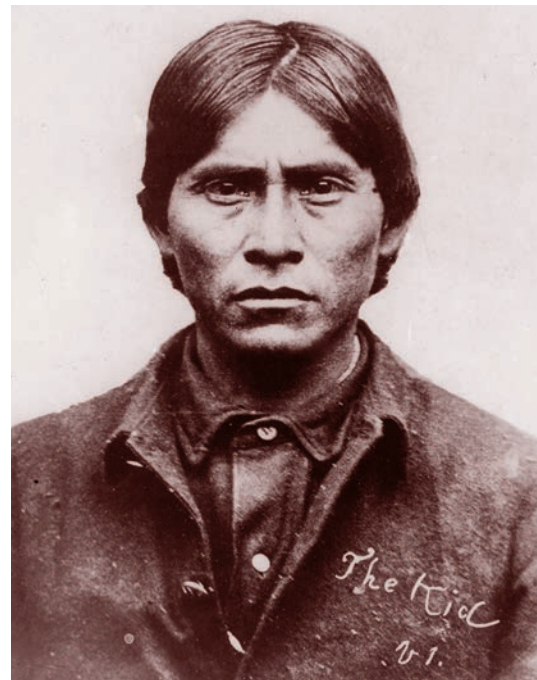
The career of a racehorse is short so it's likely Wyatt sold him after his racing days were done, or before. Dick Naylor seems to have had no role in the Cochise County War, but then neither did any of the other horses. He could have sold him to a rancher like Henry Clay Hooker to use as a stud for his mares at the Crooked H. Or, horrors, sold him to some dude who'd geld him for his kids to ride—a terrible end for a stallion named Dick Naylor.

## When did the first autos appear in the Wild West towns?

Ron Bone  
London, United Kingdom

Because the land around Dodge City was more "automobile friendly," there would have been more cars there and earlier than in the rugged hills, canyons and mountains of Arizona. The first horseless carriage or "gas buggy" didn't arrive in Arizona until 1899 when Dr. Hiram Fenner of Tucson had one shipped in on the Southern Pacific Railroad. It was a Locomobile. Dr. Fenner also has the distinction of having the first wreck. His Locomobile got away from him and crashed into a saguaro cactus.

The first auto to arrive in Phoenix was in 1902. It would have also been shipped by rail. There were no gas stations, so fuel had to be purchased at a drugstore. Repairs were done at the blacksmith's.



The Apache Kid's outlaw activities back and forth across the Mexican and United States border between Sonora and Arizona remain some of the great legends of the Southwest.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

## There is a U.S. National Forest map "The Apache Kid Wilderness" that shows the Apache Kid's gravesite. Is that accurate?

Gilbert Chavez  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

According to Lynda A. Sánchez in her February 2019 *True West* article "The Final Nail in the Apache Kid's Coffin," the Apache Kid was killed in a November 1900 fight with Mormon settlers in Chihuahua, Mexico. According to the settlers, they buried the Kid and two others in a common grave in the Sierra Madre. But that grave has not been rediscovered since then.

# ATTENTION READERS

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## Do you know how the term "Code of the West" originated?

Paul Gortarez  
Phoenix, Arizona

The "Code of the West" was born with the silver screen cowboys. It was first chronicled by Zane Grey in his 1934 novel, *The Code of the West*. No written code ever existed, but an unwritten, socially agreed upon set of informal laws shaped the cowboy culture.

## Did a youngster named Al Smith name Hole in the Wall?

David Mountford  
Surrey, United Kingdom

It looks that way. I went to some of the experts on it—Dan Buck, Linda Womack and Donna Ernst. They all suggested I contact Mike Bell in the UK for the final word. He sent info from a clipping from the papers of J. Elmer Brock, published as *Powder River Country*, in Kaycee, Wyoming, in 1981 and edited by his daughter Margaret Brock Hansen.

According to Elmer Brock, several of the neighbors had gathered at the Brocks' on mail day. Someone asked young Al Smith where he got his mail. He replied, "just from a hole-in-the-wall." The name stuck and it referred to the whole valley behind several miles of red sandstone bluffs called the "Wall." This occurred in 1895.

Contrary to popular belief, Butch Cassidy never made his headquarters there. He certainly passed through at different times because the local people knew him. At no time was there a big force there—more than a dozen—of organized "rustlers" in the Hole. ❏



Before Butch Cassidy became famous for riding through Wyoming's Hole in the Wall country near Kaycee, he spent 18 months in the Wyoming State Prison in Laramie.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**Growing up in a mining camp at the end of a dirt road** felt like the Wild West. A one-room school, a swinging door saloon, gold mines, Indian forts, mountain lions, etc. My dad worked for the mine, so sometimes I'd get to go underground with a headlamp and boots. It was cold, wet and dark. Always a scary yet exciting experience! When I was young, I'd visit my mom while she was cooking at the boardinghouse where the miners lived. It was an odd place for a kid to hang out, but most of them missed their families, so they were really nice to me. I even remember getting Christmas presents from some of them.

**A teacher who was a great influence** was Mel Zelnick, a retired drummer who had played with Benny Goodman and was a fantastic teacher. Once a week my parents, bless their hearts, would drive me forty-five minutes down a dirt road to his house to take a lesson after school. Then we'd turn around and drive all the way home in the dark, under the stars.

**My mom and dad** are the best people on the planet. I am so lucky to have parents as intelligent, funny and fun as they are!

**Summertime in the Bradshaw Mountains** is a hot and dangerous affair. Every year the threat of the town of Crown King being erased by forest fires looms large in my mind. I just pray that visitors understand the danger and are respectful and careful.

**Attending the Orme School after growing up in Crown King** helped bridge the gap between Crown King and my future life in the city. I made lifelong friends from all over the world, learned about other cultures and received a great education. We lived on campus, away from our families, so that made us very close. I still hang out with my Orme friends; they're family to me.

**Storytelling** is my job! When I score films or TV shows, I help the director tell their story through music. I have to combine the perfect instrumentation, mood and pacing to communicate the story being told on-screen.

**When your uncles are the founders of Devo** you see how to live a life full of art and music on your own terms. When I got older, they taught me how to be a composer. I am deeply grateful for their influence on my life.

**Hollywood** is an odd place. It's a bit of an alternate universe, in both good and bad ways. That said, I do enjoy living in L.A. It's a place that's constantly creating new art, music and ideas. It's exciting to be a part of that.



— COURTESY DAVID BROACH —

## SILAS HITE, COMPOSER, MUSICIAN, ARTIST

Silas Hite is an Emmy-winning film/TV composer who was raised in the tiny mountain town of Crown King, Arizona. He began his career working with his uncle, noted composer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo), before becoming a freelance composer. His music plays in television shows around the world, from kids' shows like *Shaggy & Scooby-Doo Get A Clue!* to adult shows such as *Duck Dynasty* and *Chef's Table*. Hite has also scored hundreds of commercials for clients like Apple, McDonalds and Chevy. He also releases albums of Americana music under the name The Satin Cowboy & The Seven Deadly Sins. You can see and hear his work at [SilasHite.com](http://SilasHite.com).

**Influences on my band The Satin Cowboy & The Seven Deadly Sins** are John Prine, Tom Petty, Dylan, old country songs, bluegrass and the Southwestern landscapes that have seeped into my consciousness. I think you can hear all of that in the new album, *Amigos*.

**The most unique instrument I own and play** is a pump organ from the 1880s. It was built before instruments were electric, so you pump the bellows with your feet to make sound. It groans, squeaks and sounds like it's haunted!

**One type of film I'd still like to score is** a Western, of course! That would be a dream come true.

**What history has taught me** is that humanity is at its finest when we remember that we are capable of incredible acts of compassion, dignity and selflessness.



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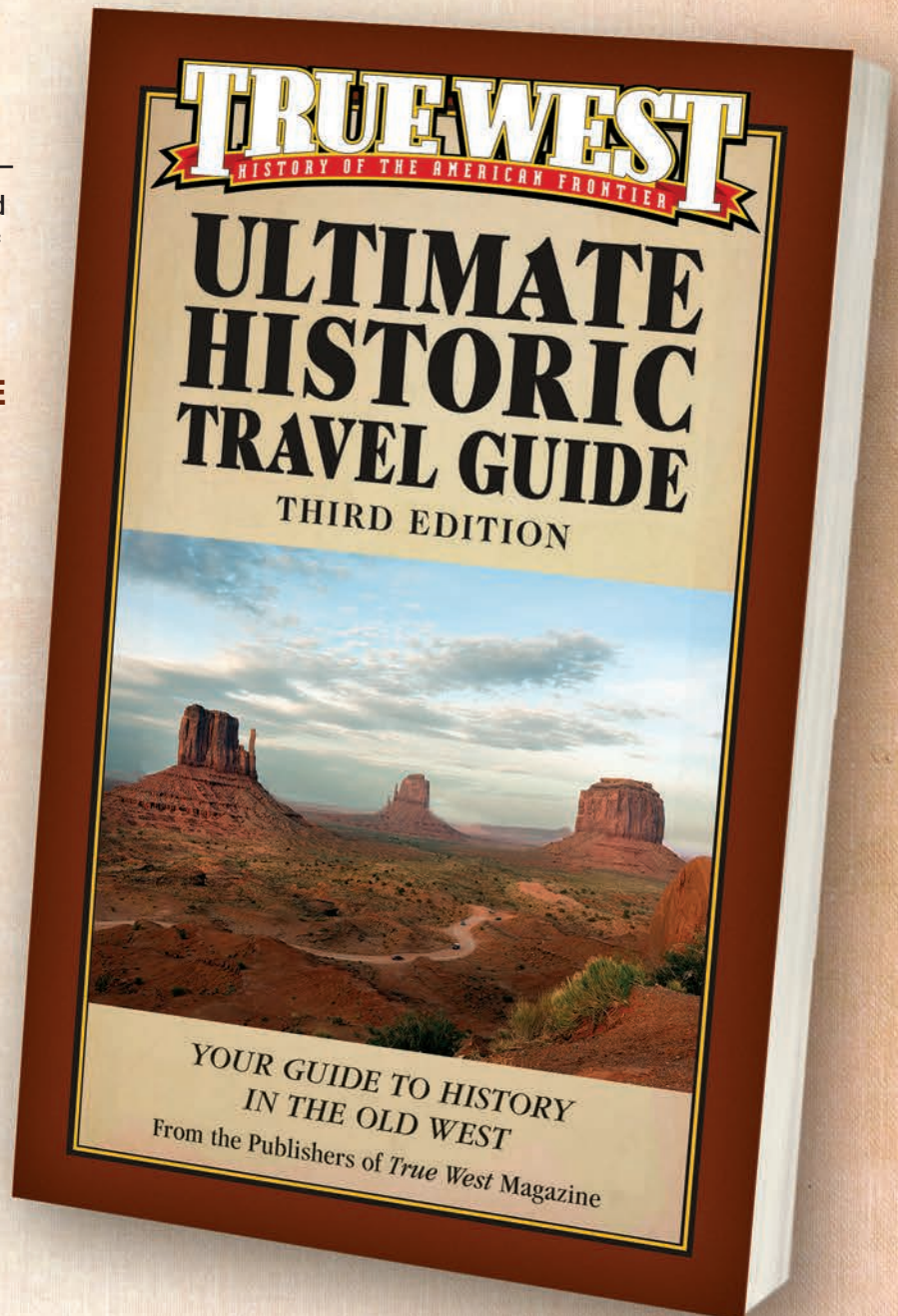
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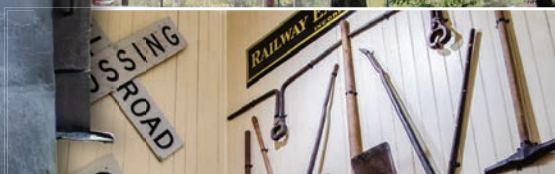
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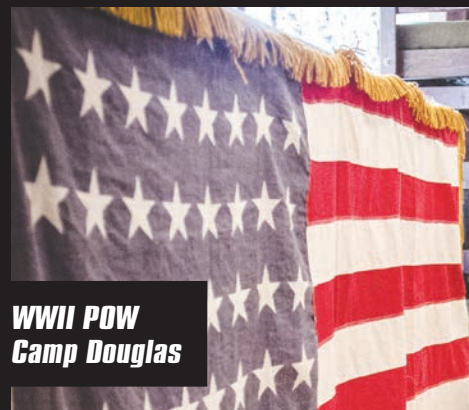
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