

BEST WEST

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN

WESTERN FRONTIER

JANUARY 2021
OUR 68TH YEAR

Sitting Bull

THE SIOUX LEADER'S LAST
FLIGHT FOR FREEDOM

An exclusive excerpt from Robert M. Utley's
latest book, *The Last Sovereigns*

PLUS:

RED, WHITE AND BLACK
THE U.S. ARMY IN THE WEST,
1866-1897

BY JOHN LANGELLIER

TRUE WESTERNER
OF THE YEAR:

PAUL ANDREW HUTTON

\$5.99 • TrueWestMagazine.com
DISPLAY UNTIL FEBRUARY 16.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH **LONESOME DOVE'S** DIANE LANE

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

AMERICANA & POLITICAL AUCTION

February 27-28, 2021 | Dallas | Live & Online

Pictured are just five of the many amazing items we have offered in our Americana & Western auctions. Heritage Auctions has been voted the **"Best Old West Art Auction,"** and the **"Best Old West Collectibles Auction,"** for nine consecutive years by readers of *True West* (and counting!). If you have quality Western or other Historical Americana items you are ready to consign there is no better auction house to call. We have a proven track record as the results show. Please contact us ASAP to discuss Consignment options. Consignments for the auction must arrive by January 6, 2021. We look forward to hearing from you!



William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's
Wild West Show: "He-Nu-Kaw"
Richly Colored Lithographed Poster
Sold for \$32,500



Sitting Bull's Identified Flintlock
Carbine with Standing Statue.
Sold for \$162,500



Wyatt Earp: Amazingly Documented
10-Gauge Shotgun Used by Him to
Kill "Curly Bill" Brocius.
Sold for \$375,000



Colt Civilian Model Walker
Single Action Revolver Attributed
to John Coffee "Jack" Hays.
Sold for \$312,500



California Gold Rush:
Important From-Life
Daguerreotype of
John Sutter
Sold for \$30,000

Browse all auction items at [HA.com/6235](https://www.ha.com/6235)

To consign to future Heritage auctions, please call 877-HERITAGE (437-4824).

Contact Curtis Lindner (CurtisL@HA.com, ext. 1352) or Don Ackerman (DonA@HA.com, ext. 1736).

DALLAS | NEW YORK | BEVERLY HILLS | SAN FRANCISCO | CHICAGO | PALM BEACH
LONDON | PARIS | GENEVA | AMSTERDAM | HONG KONG

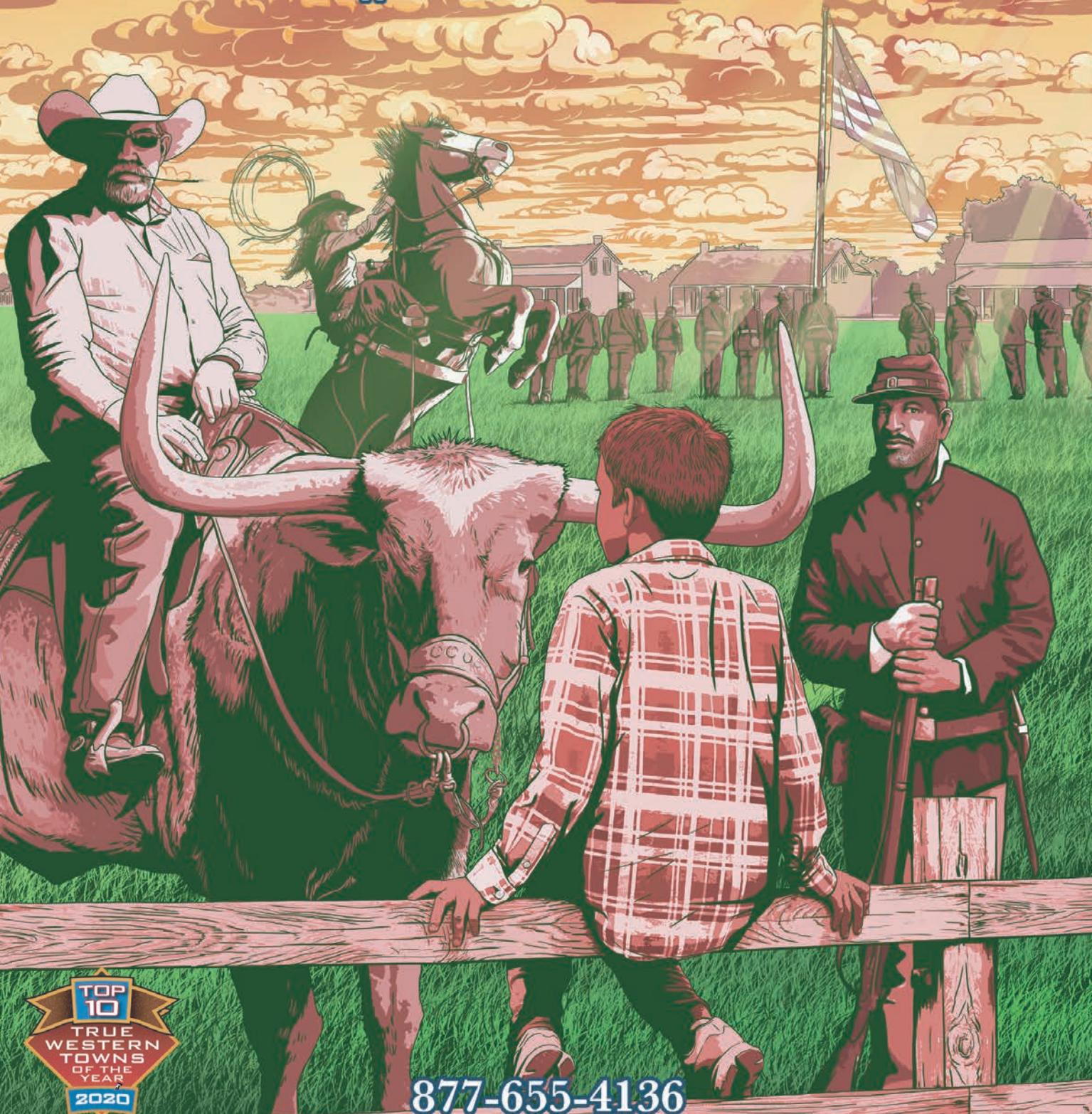
Always Accepting Quality Consignments in 40+ Categories
Immediate Cash Advances Available
1.25 Million+ Online Bidder-Members

Paul R. Minshull #16591, BP 12-25%; see [HA.com](https://www.ha.com) 59895

HERITAGE
AUCTIONS
THE WORLD'S LARGEST
COLLECTIBLES AUCTIONEER

DISCOVER SAN ANGELO!

*An Oasis in West Texas,
Off the Beaten Path*

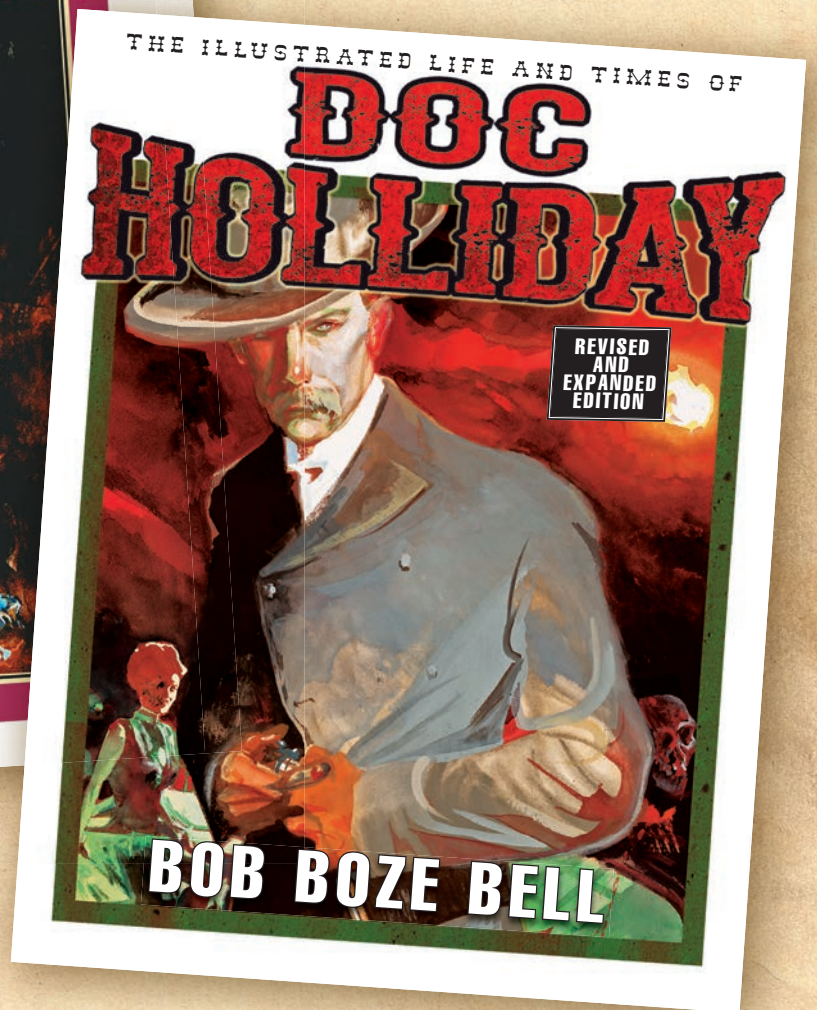
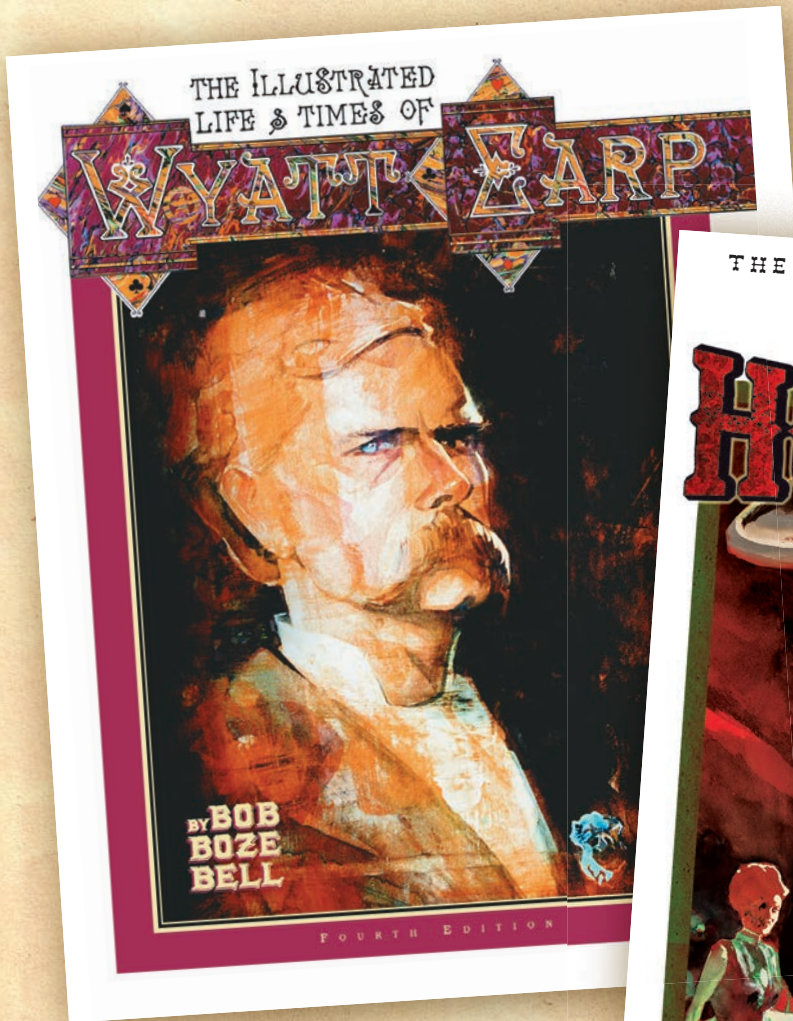


877-655-4136

DiscoverSanAngelo.com

“Hands down the definitive books on Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday”

—Allen Barra, *New York Newsday*



\$19.95

Per Book/Plus S&H
(Soft Cover)

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

TrueWestMagazine.com

amazon



amazonkindle

31st ANNUAL

MESA OLD WEST AUCTION

MESA, ARIZONA ★ JANUARY 23, 2021



The Roger Wilmot Collection of Fine Bits & Spurs

Includes rare and diverse examples, including such notable makers as Phillips & Gutierrez, G.S. Garcia, Visalia, Schnitger, H.P. Pollard, Kelly Bros and more.

*Shown: Rare marked Phillips & Guitierrez Spurs.
Estimate: \$12,000-18,000*



The Montana History collection of Jerry “Buzz” Nyhart

Important and rare collection of Montana Territory historical firearms and artifacts, with a major focus on the Montana Vigilantes and famous Territorial figures.

*Shown: Sharps Model 1874 with Granville Stuart history.
Estimate: \$30,000-35,000*

Over 400 lots will cross the block at the 31st annual Mesa Old West Auction.

Saturday, January 23, 2021

Live, online, absentee and phone bidding available.

Order your auction catalog by phone or online at oldwestevents.com/catalogs.



CATALOGS \$30:
OldWestEvents.com
Phone: 480-779-9378

Historic
WICKENBURG
ARIZONA

Now in its 73rd year, Gold Rush Days celebrates Wickenburg's origins as a historic ranching and gold mining center, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year. Join us!



FEB 12-14
2021

SENIOR PRO RODEO
CLASSIC CAR SHOW
GOLD PANNING
ARTS AND CRAFTS
FOOD VENDORS
WESTERN ACTS

(928) 684-0977
VISIT WICKENBURG.COM
[FACEBOOK.COM/WICKENBURGAZ](https://www.facebook.com/wickenburgaz)

Wickenburg

LET'S RIDE

Photo: © Craig W. Cutler Fine Art



HEROES & PATRIOTS PRESENTS

THE SITTING BULL HENRY RIFLE



- ONLY 50 WILL BE MADE IN THE EDITION
- FULLY FUNCTIONAL HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 LR
- 24 KT. GOLD PLATED ON BARREL BAND, RECEIVER COVER AND BUTT PLATE
- FRENCH FITTED CASE INCLUDED
- LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

Sitting Bull, Considered one of the most influential and famous Native Americans not only to his tribe but to the entire world. Sitting Bull was born around 1831 in the Dakota territory now known as South Dakota. He was originally named Jumping Badger by his father. He wouldn't take on the name Sitting Bull until around fourteen years of age after displayed bravery in raid of Crow warriors. After this his father would hold a celebration and give him the name Sitting Bull in which would become more famous than he could have ever imagined.

Sitting Bull would be hailed as a medicine man and leader of the Lakota tribe. It is said weeks before the historical Battle of Little Bighorn Sitting Bull had a vision in which his people and other tribes would come out victorious. It turned out that his visions were correct! As his tribe and other tribes would go on to defeat and kill General George A. Custer and all his men in this bloody battle. In 1885 Sitting Bull would leave his reservation and go on to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. This decision would catapult Sitting Bull's fame and make him a must-see attraction. He would travel all across the country and mesmerize audiences from one show to the next. Eventually Sitting Bull would return to the Standing Rock Agency in South Dakota.

Upon returning home Sitting Bull would quickly have tensions with the government and Agent James Mclaughlin. These tensions were due to the division and sale of parts of the Great Sioux Reservation. In 1889 there was a religious movement known as the "Ghost Dance Movement" it called for tribes to dance and enchant for the rise of buffalo and dead relatives again. When the movement came to Sitting Bull and his tribe he was viewed as a key instigator even though he did not participate in it himself. This would cause a great deal of concern for the agent Mclaughlin. In 1890 agent Mclaughlin feared that Sitting Bull would flee the reservation and join this movement. On December 15, 1890 he would send almost 40 officers to Sitting Bull's house to be arrested. A struggle would take place between his tribe and the officers arresting their leader which would lead to the untimely death of Sitting Bull. Sitting Bull's legacy is still being talked about over 100 years later, truly making him one of the most influential citizens in American history.

Heroes and Patriots is proud to celebrate Sitting Bull's history with you and your family. Built on a Henry Golden Boy .22LR rifle, with 24 Kt. Gold plating in a satin finish on the Receiver cover and Butt plate, this will become a treasured Family Heirloom that can be passed down in your Family. Makes a great present for Christmas, Birthdays, Bonuses for Employees and Executives, Fundraisers and much more! There will only be 50 made in this edition don't miss out on your chance to own this beautiful rifle.



ORDER YOURS TODAY!

1-866-610-9921 Toll Free
970-484-1747 Office



HEROES & PATRIOTS LLC

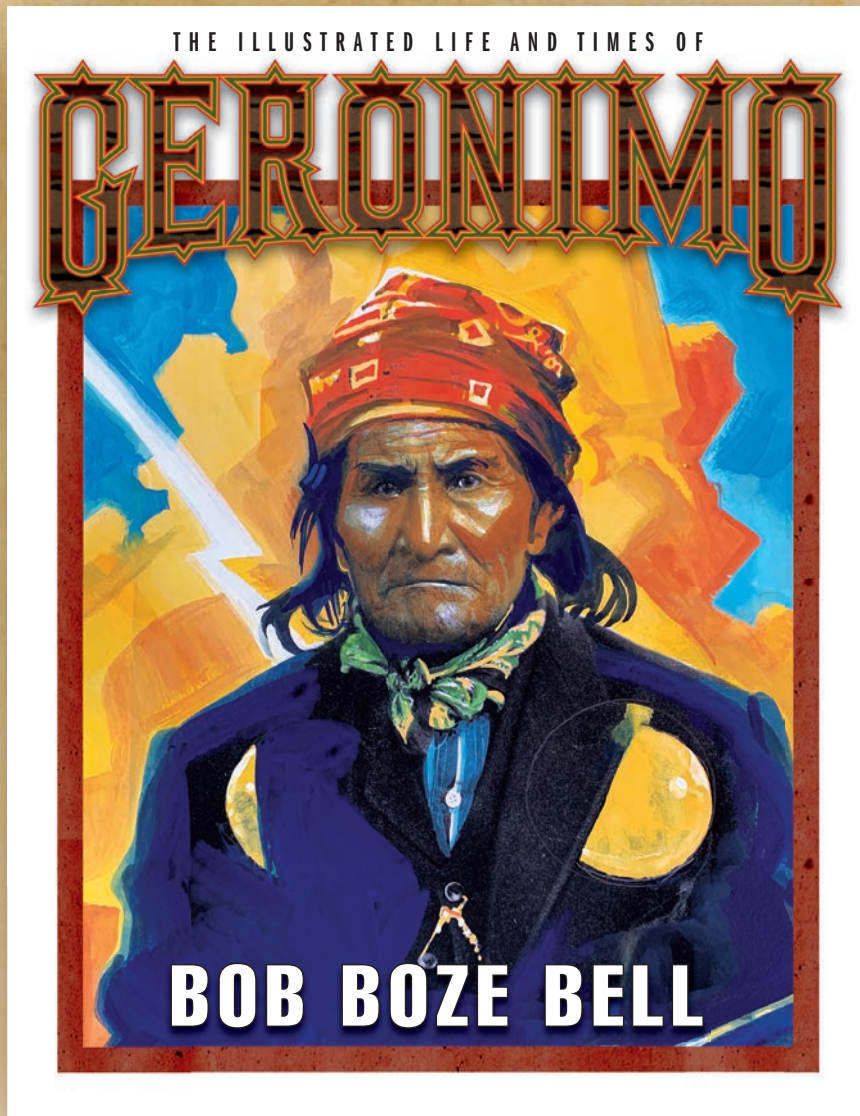


1716 E. Lincoln Ave. Unit B Ft. Collins, CO 80524 | Hours: 7am - 7pm MST Mon - Sat | www.heroesandpatriotllc.com

“Fasten your seat belt for this one!

Bell’s trade-mark blend of superb artwork, authoritative research, and fast-paced prose—always accompanied by a wicked sense of humor—makes this another masterful, must-have Boze western book.”

—Paul Andrew Hutton



Hundreds of images never seen before, uncovered facts you’ve never heard before (Geronimo had ten wives?) and a blow-by-blow account of how he became the most famous In-din in the world.



ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

TrueWestMagazine.com



Prescott
ARIZONA
TRUE WEST. REAL ADVENTURE.

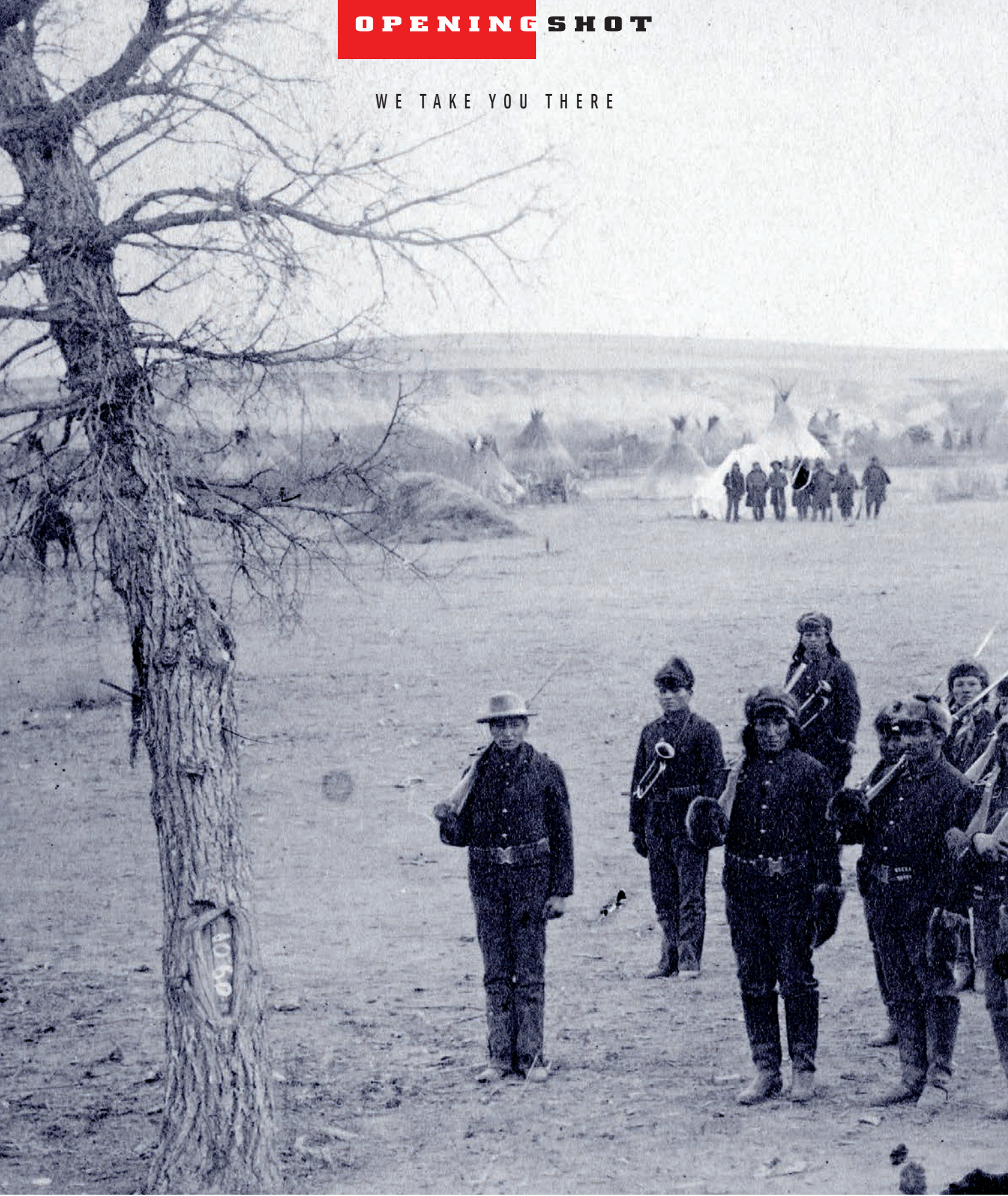
*TRUE WEST.
REAL ADVENTURE.*



VISIT-PRESCOTT.COM
866.878.2489

OPENING SHOT

WE TAKE YOU THERE





The Dead of Winter

According to the National Park Service, either Northwestern Photographic Company owner George E. Trager of Chadron, Nebraska, or his employee, Clarence G. Moorledge of Pine Ridge Agency, had an Indian Infantry Company in winter uniforms pause from their training—possibly as Indian police—to have their photo taken in the winter of 1890. Moorledge later became the first photographer to document the aftermath of the Wounded Knee Massacre, December 29, 1890.



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

EDITORIAL

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Bob Boze Bell
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Ken Amorosano
EDITOR: Stuart Rosebrook
COPY EDITOR: Beth Deveny
FEATURES EDITOR: Mark Boardman
EDITORIAL TEAM
 Firearms Editor: Phil Spangenberg
 Western Film & TV Editor: Henry C. Parke
 Military History Editor: Col. Alan C. Huffines, U.S. Army
 Preservation Editor: Jana Bommersbach
 Digital Marketing Manager: Samantha Crowley
 Digital Content Manager: Jenna Link
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Robert Ray
ART DIRECTOR: Daniel Harshberger
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS: Ericka Cero Wood, Merilee Raynor
MAPINATOR EMERITUS: Gus Walker
HISTORICAL CONSULTANT: Paul Hutton
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:
 Bob Alexander, Allen Barra, Leo W. Banks,
 John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Peter Corbett,
 Drew Gomer, Dr. Jim Kornberg, John Langellier, Sherry
 Monahan, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts,
 Mary Doria Russell, Lynda Sanchez, Marshall Trimble,
 Larry Winget, Linda Wommack
ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER EMERITUS: Ron Frieling
PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Robert G. McCubbin
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Dave Daiss
TRUE WEST FOUNDER: Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

PUBLISHER & CEO: Ken Amorosano
PRESIDENT: Bob Boze Bell
GENERAL MANAGER: Carole Compton Glenn
SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR: Ken Amorosano
REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS:
Sheri Jensen (sheri@twmag.com)
 Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota,
 Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming
Greg Carroll (greg@twmag.com)
 Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana,
 Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

MARKETING ASSISTANT: Merilee Raynor

January 2021 Vol. 68, #1, Whole #610. *True West* (ISSN 0041-3615) is published ten times per year (January, February/March, April, May, June, July/August, September, October, November, December) by True West Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. 480-575-1881. Periodical postage paid at Cave Creek, AZ 85327, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian GST Registration Number R132182866.

Single copies: \$5.99. U.S. subscription rate is \$29.95 per year (10 issues); \$49.95 for two years (20 issues).

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to: *True West*, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. Printed in the United States of America. Copyright 2020 by True West Publishing, Inc.

Information provided is for educational or entertainment purposes only. True West Publishing, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

Any unsolicited manuscripts, proposals, query letters, research, images or other documents that we receive will not be returned, and True West Publishing is not responsible for any materials submitted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS
AND ADDRESS CHANGES

855-592-9943

FAX: 480-575-1903

Follow us on:



True West Online >

TrueWestMagazine.com



Kit Carson was disgusted by what American society had made him into—what they expected of him—and he hated even more failing to live up to those expectations.

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

Northern Cheyenne leaders Little Wolf (below, left) and Dull Knife, were photographed in 1873 in Washington, D.C. For facts and photos posted daily, be sure to follow us on Instagram.

[Instagram.com/TWMag](https://www.instagram.com/TWMag)



COURTESY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



A TRULY MONUMENTAL ARCHIVE

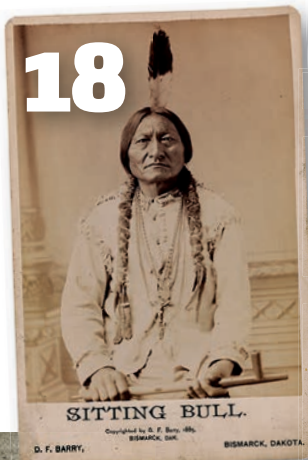
EVERY ISSUE EVER PUBLISHED NOW
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS. READ THE
VERY FIRST ISSUE FROM 1953
TO THE ONE FRESH OFF THE PRESS.



BE HISTORIC. BE ENGAGED.

It's simple to sign up. Go to [truewestmagazine.com](https://www.truewestmagazine.com), click the subscribe button, choose the plan that's right for you, and join the extensive community of Old West enthusiasts. Learn even more about the culture you know and love with the *True West* archives, and keep up with the latest news by gaining access to our newest issues.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 | OPENING SHOT | 38 | CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS |
| 12 | TRUTH BE KNOWN | 40 | CLASSIC TRUE WEST |
| 13 | TO THE POINT | 109 | WESTERN ROUNDUP |
| 14 | SHOOTING BACK | 110 | ASK THE MARSHALL |
| 16 | INVESTIGATING HISTORY | 112 | WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME |



18 SITTING BULL

The Sioux leader's last flight to freedom.

Text

—By Robert M. Utley

26 ON THE HISTORY TRAIL WITH THE OLD BISON

A Memoir

Text

—By Paul Andrew Hutton

28 RED, WHITE AND BLACK

The U.S. Army in the West: 1866-1891

Text

—By John Langellier

82 SWEETHEART OF LONESOME DOVE

In an exclusive interview, Diane Lane talks about her latest Western, leading men, directors and hope for the next chance to ride on screen.

—By Henry C. Parke

42 TRUE WEST'S BEST OF THE WEST 2021

—By the Editors of True West

44 TRUE WESTERNER 2021

46 ART & COLLECTIBLES

55 FIREARMS

62 WESTERN FARE

66 OLD WEST SAVIORS

70 WESTERN BOOKS

76 WESTERN MOVIES

84 WESTERN TRAVEL

104 WESTERN WEAR

28



42



44



82



Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

— SITTING BULL PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Old Vaquero Saying

“No matter how early you rise, the dawn comes no earlier.”



Quotes

“Each man is good in the sight of the Great Spirit.”
—*Sitting Bull*



Sitting Bull was the last free leader of the Lakota Sioux people.

— GILBERT ZALMON, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

“What the country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds.”

—*Will Rogers*

“Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

—*Alfred Tennyson, In Memoriam*

“I am an idealist. I don’t know where I’m going, but I’m on my way.”

—*Carl Sandburg*

“There was only two things the old-time cowpuncher was afraid of: a decent woman and being set afoot.”

—*Edward C. “Teddy Blue” Abbott*

Edward C. “Teddy Blue” Abbott rode the range from Texas to Montana at the age of 22 in 1883; fifty years later he published one of the great cowboy memoirs, *We Pointed Them North*.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



“Craziness, down through history, has performed impressively.”

—*John Updike*

“Look how noble the world is, the lonely-flowing waters, the secret-keeping stones, the flowing sky.”

—*Robinson Jeffers*

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”

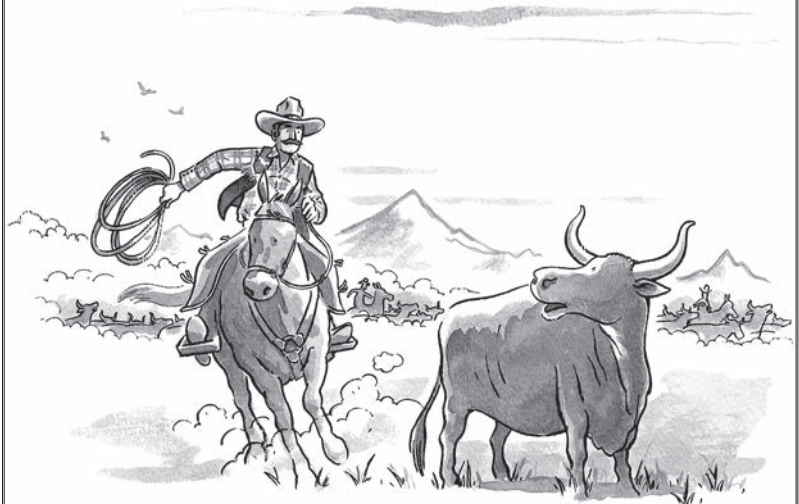
—*T.S. Eliot*

“Never a lip is curved with pain that can’t be kissed into smiles again.”

—*Bret Harte*

“The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.”

—*Dorothy Parker*



walsh

“I’m coming—I just needed some ‘me’ time.”

— CARTOON COLLECTIONS.COM —

Seeking Common Ground

When it comes to the future, history is our best guide.

The good news first: the end of the 1918 influenza pandemic in 1920 led almost directly to the Roaring Twenties because everyone in the country was so ready to kick out the jams after all the death and depressing times. So let's hope that history repeats itself this year.

And on that note, we thought it was high time to find common ground and set a new course for the future after a truly awful and depressing year.

In this issue we find common ground aplenty. Check out Jana Bombersbach's heartfelt thoughts and words (page 66) about the pioneers and the folks who are preserving their efforts. Also check out the inclusive and celebratory features by John Langellier (page 28), Robert M. Utley (page 18) and our True Westerner of the Year recipient, Paul Andrew Hutton (pages 26-27 and 44-45).

Our intrepid and hardworking editor, Stuart Rosebrook, sums up our feelings for this new year, "We are grateful for the passion and dedication of the men and women across the West who continue to work hard in their communities to promote and support Western heritage tourism—despite the challenges of the pandemic. And it is to them that we at *True West* dedicate our Best of the West issue of 2021."

Amen to that!



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



Red State, Blue State Cowboy

The danger we face is in believing that if the other side wins, the country is lost. But the real danger is if we can't see the other side's point of view, we are lost. That is the biggest challenge we face. Blind rage mixed with certitude is not the answer to our problems. Nor has it ever been.

— ARTWORK BY BOB BOZE BELL —

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

WHO'S WHO LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

When people would write in and say they knew or saw so-and-so, it captivated me. It made *True West* even truer, or at least produced evidence of it being true. It was kind of surreal. It would be interesting for the magazine to do a “flashback” and look at some of those old letters.

Keep up the good work.

—John Volz
Lagrange, Kentucky

You are right. When I was growing up, those letters really intrigued me. Here (at right) is a taste of a great one about a man who knew Joe Lefors, the man who arrested Tom Horn, from the February 1964 issue. —BBB

DON'T OVERLOOK RV PARKS

In your January 2020 Best of the West series I believe there is one area left out: RV Parks and Resorts. How many of your readers travel via an RV? Me, for one. In all of your travelogue-type stories that list best hotels or restaurants, RV parks should be listed. That's it, over and out.

—Mike Metze
Corsicana, TX

Thank you for reminding us about the need for listing RV Parks and Resorts in our Best of the West and in travel tips for readers. We will revisit their importance for our Western travelers in our next survey and the 2022 Best of the West issue.

Dear Editor:

I believe your readers would like to know Tom Horn was trapped, tried and convicted. These facts were given to me by the man who was then my boss, Joe Lefors...

I first met Joe when I was connected with the sheriff's office in Big Horn County, and just before a change of politics took place I joined him. Later I moved to Cheyenne and worked out of there for him. One of my trips into town, Joe and I sat in the lobby of the Oceanic Hotel and he told me all about himself and Horn and showed me the room where he and Horn got together...

...Joe [who was hired to find the killer of the boy Willie Nickell] wrote a letter to a cattleman friend up north near Canada telling him to write a letter to him (Joe) and ask if he knew a reliable man who could be trusted to do a job of killing and he would pay a good price for the job...

When he showed Horn the letter, he asked him if he knew of anyone on whom he could count and who was absolutely reliable; if so, to let him know. That was all that was said at the time. Joe made it a point to see Tom again to find out if he had any luck. Joe commented that he would do the job himself but it was impossible for him to get away. Tom then remarked that he was footloose and might be interested, but Joe put him off and said he wanted someone he could be sure of. Tom insisted he would and could pull this off.

It was then that Joe got the second prearranged letter asking why he had not come up with anyone. He showed this letter to Tom and said that he would think it over and for Tom to see him the next day at the hotel. Joe then rented two rooms which had an adjoining door. In the next room was a stenographer and the door was slightly ajar. Horn and Lefors came up to this room and Joe and Horn went over the letters again. Joe told Horn that he did not feel like trusting this job to him—who in the hell did he ever kill?

Horn named several and then told of killing the Nickell kid and why he had to kill him. Joe laughed and said that he did not believe him. Horn then swore that he had really done this job. All of this was taken down in shorthand and used at the trial...

—Thomas C. Allen
Bellflower, Missouri



— COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



To read Allen's complete letter, subscribe to *True West Archives* at TrueWestMagazine.com.

THE TRUE STORY BEHIND *TRUE WEST* MANIACS

I never understood the name for *True West* club members—Maniacs. I think what might have served better would be the *True West* Wranglers, or Gunslingers maybe. But whatever you call it, I am one, I just signed up. I am a *True West* Maniac.

—Rex Rideout
Conifer, Colorado

Welcome to the family! As for the Maniac handle, when I was pursuing the publishing of my first Billy book back in 1991, I canvassed the late great Jim Earle of College Station, Texas (publisher of *The Early West* books), and he advised me against doing color in my books with this admonition: “There are 5,000 Old West maniacs who will buy anything on the subject of gunfighters.” He believed the “maniacs” wouldn’t pay for color books. He was wrong about that, BUT the name stuck, and I am proud to be one. And now you are too! —BBB

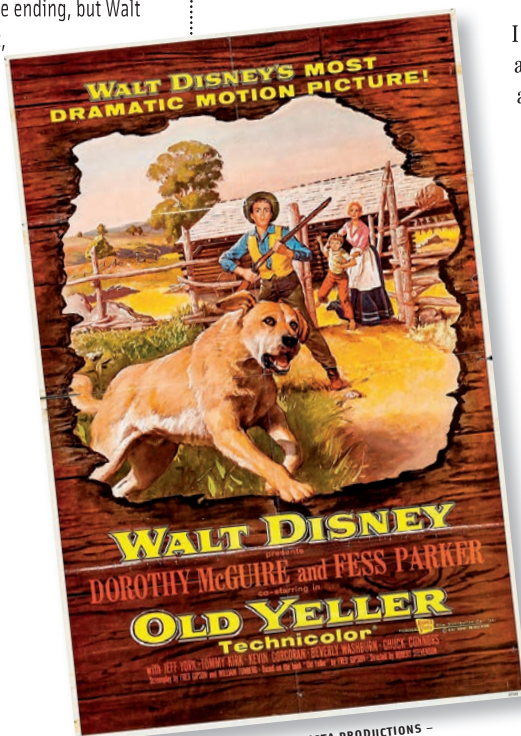
A TEXAS HERO: OLD YELLER

Wanted to thank you for the wonderful October issue. I especially enjoyed Henry Parke’s story on *Old Yeller*. I am a writer, and Fred Gipson is one of my idols. I was at the dedication of the statue of *Old Yeller* and Travis at the Mason Library, which was hosted by then-first lady Laura Bush. She said *Old Yeller* was her favorite book. The staff at Disney did want to change the movie ending, but Walt and Fred held fast that *Old Yeller* had to be shot, because of the danger of rabies and to allow Travis to transition from boy to man. Disney and Gipson did quarrel about one issue—in the book, Travis has to kill Yeller immediately after he fights the wolf. For the movie, Disney said, “Let’s lock him up and show him rabid, so the younger kids will understand.”

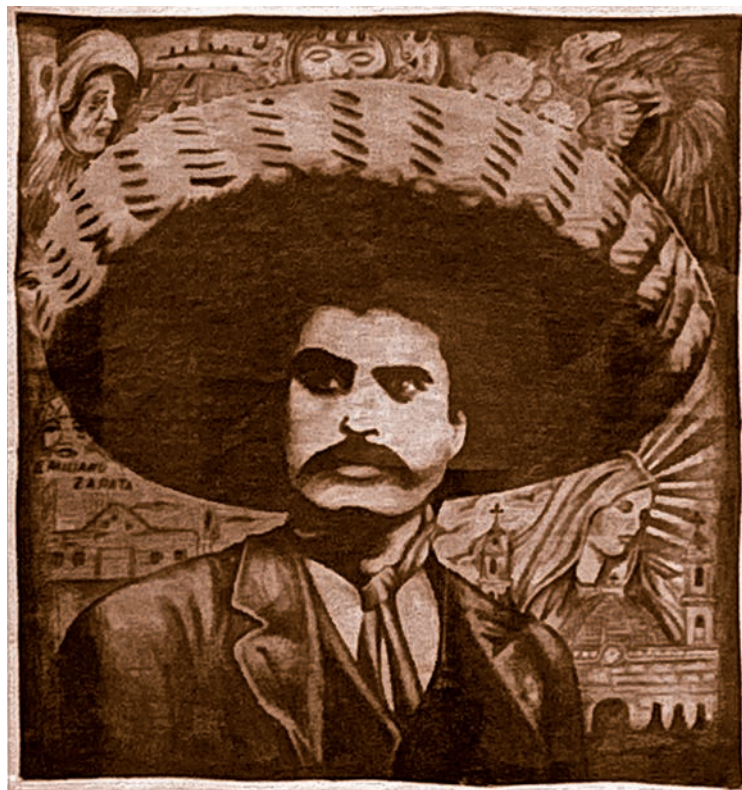
It’s a marvelous movie, and so is your magazine. Thanks for all you do.

—Coy Prather
Montalba, Texas

Thank you! We are big fans of Fred Gipson and *Old Yeller*, too. Thanks for the behind-the-scenes info on Disney and Gipson. Disney never missed an opportunity to both entertain and educate, when he could.



— COURTESY BUENA VISTA PRODUCTIONS —



— COURTESY RON SOODALTER —

EMILIANO ZAPATA: “PREFIERO MORIR DE PIE QUE VIVIR DE RODILLAS”

I very much enjoyed your coverage of Emiliano Zapata. His slogan—“I prefer to die on my feet than to live on my knees”—has always had resonance with me, especially in these troubled times.

I recently acquired a *pañó* of Zapata, which is an abbreviation of *pañuelo*, or handkerchief—an artform developed by Chicanos serving time in the prisons of the Southwest. Begun in the 1940s, it is very much alive today. There is an innate pride of nationality reflected in the work of many inmates. This particular classic *pañó* depicts not only Zapata, but the Rose of Guadalupe, the Alamo, the Mexican national symbol of the eagle devouring the serpent and an Aztec warrior—all standard themes. The point is, your cover—“Zapata: Still Defiant and Dangerous a Century Later”—lives in the Chicano cells of our prisons in Texas, as well as other penal institutions throughout the Southwest.

—Ron Soodalter
Cold Spring, New York

Thank you for sharing a unique piece of artwork that reflects the power of Zapata’s image more than a century after his death.



BY MARK BOARDMAN

A Tall Tale of Two Bills

Did lawman Bill Tilghman really arrest outlaw Bill Doolin?

The story goes like this: famed outlaw Bill Doolin was beat up and tired in January 1896. So he went to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to take in the hot springs and get some relief from the aches and pains and rigors of being on the run. Deputy U.S. Marshal Bill Tilghman was tipped off as to Doolin's location. On January 15, the lawman walked into a bathhouse and drew a gun on his adversary, capturing one of the most wanted men in the West. It was the crowning glory of Bill Tilghman's career.

Or was it?

Newspapers at the time expressed doubts. There had been reports that Doolin was tired of being on the dodge and wanted to surrender to the manhunters. The *State Capitol* claimed that Doolin had agreed to give up, in exchange for half the reward on his head and a light sentence. That was never confirmed. It was only one publication, however, that didn't buy the "capture at the bathhouse" tale.

Even some of Tilghman's colleagues were skeptical. Noted Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank Canton watched Tilghman bring Doolin to jail in Guthrie. He observed that Doolin was not in shackles or handcuffs, despite his reputation, and that he was given almost total freedom at the jailhouse. Canton said the outlaw seemed perfectly content with the situation—totally out of character for the man or for any bad guy headed toward a long prison sentence.

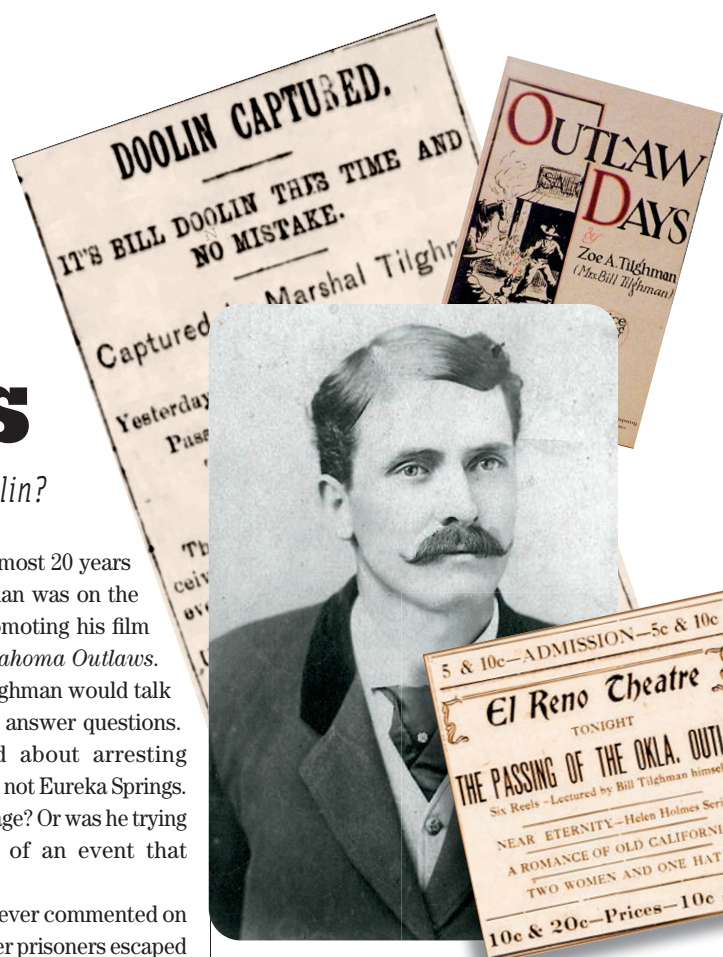
And there's this. Author-researcher Nancy Samuelson went through the old records for the Bill Tilghman's service in the Indian Territories and Western Arkansas. They show that in the days leading up to and just after the supposed arrest, Tilghman was hundreds of miles away from Eureka Springs. It would have been extremely difficult to impossible for the lawman to have quickly traveled to the bathhouse to take Doolin into custody.

But there's more. Almost 20 years after the event, Tilghman was on the road, showing and promoting his film *The Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*. After the showings, Tilghman would talk about his exploits and answer questions. He frequently talked about arresting Doolin—in Hot Springs, not Eureka Springs. A faded memory of old age? Or was he trying to remember details of an event that never happened?

Bill Doolin himself never commented on it. That July, he and other prisoners escaped from the Guthrie jail (there are also rumors that the breakout was part of the deal with the outlaw in exchange for his surrender). And on August 24, a posse led by U.S. Deputy Marshal Heck Thomas gunned down Doolin near Lawson, Oklahoma.

After that, the story was primarily in the hands of Tilghman's second wife, Zoe. A professional writer, she crafted books and articles about her husband's exploits. A dogged hagiographer (not a real biographer), Zoe outlived Bill by 40 years, and spent much of her time creating and defending his record. If another writer took on the Tilghman story, Zoe provided information, critiques and more. Some of her letters show she badgered noted historians into writing Bill's story her way. And that was especially true of the Doolin arrest.

So take the Bill Tilghman–Bill Doolin story with a grain of salt. There's little evidence that it happened the way Bill and Zoe told it.

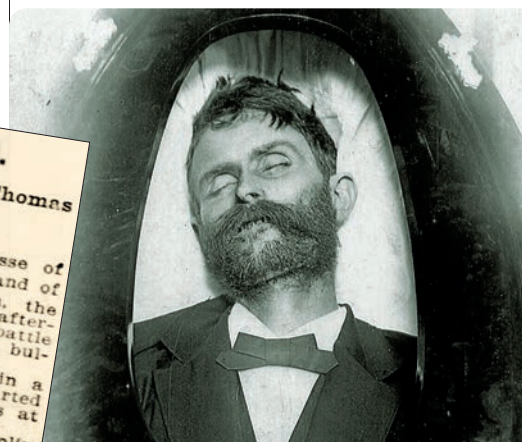
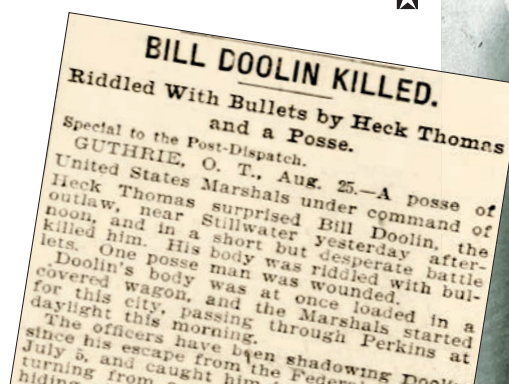


Deputy U.S. Marshal Bill Tilghman's capture of outlaw Bill Doolin in a Eureka Springs, Arkansas, bathhouse on January 15, 1896, made national headlines and brought personal fame to Tilghman. Almost a decade later, he maintained his notoriety as a top lawman at public showings of his movie, *The Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*, while his wife, Zoe, after his death, perpetuated the legend of her late husband through small booklets such as *Outlaw Days*.

— PHOTO OF BILL TILGHMAN AND COVER OF "OUTLAW DAYS" COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/"DAILY ENTERPRISE" AND "EL RENO NEWS" CLIPPINGS COURTESY NEWSPAPER.COM —

Whether or not Bill Doolin (below) made a deal to be captured and split the reward money with Oklahoma lawman Bill Tilghman in January 1896, seven months later he was shotgunned to death by Deputy U.S. Marshal Heck Thomas.

— BILL DOOLIN PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/"ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH" COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM —



BOB BOZE BELL BOOKS BIG BOOK SALE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS V. I, II & III

"Factual, lively,
and irreverent...
History as it should
be presented."

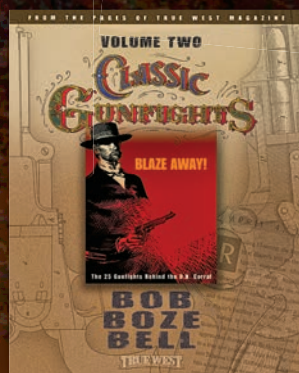
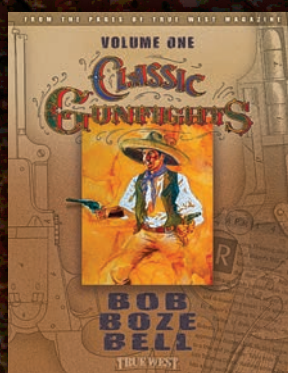
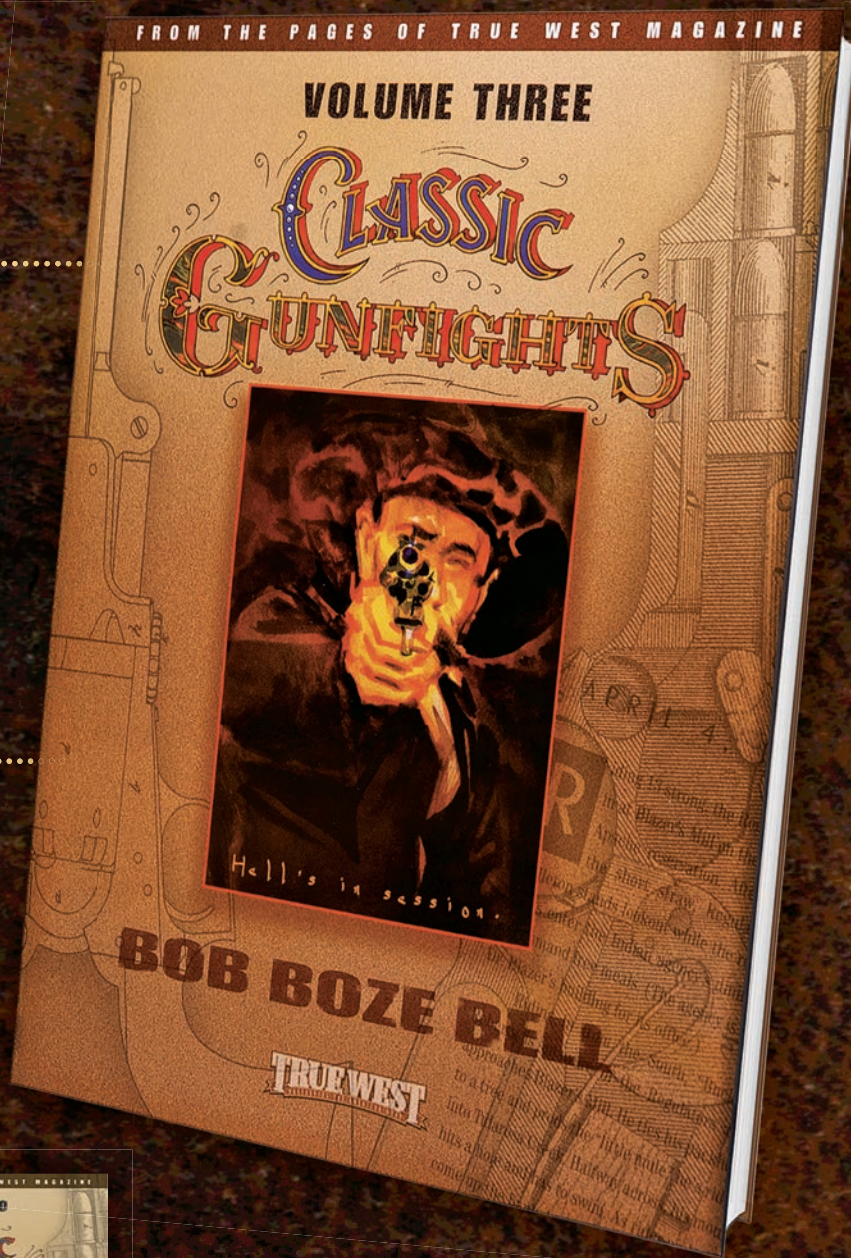
—Garry James, Guns & Ammo

~~\$29.95~~ Each

ON SALE NOW!

\$19.95 +S&H (each)

(Soft cover only)



ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Store.TrueWestMagazine.com

1-888-687-1881

TRUE WEST
PUBLISHER OF THE AMERICAN WEST

BY ROBERT M. UTLEY

Sitting Bull

THE SIOUX LEADER'S FINAL FLIGHT TO FREEDOM

Sunday, June 25, 1876, was a clear, hot, sunny day in the valley of Montana's Greasy Grass River, which the white man's maps labeled the Little Bighorn. Six tribal circles of Lakotas and one of Northern Cheyennes, the coalition of winter roamers, sprawled for nearly three miles down the narrow valley, rimmed on the east by the snow-fed river. The Hunkpapas occupied the extreme upper end of the village, the Cheyennes the lower. In between rose the lodges of Blackfeet, Miniconjou, Sans Arc, Oglala and Brule. It was an unusually large village: 7,000 people, 2,000 warriors, housed in thousands of tipis and wickiups. In the past few days, Indians arriving from the agencies had swollen the village.

Sitting Bull's lodge, on the southern edge of the Hunkpapa circle, sheltered 12 people besides the chief: two wives, his mother, two teenage daughters, three sons, two stepsons, his sister and the brother of his two wives. He treasured his family.

On this hot summer day, some of the men rode up to the bench-land west of the valley to tend their grazing pony herds. After a night of dancing and feasting, others dozed in their tipis or beneath the tall cottonwood trees shading the riverbank. Children played in the cool waters of the stream. Women dug for wild roots.

In the middle of the afternoon, a current of anxiety ran through the village, disturbing the peaceful scene. Shortly, heralds rode through each circle. "They are charging, the chargers are coming!" they cried. They were

coming, and they were soon within sight of Sitting Bull's lodge. "I heard a terrific volley of carbines," recalled Moving Robe Woman. "The bullets shattered the tipi poles. Women and children were running away from the gunfire." In the tumult, Moving Robe Woman recalled, "I heard old men and women singing death songs for their warriors who were now ready to attack the soldiers." One Bull and White Bull galloped down from the bench to help their uncle prepare for battle. Old man chiefs were not supposed to fight, but he had to defend himself and his family. Astride a large black horse, brandishing a Winchester rifle, he hurried among warriors pouring from their tipis. "Brave up, boys, it will be a hard time. Brave up!" White Bull shouted.

But the "chargers" quit charging. They got off their horses and lay on the ground firing at the Hunkpapa tipis. Sitting Bull dismounted and joined others, including the venerated chief Four Horns, in a shallow draw from which to shoot back. White Bull called this "standstill shooting."

Soon warriors from the other tribal circles began reaching the scene, many following the indomitable Oglala, Crazy Horse. The standstill shooting ended.

Crazy Horse and the arriving warriors drove the soldiers into timber enclosed by a bend in the river. Now on the defensive, the troopers fought back, though ineffectively. In about twenty minutes they mounted and burst from the timber, racing across the open valley toward a line of high bluffs on the other side of the river, every man for himself. Warriors rode among them, striking them down as they sought to save themselves. They jumped

into and crossed the river, then climbed the bluffs to the top. They had lost 30 killed and 13 wounded.

Sitting Bull had not ridden in this rout of the soldiers. As long as they remained in the valley, he fired his Winchester at them and encouraged his young men to fight. After the soldiers had reached the top of the bluffs, he rode about the

valley examining the carnage, then crossed the river and climbed one of the ravines scouring the bluffs. At the top, soldiers had formed into a defensive circle and were exchanging fire with Indians scaling the heights. One Bull recalled that his uncle "was back on the hill sort of directing things, though he himself did not go into the fight at all"—appropriate behavior for an old man chief. He even remarked to One Bull that

Crazy Horse and the arriving warriors drove the soldiers into timber enclosed by a bend in the river.



The Sioux chief Sitting Bull was arguably the greatest Indian chief of all the tribes in the American West in the 19th century. In the decades since his death, his name has become known to most Americans and treasured by many as the supreme embodiment of Sioux values. He lived from 1831 to 1890.

— D.F. BARRY, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

the warriors should let the soldiers go back home and tell the whites what had occurred on these bluffs.

But there were still more soldiers to fight. They had been glimpsed downstream, opposite the lower end of the village. “The word passed among the Indians like a whirlwind,” said Red Horse, “and they all started to attack this new party, leaving the troops on the hill.”

Accompanied by One Bull, Sitting Bull joined the other warriors hastening north along the ridgetops. Soon they spotted the new threat: many soldiers already fighting against converging warriors. Instead of joining the fight, Sitting Bull left One Bull and worked his way down a broad coulee to the river, splashed across, and rode to where the women and children had gathered beyond the Cheyenne circle. He saw his duty as helping to protect the women and



Copyrighted, 1882, by Bailey, Dix & Mead.

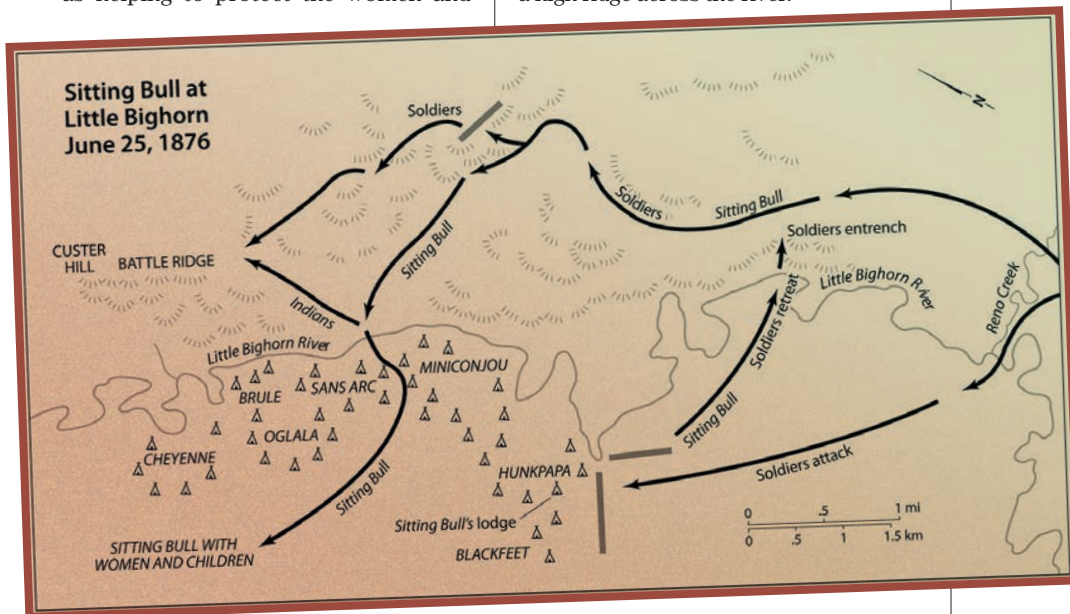
children, rather than exposing himself in the battle that he could see developing on a high ridge across the river.

One Bull was Sitting Bull’s nephew, adopted son and constant companion. A valiant warrior at the Battle of Little Bighorn, the young Hunkpapa leader was one of his uncle’s most trusted confidants while in exile, acting as the *akicita*, the chief of the village police. One Bull would live until the age of 94. His oral history, which he gave to historian Stanley Vestal in 1928, remains one of the greatest documents on Sitting Bull and the Hunkpapa Sioux people.

- COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Smoke and dust obscured the details of the fighting rolling along the crest of the ridge. Within an hour Sitting Bull learned the outcome. The warriors had annihilated the entire contingent of soldiers, including “Long Hair” Custer. Sitting Bull’s prayers had been answered and his prophecy validated by the greatest triumph in the history of his people.

The soldiers who had first attacked the village remained on the bluffs four miles to the south. Warriors rode in that direction to resume the battle. They found that more soldiers had arrived to strengthen the ones who had retreated from the valley. They had scooped out shallow rifle pits and fired at the returning warriors. Sitting Bull and One Bull took station on a high ridge overlooking the defenders and fired shots at them. Shortly, however, Sitting Bull went back to his lodge in the valley. Here he witnessed the sad spectacle of dead and wounded warriors draped over the backs of horses, borne down from the



People wrongly blamed Sitting Bull for Custer’s catastrophe at Little Bighorn in which Sioux and Cheyenne warriors overwhelmed Custer and his 7th Cavalry, killing Custer and more than 200 of his men. But his name had been well-known to the American people for nearly a decade. He had committed depredations against white settlers and fought the U.S. Army. So notorious was Sitting Bull as the leading “hostile” of the Northern Plains that he became the man to get.

- BILL NELSON CARTOGRAPHY, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS -

heights. The battle that had killed so many soldiers had also brought grief to families in the valley.

The fight for the hilltop resumed early the next morning. Sitting Bull remained in his lodge until noon, when he climbed the bluffs.

Again, he believed the fighting should end: "Let them go now so some can go home and spread the news. I just saw more soldiers coming."

More soldiers were coming, south up the valley. People in the village discovered their approach and at once began to dismantle their tipis and pack for a hasty flight. Sitting Bull returned to his lodge and with his family joined the procession up the valley, away from the oncoming soldiers.

The battle was over, but the war wasn't. The white people were furious. They could hardly believe that Long Hair Custer and 225 men of the 7th Cavalry regiment had met with such a catastrophe. Even the generals were at first skeptical. When the truth dawned on the nation, Sitting Bull personified the calamity. Fresh soldiers poured up the Yellowstone to join with those already in the field. Revenge was the watchword. As they pursued the conquest of the Lakotas, one name loomed above all other chiefs': Sitting Bull. He was the man to get.

He was not easy to get. The great Lakota coalition split into several components, some bearing south, others north. Sitting Bull chose the latter.

Word that buffalo ranged the plains north of the Yellowstone lured Sitting Bull north and across the Yellowstone, which he forded on October 10, 1876. Miniconjous and Sans Arcs accompanied the Hunkpapas. The next day they spotted a large encampment of Army supply wagons opposite the mouth of Glendive Creek. Warriors attacked but were driven off by the soldiers. Afterward the wagons formed into a train and began moving up the river. On October 15 and 16, One Bull and fellow warriors swarmed around them, only to be thwarted again by "walk-a-heap" soldiers—infantry armed with long high-powered rifles.

In the Lakota village, the chiefs debated whether to try to make peace with the soldier chief. Sitting Bull still harbored the same thoughts he had on the Little Bighorn bluffs, when he advised his men to let the soldiers go. He had not joined in the attack on the soldier encampment, nor in the



Col. Nelson A. Miles, nicknamed "Bear Coat" by the Lakotas, was placed in charge of guarding the U.S. border to clash with any Siouxs who crossed from Canada back into the United States. He commanded the 5th Infantry regiment from Fort Keogh, which he founded in August 1876 after the 7th Infantry's decimation at Little Bighorn.

— NELSON A. MILES, UPPER LEFT, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; MILES, ABOVE RIGHT, COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

subsequent assaults of his warriors. Now he favored a gesture toward the soldiers.

In the camp was a mixed-blood man named John Bruguiier. He had ridden into the Lakota camp a month earlier seeking sanctuary from the law. Sitting Bull allowed him to remain. Because he wore flapping leg chaps, the Indians called him "Big Leggings." Sitting Bull dictated a message, which Bruguiier wrote down. It was tacked to a stake and driven into the center of the road the wagon train was following.

I want to know what you are doing on this road. You scare all the buffalo away. I want to hunt on this place. I want you to turn back from here. If you don't I will fight you again. I want you to leave what you have got here, and turn back from here.

I am your friend, Sitting Bull

I mean all the rations you have got and some powder. Wish you would write as soon as you can.

They were Big Leggings's awkward words but Sitting Bull's thoughts, highly presumptuous but not without modest result. Two emissaries advanced on the halted train. The soldier chief would not talk with them, only Sitting Bull. Reluctantly, Sitting Bull joined with several other chiefs and walked to the train. He gestured to his companions to do the talking. They pressed the officer for food and ammunition—and peace. He replied that they had fired a lot of their ammunition today

attacking his train; and moreover, he had no authority to make peace. Nor would he feed them, although when the train continued up the Yellowstone, he left behind token supplies of hard bread and bacon.

Gathering the paltry supplies piled next to the road, the Lakotas moved farther to the northwest and on October 20 discovered a herd of buffalo. They encamped on the heights dividing the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers and sallied forth to attack the herd. Almost at once, however, scouts brought word of still more soldiers advancing on their trail. The Lakotas gathered on the ridge and watched the soldiers form in line of battle. To ward off an attack, Sitting Bull hazarded another talk with the soldiers. Two emissaries rode toward them with a white flag. "These troops were on the warpath," said one of the two. "We ran great risk in going to them, but we went directly to them."

After an hour of confusion on both sides, a parley was arranged. Groups from each side advanced toward each other. Accompanied by an array of chiefs, Sitting Bull led his party. They bore no arms, although a mounted



Lakota Chief Gall was a powerful chief in Sitting Bull's camp in the U.S. and during their four years in Canada. Gall's leadership was instrumental in the Indian defeat of Custer and the 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn. After their return to the United States, Gall became one of Sitting Bull's primary rivals.

— NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORD ADMINISTRATION —

war to Sitting Bull—to capture or kill him. Sitting Bull would find this man a dangerous opponent, the more so because he was inclined to stretch his orders to the limit and beyond to swell his reputation.

The talks lasted for two days. Amid the many words, two thoughts prevailed: Bear Coat demanded that Sitting Bull surrender and do as the government wished; Sitting Bull steadfastly refused and told Bear Coat to leave him alone. Frustrated, at the end of the second day both sides formed for battle. The soldiers attacked, and the Indians fought back from higher positions. The fighting continued inconclusively for two days as the Indians

made their way 42 miles back to the Yellowstone, abandoning food and camp equipment on the way. En route Sitting Bull and his immediate Hunkpapa following peeled off and turned back north; the Miniconjous and Sans Arcs crossed the river and surrendered to Miles. Sitting Bull's nephew, White Bull, went with the Miniconjous because he had married into the Miniconjou tribe. One Bull remained with his uncle.

For Sitting Bull, the brutal winter of 1876–77 brought suffering from hunger, poverty, bitter cold with weeks of rain and snow, and repeated hasty moves to avoid Bear Coat's relentless campaign. The soldiers kept to the field all winter, ranging up and down the Missouri River where it flows east before turning south. On December 18, a unit of Miles's soldiers overtook Sitting

contingent of armed warriors followed. The day was sunny and clear but bitter cold. A heavy buffalo robe covered Sitting Bull's plainly attired frame. The soldier chief and his staff rode toward them. They dismounted and hesitantly sat on buffalo robes spread on the ground. Big Leggings stood nearby to interpret. Sitting Bull faced an officer who was to play a large role in his life.

To ward off the cold, he wore a fur cap and a long overcoat trimmed in bear fur. "Bear Coat," the Indians dubbed him, a name that endured through four years of contention and battle.

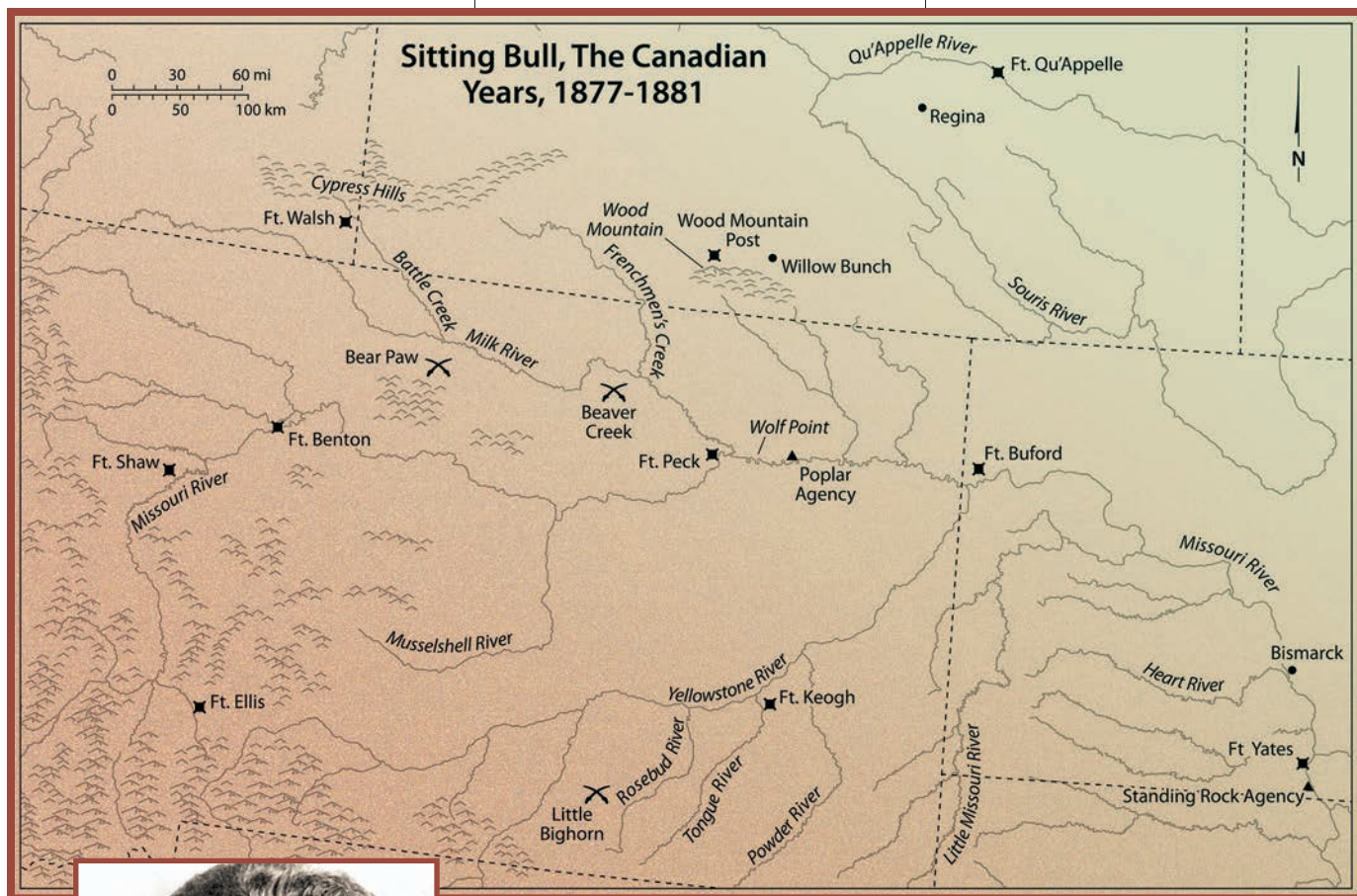
He was Col. Nelson A. Miles, whose 5th Infantry regiment was building winter quarters on the Yellowstone at the mouth of Tongue River. Tall and well-proportioned, with a neat black mustache, he was intensely ambitious, determined to gather all the power and rank he could. His wife's uncle, Gen. William T. Sherman, headed the Army. Bear Coat intended to stay on the northern plains throughout the winter and carry the



Crow King, a Hunkpapa war chief and Sitting Bull's head soldier, was one of Sitting Bull's most loyal lieutenants at war and peace in their beloved Dakota lands and during their exile in Canada.

— ZALMON GILBERT, CIRCA MID-1880S COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

Bull's village of about 120 lodges and attacked. The Indians abandoned their dwellings and fled south, the soldiers in pursuit. Left behind, besides ponies, food and all other possessions, were piles of buffalo robes, which the soldiers took back to their winter quarters to have made into overcoats.



The first redcoat to meet Sitting Bull upon his Lakota band's arrival at Pinto Horse Butte on Wood Mountain in Saskatchewan was Maj. James Morrow Walsh of the North-West Mounted Police. Not only did he gain Sitting Bull's confidence, but Sitting Bull gained Walsh's confidence. Their relationship grew into one of friendship.

— COURTESY GLENBOW MUSEUM, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA —

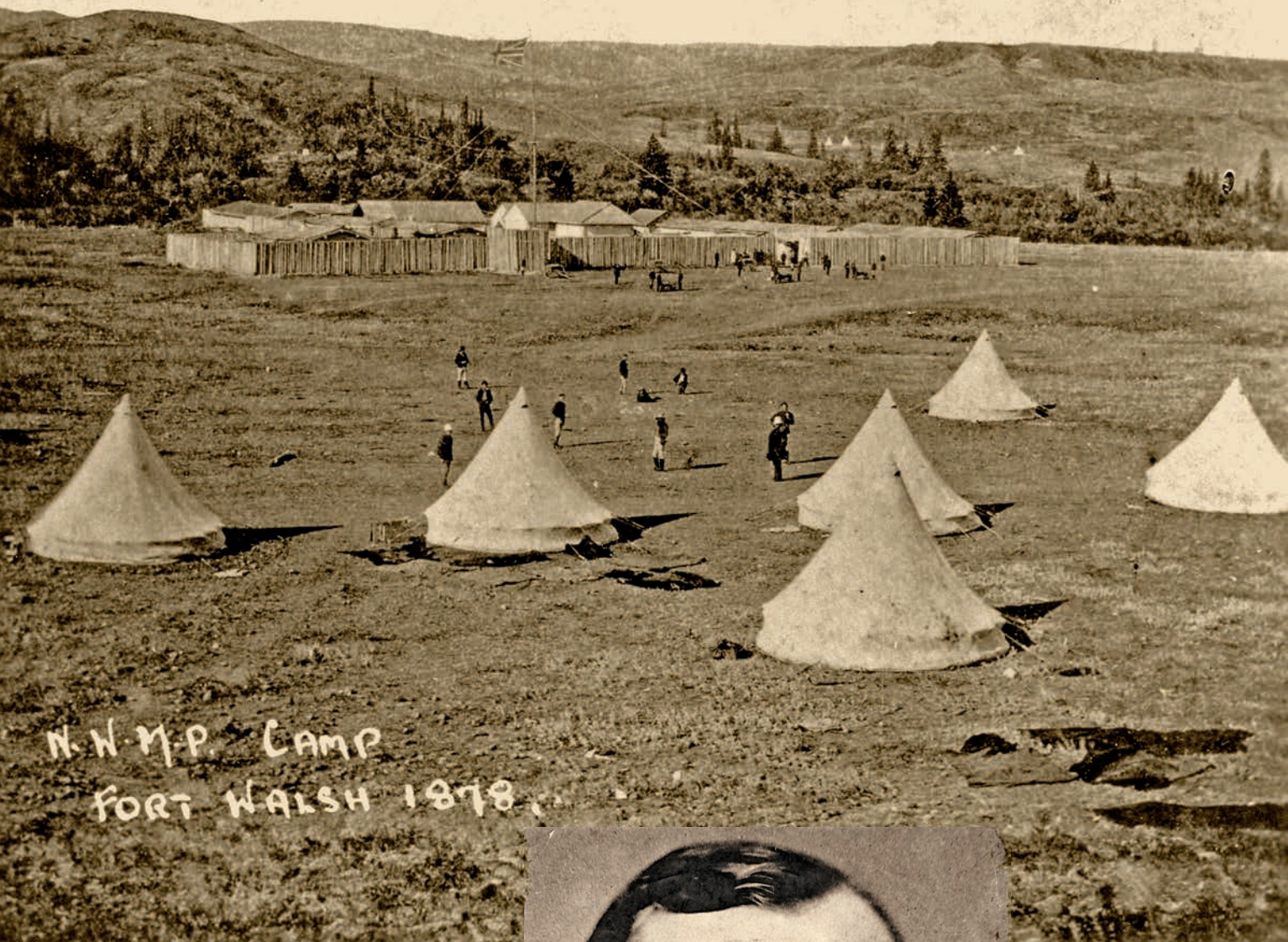
Increasingly destitute, increasingly frightened by Bear Coat, Sitting Bull agonized in uncertainty. Increasingly, he pondered taking refuge in Canada, the land of the White Mother. This option grew more appealing as Four Horns, Black Moon and other Hunkpapa chiefs crossed the line late in 1876. In the Lakota mind, the boundary took on almost spiritual meaning. "They told us that this line was considered holy," recounted one of the Lakotas. "They called that a holy trail. They believe things are different when you cross from one side to another. You are altogether different. On one side, you are perfectly free to do as you please. On the other, you are in danger." Sitting Bull did not view Canada in such simplistic terms. He did not want to leave his own country, and he avoided a decision, even as his shrinking following moved closer to the holy line during the early months of 1877. On March 17, they crossed the Missouri River and pitched their shelters on the north bank. That night the winter's ice pack in the Missouri River

The Army tried hard to stop them, but Sitting Bull and his following made it to Canada, where they believed they would be safe. Sitting Bull treasured his freedom and his adherence to the old way of life. He feared that if he went back, the Americans would punish him for killing Custer and his soldiers. He was a wanted man, and he knew he would be confined to a reservation and lose his freedom.

— BILL NELSON CARTOGRAPHY, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS —

broke up and sent a giant wall of water down the river. It swept over the Lakota camp and damaged or destroyed nearly all their possessions.

Everyone recognized that the time for decision was overdue. On April 10, 60 miles north of the Missouri, they convened a council of a dozen chiefs. Sitting Bull spoke in favor of continuing the war until the white soldiers surrendered. Not for the last time, his wishful thinking had converted fantasy into reality. Contradicting himself,



N.W.M.P. CAMP
FORT WALSH 1878.

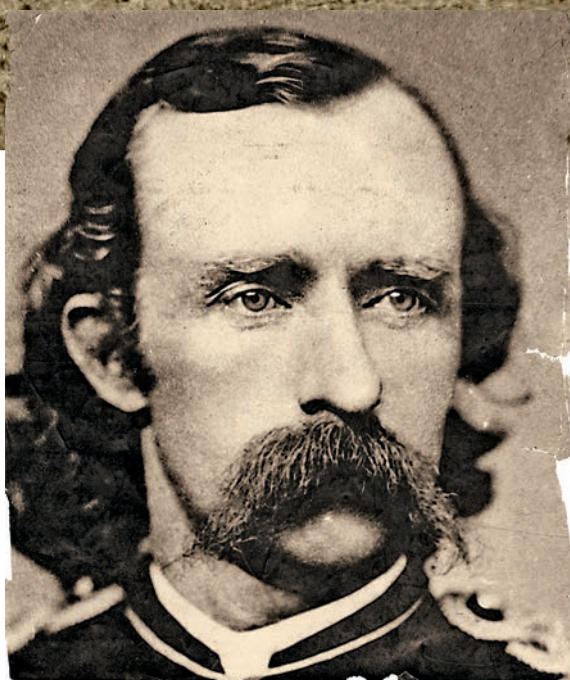
In the spring of 1875, North-West Mounted Police Maj. James M. Walsh followed his commander's orders to build Fort Walsh (above) in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan.

Three years later it became the headquarters of the mounted police.

Walsh established his trust with Sitting Bull at their first meeting at the fort in May 1877.

— COURTESY GLENBOW MUSEUM, CALGARY, CANADA —

he declared that he would cross the boundary and wait until he could discover how the people who had preceded him were treated. Sitting Bull had been in Canada before, principally to trade with the Red River mixed-bloods the Lakotas called Slotas. Now Canada posed uncertainties: were there enough buffalo to feed the Lakotas? Would the tribes native to Canada welcome or fight them? Would Canadian authorities treat them fairly? These and other unknowns plagued Sitting Bull and



When Sitting Bull and his village of 135 lodges escaped across the Montana border into Saskatchewan, Canada, in early May 1877, the American press and public were upset with the Army's failure to capture the Indian leader they blamed for the death of Gen. George A. Custer (above).

— COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIB1_00019_00308, UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER, "ENLARGEMENT OF A HEADSHOT OF GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER," CIRCA 1865 —

his followers, but all paled before the reality of poverty and constant fear of Bear Coat's soldiers suddenly dashing into their village—a village grown much smaller because so many of the Lakotas, including Four Horns and Black Moon, had already sought refuge in Canada.

Despite the conclusions reached in the chiefs' council of April 10, Sitting Bull and his people continued to move slowly northward. The village now counted 135 lodges, about a thousand people, and all suffered terribly from the Missouri River flood that tore through their dwellings. They edged up Milk River from its confluence with the Missouri, then turned north on Frenchmen's Creek. Early in May 1877 they crossed the *chanku wakan*, the sacred road.

Now in Canada, they continued up Frenchmen's Creek, which the Canadian maps labeled the White Mud Creek. About 60 miles farther, they reached a headland called Pinto Horse Butte. Watered by the White Mud, which rose in the timbered Cypress Hills to the west, Pinto Horse Butte rested on the northwestern end of Wood Mountain. It afforded a good place to camp without worrying about Bear Coat. The people had rested a few days when lookouts sighted seven mounted men approaching the village. Some wore scarlet coats and white helmets. They boldly advanced, seemingly unafraid of the Indians, dismounted and walked toward the tipis. The Lakota lookouts had been circling the party long enough to bring word to the village of the intruders. Who they were, remained to be learned.



Robert M. Utley is a preeminent historian of the West and the author of numerous award-winning books. "Sitting Bull: The Sioux Leader's Final Flight to Freedom" is an excerpt from his latest book, *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull & The Resistance of the Free Lakotas* (University of Nebraska Press, 2020).



Sitting Bull's final four years as a leader and a free man were spent in Canada. He was 46 years old when he led 1,000 of his Hunkpapa Sioux people across the "medicine line" and sought refuge in Canada in May 1877, nearly a year after the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

BY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON

On the History Trail with the Old Bison: A Memoir

I first met Robert M. Utley in May 1977. He came to Bloomington to receive a Distinguished Alumni Service Award from Indiana University. I was a graduate student in history at IU at that time, and as soon as I learned that Utley was coming to campus, I sought out my mentor, Martin Ridge, to beg for the opportunity to pick up our guest at the Indianapolis airport and deliver him back. I assured Ridge that I would positively die for the opportunity to meet Utley. He thought this but a slight ambition (and never tired of reminding me of it in later years), but agreed to allow me to play chauffeur. This eventful meeting was—as Bogart said to Rains in *Casablanca*—the beginning of a beautiful friendship, as Utley became a surrogate father and professional champion for me across the nearly half century to follow.

The following year, I accepted a position as assistant editor of the *Western Historical Quarterly* at Utah State University. I later learned that Utley had written an unsolicited letter on my behalf to Prof. George Ellsworth, the *WHQ* editor, and that had sealed the deal for me. This position, in which I remained for seven years, gave me high visibility in Western history circles at a very young age. During this time Utley also carefully critiqued my dissertation on Gen. Phil Sheridan. His devastating assessment and wise edits sent me back to the drawing board. I rewrote the book along the lines he suggested (he thought it dreadfully dull and far too academic). The end result—*Phil Sheridan and His Army*—won not only a Spur Award from the Western Writers of America but also the prestigious Ray Allen Billington Prize from the Organization of American Historians. My career was firmly set in the worlds of both academic and popular Western writing, thanks to Bob Utley.

In 1984, I accepted a teaching position at the University of New Mexico, and not long afterward moved to Eldorado, just outside Santa Fe, where Bob lived. We often debated history points as he worked on his books, with me urging him to be a bit tougher on his hero, Custer, in *Cavalier in Buckskin* and to

cut my hero, Billy, a break in his *Billy the Kid: A Short and Violent Life*. Even though he once barked at me in exasperation that “all you sixties hippies think young people don’t have to take responsibility for any of their actions!” he nevertheless dedicated *Billy the Kid* to me. It was quite daunting to watch his incredible productivity in those years.



In 1965, historian Robert M. Utley was in his second year as the National Park Service’s Chief Historian in Washington, D.C. Two years later he would publish *Frontiersmen in Blue; the United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865* (Macmillan) the follow-up to his first book, *The Last Days of the Sioux Nation* (Yale University, 1963).

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON —

In these years as neighbors, Bob and I often travelled together to history meetings. None was more memorable than our overland expedition from Santa Fe to Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1989, to attend the annual Little Big Horn Associates conference. John Carroll was the Grand Poobah of the LBHA, and he had especially urged Bob to attend, for he was certain that *Cavalier in Buckskin* would win the best Custer book prize that year. As we made the long drive from Santa Fe to Fort Riley, Bob gently lectured me on the importance of going to accept awards—no matter how obscure they might be. It was wonderful to bask in the glow of his *noblesse oblige* and to feel warmed by his willingness to travel so many miles to reward the Custer buffs for their generosity with a personal appearance. Carroll had arranged for Bob to give the banquet address to the several hundred attendees, so he could be seated at the head table when the best book award was announced. I sat in the back of the room with friends and was rather surprised

at the tepid response to Bob’s address. Many of the Custer buffs were uncomfortable with Bob’s candid comments on Custer’s marital infidelities, for they did not wish to see their hero descend from his marble pedestal to the level of the rest of humanity. I sensed trouble. When the best book award was announced, Bob was almost out of his seat before he realized it had gone to a book on the day-by-day movement of the 7th Cavalry from Reconstruction duty in Kentucky to North Dakota in 1873. The next morning a chagrined John Carroll bade us farewell as we began the long drive back to Santa Fe. It was a pretty quiet drive, but somewhere near Wagon Mound, New Mexico, I suddenly became convulsed with laughter. Utley was not amused and inquired of what so tickled me (although that was not the exact language he employed). Well, I replied, I was delighted to have finally come to clearly understand

the meaning of the ending of one of my favorite films—John Huston’s *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. At the end of the film, the surviving protagonists are convulsed with laughter, despite the loss of both companions and treasure, as they realize the insanity of their own hubris. Our friends in the LBHA had just taught us that valuable lesson—one that our hero, Custer, only learned in the last hour of his life. We laughed all the way back to Santa Fe.

Many trips, many awards, and many television shows together followed, but none could ever quite match that magical trip to Fort Riley, Kansas. Ten years ago, I hosted a surprise 80th birthday party for Bob in Scottsdale with many of his friends and protégés in attendance and repeated that in 2020 for his 90th birthday. I plan to do the same in 2029 for his 100th. Now I worry a bit that I may not make it, but I have no doubt that the indestructible Robert M. Utley—the Old Bison—will be there.



University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor of History **Paul Andrew Hutton** is the author or editor of a dozen books, including the award-winning *Phil Sheridan and His Army* and *The Apache Wars*. He is currently writing a history of the American frontier movement, *The Undiscovered Country*, to be published by Dutton/ Random House.

Tracy Hutton, Melody Webb, Paul Andrew Hutton and Robert Utley enjoying Bob’s 80th birthday party hosted by Paul in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 2010.



Young historians and mentors, (l.-r.) Jerome Greene, Paul Andrew Hutton, Paul Hedren, Bob Utley and Ed Bearss, gathered at the Western History Association Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1983. Utley was a founding member of WHA in 1961 and served as its president in 1967–68.



BY JOHN LANGELLIER

RED, WHITE, THE U.S. ARMY IN THE



Indian scouts on Geronimo's trail in Mexico during the mid-1880s included Yavapai Rowdy (front row, far left), who later received the Medal of Honor, and the White Mountain Apache leader Alchesay (back row far left). Sam Bowman, an African American Spanish-speaking interpreter stands in the same row with Alchesay at the opposite end of the line.

— COURTESY OF JOHN LANGELLIER AND BOB BOZE BELL —

After four years of fighting, the Civil War ended. The victorious Union Army soon disbanded, leaving behind a small force of regulars to such diverse duties as guarding the Eastern Seaboard, serving as an occupation force in the South during Reconstruction, and returning to its numerous functions in the West. The work in the West often proved frustrating, especially because after Lee's surrender the authorized strength of the U.S. Army shrank to 54,302 officers and men, while the salary of a private was decreased three dollars per month, which represented nearly a 20 percent reduction in pay. Matters worsened over time. From the mid-1860s through the late 1890s, the actual total force of the regular Army averaged a scant 25,000 men.

Among these frontiersmen in blue were new additions. For the first time the rank

and file included African Americans, many of the earliest recruits having been enslaved prior to joining the colors. Eventually they came to be known as buffalo soldiers.

The same legislation that added blacks to the U.S. Army rolls, also called for the enlistment of up to 1,000 Indian scouts. Apaches, Cheyennes, Yavapais, Pimas, Crows, Arikaras and other members of other Indian tribes served alongside blacks and whites. A large number of the whites hailed from Europe with a strong representation from the British Isles and today's Germany.

Regardless of origins, the burdens caused by a lack of manpower and the shortage of funds meant all labored under a divided command structure. Nominally, the commanding general who served in Washington, D.C., exercised control over the far-flung force. However, conflicts with

AND BLACK

WEST • 1866 - 1891

the secretary of war regarding policy, and the fact that the Army staff was responsible directly to the secretary and not to the commanding general, caused internal friction and seriously impaired the effort to pacify the Indians.

A further complication stemmed from geography. The post-war Army, as was the pre-war Army, was divided into regional departments. A commander assumed responsibility over each of these regions for operations in his area. As the Indians often moved across the boundaries of a given region, pursuit by troops from one command to another could prove a source of friction.

Another bone of contention arose from many of the officers in the post-war Army having held higher ranks during the war than their assignments afterwards. In addition, a system of brevets or honorary ranks given in recognition of meritorious service in the war caused jealousy, as many officers refused to acknowledge that someone who had been their subordinate during the war should now hold a higher rank than they held.

Despite such rifts in the first years following the Civil War, the focus of attention on the central and northern plains areas

A "young soldier" fresh from perfunctory recruit training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, is ready for assignment to one of the two cavalry regiments manned by African American enlisted men. For more than a quarter century after the Civil War's end, typically two out of every ten cavalrymen were black.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY JOHN LANGELLIER
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -





Although most of the officers and enlisted personnel stationed west of the Mississippi came from the United States, a large number of Irish, Germans and other foreign-born men entered the Victorian-era U.S. Army. Wearing straw hats purchased from the meager \$13-a-month pay for a first enlistment private, these unknown soldiers might have previously called other nations home.

kept various commanders and several commands more than busy. U.S. Army infantrymen and their comrades in other branches were required to serve from Mexico to the Canadian border. These units stationed in

First Sgt. John Brown wears the dress uniform of the late 1880s through the turn of the century, typically worn by frontier cavalrymen, although he would be unrecognizable in Hollywood's version of the horse soldier.

the West particularly bore the brunt because they policed a territory comprised of well over one-half of the continental United States.

In this vast domain ran overland routes needing to be protected. The Smoky Hill Trail in Kansas, the Bozeman from Fort Laramie to the "diggings" in Montana, the Gila Trail across the Southwest from Texas to California and others required military escorts and patrols. Likewise, the construction of the railroad, including the Union Pacific-Central Pacific and the Santa Fe, made the protection of soldiers necessary. The tribes believed with a certain degree of validity, that these "iron horses" helped chase away the already diminishing game so vital to their existence. When not assaulting the encroaching railroad, American Indians occasionally targeted telegraph wires, requiring patrols to guard crews building or repairing the "talking wires."

To protect these lines of communication and transportation, troops, especially foot soldiers, were stationed at strategic areas. In theory, this practice made it possible for them to respond quickly to any threat. The presence of posts also tended to encourage settlement because of the protection they afforded and because of the economic benefits that could



be gained by supplying various goods to the soldiers and their families.

For the most part, however, Uncle Sam's frontline soldiers remained for much of the year in garrisons, which more often than not were remote, tiny outposts removed from major settlements. For these frontier regulars and the women who shared their many trials, garrison duty could be tedious, primitive and lonely. And the distaff side labored under regulations, which classed them all, from "the colonel's lady to Rosy O'Grady," as "camp followers." Yet, they

San Carlos, Arizona, Horse Training Cavalry mounts had to be well trained to withstand the blasts of enemy gunfire and to remain calm as their riders brought them down to provide living shields in combat.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -



Winding their way from their outpost, a cavalry column sets out on patrol as countless others did in the post-Civil War West.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION —



stood the flagpole with Old Glory waving overhead as a symbol of government authority. Here the men assembled and carried out the rituals of their trade—guard mount, reviews and similar ceremonies.

At first these military evolutions relied on drill developed before the Civil War, but before long a new infantry manual, written during 1866-67 by a brave brevet major general from the Civil War, appeared to supplant earlier versions. While assigned to the cadre at West

bore children, raised families, made homes out of substandard government quarters and tended to the many thankless chores that fell to their lot. Not just silent observers, many women participated to the fullest. In several instances they left behind compelling memoirs of the “glittering misery” they endured and somehow transcended.

For the men, alcoholism and desertion were twin evils. Diversions and pastimes varied, occasionally bringing a respite from monotonous drill, construction duties and other daily routine. Sometimes the troops stepped in to preserve law and order or aid

victims of natural disasters. Here, in addition to marital pursuits, they built the fort’s structures, kept the post supplied with firewood, cleaned equipment and even raised their own food to supplement the monotonous ration provided by the government.

As with the government-issue foodstuffs, the garrison itself lacked major variation. Routine fluctuated little and contributed to the formation of a structured community, one post resembling the next except for differences in local building materials. A parade ground usually formed the heart of the installation, serving as a sort of village green. Here

Point, Emory Upton penned his *Infantry Tactics*, which soon became the standard for foot soldiers. In short order his two companion volumes for the cavalry and artillery, published in 1874 and 1875 respectively, became the Army’s holy trinity of tactics.

Along with the new manual came improved weapons. Although foot soldiers serving immediately after Lee’s surrender found themselves armed with the same muzzle-loading rifles they had carried against the South, efforts to introduce breech-loading firearms as replacements gained momentum. Foot soldiers were issued converted Civil



The former Hortense Beaumont (left) appears along with her 10th U.S. Cavalry husband, 1st Lt. Millard Eggleston, and their hosts, Theodore and Cecilia Baldwin (seated) on the veranda of one of the officers’ quarters at Fort Verde, Arizona. Standing at the far right, are an unknown enlisted soldier and, presumably, his wife. It was common practice for officers to engage black enlisted men and their family members as servants.

This tintype shows five 5th U.S. Cavalry veterans of Brig. Gen. George Crook's summer campaign of 1876, who were among those who endured the grueling "Horsemeat March" and fierce fighting at Slim Buttes, en route through the Dakota Territory's Black Hills to Nebraska's Camp Robinson. Standing, left to right: Pvt. Lewis Boone (arms folded), Pvt. John Jones (holding pistol), Pvt. Richard Davis. Seated, left to right: Pvt. Frederick Sutcliffe and Pvt. August Schneider (arms folded).

- COURTESY JEROME GREENE -



War period muskets refitted with a sleeve in the barrel to reduce the cartridges from .58 caliber to .50 caliber and with the breeches cut out to insert new flip-up blocks.

These improved pieces of ordnance increased the rate of fire and proved popular with troops when they engaged an enemy used to the U.S. Army's slower-loading muskets of the past. In 1867, infantrymen stationed in today's Wyoming demonstrated the worth of these breech-loaders over older models of infantry armament. While engaged in a woodcutting detail for recently established Fort Phil Kearny, the foot soldiers and civilian contractors working the local forest came under heavy attack by a superior force of Lakotas, perhaps 1,000 warriors against some 40 whites.

Not long before, 80 men from the same post under Capt. William Fetterman of the 18th U.S. Infantry had been slaughtered. Now it appeared that a repeat of this previous disaster was about to occur. Fortunately

for the besieged detail, they took refuge behind the beds of the wagons that had been removed from their running gears to provide conveyance for the trees being felled. Using the wagon boxes as a makeshift fortification, which gave the name to this engagement, the determined defenders repelled wave after wave of mounted Indians. They held their ground. Good marksmanship, grit and the new breech-loaders kept them from sharing the fallen Fetterman's fate.

Such attacks near posts, however, were uncommon despite the Hollywood cliché. More typically, infantrymen and their mounted comrades in the cavalry set out in the spring or summer on campaigns that took them far from their barracks homes. These field operations often were the cause of considerable human suffering, and significant expense to the national treasury. Despite these costs, results regularly were unimpressive. For every noteworthy clash carried as a banner headline by the Eastern

and European press, hundreds of other encounters went unnoticed or were all but forgotten. How the soldiers viewed the Indians they pursued as part of government policies offers one perspective into the lack of understanding that led to war between the two groups. In the final analysis, the Army was as much a victim as the Indians in the tragic period between the mid-1860s and early 1890s. Their lot was a thankless, thorny existence of boredom sometimes broken by the adventure of campaigning.



John Langellier received his BA and MA in history from the University of San Diego and PhD from Kanas State University. He spent more than four decades in public history and museums and has published dozens of articles and books including *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington, and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in the Southwest*, which was released by the University of North Texas Press in October 2020.

Editor's Note: See a photo excerpt from *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers* on page 37.



Taking a break to visit on the porch of their quarters at Fort Bowie, Arizona, these officers, joined by their hunting hounds, could pass the hours in conversation.

Dress parades formed part of the regular garrison routine such as the one held on the parade ground of Fort Grant, Arizona, in the late 1880s. This serious martial formation, however, did not preclude an officer's family members from playing tennis or canoeing on Lake Constance (background).



During the early days of many Army posts in the West, quarters for officers, their families and the rank-and-file might have been primitive, requiring them to live under canvas or in crude wood or mud structures, as at Fort Concho, Texas.

- COURTESY FORT CONCHO NATIONAL LANDMARK -





"Dinner anyone?" Army rations could be monotonous and lacking in nutritional value. What these Army waiters served their fellow soldiers at San Carlos, Arizona, possibly fell into this category.



Hunting added variety to the diet and permitted a break from military routine.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -



Off-duty hours afforded enlisted men a respite at the post sutler's store (later known as the post canteen), where billiards, beer and food were available.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -



In the late 1860s and 1870s, George Custer went on campaign with Indian scouts from many tribal groups, who could track the enemy with greater success than Army forces. Custer posed with his Osage men, outside Fort Dodge, Kansas, in November 1868.

- COURTESY NPS, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIBI_00019_00585 -

Target practice helped hone soldiers' skills. Men from the 10th U.S. Cavalry, Troop K, practice here under the watchful eye of their second lieutenant, Powhatan Clarke.



Troop K, 10th Cavalry at volley-firing. Fort Thomas, Ariz.

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

TRAPPED!

31 MEXICAN VAQUEROS VS GERONIMO

THE APACHE WARRIOR—
CORNERED IN CAVE!



Called "Jeronimo," after Spanish troops prayed to their patron saint, San Jeronimo, to save them from the Apaches, Geronimo turns out to be a crack shot as well as a savvy guerrilla fighter.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Robert Ray

Based on the research of Edwin R. Sweeney and Paul Andrew Hutton

JUNE 17, 1886



Well-armed vaqueros, riding 30 strong and led by rancher Patricio Valenzuela, lock on the trail of Geronimo's Apache band. In a running fight, Geronimo is separated from the other Apaches, then unhorsed. He is forced to take refuge in a cave. He is trapped, and he knows it.

Patricio Valenzuela, the *hacendado* (ranch owner) of the Agua Fria hacienda, eight miles east of Cucurpe in Sonora, Mexico, is alerted by his vaqueros of raiding Apaches who have butchered one of his cows and an ox at Tapacadepe. Valenzuela hits the trail with 30 fighting men, along with a pack mule carrying extra cartridges.

Riding north, the armada reaches Cerro el Gusano and stops to water their horses. Fresh from the repast, the posse soon catches up to the Apaches who are resting on a ridge.

Geronimo (born Goyathlay) sees them first and gives the order for Apaches to abandon their supplies and flee. The Apache leader mounts a horse and takes with him a hostage he captured in April, a 12-year-old girl, Trinidad Verdin.

Valenzuela's brave vaqueros charge the temporary camp and pursue the fleeing Apaches up a box canyon. In the confusion, Geronimo's horse loses his footing on a loose boulder and stumbles, spilling both riders. As he heads deeper into the canyon, Geronimo calls out for Trini to follow him, but she sees her chance to

escape and runs toward the Mexicans who, thankfully, don't shoot her as a hostile.

Valenzuela commands the only exit to the box canyon. He deploys his men to split up, rake the canyon and flush out their prey. Moving out on foot, the two groups stealthily scour the canyon's length to the end, where a cave shelters Geronimo. He is trapped, and he knows it.

Outnumbered 31 to one, Geronimo hunkers down with his 1873, single-shot Springfield rifle and gets ready for the assault he expects at any minute. He no doubt vows to take as many Mexicans with him as he can.

One of the vaqueros gets careless: Francisco Valenzuela y Munguia pokes his head up to see if he can spot the elusive Apache, and a single shot from the cave hits him between the eyes. As the other attackers scramble to get an angle on the desperate Apache, two more shots ring out, then a fourth.

At dusk, Valenzuela calls his men back. Four of his men have been hit, three of them killed, with bullet holes in their heads. Disheartened, Valenzuela withdraws.

Geronimo escapes in the darkness. He has three more months to run.



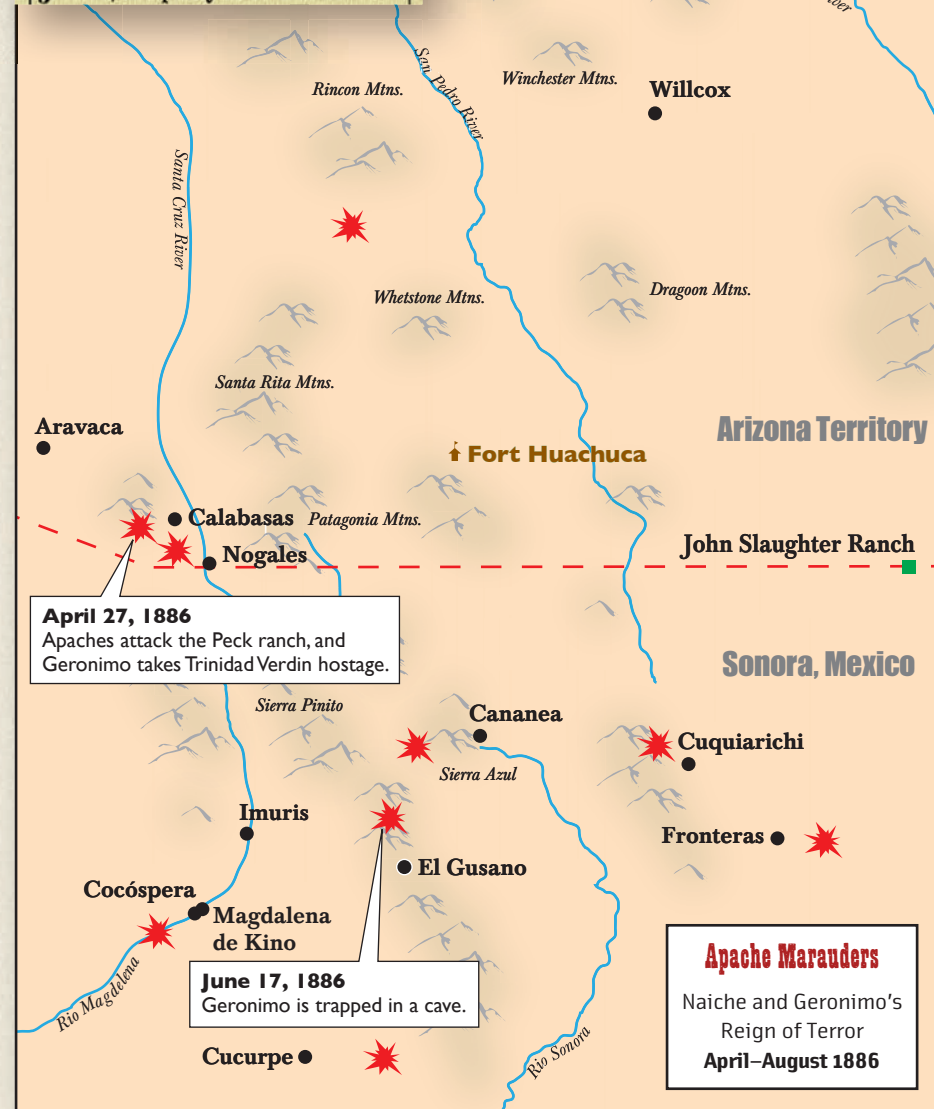
May 30, 1886, *Mohave County Miner*

- COURTESY MOHAVE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ARTS -



GERONIMO.

Geronimo still continues his savage and murderous depredations, and the chances of his capture seem as remote as ever. Mexicans and Americans, old and young, helpless woman and tender child, alike fall victims to his unsparring barbarities, and our great and glorious Government is apparently unable to cope with the emergency. The pursued are constantly eluding their pursuers, and fire, rapine, torture and death mark the track of the Apache chieftain, who, whether fugitive or aggressor, is equally to be dreaded.



April 27, 1886
Apaches attack the Peck ranch, and Geronimo takes Trinidad Verdin hostage.

June 17, 1886
Geronimo is trapped in a cave.

Apache Marauders
Naiche and Geronimo's
Reign of Terror
April–August 1886

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After his escape from the cave fight north of Cucurpe in Sonora, Mexico, Geronimo joined other Apache stragglers as they tried to reconnect with Naiche's band. All of them, evidently a party of five, headed south, where they hooked up with the main group near Tepache.

Hot on Geronimo's trail were several squads of soldiers, including Capt. Henry Lawton and his crew. On July 12, Lawton's scouts found a small trail from the south merged with a larger one from the north. The next day, they located the hostile camp, on a low saddle between two buttes overlooking the Yaqui River. A two-pronged, flanking attack failed as the wary Apaches fled once again in different directions. However, they left all their equipment, provisions and mounts, which numbered 19.

On July 13, Gen. Nelson Miles took the train to Albuquerque to meet with Lt. Charles B. Gatewood, then stationed in New Mexico Territory. The general offered Gatewood the job of going into Mexico to get Geronimo. Gatewood said he thought the "mission sounded like a fool's errand," but took the job. After more than a month of trailing dead ends in Mexico, Gatewood, along with two scouts, Kayitah and Martine, met with renegade Apaches and talked them into meeting General Miles.

On September 4, 1886, Geronimo and Naiche surrendered to Gen. Nelson Miles at Skeleton Canyon in the Peloncillo Mountains in Arizona Territory. On September 8, the U.S. military put Geronimo and Naiche on a train at Bowie Station to transport them to the prisoner of war camp in Florida.

Six months and dozens of deaths after Geronimo and Naiche fled from the Embudos negotiations, the Apache Wars were finally over.

Recommended: From *The Illustrated Life and Times of Geronimo* by Bob Boze Bell published by Two Roads West, and *The Apache Wars* by Paul Andrew Hutton, published by Crown Books.



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: The late great Western historian Joseph G. Rosa, best known for his biography of Wild Bill Hickok, was a regular contributor to *True West* magazine. His profile of Western scout California Joe was one of two profiles he wrote for the April 2002 issue dedicated to the famed scouts of the Old West. If you'd like to read them and more, please go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to nearly 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY JOSEPH G. ROSA

CALIFORNIA JOE

GREAT SCOUT AND PLAINSMAN

"Who was California Joe?" asked J.W. Buel in his *Heroes of the Plains* published in 1882, for Joe's origin was as much a mystery to his contemporaries as it was for many who came later. Some claimed his name was Joseph Milner (favored by Buffalo Bill Cody) or Joseph Hawkins, and others claimed that he was Truman Head, the famous "California Joe" of Col. Hiram Berdan's Civil War Sharpshooters. Even Custer admitted that he did not know Joe's real name, for "no other name seemed ever to have been given him, and no other name ever seemed necessary."

His Christian name was not Joe at all, but Moses Embree Milner, and he was born in Stanford, Kentucky, on May 8, 1829. A born wanderer, "Joe" spent time in California and Oregon, where he first met "Little Phil," better known as Gen. Philip H. Sheridan. However, Joe stopped wandering long enough to marry Nancy Emma Watts on his 21st birthday, May 8, 1850. He and his bride went first to California and then to Oregon, where he built a home in Corvallis. The couple had four sons, though Joe was rarely around.

By 1866, Joe was in Kansas. Military records of his activities are sparse, not helped by the discrepancies in his name. Between September 1868 and April 1869, he was a scout attached to Fort Harker, but there

is some evidence that he was at Fort Riley in 1866-67, where he probably first met Wild Bill Hickok. Old-timers recalled that Joe was one of the great rifle shots of the Plains, whereas Wild

Bill was noted for his skill with a pistol. Had they both been as adept as each other with pistol and rifle, they would have been truly formidable!

California Joe was a colorful character. Although he owned a fast horse that he raced, most of his wandering and scouting was conducted on an Army mule, which many considered superior to the horse over rough country. Heavily bearded, long-haired (some said it had never been combed) and large in stature, Joe was impressive, especially when wearing his black sombrero. He was rarely without his plains rifle or his remarkable pipe, described by Custer as a "dingy-looking brierwood" forever "in full blast." A great storyteller, Joe's loquacity was surpassed only by his passion for anything alcoholic, some of it home-brewed.

Alcohol was Joe's downfall. Promoted by Custer to be chief of scouts for the Washita Campaign, Joe's celebration led to his demotion. Later, in February 1870, while guiding his old friend General Sheridan from Fort Arbuckle to Camp Wichita, he got so drunk that he had

Wild Bill had been heard to remark that he had "two trusty friends: one is my six-shooter and the other is California Joe."

to be bundled into a wagon to complete the journey. Sheridan was furious, but awed both by the amount of Joe's liquid intake and by his extraordinary ability to find liquor in the most surprising places.

Despite the demotion by Custer, Joe and the general remained friends, occasionally exchanging letters. In his book *My Life on the Plains*, Custer recalled the first time Joe saw a train and was intrigued and determined



CALIFORNIA JOE

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

to ride the rails to Leavenworth. Shortly after, one of Custer's officers reported that he met Joe one day and was amazed to find him smartly dressed, shaved, and that his long, curly locks, which had "avoided contact with comb, brush, or razor for many years, had undergone a complete metamorphosis," appearing neatly trimmed or combed. But it did not last, and within months the unkempt Joe was himself once more.

During his career, Joe had several partners, the most notable being Jack Corbin, mentioned by Custer and others, who was later lynched by vigilantes who claimed that he was a wanted horse thief. Joe and Hickok were never "partners" in the scouting sense, but they were great friends, though they seldom met. Their last encounter was in Deadwood, 1876. On the day Jack McCall murdered Wild Bill, Joe was out hunting Indians. When he returned and learned the facts, he picked up his rifle and went looking for McCall; however Jack had been given the choice of "getting heeled" or getting out of town. He fled. Only days before, Wild Bill had been heard to remark that he had "two trusty friends: one is my six-shooter and the other is California Joe."



Moses E. Milner, alias California Joe, from a tintype reported to have been made at Pioche City, Nevada, circa 1873. Photographs of a “dressed up” Joe are rare.

— AUTHOR'S COLLECTION —

butcher shop. Both men pulled their pistols, but Joe persuaded Tom to put up his “darn gun” and have a drink. Later, however, as Joe stood talking to friends, Newcomb shot him in the back with a rifle. Although arrested, Newcomb was not charged, and once released, disappeared.

The news of Joe’s murder shook his friends, and he was widely mourned. Newcomb had claimed that he had shot Joe because Joe blamed him for the murder of John Richard (sometimes called Reshaw), the father of Louis Richard, one of General Crook’s scouts. The evidence suggested, however, that the Sioux were responsible; Joe was miles away from the Richard homestead, the site of the killing.

So passed California Joe. Visitors to the post cemetery at Fort Robinson are probably unaware that the simple headstone inscription

Joe’s time in the Black Hills was spent mostly in guiding military and civilian outfits and wandering, but by the fall he was back on the Plains and headquartered at Camp Robinson (now Fort Robinson). On October 29, 1876, at the sutler’s store, he had a brief altercation with Tom Newcomb, an employee in the post’s



In the summer of 1875, President Grant sent geologists Walter Jenney and Henry Newton on a scientific expedition to determine if there was gold in the Black Hills. California Joe (above) was their guide.

MOSES MILNER SCOUT marks the last resting place of the famous California Joe, one of the truly great Western scouts and plainsmen.



Joseph G. Rosa co-edited our Wild Bill Hickok Collector’s Edition and wrote the definitive biography, *They Called Him Wild Bill: The Life and Adventures of James Butler Hickok*.



George Custer’s scouts—(from left) Bill Comstock, Ed Guerrier, Thomas Adkins and Moses “California Joe” Milner—ride horses and mules in this photo probably taken in 1867 during Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock’s campaign in Kansas.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Joseph G. Rosa’s original article from our April 2002 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Rosa’s articles on the Old West and subscribe to *True West Archives*, go to TrueWestMagazine.com.

Our past awaits you!

BEST of the WEST



BEST of the WEST



BEST of the WEST



TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE





Our 19th Annual Celebration of the Absolute Best of the West!

For many in 2020, great treks, trips and vacations to the American West were put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism and travel dropped precipitously across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For many states that depend on tourism to meet their annual budgets, and where seasonal travel usually is heaviest in the summer with hundreds of thousands, if not millions of annual visitors from home and abroad, the financial losses may never be recouped. Since 1953, *True West* magazine has promoted and supported, in partnership with our advertisers, travel across the Western United States to towns, cities and states whose small and large businesses directly or indirectly are involved in the tourism, trade, preservation, travel, restaurant and lodging industries. We are grateful for the passion and dedication of the men and women across the West who continue to work hard in their communities to promote and support Western heritage tourism—despite the challenges of the pandemic. And it is to them that we at *True West* dedicate our Best of the West issue of 2021.

In addition to honoring our Best of the West honorees, our 19th annual Best of the West issue also includes three special features by three of *True West's* most significant contributors. The University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor of History Paul Andrew Hutton, a contributor to *True West* for over 25 years, is the recipient of *True West's* 2021 True Westerner of the Year Award (see page xx). He

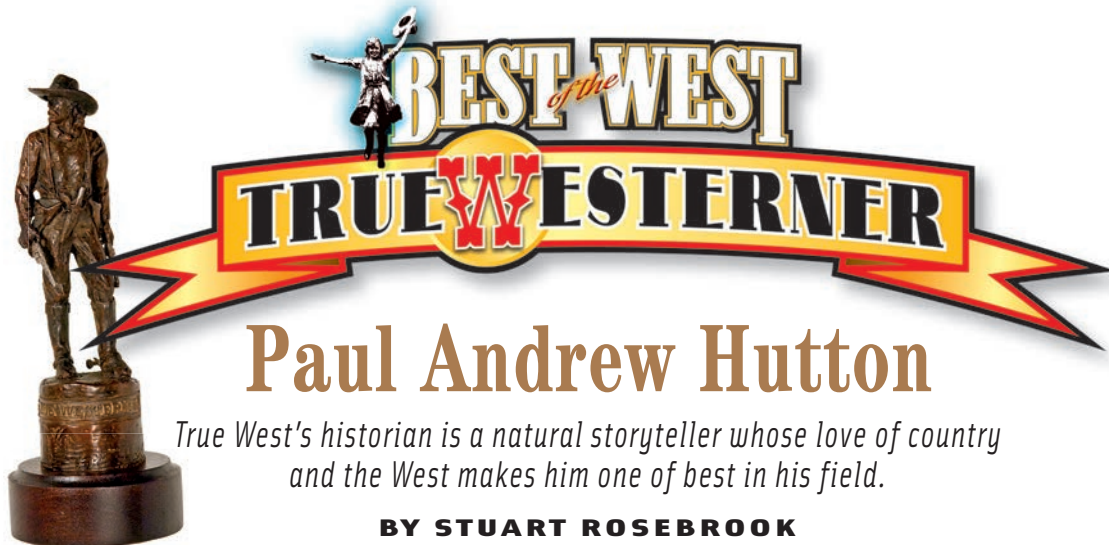
contributes a heartwarming and very personal testimonial on his mentor and longtime friend and colleague, Robert M. Utley, on pages xx-xx. The Old Bison as he is affectionately known, is 94 years old and has just recently published *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas*, which is our featured cover story on Sitting Bull and the Sioux's exile in Canada, excerpted on pages xx-xx. Western frontier and military historian John Langellier, a longtime contributor to the magazine and *True West* "Collecting the West" columnist, has an original feature in this issue, "Red, White and Black: The U.S. Army in the West, 1866-1897," illustrated with original photos from his personal collection.

At *True West*, we look forward to an invigorated and improved travel year across the West in 2021. For readers not yet ready to travel far from home, we encourage you to shop local or online to support your favorite Western vendors. The West is a wide-open region and many of the historic sites, local, state and national forests, monuments and parks are open for business and, naturally, encourage social-distancing. We at *True West* hope that you will return regularly to the highways and byways of the West to reach your bucket-list destinations, visit our favorite Best of the West Western locales and immerse yourself in the communities where history happened.

—Stuart Rosebrook

For many decades, reconciliation between former enemies was a theme of battle reunions attended by American veterans who fought against each other in the Civil War and the Indian Wars. On Friday, June 25, 1876, veterans of the Seventh Cavalry, Cheyenne, Crow and Sioux tribes gathered together for a memorial of the Battle of Little Big Horn at the battlefield cemetery. The commander of the 7th Cavalry in 1876, Col. FitzHugh Lee, stands in the middle, and to his left is White Man Runs Him, the only surviving Crow scout attached to Col. George Armstrong Custer's command. Colonel Lee was the son of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and grandnephew of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

— COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LITTLE BIG HORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIBI_00011_07182-



Paul Andrew Hutton

True West's historian is a natural storyteller whose love of country and the West makes him one of best in his field.

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Do you remember the first time you read Paul Andrew Hutton? He immediately captured my interest and imagination with his double-barreled literary prose and academic virtuosity in the pages of his first book, *Phil Sheridan and His Army* (University of Nebraska Press, 1986; new edition, University of Oklahoma Press, 1999). Whether or not you were knowledgeable about General Sheridan before you read Hutton's award-winning biography, this book hooked you and made you eager to read more history written and interpreted by Hutton. He was an academic historian who wrote in the style of the best popular, commercial historians, including his mentor, Robert M. Utley. *Phil Sheridan and His Army* received the 1987 Ray Billington Award from the Organization of American Historians and the Western Writers of America's 1986 Spur Award for best nonfiction.

Fortunately for all of us, Hutton has continued to write award-winning Western history, not just for university and academic

journal publishers, but for popular magazines, film and television. He loves telling a good story, and his resume is replete with dozens of magazine articles and television writing credits, along with over 300 appearances as an on-air commentator in episodic documentary television. During an academic and professional writing and editing career that now spans 47 years, Hutton has earned numerous awards from his peers, including six Western Writers of America Spur Awards, the most recent in 2017 for

Best Nonfiction Book, *The Apache Wars*, and six Western Heritage Awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Dr. Hutton also personifies the professional academic professor, committed equally to service and teaching, as he is to research and writing. He has been a working, teaching historian since his first appointment as an instructor at Utah State University in 1977. He has been a member of the University of New Mexico history department since 1984, where in 2006, he was elevated to the rank

The late author-screenwriter Jeb Rosebrook, editor Stuart Rosebrook, Paul Andrew Hutton and *True West's* Bob Boze Bell share a grand moment at the joint Arizona-New Mexico History Convention in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 2017, where Stuart had just moderated a panel discussion by Hutton and Bell on one of their research subjects, Mickey Free.

— PHOTO BY DOROTHY ROSEBROOK, COURTESY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON —



Bob Boze Bell meets his nemesis and muse, Paul Andrew Hutton at the El Dorado Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1996. Ed Mell, Bell and his two sons, Carson and Tommy, were in town for the Maynard Dixon Art Show and someone (I can't remember who) said, "You've got to meet this college professor. I think you might hit it off. He is a fan of the *Razz Revue*." Well, that did it. "That this crazy guy would even know what the *Razz Revue* was blew my mind. And I wasn't disappointed."

— COURTESY BOB BOZE BELL —





Indiana University history graduate student Paul Hutton, second from right, with classmates Suellen Hoy to his left and Annette Atkins to his right, all posed with their history mentor, the great American historian Martin Ridge (center).

— COURTESY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON —



Paul Hutton enjoyed an evening with his family, his greatest supporters, when he received the 2005 Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for Outstanding Magazine Article of 2004 for “‘It was but a small affair’: The Battle of the Alamo,” in *Wild West* magazine (February 2004).” From left to right: his wife, Tracy, Chelsea, Caitlin, Paul Hutton, Lorena (holding the award), Laura and Paul Andy in the front.

— COURTESY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON —

of Distinguished Professor of History. In addition to his annual teaching duties, he has been the director of 13 doctoral dissertations and served in many capacities on numerous boards, publications and committees, including tenures as executive director of the Western History Association from 1990 to 2006 and Western Writers of America from 2006 to 2011. He is also an honorary lifetime member of WHA and former president of WWA, 2002-2004.

So when and how did Hutton’s love of history and the American West transform from a childhood interest to his life’s vocation and career? According to Hutton, he began to regularly read *True West* in 1963 after buying an issue devoted to Custer off the newsstand. But while we would love to take credit for his interest in Old West history, it began a few years earlier, in first grade when his family moved to San Angelo, Texas. That is where, he says he developed his “fascination of all things Western, and most especially Western history,” including Davy Crockett and the Alamo and Custer’s Last Stand. Hutton’s interest in history was magnified by the fact his adopted father’s Air Force career took him and his mother around the world, and he spent two years in Taiwan and two years in England. (Hutton was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1949, and was adopted by Paul and Louise Hutton when he was about a year old.) Later, while in high school and college, he was the beneficiary of demanding teachers who encouraged his interest in history, including Roman, British and military history. In fact, outside

of Billy the Kid, Crockett, Boone, Carson and Custer, his favorite historical figure is British General Charles Gordon of Khartoum.

Hutton went to high school in Indianapolis, and attended Indiana University in Bloomington, earning his BA, MA and PhD in history from one of the nation’s leading institutions in the academic field. He was a student under the tutelage of some of the titans of the field and discipline, including Thomas Clark, Oscar O. Winther, Walter Nugent, Ray DeMallie and especially Martin Ridge. Hutton worked in his field throughout his academic career, and upon completing his PhD, was well trained and well prepared for a career as a professional historian. Hutton remembers, “Ridge was an influential figure in both general American studies as well as Western history. His mentor was Ray Allen Billington, who was the dean of all Western history in those days and the leading exponent of Frederick Jackson Turner’s “Frontier Thesis.”

Currently, Hutton is writing *The Undiscovered Country*, which he describes as his “dream book—the culmination of my whole career. A committed Turnerian, Hutton says his magnum opus is “a history of the American frontier movement (and thus the tortured birth of this nation) from the French and Indian War to Wounded Knee.” In addition to being inspired by Ridge, Billington and Turner to write such a monumental book, Hutton gives credit to the authors he believes did so much for the field of Western history—literary historians Francis Parkman, Dale Van Every, Bernard

De Voto, David Lavender, Kenneth Roberts, Dee Brown, David McCullough, Paul Wellman and of course, Robert Utley.

For *True West’s* readers, Bob Boze Bell’s friendship with Hutton, which began when they met at the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1996—four years before Bell took ownership of the magazine—has meant a personal and professional relationship that is one of the great, creative partnerships in Western history publishing. Bell remembers, “We hit it off immediately, trading war stories and talking trash about history, what we loved and hated. We’ve been friends ever since, and I don’t ever take on a project without talking to him first. I love how Paul can just spin out an answer about history, fluidly, loquaciously, seemingly without effort.”

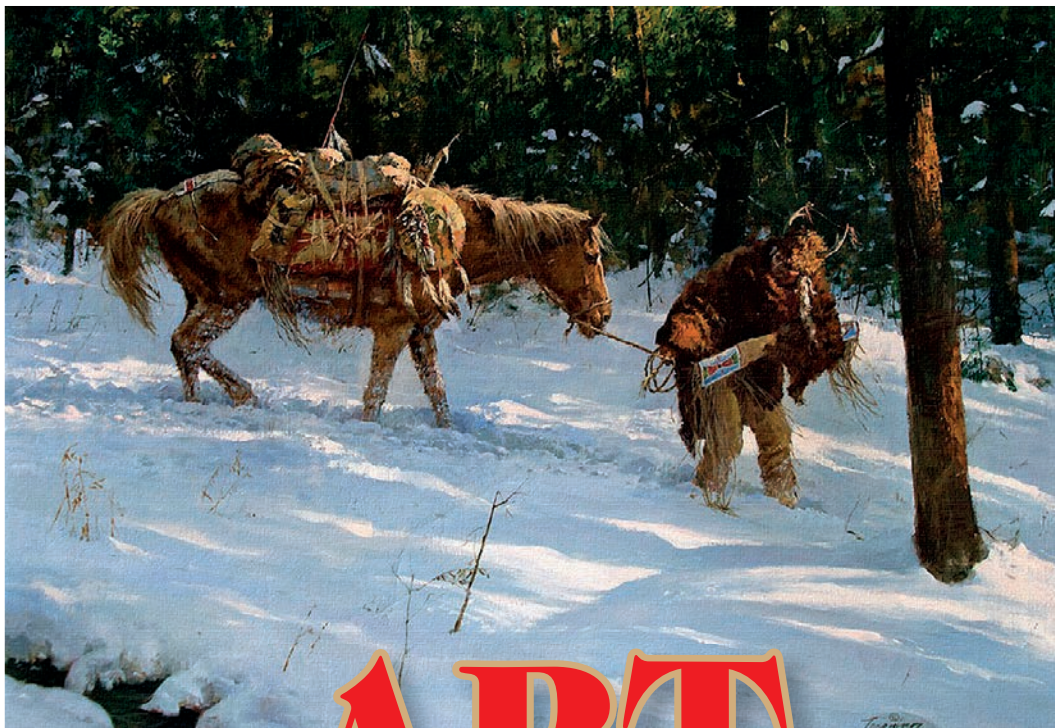
What does it mean to be named *True West’s* True Westerner of the Year in 2021? For Hutton, it is a reflective question. “A few years ago Bell and I were in Prescott, Arizona, and I told him how much it would mean to me to have the same position as the great Walter Prescott Webb (an early official historian of *True West*)—and so I became the *True West* historian,” recalls Hutton. “This is a wonderful connection to the past and future of a magazine that I love. So, quite naturally, it is a great honor to receive this year’s True Westerner Award, not only because of the distinguished recipients who have preceded me, but also because of my long connection with this fabulous magazine. Both *True West* and I are determined to keep the glorious story of the American West alive for future generations.”





Howard Terpning *It's Been a Long Day* (1976) · Oil on Canvas, 24 x 34 inches · \$321,300

— COURTESY JACKSON HOLE ART AUCTION —



ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BY JOHN LANGELLIER

The Best of Times The Worst of Times

In 2020, despite the challenges of the pandemic, Old West auction houses adapted to meet the needs of their clients and their collectors.

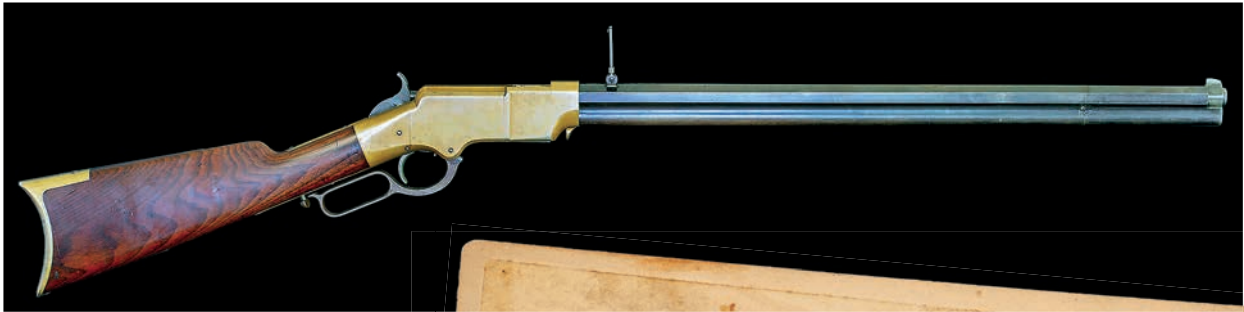
Last year, when I recapped 2019 and trends in Western collecting, I focused on the sales of many splendid, comprehensive holdings gathered by discriminating collectors that became available for new owners. Although the tendency continued in 2020, one part of the equation changed due to new rules imposed by COVID-19. Despite hurdles created by the pandemic, dealers and sellers alike found ways to continue through online means and other innovations. Although some of the

excitement of live auctions was lost, extraordinary and varied archival materials, art and artifacts brought vicarious thrills to bidders and observers.

A case in point, the year began with the ever-sensational Old West Events Mesa show and auction, the latter portion kicking off on January 25. The centerpieces of the offerings were items from the impressive Cordy Rich American Firearms treasure trove, the top item being a pristine Henry repeating rifle which sold for \$70,800

(includes buyer's premiums, as do all prices mentioned, unless otherwise noted).

Less than a month later, on February 20, 2020, Cowan's, a Hindman Company, held the first part of a planned two-part sale. Billed as "The Road West: The Steve Turner Collection of African Americana," this meticulously curated assembly brought a combined \$612,691, which represented 182 percent of pre-sale estimates. Overall, the strongest category of the day was photography, which achieved eight of the



Henry Repeating Rifle S/N 10587, .44 rimfire, 24-inch barrel with its blue and brass finish and walnut stocks, original sights, original iron cleaning rod in butt, circa 1865, went for \$70,800.

- COURTESY OLD WEST EVENTS -

10 highest prices of the auction. One of the highlights, a 10th Cavalry detachment with Indian scouts boudoir card during the Apache campaign in Arizona, sold for \$20,000.

In late spring, the Scottsdale Art Auction of June 13, 2020, featured masterpieces by Albert Bierstadt, John Clymer, Maynard Dixon, William Leigh, Alfred Jacob Miller, Thomas Moran, Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Key pieces went for over a half-million dollars.

After a lull, September experienced renewed activity. On September 18, Cowan's proceeded with its American Indian Art auction where a beaded tobacco pouch numbered among the front-runners. That same day and the next, the Jackson Hole Art Auction went off as planned. Both events produced strong sales. Indeed, the Jackson Hole Art Auction achieved over \$5.2 million in sales, with over 90 percent of lots sold and 18 new world auction records established. Among these was Howard Terpning's chilling *It's Been a Long Day*, for \$321,300.

Then on September 10-21, the prestigious annual C.M. Russell Museum auction (rescheduled from March) netted \$4,201,150. Appropriately, the star of the show, Charles Russell's oil, *Indian on Horseback*, was obtained for the hammer price of \$550,000.

Finally, the September 14-19 Rendezvous Royale at the Buffalo Bill Center capped this extraordinary revitalization, and in many ways characterized the challenges faced in 2020. Says Amy Sullivan, director of development at the center: "In our case, it really is true that 'necessity is the mother of invention.'" When the coronavirus closed



An unknown photographer's boudoir card captured 10th Cavalry troops and Indian scouts in the field. The amazing photograph brought \$20,000.

- COURTESY OF COWAN'S AUCTIONS -



Michael Coleman *In the Shadows*
Oil 14 x 20 inches - \$10,000

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST -



ART AND COLLECTIBLES

our doors in the spring, we doubled down on our efforts to reach out to donors and quickly pivoted to new online formats for our silent auction and car raffle. As a result, we sold everything [for the first time in a few years] and generated as much income as we did the year before when we had double the visitation and an event to highlight the items. We sold one painting for \$10,000 in less than an hour online and we sold a one-of-a-kind dress for \$3,900.”

While the future is uncertain, one thing seems clear. The lure of the West remains strong in these unsettled times. ❏

John Langellier's newest book project in progress is *Buffalo Soldiers: The Men and Their Missions*.

William R. Leigh *Pony Express*
Oil on Canvas, 28 x 22 inches · \$680,200

- COURTESY OF SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION -



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

January 21-24, 2021

31st Annual Mesa Old West Show & Auction
Brian Lebel's Old West Events (Mesa, AZ)
OldWestEvents.com · 480-779-9378

April 10, 2021

Scottsdale Art Auction
Scottsdale, AZ
ScottsdaleArtAuction.com · 480-945-0225

Charles Russell *Indian On Horseback*
13¾ x 10½ inches · \$550,000

- COURTESY C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM -



Beaded Hide Tobacco Bag
Sioux Elk Dreamer Society
\$131,250

- COURTESY OF COWAN'S AUCTIONS -

See the West From a Whole New Perspective



Experience The Nation's Best Western Museum*



**WESTERN
SPIRIT**
SCOTTSDALE'S
MUSEUM
OF THE WEST



Photo by Bill Timmerman

3830 N. Marshall Way ♦ Scottsdale, Arizona ♦ scottsdalemuseumwest.org ♦ 480.686.9539

*True West Magazine's tribute within the museum's first 5 years

The Spirit of the Old West Comes To Life
at the

BLACKHAWK
MUSEUM

For more information visit blackhawkmuseum.org

Native American Culture
Cowboys • Natural History • Early Settlers

Beautifully presented through hundreds of rare
artifacts and elaborate displays.

A must see for anyone interested
in the American Old West!



3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir, Danville, CA • blackhawkmuseum.org • 925-736-2277
We are following all COVID-19 protocols.

Come see why we are the
Best in the West!

TEXAS' LARGEST History Museum



PPHM

PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM
2503 Fourth Avenue • Canyon, Texas 79015

ART
AND
COLLECTIBLES

BEST WESTERN MUSEUM

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

The beautiful design of this building and its outside sculpture gallery offer just a taste of what you will experience inside this museum filled with paintings, sculptures, cowboy gear and ranch paraphernalia, including the Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection. Major exhibits in 2020 were "William P. Healey's Native American Gauntlet Collection," "Morton and Donna Fleischer's American Military Saddles Collection" and "By Beauty Obsessed: Gilbert Waldman Collects the West." Three exhibits that are ongoing in 2021 are "Maynard Dixon's American West," "The Abe Hays Family Maynard Dixon Collection" and "Paul Calle's Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon." On October 19, 2021, the "Light and Legacy: The Art of Edward Curtis" will open to the public.

ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

**READERS' CHOICE: Booth Western Art
Museum, Cartersville, GA**

**BEST WESTERN ART
COLLECTION**

The Brinton, Big Horn, WY

The Forrest E. Mars Jr. Building, which opened in 2015, features Western art by Karl Bodmer, Thomas Moran, Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington and John Mix Stanley. Also in the collection is a war shirt that belonged to Two Leggings—a piece that was selected in 2016 as one of the top ten historic artifacts in Wyoming. Don't miss viewing the art on display in the Brinton Ranch House and at the internationally acclaimed American Indian Gallery.

TheBrintonMuseum.org

**READERS' CHOICE: National Cowboy &
Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma
City, OK**



Frank Rinehart and Adolph F. Muhr's portrait of Spotted Horse was taken at the U.S. Indian Congress of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898. Spotted Horse, a delegate of the Sioux people at the Expo, models his tribe's artisanship in traditional and ceremonial clothing, which are highly prized today by museums and collectors.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTOR

Myron R. Deibel, Wickenburg, AZ

One of Arizona's great patrons of Western art, Myron R. Deibel is a dedicated supporter of his community's and the state's art museums, including the Hippen in Prescott and the Western Spirit in Scottsdale. He and his wife, Betsy, have one of the finest collections of Western art, historic chuck wagons and Conestogas, freight wagons and stagecoaches in the Grand Canyon state. Betsy is also a renowned art patron and serves on the board of Wickenburg's Desert Caballeros Western Museum.

READERS' CHOICE: Bill Koch, Aspen, CO

BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR

Johnny Morris, Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, Ridgeway, MO

For the third year in a row, Johnny Morris ranks as *True West's* best Western history collector. His amazing success in Bass Pro Shops has never taken him far from his home in the Ozarks, where his Top of the Rock resort and the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, housing his Western art collection, artifacts and arrowheads, remain extremely popular tourist attractions. Morris also owns and operates the 350,000-square-foot Johnny Morris's Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri.

BigCedar.com

READERS' CHOICE: Richard Fike (Museum of the Mountain West, Montrose, CO)

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN ART COLLECTION

Eddie Basha Collection Museum, Chandler, AZ

For the second consecutive year, *True West* has chosen the Eddie Basha Collection Museum as home of the Best American Indian Collection. The American Indian and contemporary Western American art is housed in the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery. With over 3,500 pieces of Western art, much of it by Native artists, the Eddie Basha Collection has gained a reputation as one of the finest American Indian art exhibitions in the country.

EddieBashaCollection.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Museum of the Plains Indian, Browning, MO/National Museum of the American Indian, New York, NY

BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION

California Trail Interpretive Center, Elko, NV

Ever wondered what it was like to cross the nation in a Conestoga wagon? Or to walk across the continent to find your bonanza of gold in California? The California Trail Interpretive Center near Elko will answer all your questions with its outstanding exhibits, historical materials collection and regular, re-enactor-led history events.

CaliforniaTrailCenter.org

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

BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

Heritage Auctions in Dallas is an internationally recognized leader in selling Western art, movie posters and collectibles. Major Western artists' originals auctioned in 2020 included pieces by William Robinson Leigh, Howard A. Terpning, Frederic Remington, Charlie Dye, Joseph Henry Sharp, Lon Megargee and Ed Mell.

HA.com

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

Photographer Edward Curtis's remarkable artistic image of a Navajo weaver captures the spirit, artisanship and timelessness of the traditional and practical Diné craft of weaving wool blankets. After the Spanish introduced sheep and the craft of blanket-weaving to the Southwestern tribes in the late 16th century, Navajo blankets became a signature, and highly valuable, craft and trade item for weavers.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -





**IMMERSE YOURSELF
IN HISTORY!**

Come visit our town of more than 40 historic and recreated buildings on 25 acres of the Old West!



1865 W. Museum Blvd.
Wichita, KS 67203

(316) 350-3323

www.OldCowtown.org



Congratulations to
Old Abilene Town!

2021

**Best Wild West
Show**



**BEST WESTERN
COLLECTIBLES GALLERY**

Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

For the second year in a row, Bill Welch's Cowboy Legacy Gallery is *True West's* choice for Best Western Collectibles Gallery. Internationally renowned, Welch has earned his reputation among collectors for offering the best Western art, antiques, artifacts and cowboy collectibles, including saddles, bits, spurs and chaps.

LegacyGallery.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Cisco's Gallery,
Coeur d'Alene, ID**

BEST OLD WEST ART AUCTION
Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale, AZ

Scottsdale Art Auction, which has been a leader in Western art auctions since 2005, had one of its most successful auctions on June 13, 2020, when it gaveled over \$10,600,000 in sales and 93 percent of all lots sold. Paintings and sculptures by Frederic Remington, Maynard Dixon, W. R. Leigh and Charles M. Russell led the field of American masters, with 13 paintings by Dixon that brought \$1,425,545. The world-renowned Scottsdale Art Auction is currently accepting consignments and will hold its next auction on April 10, 2021.

ScottsdaleArtAuction.com

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

**BEST OLD WEST
FIREARMS AUCTION**

Rock Island Auctions, Rock Island, IL

Rock Island Auction Company is world renowned as the top auction house for antique and collector firearms. Rock Island prides itself on its integrity and the quality and rarity of the antique firearms, collectors' firearms, rare guns, modern guns and other firearms-related items auctioned since 2003. Annual events include Premier Firearms Auction, Sporting & Collector Firearms and nine regularly scheduled online firearms auctions.

RockIslandAuction.com

READERS' CHOICE: Morphy's, Denver, PA

BEST TREASURE-HUNTING DEVICE
Garrett Metal Detectors, Garland, TX

Founded in 1964, the family-owned company remains a leader in the metal detector marketplace. The company's philosophy is to make the best metal detectors, sell them at a fair and reasonable price, and place customer service and satisfaction at the top of their priorities. For the everyday consumer, their Sport Division offers amateur and professional detectorists one of the most highly regarded product lines manufactured today.

Garrett.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Electroscopes by
Thomas, Jersey Shore, PA**



World fairs, such as the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, typically had an American Indian Congress or Village that showcased the various cultures of America's indigenous people, including Pueblo Indian potters. The exposure of American Indian artisanship to the greater American public at fairs led to increased interest by collectors in Native arts and crafts.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



ART AND COLLECTIBLES

BEST WESTERN PAINTER

Maynard Dixon

"Maynard Dixon's American West" exhibition, the most comprehensive retrospective ever showcasing his life and artistic career, debuted at Scottsdale's Museum of the West on October 14, 2019, and has been extended to August 3, 2021. *True West's* editors believe that you might make a case that there are better painters, but in the end, Maynard Dixon is the West's greatest artist. He made the transition from early 20th-century illustration to modern, contemporary Western art with integrity and authenticity.

READERS' CHOICE: C.M. Russell

BEST WESTERN PAINTER (LIVING)

Z. S. Liang

Born, raised and educated in China into a family of artists, Z.S. Liang earned advanced degrees in art in the United States. He was inspired to pursue his passion for Western American art while studying and painting the Wampanoag Indian culture in Massachusetts in the late 1980s. His painting, *Mountain Man*, was featured on the December 2020 cover of *True West* (his first, but hopefully not his last cover). The award-winning artist is represented by Trailside Galleries in Jackson, Wyoming, and Scottsdale, Arizona. LiangStudio.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Sherry Blanchard Stuart, Scottsdale, AZ/James Bama, WY

An Eskimo dance in Nome, Alaska, circa 1900, showcases the traditional ceremonial clothing and instruments of the Kauweramiut, Malemute and Unalukmiut people who have made their home on the Seward Peninsula along the Bering Sea for centuries. Today, these traditional Eskimo hoop drums and handcrafted sealskin and caribou mukluks are highly collectible by museums and individuals.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY

Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

Over 100 nationally known artists are represented by Legacy Gallery, which has been in business since 1988. Legacy Gallery offers the finest in representational and impressionistic art. The popular gallery's ownership is highly regarded for the diversity of art and artists—and variety of subject matter and mediums including Western, wildlife, figurative, landscape and still-life—they represent for their customers.

LegacyGallery.com

READERS' CHOICE: Manitou Gallery,

Santa Fe, NM

BEST WESTERN BRONZE FOUNDRY

Bronzsmith Fine Art Foundry and Gallery, Prescott Valley, AZ

Founded by Ed Reilly in Prescott Valley in 1991, Bronzsmith is an internationally recognized foundry of limited-edition bronze castings. The full-service art foundry works with artists (including *True West's* Bob Boze Bell) from creation to completion. Visitors can enjoy a tour of the gallery and view the artwork by over 40 artists on display. Reserve a place on a guided tour, which includes the viewing of a bronze-casting in the foundry.

Bronzsmith.com

READERS' CHOICE: Art Castings of Colorado, Loveland, CO

BEST WESTERN BRONZE ARTIST

Bill Nebeker

A member of the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA) since 1978, Bill Nebeker was inspired to pursue a career as a Western artist when he attended an art show by Bill Phippen, a founding member of the CAA. The Prescott, Arizona, native has won numerous awards for his artwork, and his sculptures are sought after by collectors, museums and municipalities that adorn their parks and memorials with his bronzes. His *Lest We Forget: Yavapai County Fallen Officers Memorial* will be his next bronze to be dedicated as public art. It will be placed in his hometown on the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza.

BillNebeker.com

READERS' CHOICE: Jack Walker

BEST CLASSIC WESTERN BRONZE ARTIST

Charles M. Russell

Many consider Charles M. Russell and Frederic S. Remington the greatest Western artists. While they had many contemporary peers in Western art, few had the ability to work as successfully in as many different mediums, including bronze sculpture. Russell's bronze sculptures remain some of his greatest legacies and are prominently displayed at America's finest art museums, including the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana.

CMRussell.org

READERS' CHOICE: Frederic Remington



T H E L E G E N D A R Y

Shiloh Sharps®

R I F L E C O M P A N Y

**THE QUIGLEY.
WE MADE IT FOR THE MOVIE...
AND WE CAN MAKE ONE FOR YOU, TOO.**



BIG TIMBER, MONTANA
Est. 1976

P.O. BOX 279 ~ BIG TIMBER, MONTANA 59011 ~ 406-932-4266 OR 406-932-4454 ~ FAX 406-932-5627

WWW. SHILOHRIFLE.COM



A Shout-Out to New/Old Guns

Here's a rundown on some of the hottest frontier replica firearms to hit the marketplace in the past year.

FIREARMS

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

What a helluva year 2020 was! While the past 12 months will be remembered in largely negative terms, there have been a handful of firearms introduced that nostalgic gun-lovers view as definitely positive.

RETURN OF THE AMERICAN

Cimarron Firearms' new spitting-image copy of the famed Smith & Wesson "American" revolver is perhaps the most important frontier replica firearm produced in recent years. This top-break six-shooter represents S&W's first big-bore, metallic cartridge revolver, and one that boasts of a rich association with the Old West. Produced from 1870-72, The Model 3, First Model was offered in .44 American chambering. Issued to the U.S. Cavalry, it was also a favorite of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Army scout "Texas Jack" Omohundro, El Paso lawman Dallas Stoudenmire and was carried by several members of the Wheeler U.S. Geological Survey party of 1871-73.

Eagerly awaited, this Italian, Uberti-made replica has been in the works for three years. Cimarron's quality clone is currently available in .45 Colt caliber, with .44 S&W Russian, .44-40, and .44 Special, coming soon.

Cimarron-Firearms.com



Cimarron Firearms' new replica of the S&W American is perhaps the most important frontier replica firearm reproduced in recent years. This top-break revolver is initially offered in .45 Colt. The .44S&W Russian, .44-40, and .44 Special will be available soon. Exclusive to Cimarron Firearms, all chamberings are capable of handling factory smokeless ammunition.

— COURTESY CIMARRON FIREARMS —

The Model 3, First Model (aka the "American"), was S&W's initial big-bore metallic cartridge revolver. Introduced in 1870, it was a favorite with frontiersmen. Here, a member of the famed Wheeler U.S. Geological Survey (1871-73) checks out the party's armament, including .50-70 Allin Conversion Springfield rifles, a Sharps carbine on his lap and protruding from its holster on his hip is S&W's .44 American six-gun.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Uberti USA's new 1885 High Wall variation, called the Courtney Stalking Rifle, is reminiscent of the Golden Age of African hunting. It's chambered for the .303 British, and sports a 24-inch barrel with sling attachment points on the barrel band and the butt stock. It boasts a case-hardened receiver and a pistol-gripped, AA-Satin Prince of Wales walnut stock with a rubber butt pad. At just 7.1 pounds, it's as perfect for the whitetail woods of America, as for the plains game of the African veldt.

— COURTESY UBERTI USA —

UBERTI USA'S LATEST GUNS

Uberti USA recently introduced an appealing variation of its 1885 High Wall. Dubbed the 1885 Courtney Stalking Rifle, this single-shot was inspired by the "Great White Hunters," like F. Courtney Selous, and other hunters and explorers of Africa. Chambered for the .303 British, it sports a case-hardened receiver and a pistol-gripped, AA-Satin Prince of Wales walnut stock with a rubber butt pad. The 24-inch, blued round barrel is fitted with a traditional hooded front sight, a quarter-rib slotted for a set of Weaver rings and outfitted with a fully adjustable, shallow-V rear sight. Although the Courtney Stalking Rifle is an





Outfitters to the Old West!

- ★ Black Powder / Cowboy Ammo
- ★ Western Style Firearms
- ★ Real Black Powder
- ★ Old West Clothing

Buffalo
ARMS CO.

208 263-6953

WWW.BUFFALOARMS.COM

THE SUNDANCE

Model 1890

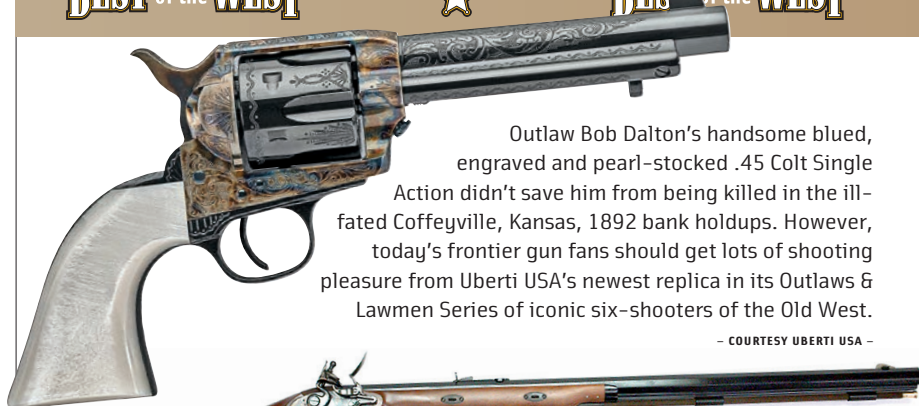
\$425

NEW FOR
2020

The Sundance outfit offers a more stylish design than the early frontier models. For single and double action revolvers with 4" to 6" barrels.

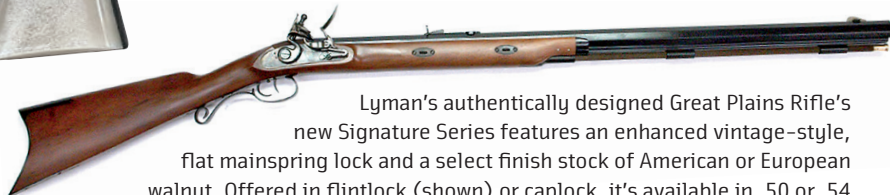
John Bianchi's
FRONTIER
GUNLEATHER

frontiergunleather.com 760-895-4401



Outlaw Bob Dalton's handsome blued, engraved and pearl-stocked .45 Colt Single Action didn't save him from being killed in the ill-fated Coffeyville, Kansas, 1892 bank holdups. However, today's frontier gun fans should get lots of shooting pleasure from Uberti USA's newest replica in its Outlaws & Lawmen Series of iconic six-shooters of the Old West.

- COURTESY UBERTI USA -



Lyman's authentically designed Great Plains Rifle's new Signature Series features an enhanced vintage-style, flat mainspring lock and a select finish stock of American or European walnut. Offered in flintlock (shown) or caplock, it's available in .50 or .54 caliber, in three different rifling twists for round ball, sabot or conical bullets. This handsome mountain man's smokepole is also offered by Dixie Gun Works.

- COURTESY DIXIE GUN WORKS -

"Africanized" High Wall, it's as perfect for the whitetail woods of America, as for the plains game of the African veldt...and at just 7.1 pounds, it's easy to carry all day.

In 2020, Uberti USA also added the Dalton Revolver to its Outlaws & Lawmen Series. It's a detailed copy of outlaw Bob Dalton's engraved Colt single-action, recovered from him after he was killed in the ill-fated 1892 Coffeyville, Kansas, dual bank robberies. This blue and case hardened, engraved .45 Colt, 5½-inch barreled six-gun, with simulated pearl grips, replicates this notorious outlaw's final six-gun.

Uberti-USA.com

NEXT GENERATION GREAT PLAINS RIFLE

Lyman's popular Great Plains Rifle, first introduced in 1980, brought out its next generation Great Plains Signature Series last year. Produced in cooperation with David Pedersoli & C. of Italy, this "Hawken" style, mountain man's muzzleloader remains the same with its authentic looks and double set triggers, but has an enhanced, vintage-type flat mainspring lock and select American or European walnut stock. Sporting a 32-inch octagonal barrel, with a semi-buckhorn rear sight and a German silver blade front sight, it's available in flintlock or percussion.

The new Signature Series is offered in three different rifling twists for round ball, or sabot and conical bullets, as well as a 30-inch barreled Hunter model with a fast twist for optimum performance. All versions are offered in .50 or .54 caliber. Dixie Gun works also offers this exceptionally nice production Great Plains muzzleloader.

LymanProducts.com or
DixieGunWorks.com

B. TYLER HENRY BIRTHDAY RIFLE

To commemorate firearms inventor B. Tyler Henry's 200th birthday (1821-2021), American rifle and shotgun manufacturer Henry Repeating Arms recently produced a limited edition of 200 commemorative Henrys. With the invention of his 1860 Henry, the first reliable lever-action repeating rifle, B. Tyler Henry became one of the most influential firearms designers in history. This authentic recreation of the 1860s Henry features a brass receiver and crescent-shaped butt plate, a blued steel, 24.5-inch octagonal barrel, lever, hammer and period sights. Each rifle is embellished with 1860s-style engraving with a portrait of the inventor on the right side of the receiver, and the legend "ONE OF 200" on the left side.



This year recognizes the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the 1874 Sharps, which ironically was first manufactured in 1871. Since 1983, Shiloh has continued to turn out some of the finest metallic cartridge Sharps replicas. Made on a custom order basis, in plain or deluxe wood, with options like a vernier tang rear sight, globe front sight, half-round half-octagon barrel, and more, as shown on this beautiful 1874 Sporter.

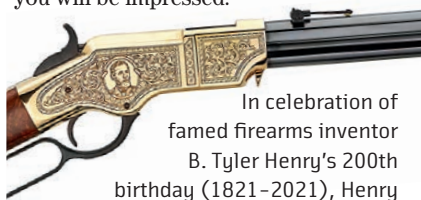
- COURTESY SHILOH RIFLE CO. -

FIREARMS

So today's shooters can enjoy firing their Henry, they'll be chambered for the .44-40 centerfire cartridge (factory smokeless), rather than the original (no longer produced) .44 Henry Flat Rimfire round. Henry Repeating Arms also offers guns that range from standard production 1860 Henrys, to modernized .22 rimfire, up to the powerful .45-70 centerfire lever guns. HenryUSA.com.

1874 SHARPS 150TH?

Yes, this year marks a century and a half since the famed 1874 Sharps was introduced. Ironically, the model was actually first produced in 1871, but had no official designation until the company introduced its 1875 model, then they decided to give the older model the "1874" moniker. Although the original Sharps Company went out of business in 1881, Shiloh Rifle Co. has been producing some of the finest Sharps replicas extant since 1983, turning them out on a one-at-a-time custom basis. If you're looking for a top quality Sharps metallic cartridge rifle, check out Shiloh's website. I guarantee you will be impressed.



In celebration of famed firearms inventor B. Tyler Henry's 200th birthday (1821-2021), Henry Repeating Arms has produced a limited edition of 200 commemorative, specially engraved 1860 Henry rifles. As insets show, a portrait of the inventor enhances the receiver's right side, while the left side bears the legend "ONE OF 200."

- PHOTOS COURTESY OF HENRY REPEATING ARMS -



ShilohRifle.com.

With a lineup of frontier hardware like the abovementioned guns, 2021 looks to be a good year for Old West gun buffs, and that's always worth a shout out. 🗡️

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.



Spanish silver 2 reale found by George "KG" Wyant.



START YOUR ADVENTURE WITH THE

ACE APEX™

GARRETT®
METAL DETECTORS



Visit garrett.com to find your nearest dealer



Three Indian scouts, possibly members of the Kiowa tribe, display their prized long guns at the Wichita Agency in Anadarko, Oklahoma Territory. The scout at the far left holds an 1892 Winchester carbine, while his two companions carry 1873 Winchester, most likely all .44-.40 carbines. Both Cimarron and Taylor's make reproductions of the 1892 and 1873 Winchesters.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

BEST GUNLEATHER ARTISAN

Old West Reproductions, Florence, MT

For decades, Old West Reproductions' handcrafted gun leather products have been recognized as some of the world's best. They are traditionally made and modeled meticulously after products originally used from 1849 to the early 1900s. President Rick M. Bachman is dedicated to personal customer satisfaction and custom Old West leatherwork.

OldWestReproductions.com

READERS' CHOICE: John Bianchi Frontier Gunleather, Rancho Mirage, CA

BEST FIREARM RESTORATION AND ENGRAVING

Turnbull Restoration, Bloomfield, NY

For the second year in a row, Turnbull Restoration Co., Inc., the nation's leader in restoration and custom upgrades of vintage firearms is *True West's* Editors' Choice for Best in the West. For more than 35 years, firearms experts have recognized Turnbull as the go-to company for restoration, period-correct metal finishes and custom reproductions. They have now added in-house engraving to their services with noted gun engraver Tom McCardle at the helm.

TurnbullRestorian.com

READERS' CHOICE: Otto Carter, Abilene, TX

ESSENTIALS THAT FIT YOUR EVERYDAY LIFESTYLE

EMBRACE TIMELESS TRADITIONS

TAYLORSFIREARMS.COM | 540-722-2017

TAYLOR'S & COMPANY



FIREARMS

BEST COWBOY ACTION PISTOL

Taylor's & Co. Smoke Wagon, Winchester, VA

A favorite of firearm enthusiasts for many years, Taylor's & Co.'s exclusive second-generation stagecoach-style, single-action revolver, The Smoke Wagon, has a blue finish with a case-hardened frame, and a thin, richly detailed, checkered grip for comfort and improved aim. The Smoke Wagon is an exclusive, trademarked sidearm of the Winchester, Virginia, firearms company.

TaylorsFirearms.com

READERS' CHOICE: Cimarron Firearms Evil Roy Comp. SA 4 3/4" .357 Magnum, Fredericksburg, TX

BEST COWBOY ACTION RIFLE

Uberti USA 1860 Henry Rifle, Accokeek, MD/Santa Ana, CA

Introduced the year before the start of the Civil War, the 1860 Henry Rifle is made today by Uberti USA in two brass-framed models

and one steel-framed. The three rifles are chambered in .44-.40 and .45 Colt. New Haven Arms Company gunmaker B. Tyler Henry only produced 1,700 of the innovative lever-action repeating rifles for Union troops, but the long gun quickly gained popularity among soldiers. Uberti's 1860 Henrys also have a lever lock at the rear of the receiver and an external cartridge follower that aids in loading the tubular magazine.

Uberti-USA.com

READERS' CHOICE: Navy Arms Lightning Deluxe .45 Colt or .357, Martinsburg, WV

BEST ACTION SHOTGUN

EMF Company 1878 Hartford Coach Gun

For many years a favorite of *True West's* editors, EMF has manufactured an instant classic with its popular, 12-gauge Wyatt Earp 1878 Hammer Shotgun. The side by side shotgun with its 20-inch barrel can be easily opened with one hand, allowing for very



Fort Custer, Montana, Indian scout Medicine Pipe is likely holding an 1873 Trapdoor Springfield .45-70 carbine. His personal saddle is a Sam Stagg-rigged stock saddle, and he is wearing a military issue, woven-canvas prairie belt. The chevrons and leg stripes on the outer seams of his trousers are white piped in scarlet, the branch colors adopted for U.S. Army Indian scouts in 1890. The one-armed man in the back was identified as Two Whistles. Today, Uberti USA and Cimarron make the reproduction of the 1873 Trapdoor Springfield.

- COURTESY LIBI, 00263_07840, NPS.GOV -

5.56MM 77 Gr. MK 262 MOD 1-C

Group averages of 2" or less at 300 yards

.64 MOA maximum/10 shot groups

Each can ships with lot accuracy documentation



Velocity 2750 FPS
Energy 1293 FT. LBS.



Ammunition

TO LOCATE A DEALER
NEAR YOU, CALL 800.568.6625
WWW.BLACK-HILLS.COM





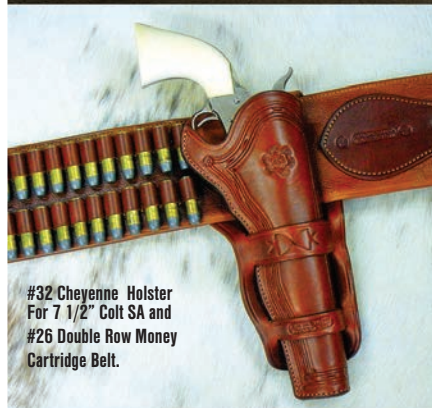
Old West Reproductions, Inc.

Frontier Gun Leather & Accessories from 1849 to 1900

Affordable Museum Quality Reproductions
Patterned from original pieces in my collection
Specializing in custom work

Montana made, in the tradition of
the Old West since 1978

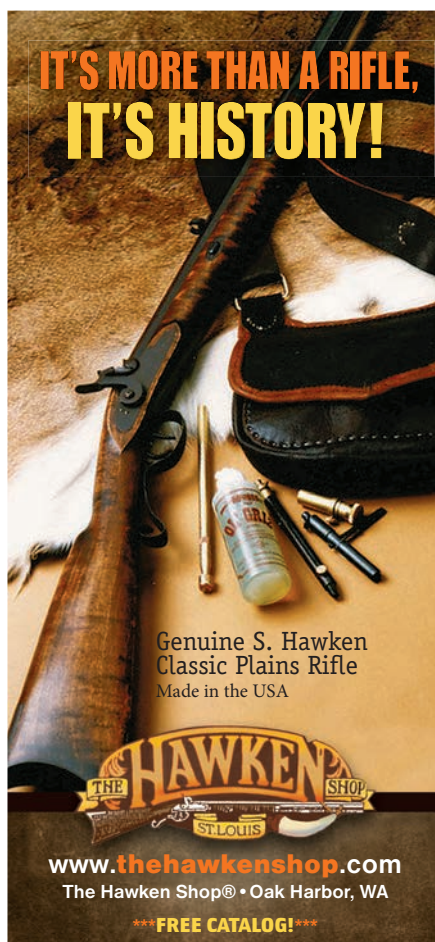
Rick M. Bachman | 406.273.2615
446 Florence South Loop, TW
Florence, MT 59833



#32 Cheyenne Holster
For 7 1/2" Colt SA and
#26 Double Row Money
Cartridge Belt.

www.oldwestreproductions.com

IT'S MORE THAN A RIFLE,
IT'S HISTORY!



Genuine S. Hawken
Classic Plains Rifle
Made in the USA



www.thehawkenshop.com
The Hawken Shop® • Oak Harbor, WA

FREE CATALOG!

FIREARMS

fast loading and extraction of shells. The walnut pistol grip stock is checkered, and the case hardened frame is engraved with "Wyatt Earp." The blued barrels feature chrome bores, and the sturdy Colt-style hammers can be cocked together in a simple and safe manner.

EMF-Company.com

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

BEST SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

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

A repeat Editors' Choice in the Best Single Shot category, Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing makes nine models of the 1874 Shiloh Sharps with such precision that their gun parts are the only ones in the world that fit the original 19th-century models. Nearly every significant action and part of the Shiloh's Sharps Saddle Rifle can be customized to the exact specifications of the buyer, including caliber, barrel length, weight, wood for the stock and much more.

ShilohRifle.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Cimarron Firearms
Officer's Billy Dixon Trapdoor .45-70
Rifle, Fredericksburg, TX**

BEST CLASSIC OLD WEST FIREARM KIT

**The Hawken Shop—Original Hawken
Rifle, Oak Harbor, WA**

Since the early 1800s, the Hawken Rifle has held a legendary place in the pantheon of American firearms history. The legacy

of St. Louis, Missouri, brothers Jake and Sam Hawken's original gun works passed through generations of gunsmiths until eventually the original "Hawken Shop" was purchased and saved by Greg Roberts and Claudette Green, who moved it to Oak Harbor, Washington. Today, they are the sole purveyors of the Original Hawken Rifle Kit based on Jake and Sam's original. The Hawken Shop also now offers finished completed Hawken rifles from their kits; contact them for details.

TheHawkenShop.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Lyman's Great
Plains .50 or .54 Rifle Kit from Lyman
Products, Middletown, CT or Dixie Gun
Works, Inc., Union City, TN**

BEST COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE Henry Repeating Arms—The American Farmer Tribute Edition, .22 S/L/LR

Henry Repeating Arms rifles have been recognized for their excellence in craftsmanship and innovation. Their American Farmer .22 caliber tribute edition features etched, detailed scenes of farming life on the receiver, splashed with gold. The American walnut stock has additional carved images. The nickel-plated receiver, this lever action is dedicated with "heartfelt gratitude to a hundred generations, past and present, who feed our world."

HenryUSA.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Heroes & Patriots—
The Dodge City Kansas Henry .22 LR
Commemorative Rifle, Fort Collins, CO**



During the 1872-73 Modoc War in the Lava Beds near the California-Oregon border, U.S. Army scouts from Warm Springs nation (Wasco and Paiute from Central Oregon) stood in formation with their mix of surplus-issue firearms. The men kneeling and the scout in the embroidered shirt appear to be holding Model 1860 Spencer .52 rimfire carbines. The scout standing at left appears to be holding a caplock Sharp's slant-breech .52, while the two others appear to be carrying Model 1861 (percussion) caliber rifles.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —

Advertise With Us!

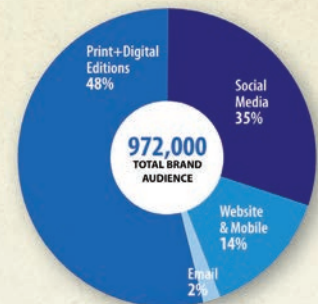
TRUE WEST

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN WEST

972,000
Monthly
Audience

385,000
Readers

67,500
Circulation



300,000
Facebook Followers



7700
Twitter Followers



27,500
Instagram Followers



50,000 +
Newsletter Subscribers
Instagram Followers

Call Today For Rate Package Information

Sheri Jensen
sheri@twmag.com
623-810-0194

Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,
North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee
Texas and Wyoming

Greg Carroll
greg@twmag.com
480-433-7345

Arizona, California, Iowa, Idaho, Montana,
New Mexico, Nevada, Kansas, South Dakota,
Utah and Washington



BY SHERRY MONAHAN

WESTERN FARE

Steak-out in History

Take a tasty trip to the Old West at two storied saloons: the Buckhorn Exchange in Denver, Colorado, and The Palace in Prescott, Arizona.



Historic restaurants and saloons keep the spirit of the West alive, and some offer a mean steak. Denver, Colorado, is home to the famous Buckhorn Exchange Saloon that was started by Henry “Shorty Scout” Zietz. According to Zietz himself, “Sitting Bull always called me ‘Shorty-my-boy. He took a liking to me after he saw me shoot.” The man and his saloon have a colorful history that began with Henry and his mother, “Lottie,” running a saloon at 2762 Market Street from 1888 to 1893. This also served as the Zietz family residence and home of the original German-imported backbar that still stands in the Buckhorn today.

In 1893, Henry relocated the saloon and the backbar to a former 1886 brewery warehouse across from the Rio Grande railroad tracks on 1000 South Osage and named it the Rio Grande Exchange Saloon. In February 1898, Zietz was robbed but

Diners at Buckhorn Exchange in Denver enjoy great choices of steaks and game while dining under the gaze of the restaurant’s famous 500-piece big-game trophy collection. The historic restaurant, a favorite of President Theodore Roosevelt, is also home to a 125-piece gun collection.

— COURTESY BUCKHORN EXCHANGE —

The 1893 Buckhorn Exchange holds Denver’s first liquor license and is the oldest restaurant in the city. Upstairs from the dining room, a Zietz family heirloom is the centerpiece of the Victorian Lounge: a hand-crafted, ornate white-oak bar and backbar made in Essen, Germany, in 1857.

— COURTESY BUCKHORN EXCHANGE —





The Palace Saloon's famous 1880s Brunswick Bar is the centerpiece of Arizona's oldest saloon and restaurant in Prescott.

- COURTESY PALACE RESTAURANT AND SALOON -

managed to stash a roll of \$100 bills into a coal scuttle before the thieves saw him. Zietz bragged about that in a newspaper story and that June, when he was robbed again, the robber said, "You won't get a chance to sluff your money this time."

By 1908, Henry offered unfurnished rooms to rent on the second floor and did that for many years. His son, Henry Jr., worked as a bartender for his father until 1916, when Colorado enacted Prohibition, and then clerked for him. When Colorado went dry, Zietz sold cigars and tobacco and offered billiards, and in 1917, he advertised the saloon as a "soft drink" establishment. According to legend, there was a secret staircase where people came for something with a little more kick.

Between 1921 and 1927, Zietz became one of the largest grocers in town and it's rumored that Shorty sold hollowed out loaves of bread with whiskey bottles hidden inside. He also opened a restaurant where Henry Jr. served as a waiter and clerk until 1934. In October 1934, the name Buckhorn Restaurant appeared, and a year later, it was called the Buckhorn Lodge, which advertised, "Fine Food-Fine Drinks. A real place for real folks." The name continued to morph and was later called Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant, Buckhorn Restaurant, Buckhorn Pioneer Lodge, Buckhorn Lodge and Buckhorn Pioneer Restaurant. By 1947, the Buckhorn was serving up "corn fed" beef and offered a special Buckhorn T-bone for three dollars, a small T-bone, ground beef steak and lamb and pork chops. Each came with a salad, French fries, bread and coffee or tea. It also served the famous Buffalo Bill cocktail, which is a Stone Fence but named in honor of Shorty's friend, William Cody. Today, you can still order a T-bone or choose from a variety of meats and wild game—and don't worry, it didn't come from the ones hanging on the wall!

Another business steeped in history is The Palace Restaurant & Saloon in Prescott,



Patrons of The Palace famously saved its Brunswick Bar when Whiskey Row caught fire in 1900, but it was back in place when the saloon reopened in 1901.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Arizona, but it wasn't always called the Palace. Various people used the name Palace, but its history begins with Daniel C. Thorne, who is credited with founding the Palace that still operates today. He began by opening the Cabinet Saloon on Montezuma Street in 1874, and in 1881 he added a restaurant. The saloon offered plenty to drink, including McBrayer whiskey, hub punches and a signature Cabinet punch.

Thorne soon hired Julian Piercy to run the restaurant, where he offered oysters, game, turkey and duck at all hours.

Between 1886 and 1891, Thorne used the name Palace for a saloon chop house, which operated in the back. During that time, Fong Murphy was chef de cuisine and offered beef, chicken fricassee, braised lamb, roast pork, pound cake, custard pie, fruits and cheeses. The chop house was later run by



WESTERN FARE

Tom Wing, with Murphy still cooking. In 1891, Charley Lee served meals at all hours that included oysters, fish and game.

The Cabinet Saloon remained in operation two doors down from the Palace, where they served tasty steaks. In 1898, Deputy Sheriff Morgan was enjoying a hot, searing beefsteak for breakfast there when he noticed a man stealing cold mutton from the meat chest. After he caught the thief and jailed him, Morgan had to finish a cold steak. After the great fire of 1900, the Cabinet and Palace Saloon owners merged their businesses, and the dining room remained in the back. You can still enjoy a hot searing steak at the historic Palace without worrying about thieves.

Send your taste buds back in time with this Buckhorn cocktail they call the Buffalo Bill because it was Buffalo Bill Cody's favorite.



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

BEST HISTORIC SALOON

**The Palace Restaurant and Saloon,
Prescott, AZ**

The Palace's swinging doors have been open on Montezuma Street, better known as Whiskey Row, in Prescott since at least 1877. Historic Old West characters including Doc Holiday, Virgil and Wyatt Earp visited the saloon. Famously rebuilt in 1901 around its 1880s Brunswick bar—which was carried across to the Courthouse Plaza during the Prescott fire of 1900—the Palace is Arizona's oldest operating saloon. Since 1996, the Palace permanently added a restaurant, which is well-known for its cowboy cuisine and Old West dining atmosphere.

WhiskeyRowPalace.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Miners and Stockman's
Steakhouse & Spirits, Hartville, WY**

BEST HISTORIC RESTAURANT

**The Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant,
Denver, CO**

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

Buckhorn.com

**READERS' CHOICE: The Palace
Restaurant and Saloon, Prescott, AZ**

BEST CHUCK WAGON COOK-OFF

Lazy E Chuck Wagon Cookoff, Guthrie, OK

For this cinch timed event and junior ironman championship, 10 world-class chuck wagon teams compete in the Lazy E Arena for the top prize. An added bonus is the Junior Cook Off, which showcases young cooks 10-16 years of age.

LazyETec.com

**READERS' CHOICE: World Championship
Chuckwagon Cookoff, Ruidoso, NM**

BEST CHUCK WAGON SHOW & SUPPER

**Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Music
Variety Show, Rapid City, SD**

Held at the Fort Hays Old West Town Square, this event is fun for the whole family and produced in the style of the famous Branson, Missouri, variety music shows. The ever-popular Old West dinner theater is open annually mid-May until the end of September.

MountRushmoreTours.com

**READERS' CHOICE: Bar J Chuck Wagon
Supper & Western Music Show,
Wilson, WY**

STONE FENCE / BUFFALO BILL

2 oz. bourbon · 2 -3 ice cubes · apple cider

Add bourbon and ice to a tall Collins glass and top with cider. Stir and enjoy!



Recipe adapted from *The Bar-Tender's Guide* by Jerry Thomas, 1887.



An Eskimo mother with her child prepares a meal outside in the summer of 1916 in Nome, Alaska.

— LOMEN BROTHERS, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



Once known as the Sarsi or Sarcee people, The TsuutDina are an indigenous First Nation people of Alberta, Canada. An Athabaskan language group, the Plains tribe had traditional alliances with the neighboring Blackfeet people, but through language are related to the Dene people of Alaska, Canada and the Southwestern Apache and Navajo (Diné) peoples.

- EDWARD CURTIS, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

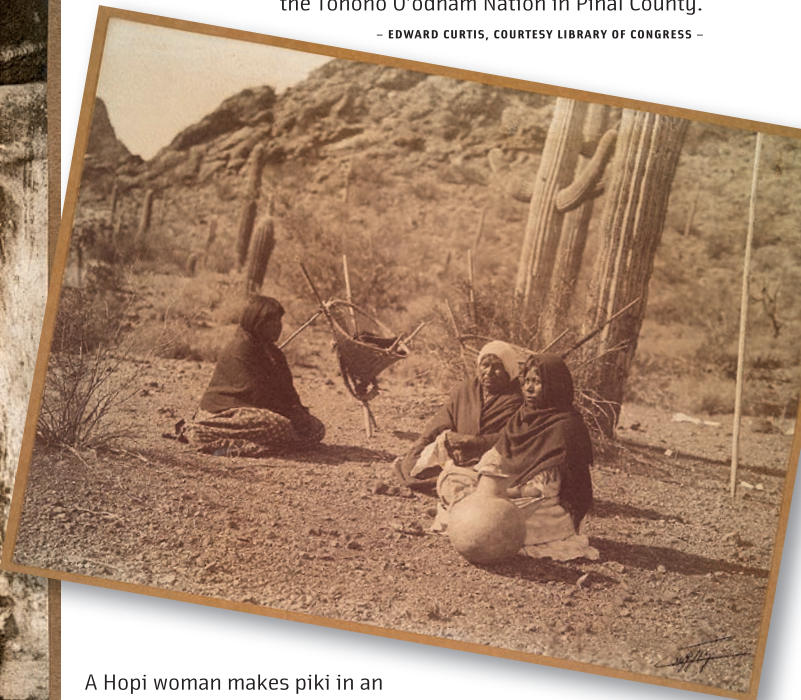
The Tohono O'odham people of Arizona and Sonora have gathered the fruit of the saguaro cactus for centuries. Edward Curtis identified these three women (below) as Qahatika (or Kohatk), an archaic name used in the early 20th century to identify a band of wheat-growing O'odham people who lived in villages in the desert south of the Gila River. Today, the village of Kohatk is part of the Tohono O'odham Nation in Pinal County.

- EDWARD CURTIS, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



A Hopi woman makes piki in an open-hearth kitchen. Piki is a traditional Hopi flat bread made from the ancient staple, blue corn meal.

- EDWARD CURTIS, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -





BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

My Favorites of 2020

Thank You for Helping Me Through 2020

There aren't many jobs in which you're lucky enough to make friends as you work out of your home office, connected only by a telephone.

But this column makes me lucky enough!

It takes me into the world of imaginative folks who respect and appreciate the people and pioneers of the Old West. I love how they take hold and won't let go—just like the folks they're honoring with their preservation efforts.

Looking back on the columns I wrote in 2020—horrible 2020, with its virus and quarantine and changes in all our lives—I find the friends I made through those monthly interviews were all the more precious. They stood for a “normalcy” that we couldn't find many places. They showed life was moving on when so much said it had stood still. And they reminded me that times were even tougher in the Old West.

Here's how I started one of those columns:

“What did people do in Dakota Territory in the 1800s?”

“In the part that would become North Dakota—windswept, treeless, flat-as-a-pancake, cold-as-hell—they built churches. Small, intimate, full-on-Sunday churches.”

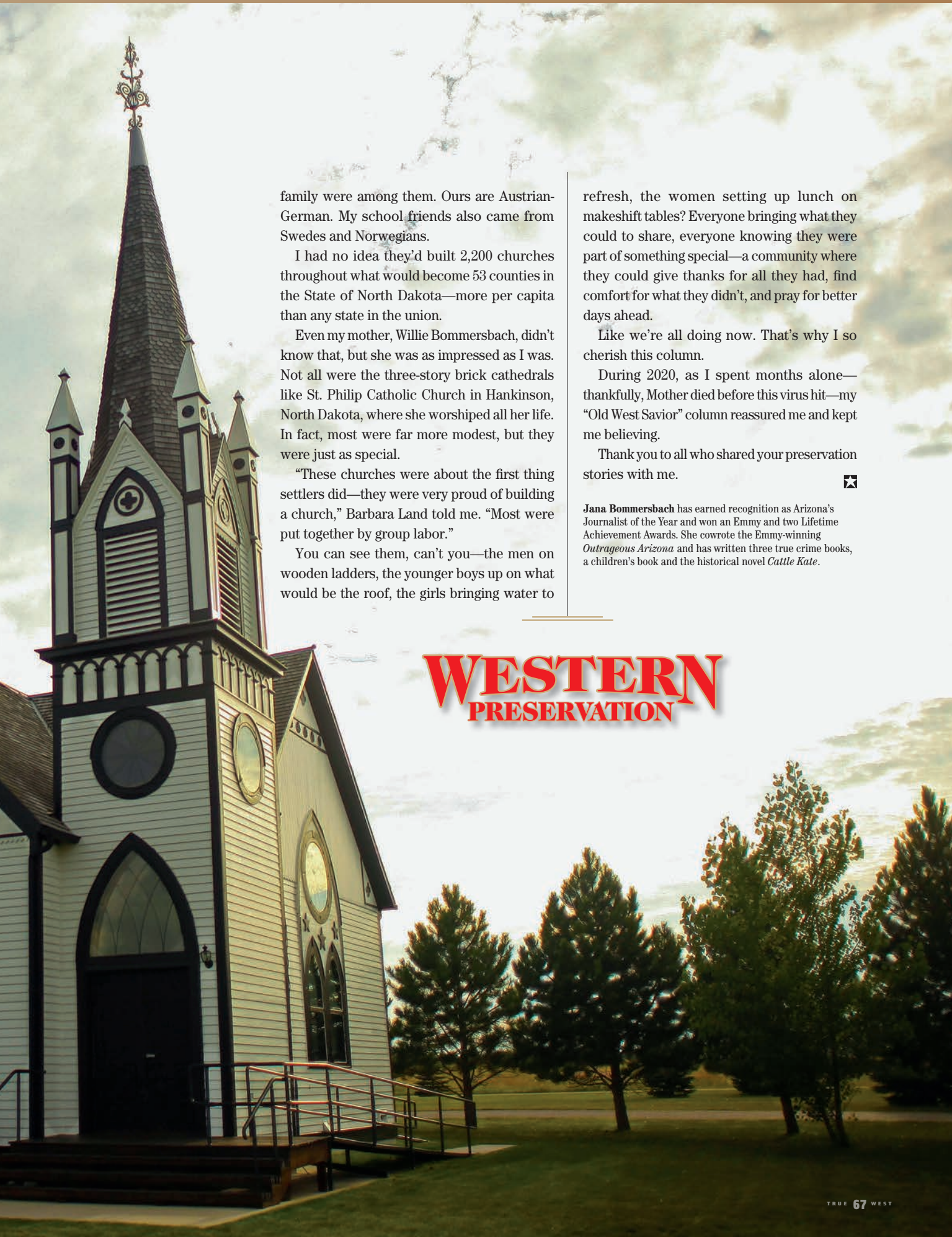
I discovered this story when I was home in North Dakota with my mother in 2019, during what would be the last summer of her 98 years.

One day while searching through some North Dakota history, I came upon a group called Preservation North Dakota and its president, Barbara Lang, and a project they'd started back in 1997.

As I read the report, I was astonished. I know this Territory was populated with strong, determined people, because both sides of my

The Hallson Icelandic Lutheran Church was constructed in 1897 and was named for Johann Hallson, who donated the land, bell, altar and money to the congregation. Today, the church has been preserved as part of the Icelandic State Park, just four miles from its original location on Highway 5, near Cavalier, North Dakota.

— COURTESY NORTH DAKOTA TOURISM —



family were among them. Ours are Austrian-German. My school friends also came from Swedes and Norwegians.

I had no idea they'd built 2,200 churches throughout what would become 53 counties in the State of North Dakota—more per capita than any state in the union.

Even my mother, Willie Bommersbach, didn't know that, but she was as impressed as I was. Not all were the three-story brick cathedrals like St. Philip Catholic Church in Hankinson, North Dakota, where she worshiped all her life. In fact, most were far more modest, but they were just as special.

"These churches were about the first thing settlers did—they were very proud of building a church," Barbara Land told me. "Most were put together by group labor."

You can see them, can't you—the men on wooden ladders, the younger boys up on what would be the roof, the girls bringing water to

refresh, the women setting up lunch on makeshift tables? Everyone bringing what they could to share, everyone knowing they were part of something special—a community where they could give thanks for all they had, find comfort for what they didn't, and pray for better days ahead.

Like we're all doing now. That's why I so cherish this column.

During 2020, as I spent months alone—thankfully, Mother died before this virus hit—my "Old West Savior" column reassured me and kept me believing.

Thank you to all who shared your preservation stories with me.



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*.

WESTERN PRESERVATION



WESTERN PRESERVATION

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, San Angelo, TX

Built in 1867 as a strategic U.S. Army outpost during the post-Civil War conflict with the Southern Plains tribes, Fort Concho served its purpose effectively until it was closed in 1889. The city of San Angelo handles staffing and the preservation of the historic landmark, museum and 23 fort buildings. Walk in the footsteps of soldiers and their families who lived at the fort and tour Officers Row and Quarters, the Enlisted Men's Barracks, Post Headquarters, Hospital, School House and Chapel. Fort Concho hosts annual living history events, including Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day in February and Fort Concho Frontier Day in April.

FortConcho.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Fort Dalles, The Dalles, OR/Fort Laramie, Laramie, WY

BEST PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING

Laramie Plains Museum at the Historic Ivinson Mansion, Laramie, WY

Housed in the opulent and fully restored 1892 Ivinson Mansion, the Laramie Plains Museum is one of the finest pioneer heritage museums in Wyoming. Most of the rooms on the first two floors of the mansion are decorated in the style in which the Ivinson family lived, while the third floor has a barber shop room, textile room, a Cathedral School for Girls room (at one time the mansion was a school) and an American Indian room. The community of Laramie takes great pride in the mansion and the museum; all of the material and household antiques on display in the museum's exhibitions were donated by local residents.

LaramieMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE: Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

In 2021, the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail will be commemorated from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The famous trade route was first used in 1821 when Missouri trader William Becknell seized the opportunity to open trade with Mexico, which had just won its independence from Spain. Prior to Becknell, American traders who attempted to open trade with the Spanish state of Nuevo Mexico were arrested and taken to Mexico City. Within a few short years, the Santa Fe Trail became one of the continent's most important routes of commerce, connecting world trade routes from Mexico City to New York City and New Orleans. The best route planner for your trip is the National Parks' "Santa Fe National Historic Trail" site (NPS.gov), but do not overlook the importance of the Santa Fe Trail Association (SantaFeTrail.org) for the latest information on events occurring in communities along the trail.

NPS.gov

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Oregon and Pony Express National Historic Trails

BEST PRESERVATION EFFORT OF THE WEST

Historic Santa Fe Depot Building, Dodge City, KS

Amtrak trains regularly stop in Dodge City, just like the Santa Fe Railway's *Super Chief* did for decades. Today, passengers board at the two-story red brick Richardsonian Romanesque-style depot and El Vaquero Harvey House built in 1898. Dodge City takes pride in owning, managing and preserving the depot, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the largest railway depot still standing in the state of Kansas. Passengers and visitors alike will enjoy its restored architecture in the passenger area and the former lobby of the hotel, which today is home to the building's largest tenant, the Depot Theater Company.

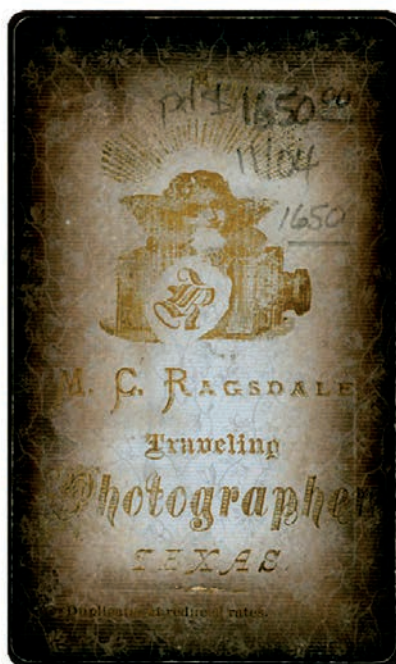
VisitDodgeCity.org & DepotTheater.com

READERS' CHOICE: Arcadia Round Barn, Arcadia, OK



A scout at Fort Concho, Texas, in 1872, possibly a Tonkawa Indian, hefts a Springfield rifle. The military supplied firearms and ammunition to scouts along with pay and rations. Today, the city of San Angelo manages Fort Concho National Historic Landmark as a museum and living history center with some of the best preserved frontier-era Army buildings in the Lone Star State.

— M. C. RAGSDALE, COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY —





Edward S. Curtis's beautiful photograph, *Out of the Darkness*, was taken in 1904 in Tesakod Canyon, a small, narrow branch of Canyon de Chelly on the Navajo Reservation. Today, visitors can tour Canyon de Chelly National Monument, which is managed by the Navajo Nation in partnership with the National Park Service.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -



In 1902, photographer Fred Andrew Young visited the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs reservation (founded in 1855) in Warm Springs, Oregon, to photograph the residents, including this woman displaying her fancy quilts and textiles. To learn more about the tribal history that includes Wasco, Warm Springs and Paiute people, schedule a visit to the Museum at Warm Springs.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

A pioneer of Western Indian portraiture, Stanley J. Morrow made this poignant photograph of Red Cow and Chief Bad Gun, second chief of the Mandan at Fort Berthold, Dakota Territory, in 1872. It was one of a series of portraits he made of men and women of the three tribes at the fort, including the Hidatsa and Mandan. Today, visitors can learn more about the rich culture of the three tribes at the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikira Nation at the Fort Berthold Reservation.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -



BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN
Oatman, AZ

Once a rollicking gold town in Mojave Desert, historic Oatman has become famous for its Old West atmosphere, resident burros, the honeymoon hotel for Clark Gable and Carole Lombard and Route 66. The town is named for Olive Oatman, a pioneer girl heading to California with her family when they were attacked (most were killed) and she was kidnapped and enslaved. Tourists will enjoy gunfight demonstrations, Western storefronts and boardwalks, restaurants, saloons and shops, almost all with an Old West theme.

VisitArizona.com

READERS' CHOICE: South Pass City, WY

BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE WEST
Mount Moriah, Deadwood, SD

After a tour of historic downtown Deadwood, take a short drive up Mount Moriah for a tour of the final resting place for the infamous and not so famous residents of the Black Hills boomtown. Most visitors make the pilgrimage to the side-by-side graves of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok and Calamity Jane Canary, but a walking tour will reveal a poignant history of the residents of the town. Spend some extra time and take the path to Seth Bullock's monument.

CityOfDeadwood.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX/Boot Hill Cemetery, Ogallala, NE

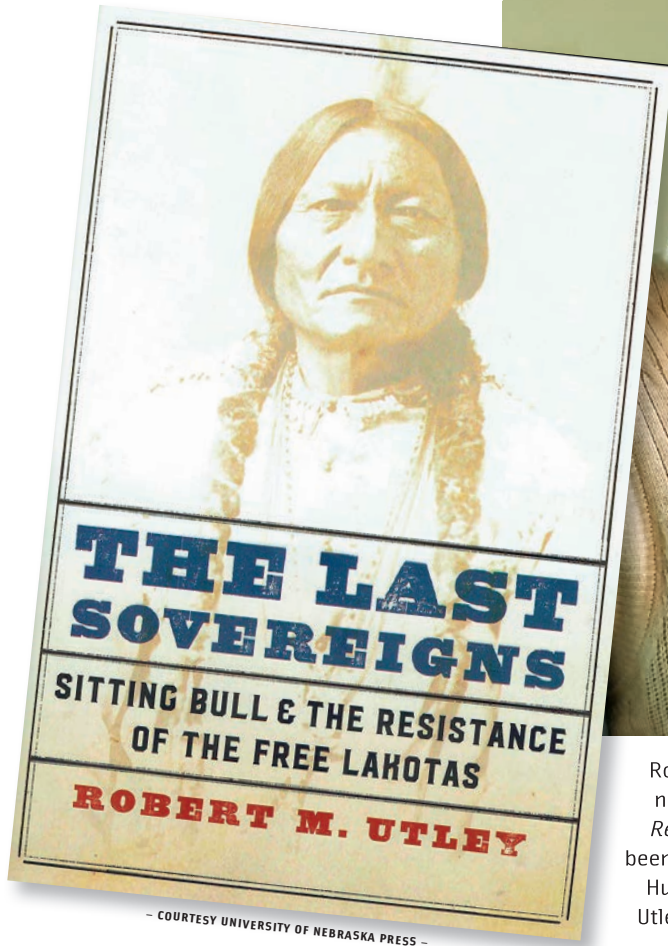


WESTERN BOOKS

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

The Western Endures

Great stories and storytellers prevailed in the Western history and Western fiction genres in 2020.



— COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS —



Robert M. Utley (right), author of *True West's* best Western history nonfiction book of 2020, *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* (University of Nebraska Press), has been a Western history hero and mentor to fellow historian Paul Andrew Hutton (left) since their first meeting at Indiana University in 1977. Utley's *The Last Sovereigns* is excerpted on pages 18–25, followed by Hutton's profile of his mentor on pages 26–27.

— COURTESY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON —

If 2020 taught us anything as readers of Western history and fiction, it was that we depend on our storytellers to help us endure hard times. Whether in person, curbside or from a bookseller's website, we consumed Western history and fiction last year, not only because we love it but to help us through the isolation and remind ourselves of the strength and determination of those who came before us, all of whom overcame much greater odds and conditions than we

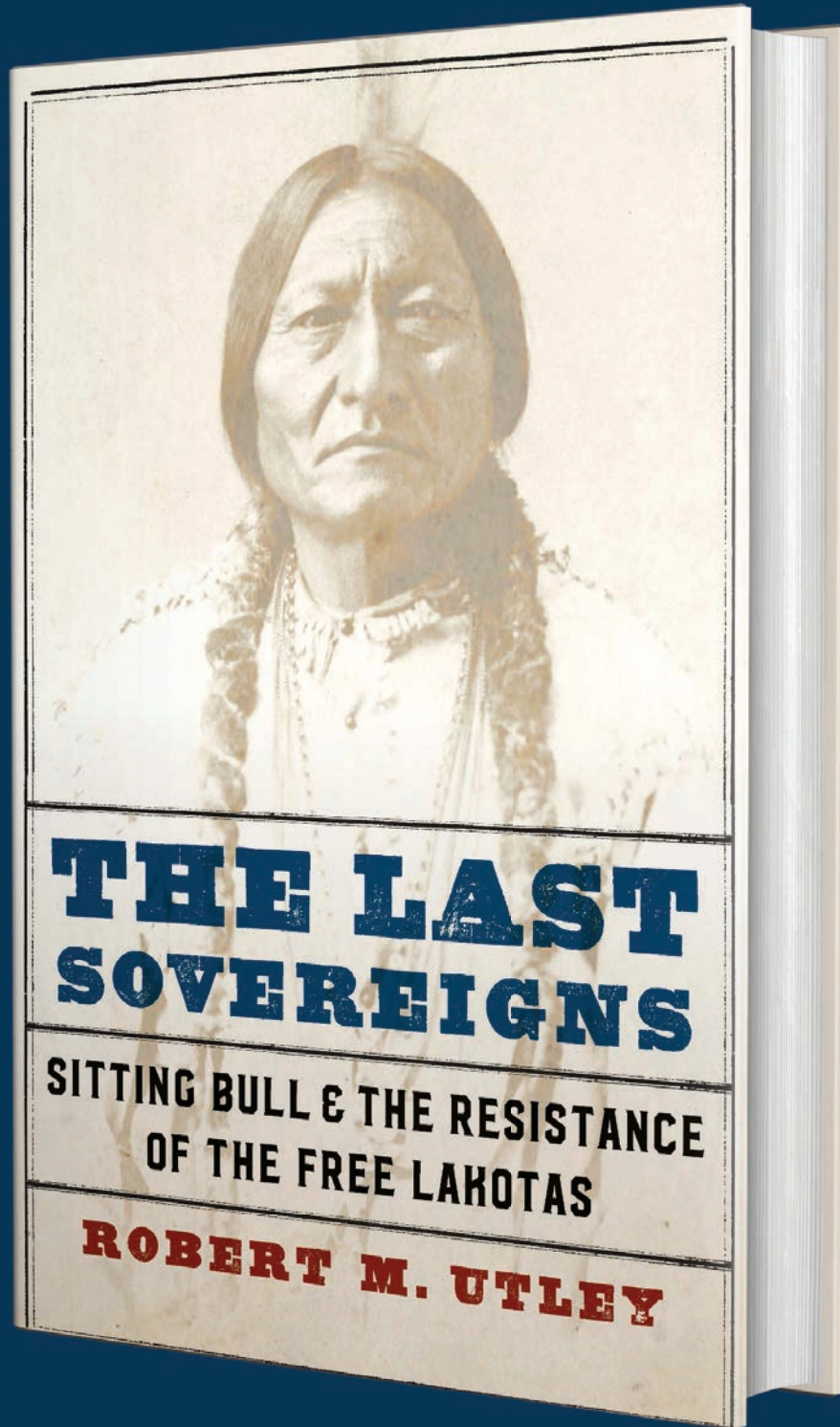
endured in 2020. And after these challenging times of COVID-19, one of the hardest pandemics to hit the U.S. and the world since the Spanish influenza of 1919-1920, we will be stronger, more resilient and inspired to reconcile our differences and rediscover the commonalities of our shared humanity.

I invite our readers, if they have not yet had the pleasure to read our two top books of 2020—Robert M. Utley's *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance*

of the Free Lakotas and Max Evans's *The King of Taos: A Novel*—to discover strength and hope in the human condition. Both volumes are slimmer than the typical Utley history or Evans novel, but their breadth does not diminish their depth. Utley reminds us of Sitting Bull's desperate dream in the Lakota leader's own words: "The life my people want is a life of freedom."

We should not be surprised that our authors will soon be sharing their Western

NEW FROM
ROBERT M. UTLEY

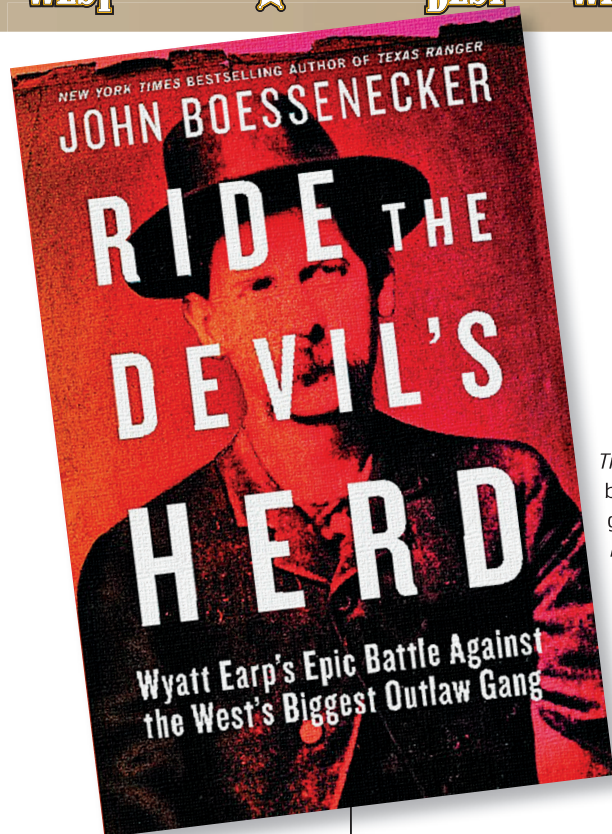


“Utley is a good stylist and a natural storyteller.”—Wall Street Journal

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA PRESS



www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/bison/



WESTERN BOOKS

True West's readers' choice for top Western nonfiction book of 2020, Western historian John Boessenecker's groundbreaking *Ride The Devil's Herd: Wyatt Earp's Epic Battle Against the West's Biggest Outlaw Gang* was published by Hanover Square Press in March 2020 and is one of the bestselling and highest rated Western history books of the year.

— COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES —

short stories, plays, poetry, novels, songs, biographies and histories that were inspired by the pits of the pandemic of 2020-21. We will find inspiration in the prose of our great storytellers, the inspired chroniclers of our community and country. So, in the meantime, we encourage you to keep reading, stay strong and remain resilient. We will endure—and surely have many more stories of the American West to inspire the next generation. ✘

WESTERN HISTORY

BEST AUTHOR AND HISTORICAL NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

Robert Utley, *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* (University of Nebraska Press) NebraskaPress.UNL.edu

READERS' CHOICE: John Boessenecker, *Ride the Devil's Herd: Wyatt Earp's Epic Battle Against the West's Biggest Outlaw Gang* (Hanover Square Press)

Our *True West* Western Book of the Year and Author of the Year award goes to *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* by Robert M. Utley, published by the University of Nebraska Press. His 23rd book in 58 years

of publishing award-winning history of the American West, Utley's story of Sitting Bull and the last free Lakota Sioux exiled in Canada is a capstone on his publishing history on the great Sioux leader.

Utley's Preface to *The Last Sovereigns* reveals the Old Bison's personal respect for his subject and his desire to fully tell Sitting Bull's story to his satisfaction and level of excellence, a bar he has set high for himself throughout his seven-decade career as a historian of the American West:

Sitting Bull treasured his freedom and his adherence to the old way of life. If he went back, he feared that the Americans would punish him for killing Custer and his soldiers. He was a wanted man, and he knew that they would confine him to a reservation where he would lose his freedom.

The drama of his resistance was existential and very real. His people were hungry and in time would face starvation. The buffalo herds on which they depended for sustenance were dwindling. To add to this threat, the indigenous Canadian tribes also depended on the scarce buffalo, and they regarded the Lakotas as interlopers preying on their food source. Hostility dogged Sitting Bull from these tribes throughout the Canadian years.

Although simply stated, all of the elements of Sitting Bull's Canadian life

involved complex decision-making that troubled him constantly. He was the great Lakota chief responsible for thousands of resistors under grave threat constantly. A tale of drama, tragedy, success, failure, poignancy, friendship, hostility, controversy, dispute, and a host of highs and lows defined the story of the last free Lakotas and their effort to create a new life in a new home.

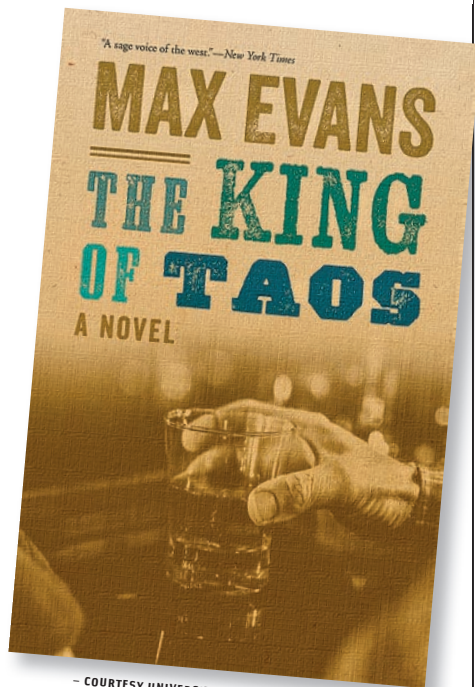
This book began several years ago as a simple "story of a friendship" between Sitting Bull and Major Walsh. As I worked on it, however, a larger story took shape. The friendship still played its part, but it was overshadowed by Sitting Bull's struggle to remain free, to resist coercion into the white man's ways, and to continue to live in safety the way Lakotas had always lived. This story of resistance and struggle became the dominant story. 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.

WESTERN FICTION

If 2020 proved anything in Western novel publishing, it was that fans of the Western genre will continue to buy their favorite authors—new, used, digital or audio. What was most challenging for publishers was not delivering their books in the publishing pipeline or backlists, but publishing new books amid COVID-19 lockdowns. Fan favorite Five Star of Waterville, Maine, had to push back publishing its Western and Frontier lists by six months because of staff shutdowns. Wolfpack Publishing of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Pinnacle/Kensington of New York, New York, kept the brick-and-mortar and online stores busy selling their Westerns. University publishers, including Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and TCU, have returned to Western fiction, while many other presses across the country continue to mine the popular 20th-century and contemporary Western mystery genre.

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST AND NOVEL

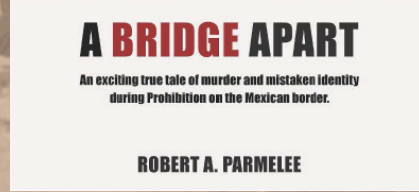
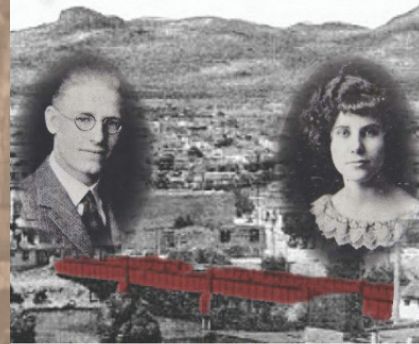
Max Evans, *The King of Taos: A Novel* (University of New Mexico Press)



On August 26, 2020, Max Evans's life ended after an extended stay in the local veterans' hospital hospice unit in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Max, who was just three days shy of his 96th birthday, had his final novel, *The King of Taos*,

Completely fresh historical material from 1919 to 1933 resulting from the unveiling of a fifty year secret in 1985.

- The impact of cross border crime and pursuit of justice by Mexican and American citizens on the border during prohibition.
- The desperate resort to vigilante justice and the unforeseen repercussions.
- The overthrow of the Chihuahua State government by force in 1930 at the hands of the "Al Capone of the Southwest."
- An unprecedented peacetime prisoner exchange on El Paso's Santa Fe Bridge following intrigues and negotiations between the highest levels in the Mexican and American governments.



A BRIDGE APART is only available on Amazon Kindle.

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

GeronimoRanch.com
575-772-5157 • 1 Wall Lake Rd. Winston, NM 87943



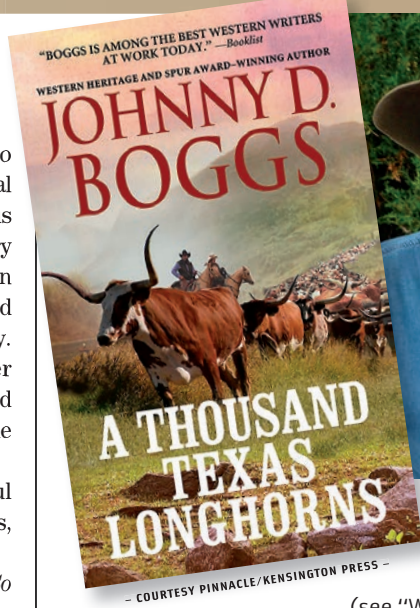
published by the University of New Mexico Press in May. His final, semi-autobiographical statement about his vivid, rambunctious literary life in New Mexico's Hi-Lo country is a beautiful allegory for his love of the men and women of Taos who greatly inspired his passion for writing, art and creativity. Never shy, Evans was a storyteller extraordinaire, and it is fitting that he had one last novel before he took his last ride to meet the great mystery of life.

Here is a sample of Evans's beautiful prose, describing one of his favorite places, Taos, New Mexico, after the sun had set:

The moon had always been impartial. So it was this night, this little special time in history, in Taos, New Mexico. A dog barked just to let the world know he was there. The great sagebrush deserts surrounded the village softened like vast undulations of blue-green cotton, and coyotes voiced one another as far as hearing allowed. Taos, this special little place blessed by many moons, was for a few hours at peace.

UNMPress.edu

READERS' CHOICE: Johnny D. Boggs, *A Thousand Texas Longhorns*, Pinnacle/Kensington



The late Max Evans (right), who died on August 26, 2020, was a great friend and mentor to Johnny D. Boggs (left) as a novelist and historian

(see "What History Has Taught Me" on page 112). It is only fitting then that Evans' last novel, *The King of Taos: A Novel* (University of New Mexico Press), is *True West's* Best Western Fiction book, and Boggs's *A Thousand Texas Longhorns* (Pinnacle/Kensington) is the Readers' Choice for best novel in 2020.

- PHOTO BY ROBERT NOTT -

of Rachel Del Grosso and Lauren Bridges, strongly believes that "much of their growth this year is due to working with serious authors with a proven track record. They write quickly and hit their due dates." His top-selling authors in the past year, including Peter Brandvold, B.N. Rundell, Robert Vaughan, Lane R. Warenski, L.J. Martin, Brent Towns and Ken Pratt, have both solid backlists and produce new Westerns.

WolfpackPublishing.com

READERS' CHOICE: Pinnacle/Kensington Books, New York, NY

WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHING

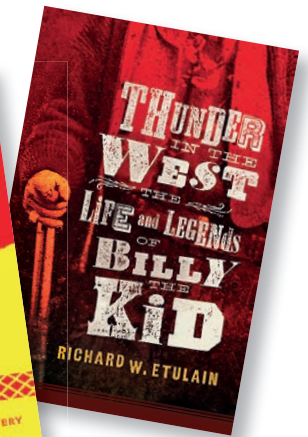
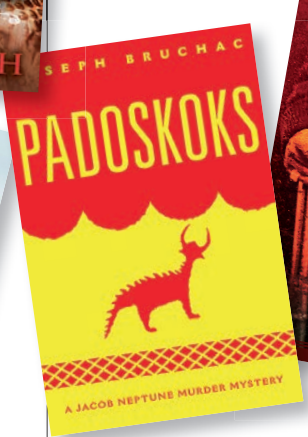
What is the future of Western history publishing, especially for 19th-century history and biography? The future of the genres are equally in the hands of the publishers and the consumers, especially with the non-university commercial imprints. In 2021, we are all beneficiaries of the university presses still publishing 19th-century Western American history titles, and I heartily encourage our readers to support them across the board. On the flip side, commercial publishers of Western history, from the smallest to the largest, are the true future of the genre, and I equally counsel *True West's* readers to subscribe to their catalogs and regularly support them, especially the small imprints across the West. I encourage our readers to seek out their local publishers of Western history at WesternWriters.org and PublishersArchive.com.



BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV

Less than 10 years old, Wolfpack Publishing, founded by veteran author Larry Martin and marketing expert Mike Bray, has rocketed into the forefront of Western fiction publishing with a hybrid combination of new authors, fan-favorite writers and backlists, all published in a hybrid model of e-books and trade paperbacks. Westerns account for more than 60 percent of their catalog. Bray, along with his publishing team



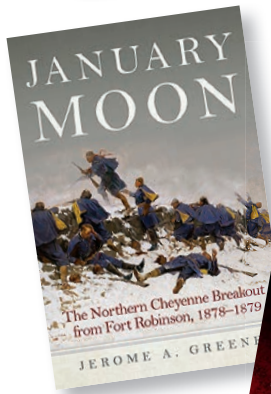


WESTERN BOOKS



Collected Works Bookstore in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has served the literary community of the state capital for over four decades and is a favorite of Western writers for its author events and a favorite with book-buyers for the helpful and knowledgeable staff.

- COURTESY COLLECTED WORKS BOOKSTORE, SANTA FE, NM -



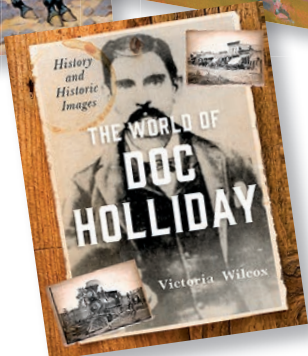
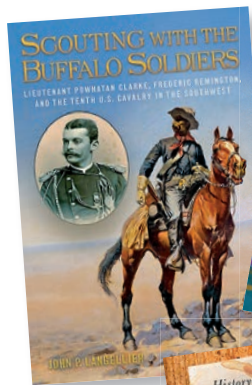
BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER AND UNIVERSITY PRESS

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK

For decades, the University of Oklahoma Press has been the standard-bearer for publishing the history of the 19th-century American West, and in 2020 they continued to excel in the genre well beyond their competitors in university publishing. Two smaller publishers of Western history that Old West fans should continue to pay attention to are the University of North Texas Press and Two Dot, an imprint of Rowman/Littlefield.

OUPRESS.com

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



BOOKSELLING

For many of us, our favorite local bookstore has been long-closed, but in many towns and cities, the independent used and new booksellers that have survived continue to be the cornerstone of the book-buying and collecting community. We, as book consumers, still have an opportunity to support our local bookstores and the independent dealers who are dedicated to their craft and vocation. Many of the successful stores now have a strong internet presence, from their own websites to "storefronts" on ABE.com, Alibris.com and Amazon.com. At the same time, the most successful traditional Western book publishers, including the University of Oklahoma Press, Wolfpack Publishing, Pinnacle/Kensington and Rowman & Littlefield, have doubled-down on the e-book business. For brick-and-mortar bookstore owners, this means customer service, staff knowledge, depth of stock, genre specialization and author events all contribute to the store's viability. So, my challenge to our readers in 2021 is to not overlook local booksellers. They are surviving on your patronage and largesse, and they may just be able to deliver curbside or by mail as fast as any major online company.

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

Collected Works Bookstore, Santa Fe, NM

For over four decades, Collected Works Bookstore in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been the place to find favorite Western titles in fiction and nonfiction. Under the ownership of Dorothy Massey, Collected Works has survived all the ups and downs of the book trade business (including COVID-19 pandemic conditions) and is the city's oldest independent bookstore, a favorite of the

internationally acclaimed literary and arts community. Stop in and browse, ask the expert staff for advice on current books and authors and enjoy a gourmet coffee at the in-store cafe, Iconik Coffee Roasters.

CollectedWorksBookstore.com

READERS' CHOICE: Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, TX



- COURTESY BOB BOZE BELL -

IN MEMORIAM Leon Metz, 1930-2020

By Bob Boze Bell

Leon Metz was a friend of the magazine with a flair for superb storytelling, and he was a formidable force in many arenas (he had his own TV show!). I am honored to have known him, and I believe he still owns the best and certainly the zaniest quote in the Billy the Kid field regarding Wayne Brazel being acquitted for shooting Pat Garrett while the latter was seeing a man about a horse:

"The only time in history a man has been assassinated while urinating that the defendant claimed self-defense."

—Leon Metz



Focus Features' 2020 contemporary Western *Let Him Go* reunited actors Diane Lane and Kevin Costner for the first time since their supporting roles as Superman's parents in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (2016). This is the first time they have been cast opposite each other in a film's leading roles.

— COURTESY FOCUS FEATURES —



WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

BY HENRY C. PARKE

The Year of the Almost Western

Film historians will consider 2020 an anomaly in the history of Western film and television.

The year 2020 was unsatisfying all around, and certainly for Westerns. From a purist point of view, if we strictly define Westerns as taking place in the Western U.S., between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the 20th century, it would be more accurate to say that it is a year of no Westerns at all. Every film, and most of the television programs, require generosity as to either period or locale to be included, although many are well worth seeing. With a COVID-19-shortened theatrical

release year, there are only four 2020 features to point to.

Let Him Go, based on the Larry Winston novel, is set in the 1950s or 1960s—you have to guess based on the cars—in North Dakota, where retired Sheriff George Blackledge (Kevin Costner) and his wife, Margaret (Diane Lane), are crushed first by the death of their son. Then their grandson disappears, when his mother moves with her new husband to live with his off-the-grid Ma Barker-like mother and family. In a town

that's against them, Margaret must use all of her guts and ingenuity to try to rescue their grandson, and is assisted by her husband and a fragile but brave Native youth.

Set in the Yukon Gold Rush of the 1890s, *The Call of the Wild* is also not technically a Western, but it's as close as we get. The film, starring Harrison Ford and directed by animation whiz Chris Sanders, was released at the end of February, weeks before the shutdown. It was a 20th Century Studios production, maybe the last,



Harrison Ford starred as John Thornton in 20th Century–Walt Disney Studios' big-budget reboot of *The Call of the Wild* (below), and it was the first time a leading man in a cinematic adaptation of Jack London's novel did not have a real dog as a costar; this time Buck was created through the magic of CGI.

– COURTESY 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/WALT DISNEY STUDIOS –



Ethan Hawke (above) passionately brought all his acting skills to his poignant (and at times humorous) interpretation of abolitionist John Brown in the Showtime limited series *The Good Lord Bird*.

– COURTESY SHOWTIME –

because the century-old company was absorbed by Disney. Happily, *The Call of the Wild* didn't get too Disneyfied, although lines were looped so that dogs originally said to be killed instead "ran away." While somewhat PC, the film was much closer to Jack London's novel than most of the myriad previous adaptations, partially because CGI'd dogs take direction better than real ones, making it possible to focus on their relationships as much as the human ones.

Kelly Reichardt's *First Cow*, a tale of the frontier days of Oregon, is set too early—the 1820s—but we don't want to split hairs. The sly, leisurely paced and quirky story of a Chinese immigrant and a cook who build a brief empire on filched milk, is very enjoyable, and there is action, but not to the degree that Western fans anticipate. With a few more gags, it could be a Laurel and Hardy film. *First Cow* was doing well on the film festival circuit, and was about to be theatrically released when the theatres shuttered.

It's pre-Civil War, but Cynthia Erivo was nominated for two Oscars for *Harriet*, for Best Actress and Best Song in the biographical film about slave-turned-free woman-turned-abolitionist firebrand Harriet Tubman.

A number of continuing Western-adjacent entertainments aired on television in 2020. There was season three of the Paramount Network's *Yellowstone*. It is a hugely popular series, sprawling in an almost *Cimarron* sense, contemporary, but with beautiful photography and locations, and lots of Western



Reichardt returned to the Western genre with *First Cow*, a small-budget Western set in frontier Oregon, costarring John Magaro (right) as Cookie.

— COURTESY A24 —



Neal McDonough (above) starred as former Union soldier and lawyer John Breaker in the INSP channel's post-Civil War Western, *The Warrant*. McDonough, no stranger to Westerns and action series, most recently had a recurring role in *Yellowstone*'s 2019 season.

— COURTESY INSP TV —



elements, the best being Kevin Costner. The INSP Channel gave us a seventh season of *The Cowboy Way*, contemporary and reality-based, but with the appeal of everyday cowboy work. INSP also produced the contemporary Western movie *Blue Ridge*, starring Graham Greene, as well as perhaps the only period Western TV feature of the year, *The Warrant*, starring Neal McDonough and Casper Van Dien as Civil War allies turned post-war enemies.

Elsewhere on television, much of the pseudo-Western content is too pseudo to satisfy. The title character of Syfy's action-filled *Wynonna Earp*, about Wyatt's great-great-granddaughter, will soon begin her fourth season, but one need not be a purist to feel disconnected from a show where Doc Holliday is not only a vampire, but the father of Earp's child. At the other extreme, Hallmark's *When Calls the Heart* has produced eight seasons of stories revolving around a frontier schoolteacher. But while

the period is right, the setting is Canada, and more importantly, in contrast to *Earp*, nothing happens.

The brightest note on television, and very bright indeed, is the limited series *The Good Lord Bird*, Showtime's often hilarious and enthralling story of abolitionist John Brown, played with a brilliant, demented passion by Ethan Hawke, who surely deserves Emmy consideration. Created by Hawke from the novel by James McBride, it's full of action, surprises and memorable performances. Startlingly, Daveed Diggs, who originated Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson on Broadway in *Hamilton*, portrays Frederick Douglass as a dandy and a fop. It only fails the purists' Western test by being set before, rather than after, the Civil War.

Also of note on TV, the docudrama series *Wild West Chronicles* was seen briefly on INSP, and returns for a full season in 2021. It gets the times and places right, and uses a clever approach. Utilizing Bat Masterson's

own book, *Famous Gunfighters of the Western Frontier*, as a springboard, Masterson tracks down and interviews historical figures, many of whom he knew, before the show segues into the action.

Most notable among the foreign Westerns is Australia's *The True History of the Kelly Gang*, in which George McKay of *1917* stars as the most famous of Bushrangers, Ned Kelly, he of the homemade armor. It's a fascinating and heartbreaking story, and unusually, half of the film is spent in his childhood, in which his mother sells young Ned (Orlando Schwerdt) into an apprenticeship with a highwayman played by Russell Crowe. Oddly, both *Kelly Gang* and *Good Lord Bird* share a preoccupation with crossdressing, and, no, I don't mean "trans issues," since all of those involved are straight men. ❏

True West Film Editor Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter, blogs at HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com and will soon publish *Indians & Cowboys*, a collection of interviews.



WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

BEST 2020 WESTERN MOVIE
Let Him Go (Focus Features)

Grandparents Kevin Costner and Diane Lane battle a deadly backwoods brood to rescue their grandson from his new family.
READERS' CHOICE: *Call of the Wild* (20th Century Studios/Walt Disney Studios)



BEST 2020 TV WESTERN SERIES
The Good Lord Bird (Showtime)

Ethan Hawke mixes equal amounts of genius and insanity in his unforgettable portrayal of abolitionist John Brown, culminating in the raid on Harper's Ferry that arguably triggered the Civil War as much as Fort Sumter.
READERS' CHOICE: *Yellowstone* (Paramount Network)



BEST 2020 TV WESTERN MOVIE
The Warrant (INSP-TV)

In a reverse of the usual casting, Neal McDonough is the lawman chasing his former Union ally Casper Van Dien, whose personal loss has hardened him into a ruthless outlaw.
READERS' CHOICE: *Blue Ridge* (INSP)



- COURTESY INSP TV -

BEST 2020 BLU-RAY WESTERN MOVIE
Destry Rides Again (Criterion)

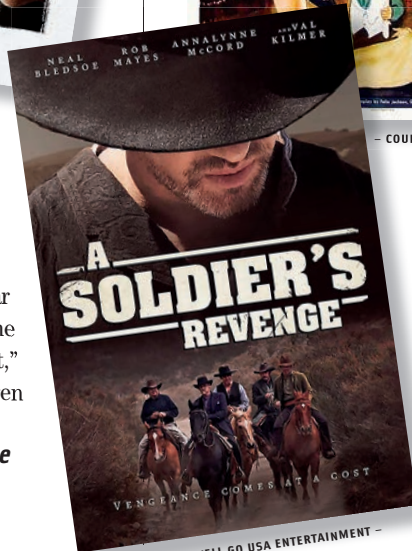
The first Western for both Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart, this Max Brand story made them both stars in the genre. Stewart is the Anglo Zorro, the cowardly son of a great lawman, or so the Brian Donlevys of the world believe. But you know he'll clean up the town his way.
READERS' CHOICE: *Blood on the Moon* (Warner Archive)



- COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES -

BEST 2020 WESTERN TO STREAM
A Soldier's Revenge (Well Go USA Entertainment)

Neal Bledsoe plays a Civil War vet who is forced to overcome what was then "soldier's heart," now PTSD, to help two children rescue their captive mother.
READERS' CHOICE: *Hell on the Border* (Lionsgate)



- COURTESY WELL GO USA ENTERTAINMENT -



WESTERN MOVIES

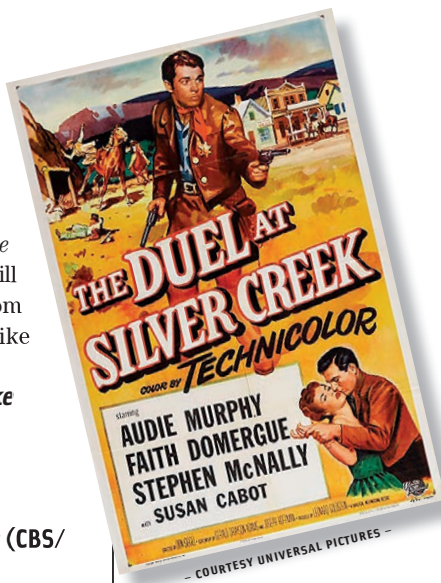
DVDs & TV SHOWS

BEST 2020 WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

The Audie Murphy Collection
(Kino Lorber)

With *The Duel at Silver Creek*, *Ride a Crooked Trail*, and *No Name on the Bullet*, Murphy shows his skill at a wide range of roles, from traditional hero, to *Maverick*-like scamp, to the Devil himself.

READERS' CHOICE: *The Gunsmoke Movies* (Paramount)



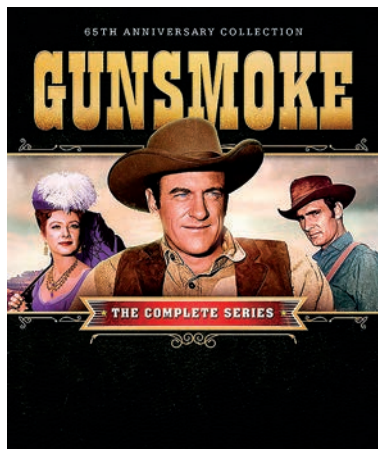
— COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES —

BEST 2020 TV DVD

Gunsmoke: The Complete Series (CBS/Paramount)

Marking the 65th anniversary of the best Westerns series in television, this 143-disc, 635-episode collection is beyond question the home-video release of the year, and probably for years to come.

READERS' CHOICE: *Bonanza—The Official 11th Season* (CBS/Paramount)



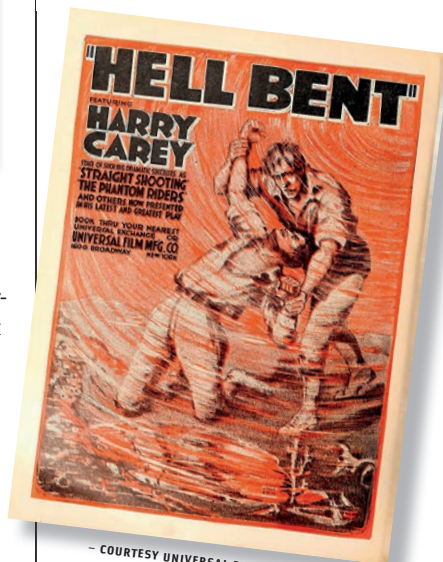
— COURTESY CBS TELEVISION —

BEST 2020 SILENT WESTERN

Hell Bent – 1918 (Kino Lorber)

With this unbelievably pristine 102-year-old Harry Carey Sr. Western, director Jack Ford (not yet John) demonstrates his unique storytelling skills as Harry tries to save a good dance-hall girl from bad men—including her shiftless brother!

READERS' CHOICE: *The Arizona Express—1924* (Alpha Video)



— COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES —



— COURTESY RO*CO —

BEST 2020 WESTERN DOCUMENTARY

Cowboys (RO*CO)

Filmed for two years in ten states, on eight outfits that each cover over 100,000 acres, *Cowboys* is a fond but unflinching look at the day-to-day, season-to-season life of working cowboys on vast ranches, as told by filmmakers who've had considerable personal experience as working cowhands.

READERS' CHOICE: *Good Ol' Girl* (Tal Vez Entertainment)



— COURTESY SHOUT FACTORY —

BEST 2020 FOREIGN WESTERN

True History of the Kelly Gang—Australia (Shout Factory)

The tragic and fascinating life of Australia's Jesse James, Ned Kelly, is laid bare, from the cruel and exploitive treatment of his Irish immigrant family at the hands of the British-run government, to his hate-filled mother who compelled his life of crime.

READERS' CHOICE: *Full of Noise and Pain—Argentina* (Galloping Entertainment)



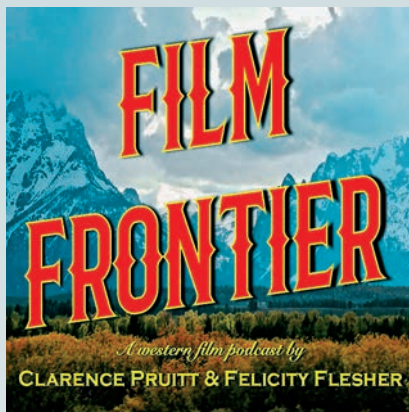
BEST OF THE WESTERN PODCASTS

Old West "radio-style" shows entertain a broad audience and age group.

Our current shut-in culture has led to an explosion of podcasts, including those that cater to the varied interests of Western fans. If your taste runs to classic old-time radio, you can find thousands of shows searching by title on the internet, on a podcast app or on YouTube.



— COURTESY HOW THE WEST WAS 'CAST' —



— COURTESY FILMFRONTIER.PODBEAN.COM —



— COURTESY BLACKBARREL MEDIA.COM —

A new dramatic Western radio show, *Powder Burns*, created by David Gregory, is the story of a sheriff blinded in a hunting accident—or was it?—that also killed his son. Guest-stars include Ed Asner and *The Magnificent 7*'s Robert Vaughn.

On the erudite *How the West Was 'Cast*, hosted by Film Professor Andrew Patrick Nelson and screenwriter Matthew Chernov, the topics range from The Top Westerns of Kirk Douglas to an interview with *Ballad of Lefty Brown* director Jared Moshe, to a reassessment of 1981's *The Legend of The Lone Ranger*.

Felicity Flesher and Clarence Pruitt host *Film Frontier*, and their eclectic interest in Westerns runs the gamut from Tom Mix's silent *The Great K&A Train Robbery* to Alex Cox's recent *Tombstone Rashomon*.

The hosts of *Six-Gun Justice*, "word-slingers" Paul Bishop and Richard Prosch, focus on pulpy paperbacks, TV series and movies, and have dedicated shows to *Maverick*, sidekicks and the varied versions of the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral.

Genre experts Tom Betts and Jay Jennings created *Once Upon A Time in Spaghetti Westerns*, a video podcast on YouTube that features such inside topics as underrated Spaghetti Western directors, alternate titles and an interview with EuroWestern star Robert Woods.

An outgrowth of the late Arizona political legend Emil Franz's radio show, *Voices of the West* is based in Tucson. The hosts, stuntman Steve "Bunker" deFrance, Todd Roberts and Harry Alexander, recently discussed the paintings of Charlie Russell, the threatened closing of Old Tucson Studios, and had *High Chaparral* star Don Collier on for a 92nd birthday celebration.

And for true stories of Western history, *Legends of the Old West* host Chris Wimmer recently presented with movie-quality audio production a five-chapter history of Dodge City, and a look at Western writer and character Ned Buntline.



— COURTESY SIXGUNJUSTICE.COM —



— COURTESY VOICESOFTHEWEST.NET —

Sweetheart of

While Diane Lane was not new to Westerns when she was cast as Lorena Wood in 1989's groundbreaking television mini-series *Lonesome Dove*, her role permanently defined her as one of the greatest and most beloved heroines of Western film and television.

— COURTESY WITLIFF COLLECTIONS/MOTOWN AND CBS —

In an exclusive interview, Diane Lane talks about her latest Western, leading men, directors and hope for the next chance to ride on screen.

Let Him Go may be the most remarkable female-driven Western since Joan Crawford and Mercedes McCambridge came to blows in 1954's *Johnny Guitar*, but even its star is a little tentative on the genre. "What is the criteria for a Western?" Diane Lane asks. "Is there a horse in it? Is it the zip code? Is it the time frame? This film, I think, qualifies; we have several boxes checked."

Lane plays Margaret Blackledge, who is married to retired lawman husband Kevin Costner, and is thrilled—and a little overbearing—to be a grandparent. The couple's son is killed in a farm accident, and after their daughter-in-law (Kayli Carter) remarries, the Blackledges have little contact with their grandson—then *no* contact when overnight the three move away to live in the boondocks with the husband's criminal family, dominated by nightmarish matriarch Blanche Weboy (Lesley Manville). The Blackledges must fight tooth and nail—on the ground, not the courts—to save the boy.

"I hoped (writer/director) Thomas Bezucha could picture me in this character because she was a grandmother, and I understood this internal struggle of trying to get through something emotionally that

you're not ready to do. The fact that that issue is the propellant for the plot is pretty unusual." With a laugh, she added, "Also, any excuse to get on a horse is good for me. It's wonderful. The only time I really got to [ride] was in *Cattle Annie and Little Britches*, when I was a kid. And once again in *The Virginian* with Bill Pullman for TNT. I think of horses as more than animals, probably because they interact with us so much. There's a special sensibility and sensitivity; I suppose they have to, because they're defenseless: all they can do is run."

Lane made her screen debut in 1979 at age 13, co-starring with Laurence Olivier in *A Little Romance*. In *Cattle Annie and Little Britches* a year later, playing Little Britches to Amanda Plummer's Annie, she was excited because her character "was based on a true young woman, Jennie Stevenson, who really did run off with her friend, and they really did cohort and assist the Doolin-Dalton gang."

She had another great, older leading man on Universal's *Cattle Annie*. "To work with Burt Lancaster was just epic. Sometimes [director Lamont Johnson] and Burt would really get into it. There was one time everybody had to go to their trailers—we had to call a



Diane Lane was no stranger to starring opposite strong leading men, but the on-screen chemistry between Lane and Robert Duvall's Gus McCrae remains one of the most memorable—and heartbreaking—Western romances in the genre's history.

— COURTESY MOTOWN PRODUCTIONS/CBS TELEVISION —

15-minute cool-off period between the star and the director. We were down in Durango, Mexico, on John Wayne's ranch, which is vast, like a county. It was Amanda Plummer's first film. What a debut! She was just the personification of a pistol. We had so many wonderful actors; John Savage, Scott Glenn."

Eight years later Lane played her defining role in the Western genre as Lorena Wood to Robert Duvall's Gus McCrae, in the miniseries *Lonesome Dove*, widely considered the best made-for-television Western of all time; some say the best Western, period. "That's right; Lori Darlin'. Something magical happened there between the page and the screenplay and the performance and the audience that was... in bowling, it's a strike. Larry McMurtry won the Pulitzer Prize, rightfully so. It was brave

Lonesome Dove



While Diane Lane was only 14 years old when she was cast as Jenny aka "Little Britches," she was no stranger to costarring in an ensemble or filmmaking on location. Shot in Durango, Mexico, *Cattle Annie and Little Britches* was Lane's third film; she was part of a cast that included Scott Glenn, Amanda Plummer, Burt Lancaster and Buck Taylor.

- COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES -

writing, tough writing. The fact that [teleplay writer] Bill Whitliff didn't win the Emmy for bringing it to the screen blew my mind."

Tommy Lee Jones delivers his most dour performance, and Duvall his most delightful. "Robert was in character the whole time, but I didn't know it. When it came time to promote the piece, I hadn't seen him for quite some time, and looked at him and I thought, who is that? And what have you done with Gus? Because he was the actor, not the character. I had so much fun with Gus, but that lives forever on film."

In her next miniseries, *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, Lane played the child-bride of 50-year-old Donald Sutherland, who was a soldier at 13 in the Civil War. Lane plays her for the first half-century, and Anne Bancroft plays her preparing to turn 100. "Getting to work with Donald Sutherland was amazing, and Bancroft was fascinating. The only sad part was that we never had any scenes together. I had just had my daughter like three weeks before I was in front of the camera. I was trying to breastfeed and be in a corset. I thought the challenge was so exciting, and I'm glad I did it, but it was kind of a blur."

In 1995's *Wild Bill*, Walter Hill cast Lane in the brief but central role of the woman who ruins the life of Jeff Bridges' Hickok. She's only seen in dreams. "Walter was experimenting with different film stocks and lenses, trying to give the sense of what is a flashback, a premonition, an opium-addled memory. I don't always mention it,



Diane Lane, oft-overlooked for nominations and awards for her Westerns, was the recipient of a Western Heritage Award for her role as Molly Stark, opposite Bill Pullman's title role, in the 2000 television movie *The Virginian*.

- COURTESY TNT -

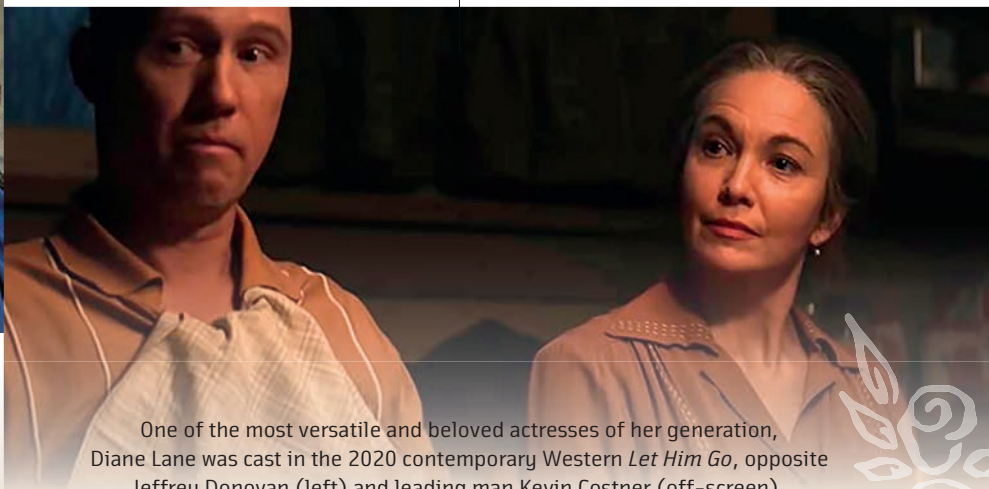
because I don't think people know I'm in it."

Having completed *Let Him Go*, would Lane be interested in doing another Western? "Oh, I would love to. I just want to find material that allows me to be who I am and where I'm at in my life right now. They say we [actresses] have one season: we get spring. That's not so true anymore, but it's always good to keep reminding people that there's a lot more to mine out of somebody besides what God gave them when they were under 25, you know?"



In one of Diane Lane's lesser-known Westerns, she plays Susannah Moore, a love-interest seen mostly in dream sequences opposite leading man Jeff Bridges in the title role of Walter Hill's 1995 *Wild Bill*.

- COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS -



One of the most versatile and beloved actresses of her generation, Diane Lane was cast in the 2020 contemporary Western *Let Him Go*, opposite Jeffrey Donovan (left) and leading man Kevin Costner (off-screen).

- COURTESY FOCUS FEATURES -



The West Beckons Adventurers

Spontaneity and flexibility should be the maxim of travelers to the Western U.S. in 2021.

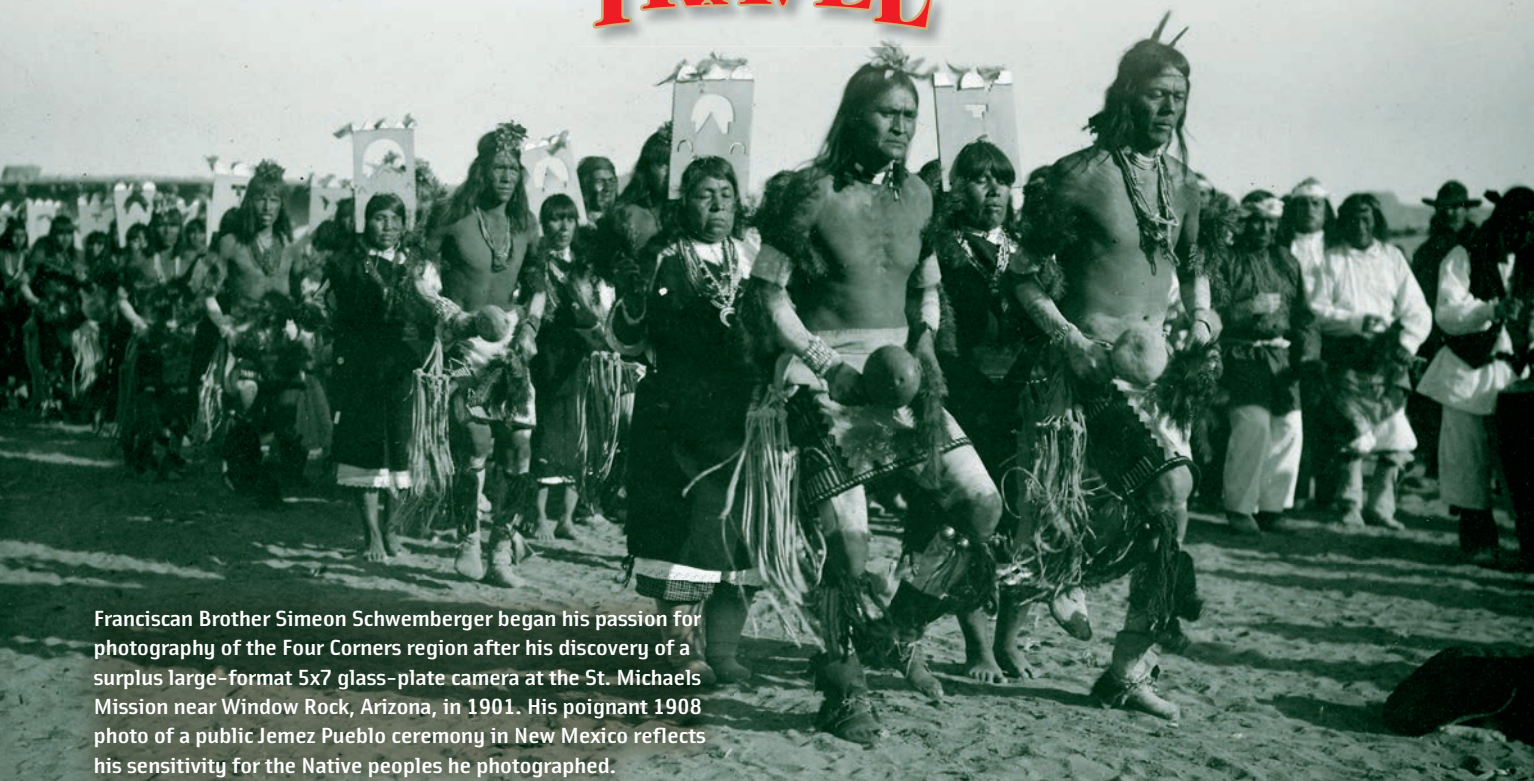
For millions of would-be travelers to the American West, 2020 will be remembered as the year that might have been. For those who did venture out West this past year, spontaneity and flexibility were the watchwords for successful heritage travel experiences. While many museums, restaurants, saloons, historic sites, parks, lodges and hotels are still following ever-changing safety guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, intrepid Western travelers quickly realize great photo opportunities, hikes, roadside rests and spontaneous, seize-the-moment experiences.

While traveling during the pandemic last summer, we quickly appreciated the spontaneity of our route West: from the grassy plains of Kansas's Flint Hills; meeting fellow travelers from Iowa in front of Dodge City's Boot Hill Museum; a respite at Great Bend, Kansas's Santa Fe Trail monument; delicious home-style Mexican food at Vero Tacos in Hugoton, Kansas; the kindness of a Good Samaritan gas-station

owner opening his rest rooms as he was closing at midnight in Clayton, New Mexico; and the Las Vegas homeowner who made us a special deal on his Airbnb. Each of these experiences might seem small, but when remembered together, the Western travel adventure is as rich and rewarding as a weekend in a five-star resort.

True West's annual Best of the West Travel honorees are the dedicated men and women across the West who have worked hard to keep the welcoming spirit of Western hospitality alive in their communities for today's and tomorrow's generations. Without their passion and dedication to their community heritage—a true partnership we at *True West* are honored to recognize—much of our history would be lost. We encourage you to plan your next trip, knowing full well that “spontaneity and flexibility” will need to be your traveling mantra as you head on down the Western trail to make memories of a lifetime. —Stuart Rosebrook

HERITAGE TRAVEL



Franciscan Brother Simeon Schwemberger began his passion for photography of the Four Corners region after his discovery of a surplus large-format 5x7 glass-plate camera at the St. Michael's Mission near Window Rock, Arizona, in 1901. His poignant 1908 photo of a public Jemez Pueblo ceremony in New Mexico reflects his sensitivity for the Native peoples he photographed.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



YES, WE'RE REALLY THAT DIFFERENT

From the places and the people, to the feeling and the attitude, we offer a variety definitely worth the visit.

To plan your next adventure, visit StJoMo.com





HERITAGE TRAVEL



Native Western artisans, such as this Zuni potter photographed by Edward S. Curtis in 1903, are appreciated for their timeless craft, born out of ancient necessities and now an acclaimed artform that is collected, curated and studied.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

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

Prescott, AZ

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

READERS’ CHOICE: Amarillo, TX

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

Cody, WY

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

CodyChamber.org

READERS’ CHOICE: Pendleton, OR

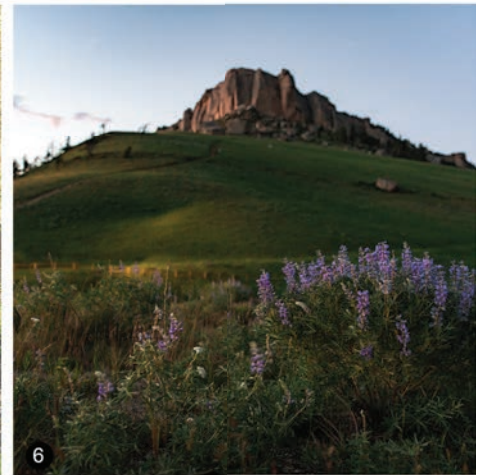
BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN

Deadwood, SD

Put on your boots and hat and walk on down Deadwood’s historic Main Street and enjoy famous restaurants, museums, saloons, shops and haunted hotel tours at the Historic Bullock Hotel and the Historic Fairmont Hotel and Oyster Bay Bar. In the summer, don’t miss the *Trial of Jack McCall* drama, six nights a week, and the Deadwood Alive’s Main Street Shows and Shootouts. Learn more about the infamous gunfighters, shady characters, ladies of the night and lawmen who made Deadwood famous at the Adams Museum.

Deadwood.com

READERS’ CHOICE: Tombstone, AZ



Sheridan
COUNTY, WYOMING, USA.

1. ROAD TRIPPING THE ICONIC BIGHORN MOUNTAINS 2. A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS WITH SHERIDAN TENT & AWNING IN THE NORTHERN BIGHORNS 3. SIBLEY LAKE RECREATION AREA 4. AN EVENING PADDLING PARK RESERVOIR 5. EXPERIENCES ON HORSEBACK WITH DOUBLE RAFTER CATTLE DRIVES 6. STEAMBOAT POINT AT SUNSET FROM THE BIGHORN SCENIC BYWAY

Wyoming was purpose-built for social distancing. There are more deer and antelope than people 'round these parts, and you won't hear many folks complain about that. We've all got our own spaces, but we love to explore the public ones we share, and we don't mind sharing some of them with strangers. After all, our Bighorn backyard is a wild, untamed realm of endless adventure. With our new streaming webseries titled *The Backyard*, we hope to show everyone beyond the borders of Wyoming what makes the great outdoors special, and why the Bighorns are the ultimate playground for those who choose to go outside and play. In this wild time of social distancing, distrust, and disbelief, we believe that the mountains can bring us closer together, and that there is no place in the world more authentic. Is there a more spectacular experience than backpacking into a part of the Bighorn National Forest

that you have never seen before? We. Think. Not. Each and every trip into these mountains offers blissful solitude, and a respite from the hustle of everyday life. We have worked hard to present some of our backyard's most epic hikes, legendary attractions, national historic landmarks, and much more. With two feet and a heartbeat we hiked and backpacked into uncharted territory in the Bighorn National Forest and shared the stories of some of the most iconic locations in the region. We took a step back into history and experienced Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming firsthand. We kayaked pristine rivers, paraglided from perilous peaks, sussed out outlaw history, and stargazed at the brightest night skies in America. Yeah, there is a metaphor tucked in there somewhere. It was only a matter of time before the clouds broke over 2020. We hope that you have had a chance to see some of these episodes, and that you will continue to celebrate Sheridan County with us as we look ahead to producing Season 2. This time, we plan on

delving deep into centuries of Indian storytelling, diving headlong into local craft culture, and touching the heart of Sheridan's creative community. We also know that it has never been more important to know that you will be safe when you explore Bighorn Mountain Country. While Wyoming is the perfect place for socially-distanced escapes, we will do what we can to keep you informed, and up to date, on any COVID-19 related news and information, travel rules or restrictions, or local health and safety advisories. We believe that the road to recovery from this pandemic begins right here in *The Backyard*, so you can count on us to provide you with information that matters. We hope that you will stay safe, and that our local businesses will continue to benefit by welcoming you to our community. For more information, please visit us at www.sheridanwyoming.org

EXPLORE BIGHORN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

The world comes out west expecting to see cowboys driving horses through the streets of downtown; pronghorn butting heads on windswept bluffs; clouds encircling the towering pinnacles of the Cloud Peak Wilderness; and endless expanses of wild, open country. These are some of the fibers that have been stitched together over time to create the patchwork quilt of Sheridan County's identity, each part and parcel to the Wyoming experience. Toss in a historic downtown district, with western allure, hospitality and good graces to spare; a vibrant art scene; bombastic craft culture; a robust festival and events calendar; and living history on every corner, and you have a Wyoming experience unlike anything you could have ever imagined. This is Sheridan County, the beating heart of Bighorn Mountain Country.





Comanches.

HERITAGE TRAVEL

Frontier photographer William S. Soule had serendipitously set up his studio at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, during the Indian Wars of the 1870s, and his portraits of the Plains tribal people, including these Comanche women, are considered some of the best record of the era. Today, travelers interested in learning more about the former "Lords of the Plains" should tour the Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center in Lawton, Oklahoma.

- WILLIAM S. SOULE, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

BEST PRESERVED RE-CREATED PIONEER TOWN Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS

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

OldCowtown.org

READERS' CHOICE: Museum of the Mountain West, Montrose, CO

Come discover the Sonoran Desert in Cave Creek

Enjoy over 5,000 acres of open space for hiking, biking and horseback riding. All just 10 minutes North of Phoenix.

The Ultimate Desert Experience!

For more information visit www.cavecreekaz.gov/tourism





BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

Santa Fe, NM

Over the decades, the oldest state capital in the United States has become both a haven for writers and artists as well as an international tourist destination known for its historic ambiance, gourmet restaurants, elegant lodging, top-rated museums and world-class art galleries. Art events that should be on everyone's bucket list include the Santa Fe Society of Artists' Outdoor Fine Arts Shows, Santa Fe Studio Tour, Santa Fe Opera, International Folk Art Market, Traditional Spanish Market, Indian Market and the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival.

SantaFe.org

READERS' CHOICE: Fort Smith, AR



Two Blackfoot women and a child with a horse and traditional travois are bundled up against the chill of the Montana winter. The woman on the left is shrouded in a wool trade blanket, possibly a Pendleton or Hudson's Bay.

- RICHARD ERDOES COLLECTION, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

HISTORY. LEGENDS & LORE

10+ MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

.....

VISIT CARBON COUNTY

wyomingcarboncounty.com









Travel Responsibly:
travelwyoming.com/wy-responsibly

CARBON COUNTY
 WYOMING

GET YOUR WEST ON

Sponsored by the
 Carbon County Visitors' Council



Sporting heavy-duty batwing chaps, a Navajo cowboy, circa 1920s, is all tacked up on his Navajo pony and ready to ride round-up in the rough, high-desert country around Ganado, Arizona. Cowboying is still a way of life across the Navajo Nation today, and visitors should consider attending the July 4th Celebration and Rodeo held every year in Window Rock, Arizona.

- FREDERIC WILLIAMS, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT

Deadwood, SD

During the summertime, Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the busiest, fun-filled cities in the West. With gunfights and the *Trial of Jack McCall* six days a week, plus entertaining living history programs in Outlaw Square, visitors are guaranteed to catch some Old West action most days. Every summer the city also hosts Wild Bill Days and '76 Days, including two parades and its award-winning rodeo in the historic Days of '76 Arena. In the fall, ticketed stagecoach rides, weather permitting, are offered on the half-hour from the Celebrity Hotel from noon to 5 p.m.

Deadwood.com

READERS' CHOICE: Sheridan, WY

White Stallion Ranch

Welcome to the family...

You'll immediately be welcomed to the ranch family, making lifelong friends while exploring the Sonoran Desert by horseback.

Tucson, Arizona
www.whitestallion.com



Rancho de la Osa

Become a part of history...

Rancho de la Osa is Arizona's most historic ranch. Ride the trails frequented by U. S. Presidents, movie stars and other dignitaries.

Sasabe, Arizona
www.ranchodelaosa.com

TOMBSTONE MONUMENT RANCH

Live your wild west dreams...

Ride into America's most iconic cowboy town, Tombstone, AZ. Then return to the ranch's saloon and spend your evening like a true cowboy.

Tombstone, Arizona
www.tombstonemonumentranch.com



COPPER QUEEN HOTEL
11 HOWELL AVE., BISBEE, AZ
The Copper Queen Hotel, located in Old Bisbee, first opened her doors in 1902. Walking through the front doors, you feel as if you have stepped back in time, yet all 52 rooms have been remodeled with modern day conveniences. Take a swim in our pool. Enjoy a cold libation or a locally brewed beverage in our Saloon. The Hotel has been featured on Ghost Hunters and Ghost Adventures.
(520) 432-2216 - copperqueen.com



BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN

Oatman, AZ

Historic Oatman sits astride Old Route 66 in the Black Mountains of Arizona's Mojave County. Well-known as a popular Old West tourist destination, Oatman started in the 1860s as a gold-mining camp that did not hit major paydirt until the early 20th century. While the town boomed for close to a decade, a major fire hit the town in 1921, burning many of the gold camp's original buildings. Two Oatman buildings on the National Register of Historic Places are the 1902 two-story adobe Oatman Hotel (originally The Durlin) and the 1915 Oatman Drug Company. Visitors strolling the boardwalks of the frontier-styled storefronts with the city's famous burros will quickly discover an Old West ambience that harkens to Arizona's legendary mining past.

VisitArizona.com

READERS' CHOICE: South Pass City, WY

The Hopi people of northeastern Arizona live in some of the oldest continually inhabited communities in North America. Their signature adobe-stone pueblos are located on three mesas, including Old Oraibi on First Mesa, founded sometime before 1100 A.D. Visitors to the Hopi Nation should begin at the Hopi Cultural Center on Second Mesa and inquire about guided tours, public events and rules for visiting the pueblo community.

- EDWARD S. CURTIS, CIRCA 1906-07, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -



All Aboard!
The Far-Famed Georgetown Loop
Historic Mining & Railroad Park

A partnership of



and
Historic Rail
Adventures



A TRAIN FOR ALL SEASONS AND OCCASIONS

www.GeorgetownLoopRR.com

888-456-6777



HERITAGE TRAVEL



Western Nebraska like you've never seen it.

Visit Nebraska's Landmark Country.

Bob Wagner Photography



800-788-9475 | NebraskaLandmarkCountry.com

Museums, History, & Culture Russell County, Kansas

Oil Patch Museum



Fossil Station Museum



Deines Cultural Center



Bowl Plaza



A Fairport Knight



Wilson Lake



Quality Hotels & RV Parks • Unique Shopping/Eating • Epic Trails • Lake Wilson • Scenic Byway

Russell County Eco Devo & CVB
877-830-3737

www.russellcountyks.org



Hunkpapa Sioux Chief Crow fought against Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn. One of Sitting Bull's leaders, Crow accompanied the chief and the Lakota people who found refuge in Canada from 1877-81. For a deeper understanding of the Great Sioux War and the aftermath of Custer's defeat, visit Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

- COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIB1_00011_07150, D. F. BARRY, "CROW, HUNKPAPA LAKOTA," DATE UNKNOWN -

BEST LIVING HISTORY FARM MUSEUM

Grand Encampment Museum, WY

A hands-on living history experience tells the story of early town-building in Nebraska. For 40-plus years, the world-class educational center and outdoor living history museum, called a "crossroads in time," has given visitors from around the

world an authentic glimpse of frontier Nebraska prairie town life, while preserving and portraying the pioneers' inspiring stories of life on the Great Plains.

StuhrMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE: Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site, Olathe, KS

BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

St. Joseph, MO

St. Jo takes a great deal of pride in its rich and storied heritage and role as a gateway to the West. The chamber has helped develop ways for visitors to discover the city's great history through architectural tours of downtown, walking tours of the city, driving tours of its museums (don't miss the Pony Express National, Patee House and Jesse James Home museums) and individual specialized tours available at the Historic St. Joseph Emporium.

StJoMo.com

READERS' CHOICE: Lavender Jeep Tours, Bisbee, AZ

BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

Dodge City, KS

Visitors to Dodge City, Kansas, will quickly discover that the infamous frontier outpost is one of best in the West for Old West aficionados. From the Boot Hill Museum to the Dodge City Trail of Fame, tourists will love walking and exploring the historic town while staying at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort. Summertime guests who buy the Marshal Pass can also attend the daily World Famous Gunfight, Country Style Dinner and the Long Branch Saloon Variety Show.

VisitDodgeCity.org

READERS' CHOICE: Deadwood, SD

BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN

Tombstone, AZ

Tombstone, in Cochise County in southeastern Arizona, is within driving distance of multiple historic towns and sites, including Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista and Wilcox. "The town too tough to die," with its historically significant downtown, restaurants, saloons, shops, museums, hotels and annual Old West festivals, is the ideal Western town to live in if you want to live and breathe Western history 365 days of the year.

TombstoneChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE: Prescott, AZ

John Wayne Birthplace Museum

The only museum in the world dedicated to John Wayne.

205 South John Wayne Drive • Winterset, Iowa 50273 USA
Toll-Free (877)-462-1044 • www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum

MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST
MONTROSE, COLORADO
RICHARD E. FIKE, FOUNDER

VOTED "BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN" & "BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR"

970.240.3400 | MUSEUMOFTHEMOUNTAINWEST.ORG



HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD OF THE WEST

Georgetown Loop Railroad, Georgetown, CO

Built in 1884, Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad is one of the engineering wonders of the Rocky Mountain state's historic narrow-gauge rail lines. Passengers will enjoy the thrill of riding on historic rolling stock pulled by a steam-driven locomotive across the new High Bridge. Many specialty trains are planned throughout the season. After the exciting highline rail trip, enjoy a mine tour, gold panning and a tour of historic Georgetown. Check regularly with the railroad for changes in the schedule to COVID restrictions.

GeorgetownLoopRR.com

READERS' CHOICE: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO

BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE" HOTEL

The Occidental, Buffalo, WY

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

OccidentalWyoming.com

READERS' CHOICE: Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, Cody, WY



COME EXPLORE THE NEW DALTON DEFENDERS & COFFEYVILLE HISTORY MUSEUM!




WWW.VISITCOFFEYVILLE.COM

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OGALLALA, NE

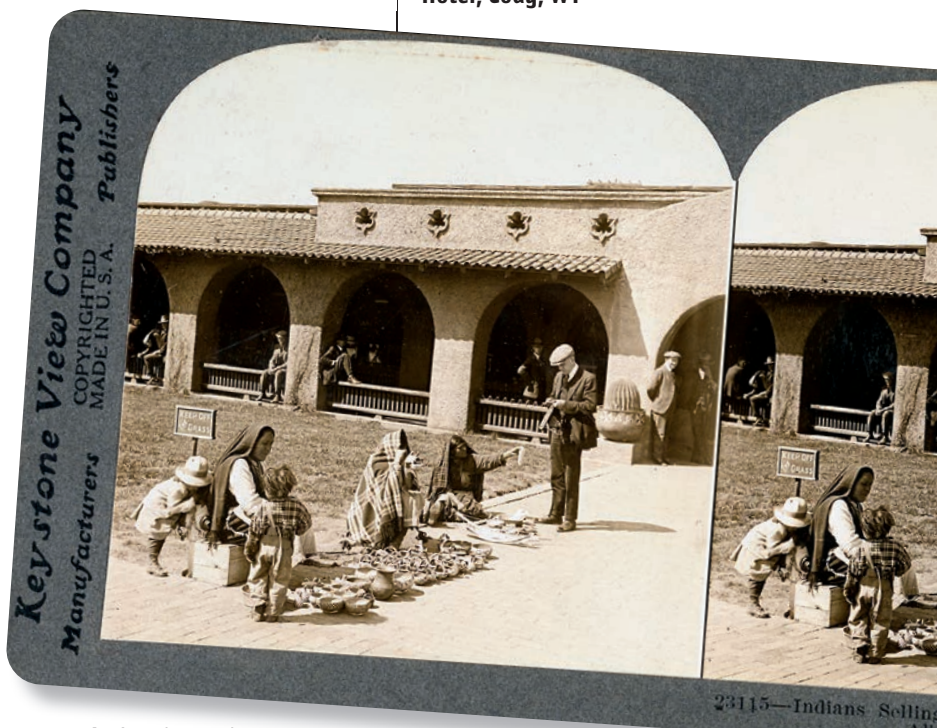


Enjoy the stories of Ogallala's colorful past at OgallalaTrails.com



Call (800) 658-4390 for a free Visitor's Packet.

OgallalaTrails.com
Sponsored by the Keith County Visitors Committee



Native peoples' trade goods have been part of the New Mexico economy since Spanish times, but after the Santa Fe Railway and the Fred Harvey Company began building rail stations and promoting tourism across the Land of Enchantment in the 1880s, Indian artisans have found visitors to the state eager regular buyers of their jewelry, pottery, basketry and textiles.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

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

Strater.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, CO/ Copper Queen, Bisbee, AZ



Ski Swim Stay

Colorado's best ski package is back! Stay at the historic Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, hit the slopes at Sunlight Mountain Resort and soak in the world famous Glenwood Hot Springs.

Package includes:

- Individual Ski Lift Tickets to Sunlight Mountain
- Adult Pool Passes to Glenwood Hot Springs
- Kids 5 and under ski **FREE**
- Shuttle service to the mountain and we're just a short walk to the pool!



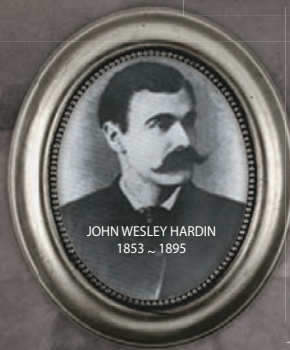
Call 800.544.3998 to book or visit hotelcolorado.com

Package available December 11, 2020 – April 4, 2021. Each guest will receive a lift ticket and pool pass at check-in. Some restrictions and blackout dates may apply.



Concordia Cemetery

History To Die For...



Visit one of Texas' most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the state.

Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.

Veterans from the War of 1812 through recent conflicts, as well as "The World's Tallest Man," reside in permanency.

Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia.

Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin - August 21, 2021 at 6 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise—and on October 16, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for the annual "Walk Through History."

Exciting Monthly night time Ghost Tours held Saturday nights, 8-10pm. Check website or Facebook for dates:

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

Don't miss Dia De Los Muertos; Day of the Dead, November 6, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours, shrines, exhibits and more.

**915-842-8200 • ConcordiaCemetery.org • Facebook/concordiacemetery.
3700 East Yandell • El Paso, Texas**



Art of the Bighorns



E. William (Bill) Gollings
Wrangling Horses on the A

Historic Ranch
Exquisite Indian Art
Leather Workshop



The
Brinton
Museum

239 Brinton Rd • Big Horn, WY
TheBrintonMuseum.org

History ~ Antiques ~ Fossils
Out Door Adventures
Unique Shopping

Where History & Progress Meet

SCOTT CITY
EST. 1885



www.visitscottcity.com

620.872.5612
Scott City, KS



Kiowa chief Lone Wolf (Gui'pago) and his wife had their portrait made in 1863 at Matthew Brady's studio while in Washington, D.C., for peace negotiations between Southern Plains tribes and the U.S. government. Although the Little Arkansas Treaty was signed two years later, peace was fleeting on the Southern Plains, and Lone Wolf eventually was incarcerated as a prisoner of war in Florida. Learn more about the history and heritage of the Plains tribes at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in the District of Columbia.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

BEST DUDE RANCH OF THE WEST

The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch, Shell, WY

Located east of Greybull, Wyoming, in Shell Valley near the entrance of awe-inspiring Shell Canyon, the Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch operates on a 100-year-old cattle ranch. The lodge is well known for its Old West cabins, casitas and homes,

relaxing Western atmosphere, gourmet meals, well-trained horses, dramatic trail riding and a great variety of non-riding activities, including wilderness photography, scenic tours, fly-fishing and hiking.

TheHideout.com

READERS' CHOICE: Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Co., Tombstone, AZ

HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST HERITAGE BED & BREAKFAST

Rancho de la Osa, Sasabe, AZ

Three centuries of history await discovery at Rancho de la Osa, a high-desert retreat just north of the Sonora, Mexico, border. Located on a Spanish land grant, the guest ranch has on its site, according to ranch records, "the oldest continually used building that was built at the Indian village around 1720 by Jesuit missionaries who had traveled with Father Kino (Kino died in 1711)." The ranch retreat has been popular with dignitaries, celebrities and politicians since noted archaeologist Louise Wetherill opened it in 1926. All-inclusive dude ranch packages include lodging, dining and horseback riding.

RanchoDeLaOsa.com

READERS' CHOICE: Michael's Mansion, Fort Smith, AR

BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch, Winston, NM

Looking for a great Old West escape from the day-to-day grind? Want to relax in one of the most scenic and historic regions of New Mexico? Then take the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway to the Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch, south of Beaverhead in southwest New Mexico. Located in the heart of the mountains of the Gila National Forest, the unique guest ranch offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in a relaxing Western experience with first-class accommodations. Guided trail rides take guests into the canyons and mountains to explore the Mimbres cultural sites adjacent to the ranch.

GeronimoRanch.com

READERS' CHOICE: White Stallion Ranch, Tucson, AZ

Fort Smith ARKANSAS

STAR of the WESTERN FRONTIER



U.S. MARSHALS MUSEUM



ART BY BICICLETA SEM FREIO



MISS LAURA'S VISITOR CENTER

#ExperienceFortSmith



A & M EXCURSION TRAIN



FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



PARK AT WEST END

Relive history at the gateway to the American West and home of the U.S. Marshals Museum! Explore the majesty of the Ozarks by train. Discover world-renowned public art and more...Experience Fort Smith!

EXPERIENCEFORTSMITH.COM | [f @ExperienceFortSmith](https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceFortSmith) [i @ExpFortSmith](https://www.instagram.com/ExperienceFortSmith) [p @ExpFortSmith](https://www.pinterest.com/ExperienceFortSmith)

Call (800) 637-1477 | Email info@experiencefs.com | Visitor Center - 2 N. B St.



OPEN: Memorial Weekend - Early October
Tuesday-Saturday: 9am-5pm &
Sundays Noon-4pm
Admission by Donation

Come tour historic buildings dating back to the Copper Boom Era from the early 1890's to 1920.



Experience the struggles and triumphs of people who braved the challenges of the West.

- 15 Historic Buildings
- Aerial Mining
- Tramway Segment
- Two-Story Outhouse
- Original S&E Caboose
- Fire Lookout Tower
- GEM's Research Library
- Lora Webb Nicholas Collection

True West History Symposium at the GEM of Southern Wyoming, date TBD in 2021
FOR MORE 2021 EVENTS PLEASE CHECK WWW.GEMUSEUM.COM

807 Barnett Ave. • Encampment, WY 82325
307-327-5308 • GEMDirector@GEMuseum.com
www.GEMuseum.com

COME VISIT A HISTORIC SITE



Riding Proud!
Recipient of the Traveler's Choice & True West awards

Safety guidelines in effect for your protection

Adults: \$7.00 Seniors: \$6.00
Youth: \$3.00 Kids (4-6): \$1.00



914 Penn Street St Joseph, Mo.
800-630-6930 www.ponyexpress.org



HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango, CO

The popular poetry gathering was ready to celebrate its 32nd year the first weekend of October 2020—with its traditional trail ride, chuckwagon breakfast, cowboy poet train, parade and, of course, the world-class cowboy poets entertaining crowds day and night—but had to postpone until 2021. Circle the date on the calendar and plan for an exciting return next year.

DurangoCowboyPoetryGathering.org

READERS' CHOICE: National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV

BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING

All American CowboyFest (Formerly Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium), Ruidosa, NM

Founded by legendary New Mexico cowboy singer Ray Reed in 1990, the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium was rebranded as the All American CowboyFest in 2020. It has grown from its humble roots in Glencoe, New Mexico, to one of the biggest annual festivals celebrating the cowboy way of life. Held at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino every October, the three-day event in 2020 was going to celebrate its 31st anniversary, until it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival offers attendees three days of world-class country music, a championship chuckwagon cook-off, mounted shooting demonstrations, a rodeo and much more.

AllAmericanCowboyFest.com

READERS' CHOICE: Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival, Fort Worth, TX



Misidentified as a Paiute family by photographer Daniel Berry Austin, circa late 1880s, the mother, child and father are actually members of Yosemite's native tribe, the Ahwahnechee, or better known today as the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. The Tuolumne Rancheria reservation is just outside Yosemite National Park. Yosemite's grand lodge Ahwahnee Hotel is named in their honor, as is Yosemite's recreated 19th-century Ahwahneechee Village.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —



The Oomiak racers' competition was just one of the spirited events held in honor of Independence Day in Nome, Alaska, on July 4, 1915. Before the 1898 gold rush, Native Alaskan Inupiat people had lived in the Nome area of the Seward Peninsula since prehistoric times. Today, Nome still benefits from the economy of gold mining, but also from tourism, including a port for cruise ships. Visitors can learn more about the region's history at the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum and the Kawerak Katirvik Cultural Center.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

CITY OF TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

Off I-10, on historic Highway 80 south of Benson

Silver boom town!
Western history
at every turn



Two Town Fires, a 7.6 Earthquake, the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and now a Virus **can't stop us...**

The Town Too Tough To Die is **SAFE** and **OPEN**, ready for **You!**



HISTORIC SALOONS



Best food in Arizona!

- **Gunfights!**
- **Museums!**
- **Boot Hill!**

A Real Western Town -- Living History, not Disneyland



You'll walk where Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday did on their way to the historic O.K. Corral... on the old Allen St. boardwalk. **No better place to be this winter**, with unique stores, saloons, and restaurants all nearby. Magical -- stroll at twilight, with the soft store lamps lighting your way. It's 1881 again, today!



Beautiful old buildings. Classic long bar saloons. A hard-rock silver mine tour. And daily gunfights!



Visitor Center at 4th and Allen -- call (520) 457-3929
City information at: CityOfTombstoneAZ.gov

DISCOVERTOMBSTONE.COM



Next time you're in
Tombstone,
 come see the oldest
 Protestant church in
 Arizona Territory
ST. PAUL'S
 at 3rd and Safford



**"Ante up,
 boys! This next
 pot belongs to
 God -- we're
 building the only
 adobe Gothic Revival church
 in the world, right down the
 street from the
 Oriental!"** -- Wyatt Earp

Ring the Bell!

Pull that rope! Ring our
 1887 450 lb. key of D
 bronze bell... hear
 real history!



The original bell tower

**The true western past, alive
 every Sunday at 10:30**



Come see the original
 Belgian *grisaille* stained-glass
 windows, walnut pews
 hauled in by oxcart, and
 oil lamps that came around Cape Horn

CALL FOR TOURS: (520) 457-8134



In 1870, William Henry Jackson made this dramatic image of a Shoshone village in a valley of the Wind River Range of west-central Wyoming. Today, the Eastern Shoshones' home, still near the Wind River Mountains, on the Wind River Indian Reservation, is shared with the Northern Arapaho people. Visitors are welcome to stay at the popular Wind River and Shoshone Rose casinos and tour the tribal cultural centers.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



Edward S. Curtis's 1899 poignant portrait of a Vancouver Island Indian woman is from the photographer's timeless study of North America's Native people. Today, visitors on a heritage and cultural tour of Vancouver, B.C., start at the Indigenous Tourism BC office in West Vancouver to learn about all the wonderful sites dedicated to Canadian Indian history in British Columbia.

- COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS -

HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST OLD WEST MOUNTED RE-ENACTMENT

Pendleton Round-Up/Happy Canyon Night Show, Pendleton, OR

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

PendletonRoundUp.com

READERS' CHOICE: Little Bighorn Battlefield, Crow Agency, MT

BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the “Official Old West Ambassadors” of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on Whiskey Row, participate in re-enactment events and parades throughout Arizona, donating all profits to locally based charities.

PrescottRegulators.org

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

BEST WILD WEST SHOW

Old Abilene Town, Abilene, KS

After a tour of Old Abilene Town’s historic buildings and “downtown” storefronts and attending the Old West gunfighters show, don’t miss the Can-Can Girls, who kick up their heels on the Alamo Stage every Saturday night from late June to late August.

OldAbileneCowtown.com
READERS' CHOICE: OK Corral, Tombstone, AZ

MAHAFFIE
STAGECOACH STOP & FARM HISTORIC SITE
OLATHE, KANSAS
EST. 1858

**Living History:
1860s Style**

1200 E. KANSAS CITY RD.
OLATHE, KANSAS 66061

[f](https://www.facebook.com/mahaffie) [i](https://www.instagram.com/mahaffie) mahaffie.org • 913-971-5111

FORT CONCHO

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

VOTED No. 1 TRUE WESTERN TOWN OF THE YEAR 2020

DAILY TOURS ~ GIFT SHOP ~ LIVING HISTORY ~ SPECIAL EXHIBITS ~ SPECIAL EVENTS YEAR ROUND

Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day: February 28, 2021

Regional Cavalry Competition: April 22-25, 2021

Frontier Day: April 24, 2021

Cowboy Way Jubilee: April 30-May 2, 2021

American Plains Art Show: June 24-August 1, 2021

Hours: Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm Sun: 1pm-5pm

325-481-2646 • fortconcho.com • 630 South Oakes San Angelo, Tx



HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY

Wyoming's world-famous annual Cheyenne Frontier Days are scheduled for July 23 to August 1, 2021. Considered "the daddy of them all," the rodeo started in 1897 and includes two parades, a carnival midway, nightly entertainment and an American Indian Village. Don't miss the rodeo's famous pancake breakfast and the four-day Chuckwagon Cook Off that celebrates the heritage of chuckwagon cooking on the open range during cattle drives that brought cattle from Texas to the Cowboy State.

CFRodeo.com

READERS' CHOICE: The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ

Nez Perce leader Yellow Bull sat for this portrait by Edward S. Curtis in 1905. Yellow Bull was instrumental in the tribe's defiance of the U.S. in 1877, and his son, Walaituts, was involved in the murder of white settlers who helped to start the war. Travelers to Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana, who are interested in Native history and the cultural role of the Nez Perce people in the region should consult with rangers at the Nez Perce National Historical Park to plan a trip to the most important tribal parks and public sites in the four states.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



Some Things Never Change



AMARILLO

VisitAmarillo.com



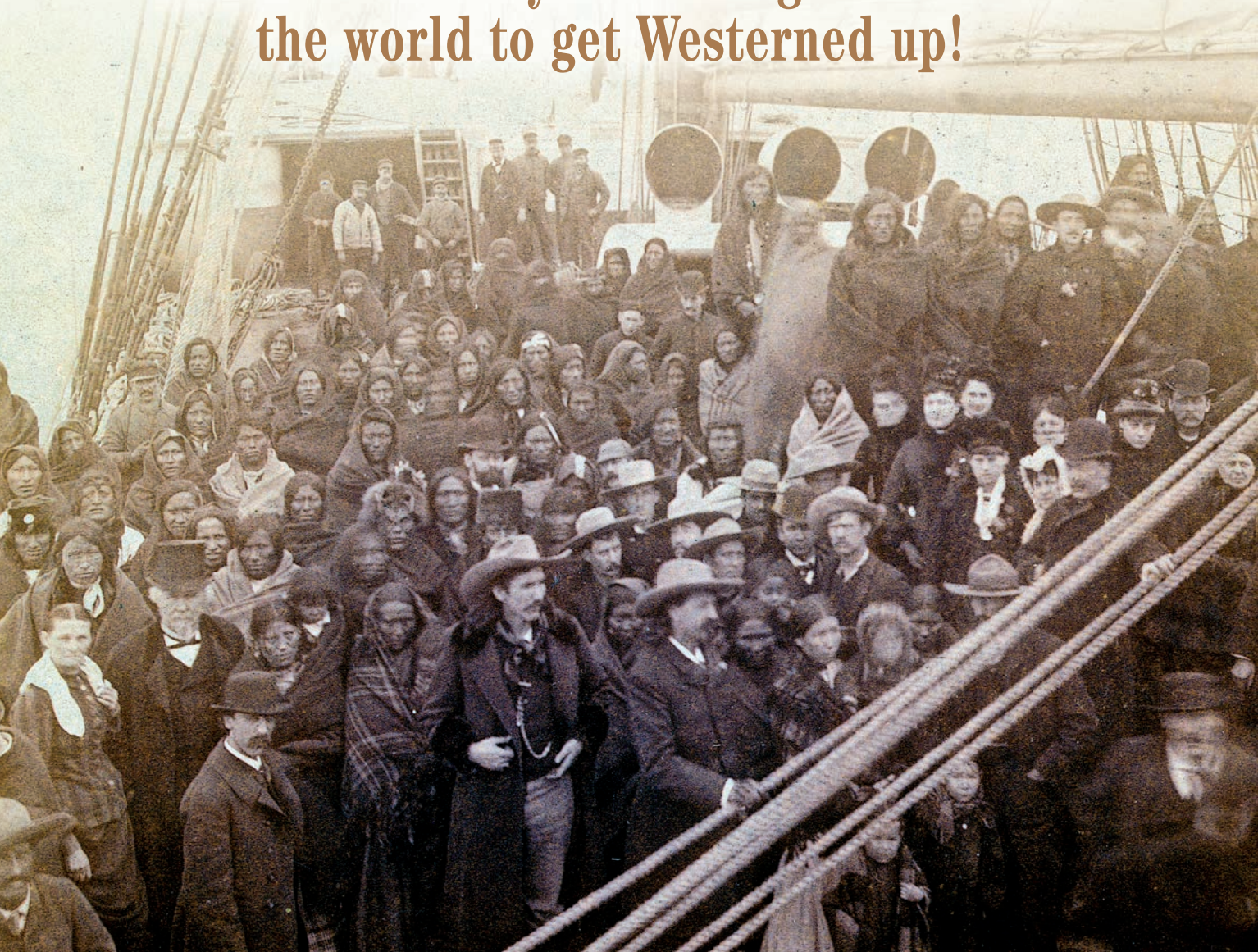
Son of influential Osage Chief Black Dog, Black Dog II was photographed wearing a bear claw necklace during the Hayden Geological Survey of 1880, the same year he became a principal chief. Learn more about the Osage people along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and at the Osage Nation Museum in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

- COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT, LIB1_00312_11125, HAYDEN SURVEY OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, " CIRCA 1880 -



WESTERN WEAR

Western wear makers have what it takes for cowboys and cowgirls around the world to get Westerned up!



William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's diverse *Wild West* cast, 97 of them American Indian performers (including Sioux leader Black Elk), paused for their portrait on the fog-shrouded deck of the *SS Nebraska* en route from New York to perform for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee at the American Exposition in London in May 1887. Cody's *Wild West* performed over 300 shows from May to October and had a major influence on Europeans' knowledge and passion for the cowboy, Indian and Spanish cultures of the American West.

— MERRITT VAN WAGNER, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

One hundred years ago, on June 20, 1921, boot maker Charles H. Hyer died in Olathe, Kansas. Mr. Hyer and his family had moved to the Eastern Kansas town in 1875. Hyer, who had learned shoemaking and leatherwork from his German immigrant father, taught leatherwork at the Kansas State School for the Deaf in Olathe. To make ends meet, he made boots and shoes at home. In 1876, he opened a boot shop in town and, as fate would have it, a lone cowboy came into his store with a custom order. He wanted a pair of boots with a pointed toe, riding heels and a scalloped top to ease taking them on and off. Soon enough, Hyer had more orders for this new cowboy boot and he hired his three sons and his brother Edward to meet demand. C.H. Hyer and Sons was born, and his boots gained an international reputation. Today, Hyer's Olathe Boots are still handmade in Mercedes, Texas, while the cowboy boot, along with the cowboy hat, blue jeans, Western wear, saddles, spurs and tack are American icons known around the world.

Equally known internationally is the artisanship of the Western American Indian tribes. Native clothing, textiles, leatherwork, jewelry, pottery, basketry, art, and ceremonial costumes have been admired, sold and traded for centuries. With the growth of Western trading posts, tourism, galleries, museums and Native arts entrepreneurship through the late 19th century to the present, Indian artisans have found eager buyers and collectors worldwide. In 2021, Indian artisans remain a foundation of our American traditions in Western wear.

Each year at *True West* we honor the best of the West in traditional and period Western wear, cowboy boot and hats. The dedicated artisans and manufacturers we feature provide their customers the best products, custom-made orders and customer service in the business. They have continued to ply their craft and keep their businesses open to serve their customers near and far during this pandemic year. And so we salute them

Award-Winning Old West Clothing Custom Designs, Historically Inspired



www.MichaelJGuliDesigns.com
970-221-2992



RECOLLECTIONS

Fashions with the Spirit of the Old West
Sweet, sassy, and always elegant,
with the perfect touch of romance
shop 24/7 at recollections.biz

Historic EyeWear Company

Keeping History in Sight®

"Reproduction 1800s Spectacles to suit all sights"

The Best Old West EyeWear

Prescription Ready~Ophthalmic
Quality~Historically Accurate



Save \$25.00! Purchase one of our 1835-80 Slide Temple spectacle frames & get our 1800s Metal Flip-Top Hard case for 1/2 price: \$25.00



1800s period correct metal spectacle cases with personalized engraving options

Prices start at \$140.00

www.HistoricEyeWearCompany.com

862.812.4737



WESTERN WEAR

as Old West saviors who are helping us all enjoy a bit of the Old West in our daily lives and are keeping the Western spirit alive for the next generation.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

BEST WESTERN BOOTMAKER

M.L. Leddy's, Fort Worth/San Angelo, TX

Founded in Brady, Texas, in 1922 by M.L. Leddy, the company's quality boot making was quickly known throughout Texas. The founder and his brother moved their business to San Angelo and later opened a second store in Fort Worth. The "Leddy" standard was known throughout the Lone Star State for excellence in handcrafted cowboy boots. Today, four generations later, customers who shop at Leddy's will not only discover the best in Western boots but also a full line of Western clothing, hats, jewelry and accessories.

Leddys.com

READERS' CHOICE: Lucchese, El Paso, TX

BEST WESTERN HATMAKER

Knudsen Hat Company, Golden Gate, CA

Owner and founder of Knudsen Hat Company, Bill Knudsen is a trained artist who began making custom hats in the 1980s. He quickly gained a reputation for excellence in period-correct cowboy hats and today is considered one of the nation's finest Western hatmakers. Customers looking for hand-finished look-alikes of hats worn in Western movies will be especially delighted by his reproductions of hats worn by film stars Steve McQueen, Clint Eastwood, Tom Selleck, Robert Duvall and the cast of *Tombstone*.

KnudsenHats.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX/Greeley Hat Company, Greeley, CO

BEST WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Recollections, Hawks, MI

Specialists in Victorian, Edwardian, Civil War, pioneer and Old West frontier clothing lines, Recollections also has a wide variety of styles from the Revolutionary War/Georgian and Regency eras, the Roaring 20s and 1950s. The unique purveyor of historic costumes also has period costumes from movies and television productions, and a full selection of hats and other accessories to help customers complete their historic fashion goal.

Recollections.biz

READERS' CHOICE: Miller International (Miller Ranch and Cinch Brands)

BEST PERIOD WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Scully/Wahmaker, Oxnard, CA

Founded in 1906, Scully is one of the nation's oldest leather apparel companies, having made helmets and jackets for pilots in WWI and WWII and for Admiral Byrd's Antarctica expedition, as well as leather products and clothing lines for men and women. The company expanded over time into other key specialty clothing sectors, including its Wahmaker and Rangewear lines of Old West clothing and accessories and Legend and Cantina Western clothing divisions.

ScullyLeather.com

READERS' CHOICE: Michael J. Guli Designs, Bellvue, CO



In 1880, Crow peace delegate Medicine Crow (Raven) sat for his portrait in Washington, D.C., in his finest traditional clothing and symbolic accessories. Everything he wears has a particular significance, including the ermine on his leggings symbolizes his success as a war leader, while the eagle feather he holds is a symbol of leadership.

— C.M. BELL, COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

In the mid-1920s, a Navajo man posed proudly in his finest cowboy hat, wild rag and turquoise necklace in front of Hubbell's Trading Post in Ganado, Arizona. The photographer, Frederick Williams, noted that the gentleman had just bought the traditional jewelry for \$25. Don Lorenzo Hubbell founded his trading center in 1878, and for nearly 145 years it has been a cornerstone of Navajo trade, artisan weaving and silversmithing.

— FREDERIC WILLIAMS, NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —



TRADING POST

GOLDEN GATE WESTERN WEAR

Old west and contemporary hats, apparel, boots, and accessories for the whole family. Our Custom hats are hand-formed by Bill Knudsen, **9-time winner of True Wests magazines Reader's Choice award for Best Hatmaker.**

Good Bad and Ugly



Kilgore

See our online catalog at www.KnudsenHats.com

The Official LOUIS L'Amour TRADING POST

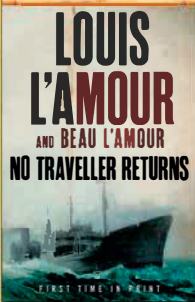


Exclusive Louis L'Amour products plus all of his novels, short stories, non-fiction, poetry, audio books & CDs, branded clothing, MP3's, DVD movies and more!

WWW.LOUISLAMOUR.COM

The Home of America's Favorite Storyteller

LOUIS L'AMOUR'S LOST TREASURES



Louis L'Amour's First Novel, Never Published UNTIL NOW! Faithfully Completed by Beau L'Amour

\$23.80
Hardcover

Fate is a Ship ... a tanker west-bound on the eve of WWII. Aboard, thirty-three officers and crew. A deadly mixture of personalities

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

TWELVE ISSUES FOR **\$29.95**

TRUE WEST
MAGAZINE

TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM
{1.855.592.9943}

CATALENA HATTERS

Fits Right. Looks Right. Feels Right.



The Gus



Telescope

800-976-7818

www.catalenahats.com

ELECTROSCOPES

by Thomas



FREE OFFER

Cover More Ground, Save Time, Increase Finds!

For Your Prospecting, Relic, Coin & Cache Hunting Needs!



Call Today! 1-800-245-9276

www.electroscopes.com

I'm Your Huckleberry!



100% Cotton / Most sizes:

\$24.95 each + S&H

TRUE WEST

TrueWestMagazine.com

888-687-1881

WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JANUARY 2021

— COURTESY BRIAN LABEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION & SALE —

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

MONTANA WINTER FAIR

Lewistown, MT, January 29-31: The Montana Winter Fair celebrates 76 years of promoting Montana agriculture and the enviable Western way of life.

406-538-2200 • MontanaWinterFair.com

HOLIDAY RAIL FESTIVAL

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

Durango, CO, through January 3: All ages can experience the warmth and fun of the Christmas season on a special steam train ride to the North Pole.

888-827-4607 • DurangoTrain.com

SANTA'S NORTH POLE ADVENTURE

Georgetown, CO, through January 3: Santa Claus passes out presents and goodies to the little ones. Join Santa and his helpers aboard decorated, enclosed, heated coaches throughout the holiday season.

888-456-6777 • GeorgetownLoopRR.com

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



BRIAN LABEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION & SALE

Mesa, AZ, January 22-24: A dealer's show and sale, along with an exciting, live Saturday night auction, this event showcases the best authentic cowboy, Indian and Western art, antiques and artifacts available for sale. This event is known worldwide as the premiere show and auction in the Western Americana collecting industry. 480-779-9378 • OldWestEvents.com

Be a Maniac Member for Life

Lifetime Special only \$295!



For just \$295, you will receive a Membership that includes a LIFETIME subscription to True West Magazine, Bob Boze

Bell autographed copy of Classic Gunfights Vol. 1 and signed art print, True West Maniac ID card, T-shirt and Decal, plus exclusive members-only Email offers.



ORDER YOURS TODAY!

TrueWestMagazine.com

1.888.687.1881

Frontier Hygiene and Pancho Villa's Missing Head

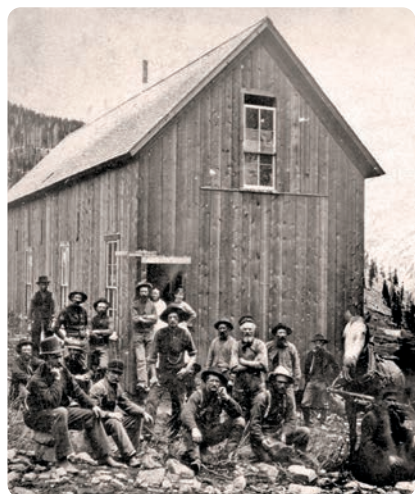
What was frontier life like in the 1880s?

Rena Miller
Titusville, Florida

What you see in Westerns is a sanitized version of life in the 19th century. Diseases like typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, tuberculosis and other contagions could wipe out entire families or even communities. Most of these were caused by unsanitary conditions. Germs were only a theory until almost the 20th century. Child mortality rates were high. Many doctors lacked medical skills. Dental care was almost nonexistent.

There was no shampoo. You might bathe only once a week—in a community tub, so if you were fifth or sixth in line, the bathwater would be pretty dirty. Homes didn't have central heating or cooling. There weren't any convenience stores. Only the wealthy had an indoor toilet.

Life back then was tough, but they soldiered on because they didn't know any better. If you or I could go back, having experienced the amenities of life in 2021, we would probably jump back in that time machine and return to the future.



The recent Mexican Revolution issue of *True West* reminded me of the disappearance of Pancho Villa's head from his grave in February of 1926. Any new revelations on this? My money is on the Skull and Bones club at Yale.

Harry Thomas
Carmel, Indiana

No new revelations. Skull and Bones, which is rumored to have stolen Geronimo's skull, is one of the usual suspects. Villa's missing head remains one of Mexico's greatest mysteries.

Why did the earliest cattle trail, the Sedalia, shut down?

Mark Brown
Kansas City, Missouri

The Sedalia, Shawnee or Kansas Trail had too many farmers to deal with. They believed Texas cattle were infecting their cows with tick fever. They also claimed the cattle were stomping on their crops. This would be the same story in all the Kansas cowtowns.

When did left-handed holsters come into common use?

Tom Betts
Anaheim, California

I ran this by *True West* Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg just to make sure I wasn't missing something. He says

The miners who had meals and rented a room at this Palmetto, California, boardinghouse in the 1860s would have shared close quarters in their rooms, plus used common wash basins, towels, chamber pots, outdoor privies and possibly communal washrooms—which meant illnesses spread easily.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —



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. Please always include your name, city and state.



Pancho Villa's revolutionary exploits during the Mexican Revolution were cheered and feared, but in death, his enemies gave him no respect and robbed his grave of his head in February 1926. News reports say the head was taken to Chicago for research on criminality, but since then the skull of the "Centaur of the North" disappeared, and its whereabouts remain an unsolved Old West mystery.

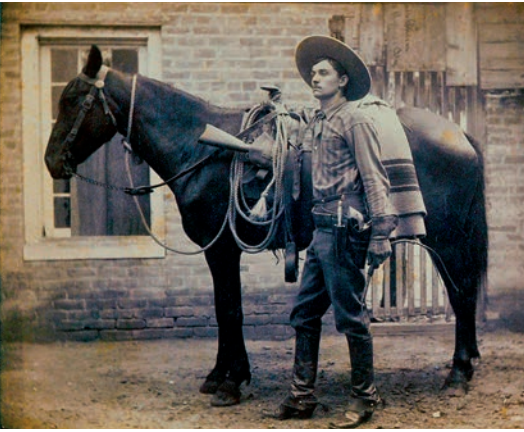
— "ARIZONA DAILY STAR" NEWSPAPER CLIPPING
COURTESY NEWSPAPERS5.COM —

left-handed holsters have been around as long as there have been holsters. Whether it was worn on the left or right side depended on the individual. Cavalry troopers wore them on the left side, butt forward. Many right-handers preferred a cross-draw.

What can you tell me about Gen. George Crook?

David Durost
Lancaster, California

George Crook graduated from West Point in 1852 and was assigned to the 4th Infantry, serving in California and Oregon. When the Civil War began in 1861, he was made colonel in the 35th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served in several commands



In 1888, Texas Ranger Frank L. Schmid is saddled, packed and ready to trail lawbreakers on his horse, with his rifle scabbarded and pistol holstered on the left side for quick access and a right-hand draw while in the saddle or on the ground.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

throughout the war, primarily as an infantry commander. He participated in the Battle of South Mountain, Battle of Antietam, Chickamauga, Shenandoah Valley and Appomattox. After the war, he was posted to the 23rd Infantry in the Pacific Northwest. President Grant appointed Crook a brigadier general in 1873, following his highly successful campaign against the Yavapai and Tonto Apaches.

His skilled use of Apache scouts and mule pack trains proved critical in the victory.

In 1875, Crook was transferred to the Department of the Platte and fought in the Great Sioux War of 1876. He returned to the Southwest in 1882 and took command of the Department of Arizona. He was successful in bringing all of the renegade Apaches back to the reservation except for the wily, untrustworthy Geronimo—a failure that cost him the position. In 1886, Crook was replaced by Gen. Nelson Miles, who is credited with accepting the surrender of Geronimo in September 1886.

Crook returned to command the Department of the Platte, where he continued to speak out against the injustices perpetrated on the Indian tribes.

When Maj. Gen. George Crook died suddenly in 1890, Chief Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota paid him the greatest tribute when he said, "He, at least, never lied to us. His words gave us hope." ❖

ATTENTION READERS

Thanks to our advertisers for their support of True West and helping to preserve the history of the American Frontier. If you would like more information, please visit their websites shown below.

A Bridge Apart by Robert Parmelee <i>Amazon Kindle</i> p.73	Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Museum <i>Mahaffie.org</i> p. 101
Amarillo, TX <i>VisitAmarilloTX.com</i> p. 102	Michael J. Guli Designs <i>RiverCrossingINC.com</i> p.105
Americana & Political Auction <i>HA.com</i> p.1FC	Museum of the Mountain West <i>MountainWestMuseum.com</i> p. 93
Black Hills Ammunition <i>Black-Hills.com</i> p. 59	Ogallala, NE <i>VisitOgallala.com</i> p.94
Blackhawk Museum <i>BlackhawkMuseum.org</i> p.50	Old Abilene Town, Abilene Kansas <i>AbileneKansas.org</i> p. 52
Brian Lebel's Old West Show & Auction <i>OldWestEvents.com</i> p. 3	Old Cowtown Museum <i>OldCowtown.org</i> p.52
Buffalo Arms Co. <i>BuffaloArms.com</i> p.56	Old West Reproductions <i>OldWestReproductions.com</i> p. 60
Carbon County, WY <i>WyomingCarbonCounty.com</i> p. 89	Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum <i>PanhandlePlains.org</i> p.50
Catalena Hatters <i>CatalenaHats.com</i> p.108	Pony Express Museum <i>PonyExpress.org</i> p. 97
Cave Creek, AZ <i>CaveCreek.org</i> p. 88	Prescott, AZ <i>Visit-Prescott.com</i> p.7
Coffeyville, KS <i>CoffeyvilleChamber.org</i> p.94	Recollections <i>Recollections.biz</i> p. 105
Concordia Cemetery <i>ConcordiaCemetery.org</i> p. 95	Russell County, KS <i>RussellCountyKS.org</i> p.92
Copper Queen Hotel <i>CopperQueen.com</i> p.90	San Angelo, TX <i>DiscoverSanAngelo.com</i> p. 1
Electroscopes <i>Electroscopes.com</i> p. 108	Scott City, KS <i>ScottCityKS.org</i> p.96
Fort Concho National Historic Landmark <i>FortConcho.com</i> p.101	Scottsbluff/Gering, NE <i>VisitScottsbluff.com</i> p. 92
Fort Smith, AR <i>FortSmith.org</i> p. 97	Sheridan, WY <i>SheridanWyoming.org</i> p.87
Garrett Metal Detectors <i>Garrett.com</i> p.57	Shiloh Sharps Rifle <i>ShilohRifle.com</i> p. 54
Georgetown Loop Railroad <i>GeorgetownLoopRR.com</i> p. 91	St. Joseph, MO <i>StJoMo.com</i> p.85
Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch <i>GeronimoRanch.com</i> p.73	Taylor's & Company <i>TaylorFirearms.com</i> p. 58
Golden Gate Western Wear & Knudsen Hat Co. <i>GoldenGateWesternWear.com</i> p. 108	The Brinton Museum <i>TheBrintonMuseum.org</i> p.96
Grand Encampment Museum <i>GEMuseum.com</i> p.97	The Last Sovereigns by Robert M. Utley <i>NebraskaPress.UNL.edu</i> p. 71
Hawken Shop <i>TheHawkenShop.com</i> p. 60	The Sitting Bull Henry Rifle <i>HeroesAndPatriotsLLC.com</i> p.5
Historic Eyewear Co. <i>HistoricEyewearCompany.com</i> p.105	Tombstone, AZ <i>CityOfTombstoneAZ.gov</i> p. 99
Hotel Colorado <i>HotelColorado.com</i> p. 95	Tombstone's Historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church <i>STPauls.AZDiocese.org</i> p.100
John Bianchi's Frontier Gunleather <i>FrontierGunLeather.com</i> p.56	Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West <i>ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org</i> p. 49
John Wayne Birthplace & Museum <i>JohnWayneBirthplace.museum</i> p. 93	White Stallion Ranch <i>WSRanch.com</i> p.90
Louie L'Amour Trading Post <i>LouisLAmour.com</i> p.108	Wickenburg, AZ <i>WickenburgChamber.com</i> p. 4

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

My mother and father... Songwriter Rodney Crowell wrote my life story in “Long Hard Road (The Sharecropper’s Dream)”: “But Mama kept the Bible read/and Daddy kept our family fed/ And somewhere in between I must have grown...”

Growing up in South Carolina is where I first learned about the West: on TV, at Ray’s Novel Shop and playing cowboy using Daddy’s hammer as a Colt and a tobacco stick as a Winchester.

Hush puppies and grits can only be made properly by Southerners. I make great shrimp and grits. My hush puppies suck, which I blame on Great Grandpa Daniel, an Illinoisian who served under Grant.

Moving from South Carolina to Texas... I knew I’d made the right decision when the first bookstore I entered had Elmer Kelton’s latest novel on the table at the entrance.

Living in Santa Fe... I’ve been to all 50 states, three countries, and I’ve never found a place I’d rather live.

My favorite instrument is not a Blu-ray player. John Ford didn’t mean for us to watch *The Searchers* and spot a car with its lights on in the background.

Johnny Cash taught me the key to writing a good story. Tell it. End it. Don’t waste words or time.

Gunsmoke, Bonanza or... *The Dakotas*. It didn’t last long, but it pushed the envelope. So did *Gunsmoke*. But *Bonanza*? Ben should have kicked his sponging sons off the Ponderosa.

A Western movie has few boundaries. It can be *Allegheny Uprising*, *Rio Bravo*, *Callaway Went Thataway* or *The Last Picture Show*. But it’s not *The Proposition*. That’s an Outback-ern.

If I could have had a drink with Anthony Mann I’d have learned the real story behind his breakup with James Stewart—if we ever stopped talking about *Border Incident* and *The Tall Target*.

Billy the Kid shows us how photogenic an outlaw with bad teeth can become \$2.3 million later.

Cotton Smith memories still make me smile. Yes, Cotton, John Wayne, was great in *Red River*, but if anyone got robbed of an Oscar in 1949, it was Humphrey Bogart for *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.

Fatherhood beats writing. Baseball/burger trips... Jack driving across Ohio while I made notes for *Taos Lightning*. ...Watching him grow into a fine young man.

Max Evans always told me, “Have fun, pardner.” Ol’ Max had enough fun for 1,022 lifetimes.



— PHOTO BY MICKI FUHRMAN —

JOHNNY D. BOGGS, NOVELIST, HISTORIAN, EDITOR

Johnny D. Boggs, the 2020 Owen Wister Award recipient for lifetime contributions to Western literature and inductee into Western Writers Hall of Fame, has won a record eight Spur Awards from Western Writers of America. A former newspaper journalist, he has been writing fiction and nonfiction full time since 1998. His books include *A Thousand Texas Longhorns*; *Hard Winter*; *Buckskin, Bloomers, and Me*; and *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012*. His website is JohnnyDBoggs.com.

A bowl of New Mexico green chile cures everything. But I do love our native New Mexican neighbor’s red chile—her posole also cures all.

A historian doesn’t need a doctorate, just a passion for history, ability to sniff out facts and discipline to tell a good story.

A writer’s life isn’t easy. My advice to beginners is, “Don’t quit your day job.” Which is what Loren Estleman told me in 1997. I’m glad I didn’t listen to him—that time, anyway.

Receiving a Spur Award is the greatest honor Western writers can receive from their peers.

My greatest challenge as a novelist is teaching myself not to think with my fingers—impossible for a fast-typing ex-newspaperman.

Sports writing reinforces that there’s no such thing as writer’s block and that no matter how many games or races you cover, you’ll often see something new.

The best advice I ever received came from Ol’ Max Evans: “Write what you want to write, because there’s no guarantee you’ll get to write anything else.”

Being awarded the Owen Wister Award is any writer’s dream, but I can still name off the top of my head a dozen writers who are far more deserving than me—Michael Wallis, Ron Hansen, Paul Zazyski, Sandra Dallas, Larry McMurtry, Paul Hutton, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Tom Russell, Joseph Marshall III, John Fusco, Paulette Jiles, Gary Paulsen...

What history has taught me is that history is never written in stone. Obstinate research unearths new facts. Fresh perspectives stimulate our insights.



Discover Where History Happened in the Old West

True West magazine has inspired travelers to take the road less traveled and explore the historic sites and towns of the American West. The Third Edition of the *True West* Ultimate Historic Travel Guide has been carefully updated with recommendations on the essential museums of the Old West. Anyone who wants to discover a region from the ground up—and immerse in its local history—will be inspired to visit a Western museum and experience the dynamic, enthralling history of the American West.

INCLUDED IN *TRUE WEST'S* ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

- Hundreds of places expertly and succinctly described to inspire and guide your tour of the West
- Dozens of historic and color photos of Western historic sites
- 22-colorfully, illustrated state maps
- Easy-to-use listings with addresses, phone numbers and websites
- Eight of Bob Boze Bell's best *Classic Gunfights* of the Old West
- And, *True West's* favorite National and State Parks, Monuments, Battlefields, Sites, Memorials where Old West history happened
- And, much, much more ...

ON SALE NOW!

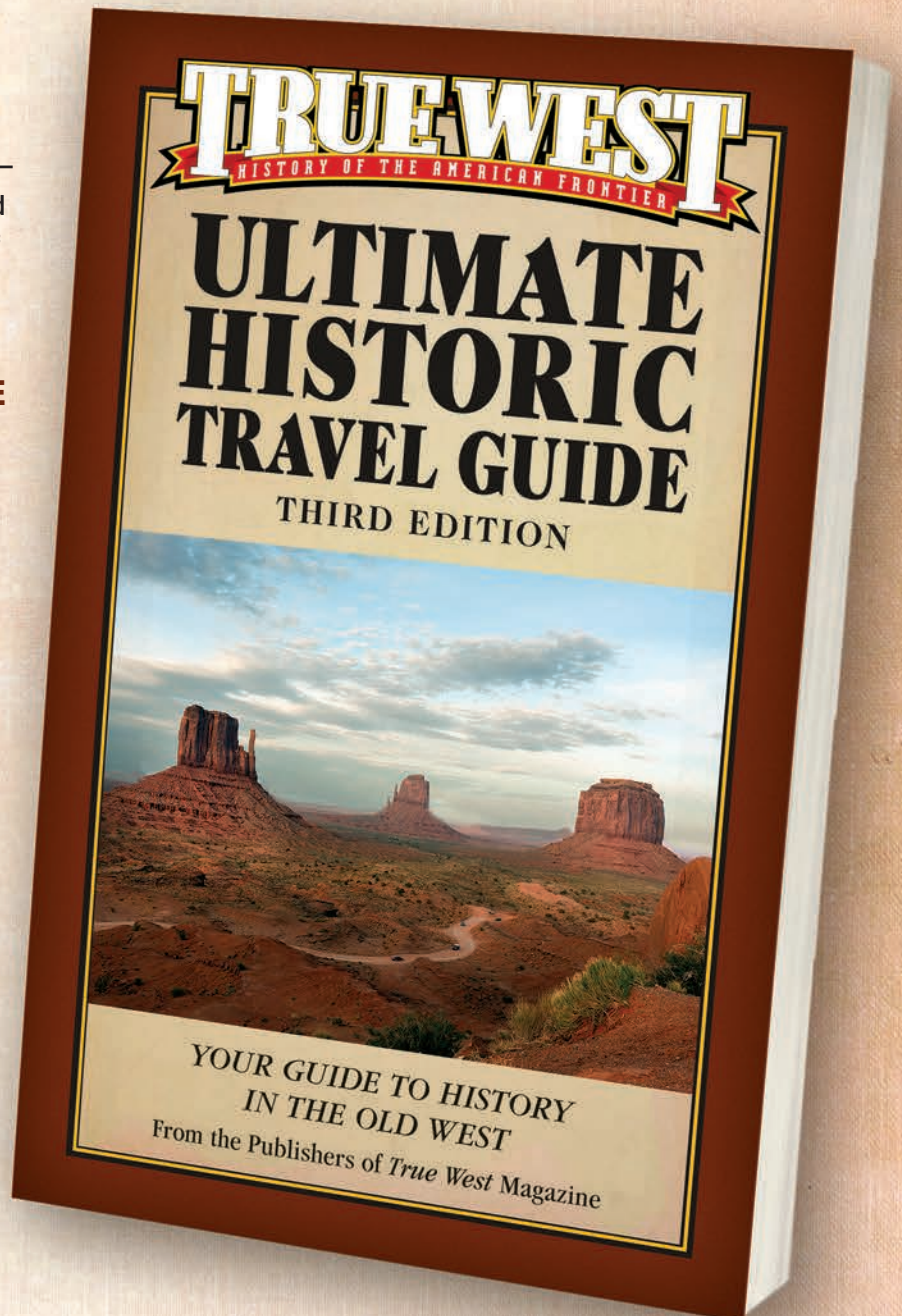
\$24.95

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Visit: TrueWestMagazine.com

Call: 1-888-687-1881

**NEW THIRD EDITION
NOW INCLUDES OUR MUSEUM PICKS!**



BOB BOZE BELL

BILLY: THE FINAL WORD

It has taken three decades, but finally, we can see the groundbreaking results, featuring a score of new—and incredibly authentic—illustrations and many rare and never-before published photographs.

“With its invaluable timeline for the Kid, numerous historic photographs, and, of course, Bell’s arresting artwork, I was immersed in the color, mayhem, and tragedy of the Kid’s world. There wasn’t a Billy book I enjoyed more, and this welcome new edition is even better.”

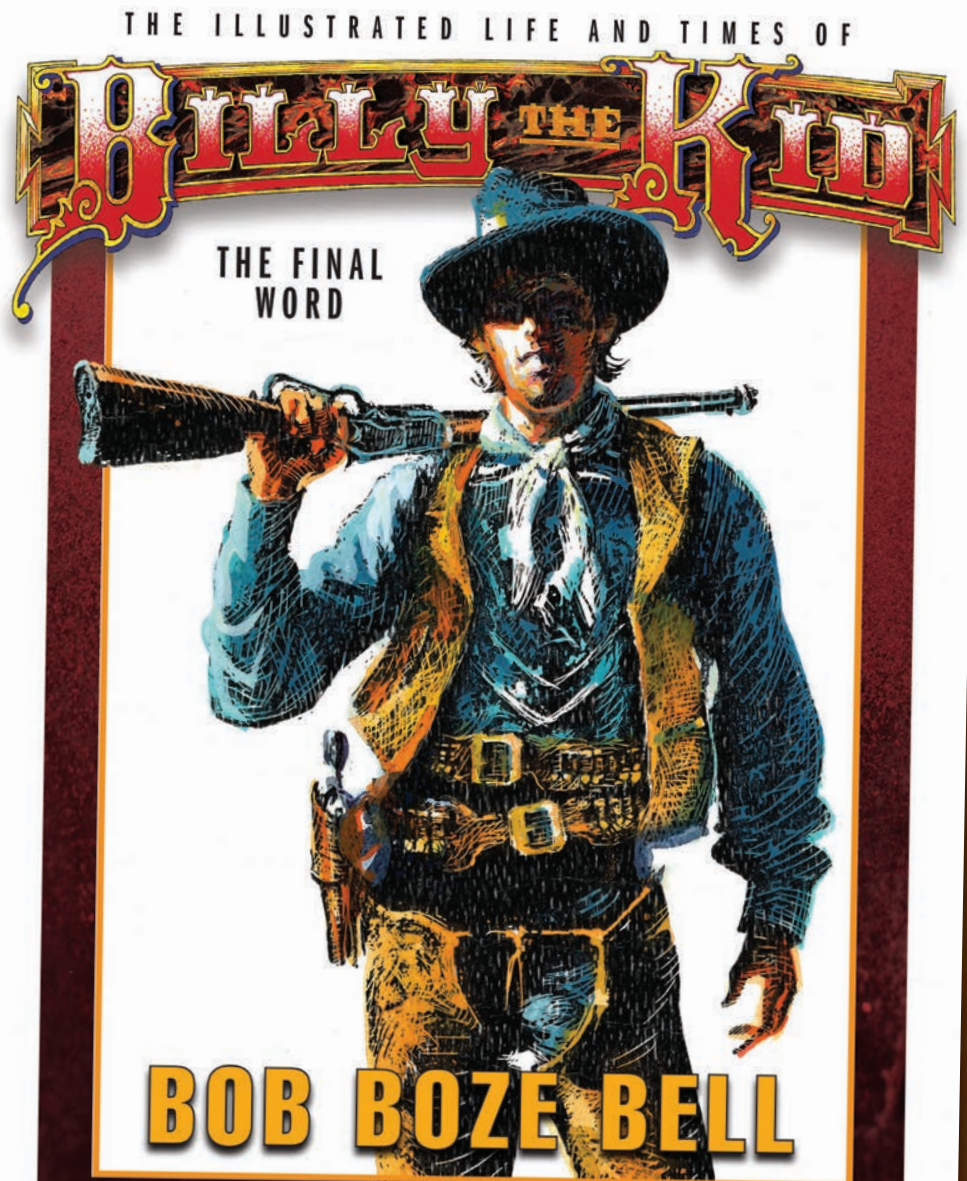
—Mark Lee Gardner, author of *To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett*

“Having lived in Billy country for almost fifty years, I believe that Bob’s intriguing mosaic of historical vignettes, art and images will blow the lid off the staid and proper history books. It will bring in new readers and the colorful legend and life of Billy will continue for yet another century.”

—Lynda Sánchez

“I truly believe after we are all gone—when none of us Kid historians walk this Earth—the future Kid historians will refer to this book as your magnum opus, and the beating heart of William H. Bonney.”

—Bob Reece



Bob Boze Bell's Magnum Opus!

GET YOUR COPY NOW!

TWMAG.COM

amazon

