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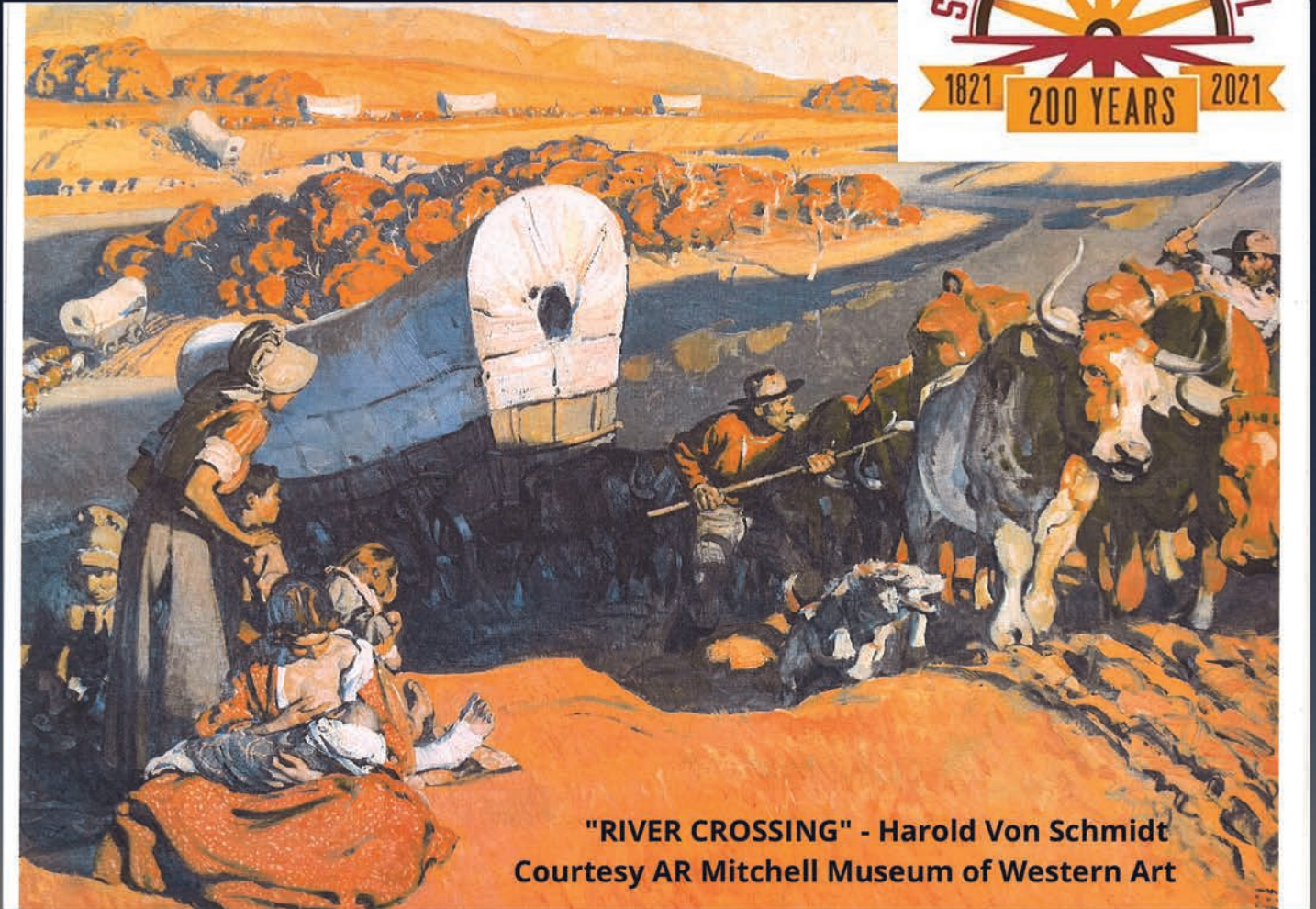


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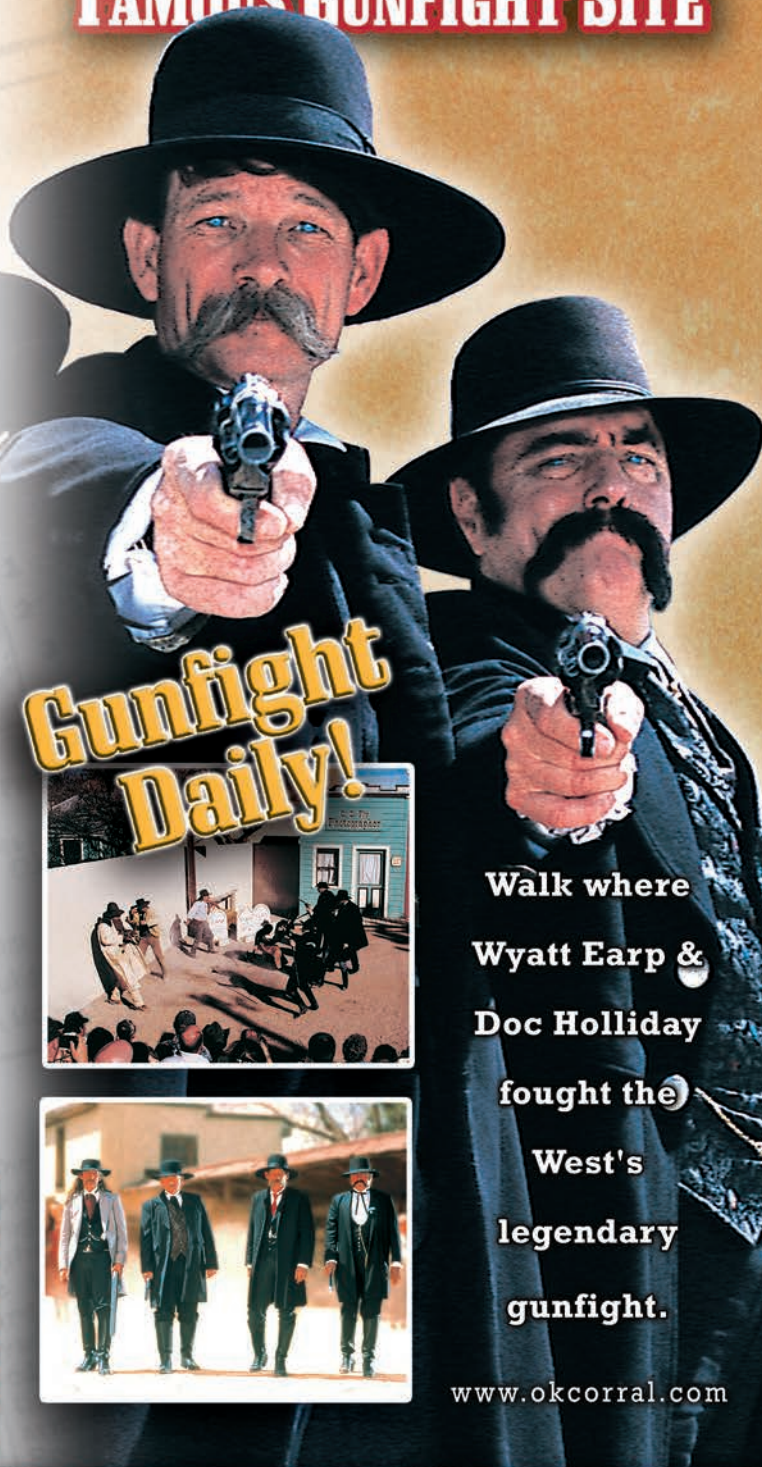
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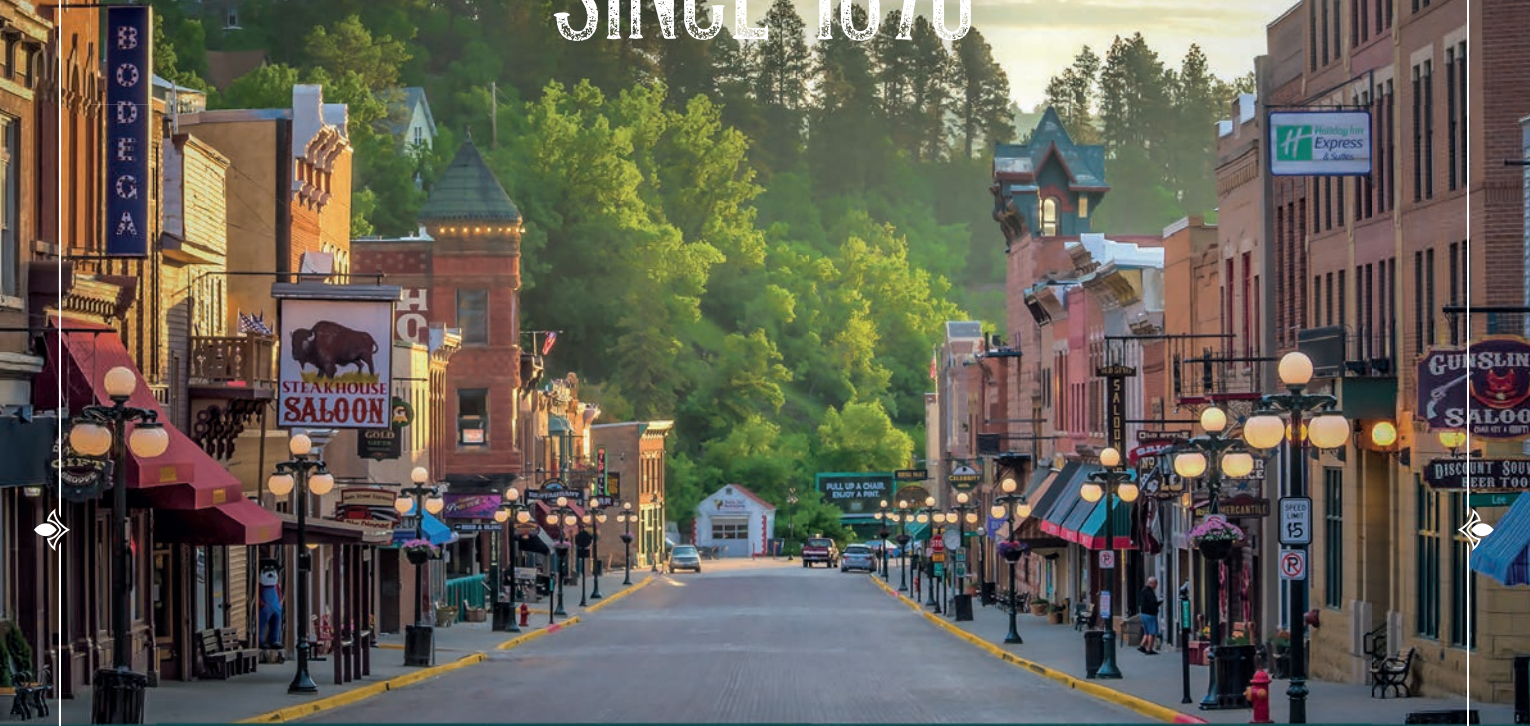
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OPENING SHOT

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In 1939, Columbia Pictures executives agreed with director Wesley Ruggles that an undeveloped desert site west of Tucson was the perfect location in which to film the big-budget adaption

of Clarence Budington "Bud" Kelland's novel *Arizona*. The film was shot entirely on location with a crew of 250 and an all-star cast, including Jean Arthur, William Holden and Edgar Buchanan. The production company spared no expense to ensure realism, including the use of 150 oxen, 500 head of cattle, innumerable



horses and even stray dogs. The shooting schedule began in April and ended in late July, but the director and studio honchos had not calculated for the delays caused by the summer heat so the picture went over-budget, costing \$2 million to produce. While the movie lost money after its release in 1940, it was re-released

in glorious black and white on its 75th anniversary, and is a favorite of Western cinephiles for both its realism and its seminal importance to filmmaking at Old Tucson and in Arizona after World War II.

- COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES -



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

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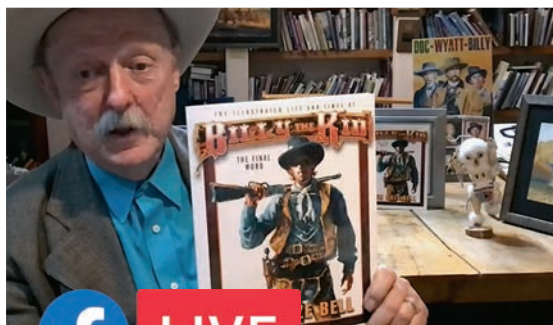
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- KEN AMOROSANO -

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Quigley Down Under challenged the status quo of Western filmmaking in 1990, and it continues to inspire three decades later.

—By Stuart Rosebrook



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Gambler Johnny Murphy was the face of an iconic Western photo.

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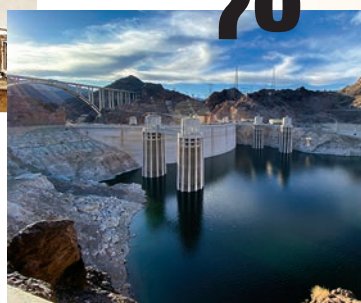
Be prepared to be surprised by the wonders of the open road, the places you will visit and the wonderful people you will meet on your travels across the Western U.S.

—By Stuart Rosebrook



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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger
 —“QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER”
 IMAGE COURTESY MGM—

Old Vaquero Saying

“One enemy is too many and a hundred friends too few.”



Quotes

“Since you have chosen to elect a man with a timber toe to succeed me, you may all go to hell and I will go to Texas.”

—David Crockett



Col. Davy Crockett, posthumous engraving, circa 1839

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

“Writers don’t like to write letters. Too much like work.”

—Mari Sandoz

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.”

—Chief Tecumseh

“Spending that many hours in the saddle gave a man plenty of time to think. That’s why so many cowboys fancied themselves Philosophers.”

—Charles Marion Russell



Charles M. Russell
— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover.”

—Mark Twain

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

—John Quincy Adams

“Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.”

—Robert Louis Stevenson

“The true adventurer goes forth aimless and uncalculating to meet and greet unknown fate.”

—O. Henry

“I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.”

—John Muir



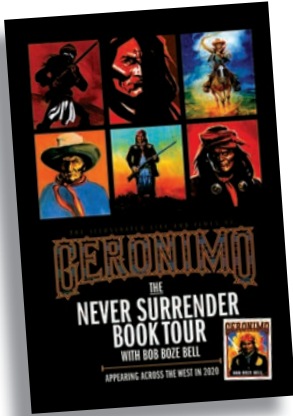
Shannah

“Go with two-iron, Kemosabe—distance in desert not what it seems.”

— CARTOON COLLECTIONS.COM —

Here's to Hitting the Trail—Again!

Herd immunity permitting, the True West Thank You Tour is coming your way.



Is it my imagination, or can we see some daylight on the horizon from here? Dare I say, some of us are even making plans for hitting the road this summer. And that hopefully includes us coming out your way and having some fun.

It has been a rough patch, to say the least.

I was talking to Marshall Trimble (“Ask the Marshall,” p. 126) and he told me about comparing notes with his troubadour pard, Dolan Ellis, and between the two of them they have had zero gigs for almost a year. And these two guys are used to performing at least 300 shows a year. Individually!

I know the pain. I had planned a big speaking tour—The Never Surrender Tour of 2020—to promote my Geronimo book.

I had several dates booked with more commitments pending, but they got pandemic-cancelled, and I never did one gig. You might say I surrendered completely.

If I have my way, that is going to change this year. The *True West* Thank You Tour kicks off this June in Deadwood. Wish us luck and stay tuned for details. We hope to see you this summer.

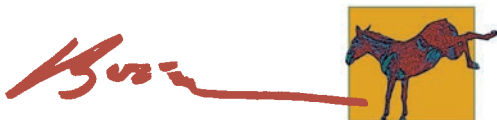


We Go Way Back With Old Tucson

This was back in 1975, and here I am with Dan the Man Harshberger (far left), Terry Townsend (middle) and the general manager of Old Tucson, who presented *The Razz Revue* with an extra-large Oscar. Flash forward, a friend of this magazine (that would be *True West*) has put in a bid to run the park (see Jana’s “Old West Savior” column, p. 18). And I have been listed as a history consultant on the project. If it happens, expect to have some good, old historical fun at this venerable landmark.



— PHOTO AND “THE RAZZ REVUE” COURTESY BOB BOZE BELL —



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

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

RED STATE, BLUE STATE COWBOYS

Bob Boze Bell's January 2021 "To The Point" column and artwork (right), aspired to heal and unify, a lofty and magnanimous goal many artists and writers seek to achieve through their art.

For the most part, public comments and reactions to Bob's *Red State, Blue State Cowboy* have been positive. The thought-provoking illustration has elicited comments emblematic of the nation's current political state.

POINT

Let me assure you that the Red State Cowboys see and understand the other side's point of view, and that point of view is distressing at least! Socialism and capitalism are polar opposites; they can't exist in the same system. History has proven this. To summarize, if the principles you cited are to truly work, then BOTH sides have to accept and abide by them. Selective obedience to the rules is not tolerated!! If *True West* is politically neutral and is only dedicated to preserving history, I don't want to see any more stuff like this. If not, cancel my subscription!

*Richard Ramsey
Sachse, Texas*

COUNTERPOINT

I am not from your area, or even in Arizona. I live on the Central Coast of California, Los Osos, to be exact. I recently subscribed to *True West* magazine and saw your artwork and sentiments which were printed with it. Your words are exactly what Americans should be doing. I am neither red nor blue, having been born in Bowie, Texas, and raised in Arkansas, with my family coming from the Fort Smith area.

I have valued both parties at times, but now we must learn yet again how to be Americans first, and leave politics to a secondary status. I was a river pilot on the Mississippi system for years, but left it to go to graduate school. Now I am a United Methodist pastor and clinical pastoral counselor. I received the magazine on the eve of Epiphany, and our capital was invaded on Epiphany. Your words were part of the Epiphany that helped me to understand and create some wisdom of how to treat these events of our time personally, and for my congregation and community. As a person whose vocation is comprised of words, I appreciate your words.

*Stephen Meadors
Los Osos, California*



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 -

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY SOLVED



The Real 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.

- TINTYPE OF CALIFORNIA JOE COURTESY JOE ROSA COLLECTION/CALIFORNIA JOE WITH PIPE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

I noticed what I believe is a misattributed photograph in the January 2021 issue. On page 41 of "Classic True West" about California Joe by Joe Rosa, he attributes the photograph in the upper right as being the Jenny-Newton guide, "California Joe," circa 1875. I believe this is in error and this photograph is actually John W. "Texas Jack" Mathias.

Attached is some information on a cabinet card of Mathias circa 1877, that I have in my collection. Information on "Texas Jack" Mathias and similar photos was verified with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

*Matt Sears
Tucson, Arizona*

What a wonderful discovery! At *True West*, we always are eager to correct the identification of a historical image with the proper provenance. Features Editor Mark Boardman pondered, "I wish Joe was around to talk about it"



"Texas Jack" Mathias

Early Photograph of John W. "Texas Jack" Mathias, Buffalo Hunter. Circa 1877, Cabinet Card, 5" x 7"

Reverso: Jack Mathias, Buffalo Hunter. Hired at Dodge City. Helped exterminate the buffalo. A successful hunter. Killed thousands of buffalo. Finally disappeared in the

haze, confusion and indifference of the extreme frontier. Nothing known of him after the buffalo was exterminated on the great plains. See letter of F.A. Hobbles, Dodge City, Kansas, Sept. 17, 1922. William E. Connelly.

- SOURCES OF PROVENANCE: HISTORIAN WILLIAM E. CONNELLY AND PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM, CANYON TX (REF #1985-185/2) A SIMILAR PHOTO IN REVERSE: "CIRCA 1877- POSSIBLY TAKEN IN WEATHERFORD, TEXAS" (JUST WEST OF FORT WORTH), COURTESY MATT SEARS COLLECTION -

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

An Expedition Gone Wrong

Henry Crabb and his troops wanted Mexican land—and got something else.

Henry Crabb wanted new opportunities in 1857. The former California legislator had just lost a run for a U.S. Senate seat, and he thought he might find greener pastures in Mexico. He was dead wrong.

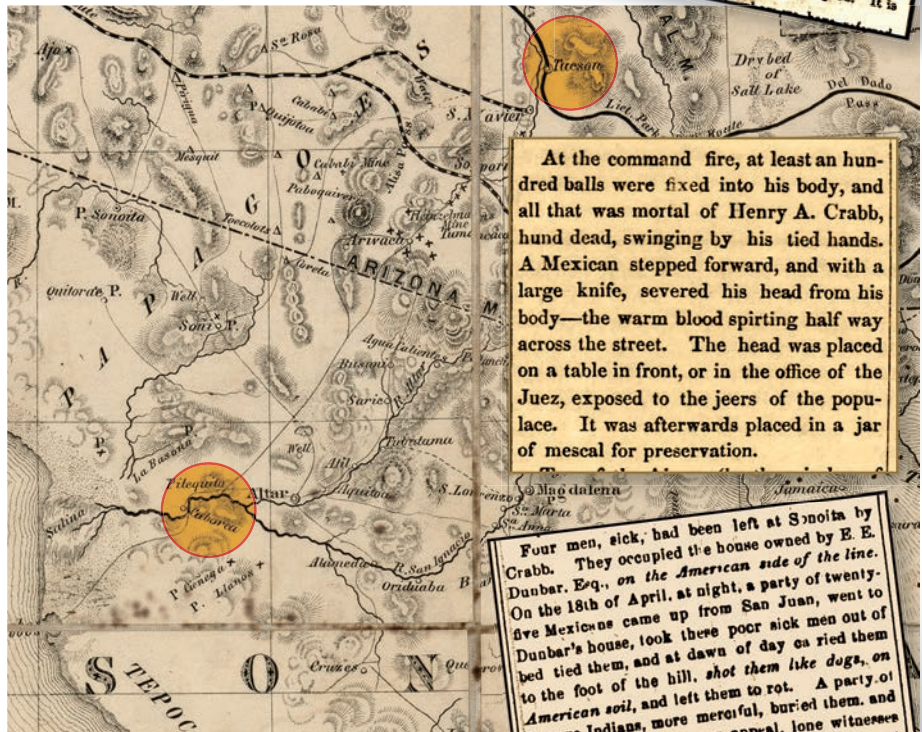
Using the connections of his Mexican wife's family, Crabb made contact with revolutionaries in Sonora. He proposed bringing a 1,000-man force to help their cause. In return, each of the Americans would be given a plot of land to settle, potentially leading to a colony. The revolutionary leaders agreed—although there was suspicion that Crabb intended to conquer and rule Sonora himself.

But there were problems from the get-go. Crabb recruited only about 100 men; still, the group headed south to Sonora. And during the trip, they missed the news: the revolutionaries had routed the government forces. Crabb and company were not needed—or wanted.

By late March, the expedition had reached the town of Caborca, where it ran into a force of around 1,200 revolutionaries, which included native Mexicans and Indians. The troops were incensed that these gringos had come to take their land. They attacked, forcing the Americans into and around the Mission Church. Up to 25 of Crabb's men were killed in the seven-day standoff before their leader decided to surrender on April 6. He expected mercy and the chance to go back home. He was mistaken.

The Mexican leader Pesqueira ordered that the prisoners be shot. One of his commanders refused to carry out the order and left, taking 14-year-old Charles Edward Evans with him. The boy would be the sole survivor of the expedition.

The rest of the men—estimated at somewhere between 50 and 60 in number—were taken out and executed the next morning, April 7.



THE CRABB MASSACRE.
The Public feeling in relation to it—Some further particulars—Crabb's teeth knocked out, after death, to get the gold from them—A different version of the flag-of-truce story—Mexican treachery—Dr. Evans shot also.
The San Francisco Herald has received from a gentleman just from Sonora some further particulars of the massacre of Colonel Crabb's (Sonora) party. We quote:
* * * Even the teeth were knocked out of the head of Gen. Crabb after the decapitation, for the purpose of getting the gold with which some of them were plugg'd. None of the bodies were buried. They were left to be devoured by the hogs, and their remains would never have received the rights of sepulture, but for the humanity of the Papago Indians. It is hard to be obliged to lay the shocking details of the barbarities committed by the Mexican cutthroats at Caborca before the public, particularly as their recital can only serve to harrow still more deeply the feelings of the friends and relatives of the gallant band who perished so miserably, but considerations of duty unfortunately demand it. The people of the State of California should be made acquainted with all the particulars. They are the tribunal before whom the Sonoran savages are to be arraigned. It is for them to pass judgment.

At the command fire, at least an hundred balls were fixed into his body, and all that was mortal of Henry A. Crabb, hund dead, swinging by his tied hands. A Mexican stepped forward, and with a large knife, severed his head from his body—the warm blood spirting half way across the street. The head was placed on a table in front, or in the office of the Juez, exposed to the jeers of the populace. It was afterwards placed in a jar of mescal for preservation.

Four men, sick, had been left at Sonora by Crabb. They occupied the house owned by E. E. Dunbar, Esq., on the American side of the line. On the 18th of April, at night, a party of twenty-five Mexicans came up from San Juan, went to Dunbar's house, took these poor sick men out of bed tied them, and at dawn of day carried them to the foot of the hill, shot them like dogs, on American soil, and left them to rot. A party of Papago Indians, more merciful, buried them, and four solitary monks now appeal, lone witnesses of a beastly crime, to the American Government for revenge. Will such an appeal go unheard? Mr. Dunbar just escaped massacre, having left Sonora on the afternoon previous. The Mexicans were furious at his escape, although he had nothing to do with the party except to offer shelter, on American soil, to four sick men in his own house.

Crabb got the worst end of it. He was tied to a pole with his arms above his head and a huge number of Mexicans opened fire. Some of them claimed his body was hit by more than 100 bullets. The indignities weren't over—Crabb was decapitated and his head pickled in a jar of mescal. Just what happened to it is unknown.

But there was more. A week later, some 20 Mexicans crossed into the U.S. and hunted down four members of the Crabb expedition, who'd been left behind because of illness. They were recuperating at a store in Tucson; the revolutionaries killed them. At about the same time, 20 Americans, who hadn't heard about the massacre, entered Sonora, intending to rescue Crabb and his men. They barely escaped with their lives. A second group of 16 headed to Caborca; they were forced to surrender and then executed.

Henry Crabb's failed filibuster invasion of Sonora, Mexico, the massacre of his men on both sides of the border and his gruesome death made sensational newspaper headlines across the United States in the spring and summer of 1857.

— NEWS CLIPPINGS FROM "LOS ANGELES STAR," MAY 16, 1857; "ORLEANS INDEPENDENT STANDARD," JUNE 19, 1857; "REPUBLICAN BANNER," JULY 7, 1857, COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM/MAP COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

The situation could have turned into another war between the U.S. and Mexico, but neither government was eager for that. So after initial outrage, the Crabb expedition was forgotten.



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

“I’m Your Huckleberry” Has a Double Meaning for Old Tucson

Saving the old girl is more than a dream.



Everyone wants to save “Hollywood in the Desert”—the Old Tucson Studios that hosted more than 400 films and television projects in the eight decades since Columbia Pictures decided to build an 1860s replica of Tucson for its game-changing *Arizona*.

Until then, Western movies were shot on a back lot in Hollywood, but that wasn’t good enough for Jean Arthur (above, right) and William Holden, starring in a lively story of a determined woman fighting corruption as she makes a new life in Arizona Territory. The \$2.5 million film—the equivalent of \$46.5 million in today’s money—set a new standard of realism for Hollywood Westerns.

No wonder everyone loves the iconic history of a studio and Western town attraction that once was a top Arizona tourism spot.

Everyone has faith that the recession of 2008, then the Arizona Legislature’s decision to cut back on government support of films (boneheaded comes to mind) and now COVID can’t ruin something that has meant so much to the 48th State and the legacy of Western entertainment.

“Everyone” in this case includes the fans who frequented the theme park—34,000 came to its annual Nighttime fundraiser in 2019—the moviegoers who have loved the Westerns shot here, the citizen’s task force that is charged with finding a new life for the old girl and the Pima County government that owns the property and sees it as a cherished part of the county’s history.

It doesn’t hurt that Arizona’s Gov. Doug Ducey’s new communications director is a transplanted Tucson boy who has nothing but fond memories of Old Tucson. “We came out years ago in the middle of summer from Connecticut after my grandparents moved here, and Old Tucson was near the top of the must-see list,” remembers C.J. Karamargin. “If we can increase our tourism attractions and boost the quality and the experience people have when we go there, that’s something that benefits everyone in Arizona.”

That’s the kind of “everyone” that gets things done.

As County Supervisor Chairman Ramon Valadez told the Tucson media, “Old Tucson is a cultural and historic icon, not only for

Arizona, noted for its historic authenticity, was the first movie made at the Old Tucson Studios, and the reason the venerable Western set was built in 1939.

— IMAGE AND POSTER COLUMBIA STUDIOS —

Pima County and Arizona, but for the country. A huge part of the nation’s film history is embedded in the land and the scenic vistas of the Tucson Mountains. Whatever the park’s future may be, the county will endeavor to preserve and honor that history.”

So far, the top two suggestions from the task force are to restore it as a tourist attraction and again promote it as a film studio. (Unspoken is the prayer that the Arizona Legislature will revisit offering incentives to filmmakers, waking up to how easy movie money is—a realization that has never escaped the state’s New Mexico neighbors.)

There’s an old saying that in real estate only three things count: location, location, location. And we’ve got all three in Old Tucson.

She was built from scratch in 1939 by local technicians and carpenters, helped by descendants of the Tohono O’odham, among



The Tucson Mountains provided an unfettered backdrop for scores of Westerns made at Old Tucson Studios, including *Tombstone* (1993) and its famous cast, i.e., Dana Wheeler-Nicolson, Kurt Russell, Paula Malcomson, Sam Elliott, Lisa Collins and Bill Paxton.

— COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES —

Arizona's original inhabitants. They constructed 50 buildings in just 40 days with 350,000 handmade adobe bricks and desert dirt. Many of those original buildings still stand, although some have been altered over the years.

But from such a great start, Act Two was five years off. It wasn't until 1945 that the second film was shot there—Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman's *The Bells of St. Mary's*. That did prompt Hollywood to remember this great authentic Western town, and in 1947, Gene Autry starred in *The Last Roundup*. Then came Jimmy Stewart's *Winchester '73* and Ronald Reagan's *The Last Outpost* in 1951; *Gunfight at the OK Corral* with Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas in 1956; *The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold* with Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels in 1958, and *Cimarron* with Glenn Ford in 1960.

Steve "Bunker" DeFrance has tons of memories of Old Tucson from his 30 years as a stuntman, including 52 episodes of NBC's *The High Chaparral*. He not only saw the Western set through its heyday, he saw why it had a heyday.

"Bob Shelton was a godsend to southern Arizona and was the heart and soul of Old Tucson," he says of the man who took over the lease in 1959 and started restoring buildings well showing their age. Under

Shelton's guidance, not only did the number of movies grow, the number of buildings grew—and Bunker might be one of the few left who remembers how that happened.

"Movies often had to add new buildings, and when they finished, Bob would negotiate to keep the ones he wanted." That's how Old Tucson added a saloon, bank building, doctor's office, hotel, cantina, a jail. "He kept Old Tucson up-to-date and clean and grew it into the second-largest tourist spot in Arizona after the Grand Canyon," Bunker said.

Not only was it a great place to work, but Bunker clearly saw how important it was to so many. "From the ranch set we could see the parking lot. If we saw two buses pull up, we knew they were Japanese tourists. If there were four buses, we knew they were Germans."

Movie makers and stars were stampeding to Old Tucson in those days—John Wayne (who made four movies there), Brian Keith, Audie Murphy, Paul Newman, Maureen O'Hara, Sidney Poitier, Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickenson, Frank Sinatra, Clint Eastwood, Ann Margaret, Gene Wilder, Harrison Ford, James Coburn and Charlton Heston.

Television crews came too, filming episodes of *Little House on the Prairie* and *Bonanza* and *The New Maverick*. Even Willie Nelson used Old Tucson as the backdrop for his album

cover with Wynton Marsalis for *Two Men with the Blues*.

How appropriate that the 1993 remake of the classic *Gunfight at the OK Corral* was shot at Old Tucson—this one called *Tombstone* with Kurt Russell and Val Kilmer and his unforgettable line, "I'm your Huckleberry."

In 1995, fire destroyed much of Old Tucson—especially its Western history paraphernalia—but it was rebuilt, and it reopened in 1997.

The park closed indefinitely last September due to COVID, but there's hope it will reopen this fall with a new vendor and a new lease on life.

"Bunker" DeFrance has high hopes, but also worries. "Don't Disney-fy it," he begs. For his two bits, he'd have a sound stage, Western sets and a Western museum—maybe one that borrows from other museums for changing displays like the Scottsdale Museum of the West.

And he has an encouraging memory from about seven years ago that might be just the thing for today. He remembers being introduced to someone from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., who was in Tucson exploring the idea of making Old Tucson an affiliated museum. Now, that would bring in tourism like free beer on a Saturday night.

Chances look good for the ole girl, if you believe in signs. Or incredible coincidences. Because how else can you reconcile that one of her biggest supporters is the top administrator for Pima County—a man who has taken a personal and profound interest in saving Old Tucson?

I'm sure Val Kilmer is smiling. Pima County's top administrator is named Chuck Huckleberry!



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*.



John Wayne and Rick Nelson costarred in the 1959 Western *Rio Bravo*, one of the most recognizable movies the Duke made at Old Tucson.

— COURTESY WARNER BROS. —

BY STEVE FRIESEN

Hollywood's West of the Imagination

Brian Lebel's 31st Old West Auction hammered out Hollywood history for avid collectors of Western memorabilia.



John Wayne's .44-40 Winchester 1892 carbine, used in *True Grit* and *Rooster Cogburn*, took top honors with a price of \$88,500.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION —

The hat John Wayne wore in *Cahill U.S. Marshal* brought in \$29,500.

The term “west of the imagination” was created by historian William Goetzmann to refer to 19th-century depictions of the West. First it was the work of Bierstadt, Moran and other artists who inspired that imagination. Later it was Buffalo Bill Cody and other showmen who took the live action of the West to the world. Movies and television then added to the growing myth of the American West. It was this West of the imagination that reigned at Brian Lebel's 31st Old West Auction in Mesa on January 23, 2021, which featured firearms and clothing items from our favorite Hollywood Westerns.

Items from 20th-century movies and television shows rounded up the highest bids. John Wayne's .44-40 Winchester 1892 carbine pulled in the top price of \$88,500. He used it in both *True Grit* and its sequel *Rooster Cogburn*. A shirt Wayne wore in *The Searchers* brought in \$23,600, and a shirt he wore in *Red River* went for \$21,240.



A Bohlin saddle that belonged to Ronald Reagan, whose roles in Westerns helped propel him to the White House, brought \$41,300.

Most of the many Hollywood costumes in the auction came from the Western Costume Company, founded in 1912 to supply the studios. Inside the garments the company's label noted the person who wore it and frequently included the size. Wayne's shirt for *The Searchers* included his chest size as 46—important information for a dyed-in-the-wool fan. Henry Fonda's vest from *My Darling Clementine*, which sold for \$4,538, reveals that he had a chest size of 42. The company is still in operation, often renting costumes for events; imagine wearing clothing from your favorite Western to the next costume party.

At this year's Mesa auction, the shining stars were the artifacts associated with the persons who helped build the myths of the West. In doing so, they became legends themselves. Was it the true West? Not always, but they were always true to the West. ✦

Steve Friesen comes to “Collecting the West” with over 40 years of experience in collecting for museums, including evaluating and acquiring artifacts from the American West.



The bib shirt John Wayne wore in *The Searchers* brought \$23,600.



The two Colt revolvers used by Marlon Brando in *One Eyed Jacks* went for \$26,500.



The Smith and Wesson revolver used by Steve McQueen in *Nevada Smith* gaveled out at \$26,550.



A Colt single action pistol and a Remington derringer used by Paladin, the central character of television's *Have Gun Will Travel* and played by Richard Boone, went for \$32,450.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

April 10, 2021

Scottsdale Art Auction (Scottsdale, AZ)
ScottsdaleArtAuction.com • 480-945-0225

May 14-16, 2021

Premier Firearms Auction #82
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June 6, 2021

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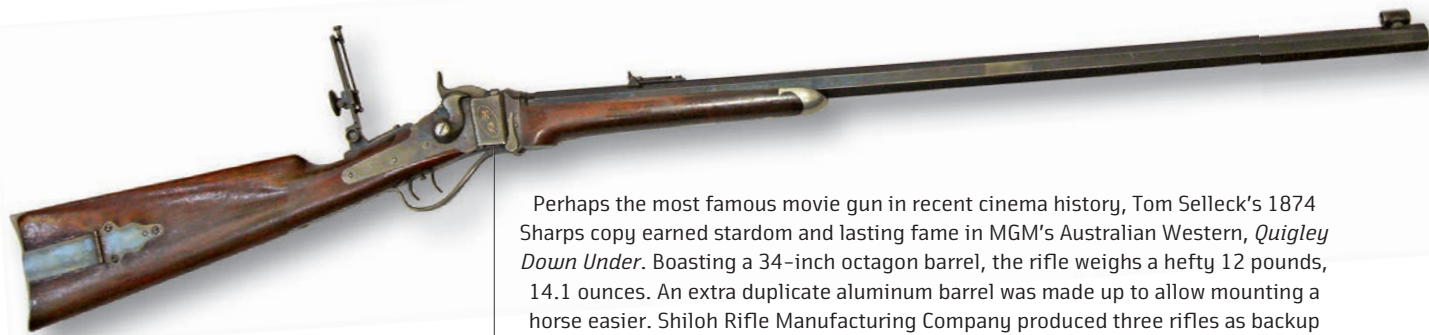
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Quigley's Sharps— Cinema's Most Famous Gun?

Among the most recognizable silver screen firearms, this Shiloh rifle has earned "star" status in its own right.



Perhaps the most famous movie gun in recent cinema history, Tom Selleck's 1874 Sharps copy earned stardom and lasting fame in MGM's Australian Western, *Quigley Down Under*. Boasting a 34-inch octagon barrel, the rifle weighs a hefty 12 pounds, 14.1 ounces. An extra duplicate aluminum barrel was made up to allow mounting a horse easier. Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing Company produced three rifles as backup for the film, and for years, has been offering exact replicas—with the customer's own initials in gilt on the receiver—to Sharps enthusiasts.

— COURTESY TOM SELLECK —

John Wayne's large lever 1892 Winchester carbine was arguably the most famous movie gun for generations. By the early 1970s, modern gun buffs undoubtedly felt that Clint Eastwood's "Dirty Harry" Smith & Wesson Model 29, .44 Magnum deserved top honors. After all, both of these firearms of film fame spawned unheard of sales and, in the case of Duke's Winchester, numerous copies. One could easily make a case that nowadays, the most famous firearm from the celluloid world is Tom Selleck's famed Shiloh Sharps rifle, featured so prominently in 1990's *Quigley Down Under*. This rifle played such an important role that numerous copies have been reproduced since the film debuted. It truly has become a "star" in its own right.

In this Australian Western, Selleck portrays American sharpshooter Matthew Quigley who is hired from Wyoming by a wealthy Australian stockman to use his shooting skills with his buffalo Sharps rifle. When Quigley arrives and discovers his grisly task is to eradicate Aboriginal Australians, he quickly rejects the offer. The furious rancher tries to kill him for refusing. Quigley makes his escape into the outback brush country, taking a woman he frees from some of the rancher's men, and the pair is helped by the



In this studio still, Selleck, as Matthew Quigley, prepares to make his legendary long-range "bucket" shot, introducing his big Sharps rifle in the movie, and demonstrating its pinpoint accuracy, as his soon-to-be-enemy and his ranch hands look on.

— COURTESY MGM —

Aborigines. In return, Quigley helps the indigenous people by waging war on their mutual enemies.

In a pivotal scene, while demonstrating his shooting prowess at the ranch, Quigley explains his rifle uses a 540-grain patched bullet, backed by 110 grains of black powder, and is equipped with double set triggers and a Vernier sight marked up to 1,200 yards. As he quips, "This one shoots a mite further,"

he shoots at, and repeatedly hits, a bucket set out at supposedly 1,200 yards. Thus, Quigley's Sharps becomes a major player in the film.

This writer can proudly claim credit for having steered the moviemakers toward the selection of the Shiloh Sharps as Quigley's rifle. In 1990, while working at *Guns & Ammo* magazine, I received a call from the movie's production company,

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John Wayne's "True Grit" Winchester
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The Lone Ranger's Silver Saddle
 Sold, June 2018: \$153,400



Charlie Russel Illustrated Letter
 Sold, January 2015: \$126,500



Billy the Kid - Upham Tintype
 Sold, June 2011: \$2.3 million



James Beckwourth
 Sold, January 2019: \$70,800

The Robert G. McCubbin
 Photography Collection



Engraved Colt Single Action
 Sold, January 2020: \$47,200

The Cordy Rich Antique & Historic
 Firearms Collection



Goldberg, Staunton Bit
 Sold January 2021: \$22,420

The Roger Wilmot Collection
 of Fine Bits & Spurs



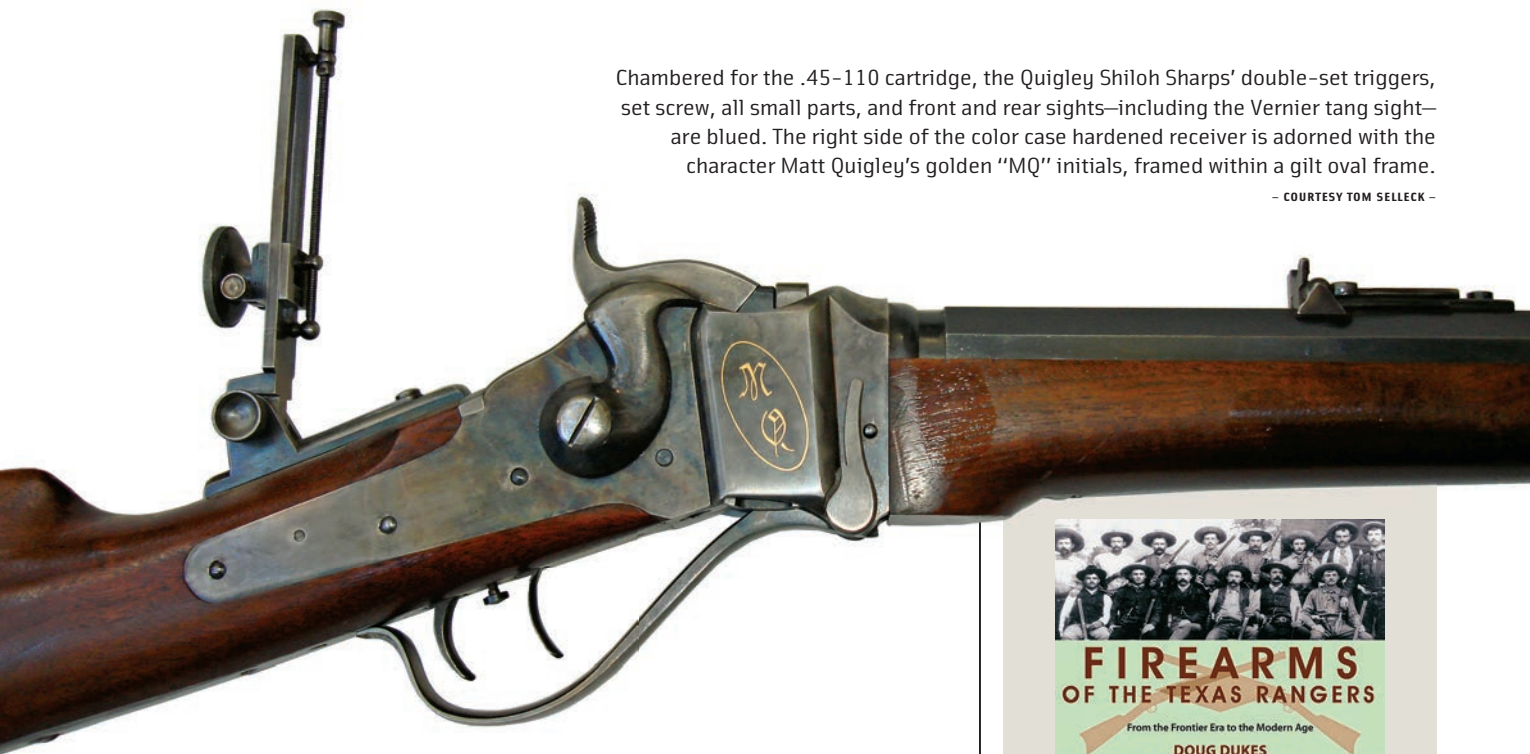
Montana Territory Broadside
 Sold January 2021: \$23,600

The Buzz Nyhart Montana Territorial
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Chambered for the .45-110 cartridge, the Quigley Shiloh Sharps' double-set triggers, set screw, all small parts, and front and rear sights—including the Vernier tang sight—are blued. The right side of the color case hardened receiver is adorned with the character Matt Quigley's golden "MQ" initials, framed within a gilt oval frame.

— COURTESY TOM SELLECK —

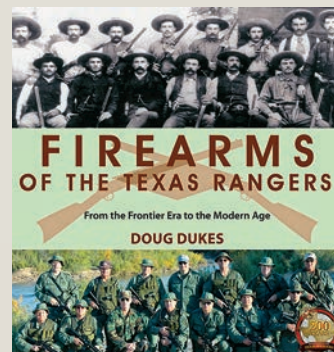
asking me what type of circa 1850s-1860s percussion breechloader could shoot accurately at over 1,000 yards. I told them there were none, since breechloaders of that era had chambers that only held around 60-65 grains of black powder—not enough for such long-range accurate shooting. After some conversation about the story, I suggested it could be easily set in the early 1870s, so they could use an 1874 Sharps metallic cartridge rifle, which was actually introduced in 1871. They liked my suggestion and asked where they could obtain such rifles. I told them of the modern replicas being produced in Big Timber, Montana, and they decided to have three guns made up for the movie by the Shiloh Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company. Selleck's *Quigley Down Under* has since proved to be a lasting favorite film with Western fans—and Shiloh's "Quigley" Sharps has become iconic.

In 2007, Tom Selleck asked me to appraise several of his motion picture guns, including what he called his "Number One" Quigley rifle that he used the most, and kept for himself. Selleck had purchased the other two Quigley movie rifles from the production company and eventually donated one to the National Rifle Association's National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia, where it is currently on display. He supplied another in 1999 to the NRA to be raffled to support their shooting programs, which raised around two million dollars.

Weighing in at 12 pounds, 14.1 ounces, Selleck's Shiloh, serial number 8886, was patterned after a Hartford model 1874 Sharps. Sporting a steel military-style butt plate, the straight-grained, custom-fit American walnut stock was fitted with an extra-long length of pull for Selleck. It wears a color case hardened patchbox, and a pewter-tipped forearm. It has a 34-inch blued octagon barrel, a color case hardened receiver, hammer, butt plate and lever. The letters "MQ" (for the character "Matthew Quigley") are inlaid in gold, within a gilt oval frame on the right side of the receiver, and the rifle is chambered in .45-110 caliber. Further, the rifle has double set triggers, a Vernier tang sight, hooded front sight, and a standard folding leaf rear sight. The last time I inspected Tom's original Quigley Shiloh Sharps, it showed use, but was in overall excellent condition.

I'm proud to have played a small part in helping create one of the silver screen's most famous firearms, and for having had the chance to personally handle this celebrated rifle. Like the Duke's 1892 Winchester and Dirty Harry's Model 29 S&W, Matthew Quigley's Shiloh '74 Sharps has surely become the stuff of legend. ✦

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.



FIREARMS OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

Firearms of the Texas Rangers, From the Frontier Era to the Modern Age, by Doug Duke and published by the University of North Texas Press, will undoubtedly appeal to serious Ranger historians, arms students and casual readers. With a battalion full of fascinating original source information and interviews, Duke offers riveting reading about the ever-changing guns, ammunition and tactics of this highly respected force. As a former lawman, Duke knows firsthand the work, and he faithfully covers the Texas Rangers from their founding in the 1820s up to modern times. Painting a colorful canvas of the Wild West of old, while bringing it up to today's crime-fighting methods, he relates the impact the Rangers had in the evolution of firearms from single-shot muzzleloaders to the first practical revolvers up to today's arms (the famed Colt Walker was designed by a Ranger, for their specific use). Hardcover, 8 ¾-inch by 9 ¼-inch, 498-pages.

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BY HENRY C. PARKE

Tom Selleck

THE LAST OF THE BREED

The renowned film and television star reflects on his 50 years in Westerns and his hope that he will ride the range again on the silver screen.

A 1969 episode of the Western series *Lancer* opened with an unmustachioed but unmistakable Tom Selleck cheerfully harassing a one-handed lawman. It was just a bit, but it was a start for an actor who would become nearly the lone standard-bearer for Westerns in the 1990s and 2000s, much as Clint Eastwood had been in the decades before, and John Wayne had before him. Coincidentally, later a clean-shaved Sam Elliot appears just long enough to have his horse stolen. “Sam and I were already good friends,” Selleck says. “Fox had a new talent program, like the old studio system; were in it. I’ve always said Sam was more formed in those days, [knowing] exactly what he wanted. I was still learning the craft.

“Other than a Muriel Cigar commercial, where I got on a horse for about three seconds,” it would be a busy but Westernless decade before Selleck would saddle up again. A miniseries based on Louis L’Amour’s *The Sacketts* was in preparation, about three brothers uniting after the Civil War. Two brothers had already been cast: Sam Elliott and Jeff Osterhage. Writer/Producer Jim Byrnes recalls, “Director Robert Totten wanted Buck Taylor for the part. Tom came in five times to read, and Bob still wanted Buck. I said to Bob, ‘This guy is going to be a star.’”

“I’m glad I was honest with Bob because most actors lie,” admits Selleck. “He asked, can I ride a horse? I told him, ‘No, but I’m

not afraid of them. I’m a good athlete, and I can learn.’ All of us finalists had our audition at the Randall Ranch. He had us get on a horse and ride over to the grandstand. And in the grandstand were Glenn Ford, Ben Johnson, Sam Elliott, Jeff Osterhage and Bob Totten.” Selleck won the role, and Taylor played a cowboy who made plans to kill Selleck’s character the moment they met.

“Bob Totten left a big impression on me. He commanded a lot of respect. He’d done more *Gunsmites* than almost anybody. Totten assembled a Western stock company like John Ford had, people who did one-day bit parts: Slim Pickens, Pat Buttram and Jack Elam.” And then there were the stars. “Glenn Ford was an actor ahead of his time; his acting style was very naturalistic, like early Brando. Ben Johnson would be embarrassed if I called him a mentor, but he was—everybody looked up to Uncle Ben. He spent a lot of time with us, taught Jeff and me how to rope—and he was a world champion roper. I got to know Louis L’Amour well. Louie was on the set every day. I got hooked on Westerns with *The Sacketts*.”

The wrap party was memorable. Totten took off one of his boots, “poured Jack Daniel’s in it, said, ‘This is tradition: you need to drink out of this.’ But the big thing out of that party was Sam, Jeff, Ben and I all said if we ever get a chance to do this again, we’re there. And that was the

germination of *Shadow Riders*.” In 1980, Selleck was cast in *Magnum P.I.*, and became a major star, playing the Hawaiian-based detective for eight seasons. But he always made movies on hiatus, and in 1982, the three brothers and Ben were back, now called the Travens rather than the Sacketts, to avoid litigation. “Louis created a new book for us, the Travens, and it was such a thrill when the book came out, to see us—Sam, Jeff and I—pictured on the back.”

Magnum ended in 1988. “The script by John Hill, *Quigley Down Under*, had a bunch of fingerprints on it—Steve McQueen, Sean Connery—but it didn’t get made, and I absolutely loved it.”

Quigley is the story of an American cowboy, maybe the best long-range shot in the world, who comes to Australia to work for a rancher named Elliott Marston (Alan Rickman). Quigley rebels when Marston wants him to slaughter Aboriginal people, takes their side, and declares war on Marston. Helping him is Crazy Cora (Laura San Giacomo), who has some issues, hence her name, but rises powerfully to the occasion. San Giacomo recalls that it was her first Western, “a genre I’m not familiar with, but I’m going to dive in and do my best, and shoot guns and ride horses; things that I have never done before.”

Selleck already knew Australian director Simon Wincer. “[When] Simon was directing *Lonesome Dove*, I was offered the part that my dear friend, the late Robert Urich, did.

During a film and television career that began in 1969 with a small part in an episode of *Lancer*, Tom Selleck has established himself as one of the most recognizable and beloved actors of his generation. In 1990, after an eight-year hiatus from Westerns while starring in *Magnum, P.I.*, Selleck redefined himself as a great Western film star in the role of Matthew Quigley in *Quigley Down Under*.

- COURTESY MGM -



I was doing *Magnum*, and I couldn't get released." *Quigley* was not an easy shoot. Wincer explains, "Where we filmed was very much the Outback, that sort of landscape." It was particularly demanding of San Giacomo. She remembers, "The wardrobe designers in Australia said, you're not going to survive in this corset, in the terrain where we're going. So they had to strip the corset down several layers of fabric and bone."

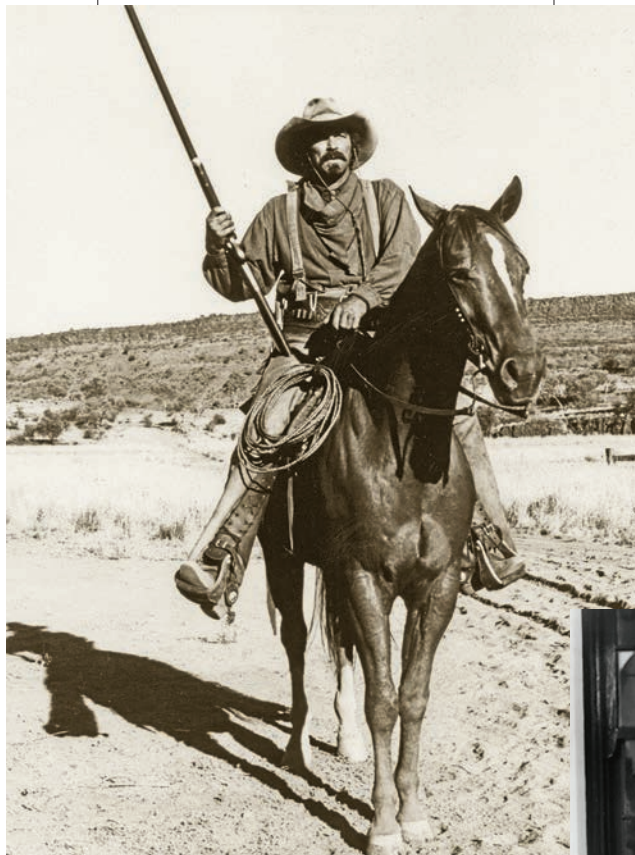
"She was absolutely wonderful," recalls Wincer. "A real pro, and filming with the flies and that heat is challenging. That sad speech, when she tells how she smothered the baby unknowingly—just wonderful." For her part, San Giacomo loved working with the Aborigines, "And just the magic and the mystique of being in the Outback was pretty great," she says. "Tom is a real gentleman, real considerate. I remember him being so proud of the detail that was in all the props and the guns. He loved that project, and he brought all of that with him."

Wincer concurs. "Tom's fantastic with all that, because he loves the detail, the minutia. And his Sharps rifle, when he first reveals it, that's a favorite scene of mine. And when he demonstrates with the bucket on top of the hill, telling the rider to keep going. Then the wonderful delay when you hear the almighty crack of the gun and eventually the bucket goes hurtling up in the air!"

"That would have been a great John Wayne movie," Selleck notes. "When you realize John Wayne could have done a better job, it's a little intimidating. But every good part should scare you; put it that way. It was iconic; this guy was bigger than life. I worked very hard on it. I'm very, very proud of *Quigley*." He also developed a great rapport with Spike, his horse in *Quigley*, who was big enough to look good with the tall actor astride. Given to Selleck after filming, Spike would co-star with him in *Last Stand at*

Tom Selleck, who admitted he could not ride a horse during casting of *The Sacketts* in 1979, has become one of Hollywood's top Western actors—and horsemen—during the past four decades. In *Quigley Down Under*, Selleck bonded so much with his horse Spike that the production company gave him the well-trained steed, who can be seen later co-starring as Selleck's mount in *Last Stand at Saber River*.

— COURTESY MGM —



Saber River, and spend the rest of his 30 years at Selleck's ranch.

"Tom's always such a stickler for having the right saddle, the right gun, the right horse," recalls stuntman Walter Scott, who started doubling Selleck for a *Rockford Files*, and continued with *The Sacketts* and many more. "We got along great, and when I quit doing stunts, he would call me to coordinate his stuff." Selleck's next Western was *Ruby Jean and Joe*. Selleck explains, "It was a low budget movie about a washed-up rodeo cowboy," who befriends Ruby Jean, a black teenaged hitchhiker. "It's a nice, simple movie about redemption. My character has a problem with the bottle. His horse is lame; he puts it out to pasture, which is symbolic of himself, and he does it at his

mentor's ranch. I said, that has to be Ben Johnson. They say, we can't afford Ben. I paid his salary out of my salary, because it wouldn't have been the same."

They shot Selleck's rodeo sequence during a real Tucson rodeo. "There were 18,000 people in the audience," Scott remembers, "He just wasn't afraid of doing anything. I had a bulldogging sequence. I put Tom on a real bulldogging horse—he slid off the horse, he did it three or four times; it was great."

Selleck remembers, "I used to bump into Ted Turner, and he'd say, 'Let's do a Western!' Ted was very big on it." Starting in 1997, Selleck would make three elegant theatrical-quality Westerns for TNT, each with a strong literary background: *Last Stand at Saber River* by Elmore Leonard, *Crossfire Trail* by Louis L'Amour, and *Monte*



Film and television veterans Tom Selleck and Laura San Giacomo as Matthew Quigley and Crazy Cora had great chemistry as co-stars in *Quigley Down Under*, but both had to adapt and overcome the challenges of filming in locations all across the Australian Outback.

— COURTESY MGM —

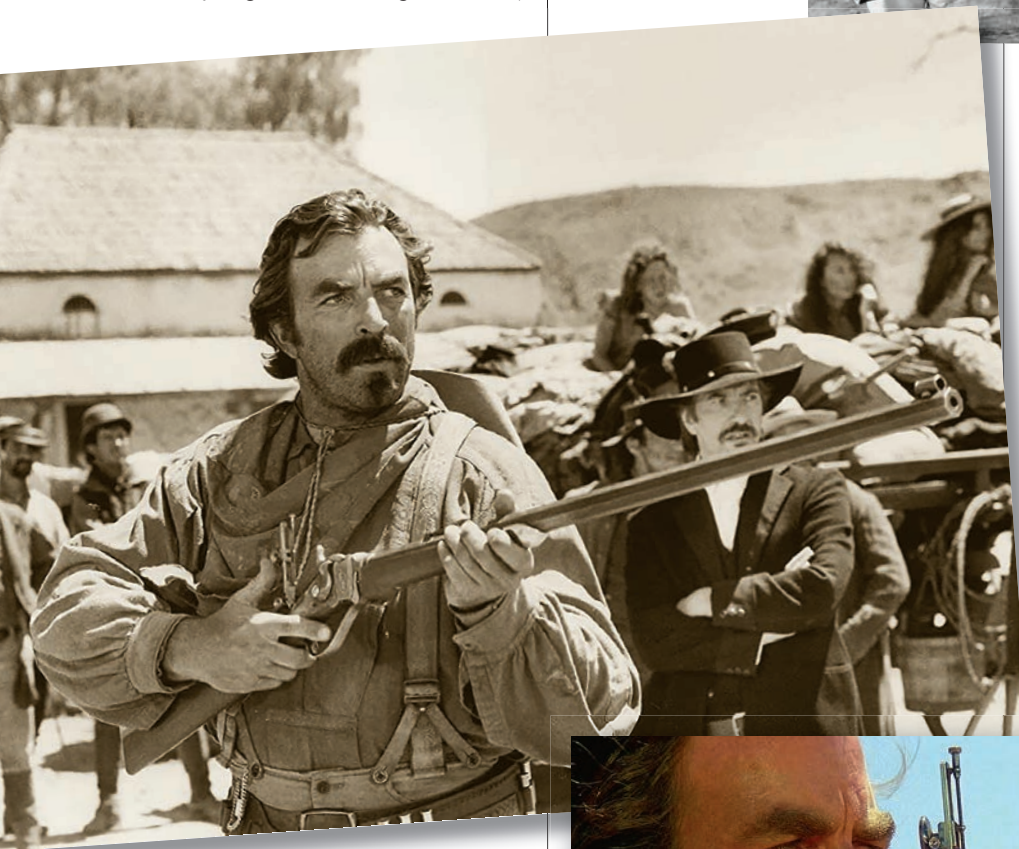
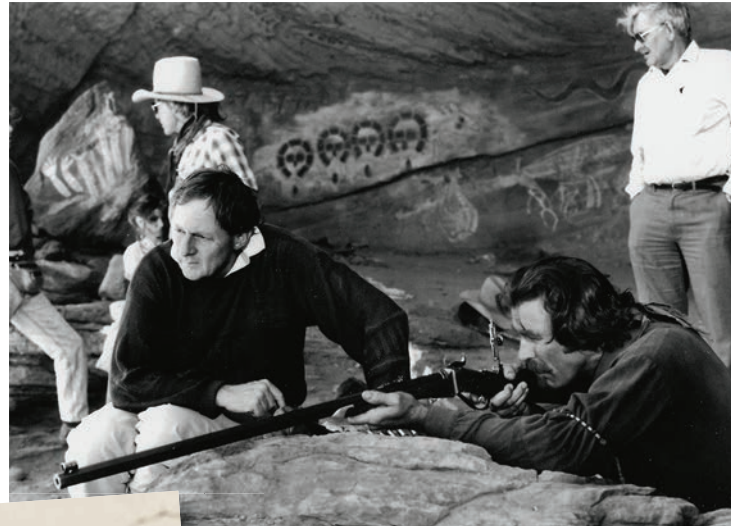
Since the production of *Quigley Down Under* in 1990, Tom Selleck and Australian director Simon Wincer (below, left) have worked together on two additional Westerns. Wincer and Selleck developed a strong chemistry of collaboration around the *Quigley* character and his Shiloh Sharps rifle while shooting in diverse locations across Australia.

— COURTESY MGM —

Walsh by Jack Schaeffer. “That was very intimidating; they’re all different to adapt. Louis’ stories, to make them filmic, you need to capture the spirit, but you had to make some changes. With Elmore Leonard, you could literally lift his dialogue off the page. And Jack Schaefer was just a great storyteller. *Monte Walsh*, I always wanted to do a sequel, because there’s so much more to it. He wrote *Shane*, but *Shane* was a short story. *Monte Walsh* was a great piece of work, but very intimidating to adapt.”

A spectacular moment in *Saber River* is when Cable, Selleck’s character, riding after a runaway wagon with his daughter aboard,

“Wouldn’t it be great if you could get Tom to do it?” Selleck saw them walking his way, and he knew. “They’re going to ask me to do this. And sure enough, Walter says, ‘What do you think? One time.’ I said, ‘You think I can do this?’ And Walter said yes. And I trust Walter. I’ve trusted him with my life many times.” You can see it’s



In *Quigley Down Under*, Tom Selleck’s character, Wyoming cowboy Matthew Quigley, travels to Australia to work for Alan Rickman’s character, corrupt rancher Elliott Marston (left, in black hat). At their first meeting as employer-employee, Marston challenges Selleck, in one of the most famous scenes of marksmanship in Western film history, to prove his skills with his monogrammed Sharps 1874 rifle. For details on how the Shiloh Sharps rifle, outfitted with a Vernier Tang sight (below), became Selleck’s signature gun, read Phil Spangenberg’s “Shooting From the Hip” column on p. 23.

— PHOTOS COURTESY MGM —

snatches her to safety just as the wagon flies over a cliff. They’d filmed it a couple of times, with Scott’s brother, Ben, doubling for Selleck, catching the small stunt-woman standing in for the daughter. “And now we’re getting ready to send the wagon over, with the team breaking loose,” Scott remembers, “and the director [Dick Lowry] said,





L.-r.: Tom Selleck, Sam Elliott and Jeff Osterhage co-starred as Tyrell, Tell and Orrin Sackett in the 1979 mini-series *The Sacketts*, which was adapted by Jim Byrnes from Louis L'Amour's best-selling novel.

- COURTESY NBC -

During Tom Selleck's long career in film and television, he has co-starred with many of the greatest and most venerated Western stars, including Glenn Ford (below, right), in the 1979 ensemble TV mini-series *The Sacketts*.

- COURTESY NBC -



really Selleck, in close, as the girl jumps to his arms just before the wagon goes airborne.

"Tom would say, 'Walter, why are you making me do this?' 'Because you can do it, and you know it always looks better if you have the actor doing the fight and everything.' He threw good punches and did good fights."

The third TNT Western was *Monte Walsh*. "You know, *Monte Walsh* wasn't a gunslinger," Selleck points out. "He was a cowboy in an era where the life is going away. And I just loved that. I have no problem bringing up the original with Lee Marvin; that movie really moved me." Scott, who had worked on the original, had his doubts. "I said, how do you remake *Monte Walsh*? He said, 'Well, I'll put my twist on it.' I didn't think anybody could do *Monte Walsh* justice like Lee Marvin, but Tom Selleck damn sure pulled it off—he did a hell of a job."

Monte Walsh got off to a shaky start. Robert Carradine, who played one of the Slash-Y cowboys, remembers, "It was our third day, and all the hands and Tom and Keith [Carradine] are gathered on this hilltop looking down on a group of maybe 20 mustangs, and every time we fire this shot, the mustangs scattered, and we have to spend half an hour gathering them all. So we're all set up to do another take and the director says, 'Can we move that herd about five feet to the left?' And Tom Selleck says, 'Why don't you move the camera one inch to the right?'" They were already behind schedule, and needed a new director fast. Wincer was suddenly available, and he took over immediately. "Half the locations chosen for the film, I'd never seen. I'd just have to turn up on the day and do it. *Monte Walsh*, it's a real favorite of mine because it's about

the coming of wire, the end of the cowboy era, and how it affects these different characters in many different ways."

Robert Carradine contributed much more than a fine performance. Selleck remembers, "Bobby is the guy who said day one, in front of all the Slash-Y cowboys, 'The set's where it's at. Nobody goes to the trailer.' And he set that ethic."

Carradine elaborates, "We're not in every scene, the cowhands, and I said, 'Look, why don't we get these guys to come out every day, get into wardrobe, and just ride around and do sh*t in the background like they would be doing in the real deal? Why use extras when we have the real guys here just sitting around?'"

Little did anyone guess that *Monte Walsh* would be the end of an era for the filmmakers as well as the characters. Selleck explains, "We had another one planned for TNT, *Empty Land*, by Louis L'Amour. And a new management came in at Turner, and it just went away." Certainly Selleck has been busy. He's currently shooting Season 11 of *Blue Bloods*, and developing the next of his annual Jesse Stone movies, but, he says, "Nobody's ringing my doorbell or phone, offering me all sorts of Westerns."

Walter Scott opines, "I wish Tom and Sam Elliott would do one more Western. We got one more in us. There's a great one called *Ride the High Country*, that Joel McCrea and Randolph Scott did. I say, you two guys would be perfect in that."



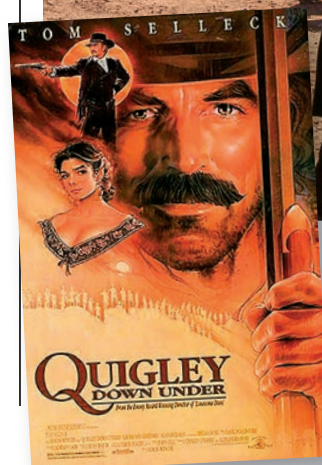
Henry C. Parke, Western Films Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs at *Henry'sWesternRoundup.blogspot.com*. His book of interviews, *Indians and Cowboys*, will be published later this year.

Oscar winner and world champion roper Ben Johnson (above, left) co-starred in Tom Selleck's first major Western, the ensemble NBC-TV mini-series, *The Sacketts*. Western veteran Johnson mentored Selleck on and off the set, even teaching Selleck and co-star Jeff Osterhage, how to rope.

- COURTESY ABC PICTURES/ROSEBROOK FAMILY COLLECTION -

In *Quigley Down Under*, American firearms play a key role in defining the characters of the film. While Selleck's Quigley proudly touts his skills with his Shiloh Sharps 1874 rifle, Alan Rickman's Elliott Marston, propped with a Colt 1860 Army .44 caliber, professes with great braggadocio his supposed speed and accuracy with the revolver.

- COURTESY MGM -





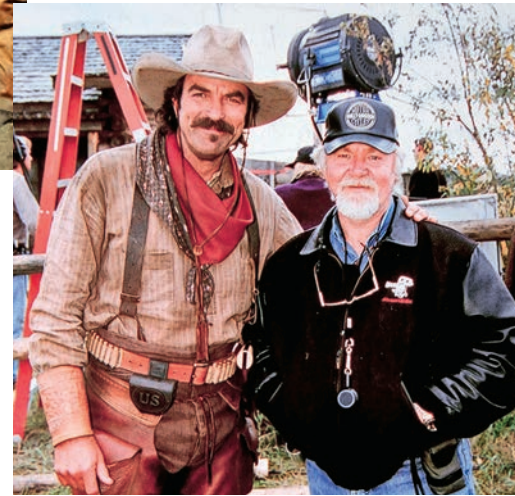
Tom Selleck fondly remembers the camaraderie on the *Monte Walsh* set and credits much of it to his co-star Robert "Bobby" Carradine, third from right. Carradine, co-starring as Sunfish Perkins, was the defacto leader of the "Slash-Y" cowboys ensemble, challenging them to stay in character and in costume while on location during production in Alberta, Canada.

- COURTESY TNT -



Sam Elliott (left) and Tom Selleck have known each other from their earliest days in Hollywood in the late 1960s. First appearing in the same episode of *Lancer* in 1969, they co-starred in *The Sacketts* (1979) and *The Shadow Riders* (1982). Western fans continue to hope that the two friends will be presented with the right script and make at least one more Western together.

- COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES -

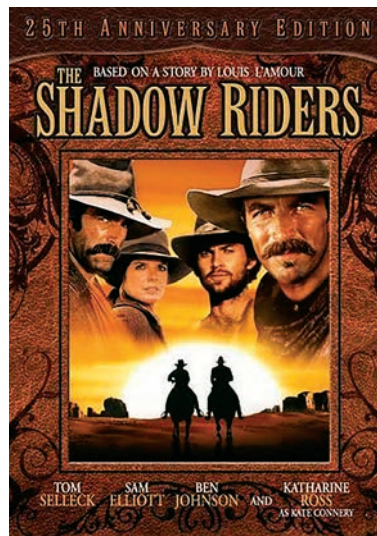
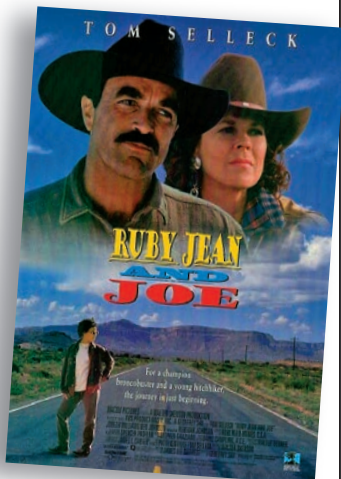


The second TNT Western Tom Selleck made for Ted Turner, *Crossfire Trail*, reunited him with *Quigley Down Under's* director of photography David Egby (right) and director Simon Wincer. *Crossfire* was also Selleck's third Western adapted from a Louis L'Amour novel.

- COURTESY TNT -

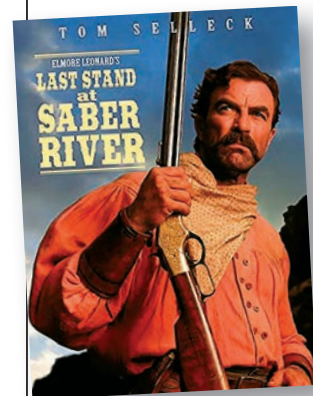
After a six-year hiatus from Westerns, Tom Selleck returned to the genre as an aging rodeo star in the coming-of-age drama *Ruby Jean and Joe*. Selleck insisted that Ben Johnson be cast in a key role as his on-screen mentor. It would be Johnson's next to last role and final Western.

- COURTESY SHOWTIME -



Three years after the ratings success of *The Sacketts*, Tom Selleck, Sam Elliott and Jeff Osterhage saddled up again as fictional brothers, with Ben Johnson as their "uncle," for *The Shadow Riders*, also adapted by Jim Byrnes from a best-selling Louis L'Amour Western.

- COURTESY CBS -



Following *Ruby Jean and Joe*, Tom Selleck sought new Western vehicles and found a willing partner in TNT's Ted Turner. The first of three classic Western novels adapted for the cable network starring Selleck was *Last Stand at Saber River* (1997), which was adapted from an Elmore Leonard novel.

- COURTESY TNT -

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Out West AND DOWN UNDER

Quigley Down Under challenged the status quo of Western filmmaking in 1990, and it continues to inspire three decades later.

Thirty years ago, *Dances with Wolves* was nominated for 12 Academy Awards and was awarded 10 Oscars. The film's star, Kevin Costner, earned Oscars for direction and production, the first producer to accept a Best Picture Oscar for a Western film since *Cimarron* in 1931. Costner's film, categorized as a revisionist versus traditional Western, was only one of a dozen big-screen or television Westerns released in the United States in 1990. Of those 12, only a third stand out critically: *Wolves*, *Back to the Future III*, *Young Guns II* and *Quigley Down Under*. *Future III* was, of course, a mash-up of science fiction, comedy and Western, while *Young Guns II*, 'the second installment in John Fusco's highly successful and popular Billy the Kid series, was the most traditional Western of the year. *Quigley Down Under*, in its form, style and production, is as traditional as any Western before or since, yet it's considered a revisionist Australian Western. And, compared to *Dances With Wolves*, *Quigley Down Under* was not a box office or major critical success.

So why is it that 30 years later, *Quigley Down Under* has overcome those box-office and critical disappointments to be considered the best Australian Western with one of the genre's most beloved characters, Tom Selleck's Matthew Quigley? And how did it develop a cult following of Western firearm aficionados?

Since its release in 1990, *Quigley Down Under* has become beloved by Western fans because of its outstanding production, direction, writing, cinematography and

international cast, anchored by Tom Selleck in the title role. I believe the social issues it addresses with respect to the people and culture of the Australian Aboriginal people, and the injustices, violence and racial prejudice perpetrated on them during the frontier settlement of Australia, directly parallel the plot lines of its 1990 peer, *Dances with Wolves*.

Since their release, both Westerns have significantly influenced the American and Australian Western genre, with filmmakers from both countries continuing to address these topics on screen and casting more indigenous actors in their films. (For an in-depth profile of Selleck's career in Westerns and his reflections on the themes of *Quigley*, see Henry Parke's feature on

page 26. For a history of Australian Westerns, read Parke's column on page 64.)

Quigley has reached cult classic status because collectors and fans of traditional Old West firearms love the custom 1874 Shiloh Sharps rifle that Matthew Quigley carries and uses with deadly, highly accurate ferocity against the murderous oppressors of the Aboriginal Australians. The never-before-told history behind how the Sharps became the signature prop of the movie—and, possibly, the greatest Western cinema firearm (at the very least, the most popular rifle)—is explained in detail in Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg's exclusive "Shooting From the Hip" column on page 23.

But what of the real history behind *Quigley Down Under*? According to an October 19, 1990, interview in the *Los Angeles Times*, screenwriter John Hill, who passed away in 2017, was inspired to write *Quigley* in 1974, after reading an article in the *Times* that "explored the genocide of Aborigines in the latter 1800s." (Ironically, *Dances with Wolves* author Michael Blake was inspired to write his novel after reading Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, a bestselling and heartbreakingly truthful look at America's Indian atrocities.)

In 1974, an article in the *Los Angeles Times* on the violent, racist and even genocidal treatment of Aboriginal Australians by the colonial government of Australia in the 19th century inspired the late screenwriter John Hill to pen his original screenplay, *Quigley Down Under*.

— AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE, 1920, COURTESY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, NORTHWEST TERRITORY —





The 1890s photoengraving of Australia's famous explorer John Forrest and his mixed-race 1874 survey party crossing the uncharted center of Western Australia is illustrative of the country's complex colonial and Aboriginal history which inspired the screenplay for *Quigley Down Under*.

— "JOHN FORREST'S PARTY (HIS BROTHER, ALEXANDER, SECOND IN COMMAND) SIGHT THE OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE, 1874," BY J. MACFARLANE, (GEO. ROBERTSON & CO., 189-?), COURTESY NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA, 1403926208-1 -

Hill's original screenplay for *Quigley Down Under* creatively takes a very controversial American subject, American Manifest Destiny, and transfers the complex and incendiary issues of racial violence and prejudice perpetuated against American Indians to Australia's violent treatment of Aboriginal Australians.

Hill drops his hero, Wyoming cowboy Matthew Quigley, and an American prostitute, Crazy Cora, into Western Australia. In the mid-1870s, the Australian colonial and territorial government, military, police and settlers were broadening their control and conquest of the continent. And, like the American Indians, the Australian Aborigines were viewed with prejudice and considered a people without rights to their own land, despite their long occupation of it. It was seen as a wilderness ready for conquering and development.

Australian historian Chris Owen writes in his introduction to *'Every Mother's Son is Guilty': Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia, 1882-1905*, "The first European colonists viewed Western Australia through the prism of the doctrine terra nullius, as 'unoccupied,' despite the obvious presence of Aboriginal people."

At the helm of Hill's script, rightfully so, was Australian director Simon Wincer, who in 1990, was just off the successful production of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*. Wincer nimbly and evocatively directed his international and native Aboriginal cast and crew—under laborious, harsh conditions—across Outback locations in Victoria, New South Wales, Central Australia and Northern Territory, including Alice Springs.

Filming Hill's script, which is set during the tumultuous 1870s of Western Australia, across Australia's Outback broadens the scope of the conflict between white Australians and Australia's Aboriginal people living in the harsh conditions of frontier Australia, rather than in just one region. Northern Territory historian Darrell Lewis writes in his introduction to *A Wild History: Life and Death on the Victoria River Frontier*, "When the first settlers and cattle arrived in the Victoria River country, they were unarguably in a frontier situation. For the next 20 years this frontier was characterized by violent conflict with the Aborigines, extreme isolation, desperately slow communication, and rough living and working conditions."

Today, three decades after Wincer, Selleck, crew and cast went on location into Australia's Outback to film *Quigley Down Under*, the dramatized history remains as poignant and heartbreaking as the real history that Australians and Americans still struggle to confront and accept. The road to greater understanding, honest acceptance and mutual respect for our shared history, Australian and American, has been fraught with difficult truthful conversations about our violent and prejudicial past and present. As *Australian Guardian* feature writers Lorena Allam and Nick Evershed recently wrote in their special report on the frontier wars of Indigenous Australia, "The truth of Australia's history has long been hiding in plain sight."

Fortunately for all of us, filmmakers sometimes see those stories even before the historians do, and through their dramatic license jump-start the uncomfortable conversation and inject it into the public forum for further and more provocative investigation.



BY ART T. BURTON

Outback Outlaw, Mystical Hero

Jandamarra aka "Pigeon"
led one of the first
rebellions of Australian
Aboriginal people armed
with firearms in Western
Australia.

The indigenous Bunuba tribe comes from Kimberley, in the northwest region of Australia. Jandamarra, a member of the tribe, was born around 1873. His mother moved to the cattle stations of the area for work and brought her son, who learned to ride horses and became a master of the rifle. From a young age, Jandamarra learned to speak fluent English, shear sheep and use guns on William Lukin's station at Lennard River. He was regarded as the area's best Aboriginal stockman. Lukin dubbed him "Pigeon" because he was small and fast.

In 1889, Pigeon got in trouble for killing sheep with a friend. He won his freedom by agreeing to look after the police horses, which he did so well he became popular with the lawmen. When Pigeon's close friend, a white rancher named Bill Richardson, joined the police force in 1894, Pigeon joined him as a police tracker. By this time, he was an excellent tracker and marksman.

On one of their patrols in the Napier Range, Police Constable Richardson and Pigeon captured a large group of Bunuba people, Jandamarra's kinsmen and relatives, who were resisting being colonized. The group was held at the Lillimilura Police Post for a few days. One of the captives was Pigeon's uncle, Chief Ellemarra. The chief put pressure on Pigeon and forced him to decide between his tribal roots and his new loyalties. If Jandamarra did not want to be an outcast from the Bunuba

tribe, he had to kill Richardson. So, Pigeon shot Richardson, set the group free, stole some weapons and disappeared into the vast Kimberley landscape.



John Forrest, a celebrated Australian explorer and experienced frontiersman of the Australian Outback, was Western Australia's premier when Pigeon led his Bunuba people in rebellion against British rule and European settlement of their traditional lands in the Napier Range and Windjana Gorge.

— COURTESY NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA —

Pigeon became a resistance leader of Aboriginal Australians against British rule. He used the ranges and caves of the gorges and ravines as hideouts as he led an organized armed rebellion against European settlers.

November 10, 1894, marks the first organized attack that used guns against European Australians. Pigeon and his men ambushed five drovers who were driving cattle onto Bunuba land to set up a large station. Two of the drovers, Burke and Gibbs, were killed at Windjana Gorge.

On November 16, 1894, 30 policemen and Pigeon's band of 50 warriors faced each other in an eight-hour standoff at Windjana Gorge, a sacred location in Bunuba culture. Chief Ellemarra died in the battle, but Pigeon escaped with non-serious wounds. Consequently, Western Australia's first Premier, John Forrest, ordered the rebellion crushed. Police attacked Aboriginal camps around Fitzroy Crossing, killing people purely on suspicion that they had ties to Pigeon's band.

But Pigeon was not dead yet. He recovered, and for the next three years he defended his land and people against white intruders. His ability to appear out of nowhere and disappear without a trace became legendary. Once, when a Territorial police patrol followed him to his Tunnel Creek hideout known as the "Cave of Bats," they arrived at the location but could not locate him. They later found out that at the same time, Pigeon was raiding their base, the Lillimilura Police Post.



Windjana Gorge on the Lennard River, sacred to the Bunuba people of the Kimberley District, is where on November 16, 1894, Pigeon's band of 50 warriors fought 30 heavily armed Kimberley police to a standstill. Pigeon escaped without a major injury, but his uncle, Chief Ellemarra was killed.

— COURTESY THE STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, B4313795_4 —



Western Australian police in the Kimberley region regularly used Aboriginal trackers to arrest rebelling Aboriginal kinsmen, as witnessed here in East Kimberley, circa 1890. Eight years later, Western Australian Premier John Forrest hired Aboriginal Australian tracker Mingo Micki to track and kill the former Aboriginal tracker-turned-outlaw Jandamarra, aka Pigeon.

— UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER, COURTESY STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 003168D —

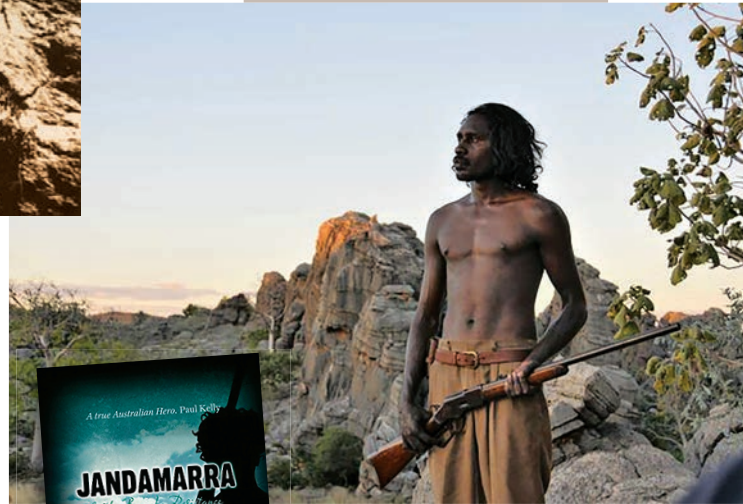
The Aboriginal people were in awe of Pigeon; they felt he had magical powers and could “fly like a bird and disappear like a ghost.” They were convinced that he was immortal and that the only person who could kill him was an Aboriginal person with similar magical powers.

Premier Forrest grew desperate and brought in an Aboriginal Australian tracker

known as Mingo Micki from the Pilbara region. Micki was said to possess magical powers and did not fear Pigeon. With the help of Micki, the police managed to track down Pigeon at Tunnel Creek on April 1, 1897. After a three-day running gunfight, Pigeon was wounded. While he lay bleeding to death from a rifle shot from Mingo Micki, the local chief of police stepped up and insisted on firing the kill shot. Pigeon's head was taken as a trophy, as were the heads of so many warriors of the past, but the name of Jandamarra aka Pigeon and his legacy live on in with the people of the Australian Kimberley region.

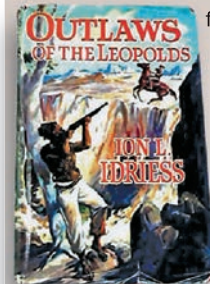


Art T. Burton, a retired college history professor, has written four critically acclaimed history books on the American Western frontier. He is a member of Western Writers of America and the Chicago Westerners Corral and was made an honorary Territorial Marshal by Oklahoma Governor David Walters.



— COURTESY ELECTRIC PICTURES/WAWILI PITJAS —

Since Jandamarra's death in 1897, his life has become an important story in Australian history. The first biography of his life, *Outlaws of the Leopolds* by Ion Idriess, was published in 1952. In 1995, Banjo Woorunmurra and Howard Pederson collaborated on the critically acclaimed *Jandamarra & the Bunuba Resistance*. Most recently, Aboriginal Australian Keithan Holloway portrayed the legendary warrior in *Jandamarra's War*, a 2011 Australian television documentary



filmed on location in the Kimberley, Western Australia.

BY MIKE COX

A Killer Bullets

While fighting for the citizens they swore to protect, two horseback-era Texas Rangers were cut down by a deadly killer.

Maybe in the flag-waving fervor following America's April 2, 1917, entry in the Great War, 56-year-old Ben Pennington saw joining the Texas Rangers as a patriotic act. Too old for the military, Pennington perhaps thought he could help guard the border from Mexican bandits or German spies and saboteurs. If he could not take on the Huns himself, he could take part in rounding up slackers (draft dodgers) or jailing anyone speaking disloyally of America.

For whatever reason, on October 4, 1917, Pennington enlisted as a ranger under Captain James Monroe Fox in Brewster County. Though new to the Texas Rangers,

Pennington had toted a pistol for two decades, a dozen years as marshal of the Central Texas town of Holland, followed by eight years as a Bell County constable. Heavily set with light hair and brown eyes, he stood 5 feet 10 inches.

An easygoing cowboy from San Angelo with light brown hair and blue eyes, 34-year-old Bob Hunt was as tall as Pennington if shorter in overall law enforcement experience. He had first signed on as a ranger in El Paso-based Co. B on June 8, 1915. The following spring, on April 11, 1916, he resigned for reasons not noted on his records. But on August 20, 1918, the affable bachelor rejoined the Texas Rangers as a private under Co. L Capt. W. W. Davis.

Like most rangers, Pennington didn't talk much about his business, but since first stepping off the train in far West Texas, he had heard the whine of bullets more than once. One of those slugs, though sparing his life, had cost him his right eye. Still, the ranger rode the river for Texas, keeping his one good eye out for trouble. He deserved his reputation for fearlessness.

When Co. L moved from the Big Bend to the El Paso area, the rangers camped for a time near Cline before moving to a farm

Among these Rangers at their Fabens camp, Bob Hunt is fourth from left. Ranger Ben "Old Dad" Pennington is next to the last in the line.

- COURTESY TEXAS RANGERS MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS -



Couldn't Stop

Until El Paso used Texas Rangers and local officers to keep Fort Bliss soldiers confined to post, the Army periodically paraded through downtown to encourage patriotism and the sale of Liberty Bonds.

— COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —



adjacent to the Rio Grande near Fabens. Known to his comrades as “Old Dad,” Pennington served as company cook, using the farmhouse’s kitchen. The adobe house also served as a makeshift fortification on one occasion when rangers traded shots with suspected Mexican smugglers across the river. A large dinner bell atop the farmhouse provided cover for Pennington, who said to his fellow rangers, “I’ll fight ‘em from behind the Liberty Bell, boys!”

In addition to the outlaws plaguing both sides of the Rio Grande, another source of trouble along the border was El Paso’s Fort Bliss. On payday, when the soldiers hit the city’s 250 bars and numerous houses of prostitution, El Paso police often called on the Rangers to help keep the rowdy soldiers in line. Local sentiment was to let the boys have a good time, within reason. The U.S. War Department, however, wanted El Paso and other Texas cities with large military posts to clean up their act. So did Congress, which passed wartime legislation prohibiting the sale of alcohol as a food-conservation measure.

While America dried up in the social sense, as the prickly pear and ocotillo began to bloom in the desert around El Paso in the early spring of 1918, another form of change—albeit one that was quite random—occurred. Seven hundred miles northeast of El Paso, in a biological process that would not be even partially understood for decades, a normally stable avian virus migrated from a bird to a pig. When the pig’s immune system attacked the invader, the virus mutated to survive. Soon the resultant new strain sought a new host.

On March 11, company cook Albert Mitchell reported to the infirmary at Camp Funston, Kansas, a Fort Riley sub post. He had a slight headache, mild sore throat, and low-grade fever. His appetite was off, and his muscles ached. A post doctor put Mitchell on sick leave and ordered him to spend the day in his bunk. By midday, another 106 Camp Funston soldiers were ailing. Two days later the number of sick soldiers at the Kansas camp reached 522.

The disease quickly spread across the nation—from San Francisco Bay’s isolated Alcatraz prison to sailors aboard ships along the East Coast. Despite the disease’s rapid transmission, the medical community and the general public did not initially take it seriously. Recovery seemed as rapid as its onset. At first doctors referred to it as “three-day fever,” but they finally realized it was a new influenza strain. Soldiers in the trenches “over there” in Europe began calling it the Spanish flu, believing it had originated in Spain. But in Spain, people referred to it as the French flu.

Newspapers were crowded with war news—President Woodrow Wilson had just given his famous 14 Points speech—but little if any attention was paid to the flu epidemic. Meanwhile, the flu spread from post to post in the military. Soon the virus was well embedded into the general population.

In West Texas, ranchers also were getting sick of incursions by Mexican bandits. Raiders struck the Neville Ranch on March 25, killing two people. The next

day, U.S. troops—accompanied by some of Captain Fox’s rangers—crossed the river and struck the suspected bandit stronghold in Pilares, Chihuahua, Mexico. In the wake of the Pilares attack, and an earlier Ranger action in the border town of Porvenir, Texas, that left 15 men and boys dead, Gov. William P. Hobby ordered Adj. Gen. Jason Harley to discharge five of Fox’s men. Seven other rangers received transfers to other companies. Pennington kept his job but got assigned to Company L, joining Ranger Hunt. Captain Fox resigned from the Rangers.

The flap eventually died down, overshadowed by other events. As the great armies of Europe and America battled that summer in the deadliest war the world had known, each side gained another vicious enemy. Symptoms of the flu became more severe. Twenty percent of all sufferers developed life-threatening secondary infections: bronchial pneumonia or septicemia blood poisoning. With antibiotics yet to be invented, a large percentage died. Those who developed heliotrope cyanosis turned blue from lack of oxygen and within a day or two, 95 percent died. In America, many blamed the sickness on a secret German biological weapon. But the disease knew no flag or boundary. It decimated an already war-weary German army

as well as that nation's civilian population. From the Western front to the home front, tens of thousands died from a disease deadlier than bullets, shrapnel or mustard gas.

In El Paso, east-west railroad traffic and routine Fort Bliss troop rotation carried the disease to the southwestern desert, an area generally noted for its healthfulness because of its high, dry climate. On September 30, 1918, El Paso newspapers casually noted that some people in the city had the flu. A week later, nearly a thousand people lay sick. Then many of them began to die.

The situation worsened daily in early October. The city's board of health ordered the closing of schools, churches, theaters, lodges, pool halls and other public places. All public meetings were canceled. In addition, Fort Bliss soldiers were confined to post, forbidden to pass beyond the intersection of Overland and El Paso streets.

El Paso officials asked the Rangers to help enforce the quarantine. Rangers Pennington and Hunt, along with others, were pulled from border duty to see to it that Fort Bliss troops, normally an economic asset, stayed on post. Armed with six-shooters that could do no harm to the real enemy they faced, Pennington and Hunt followed orders and tried to keep people put for their own good.

Soon, both lawmen began feeling ill. In following orders, the two rangers had contracted the flu. The disease progressed rapidly in both officers. Pennington died on October 12, only four days after becoming symptomatic.

"Famous Fighter of Border Guard Finally Downed," the *El Paso Times* reported the next morning. The newspaper noted:



Pennington was one of the oldest and best known men of the border guards. The story is told of one fight in which he and another Ranger entrenched themselves in the sand near the river and stood off alone a body of raiders, doing such deadly work with their rifles that the attacking bandits finally beat a retreat across the line. He carried 16 wounds in his body, the marks of various frays... Among his associates he was known as one absolutely fearless and one who could be depended upon to stick out any fight in which they were engaged.

The influenza may have been the common enemy, but during the pandemic, soldiers and Rangers occasionally exchanged gunshots with Mexicans across the river.

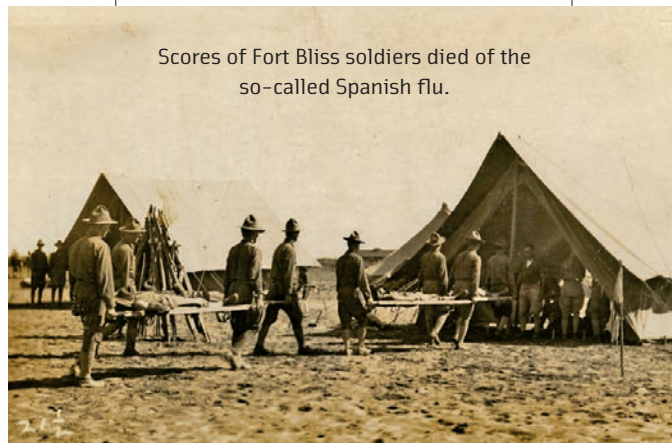
- ALL IMAGES COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SMU, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

Ranger Hunt survived only four days longer than his older colleague, dying in an El Paso hospital on October 16. In five days, his disease had progressed to pneumonia. With many of its reporters, editors and printers also sick, the *Times* barely noted Hunt's passing. A one-paragraph article reported only that "Robert Hunt, state ranger, from Fabens, Tex., died in a local hospital Wednesday morning."

The rangers and others afflicted with the flu died hard. One doctor described the pneumonia associated with the flu as "the most vicious type... that has ever been seen." Once cyanosis appeared in a patient, the physician continued, "it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate."

El Paso Mayor Charles Davis announced that 131 people, including the two rangers, had died locally the week of October 9-16, most from flu. Thirty-one people alone died on October 12. Nationwide, 10,561 people died that week from the flu. That figure did not include military personnel. Hospitals across the country were full but short-staffed, as many doctors and nurses were sick or dying. El Paso and other cities ran short of funeral directors, coffins and grave-diggers. The American Red Cross mobilized to meet a domestic crisis as severe as the one abroad.

The quarantine the Rangers helped enforce probably saved lives. In El Paso, flu deaths were more common at Fort Bliss and in predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods. "Army and civilian doctors continue confident that they have the situation under



Scores of Fort Bliss soldiers died of the so-called Spanish flu.



Outside Ward, Base Hospital

A field hospital at Fort Bliss offered care for the many sick soldiers at the post.

Doctors prescribed aspirin to reduce fever, but that was the only comfort they could offer flu patients.

In response to the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in 1910, the U.S. Army transformed the strategically located Fort Bliss—just west of El Paso, Texas, near the U.S-Mexico border—into a major cavalry training center.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

control,” the *El Paso Times* reported on October 14. “That the Spanish Influenza epidemic among the civilians has not been as serious as it might have been is indicated by the fact that only one death has occurred among the 1,500 members on the roll at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.”

In addition to the quarantine, good hygiene and wearing face masks also helped. Other methods, however, were ineffective. In Britain, the government sprayed streets with chemicals dangerous in their own right. Some thought tobacco smoke would kill the virus, or brisk walks, or eating plenty of porridge, or forcing yourself to sneeze once



each morning and night after thoroughly washing the inside of your nose with soap and water.

In El Paso, the epidemic finally began to abate in November. On November 9, only 17 new cases had been reported. Three people a day were still dying, but that was a significant improvement from October. The viral siege was declared over, and public places were allowed to reopen. But Fort Bliss, still with 2,000 cases, remained under quarantine.

Three days later, at 1 a.m. on November 11, El Pasoans awakened to pistol shots and whistles. Soon the city’s two newspapers had extras on the street announcing in huge type that the war was over. A wild, spontaneous celebration swept the city, continuing through

Cavalry troopers at Fort Bliss were training to go to Europe if necessary. Meanwhile, they stood guard over the US-Mexico border and coped with a killer flu outbreak.

- COURTESY NARA, NO. 165-WW-141D-010 -



daybreak. Those not inclined to offer a toast to liberty headed to special church services. Honking cars jammed the streets. At 9 a.m. the commander of Fort Bliss sent his soldiers—mounted, in vehicles, and on foot—marching into town. Townspeople fell behind the troops as a victory parade wound through downtown.

People in El Paso and across the nation may not have realized it, but they were celebrating two victories—a military triumph over Germany and, for the time being, the defeat of a deadly virus. America had won a war, and its people had endured a terrible pandemic that due to wartime censorship had been even worse than they thought. The virus infected roughly 28 percent of all Americans, killing more than 600 people in El Paso (which had a population of 75,000) and an estimated 20,000 in Texas. Nationwide, somewhere between 675,000 and 850,000 people died of the disease. The flu had claimed the lives of more American military men and women than German warfare. Worldwide, one-fifth of the planet's population had been infected. Some 20 to 40 million people died in the worst pandemic the world had known.

Though the pandemic peaked in Texas during the fall of 1918, it continued elsewhere through the first few months of 1919. Suddenly, 18 months after it appeared, the virus vanished. Except for their families and friends, few remembered Pennington and Hunt—two horseback-era rangers who died in the line of duty trying to protect Texans from a killer bullets couldn't stop.



"A Killer Bullets Couldn't Stop" is revised and adapted from Mike Cox's *Texas Ranger Tales: Hard-Riding Stories from the Lone Star State* (Globe Pequot/Lone Star Books, 2016). Cox is the author of 30-plus nonfiction books and five books on the Texas Rangers.



El Paso city officials called on the Texas Rangers to keep Fort Bliss soldiers away from temptations in their city and across the Rio Grande in Juarez, Mexico, where this photo was taken.

City Puts Ban on Funerals in Churches; Fifteen More Die of Spanish Influenza

**Disease Spreads to Mexican Quarters and Claims Sudden
Toll as Health Officers Order Discontinuance Public
Gatherings and Close Pool Halls.**

**Quarantine Between Fort Bliss
Street Cars Must Not Be Over-
Under Lid; Juarez Takes S**

— TOP NEWS CLIPPING OF OCT. 9, 1918
"EL PASO TIMES"; BOTTOM NEWS
CLIPPING OCT. 17, 1918 "EL PASO
TIMES" COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM —

HOME CASUALTIES 11 TIMES THOSE OF BOYS IN WAR

**Influenza Alone Kills More El
Pasoans in City Than Bul-
lets in Europe.**

El Paso "casualties" at home from the majority of cases preventable, were eleven times greater during the week ending yesterday, than the total number of casualties suffered by El Paso men in the army, navy and marine corps for the 30-day period ending yesterday. El Pasoans listed in the casualty lists from Europe the past four weeks tallied 12—killed in action, 1; died of wounds, 2; died of disease, 2; wounded severely, 5; missing in action, 3.

The records of the city health department show that during the week ending yesterday, there was a total of 131 deaths, 102 of these being Mexicans. Of the deaths, 106 were due to influenza and pneumonia, as listed. Twenty-six Americans, 102 Mexicans, and three negroes died. Nineteen births were recorded, being two Americans and 17 Mexicans.



Ranger Pennington's grave is shrouded in a tangle of briar at an abandoned family cemetery on private land near his hometown of Holland in Bell County, Texas.

- MIKE COX -

**YOUNG TEXAS RANGER
DIES OF INFLUENZA**

News of the untimely death of Hughston Beverly at Deming, N. M., reached Austin friends Tuesday. Mr. Beverly was a young attorney of McKinney, Texas, but at the time of his death he was serving as a Texas ranger. He was a victim of Spanish influenza, which developed into pneumonia. He leaves a mother who resides at McKinney.

Once a Ranger, Always a Ranger

"Young Texas Ranger Dies of Influenza," read the headline in the October 18, 1918, edition of the *Austin Statesman*.

The brief article reported the death of Thomas Hughston Beverly from complications of the Spanish flu at the Army's Camp Cody in Deming, New Mexico—101 miles northwest of El Paso. A lawyer from McKinney, north of Dallas, Beverly came from an old-line Texas family. His late father had been a respected district judge in Collin County, and his uncle had served as a sheriff in West Texas.

While indeed a pandemic victim, the 32-year-old Beverly had resigned from the Rangers the previous summer for a higher-paying job as a U.S. Department of Justice agent. First stationed at the border town of Eagle Pass, he had recently been transferred to New Mexico.

A bachelor, Beverly had joined the Rangers on December 29, 1917, and served in Company M until resigning effective May 31, 1918. Prior to his Ranger service, he had been in private legal practice in McKinney. From 1914 to 1916, he had held office as a Collin County justice of the peace.

Though trained in the law, the future law enforcement officer clearly knew how to handle a firearm. That came in handy on December 5, 1915, when an ex-con named Carroll McCown assaulted the judge in his courthouse office. Newspaper accounts did not say whether McCown was armed, but Beverly was. The JP fired four shotgun blasts into the man, blowing off the top of his head. The killing was ruled self-defense.

Beverly had visited his mother in McKinney only two weeks before his death. When she received word that her son had become ill after returning to New Mexico, she rushed to Deming to be at his bedside, but he died before she got there. Beverly's body was returned to Texas, where he was buried in McKinney's Pecan Grove Cemetery.

-M.C.

NEWS CLIPPING OF OCT. 13, 1918 "EL PASO TIMES" COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM

**FAMOUS FIGHTER
OF BORDER GUARD
FINALLY DOWNED**

**B. F. Pennington, Victor in
Many Battles, Dies of
Influenza.**

B. F. Pennington, for many years border guard and Texas ranger, the victor in many a stiff fight with bandits and cattle rustlers, met an enemy this week against which his rifle was no defense. He became ill with influenza four days ago and died yesterday. His body was shipped by McBean, Simmons and Hartford to his old home, Holland, Texas, for burial.

Pennington was one of the oldest and best known men of the border guards. The story is told of one fight in which he and another ranger entrenched themselves in the sand near the river and stood off alone a body of raiders, doing such deadly work with their rifles that the attacking bandits finally beat a retreat across the line. He carried 16 wounds in his body, the marks of various frays, and one of his eyes had paid toll to the mark of an outlaw's rifle. Among his associates he was known as one absolutely fearless and one who could be depended upon to stick out any fight in which they were engaged.

BY ERIK J. WRIGHT

THE LUCK OF THE Irish

GAMBLER JOHNNY MURPHY WAS THE FACE
OF AN ICONIC WESTERN PHOTO.

Eight months after the murder of notorious Irish gunfighter James Leavy in front of the Palace Hotel in Tucson, Arizona Territory, in 1882, professional gambler and fellow Irishman Johnny Murphy rose to make a statement upon his acquittal:

Your honor, I thank you and the jury, but I desire to say that I have lived all my life on the frontier. I was honorably discharged from the navy, when a young man, on the coast of Florida, and came right through to the frontier. I have been amongst rough men all my life, have stopped many a bad fight, and never before been in any trouble. I regret this. I regret this occurrence, but what I did was done by me conscientiously and with a belief that it was all I could do to save my own life, and it was done in self-defense.

Murphy, along with accomplices William Moyer and David Gibson, shot down Leavy in a hail of small-caliber gunfire after a night of heated arguments over one of Murphy's faro tables at Tucson's Fashion Saloon. Immediately afterwards all three surrendered and were placed in the county jail and the protective custody of Pima County Robert Havlin "Bob" Paul. Testimony began in a preliminary hearing against the three defendants when suddenly the trio escaped the county jail in what the *Arizona Weekly Citizen* called "a bold and successful break for liberty by desperate criminals."

The details of the daring escape by Murphy, Moyer and Gibson as well as several other hard cases, including Arizona bad-man Joseph Casey, were muddled by knee-jerk press reports and rumors.

However, justice was soon at hand and a few months later, in December 1883, a crowd gathered outside the train depot in Tucson anxiously awaiting their first glimpse of two of the escapees, Murphy and Gibson, when word was received that Sheriff Paul was arriving from California after capturing the two men.

Moyer had made his way to Colorado via northern Mexico and El Paso, Texas, but was soon caught by the noted detective David Cook of the Rocky Mountain Detective Association. Murphy and Gibson remained fugitives for some time afterwards. Relentlessly pursuing leads, Sheriff Paul captured Murphy and Gibson in the desert badlands of California, where it was reported that the two men were living under "assumed names" and Gibson had been driving a stage between the towns of Fenner and Providence in San Bernardino County. When the prisoners were returned, prosecution resumed for the murder of Leavy. Moyer was the only one ultimately convicted of a crime and sentenced to a life's term at Yuma Territorial Prison. In the years that followed, Murphy appeared sporadically in the criminal record, but in 1903 he was captured in one of the most famous and reproduced images of the American West.

Born in Ireland in 1847, Murphy first entered the record shortly after the Civil War as a Landsman aboard the *USS Contoocook*, a screw sloop-of-war. Named for a river and village in New Hampshire, the *Contoocook* was launched late in the war at the end of 1864 and commissioned in the spring of 1868. Her first cruise was as the flagship for



Robert Havlin "Bob" Paul was sheriff of Pima County, Arizona Territory, when Leavy was murdered. Paul successfully captured Leavy's killers, including Murphy.

— ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY BOB BOZE BELL

The staged 1903 photo by W.E. Irwin at Bisbee's Orient Saloon shows Johnny Murphy dealing faro. Murphy is the man with his back to the wall in the campaign-style hat. Others in the photograph include: Smiley Lewis (silk hat, next to Murphy), Tony Downs (standing, left), as well as Dutch Kid and Sleepy Dick. Today, the site of the famous saloon is Cafe Roka in downtown Bisbee.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



the North Atlantic Squadron sailing to the West Indies. Sometime during this period, Murphy was admitted to the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, after becoming ill from exposure from "washing deck." What ultimately brought Murphy to Arizona remains unclear, but evidence suggests early mining opportunities attracted Murphy to central Arizona.

In 1880, Pima County Sheriff Charles Shibell noted Murphy into the Great Register of Pima County. Two years later, in 1882, Murphy is known to have been operating faro tables at several saloons in Tucson with fellow gamblers David Gibson and William Moyer in his employ. Gibson, a noted Tucson card sharp, had a run-in with "Big Ed" Byrnes's Top-and-Bottom Gang of con men and gamblers recently expelled from Benson during the annual San Augustin Festival in Tucson. On September 8, 1881, the *Arizona Daily Star* reported:

The usual amount of gaming was in progress, and the "sure thing" crowd were still exhibiting numerous tempting devices for trapping the unwary. A fight occurred on the feast grounds between Dave Gibson and one of the "top-and-bottom" gang. The latter used a revolver freely in clubbing Gibson over the head, cutting him quite badly.

The attraction to Tucson as a gambling center drew James Leavy, a veteran of the rough gambling dens of San Francisco,

Deadwood, Pioche, Cheyenne and Tombstone. Hot-tempered, armed with a national reputation, and dangerous when drunk, Leavy strongly accused Murphy and his faro dealer, Moyer, of running a "crooked game" at Tucson's Fashion Saloon on Congress Street. Leavy demanded a duel with Murphy to settle the score. Knowing a fair fight with Leavy would likely end in his own death, Murphy enlisted the help of his fellow gamblers and set out to even the playing field. As they approached Leavy staggering down dusty Meyer Street, only briefly illuminated by the overhead gas lights, Murphy opened fire. Leavy, a veteran of numerous gunfights, fell and died almost instantly. Murphy would testify that as he and Leavy argued, Murphy said:

I says, "I want him [Leavy] to understand that I ain't a bit afear'd [sic] of him..." I walked up to him and said, "Mr. Levy [sic], I understand you have said I am a thief, and my game is a thieving game. There is one thing I want you to distinctly understand. I never played a dollar against a drunk, but I have many a time taken his money and put it behind the bar and give it to him the next day. My game has always been dealt on the square, and I defy you or anyone else to prove that a dishonest card was ever turned at my table, and if you say my game is a thieving game you are a liar..."



In the summer of 1882, Johnny Murphy, William Moyer and David Gibson ambushed tough Irish gambler James Leavy with a deadly hail of bullets in front of Tucson's Palace Hotel.

- CARLETON WATKINS, 1880, COURTESY GETTY MUSEUM -



Following his acquittal, Murphy remained quiet, but his presence in the gambling underworld was still strong. Evidence supports that Murphy was heavily involved in gambling rackets in Tucson and Bisbee, a mining boomtown south of Tombstone. Both cities record several arrests against Murphy for various charges well into the early 1900s. In 1903, pioneer photographer William E. (W.E.)

In September 1881, Tucson was in full swing with the annual Festival de San Augustin, a two-week period of parties and celebrations honoring the city's patron saint. That year, it took a sinister turn when the notorious Top-and-Bottom Gang, a group of con men and strongarm gamblers, assaulted Leavy killer David Gibson by "clubbing" him with a revolver over his head.

- COURTESY TUCSON DIOCESE -





Cyrus Noble Whiskey used Irwin's staged photograph for an advertising campaign and helped to make the image an icon of the American West.

- AUTHOR'S COLLECTION -

C. Meyer Zulick.

The governor's official pardon echoed the scores of letters issued on behalf of William Moyer:

And Whereas, it is represented to me by leading citizens of the County of Pima, in whose judgment I

have confidence, that the circumstances surrounding this case present exceptionally strong grounds for Executive clemency... Whereas an examination of the case establishes the fact that the principal, John Murphy, and accessory, David Gibson, both, subsequently to the conviction of William Moyer, were acquitted, and found innocent of the crime alleged... the evidence establishes the additional fact that the said Levy [sic] had frequently threatened the life of the said William Moyer, and in the altercation which led to the said Levy's [sic] death, which was upon public highway, the said William Moyer had the same justification for his action, as had the said John Murphy and David Gibson.



Erik Wright is the assistant editor of the *National Tombstone Epitaph*. He has written extensively on the history of the West and lives in Arkansas with his wife, two children and three dogs.

Irwin staged a series of photos inside Bisbee's Orient Saloon. One of these images, "Orient Saloon at Bisbee, Arizona...Faro game in full blast" became one of the most widely distributed and easily recognized images of the frontier, but few know that the faro dealer in the photograph is none other than Johnny Murphy. Shortly after the photograph was taken, Cyrus Noble Whiskey adapted the image for use in its advertising campaigns. An original Cyrus Noble Whiskey advertisement using Irwin's image hangs today in the Bird Cage Theatre Museum in Tombstone.

Johnny Murphy died on March 27, 1926, in Tucson. Buried in an unmarked grave in Tucson's Evergreen Cemetery, Murphy seems to have earned redemption and forgiveness with his obituary from *The Arizona Republican*:

Death Thursday claimed one of the few remaining picturesque characters of Tucson's wide-open gambling days in the passing of John Murphy, resident of Arizona since the early eighties when he figured as one of the professional gamblers of Tucson and one of the most skillful rough-and-tumble fighters of the old regime. He was 74 years of age at the time of his death and retained much of his old-time robust vigor to the last.

Although Murphy admitted to the murder of Leavy, he was eventually acquitted on grounds of self-defense. William Moyer, found guilty of murder in the second-degree, was pardoned five years later, on March 22, 1888, by Territorial Governor

Pioneer Gambler Dies In Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz., March 27.—Death Thursday claimed one of the few remaining picturesque characters of Tucson's wide-open gambling days in the passing of John Murphy, resident of Arizona since the early eighties when he figured as one of the professional gamblers of Tucson and one of the most skillful rough-and-tumble fighters of the old regime. He was 74 years of age at the time of his death and retained much of his old-time robust vigor to the last.

The death of the old-time fighter

John Murphy's obituary from the *Arizona Republican*. While he is remembered as a gambler, Murphy spent much of his life as a miner.

- NEWS CLIPPING FROM MARCH 28, 1926 "ARIZONA REPUBLICAN" COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM -

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

A LONG SHOT

BUFFALO HUNTERS VS QUANAH PARKER'S WARRIORS

THE SECOND BATTLE OF
ADOBE WALLS FEATURES
THE LEGENDARY 1,538-
YARD SHOT HEARD 'ROUND
CAMPFIRES EVER SINCE



Billy Dixon's remarkable shot at Adobe Walls—with a borrowed gun, no less—is considered one of the greatest in Old West history.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL; PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of S.C. Gwynne

JUNE 27, 1874

— BY JOE GRANDEE —



The Comanches and their Kiowa, Southern Cheyenne and Araphaho allies are hell-bent on driving buffalo hunters off their land. The hunters have already decimated the herds on the Northern Plains. Now these hunters have set up shop near Adobe Walls, deep in Comanche territory, in the Texas Panhandle.

A force of up to several hundred warriors, led by a messiah-like medicine man named Isa-tai and by Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, advance at daybreak on the settlement. The attackers are counting on the element of surprise, but when they charge at dawn, they discover most of the hunters are awake, repairing a broken ridgepole.

The defenders, 28 men and one woman, repel the initial charge with a loss of only two men who were asleep in a wagon. The first wave almost carries the day as the attackers are close enough to pound on the doors and windows with their rifle butts. At such close range, the defenders are not able to use their superior firepower and end up fighting with pistols and lever-action rifles.

After repulsing the initial attack, the buffalo hunters hold back the attackers with their long-range Sharps rifles. Twenty-year-old Bat Masterson carries one, as does sharpshooter Billy Dixon. Thirty-plus long-range Sharps are quickly deployed to defend the camp. The 15 attackers they kill are scattered

so close to the buildings that the Indians cannot retrieve their comrades' bodies.

By noon, the Indians take up positions around the besieged hunters, maintaining a steady barrage of fire into the buildings. By two p.m., the attackers retreat beyond rifle range to reconnoiter. By four p.m., the hunters are able to leave the buildings; they retrieve weapons from the dead and bury their bodies.

On the second day, the defenders drag away the dead horses and oxen (the attackers have killed all 28 belonging to the Shadler brothers) to "prevent the evil smell from reaching the buildings," Dixon recalls in his autobiography.

During a lull in the fighting, several hunters arrive at Adobe Walls, increasing the number of defenders to more than 30 men. Hunter Henry Lease volunteers to ride to Dodge City, Kansas, to seek out further reinforcements.

On the third day, 15 Indian warriors ride out on a bluff nearly a mile away to survey the situation. At the behest of one of the hunters, William "Billy" Dixon, a crack shot, takes aim with a borrowed .50-90 "Big Fifty" Sharps rifle. After calculating the drop and the wind factor, he fires and cleanly drops a warrior from atop his horse. Dixon later says, "I was admittedly a good marksman, yet this was what might be called a 'scratch' shot."

Tradition claims Dixon's shot so discourages the Indians that they decamp and give up the fight.





Quanah's Headlong Charge

"There was never a more splendidly barbaric sight. In after years I was glad that I had seen it. Hundreds of warriors, the flower of the fighting men of the southwestern Plains tribes, mounted upon their finest horses, armed with guns and lances, and carrying heavy shields of thick buffalo hide, were coming like the wind.

"Over all was splashed the rich colors of red, vermillion and ochre, on the bodies of the men, on the bodies of the running horses. Scalps dangled from bridles, gorgeous war-bonnets fluttered their plumes, bright feathers dangled from the tails and manes of the horses, and the bronzed, half-naked bodies of the riders glittered with ornaments of silver and brass.

"Behind this headlong charging host stretched the Plains, on whose horizon the rising sun was lifting its morning fires. The warriors seemed to emerge from this glowing background."

—*Billy Dixon*

The Sharpshooter



Originally from Henryville, Quebec, Canada, Bat Masterson, 20, is the youngest of the 28 buffalo hunters at Adobe Walls. Masterson

serves as a civilian scout during the Red River War of 1874-75. A shooting on January 24, 1876, in Sweetwater (now Mobeetie), Texas, becomes the basis for his gunfighter reputation.



ISA-TAI

Bad Medicine

In the spring of 1874, medicine man Isa-tai (translates as "Wolf's Vulva" or "Coyote Vagina") began claiming he had true "puha," Comanche for "power," and that anyone who followed him would be immune to the White Man's bullets.

On May 26, 1874, Quanah Parker massed his fighters on a high bluff next to the Canadian River. Isa-tai appeared before the assembled warriors naked, except for a cap of sage stems. His body was painted yellow, as was his horse's body, representing invulnerability. Many of the other braves had painted their bodies yellow as well to demonstrate their own beliefs in Isa-tai's puha and that a moment of destiny had arrived to bring them their redemption.

When they lose the battle in June, many of the warriors are understandably upset with Isa-tai. One of the Cheyenne men strikes the medicine man in the face with a riding quirt. Another, the father of a young warrior who was killed, demands that, since Isa-tai is immune to the White Man's bullets, he should go down and retrieve his son's body. Before Isa-tai responds, one of the "Big Fifties" reaches the group, knocking the rider next to him out of the saddle, while another Sharps bullet kills Isa-tai's horse.

Isa-tai gives an excuse for the debacle, blaming the Cheyennes' killing of a skunk the day before the battle as jinxing his medicine. Nobody believes him. In spite of Isa-tai's bad medicine, he continues on his merry way, spreading his false gospel.



The “Big Fifty”

To make his long shot, Billy Dixon fires a single-shot .50-90 Sharps rifle. These guns are so powerful, they can put down a 2,000-pound buffalo at 1,000 yards, similar to this 1874 model in .44-77 caliber.

— RIFLE COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER —



An Examination of the Shot

Although Dixon himself claimed it was a “scratch shot,” many modern shooters try to debunk the shot he made with the borrowed .50-90 Sharps. In the fall of 1992, friend and fellow gun-writer Mike Venturino was invited along with the Shiloh Sharps owners to travel to the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona, to use some then-newly declassified radar devices to test the performance of several types of ammunition.

Using a machine rest modified from a gun carrier from a Russian T-72 tank, they started firing away. For the first Sharps shot, with the gun carriage elevated to 35 degrees, a 675-grain bullet, pushed by 90 grains of FFg black powder, and with a muzzle velocity (mv) of only 1,216 feet per second (fps) launched the bullet over 3,600 yards distant. That’s 10,800 feet—over two miles!

The scientists couldn’t believe it, so a second round was touched off. This time the lead projectile weighed 650 grains with a mv of 1,301 fps. Using the same 35-degree elevation, the bullet landed 3,245 yards away.

After one of the mathematicians calculated the data, he suggested they reduce the elevation to about 4.5 to 5 degrees to duplicate Billy Dixon’s shot. When this was done using the same load, the lead slug landed 1,517 yards downrange—almost the exact range of Dixon’s controversial shot. A five-degree muzzle elevation can easily be achieved with only the rear barrel sight on a Shiloh Sharps.

—Phil Spangenberg



Quanah Parker's Version of the Fight

“We at once surrounded the place and began to fire on it,” recalled Quanah Parker, shown above, at right. “The hunters got in the houses and shot through the cracks and holes in the wall. Fight lasted about two hours. We tried to storm the place several times but the hunters shot so well we would have to retreat. At one time I picked up five braves and we crawled along a little ravine to their corral, which was only a few yards from the house. Then we picked our chance and made a run for the house before they could shoot us, and we tried to break the door in but it was too strong and being afraid to stay long, we went back the way we had come.”



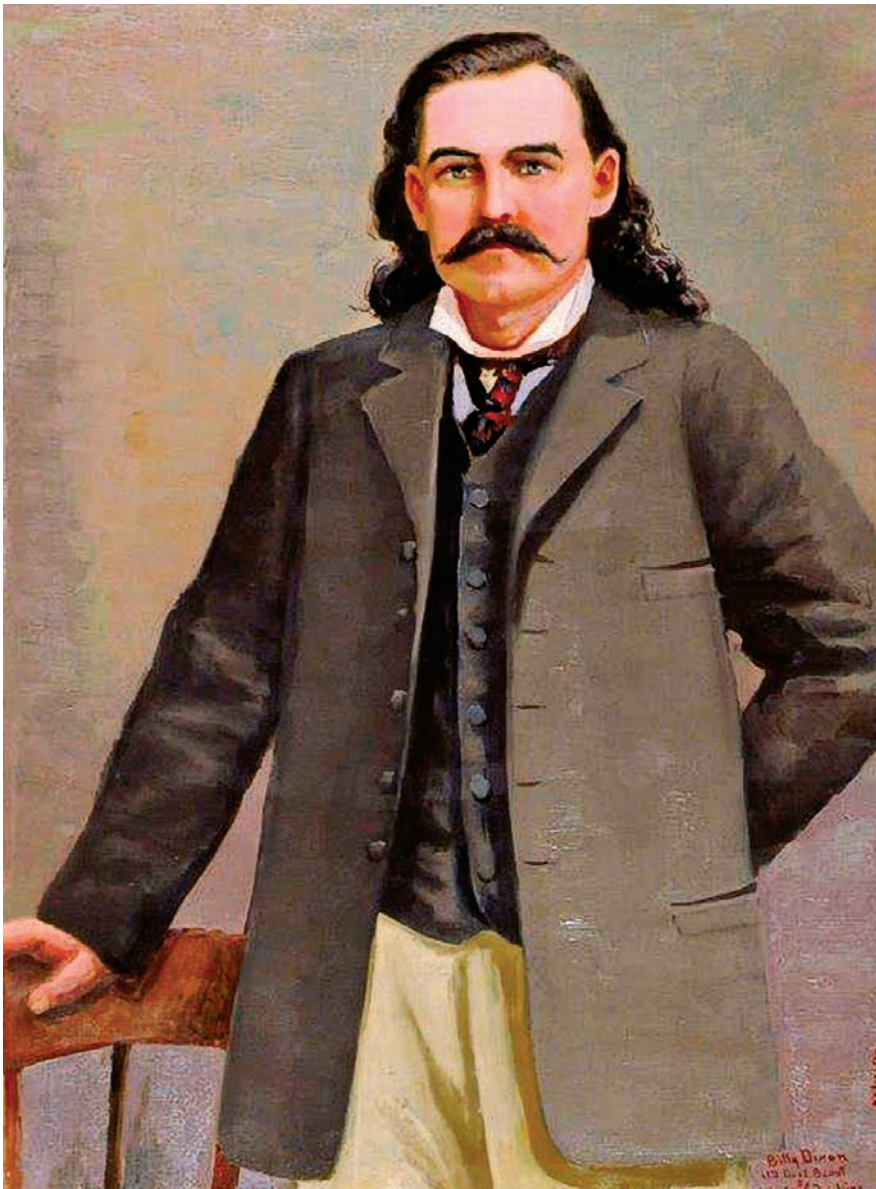
This John Eliot Jenkins 1934 painting, *Adobe Walls, 1874*, shows what Adobe Walls, with its adobe and picket-pole buildings, looked like before the attack on June 27, 1874.

— COURTESY PANHANDLE PLAINS MUSEUM —

In 2015, members of the Wild West History Association re-staged Billy Dixon’s shot and put two riders (left) on the actual bluff above Adobe Walls in approximately the same position as the Indians who believed they were beyond the range of the Sharps rifles.

— ROBERT BLOCK —





Billy Dixon's famous 1,538-yard shot, taken with a borrowed "Big Fifty" Sharps at the 1874 Battle of Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle, has often been disputed, despite being carefully measured by the U.S. Army shortly after the battle. Many modern shooters still can't believe a black powder Sharps rifle could reach out that far. Modern electronic equipment has proved it could do that and much more.

— PORTRAIT BY JOHN ELLIOT JENKINS, COURTESY PANHANDLE PLAINS MUSEUM —

From Adobe Walls to Quigley Down Under

According to a published 1887 government survey, the Sharps was the most-used rifle by professional hide hunters. Over a century later on the silver screen, film's Matthew Quigley's 1874 (Shiloh) Sharps quickly earned the respect of the movie's Australian stockmen when he made his supposedly 1,200-yard bucket shot. In real life, when buffalo hunter Billy Dixon dropped an Indian warrior from 1,538 yards with a borrowed "Big Fifty" Sharps at the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, it caused the warriors to withdraw from the fight. One could say that this

was the Old West's "shot heard 'round the world." It not only ended the Indians' attack on the small settlement, but the Sharps cemented a lasting respect with riflemen of all kinds.

Frontiersmen held a healthy respect for anyone armed with a Sharps, forever known as among the most powerful and accurate long-range arms in the West. It's no wonder the Indians dubbed the 1874 Sharps as the "shoots far" rifle, or the "shoot today, kill tomorrow gun."

—Phil Spangenberg,
True West's *Firearms Editor*

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

As news of the Adobe Walls fight spread, more hunters came in for protection and to help defend the settlement. By the sixth day, the garrison grew to about 100 men.



Quannah Parker was wounded in one of the attacks, and some believe this is why the Indians retired without more of a fight. "The Indians probably came to the conclusion that if they remained long enough, charged often enough and got close enough, all of them would be killed, as they were unable to dislodge us from the buildings," one of the hunters said.



Casualty reports varied. Today, most historians agree that fewer than 30 died during the battle.



By August, Lt. Frank D. Baldwin, with Billy Dixon and Bat Masterson as scouts, arrived at Adobe Walls, where a dozen men were still holed up. The next day, the soldiers and remaining men left Adobe Walls, heading south to join Gen. Nelson A. Miles' main command on Cantonment Creek. The Indians later burned the place to the ground.



The Adobe Walls fight led to the Red River War of 1874–75, which resulted in the final relocation of the Southern Plains Indians to reservations in what is now Oklahoma.



Recommended: *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne, published by Scribner.



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: Emmy award-winning journalist, Arizona Women's Hall of Fame inductee and *True West's* "Old West Saviors" columnist Jana Bommersbach is well-known for her writing and research on Western women, including her profile of Madam Mattie Silks in the March 2005 issue. Currently she is working with Bob Boze Bell on a new book about wild women of the West. To read more of her columns and articles, go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to more than 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

QUEEN OF THE SOILED DOVES

MATTIE SILKS

LENT STYLE TO THE WORLD'S OLDEST PROFESSION.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

**Just the sound of her name
draws a mental picture:
MATTIE SILKS.**

No plain, dowdy woman in a calico dress would ever wear such a name; no girl with prim schoolmarm glasses or neck-strangling high collars would answer to it.

But a "love merchant" in rich brocade and lace would; a woman whose custom-made gowns always had two pockets—one for her gold coins, the other for her ivory-handled pistol; a woman known as the undisputed "Queen of Denver's Red Light District" would feel right at home in that name.

And she did, this woman who bragged she was never a prostitute—"the man doesn't live who has enough money to buy me," she supposedly said—but was one of the Old West's most successful businesswomen in supplying "soiled doves."

Her girls were known to possess "the prettiest of faces, the tiniest of waists, the creamiest of bosoms, the daintiest of giggles, the best of conversational skills, the most imaginative of techniques, the perkier of personalities...and the best of acting abilities (leading the customer to believe that she really cared)," notes Clark Secrest in *Hell's Belles*.

Mattie was born somewhere in the Midwest around 1846—some say Kansas, others Indiana—and there are only hints at her true name: Martha, it seems was probably her real first name, but one document has been found that seems to refer to her as "Mate Wineman," but no one knows for sure. What is clear is that

she never had any profession except running a "sporting house," first making her name at age 19 in Springfield, Illinois, as the youngest madam on the frontier.

Seeing greener pastures farther West, Mattie eventually gathered up four girls and a tent, and set up a traveling bordello that worked the Colorado goldfields. About 1876, she settled in Denver and opened a fashionable house on Holladay Street (now called Market Street), known as "the wickedest thoroughfare in the West," according to Anne Seagraves' *Soiled Doves: Prostitution in the Early West*, the most popular book ever written on the subject. Seagraves reports that this one street boasted 1,000 ladies for sale in all kinds of establishments. At the top of the list were the elegant "parlor houses" like Mattie's, while the bottom of the barrel were the shabby "cribs"—a dirty bed with a piece of oilcloth across the bedspread to protect it from the muddy boots of the customers.

Mattie eventually bought the single most famous parlor house in town—House of Mirrors—built by Denver's other legendary madam, Jennie Rogers. After Jennie died in 1909, Mattie moved into the house that seemed made for her.

"The House of Mirrors was the perfect setting for the dynamic Mattie," Seagraves notes. "This opulent establishment had doorposts carved to represent phallic symbols, an elegant reception room and a parlor with plate glass mirrors that covered the walls. The chandelier, made of hundreds of glass-faceted prisms, hung from an 8-foot mirrored ceiling and gave the room a shimmering beauty that reflected upon a golden harp and rich brocade chairs."

Life in the house was as good as it got for prostitutes. Mattie served two good meals a day: breakfast at 11:30 a.m. and dinner at 5 p.m., Secrest reports. The girls were required to dress nicely, and most were indebted to Mattie for their clothes. She allowed them to keep half their earnings, but from that they had to pay room and board. By all accounts, she treated her girls well and once bragged she never hired anyone who wasn't experienced, emphasizing she never turned "innocent" girls into hookers.

Here's how Secrest describes her: "Chubby and curly-locked, Mattie Silks was an enduring businessperson in an era when few women embarked upon any sort of business venture, enduring or not. She was successful in an enterprise that other women frowned upon outwardly but looked upon privately with some curiosity: Mattie Silks was a bordello madam—and a good one—famous throughout the West. Plus, she never apologized about it."

She would boast that she made about \$2 million in her career (and she spent it all).

Mattie's major failing was her lousy taste in men. It's said that her last name came from her first husband, Charley Silks, but when and where she married him, and when and where she disposed of him, has never been established. What is known is that her "true love" was a good-for-nothing gambler, drinker, rustler and general scoundrel named Cort Thomson, who she met in 1877 and married in 1884. Seagraves describes him as "a cocky little foot racer who wore pink tights and star-spangled blue running trunks and bragged 'he was too proud to do a day's work.'" Instead, he took thousands from the woman who



adored him, even though he beat her, cheated on her and embarrassed her publicly.

To get him out of Denver—and supposedly out of harm’s way—Mattie bought a 1,400-acre ranch near Wray where she kept Cort and her 21 racing horses (which raced in Denver under the ownership of Mrs. C.D. Thomson, who no one in Wray knew was the famous Mattie Silks).

Cort had left a wife and child to run off with Mattie, and about 1886, a little girl came into their life that was either his daughter or granddaughter (historians aren’t sure). While he wanted nothing to do with the child, Mattie did, adopting the girl and sending her to a good boarding school. Eventually, the girl became one of Mattie’s beneficiaries.

Mattie almost came to her senses about Cort in 1891, when she sued him for divorce and charged him with being a “drunk, wife beater and philanderer,” but soon after, they reconciled! He died in 1900, either from spoiled oysters, or, as the *Rocky Mountain News*

Mattie Silks may have dressed like a Victorian matriarch, but she was a successful bordello madam who failed at only one thing: picking good men.

— PHOTOS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

reported, from whiskey and opium. Mattie buried him in style.

She hired “Handsome” Jack Ready as her bouncer, a man many years her junior, but they became lovers and in 1923, when Mattie was in her mid-70s, they married.

Mattie died on January 7, 1929. She had a quiet funeral and was buried next to Cort. Handsome Jack died a pauper a couple of years later.

The great businesswoman who’d led such a lavish life left an estate of \$4,000 in real estate—the cottage where she lived—and some \$2,500 in jewelry, including the two diamond rings she always wore and her trademark: an 11-diamond cross that hung at her neck.



Waiting for customers on Denver’s Holladay Street.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Jana Bommerbach’s original, unabridged article as it appeared in the March 2005 issue. Learn how you can read all of Bommerbach’s articles and subscribe to *True West Archives*, by visiting TrueWestMagazine.com.

Our past awaits you!



BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Into Max Evans's Hi Lo Country

Hit the road and discover the historic and mystic lands of New Mexico's legendary author.



Looking south from the high plains of Colorado's San Luis Valley, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains dominate the horizon of Max Evans's beloved Hi Lo Country of northeastern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

— SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS PHOTO COURTESY USFWS/MAX EVANS PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHAEFER, 1960 COURTESY MAX EVANS —

Technically, Chama isn't in the Hi Lo Country, but it's a great starting point for this Renegade Road trip, as this town defines just how important Ol' Max Evans was to New Mexico.

Who's Ol' Max Evans? A literary legend—once dubbed “a range-land Mark Twain”—he

wrote novellas, novels, short stories, biographies and nonfiction books. Hollywood turned two of his works—*The Rounders* and *The Hi-Lo Country* (Hollywood added a hyphen)—into post-World War II Western films. He palled around with Sam Peckinpah, when they weren't beating each other senseless. And he died August 26, three days

before his 96th birthday—a long life, but even longer in Max Evans years (let's call it 1,219).

While Evans wrote about all of New Mexico, the Hi Lo Country was the name he gave the region that shaped him and most of his writings: the windy grasslands, arroyos and buttes that cover northeastern New Mexico and stretch into southern



Movies that have used the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Chama include *The Good Guys and the Bad Guys*, *Bite the Bullet*, *Butch and Sundance: The Early Years* and *Hostiles*.

Colorado, the Oklahoma Panhandle and parts of West Texas. “The indomitable spirit of that land should cover the world and beyond,” Evans wrote.

But Evans was more than just a writer. He was a cowboy, wrangler, artist, mystic, smuggler, actor (*The Ballad of Cable Hogue*), producer, under-the-table script doctor and World War II veteran who fought in France from D-Day until a mortar explosion sent him home before the Battle of the Bulge.

I’m in Chama because Evans also helped found the New Mexico Film Commission in 1968. America’s first state film commission lured *The Good Guys and the Bad Guys* (1969), starring Robert Mitchum, George

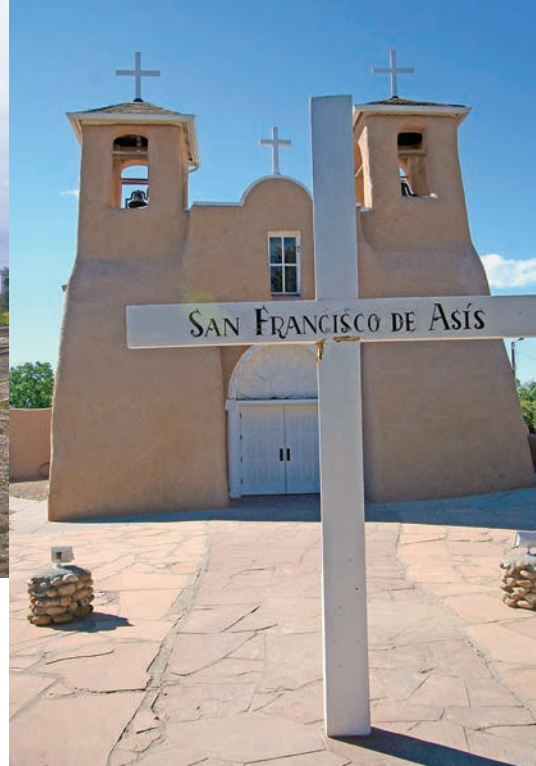
Kennedy and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

The narrow-gauge railroad was built in 1880 to connect the silver mines in the San Juan mountain range in southwestern Colorado. Preservationists saved the railroad in 1970, and since 1971, tourist trains have run out of Chama and Antonito, Colorado.

Evans also made sure *The Hi-Lo Country* (1998) was filmed in New Mexico, too.

Taos

But Ol’ Max’s career really began in Taos, where he settled in the late 1940s to paint, mentored by Potawatomi artist Woody Crumbo. Artists had been flocking to Taos



One of the most popular buildings for artists in Taos is the San Francisco de Asís Mission Church in Ranchos de Taos. Georgia O’Keeffe and Ansel Adams are among those who have captured the church in art.

— ALL PHOTOS BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

since the 1890s, and the Taos Society of Artists, founded in 1915, included Ernest Blumenschein, Joseph Henry Sharp and Eanger Irving Couse. Art still thrives here (Taos Art Museum at Fehin House, Harwood Museum of Art, Millicent Rogers Museum) as does Western history (Kit Carson Home and Museum, Martinez Hacienda).

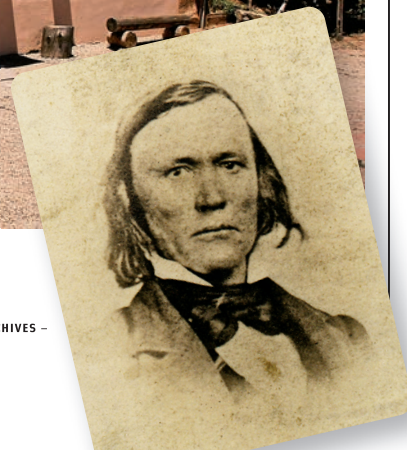
Evans’s oil-on-canvas *Normandy Night Fire* landed him into a juried art show. He took his soon-to-be wife (and editor), Pat, to the show on their first date. They married in 1949, and when he decided to become a writer, Pat toughed it out.

A short story collection, *Southwest Wind*, was published in 1958, and his first book-length work, *Long John Dunn of Taos*, followed in 1959. But it was the next novel, *The Rounders* (1960), that launched his career. *The Hi Lo Country* (1961) found its way to Peckinpah, whose options on it over several years kept the Evans family out of poverty. Evans’s last novel, *The King of Taos*, a comic look at life in Taos after WWII, was published shortly before his death.



Kit Carson bought this 1825 adobe house in Taos as a wedding present for his third wife, Josefa, in 1843.

— CARSON HOME BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS/KIT CARSON PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





Abandoned homesteads and ranches fading into the landscape—and their founders’ long-forgotten stories and dreams—are a poignant part of a Max Evans’s Hi Lo Country tour on U.S. Highway 87 across Union County from Des Moines to Clayton and the four-state border area where New Mexico converges with Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas.

Sangre de Cristos

Before moving to Albuquerque in the 1960s, Evans still dallied in other enterprises, some legal, some not. Mostly, he prospected—Questa became a key setting in Evans’s *Now & Forever* (2003)—and he explored the mountain towns of Red River (Red River Schoolhouse and Orin Mallette Cabin are designated heritage buildings), and probably even the ghost town of Elizabethtown, about five miles north of Eagle Nest (Enchanted Circle Gateway Museum & Visitor Center) and Cimarron (Aztec Mill Museum). Cimarron, which attracted Western figures including Carson, Black Jack Ketchum, Lucien Maxwell and Clay Allison, became one of the models for Evans’s fictional cowtown, Hi Lo. The northern New Mexico towns of Des Moines and Springer also morphed into Hi Lo: “all small, wind-scoured hamlets in New Mexico that prosper or suffer with the price of beef or copper and other ores,” Charles Champlin wrote for the *Los Angeles Times* in 1999.

Raton

Raton (Raton Museum), maybe the Hi Lo Country seat just south of Raton Pass, also played a part in Evans’s career. He cowboied a few times for the nearby T.O. Ranch, and he wound up in the Raton jail after trashing the Big Chief Bar.

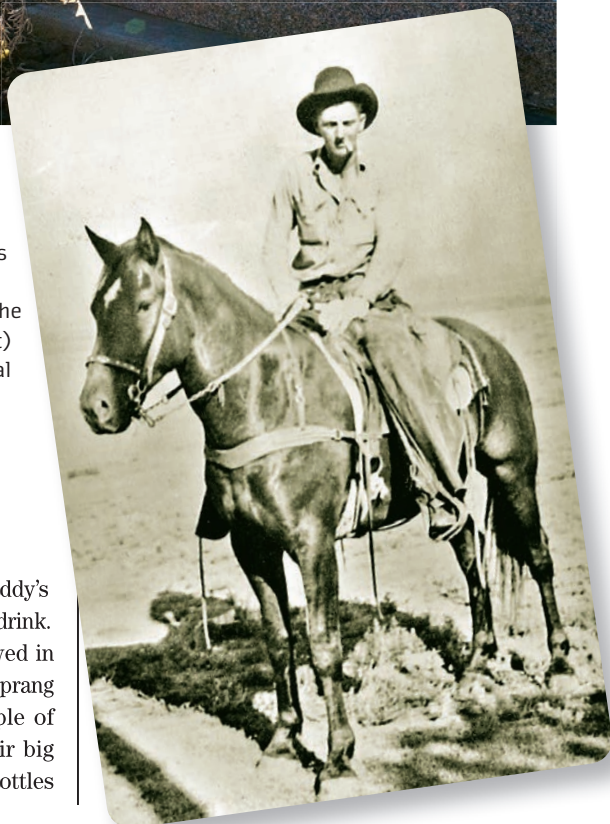
The brawl happened in the late 1940s when Ol’ Max, a new pal and the pal’s monkey were drinking. Robert Nott, who cowrote Evans’s *Goin’ Crazy with Sam Peckinpah and All Our Friends* (2014), told the story in 2014 for *Pasatiempo*, the *Santa Fe New Mexican’s* weekend arts supplement:



When on the trail of Max Evans’s New Mexico, fans of his semi-autobiographical, *Hi Lo Country*, should consider paying their respects to Wiley “Big Boy” Hittson’s grave, adjacent to his mother Frances’s, in the Des Moines Cemetery. Big Boy (right) and Evans’s friendship was the central storyline of Evans’s beloved novel.

— PHOTO OF GRAVES BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS/WILEY “BIG BOY” HITTSON PHOTO COURTESY MAX EVANS —

“Evans, his new buddy, and the buddy’s pet primate were all having a friendly drink. (In those days, monkeys were allowed in Raton bars.) Then the spunky simian sprang onto a nearby table, where a couple of would-be society matrons and their big bruiser boyfriends sat. The liquor bottles



A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

ST. JAMES HOTEL

Abraham Lincoln never stayed in the St. James Hotel in Cimarron, New Mexico, but he probably would have had he lived longer. After all, Abe knew how well the owner, Henri Lambert, could cook. Lambert was the president's personal chef. After Lincoln's assassination, Lambert went west, landing in Elizabethtown. But he didn't strike it rich until he came to nearby, rip-roaring Cimarron, where the Frenchman built Lambert's Inn, home to 43 rooms, a restaurant and saloon and, reportedly, 26 or more murders. Bullet holes can still be found in the dining room's ceiling at what's now the St. James Hotel, with several restored rooms in the original building and more in a modern annex. Known for its food, lodging and a history that includes having the likes of Clay Allison, Black Jack Ketchum and Buffalo Bill Cody under its roof, the St. James today entertains aficionados of Western history.

ExStJames.com

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: Chili Line Depot, *Tres Piedras*;

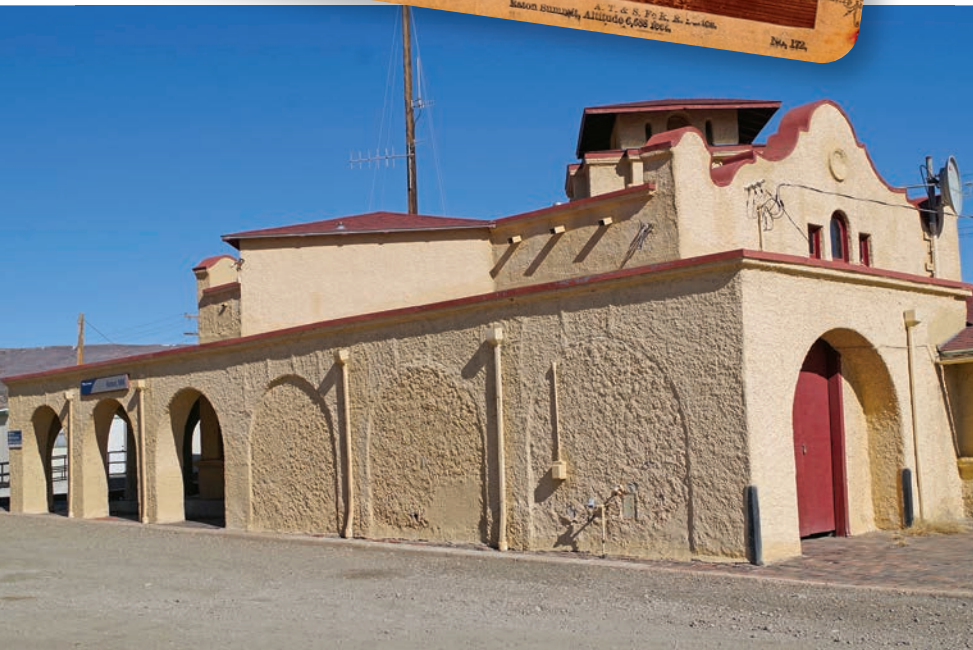
The Burger Stand @ Taos Ale House, *Taos*;

Red River Brewing Company & Distillery, *Red River*; La Cosina Café, *Raton*

GOOD LODGING: Elkhorn Lodge, *Chama*; La Doña

Luz Inn, *Taos*; Laguna Vista Resort, *Eagle Nest*;

St. James Hotel, *Cimarron*



The mission revival-style Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway station, built in 1903, is still an active Amtrak station.

The first Santa Fe trains chugged into Raton in 1878.

-- HISTORIC RATON STATION COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS/SFRRDEPOT COURTESY JOHNNY D. BOGGS --

toppled over, someone got whiskey on their nice white dress, the two angry suitors began cussing out the monkey and, well, Evans had to step in, all for the honor of a monkey. Fists started swinging and furniture went flying. Evans and his pals got a night of free board in the local jail. The next day, Evans returned to the Big Chief Bar and paid for the damages."

This trip could end here, but there's one more stop, roughly 36 miles east on U.S. 64. It's where *The Hi Lo Country*, Ol' Max's most personal novel, began.

Before moving to Taos, Evans had owned a small spread, day-working as a cowboy to make ends meet, and befriended cowboy Wiley "Big Boy" Hittson Jr., a decorated

WWII vet. On November 5, 1949, Hittson's younger brother shot and killed "Big Boy."

The novel and movie open with the funeral and burial. The real "Big Boy" still rests in the lonely, windswept Des Moines Cemetery.

"I watched them lower Big Boy Matson into his grave," *The Hi Lo Country* begins. "It was a large coffin, and yet I half expected it to burst apart from the weight and size of the man. Not only his physical bigness but from the whole of his being."

Ol' Max Evans wasn't a big man, but he was a Western literary giant.



Johnny D. Boggs wrote the introduction to the 60th anniversary edition of *The Hi Lo Country*, due out this month from the University of New Mexico Press.



Henri Lambert, once personal chef to President Abraham Lincoln, built the St. James Hotel in 1872.

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Dining in the Desert

After exploring the natural beauty and history of the Southwestern deserts, retreat to a historic oasis in Death Valley for fine dining and renewal.



For these men and women in Nevada's Mohave Desert, a hot meal out of the sun in a tent restaurant was a vast improvement over an everyday frying pan or Dutch oven campfire meal at their mining claim.

- COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

Emigrants, explorers and miners all traversed the desert frontier and crossed some of the roughest terrain they'd ever seen. Some experienced it in wagons, others in stage coaches, on horseback and later by trains. Many traveled the Santa Fe Trail and were able to stop at Fort Union, where they obtained groceries, dishes, clothes, hardware and more at the Post Traders' Store. Just past Raton, New Mexico, the three-story Clifton House offered amenities like food, water and supplies. Further along the trail they found the towns of Las Vegas and Santa Fe, New Mexico, which offered places to rest and eat.

Those two towns flourished and some 30 years later became home to hotels and restaurants. Railroad passengers heading west could stop in Las Vegas at the Plaza Hotel, which opened in 1882. It was known as "The Belle of the Southwest" and offered travelers a respite from the heat. The hotel's first menu included cold meats, salads, relishes, cakes, nuts and refreshments. By 1885, it upped its offerings and served baked trout, roast beef,

shoulder of venison with jelly, chicken fricassee, lamb potpie, oyster patties, stewed tomatoes, potatoes, pies, cake and French drip coffee.

The Spanish Trail connected to the California Road, and miners used it to explore treasures in the deserts of Amargosa Valley, Nevada, and Death Valley, California. In the mid- to late-1800s, men headed into the mountains searching for gold and silver. They found some in places like Death Valley, but the real money was made when "white gold" aka borax was discovered. Aaron and Rosie Winters were some of the first to settle there and had a small house where they stored their flour and rice on a wall in the main living area and kept sugar, coffee and tea under the bed. They also had some chickens, pig, ducks and cattle and relied on pine nuts and mesquite seeds for flour when necessary.

In 1883, William Coleman built Greenland Ranch because of the natural springs around it. The Harmony Borax Works housed the miners and freighters there who hauled the borax out of the valley. Coleman

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raised cattle and grew melons, sweet potatoes and tomatoes, while others had vegetable patches and fruit trees like oranges and figs.

Freighters drove their 20-mule teams 165 miles to the nearest railroad and had to haul grain, hay and water for the animals. They stopped at various springs along the 10-day route and the "swamper," who was the driver's assistant, served as the cook. After digging up sage roots and collecting grease-brush, he cooked bacon, bread, beans and canned goods. Canned peaches were used to make a cobbler for dessert and was served with coffee.

The Furnace Creek Ranch (now The Inn at Death Valley) was built in 1927 on the site of Greenland Ranch. It was a working ranch with Hereford cows, alfalfa, kafir corn, wheat, oats, oranges and vegetables. But most notable were the date palm trees. *The Chronicle* in Leavenworth, Kansas, wrote, "Most interesting, however, are the young Deglet Noir date palms, of which there are 126, some placed by the government in the hope of obtaining pest-free nursery stock." Date palms still surround The Inn at Death Valley and are used in many of its recipes. Below is the historic bread recipe that can be made with dates from China Ranch Date Farm in nearby Tecopa, California. The ranch store (ChinaRanch.com) sells date bread, and several historic date varieties that have been grown at the ranch for over 100 years.



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.

DATE BREAD

- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda · 1 tsp. salt
- 4 tbsp. stick butter
- 1 cup water
- ½ lb. pitted and chopped dates
- 1 ½ cups flour
- ½ cup walnuts, chopped

Cream sugars, salt and soda until light and fluffy. Add dates and water.

Mix well. Add flour and mix for 1 minute. Add walnuts. Pour batter into a greased and lined tin loaf pan. Bake for 45 minutes at 325° or until a toothpick comes out clean.



Recipe courtesy of The Oasis at Death Valley

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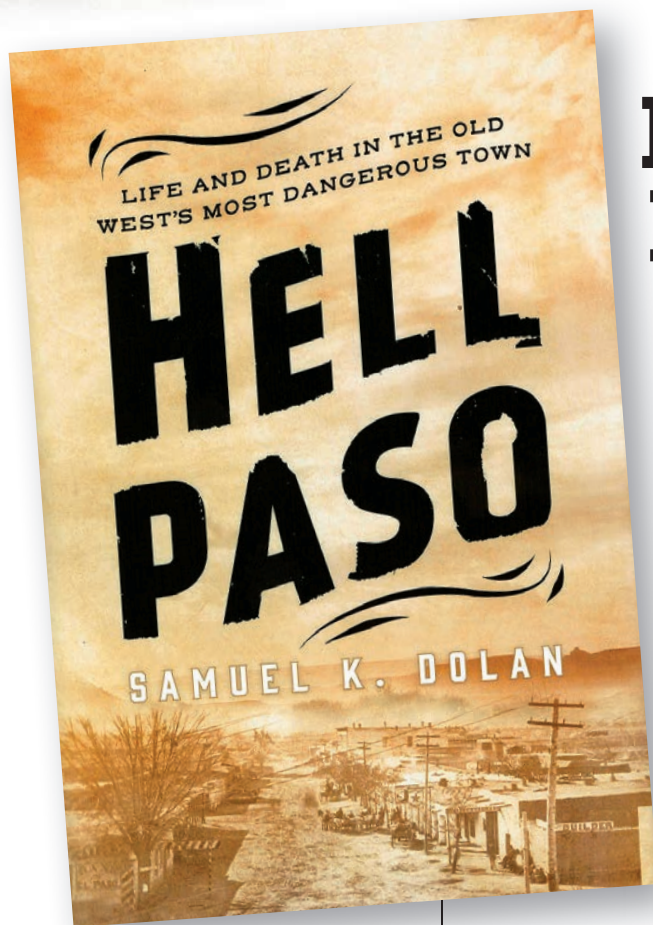
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THE
WILD WEST



Bobby Bridger

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DORIS MERIDITH, EDITOR,
WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA'S ROUNDUP MAGAZINE



Border Bandits, Outlaws and Cattle Thieves

Samuel K. Dolan returns to the border with Hell Paso, plus new biographies of Wild Bill Hickok and Montanan Sarah Bickford, a history of Texas in the Civil War and a Lone Star romance.

In the history of the American West, certain cities receive more than their fair share of attention from historians, novelists and filmmakers, including Deadwood, South Dakota; Dodge City, Kansas; Lincoln, New Mexico; and Tombstone, Arizona. One Western city that should be on that short list is El Paso, Texas, but for many reasons beyond my own unverified opinions, the border city once considered one of the most notorious and dangerous in the West, has been overlooked in recent years (at least by film and television producers as a dramatic Old West location).

El Paso won't be overlooked any longer, thanks to Samuel K. Dolan's latest book, *Hell Paso: Life and Death in the Old West's Most Dangerous Town* (TwoDot, \$29.99). As the Montana-based author states in his introduction, "While El Paso was no stranger to lawlessness before the coming of the steel

rails, it was during the years that immediately followed the first locomotives in the city when El Paso became what historian Charles L. Sonnichsen later referred to as a 'Six-Shooter Capital.'"

Dolan, an award-winning television documentary filmmaker, has returned to his favorite border town, the subject of his first TwoDot book, *Cowboys and Gangsters: Stories of an Untamed Southwest* (2016), but this time has produced a volume that historians and scholars will turn to for many years as the definitive law-and-order history of El Paso from 1880 to 1910. As a writer who has spent many years writing documentary history television, Dolan knows how to tell a good story while backing it up with solid research, great character development and surprising, little-known stories. In addition, Dolan has produced a great road map for Texas-Chihuahua border scholars with his

highly detailed bibliographical endnotes and the list of research institutions he gratefully acknowledged for assisting him in his research.

In the closing chapters of the highly illustrated urban biography, Dolan came to his conclusions about the heroic lawmen who had dedicated themselves to law and order in El Paso. I was left wanting to know more about the city's history after 1910. I am sure once you have read *Hell Paso*, you will be just as hopeful as I am that Dolan will continue his interest in El Paso with a follow-up volume on the history of the border city during the Mexican Revolution.

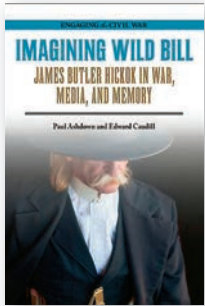
—Stuart Rosebrook

ROUGH DRAFTS



PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY

THE REAL AND IMAGINED WILD BILL



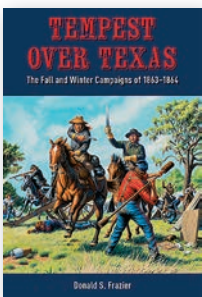
Imagining Wild Bill: James Butler Hickok in War, Media, and Memory by Paul Ashdown and Edward Caudill (Southern Illinois University Press, \$26.50) takes a fresh look at the gunman by examining his myth and the myth-making processes which

helped to create a legend. Authors Paul Ashdown and Edward Caudill carefully unpack the Hickok legend and examine it piece by piece. The authors explain that to spotlight these legends, they considered the works of film, literary and popular scholars. Additionally, they have assessed the multitude of Hickok-inspired movies, television and radio dramas created over the decades. However, the authors also acknowledge the collective memories of those living during the Civil War. *Imagining Wild Bill* is a readable and important assessment of Hickok as well as the myth and memory of gunmen of the West.

—Erik J. Wright, author of *Phil Foote: Lawman, Outlaw, Hell-Raiser*

THE WAR FOR CONFEDERATE TEXAS

Why did France, Spain, England and Mexico all have an interest in America's Civil War? How did mustering freed slaves into the ranks of the Union Army become a moral issue? Why did moving cotton bales past Union blockades become a paramount concern for European markets? These are several questions explored by historian Donald S. Frazier in his *Tempest Over Texas: The Fall and Winter Campaigns of 1863-1864* (State House Press, \$39.95). Lincoln had good generals, but they often bickered over how



helped to create a legend. Authors Paul Ashdown and Edward Caudill carefully unpack the Hickok legend and examine it piece by piece. The authors explain that to spotlight these legends, they considered the works of film, literary and popular scholars. Additionally, they have assessed the multitude of Hickok-inspired movies, television and radio dramas created over the decades. However, the authors also acknowledge the collective memories of those living during the Civil War. *Imagining Wild Bill* is a readable and important assessment of Hickok as well as the myth and memory of gunmen of the West.

W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear to Receive the Western Writers of America's Owen Wister Award

The international best-selling writing team of William Michael (right) and Kathleen O'Neal Gear of Cody, Wyoming, will receive the Western Writers of America's 2021 Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature.

The Gears, who are best known for their prehistory series of books, also will be inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame, housed outside the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody.

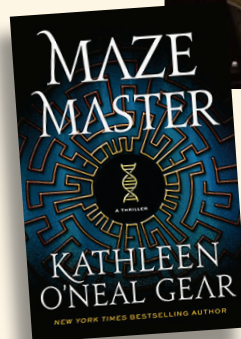
The nonprofit guild's highest honor will be presented during its convention June 16-19 in Loveland, Colorado.

The Gears won a Spur Award for their novel *People of the Raven* in 2005; their *People of the Moon and Moon Hunt: People of Cahokia* were Spur finalists in 2006 and 2018; and Michael's novel *This Scorched Earth* was recognized as a Spur finalist in 2019.

Kathleen O'Neal Gear has over 200 nonfiction publications in the fields of archaeology, history and bison conservation, and has authored or co-authored 47 international bestsellers. She has received numerous awards, both for her writing and for her work as an



COURTESY WILLIAM MICHAEL GEAR



archaeologist. The U.S. Department of the Interior has twice awarded her a Special Achievement Award for outstanding management of America's cultural resources.

Michael has published, or is in the process of publishing, 20 novels under his own name and authored another 37 with Kathleen. Michael's

latest original novel is *The Alpha Enigma*. He will launch a new series *The Wyoming Chronicles* in June with the title *Dissolution*. All of his books deal with aspects of anthropological theory. Their newest jointly written book is *People of the Canyons*.

—Stuart Rosebrook

best to shorten the war. Some believed Texas should be forgotten about; others believed the emphasis should be on the other rebelling states. Civil War historian Frazier weaves these questions in a forceful narrative providing a solid study of this overlooked phase of our history.

—Chuck Parsons, author of *Captain L. H. McNelly, Texas Ranger: The Life and Times of a Fighting Man*



children before his death. She also worked and operated the Virginia City Water Works, becoming a successful businesswoman. Sarah Bickford chose to purchase the building where the notorious Boone Helm and four others were lynched by vigilantes in 1864. The site remains, thanks to this former slave who realized the importance of historic preservation.

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

of a struggling horse training business who hopes that winning a prestigious equestrian show will help gain clients. Family secrets are uncovered, loyalties are challenged, and deep hurts exposed. It's a tsunami of heartbreak in a 24-hour period, but Carli has faith in God, and, although she doesn't always understand how He works, she trusts He will see her through. How hearts mend and dreams are realized make *Maverick Heart* an absolute treasure.

—Chris Enss, author of *Iron Women: The Ladies Who Helped Build the Railroad*

A WESTERN HEROINE

Why shouldn't Sarah Bickford, the subject of Laura J. Arata's biography *Race and the Wild West: Sarah Bickford, the Montana Vigilantes, and the Tourism of Decline, 1870-1930* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$24.85), be recognized as one of the most remarkable women in Western history? Barely out of her teens, this former slave made her way west and settled in Virginia City, Montana. She divorced her first abusive husband, lost her three children to death, then married another white man and had four more

HEARTACHE AND LOVE

Maverick Heart: Wild Cow Ranch 1 (CKN, \$10.99), the charming new novel by Natalie Bright and Denise F. McAllister, takes readers on an action-packed journey from the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia, to the Texas Panhandle with a host of characters tied to the Wild Cow Ranch and a new owner seeking to find her place on the 22,000-acre spread. Carli Jameson is the co-owner



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AN AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR SHARES HIS FAVORITE BOOKS ON DOWN UNDER'S OUTLAW HISTORY

Peter Brand has been writing about the American West for over 20 years and has received two awards from the Wild West History Association for his work on Wyatt Earp's vendetta posse and his analysis of the killing of Charlie Storms by Luke Short in Tombstone. Here, he recommends five books about Australia's unique outlaw history:



- 1 **Ned Kelly: A Short Life**, by Ian Jones (Hachette Australia): This is the definitive biography of Australia's most infamous outlaw. Thoroughly researched, sourced and footnoted, the book tells the complete story of the iconic iron-clad outlaw whose career culminated in the disastrous Glenrowan siege.
- 2 **Australian Bushrangers**, by Robert Coupe (New Holland Publishers): Coupe covers the story of Australia's brutal convict past that gave rise to many Australian outlaws, known as "bushrangers." This great overview cuts through much of the myth.
- 3 **Captain Thunderbolt and His Lady**, by Carol Baxter (Allen and Unwin): This biography tells the story of notorious horse-thief Fred Ward, who christened himself "Captain Thunderbolt" and was noted for a daring escape and a relatively lengthy life of crime. The well-written factual story is woven into a free-flowing narrative.
- 4 **Moonlite**, by Garry Linnell (Penguin Australia): This is a fresh look at the adventurous and tragic life of Irishman George Scott, who came to Australia after fighting in a New Zealand militia. Scott went on to become an outlaw known as "Captain Moonlite." It's a particularly fascinating tale of strange relationships and an educated man's descent into crime.
- 5 **The Last Bushrangers**, by Mike Munro (Harper Collins): An experienced Australian crime reporter was shocked to find he was directly related to the murderous Kenniff brothers. Munro writes of his own research odyssey and the detailed history and demise of the Kenniff bushranger gang.

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So where do you start? I always turn to my favorite road atlas and my collection of travel books. For years I have enjoyed Mountain Press’s “Roadside History” series, starting with Marshall Trimble’s *Roadside History of Arizona*, a beloved volume in my travel library. For my recent road trip to Seattle from Prescott Valley, I added two new books, Richard Moreno’s *Roadside History of Nevada* (Mountain Press, 2000) and Katrina Emery’s *Oregon Trail Road Trip* (Moon, 2020). I also brought my well-worn third edition of the *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide*,



Visitors to Baker City, Oregon, should schedule a day to visit the National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, a living history center featured in the fourth edition of the *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide*.
Baker City, Oregon

— STUART ROSEBROOK —

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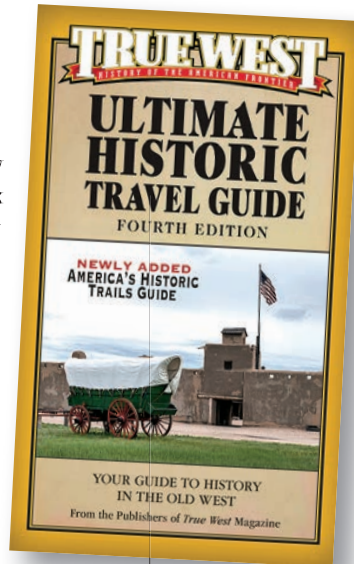
which at the time I was editing for the fourth edition, just published and now available at *TrueWestMagazine.com*.

By the way, well worth collecting are Mountain Press's 14 Roadside History books, including volumes on Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming by our own Candy Moulton, my friend Stan "Tex" Banash's volume on his home state of Illinois and the late Leon C. Metz's *Roadside History of Texas*, a true classic. Speaking of the highly regarded Western historian Metz, if you have a road trip planned to New Mexico and west Texas, pick up a copy of *Pat Garrett: The Story of a Western Lawman*. Combine Metz's biography with Bob Boze Bell's latest, *The Illustrated Life and Times of Billy the Kid: The Final Word*, to inspire a road trip to Lincoln County and El Paso in search of Garrett, Billy the Kid, John Tunstall and the Lincoln County Regulators.

After you have your maps and travel books organized for your trip, don't forget your

honky-tonk hero CDs to enjoy while driving and a good stack of Western novels or history books to enjoy at the end of the day. But, if you are a bona fide *True West* maniac, you might not be able to wait until the end of the day to enjoy some Western history, so plan ahead and download some audiobooks (or books on CD) to listen to along the way. Many of the big Western publishers, including the University of Oklahoma and Kensington, have their latest books available through Audible Audiobooks. One audiobook that just came across my desk is Bobby Bridger's *Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull: Inventing the Wild West*. The award-winning 2002 book is narrated by the author and is well-worth revisiting at home or on the road.

My current favorite road trip CD is Ian Tyson's *Live at Longview*, a classic from



2000 that just gets better every time I play it. I also never leave home without a handful of honky-tonk hero CDs by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard. And for my most recent road trip with my daughter, we added *The Beatles 1*.

We sang along with John, Paul, George and Ringo for hundreds of miles in between trying to learn conversational Italian.

What Italian did we learn? Well the three most important words to remember while enjoying a road trip across the West: *per favore*, *grazie* and *prego*.



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Westerns Down Under

For more than a century, the popular cowboy genre has been a cornerstone of Australian cinema.



Quigley Down Under cast, crew and stars, Tom Selleck (left, foreground), Alan Rickman (right, black hat) and Laura San Giacomo (back right, on the wagon, with hat) spent three months on location across Australia's Outback making the 1990 Australian Western classic.

— COURTESY MGM —

In 1906, just three years after the 12-minute *The Great Train Robbery*, the first ever hour-long film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, another Western, was made not in the U.S., but in Australia. And before you say, “That doesn’t count as a Western,” consider this: it’s set in the 1870s, in a pioneering region usurped by white settlers from indigenous people, during a gold rush, and it’s about a gang of stagecoach robbers, although there, they’re called bushrangers. If that’s not a Western, then neither is *Stagecoach*.

Both Australia and America have a fondness for tales of pioneering, individualism and daring. We see in Paul Hogan as *Crocodile Dundee* a shared exuberance and

confidence. And that personality extends to the filmmakers as well as the films. Actress Laura San Giacomo fondly recalls going to Australia to star in *Quigley Down Under*, and meeting the crew. “There was a very gung-ho, cavalier spirit of filmmaking, [as if] it was going to be very easy to do this Western, to do a *really difficult* shoot.”

NED KELLY AND THE BUSHRANGERS

Australians also share our fondness for legendary “bad boys.” We have our Jesse James and Billy the Kid; they have their bushrangers: Ben Hall, “Mad Dog” Morgan and Ned Kelly. For good guys, we’ve got Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson. And the

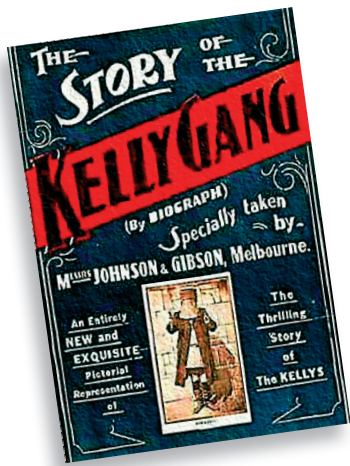


The late Heath Ledger portrayed the title character in the 2003 *Ned Kelly*, which was adapted from Australian novelist Robert Drewe’s 1991 *Our Sunshine*. Ledger was the first to brave the title role since rock-star Mick Jagger starred as the bushranger in the similarly titled 1970 cult classic.

— COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES —

Australians? “We don’t have anyone like that,” explains Simon Wincer, the Australian director of *Lonesome Dove* and *Quigley Down Under*. “The police were nearly all Irish, often pursuing their own, as in the case of Ned Kelly, who was Irish heritage. So the ‘traps,’ as they were known, were not liked.”

And with good reason: while the settlers of the American West were there by choice, Great Britain expelled 164,000 English and Irish criminals and rebels to Australia. The bushrangers, particularly Ned Kelly, who famously beat plow shears into armor, are admired not for their robberies but for their opposition to the government. *Legend of Ben Hall* director Matthew Holmes explains, “The



The first Australian Western was *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, which recounts the legend of the infamous Outback outlaw Ned Kelly. Debuting in 1906, the biopic of the infamous Australian bushranger should be considered the first Western outlaw cinema-hero, pre-dating the first Jesse James movie by 15 years.

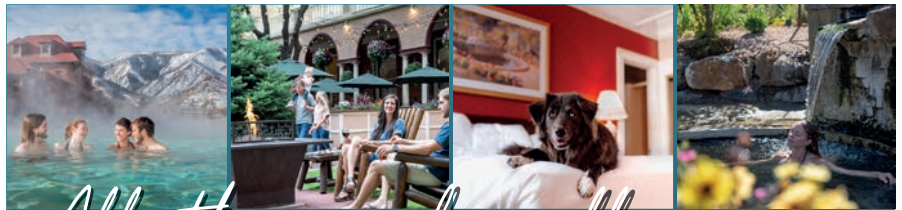
— COURTESY J. AND N. TAIT/
JOHNSON AND GIBSON PRODUCTIONS —

public cared for [them] because they knew what it was like to be oppressed by the British police. They also cared because the gang would pay them to provide shelter and information.”

There are probably more biographical films about Ned Kelly than any other Australian.

The best of them, Tony Richardson’s *Ned Kelly* (1970), features an unexpectedly strong and moving performance in the title role by Mick Jagger, who also sings the Irish/Australian rebel ballad, “There Was a Wild Colonial Boy.” Notes Wincer, “[Its screenwriter] Ian Jones was the foremost authority on Ned Kelly. Ian created a television series called *The Last Outlaw*, that’s probably the closest to being accurate.”

Australian Heath Ledger played Kelly to great acclaim in 2003’s *Ned Kelly*, with fellow Australians Gregor Jordan directing and Geoffrey Rush costarring. Most recently, 2019’s *True History of the Kelly Gang* is at its most interesting in Ned’s early years, when bushranger Harry Power (New Zealander Russell Crowe) shows him the ropes of criminality. Wincer says, “I hated [it]. It was a whole revisionist look at Ned, and I didn’t like it at all. It’s just what I call a wank.”



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Australian George Miller directed the box office hit *The Man from Snowy River*, which featured a major international cast, including Tom Burlinson (left) and Terence Donovan (right), as well as Kirk Douglas (off-camera) in a dual role as brothers Harrison and Spur.

— IMAGE AND POSTER COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX —

Dan Morgan's behavior marked him as psychotic even among bushrangers, so writer/director Philippe Mora was indeed fortunate to hire *Easy Rider*'s Dennis Hopper to play him, with Aboriginal star David Gumpilil (Walkabout) as his sidekick. *Mad Dog Morgan* is surprisingly watchable. It's even more surprising that it was completed. Hopper recalled that fueled by cocaine and rum, he crashed a truck through a cemetery, and the Victoria Police, rather than jailing him, drove him directly to the airport and put him on a plane for the U.S., with the shooting unfinished.

"Ben Hall was a successful landowner and cattleman," notes Holmes. "He had no

criminal record until his life fell apart—his wife ran away with his friend and took their young son." *The Legend of Ben Hall* (2017) is a remarkably well-told story of Hall's attempts to do right by his son, and to steal enough to finance a move to the States. Star Jack Martin is the spitting image of Hall, and a fine actor. "*Ben Hall* was made by a couple of young guys, literally on the smell of an oily rag," says Wincer. "They did a great job with the money they had.

"*The Proposition*, with Guy Pearce and Ray Winstone, was a very good movie. Gosh, it was bleak." Bleak indeed, the 2005 film is a Western noir. Outlaws Pearce and his kid brother are arrested by Police Captain

Winstone, who makes a proposition: he will hang the kid brother on Christmas unless Pearce kills their much more dangerous older brother, played by Danny Huston.

BANJO PATERSON AND SNOWY RIVER

Beloved for *Waltzing Matilda*, Banjo Paterson is also famous for his poem, "The Man from Snowy River." Written 130 years ago, it's about the chase to recapture an escaped horse, and just as much about social class and prejudice. The 1982 film was directed by George Miller. Its executive producer Simon Wincer recalls, "We had the poem, which is a great finale for a movie. But we had to invent the first 90 minutes before we got to what we call 'the ride.'" They wisely interwove a romance, involving the poor but honest protagonist, and the headstrong, beautiful daughter of Harrison, the wealthy

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The Legend of Ben Hall is considered one of Australia's best traditional ensemble Western movies. The 2017 film starred (l.-r.) William Lee as John Dunn, Jack Martin as cattleman-turned-outlaw-leader Ben Hall and Jamie Coffa as John Gilbert.

- COURTESY PINNACLE FILMS -



landowner. Miller cast the stunning Sigrid Thornton, whom he'd directed as Ned Kelly's sister in *The Last Outlaw*. The "man" was young Tom Burlinson, and when Kirk Douglas was offered the role of Harrison, he agreed, provided he could also play Harrison's brother, Spur. The classic adventure spawned a sequel and a series.

FAMILY FARE

In 1947's wonderful *A Bush Christmas*, five children befriend a trio of campers, led by Chips Rafferty, not realizing that they are rustlers, until Dad's valuable horse disappears. The five friends strike out to recover the horse, with unexpected results. Reflecting attitudes similar to the *Our Gang* comedies, the film features one Aboriginal boy, but race never enters into anyone's thinking. In 1958,

25 years before *A Christmas Story*, the Australian film *Smiley Gets a Gun* tells the story of a 10-year-old who wants the .22 rifle of policeman Chips Rafferty as much as Ralphie wants the Red Ryder BB-gun, and tries everything to earn it.

QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER

Before *Quigley*, Wincer directed films about horse-racing like *Phar Lap*, and

cavalry pictures like *The Lighthorsemen*. "I learned to ride when I was about four years of age and that was a passion that has never left me. I'm in my seventies now and still riding. Because of my interest in horses, and knowing what you can and can't do with them, people kept coming back to me to make more Westerns."

Quigley Down Under, the finest Australian Western, is the story of an American who

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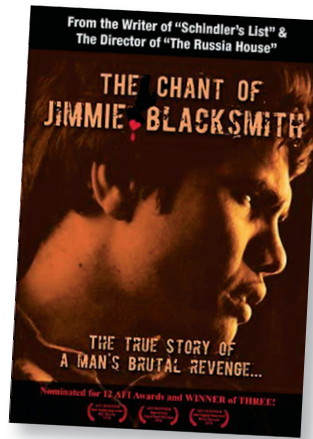


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Aboriginal Australian Hamilton Morris starred as Sam Kelly in *Sweet Country* (2017), one of the most recent Down Under Westerns to re-examine the racial tensions of the Outback's frontier.

- COURTESY BUNYA PRODUCTIONS/SWEET COUNTRY FILMS -



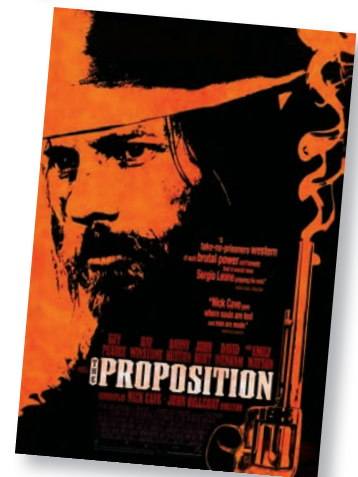
answers an ad looking for the world's best long-distance marksman, and finds himself in Australia, employed by wealthy rancher Marsten (Alan Rickman). Then Quigley realizes, to his fury, that Marsten's hired him to slaughter Aboriginals. Star Tom Selleck remembers, "He became the avenging angel for the Aboriginal people. It was really a terrific script. I worked hard in preparation. I'm very, very proud of *Quigley*."

FROM JIMMY BLACKSMITH TO SWEET COUNTRY

By the late 1960s, American Westerns were looking at the problems of Indians' assimilation, whether for or against their will, and Australian films were examining their parallel issues. With many echoes of *Tell Them Willie Boy is Here* (1969), in the true turn-of-the-century *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978), Tommy Lewis is a half "Abo" young man raised by a well-meaning but clueless minister (Jack Thompson), leaving him unfit for either culture. Despite his incredible forbearance, the abuse he receives after marrying a white girl drives him to a homicidal spree. Lewis later played the terrifying escaped killer in *Red Hill* (2010), whose story is much akin to *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955), with a small-town policeman uncovering a racism-based miscarriage of justice. In 2017's *Sweet Country*, set in 1920s Northern Frontier, and far away from law, an Aboriginal man (Hamilton Morris) shoots a white in self-defense, but goes on the run, knowing he won't be treated justly.

In the 1970s, Australian Western filmmakers, like their American contemporaries, began tackling the issue of frontier racism in movies such as *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978).

- COURTESY PAN-CANADIAN FILM DISTRIBUTORS -



The gritty Australian Western noir *The Proposition* (2005) starred Guy Pearce in the lead role.

- COURTESY SONY PICTURES -

Since filmmaking began, Australian's love of tales of pioneering and adventure has produced a steady stream of fine Westerns that stand up to the best of our work, and are as enjoyable for their differences as for their similarities. One need look no further than Simon Wincer, who not only directed the finest of all Australian Westerns, *Quigley Down Under*, but first came to our shores and directed the best TV Western of all time, *Lonesome Dove*. Nearly all of the films discussed, and many more, are available through streaming services, or on disc.



— COURTESY AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION —

HOME VIDEO REVIEW

BONEY AND MYSTERY ROAD— LONGMIRE'S AUSSIE COUSINS

In 1971, a year after Tony Hillerman's *The Blessing Way* created the Rez mystery genre, Australian television filmed the first of Arthur Upfield's Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte mysteries, first published in 1929. The series *Boney* concerns a mixed-race police detective who moves seamlessly between the White and Aboriginal worlds to solve crimes. Caucasian New Zealander James Laurensen played the ground-breaking role. Forty-two years later, Aaron Pedersen, an actor of Aboriginal decent, starred as indigenous Detective Jay Swan, investigating the deaths of young mixed-race girls in *Mystery Road*, a wise and tough drama that led to a sequel, *Goldstone*, and then a *Mystery Road* series. The *Mystery Road* movies and series are available on Amazon Prime. Currently, just one episode of *Boney* is available on YouTube.



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

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Highways West!

Be prepared to be surprised by the wonders of the open road, the places you will visit and the wonderful people you will meet on your travels across the Western U.S.



For the past year my travel books and maps have been stacking up with sticky notes and bookmarks. Routes are highlighted across the maps, and I don't know how many trips I've created in Google Maps and MapQuest. I love traveling, and I especially love driving across the Western United States. I've driven cross-country more than a dozen times in every direction imaginable and particularly enjoy leaving the interstates and slowing the pace on state or county roads with their curves, inevitable speed traps and charming communities. I've told my family many times, "You can't discover America from an airplane 35,000 feet in the air; you've got to see it from the ground-up!"

For my money, there is no better way to experience the grandeur of the West than from a car on an extended road trip—especially on the highways and byways that take you into the heart of the communities—the Main Streets—of small-town Western America.


I recommend that every day on the road, you allow yourself to be surprised. Be ready for simple, spontaneous stops, scenic photo opportunities, out-of-the-way historical markers and lunch at one-of-a-kind diners in small towns you've never visited before. Soon you

will discover quickly how easy it is to turn around and go back for that missed photo op, delicious slice of pie or unique historical marker that sates your curiosity and leads you down a side road to an adventure you hadn't planned.

For the 19th year, *True West* has asked our writers to share with you six new travel adventures into and across the Western United States. As most of us shelved much or all of our trips in 2020 because of COVID-19, we are eager to get out of the house and on the road again. Our 2021 Old West adventures range from weekenders in Arizona to a cross-country pilgrimage on the overland trails from Wyoming to Missouri. Our authors take you on the trail of the Texas Rangers, across the deserts and mountains of Nevada, on a search for Buffalo Bill's Wyoming and into the heart of Montana's Yellowstone and Missouri River country.

We at *True West* hope that you soon will be able to hit the road in the West again and experience the thrills of the highway, discover spots you never thought you'd visit and enjoy the best of the people and places you will meet along the way.

—Stuart Rosebrook



A Western road trip from Kingman, Arizona, to Las Vegas, Nevada, on U.S. 93 should include a visit to Hoover Dam. Once across the Mike O'Callaghan—Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, take the first exit and the Hoover Dam Access Road for public parking, tours and incredible photo opportunities.

—STUART ROSEBROOK

BY PETER CORBETT

Arizona Adventures Await

SEE HISTORICAL SITES, NATURAL WONDERS AND WELCOMING SMALL TOWNS.

Arizona's vastness and terrain—from searing deserts to alpine meadows—provides travelers with so many variations of rewarding road trips.

We've picked three of our favorite routes that sample some of the best of the West in the sixth largest state:

- The desert at Wickenburg up through mining and ranching country to the tall pines of Prescott.
- The Gateway to Grand Canyon at Williams west to Kingman and Oatman along one of the longest remaining stretches of Route 66.
- Cowboy and cattle country at Willcox. Then west to Too-Tough-To-Die Tombstone and back to Bisbee, the Queen of the Copper Camps.

Get it in gear and go. You can't go wrong on these road trips.

Going with the Flow of the Hassayampa

A 60-mile trip roughly following the Hassayampa River upstream from Wickenburg to Prescott rightly begins at what's left of Vulture City, an authentic ghost town where thousands of souls once lived.

That's where Henry Wickenburg discovered one of Arizona's richest gold mines in 1863. The Vulture Mine operated until World War II. What's left is a collection of weather-beaten buildings and mining equipment.

One of Wickenburg's lushest spots is the Hassayampa River Preserve. It's a Maricopa County park with hiking paths, picnic tables and a scenic view from Lykes Lookout.



Prescott's Frontier Days Parade and World's Oldest Rodeo are considered by many to be the greatest Fourth of July celebration in the American Southwest, and there is no better place to enjoy the parade than on the Courthouse Plaza across from the Palace Restaurant & Saloon. A short walk from the plaza is Sharlot Hall (below, right), a living history museum with the Territorial Governor's Mansion as its centerpiece.

— STUART ROSEBROOK/PHOTO OF SHARLOT HALL
COURTESY PRESCOTT CVB —



In 1864, Prescott was founded on Granite Creek, just upstream from Fort Whipple. The Territorial Capital, adjacent to a booming gold mining district and an Army fort, quickly became well-known across the region for its downtown streets of saloons and gambling halls.

— UNION SALOON COURTESY TW ARCHIVES —

highway from Phoenix to Prescott, passing through Congress, up Yarnell Hill to Peoples Valley. An alternate route cuts through Kirkland, Skull Valley and Iron Springs.

Congress was mining country until 1930, but there's little left from that era. A friend jokes that very little gets done in Congress, just like in Washington D.C.

Farther north out of Congress on SR 89—once known as the White Spar Highway—motorists hit steep switch-



After enjoying an afternoon or evening watching cowboys buck out the broncs and bulls at the Worlds Oldest Rodeo, visit Matt's Saloon, a popular watering hole for country music and dancing on Whiskey Row in historic downtown Prescott.

— SADDLE BRONC PHOTO COURTESY MILLER PHOTO/
MATT'S SALOON BY STUART ROSEBROOK —

backs winding up Yarnell Hill to the town of the same name. On the southbound side of the highway is the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park.

There's a roadside tribute to 19 firefighters who gave their lives here in 2013 trying to save Yarnell from a devastating wildfire. A steep trail of seven miles roundtrip leads to a memorial site where the firefighters perished.

The remaining 30 miles to Prescott pass through high-desert grasslands with sprawling ranches before climbing into the Ponderosa pines.

A short detour to Kirkland leads to the rustic Kirkland Bar & Steakhouse that's as Western as it gets and full of relics.

Railroad geeks will want to head north to see the 1898 Skull Valley Depot and Section House Museum.

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Photo: Jack Olson

In Prescott, the mission-style Santa Fe depot, built in 1907, is now an office building. Tracks of the old Peavine Railroad were torn up for a trail popular with hikers and mountain bikers. The path passes through Granite Dells near Watson Lake.

Military history buffs should visit Fort Whipple Museum on the grounds of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The museum is in a 1909 officer's home with other historic structures nearby. The museum has limited hours, so check with the staff at Sharlot Hall, which manages the site, for days of operation.

At Sharlot Hall, don't miss the Territorial Governor's Mansion—a modest log cabin—and many other exhibits a few blocks west of the Yavapai County Courthouse.

At the end of the day, head over to Whiskey Row for a cold one at the Palace Restaurant and Saloon or Matt's Saloon, popular for live music and dancing, especially over the Fourth of July. Craft beer lovers can get a pint at the Lazy G Brewhouse, south of Whiskey Row, or at the Prescott Brewing Company on Gurley, across from the Rough Riders Monument on the Courthouse Plaza.



After overnighting in Williams, the northern Arizona crossroads city, celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Santa Fe line's first train to the Grand Canyon with a roundtrip ride from Williams to the national park on the restored Grand Canyon Railway.

— SANTA FE'S GRAND CANYON TRAIN COURTESY NPS.GOV/TRAIN PHOTO COURTESY GRAND CANYON RAILWAY —



Westbound from Williams to Oatman on the Edge of Arizona

It's not known why Ute Indians chose to kill Bill Williams in 1849, but the fur trapper and mountain man was remembered decades later when the railroad town of Williams was named for him.

An eight-foot sculpture of Old Bill Williams at the town's Monument Park is as good a place as any to start a trip across western Arizona.

Travelers from the late 1850s ventured west of Williams following the Beale Wagon Road. The Atlantic & Pacific Railroad that reached Williams in 1882 roughly followed the Beale Road west, as did the National Old Trails Highway and Route 66.

Williams is still a hub for travelers aboard Grand Canyon Railway to the national park and a key stop for Route 66 roadies. Williams was the last Route 66 town bypassed by Interstate 40 in October 1984.

At the train depot, the Cataract Creek Gang stages mock gunfights before the train's 9:30 departure for Grand Canyon.

Route 66 roadies motoring west can jump on Interstate 40 for 18 miles to exit just past Ash Fork on Crookton Road. This follows a section of Route 66 over Crookton Pass with views of the San Francisco Peaks 50 miles to the east.

Next is Seligman. This is where famous Holbrook sheriff Commodore Perry Owens spent his spent final years operating a general store and saloon before his death in 1919.

Route 66 attractions include the Snow Cap drive-in, Angel Delgado's barber and

gift shop, and Westside Lilo's Cafe, a restaurant that's won praise for its breakfasts, cinnamon rolls and carrot cake.

Grand Canyon Caverns and Inn is the next stop west of Seligman. Tours of the caves are available along with an unusual dining experience in the Grotto, 200 feet underground.

From the caverns, it's an hour's drive to Kingman, but travelers might choose to stop in Peach Springs, Truxton and Valentine to photograph some of the historic buildings along Route 66.

Hackberry General Store is a popular stop along this stretch of Route 66 with its oddball collection of old signs, rusty cars and gas pumps.

Kingman is the Big Kahuna of Route 66 in western Arizona and is the hometown of Bob Boze Bell, *True West* editor and Big Kahuna.

We recommend visits to one or more of Kingman's museums: Mohave Museum of History and the Arts, Kingman Visitor Center in the town's old powerhouse and Kingman Railroad Museum in the still-operating 1907 train depot.

Observant travelers will note the town's main drag is Andy Devine Avenue, named for the Western character actor who grew up here. His family operated the now closed Hotel Beale.

Ask at the museums for directions to Camp Beale's Spring. It was a vital water source



Kick off a Williams-to-Oatman, Arizona, road trip with a weekend at the historic Red Garter Inn, a restored former bordello on Route 66 in downtown Williams.

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Kick off a northern Arizona expedition on Historic Route 66 from Seligman to Kingman with a classic roadside drive-in experience at Delgadillo's Snow-Cap in Seligman.

- COURTESY CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



Famous for its historic stretch of Route 66, Kingman celebrates its most famous native son, actor Andy Devine, every year with the Andy Devine Days Festival, with a parade and rodeo.

- ANDY DEVINE DAYS PARADE COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM/ANDY DEVINE PHOTO COURTESY CBS -



for centuries and the site of an Army outpost during fighting with the Hualapai Indians in the late 1860s.

The last leg of the trip is a 35-mile jaunt into the Black Mountains and over Sitgreaves Pass at an elevation of 3,652 feet. The pass is named for Capt. Lorenzo Sitgreaves, who surveyed this route in 1851.

This narrow county road, part of Route 66 until 1952, is not for acrophobics. It seems steep drop-offs with few guardrails are around every tight curve. But it's worth it when you get to Cool Springs.

The 1926 filling station was completely rebuilt in 2004 and is a timepiece monument to roadside service in the early days of Route 66.

Slow down upon arriving in Oatman. The road is often clogged with burros and picture-taking tourists. Oatman's signature

Oatman's local burros, descendants of the first miner jackasses that arrived in 1915, slow drivers down to less than five miles an hour as they approach the historic mining camp near the terminus of Arizona's stretch of historic Route 66.

- BURRO PHOTO COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM / HISTORIC PHOTO OF OATMAN COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

burros are descendants of beasts of burden left behind by miners a century ago. The feral animals roam freely and even poke their heads in local shops looking for snacks.

Be advised that cafes and lodging are scarce in Oatman. A return trip to Kingman is an option, or continue on to Needles, California, or Bullhead City on the Colorado River.

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WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Mule Pass Tunnel leading into Bisbee opened in 1958, cutting off a serpentine section of U.S. 80 over Mule Pass. Adventurous motorists can trace the old route by turning left off what's now State Route 80 at the Old Divide Road, an eighth of a mile north of the tunnel. At the pass is a 1914 marker declaring it as the Continental Divide. In reality, the divide is 150 miles to the east in Deming, New Mexico, but the erroneous marker placed by prison laborers has endured for well over a century.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub: Palace Restaurant & Saloon, Prescott; Red Raven Restaurant, Williams; Floyd & Co. Real Pit BBQ, Kingman; Cafe Roka, Bisbee; Big Nose Kate's Saloon, Tombstone

Lodging: Hassayampa Inn, Prescott; Hotel Vendome, Prescott; The Lodge on Route 66, Williams; Letson Lofts, Bisbee; Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee; Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Co., Tombstone



1914 Mule Pass Marker,
Old Divide Road, Bisbee, Arizona

- PETER CORBETT -

On the Trail of Cochise, Cowboys and Copper

A great Arizona day-trip starts in Willcox, heads west and then south to Tombstone and Bisbee.

It covers close to 100 miles of scenic Cochise County in far southeastern Arizona, where Apaches roamed, outlaws fought frontier sheriffs and miners hauled billions of pounds of copper, silver and gold out of the ground.

Willcox owes its existence to the Southern Pacific Railroad built across southern Arizona in 1880. The town's depot is the original redwood, frame structure from 140 years ago. It now serves as Willcox's town hall.

Down the block, is the Rex Allen Museum, honoring the town's favorite son, known as the last of the singing cowboys in Hollywood Westerns.

Willcox also adopted the Friends of Marty Robbins Museum, celebrating the singing career of the famed country singer from Glendale, Arizona.

Visitors can learn about Cochise County history at the Chiricahua Regional Museum in Willcox.

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A town cemetery is the final resting place of Warren Earp, youngest of the Earp brothers, who was shot dead in the Headquarters Saloon on July 6, 1900.

Twenty-five miles west of Willcox is the Amerind Foundation Museum, with exhibits on Native American history and culture. Take Exit 318 off Interstate 10 at Dagoon Road.

In Tombstone, visitors can park their car, put on their boots, ride in a stagecoach and watch a mock gunfight at the OK Corral

or on dusty Allen Street. The Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park conveys the many stories of the town during the silver boom of the late 1870s.

Take a tour of the Goodenough silver mine, one of the early strikes by town founder Ed Schieffelin. Visit the *Tombstone Epitaph* to see what it was like to publish a newspaper in a frontier town.

Four years after Ed Schieffelin discovered silver ore near Goose Flats, the infamous mining camp of Tombstone was roaring 24 hours a day. Today, 140 years later, visitors can walk the boardwalks of "the town to tough to die" and discover firsthand the history of the Earp-Clanton feud and the O.K. Corral.

- C.S. FLY PHOTO OF TOMBSTONE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/PHOTO OF TOMBSTONE COURTESY TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK -



Get a look inside one of Tombstone's many gambling halls. The Bird Cage Theatre was known as one of the West's wickedest night spots in the 1880s.

Continued on page 83

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Did You Know?

Kingman, AZ is the Turquoise Capital of the World

One of the largest suppliers of turquoise is sourced out of a mountain just west of town. Kingman was coined the Turquoise Capital of the World in a marketing stunt by Leonard Hardy, a man who produced and sold turquoise. Mr. Hardy (of L.W. Hardy Co) created the Turquoise Kings, a semi-professional softball team, as part of his campaign, and it stuck! The Mohave Museum of History & Arts has a collection of turquoise pieces crafted from Kingman turquoise.



White Cliffs Wagon Road, is one of a handful of trails where you can still see wagon tracks etched into stone. The trail was used to bring gold ore from the mines to the railroad in the late 1800s. The trail head to the wagon tracks is a short drive from Historic Downtown Kingman.



On April 1, 1924, the Chicago Cubs & Pittsburgh Pirates played a major league exhibition at the old Kingman ballpark, the only time in history that a Major League game was played in Kingman. That old ballpark is now the location of famed 1928 Locomotive #3759 which is directly across Route 66 from the Historic Powerhouse and Arizona Route 66 Museum. That ain't no April Fools joke! *Photo courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts*

Shaffer Fish Bowl Spring is located on Oatman Highway (Route 66) west of Kingman. A few stone steps lead up to a spring capture basin and it's quite a view over the valley below. Motorists used the spring to refill their radiators on hot Arizona road trips as far back as the 1920s. In a sense, it was a Radiator Spring. Oatman Highway, starting just 5 miles west of Kingman, AZ, is arguably the most famous remnant of Historic Route 66.



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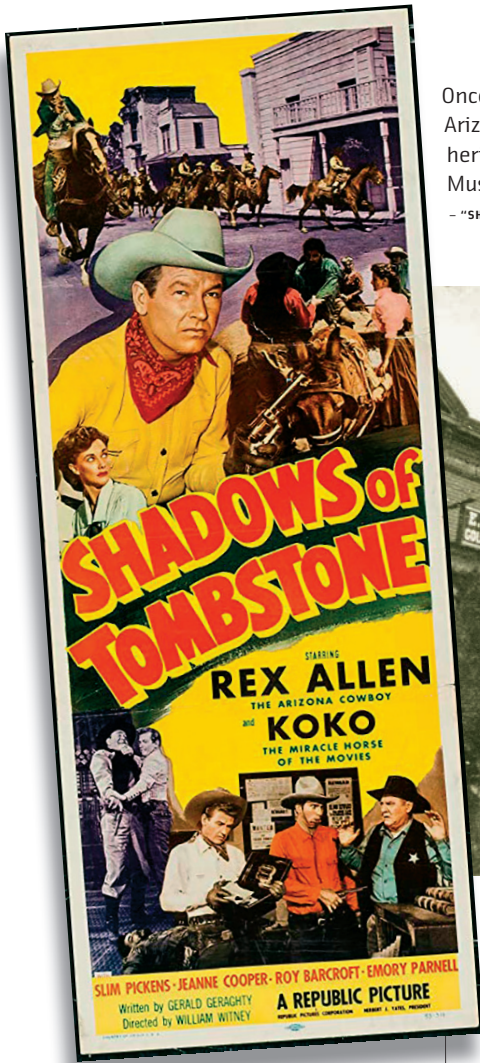
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Once the cattle shipping capital of the state of Arizona, Willcox is still a cowtown and honors its heritage and local favorite son at the Rex Allen Museum and Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame.

- "SHADOWS OF TOMBSTONE" POSTER COURTESY REPUBLIC PICTURES -



Visitors who choose the Copper Queen Hotel as their headquarters for a long weekend in Bisbee are a short walk from the "Queen of the Copper Camp's" historic Brewery Gulch shopping and dining district.

- PHOTO OF COPPER QUEEN HOTEL COURTESY COCHISE COUNTY TOURISM/ HISTORIC BISBEE PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Continued from page 80

Bisbee is 20 mile southeast of Tombstone in the Mule Mountains. Once known as the Queen of the Copper Camps, it's now home to artists and a destination for tourists exploring its narrow streets and historic homes clinging to steep hills.

Get the full story of the town at the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum or head underground for a Queen Mine tour.

Take a short drive south to see the 1909 Warren Ballpark, one of America's oldest baseball parks.

At day's end, find your way to Brewery Gulch for a cold one at the Stock Exchange Saloon, St. Elmo, Old Bisbee Brewing Co. or the Room 4 Bar in the Silver King Hotel. It's Arizona's smallest saloon with room for four at the bar. "Salud!"



Peter Corbett moved West to Flagstaff in 1974 to attend Northern Arizona University where he studied English and American Studies. He's been exploring Arizona and the West since then and had a 35-year career in Arizona journalism.



A visit to Bisbee should always include a tour of George Warren's (inset) highest-producing mining claim in Arizona, the Copper Queen Mine. Visitors who take the tour ride 1,500 feet into the mine, which operated for nearly a century.

- C.S. FLY PHOTO OF GEORGE WARREN COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/ COPPER QUEEN MINE TOUR PHOTO COURTESY COCHISE COUNTY TOURISM -



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BY CANDY MOULTON

Overland Trails: Fur Trappers to Pony Express Riders

ENJOY THE ADVENTURE AND HISTORICAL SITES
BETWEEN ST. LOUIS
AND FORT LARAMIE.



When we think and write about the overland trails, we usually start somewhere in the east at a place like St. Louis, Independence, Kansas City or St. Joseph and follow the trail west. But the trail went both directions, so this time I am starting at Fort Laramie. Never fear, we will get back to the West on this journey.

Fort Laramie, established as a military post in 1849 to provide protection for travelers along the overland trails leading to Oregon, California and the Mormon settlement in Utah, became the most valuable post in the region. In that period almost everyone traveling east or west passed through Fort Laramie, where they could find supplies, collect or deposit a letter, and learn news of the trail.

Near the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers, the post for three decades provided for overland travelers, served as a military post, and played a role in negotiations and relations with the tribes of the Northern Plains. Fort Laramie is now a national historic site.

On from Fort Laramie

The area near the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers became strategically significant in 1834 when Robert Campbell and William Sublette established Fort William as a center for fur trade. Fort William was close to the site where Fort Laramie was later constructed.

Thomas Fitzpatrick guided the first wagon train over the Oregon Trail in 1841,

Founded along the banks of the North Platte River in 1834, Fort Laramie is one of the West's most significant historic sites and living history centers. The National Park Service's employees and volunteers participate in re-enactment events throughout the summer, with many programs open to participation by "junior rangers."

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

and he also led John C. Fremont's first expedition into the West in 1843. The importance of Fort William had dwindled after the last big Rocky Mountain fur rendezvous in 1840, but the value of its strategic



Visitors on a tour of Fort Laramie National Historic Site step back in time into the Sutler's Store where mountain man Jim Bridger lived in his later years.

— IMAGES COURTESY NPS.GOV

Western Nebraska

In far western Nebraska in 1828 fur trapper Hiram Scott lost his life at a sandstone outcrop that now bears his name, Scotts Bluff. A pass just south of the outcrop was the site of the Robidoux Trading Post, which was established at the end of the fur trade era by members of the Robidoux family, prominent fur traders and residents of St. Joseph, Missouri. At Scotts Bluff National Monument you can hike the overland trail route through Mitchell Pass, where the landscape is much the same as it was when Stuart and his Astorian party came through in 1812. The nearby Legacy of the Plains Museum has exhibits on trail history.

location was clearly evident, which led to Fort Laramie's construction as a military post in 1849.

In 1812, Robert Stuart and a party of fur men from Astoria on the coast in Oregon, traveled back to St. Louis. They located a pass—which would be the funnel for people headed west later in the century—and rightly called it South Pass. They did not cross that pass, but instead broke over the

Continental Divide farther south. They reached the Sweetwater River and then the North Platte, which they followed until finally striking southeast to the Missouri River and back to St. Louis. In essence, they followed the Oregon Trail from Oregon to Missouri—west to east. Their trip would be replicated by tens of thousands half a century later with most then headed east to west.

Venture Along the Overland Trail

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Robert Fuller AKA Jess from the TV show *Laramie* visiting the historic marker in 2019.

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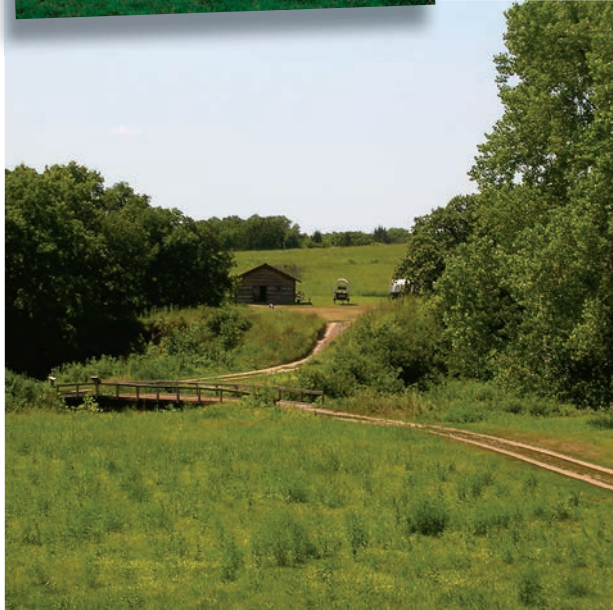
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Strategically built along the Oregon-California Trail on the southern bank of the Platte River in central Nebraska Territory, Fort Kearny protected west- and eastbound travelers from 1848 to 1871. Today, Nebraska operates the fort as a popular living history center with regularly scheduled re-enactments during the summer.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



In 1860, the Pony Express launched its legendary but short-lived mail service between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Stations were hastily constructed along the nearly 2,000-mile route, using many key watering holes along the well-established Oregon Trail, including Rock Creek Station (left) in southeastern Nebraska.

- COURTESY CANDY MOULTON -



Rangers at Scotts Bluff National Monument welcome visitors to discover the natural and cultural history of the geologic bluffs adjacent to the North Platte River. The bluffs were used for centuries as a natural beacon and encampment for American Indians long before the first Europeans crossed the plains of Wyoming and Nebraska.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



Whether traveling east or west along one of the National Historic Trails—Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer or Pony Express—schedule a tour of the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska. The living history center has staff, docents and re-enactors in period costume leading programs and greeting visitors on its 208-acre campus, which includes 107 historic buildings.

— COURTESY CANDY MOULTON —

Another key provisioning point on the trail was at Fort Kearny, established in 1849 beside the North Platte River in central Nebraska. This post, which succeeded earlier posts of the same name that were near the Missouri River in Nebraska City, is a Nebraska State Historic Site today.

The overland route, like an old rope, is frayed at its eastern end as travelers used various routes until they merged at Fort Kearny. One braid links to places in eastern Nebraska, including the Omaha area, where Mormon travelers had a major encampment before they set off toward their new home in the Great Salt Lake region. The more well-traveled trails led to jumping off places including St. Joseph and Independence, Missouri, then extended on to the gateway to the West: St. Louis.

Captain William Clark lived in St. Louis after the Corps of Discovery completed its exploration of Louisiana Territory in 1806. President Thomas Jefferson appointed Clark as the U.S. Agent of Indian Affairs. When Missouri Territory was established in 1813, Clark became the Territorial governor, under appointment first by President James Madison and later by President James Monroe.

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ANDREW J. HIGGINS
MEMORIAL

Before taking the tram and stairs to the observation deck of the Gateway Arch at Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, Missouri, discover the historical significance of St. Louis's location at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers at the Gateway Arch's new, highly interactive museum.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



need to follow the trail west, and you can learn more about the trails from the Oregon-California Trails Association, also headquartered in Independence.

Gateway to the West

In 1822, Gen. William H. Ashley and Maj. Andrew Henry organized a fur company in St. Louis, which sent scores of trappers into the field, making the mountain men the vanguards of westward expansion beyond the Mississippi River. Among them were Jim Bridger, Thomas Fitzpatrick, William Sublette and Hugh Glass.

Visit the Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis to learn of the legacy of Thomas Jefferson and the American Western expansion, then head west!

Just west of St. Louis is St. Charles, established in 1821 as Missouri's first state capital. The first legislature in the territory met in St. Charles. Debates on issues of states' rights and slavery dominated the early sessions held in the House and Senate Chambers on the second floor of a new structure built by Charles and Ruluff Peck, who operated a general store in the first-floor rooms. This first state capitol served four Missouri governors until a new capitol was built and opened in Jefferson City in 1826. The St. Charles historic district has plenty to offer in buildings that date to the 18th and 19th centuries, and figure in Lewis and Clark and fur trade history.

Trails East and West from Independence

Most recognize Independence, Missouri, as the eastern terminus of the overland trails because thousands began their journeys by wagon to Oregon country from the Independence courthouse square. The National Frontier Trails Museum provides the background you'll

A number of important trail sites in the Kansas City area are identified and interpreted in a program managed jointly by local, state and federal organizations.



Climb aboard one of Pioneer Trails Adventures' covered wagons for a guided tour of the historical sites and museums in downtown Independence, Missouri. Old West stops along the tour's route include the National Frontier Trails Museum, the 1859 Jail and the 1827 Log Courthouse.

- COURTESY MISSOURI DEPT. OF TOURISM -

The best way to find them is to pick up a copy of one of the National Park Service auto tour guides to the trails. These guides also will take you to other sites on the main routes of the Oregon and California trails.



The Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri, includes its beautifully restored stables. Originally constructed of wood in 1858, the mail service's original barn was reconstructed in 1888 with brick, but the restoration architects incorporated original beams and posts in the historic building.

- IMAGES COURTESY PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM -

St. Joseph and the Pony Express

The Pony Express Trail, established in April 1860 and in use until October 1861, started in St. Joseph, Missouri. Headquarters was at the

Patee House, which today is the Patee House Museum and Jesse James Home. Constructed in 1858 by John Patee, the luxury hotel served travelers and later housed the office of the provost marshal and was used as a courtroom

following the Civil War. Today's museum includes interpretation of those uses and the building's importance to the Pony Express story. The significant hotel structure dwarfs the Jesse James home, located behind it, but of course the James story remains larger-than-life and this is just one of the Missouri sites directly related to the famous outlaw and his family. With his wife, Zerelda, and two small children, James

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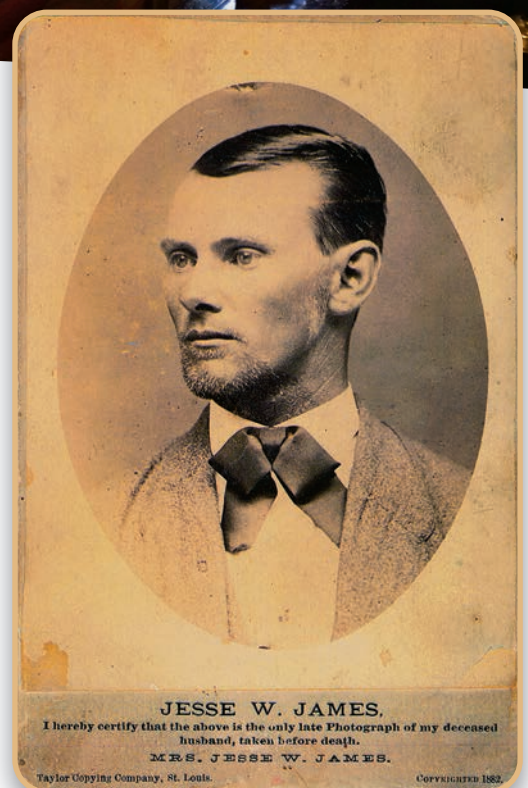
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Next door to the Patee House Museum, home to the original headquarters of the Pony Express, is the Jesse James Home, which is owned and managed by the museum.

A tour of the James Home includes the front parlor room where the famous outlaw was fatally shot in the back of the head on April 3, 1882.

- PHOTO OF JESSE JAMES HOME INTERIOR
COURTESY PATEE HOUSE AND JESSE JAMES
HOME/PHOTO OF JESSE JAMES COURTESY TRUE
WEST ARCHIVES -



lived here under an alias name beginning in 1881. In this home he was shot and killed by Robert Ford.

The original stables used by the Pony Express were in disrepair by 1950, when the structure was purchased and restoration began. The structure is now a focal point of the Pony Express National Museum. Among the original artifacts housed in the museum are saddlebags believed to have been used by express riders during its 18-month history, a variety of saddles demonstrating their evolution during the period, and dioramas that interpret the express riders and the three men who started the service, Alexander Majors, William Russell and William

Waddell. The museum presents details about the Pony Express Trail, which has endured despite its short life of linking the East with the West at a critical time in our nation's history.

Also worth visiting in St. Joseph is Robidoux Row Museum, an early apartment house owned by the city's mayor, Joseph Robidoux, who was part of the extensive Robidoux clan of fur traders, trappers and business owners.

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WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

JULESBURG, COLORADO


The Pony Express route crossed the length or width of several states: Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and had key locations in Missouri and California. The Pony riders also crossed into the extreme northeastern corner of Colorado, covering just 26 miles within the state's boundaries. At the time the Pony Express operated, Julesburg had a station for the riders. Today you will find markers and a monument to the Pony Express. But there is much more history in Julesburg and the surrounding area along the South Platte Overland Trail.

One of the early structures in the area was Fort Sedgwick, a military post in use from 1864 to 1871 and also known as Post at Julesburg, Camp Rankin and Fort Rankin. Far more people may recognize it because as Fort Sedgwick, it was a key site in the 30-year-old film *Dances with Wolves*. Julesburg was raided twice and burned by Cheyenne, Arapaho and Lakota Indians in 1865, but the town rebounded and rebuilt.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grub: Switchlist Restaurant, St. Louis, MO; Ophelia's Restaurant, Independence, MO; Gates Bar-B-Q, Kansas City, MO; Betty's Café, St. Joseph, MO; Rowdy's Steakhouse, Fairbury, NE; Cunningham's Journal, Kearney, NE

Lodging: St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO; Intercontinental Hotel, Kansas City, MO; Rowse's 1+1 Ranch, Burwell, NE; Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, NE



Traveling west, the best-known Pony Express Station in Kansas is Hollenberg Station, used by the express riders during their brief heyday, and still standing strong as a Kansas State Historic Site.

Distinct swales caused by wagon traffic in the 19th century are visible at Rock Creek Station near Fairbury, Nebraska. This site, built in 1857, served late-era wagon trains of pioneers headed west, and also was a stop on the Pony Express Trail. It is recognized for its connection to James B. (Wild Bill) Hickok and the shootout that killed David McCandles in July of 1861 when McCandles came to the station to collect a debt. The Nebraska State Historic site provides information about the Pony Express and the Hickok killing of McCandles, but the greatest value in stopping here is to see the trail swales.

As noted in our eastbound trip, Fort Kearny was a layover point for 19th-century travelers, and the place where most of the braided trails came together, so continuing back to the west, stop at the Gothenberg Pony Express Station, which was moved from its original location and now is operated as a museum in the town of Gothenberg, Nebraska. It is certainly one of the best-preserved Pony Express stations along the entire route.

Wagon travelers on these trails were challenged by California Hill, west of Brule, Nebraska, and found the descent of Windlass Hill daunting. They generally rested and regrouped in Ash Hollow before following the North Platte River into the area they called the Valley of Monuments. Much of the trail crossing Kansas and Nebraska is across rolling grassland, which had few landmarks. But now they could see sandstone outcroppings that were easily distinguishable and visible for many miles—often for days before actually drawing near to them.

These landmarks soon had names: Ancient Bluff, Jail and Courthouse. Chimney Rock became a universal symbol of the trail—one of the most noted landmarks in all overland journals and diaries, second only to Independence Rock, farther west. Chimney Rock State Historic Site is not right at the rock (which is on private

property), but offers great views. There you will learn the stories of this important landmark and the trails and people who passed by it, including American Indians, fur trappers, trail pioneers and the Pony Express.

We are now full circle, back to Scotts Bluff, Mitchell Pass and Fort Laramie. You may feel as if you are coming or going on this trail adventure, so remember that while many went west, others turned back, or simply had a need to travel east to resupply for another journey or adventure in the West.



Candy Moulton is the author of 15 Western history books including roadside guides to Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. She particularly likes exploring backroads and small towns.



Pony Express Monument
Julesburg, Colorado

— COURTESY NPS.GOV —

BY SAMUEL K. DOLAN

A Big Sky Adventure

FROM THE MAGIC CITY OF THE PLAINS TO THE LITTLE BIGHORN AND THE
"GRANDEST" TRADING POST OF THE FUR TRADE,
A ROAD TRIP THROUGH EASTERN MONTANA
OFFERS NO SHORTAGE OF
FRONTIER FUN.



Billings, Montana, was little more than a boomtown in 1882, when pioneers and newspapermen throughout the country began to refer to the bustling Western metropolis as "The Magic City of the Plains." Today, Billings is a perfect place to jumpstart a road trip through the historic and majestic big sky country of eastern Montana and the gateway to some of the richest historical sites and scenic wonders of the Treasure State. Formerly known as Clark's Fork Bottom, Billings was named for Frederick H. Billings, president of the Northern Pacific Railway. Though some folks in Miles City may have been tempted to dismiss the upstart community as "Bilkings" in the early days, Billings had all the makings of a great community and was destined to become the largest city in Montana. "Billings has a location that can be depended upon—a location that will make it a railroad town, a cattle shipping, bullion shipping and a town backed up by numerous and well-paying

farms," *The Bozeman Weekly Chronicle* observed in 1883.

Visitors to Billings would do well to begin their journey with a stop at the Western Heritage Center (scheduled to reopen in March 2021). This fine museum in the city's historic downtown district is in an impressive classic-looking Richardsonian Romanesque building that once housed the Parmly Billings Memorial Library. Affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, the Western Heritage Center offers guests exhibits that showcase the history of Billings and the surrounding Yellowstone River Valley. While in Billings, be sure to also check out the Yellowstone County Museum, home to *Old 1031*, a Northern Pacific steam engine built by the American Locomotive Company in 1903. This museum also includes an impressive firearms exhibit and a display honoring exhibition marksman Tom Frye. Art lovers will want to stop by the Yellowstone Art Museum, where current exhibitions include *Women by Will*

The Yellowstone River is the longest undammed river in the lower 48 states. Visitors to southeastern Montana can discover the river's natural beauty and enjoy its many recreational opportunities, including fishing, birding, rafting and boating, from Gardiner to the river's confluence with the Missouri River just east of the Montana-North Dakota border near Fort Garland.

— DONNIE SEXTON, COURTESY MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

(through September 17, 2021), showcasing over 30 illustrations of cowgirls and frontier women by legendary artist Will James. As the museum's website explains, "These drawings, like all of James' work, combine Western myth with the artist's personal experience."

Before leaving Billings, be sure to check out the Moss Mansion Historic House Museum, the former residence of prominent resident Preston Boyd Moss. Featured in



The historic Moss Mansion in Billings, Montana, was built in 1903 for local entrepreneur Preston Boyd "P.B." Moss and his family. The elegant, well-appointed home is preserved and maintained as a museum and beloved public space and considered one of the state's cultural landmarks.

- HISTORIC PHOTO OF MOSS MANSION COURTESY MOSS MANSION/PHOTO OF MOSS MANSION INTERIOR COURTESY VISITMT.COM -



Son of the Morning Star and *Return to Lonesome Dove*, this spectacular home was designed by Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, the architect responsible for New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. "The spaciousness of the home, together with its artistic, elegant furnishings, makes it an ideal place for entertaining large companies, as three hundred people can move about the rooms at one time, and in no way be inconvenienced," *The Billings Daily Gazette* declared in 1905. "There is no home in Montana, however palatial they may be, that surpasses this one in point of elegance, nor none that has a more hospitable host or gracious queenly hostess, than the Moss home."

If you're in need of modern-day hospitality, look no further than the historic Northern Hotel, which has been voted the best hotel in Billings every year since 2013. There's no shortage of dining options, but a few local

highlights include Montana's Rib and Chop House, Montana Brewing Company and Jake's Downtown, a Tripadvisor Traveler's Choice for 2020.

To Hardin and the Little Big Horn

From Billings, travel east along U.S. Interstate 90 for about 46 miles and you'll arrive in Hardin, Montana. Be sure to check out the Bighorn County Historical Museum and Visitor Center, which sits on 35 acres and includes 24 historic structures, including cabins from Will James' "Rocking R Ranch" and an original depot from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. If you're hungry, stop by the 3 Brothers Bistro or the Four Aces Bar and Lounge.

From Hardin, continue for another 15 miles on I-90 until you reach exit 510 for U.S. 212 East. Drive just a short distance east from the interstate and then turn right into the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Following a stop at the park's NPS visitor center, take the 4.5-mile road tour of the battlefield. A guest visiting in the late spring or early summer will see this battleground of ridges and ravines overlooking the Little Bighorn Valley much as the soldiers of the 7th Cavalry did on that hot day in June of 1876 when they engaged Lakota and Cheyenne warriors in the seminal battle of the Indian Wars. Just southeast of the visitor center, you will find one of the most famous grassy hillsides in America, the place where Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and many



When traveling across southeastern Montana, don't miss an opportunity to visit the Big Horn County Historical Museum and its Will James exhibits in Hardin. The cowboy–artist–author once lived nearby on his 4,000–acre Rocking R Ranch, and the museum's collection includes his original ranch cabin and studio, where he wrote and illustrated many of his famous books.

– MUSEUM PHOTO COURTESY BIG HORN COUNTY –

of the 263 U.S. servicemen and scouts killed in action at Little Bighorn made their final stand. Monuments pay tribute to these soldiers and to the Native warriors who gave their lives in defense of their way of life. No trip to this hallowed ground is complete without seeing where the troops under Maj. Marcus Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen dug in while under siege. "It was now quite late in the afternoon, but the fighting was kept up, the Indians surrounding us on every side, and waging an almost constant and relentless fire," Theodore Goldin, a battle survivor and Medal of Honor recipient later recalled. During the month of August, visitors to the Little Bighorn Battlefield and the Crow Agency should attend the annual Crow Fair, the largest American Indian event in the State of Montana and among the best celebrations of indigenous culture anywhere in the country.

Rosebud Battlefield and Miles City

From the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, continue east along Route 212 for 48 miles until you reach County Road 314. If you're a diehard history buff interested in seeing another important battlefield from the Sioux War of 1876, travel south along 314 for about 22 miles until you turn

right onto Rosebud Road. A short drive of about two miles will take you to the Rosebud Battlefield State Park. It was on this site, on June 17, 1876, a little more than a week before Custer's demise at Little Bighorn, that troops under Gen. George Crook fought Lakota and

One of the most poignant walks at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is from the 7th Cavalry Memorial across Last Stand Hill to the Indian Memorial, which honors all the tribes who participated in the battle 140 years ago. It was dedicated on June 26, 2003.

– COURTESY NPS.GOV –



Cheyenne warriors under Crazy Horse. According to Gen. Anson Mills, it was during this fight that Native warriors "proved then and there that they were the best cavalry soldiers on earth."

Returning north to 212, turn right and continue east to Busby, Montana, where you might pay a visit to a historic monument honoring Chief Two Moons, who fought at Little Bighorn. From Busby, you can continue east on 212 across the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation to Lame Deer, then turn left on MT-39 and head north for 50 miles until you reach U.S.

Interstate 94 just west of Forsyth, Montana. From Forsyth, Miles City is a 46-mile drive up the Yellowstone River.

Miles City offers up a number of attractions, including the Range Riders Museum. You might try lunch or dinner at the Blackiron Grill & Rotisserie or drop in for a cocktail and a meal at the historic Montana Bar on Main Street.

Fort Union Trading Post

From Miles City, continue northeast along U.S. 94 as it parallels the Yellowstone River until you reach Glendive, Montana.



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While in Glendive, you might want to visit the Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum and the Frontier Gateway Museum. From Glendive, proceed north on MT-16 along the Yellowstone until you cross the state line at East Fairview, North Dakota. By taking ND-58 due north, you'll cross the Missouri River just west of the confluence of the Missouri and the Yellowstone.

Ten miles from East Fairview you'll find Fort Buford State Historic Site, a 19th-century U.S. Army post and the setting for the 1881 surrender of Sitting Bull. Here, existing structures, including an officer's quarters, and exhibits help tell the story of the frontier army on the Northern Plains. From Buford, North Dakota, follow ND-1804

west for about three miles as you make your way to Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site. There, overlooking the Missouri River, you'll find one of the largest and grandest trading posts in the history of the American West. The confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri was, in the words of Hiram Martin Chittenden, "one of the most important situations in the West," and nearby Fort Union would play a pivotal role in the story of frontier commerce during the colorful era of the mountain man and the trapper. "Here stood the greatest of the American Fur Company's posts, Fort Union," Chittenden remarked in his history of the fur trade,

Guided trail rides are a popular summertime activity across Montana's Missouri River Country.

- COURTESY MISSOURIRIVERMT.COM -

"where transpired many stormy events during the more than thirty years of its existence. It was in the country of the Assiniboine Indians, but many other tribes also made it their principal center of trade." Today, Fort Union is a beautiful and breathtaking historical site and museum operated by the National Park Service. Annual events include an Indian Arts Showcase, which due to COVID-19 was held digitally in 2020.

Rosebud Battlefield State Park is a poignantly beautiful prairie park 70 miles from Little Bighorn. Historic markers provide guidance to visitors who walk the battle site where Gen. George Crook's troopers and Sioux Indians and their allies fought to a draw on June 17, 1876.

- PHOTO OF GEN CROOK COURTESY NPS.GOV/ROSEBUD MONUMENT COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM -



WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Chief Plenty Coups State Park
Pryor, Montana

— COURTESY CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK —



CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK

Located about 36 miles south of Billings, Montana, on the Crow

Indian Reservation, Chief Plenty Coups State Park offers a great side trip during a visit to Billings and takes visitors into the outdoor wonders of southeastern Montana. It was here that Plenty Coups, a famous Crow leader, established a 320-acre farm and general store in the 1880s and spent the later years of his life. Visitors to the park can tour Plenty Coups' log home and enjoy a scenic walk along nearby Pryor Creek. *FWP.MT.gov*.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grub: Jake's Downtown, Billings; Brother's Bistro, Hardin; Black Iron Grill & Rotisserie, Miles City;

Montana Bar, Miles City

Lodging: Northern Hotel, Billings; Kingfisher Lodge, Hardin; Miles City Hotel, Miles City; Winterton Suites, Williston, ND

From Fort Union, the modern-day explorer can continue west, along Highway 327 and U.S. Route 2 as they follow the Missouri River back into Montana across the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, or you can return to Miles City and Billings by way of U.S. Interstate 94. Either way, this expedition across the high plains and along the rivers will take you through some of the most awe-inspiring wide-open spaces in North America.



Samuel K. Dolan is a documentary television producer and the author of *Hell Paso: Life and Death in the Old West's Most Dangerous Town* (TwoDot, 2020). He currently resides in Missoula, Montana.

The World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale is set for May 13-16, 2021. The four-day event includes bucking horse and bull sales, horse racing, street dances, concerts and the world's biggest one-day match bronc ride.

— DONNIE SEXTON, COURTESY MONTANA OFFICE OF TOURISM —



Visitors to Fort Union National Historic Trading Post along the Missouri River, just across the Montana line west of Williston, North Dakota, will experience fun and informative living history events every summer, including the annual rendezvous.

— IMAGES COURTESY NPS.GOV —

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Silver State Highways

ADVENTURES ACROSS THE STATE OF NEVADA
LEAD TO HISTORIC SITES, OLD MINING TOWNS
AND ENDLESS VISTAS.



The Nevada Northern Railway and Museum in Ely, Nevada, operates year round and is one of the West's best preserved and operated heritage railroads. Sign up for the railroad's unique "Be an Engineer" program and enjoy an adventure at the throttle of a steam locomotive.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

The Silver State is probably best known internationally for Las Vegas, the state's largest city, with its famous casinos, 24-hour nightlife and an unrivaled nighttime neon glow that can be seen from space. So, if you haven't been to Nevada, Las Vegas should be on your bucket list, and it's a convenient place to start a Nevada adventure because of its airport and easy accessibility on Interstate 15 from California and Interstate 11 via U.S. 93 from Arizona. Travel U.S. 93 and U.S. 95 into the interior of the state and its wonderful, historic small towns, beautifully stark deserts, rugged, high, remote mountain ranges, high-desert valleys and wide-open spaces with vistas you've never seen anywhere else. I have created a fun-filled round-trip that immerses the adventurous traveler into the southern third of the Silver State. The trip can be made in

a week to ten days, but if you have two weeks or more, relax and really experience all that southern Nevada has to offer.

Bright Lights, Great Museums

While in Las Vegas, don't miss a chance to visit the famous Las Vegas Strip. Where do you want to be? Venice, New York, Paris, Rome, Old England—your choices abound! If you are into history like I am, especially the history of the West, then get away from the slots, cards, music and shows to tour some of the museums and historic sites southern Nevada. The city actually is one of the better museum cities in the Southwest, rivaling its Southern California neighbor, Los Angeles, for the greatest variety, and many of the museums are appropriate—and fun—for all ages. Local favorites with

interactive exhibits include the Las Vegas Natural History

Museum, State Museum of Nevada, Las Vegas, Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Park, Las Vegas Historical Society, Nevada State Railroad Museum, and the Clark County Museum in Henderson. For more modern history and eclectic curiosity, I recommend the Atomic Testing Museum, the Burlesque Hall of Fame, the Marjori Barrick Museum of Art at the University of Las Vegas, and of course, the Mob Museum. Just outside of the city, enjoy some outdoor recreation. Two great parks, Red Canyon National Conservation Area and Valley of Fire State Park, are best visited early in the morning in the summertime.

After a tour of Las Vegas and all it offers, including museums, it is time to head north to explore the Silver State's charming small towns, historic sites, natural wonders and amazing scenic highways.

All Aboard to Ely

Leaving Las Vegas by automobile feels like you've been squeezed out of a cannon. All the highways converge downtown, and depending on which way you are going, northeast or northwest, when you get past the construction, high-rise casinos, urban sprawl and the last of the suburbs, an overwhelming sense of relief and freedom is conjoined with calm, the natural beauty of the desert and an unending horizon, which if it is early evening, will offer a sunset you won't soon forget.

Ely is 245 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93 and State Highway 318. By day and night it is a busy two-lane highway, and if you are traveling in the winter months, be sure to pack snow chains. Snowstorms can quickly cover the highway, and the mountain pass into Ely can be closed to vehicles without chains. Highway 318 is one of the fastest and straightest roads you will drive in Nevada. Every May and September the road is closed to hold the Nevada Open Road Challenge and Silver State Classic Challenge, respectively. Racers regularly exceed 200 miles per hour on the straightaway.

The Highway 6 entrance into Ely is dramatic, and if you've never been to the mountain town, you will be enchanted by the beauty of the local Egan Range and the Steptoe Valley. Ely was one of the state's most important silver and copper camps, beginning in 1870, but today it is a destination for outdoor and historic railroad enthusiasts. Camping, fishing, hiking and hunting are all favorite activities for visitors and residents of the White Pine County seat, but at the

Las Vegas visitors who stay in Boulder City are a short drive to one of the metropolitan area's best museums (especially for historic train buffs), the Nevada State Railroad Museum and nearby Hoover Dam.



center of Ely's historic district (known officially as East Ely) is the Nevada Northern Railway Museum and Railroad.

Open year round, the Nevada Northern Railway is one of the finest heritage railroads in the American West, with a dedicated engineering and preservation team working hard to keep their locomotives and rolling stock ready for customers' enjoyment. The historic railway, which first started hauling ore, freight and passengers over a century ago, offers a unique program for steam-train enthusiasts: a one-day class called "Be the Engineer," in which they train you to drive the locomotive. Many packages are available (starting at \$637 for museum members) for this experience of a lifetime. Contact the railway (NNRY.com) before visiting to plan your trip, as they have many special events and trains in addition to the "Be the Engineer" program.

Ely offers a great choice of accommodations for travelers, from the historic Hotel Nevada to national chains. Restaurant options also abound, but locals recom-

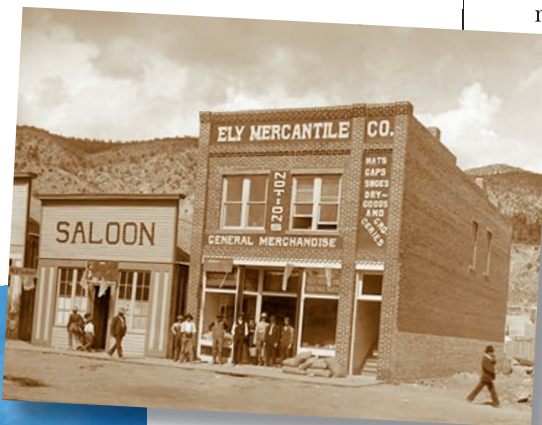
mend Racks Bar & Grill and Nardi's Home Style Restaurant.

Sky Islands and Endless Horizons

From Ely, the Nevada adventurer is at a literal crossroads on their itinerary: head east on U.S. 50 to visit Great Basin National Park and the town of Baker near the Utah border; head west on U.S. 50, which for much of its route parallels the Pony Express National Historic Trail through the historic towns of Eureka, Austin and Fallon, or, if you want to take a shorter loop across the southern third of the state, take U.S. 6 southwest for 167 miles to Tonopah. For the traveler who has the most time set aside for their Silver State road trip, I suggest heading east on U.S. 50 to the Utah line, turn around, make a pit stop in Baker, and then tour Great Basin National Park, which is not only a hidden gem of the national parks system, but one that is off the regular path of most travelers who tour the national parks and monuments of the Southwest. Visitors

to the park will be awed by 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak (second highest in the state) and the park's world-class Lehman Caves.

Like U.S. 93 in eastern Nevada, U.S. Route 6 and U.S. 95 are two of the state's primary, as well as most historic, highways. Originally constructed in the 1920s and 1930s as part of the new U.S. highway system, U.S. 6 and U.S. 95 follow serpentine



A crossroads city of east-central Nevada, Ely is a four-season destination for Old West heritage travelers and outdoor enthusiasts. Founded in 1870, the Steptoe Valley city was once one of Nevada's largest silver and copper mining centers. The landmark 1929 Hotel Nevada is centrally located for an extended stay in Ely.

- HISTORIC 1906 PHOTO OF ELY COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/PHOTO OF HOTEL NEVADA COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA -





Visitors to Ely's Nevada Northern Railway and Museum should allow enough time to take the walking tour of the railroad's historic engine house where engineers and mechanics will stop and share stories of the locomotives they are tuning up and restoring.

—STUART ROSEBROOK—

routes connecting the state's key communities, and in many instances, following or paralleling old territorial trails or the state's first paved roads. Between mountain ranges and through the high desert valleys of south-central Nevada, Highway 6 twists and turns its way from Ely to Tonopah, connecting the dots between silver camps and desert oases. Since the last gas station and store closed in Warm Springs (118 miles from

gas stations, restaurants or lodging between the two historic mining towns. Dispersed camping is allowed on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, but consult with the Forest Service offices in Ely and Tonopah for current backroad conditions, and camping and forest restrictions.

Silver Camp Extraordinaire

If there is an unofficial capital of the western desert of west-central Nevada, it is the historic silver camp, Tonopah. Tonopah is a true oasis in the high desert in every sense of the word. If you love Old West history, it should be one of your favorites to visit regularly, especially because of its historic hotels—The Mizpah and recently renovated and reopened Belvada.

The surface silver that rancher Jim Butler discovered by happenstance in 1900 led to a mining rush that brought 10,000 to the hills of Tonopah and a reversal of a major mining recession in the Silver State. In the 1900s, Wyatt and Josie Earp caught wind of the silver strike and settled in the Nevada mining camp, operating the Northern Saloon. Their stay was short-lived, but Tonopah remained a profitable mining town until the Great Depression and the shuttering of the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad. Today, eight decades later, with all the preservation and restoration projects

completed in the historic district, the city has become a major destination site for Old West tourism.

One of the highlights is the Tonopah Mining Museum, just up the hill from the Mizpah Hotel. Bring your walking shoes, hat, water, sunscreen and walking stick if you are going to do the steeper trails. Allow at least half a day if you want to see it all. The park has an excellent visitors' center with a mineral museum and informative exhibits on the history of the mining camp, the local mines and the area's rich mineral history. The staff and docents are very knowledgeable, and guided tours can be arranged. The park has well-maintained trails and informative historical markers, but heed the numerous warning signs: mining shafts and dangerous pitfalls are fenced off, but a misstep could lead to injury.

Less dramatic, but just as interesting and informative is the Central Nevada Museum, just south of the historic downtown district. The park has a more extensive set of exhibits on mining across the county than its sister mining museum, including displays on local



Historic Tonopah is a great place to discover why Wyatt and Josie Earp tried to strike another bonanza in 1902 with their short-lived ownership of the Northern Saloon in the notorious silver camp.

—PHOTO OF TONOPAH BY STUART ROSEBROOK/NORTHERN SALOON PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES—



Wheeler Peak, the second-highest peak in Nevada at 13,063 feet, is a sentinel of the Snake Mountain Range protected by the Great Basin National Park. The Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, a steep but spectacular 12-mile scenic drive, is open most of the year, weather permitting.

American Indian history, miner's equipment, tools and artifacts.

Tonopah is a walking town in most seasons, and a stroll downtown will lead you to eclectic stores, local watering holes and restaurants. After walking and shopping—don't miss the local A-Bar-L Western Store across the street from the Mizpah—enjoy a great meal and highly rated beers at the Tonopah Brewing Company, Mexican food at El Marques or a savory pie at the very popular Hometown Pizza.

Goldfield to Las Vegas

Leaving Tonopah, the Nevada road trip leads south on U.S. 95 to Las Vegas with beautiful vistas of the Mojave Desert and mountains on either side. The horizon is so clear and the elevation so high in Tonopah (over 6,000 feet) that California's Sierra Nevada can be seen across Death Valley on the Western horizon. It's a spectacular sight, and if you want to take a photo, find a safe turnoff before driving on through historic Goldfield.

Goldfield was once a roaring mining camp, and the local historical society



In July 1904, Virgil and Allie Earp arrived in Goldfield, Nevada, with great hope of starting over and striking it rich in the booming mining camp. Little did they know that Goldfield would be a bust, financially and personally, with Virgil contracting pneumonia there and succumbing to the disease in October 1905. At his request, he was buried in Oregon, where he was interred in Portland's Riverview Cemetery.

— PHOTO OF GOLDFIELD COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA/HISTORIC PHOTO OF GOLDFIELD COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

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THE MIZPAH HOTEL

After a restful night at the Mizpah Hotel and a walking tour of downtown Tonopah, schedule at least a half day to tour the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. With more than 100 acres to explore on its well-groomed walking paths, a museum and visitors center, the park provides a comprehensive introduction to the city's mining history.

- STUART ROSEBROOK -



is working hard to preserve its frontier past. Park downtown and take a short walking tour of the local shops and exteriors of the historic buildings, most of which are waiting for major investors to save, restore and preserve them. Hopefully, Goldfield's community leaders will be able to secure the needed funds to save the town's most important architectural sites, including the high school and the Goldfield Hotel. Hungry and thirsty? Try the Dinky Diner, the Mozart Tavern or the historic 1905 Santa Fe Saloon and Motel.

South from Goldfield, the landscape widens and speeds up as travelers are either eager to get to Las Vegas or their turnoff to Death Valley National Park in Beatty, a modern-day oasis for travelers needing lodging, food and gas, especially the latter if Death Valley is your destination. As you pass Nellis Air Force Base, just northwest of Las Vegas, you will realize that for most of your drive from Tonopah, the eastern horizon was undeveloped and presumably it will always be that way because it is the top-secret, off-limits Nellis Air Force Range Complex and Nevada Test Site. There's much to ponder as the sun sets in your rearview mirror and the bright lights and neon seemingly welcome you back from your retreat across Nevada's silver highways.



True West's editor **Stuart Rosebrook** loves visiting Nevada and driving the Silver State's historic highways.

The Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah, Nevada, should be a bucket-list destination for anyone who loves historic Western hotels. Born in the midst of the Tonopah silver boom in 1907, the Mizpah was once the most luxurious hotel in the state. It closed in 1999, but current owners Fred and Nancy Cline bought it in 2011 and fully restored it to its early 20th-century grandeur. Each of the five floors is accessible by beautiful, wide stairwells or the restored 107-year-old original elevator, which is definitely worth the ride.

The rooms are well appointed with antiques, and coffee service is provided in the hallways every morning. If you want a suite, ask for the Wyatt Earp on the fourth floor, or 504, the Lady in Red Suite (below) on the fifth floor. The infamous lady of the night, whose portrait is prominently displayed in the lobby, worked and lived on the fifth floor. Known as "Rose," her suite originally encompassed 504, 503 and 502 (before renovation in 2011) where an ex-lover strangled and stabbed her to death in a crime of passion. If you are into haunted rooms, many say 502 is the one to stay in!

The Clines have also recently renovated and reopened the five-story 1906 Nevada State Bank and Trust Company building as the luxurious Belvada Hotel across the street from the Mizpah. The two buildings were the tallest in the state until 1927. The entrepreneurial Clines, who both have family history in western Nevada, also own Tonopah Brewing Company and the Mizpah Club and Casino, which is just across from the entryway to the Mizpah. While at the Mizpah, enjoy breakfast and dinner in the award-winning Pittman Café on the first floor.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grub: The Golden Steer Steakhouse, Las Vegas; Cellblock Steakhouse, Ely; Racks Bar & Grill, Ely; Stargazer Inn Bar & Restaurant, Baker; Tonopah Brewing Company, Tonopah; Santa Fe Saloon and Motel, Goldfield

Lodging: Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City; LaQuinta Inn, Ely; Hotel Nevada, Ely; Hidden Canyon Retreat, Baker; The Mizpah Hotel, Tonopah; Belvada Hotel, Tonopah



The Lady in Red Suite, Mizpah Hotel,
Tonopah, Nevada

- COURTESY TRAVEL NEVADA -

BY MIKE COX

Tracking the Texas Rangers

FOLLOW THE HISTORIC TRAILS OF THE LONE STAR LAWMAN THROUGH WEST TEXAS FROM SAN ANGELO TO EL PASO.

Fort Concho is the centerpiece of San Angelo's historic district. Built in 1867 to defend the Texas frontier, the fort is now a national historic landmark and hosts re-enactment events throughout the year.

— COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB —



"They are having a lively time in Tom Green county," reported the March 24, 1877 *Daily Fort Worth Standard*. "Six murders in three months and no arrests."

Beyond the violence in and around San Angelo, "Organized bands of stock thieves exist in such numbers, and the county is so sparsely settled, that the laws cannot be enforced..." However, help was coming. "The citizens and officers of the county have forwarded a petition to Austin to have the State send Rangers to aid the civil authorities."

Peaceful compared to frontier times, modern San Angelo makes a great starting place for Old West history buffs hankering to saddle up and backtrail the early Texas Rangers across West Texas.

Old Fort Concho, now a National Historic Site, is one of the West's best-preserved

frontier forts. Downtown, colorful murals depict the city's history, and in the lobby of the public library is a life-sized statue of the late Western writer Elmer Kelton. Several of his best-selling novels featured the Rangers.

From San Angelo, head west on U.S. 67, which goes all the way to Presidio. But there are some historic places to visit before you get there.

West to Fort Stockton and Pecos

One hundred sixty-five miles southwest of San Angelo on U.S. 67 is Fort Stockton, named for the old military post standing



A day spent in downtown San Angelo should include a visit to Cactus Book Shop, the state's best bookstore for Texas history and the Western novels of the late, great local writer, Elmer Kelton.

— COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB —

From April 22–24, 2021, Fort Concho will host the U.S. Cavalry Association's Regional Cavalry Competition. The fan-favorite competition includes events in military and combat horsemanship, as well as pistol, saber and jumping events.

– HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SMU/CAVALRY PHOTO COURTESY SAN ANGELO CVB –

near the once-prolific Comanche Springs. The Army chose the spot because it was a watering hole along the Great Comanche War Trail.

Hostile Indians were long gone by 1894, but law and order remained a work in progress. Someone shotgunned lame duck Sheriff A.J. Royal on November 21. No arrests were made in the killing, and there were even dark rumors that a ranger might have had a hand in it. The assassination took place inside the 1883-vintage Pecos County courthouse, 400 S. Nelson Street. The desk where Royal sat when he was killed is at the Annie Riggs Museum, 301 S. Main Street. A museum dedicated to the history of the military post is in Barracks No. 1, Old Fort Stockton.

After you've tamed Fort Stockton, the next stop on your Ranger-channeling journey is Pecos, 54 miles away via U.S. 285. Just west of the river that gave the railroad and ranching



town its name, Pecos claims to have staged the West's first rodeo. While that's debatable, so far as is known, no one has ever been killed over it. During the 1880s and '90s, however, Pecos denizens had no trouble finding other reasons to shoot. Take former Ranger George Alexander Frazer and Jim "Deacon" Miller, a devout Methodist who neither smoked nor drank but ignored the sixth commandment, the one about not killing.

Frazer had served as Reeves County sheriff with Miller as his deputy, but they had a falling out. On April 12, 1894, six months after losing a reelection bid, Frazer confronted Miller in Pecos. Accurately calling him out

as a cow thief and murderer, Frazer shot Miller in the arm and then put several bullets in his chest. Or so he thought. Unknown to Frazer, the Deacon wore metal body armor. Though badly bruised, he recovered.

More than two years later, on September 13, 1896, Miller found Frazer in a Toyah saloon and permanently settled the score with his double-barreled shotgun. A jury acquitted him, but his luck played out in 1909, when a lynch mob in Ada, Oklahoma, adjudicated him without possibility of appeal.

Since 1962, the former Orient Hotel and Number 11 Saloon at 120 E. Dot Stafford Street has been home to the West of the Pecos Museum. Bullet holes from a gunfight in the saloon are still visible.

Southwest to Alpine

Alpine, 67 miles farther west on U.S. 67, began as a stop on the Southern Pacific. Given the vastness of the Trans-Pecos, which covers 31,479 square miles and is larger than any one of 10 U.S. states, the railroad made the mountain-circled town particularly important for the Rangers.

In mid-1890, Company D Ranger Capt. Frank Jones made Alpine his headquarters. From there, with their horses loaded on a stock car, rangers could travel by train as far as possible and continue to the latest trouble spot the more traditional way. (Today Amtrak serves Alpine.)

You can immerse yourself in the region's rich history at the Museum of the Big Bend. Founded in 1925, the museum is on the Sul Ross State University campus.

Alpine is the closest community of any size to history-rich Big Bend, a vast expanse



San Angelo was founded across the North Concho River from Fort Concho in the late 1860s and quickly gained a rowdy reputation as a frontier crossroads in which Texas Rangers were called in more than once to enforce the law.

– COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

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Visitors who love Old West history should start their tour of Pecos at the West of the Pecos Museum, which was originally the Orient Hotel and Number 11 Saloon.

In 1894, not too far from the Orient, ex-Ranger and Sheriff George A. Frazer had an infamous shootout with his former deputy Jim "Deacon" Miller.

- JEROD FOSTER, COURTESY PECOS CVB/FRAZER PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

where old-time Rangers did much business. One of them, Everett Ewing Townsend, became enthralled with the rugged mountains and canyons along the big bend of the Rio Grande. Later, as a state legislator and then a private citizen, he played an important role in promoting development of Big Bend National Park. The longtime lawman is buried in Alpine's Elm Grove Cemetery.



The world-class Big Bend Museum on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine is the best place to start a history tour of the west Texas city.

- COURTESY BIG BEND MUSEUM -

Fort Davis, Marfa and Presidio

From Alpine, travel 24 miles on S.H. 118 to the mile-high town of Fort Davis, named after the Army post that guarded the Trans-Pecos from 1854 to 1891. The Rangers had a camp nearby from which they chased hostile Indians and outlaws. That site is privately owned, but you can immerse yourself in the

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Outlaw John Wesley Hardin's grave in El Paso's Concordia Cemetery is regularly decorated on November 1, the Day of the Dead.

- COURTESY VISIT EL PASO -



The El Paso killing of John Wesley Hardin, a Methodist preacher's son who became the Old West's most prolific gunslinger, did not directly involve the Rangers, but none of the lawmen grieved his passing.

Released in 1894 after serving time for former ranger Charles Webb's murder in 1874, Hardin drifted west to El Paso. He had studied law in stir, but time behind bars had not broken him of boozing, gambling or a mean disposition. On August 19, 1895, in the Acme Saloon,

Constable John Selman ended Hardin's career with three .45 slugs. A historical marker at 227 E. San Antonio Avenue stands at the site of the old saloon. The outlaw is buried in the city's historic Concordia Cemetery, 3700 E. Yandell Dr. At least four former Rangers eternally stand guard over Hardin at the cemetery: Capt. Pat Dolan, Ernest St. Leon (who died August 31, 1898, in a line-of-duty shooting downriver from El Paso at Socorro), Carl Kirchner and Robert Jefferson Carr.

area's history at the Fort Davis National Historic Site. Another Ranger-related site is the Overland Trail Museum, located in the former home of colorful barber and justice of the peace Nick Mersfelder. The pipe-smoking German came to Fort Davis as a ranger in 1881 and never left.

It's only 21 miles from Fort Davis to Marfa, where you can pay your respects to one of the better-known chroniclers of

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grub: Miss Hattie's Restaurant, San Angelo; Mi Casita, Fort Stockton; Reata Restaurant, Alpine; Fort Davis Drug Store, Fort Davis; The Bean Café, Presidio; Hotel El Capitan, Van Horn; L & J Café, El Paso

Lodging: Holland Hotel, Alpine; Limpia Hotel, Fort Davis; Hotel Paisano, Marfa; Hotel El Capitan, Van Horn; Hotel Paso Del Norte, El Paso

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photo by IHorse Photo Media

Ranger history, James B. Gillett. Beyond his contributions to the peace and dignity of the state as a Ranger, he wrote a classic, *Six Years With the Texas Rangers*. He's buried in Marfa Cemetery, 210 W. San Antonio Street (U.S. 90). Also check out the Marfa and Presidio County Museum, 110 W. San Antonio Street, and the old (1886) Presidio County Jail, 310 Highland Street.

From Marfa, head down to the old border town of Presidio. On the way, check out the once-thriving silver mining town of Shafter, 40 miles south on U.S. 67.

Ranger John Gravis and a deputy sheriff were policing Shafter the night of August 4, 1890, when some drunk miners started shooting up the town. As the two officers approached, the pistol-packing partiers opened up on the two lawmen. Gravis fell dead; the deputy took a bullet but lived.

The mine closed in 1942. In addition to the ghost town's ruins, check out the small museum at the Shafter Cemetery.

In 1848, San Antonio businessmen commissioned former Ranger captain Jack Hays to find a trade route to Chihuahua City, Mexico. Joined by a company of Rangers, Hays led the expedition to the Big Bend.



Fifty days later, out of food and water, they reached Presidio. The trail-blazing Rangers recuperated at Ben Leaton's private fort before heading home. The old adobe has been restored as Fort Leaton State Historic Site, F.M. 170 East, Presidio.

El Paso

Your Ranger-related history tour ends in El Paso, where more rangers or former rangers died violently than anywhere else.

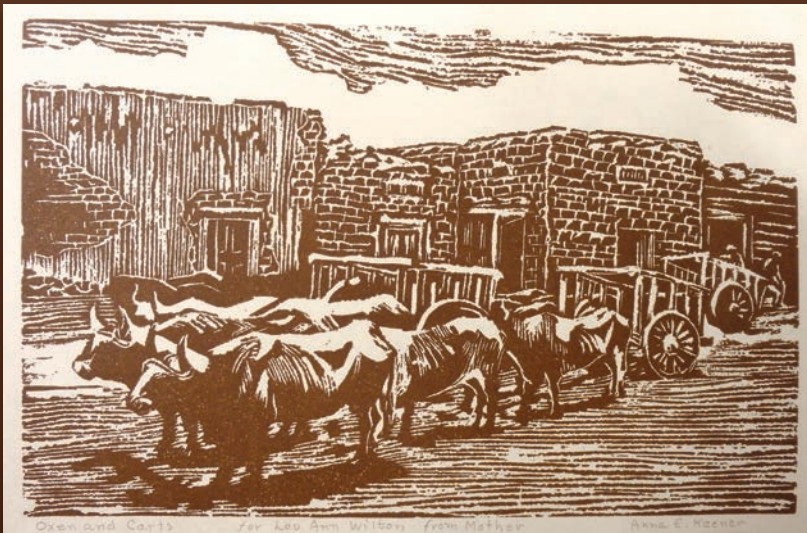
In 1890, famed Texas Ranger Capt. Frank Jones made Alpine the headquarters for Company D of the Texas Rangers. Three years prior to moving to Alpine, Jones (front row, third from left) posed with his company in Realitos. Baz Outlaw, who would later leave the Rangers for a life of crime and murder—including the killing of Ranger Joe McKidrick in El Paso in 1894—stands second from left.

- COURTESY TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME, WACO, TEXAS -

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WestOfThePecosMuseum.com

Fort Davis National Historic Site regularly hosts living history events that celebrate daily frontier military life.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



El Paso has numerous museums, but for an overview of the city's history, start with the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Santa Fe Street.

The Rangers' first trouble in El Paso came in 1877 during the Salt War, a legal dispute over salt deposits east of El Paso. Before it ended, a dozen people, including two Rangers, were dead. A historical marker in the old down-river town of San Elizario summarizes the war. Nearby is the Los Portales Museum and Visitors Center, 1521 San Elizario Road, and Old El Paso County Jail Museum, 1551 Main Street.

Ranger Sgt. Charles Fusselman and former Ranger George Herold joined a local rancher on April 17, 1890, in search of rustlers who had butchered one of the cattleman's calves and stolen some horses. With Fusselman riding ahead, they easily cut the rustler's trail, which led into the Franklin Mountains.

That afternoon, Fusselman found the outlaws' hastily vacated camp. As the sergeant looked around, a rifle bullet from

the rocky ridge above zinged past his head. Yelling a warning, Fusselman began firing at the ambushers. An instant later, the Ranger lay dead. Realizing the outlaws had the high ground and good cover, Herold and the rancher hurried back to El Paso for help.

A larger posse rode to the canyon and recovered Fusselman's body and most of the stolen horses, but the outlaws escaped. Ten years later, after Rangers finally caught up with him, triggerman Geronimo Parra

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Today, Fort Leaton is a state historic park in the border town of Presidio, Texas, but in 1848, Ben Leaton's private fort was a safe refuge for a nearly disastrous Ranger expedition to Mexico led by former Texas Ranger John Coffee Hays.

- FORT LEATON COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/JOHN COFFEE HAYS PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

Visitors to the Old El Paso County Jail Museum in the San Elizario Historic District will see exhibitions on the jail's role in local law-and-order history, including the Salt War of 1877.

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hanged for the murder. A historical marker telling how Fusselman Canyon got its name stands off Woodrow Bean Transmountain Road (S.H. 375), 2.5 miles west of U.S. 54.

On April 6, 1894, Ranger Joe McKidriect heard a pistol shot followed by a police whistle coming from the red-light district. Running to Miss Tillie's Parlor, he found former Ranger Baz Outlaw drunk and waving a pistol. When the Ranger asked his former colleague to surrender his weapon, Outlaw shot and killed him. Outlaw also got off a round that barely missed Constable John Selman. At that, the constable mortally wounded Outlaw. Still, Outlaw got off two more shots, wounding Selman. The constable recovered; Outlaw did not. Miss Tillie's Parlor stood at 307 South Mesa Street. Outlaw's grave is in El Paso's Evergreen Cemetery, 4301 Alameda Avenue.

Captain Jones, four Rangers, and a deputy sheriff headed downriver on June 29, 1893, for Pirate's Island, an international no-man's land caused years before, when the Rio Grande changed course. The rangers carried arrest warrants for two brothers, well-known cattle thieves. They also hoped to locate another brother, a prison escapee.

Finding only the wanted men's blind father at home, the rangers pulled back and made camp. The next morning, they spotted two suspicious horsemen and gave chase, riding straight into an ambush. When the intense firefight ended, the 36-year-old captain was dead. Substantially outnumbered, the Rangers withdrew, leaving Jones's body behind for the time being.

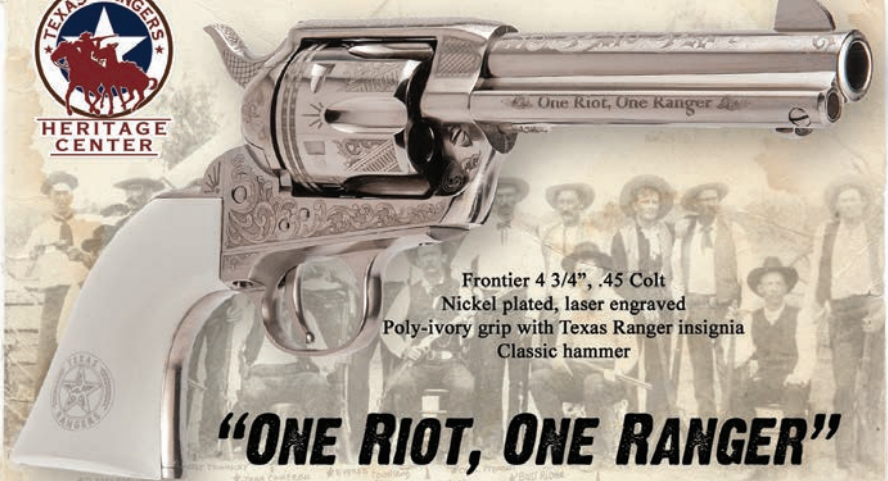
A historical marker summarizing the fight stands at 8461 Alameda Avenue in Ysleta. Jones's grave has been lost, his remains believed to have been swept away by the Rio Grande.



Mike Cox is the author of 30-plus nonfiction books and five books on the Texas Rangers. His article on the dangers Rangers faced during the Spanish influenza of 1918, "A Killer Bullets Couldn't Stop" is on pages 36-41.

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BY STEVE FRIESEN

Exploring Buffalo Bill's Wyoming

HIT THE ROAD AND DISCOVER THE GRAND HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF WILLIAM CODY ACROSS THE COWBOY STATE.



Will Cody and his father stood on a hill and looked down into a lovely grass-filled valley. He later recalled that what most drew his attention was “a vast number of white-covered wagons.” The wagons were preparing to cross the Great Plains, a huge region that stretched from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. On that promontory, in the newly opened Kansas Territory, young Cody vowed that someday he too would travel westward.

The eight-year-old Cody’s wish to venture into the American Wild West was fulfilled three years later in 1857, when he got a job on a wagon train. Hauling freight along the Oregon Trail and bound for Utah, the wagon train left St. Joseph, crossed into Nebraska, and then proceeded to Fort Laramie. There, for the first time, Will Cody encountered Wyoming, which straddled the Great Plains

and the Rockies. He would return to the state many times, eventually making it his home.

A visit to William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody’s Wyoming should begin where he first entered the state, at Fort Laramie. Located along the North Platte River, this historic fort was an important way station, providing protection and supplies on the frontier super highway that was the Oregon Trail. Buffalo Bill later wrote that, returning to Fort Laramie after one particularly long and difficult trip, he finally had “a square meal once more, consisting of hard tack, bacon, coffee, and beans. I can honestly say that I thought it was the best meal I had ever eaten.” Today, the restored fort is a historic site maintained by the National Park Service. There are furnished barracks, a trader’s store and other restored buildings from the fort’s heyday, all maintained and operated by the National Park Service.

Visitors to Cody, Wyoming, should allow at least a day, maybe even three, to tour the five museums of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

- COURTESY BBCW -

West from Fort Laramie

Just west of Fort Laramie is the town of Guernsey, where a small visitors center is the jumping off point to several sites important to westward migration. The center is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There one can learn how to find the grave of Quaker Alvah Unthank (a distant relative of mine), one of very few identified graves of the many who died along the Oregon Trail. The wagon trains, in which Will Cody and those pioneers rode, would have traveled along the bluffs to



Fort Laramie, as it was in 1866 (oval) and the 1849 restored officer's quarters "Fort Bedlam," were a welcome stop for Will Cody and other travelers on the Oregon Trail. There, in 1857, Cody had one of his most welcomed meals while traveling across the Plains.

— MODERN FORT LARAMIE PHOTO COURTESY NPS.GOV / HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY GILMAN COLLECTION, MUSEUM PURCHASE, 2005, THE MET, NY, NY



Interpretive Center, which tells the story of the Oregon and California trails, the Mormon Trail and the Pony Express, all of which followed the North Platte and passed through Casper. Outside of town is Fort Caspar, which dates to 1859. Like Fort Laramie, it began as a trading fort, then became a military post protecting travelers along the trail, which crossed the North Platte at this point.

Fort Caspar is now a restored historic site with a visitors center and museum.

North to Sheridan

From Casper, the Oregon Trail continues westward to other landmarks and the west coast. Our trail through Buffalo Bill's Wyoming heads north to Sheridan. There

one encounters his later life, after he became a famous buffalo hunter, scout and showman. Travelers on this route have their choice of the same accommodations and eating places that Buffalo Bill enjoyed. Just before Sheridan, in Buffalo, is the Occidental Hotel, which has offered fine food and lodging since Cody stayed there in the 1880s. He was just one of many great Westerners, including Theodore Roosevelt and Calamity Jane, to stay at the Occidental. In 1892, Buffalo Bill invested in a new hotel in Sheridan. The Sheridan Inn became his new favorite stop in Wyoming. On occasion he sat upon the hotel's long front porch and auditioned new acts for his show. Today it is difficult to choose between these two historic hotels, so stay a night or more in each. There are plenty of area attractions to keep visitors busy for several days. Among the sites to

Continued on page 118

the south of the North Platte river. On the bluffs one can still see the deep ruts left by the wagon's wheels, as well as the names of Unthank and other travelers carved into the rock of Register Cliff.

Westward from Guernsey, the Oregon Trail proceeds to Casper. The first stop in Casper should be the National Historic Trails



The stories of the trails through Wyoming, the people who traveled them and those whose land they crossed are told at the National Historic Trails Center in Casper.

— COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM —



Wagons on the Oregon Trail bypassed the muddy bottoms of the North Platte River near modern-day Guernsey and ground deep ruts into the rocks over which they journeyed.

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Crafted by the hands of Mother Nature, Natural Bridge, located just south of the Oregon Trail, is one of only

three natural bridges in the United States with water beneath. Considered one of Wyoming's first tourist attractions, scenery seekers enjoy this breathtaking wonder that includes a picnic area, hiking paths, a sand volleyball court, fishing areas and horseshoe pits. The site is open April 15 through October 15.

Pack a Picnic

Be sure to pack a lunch when traveling to Natural Bridge. It's a wonderful place for a picnic. Children enjoy playing in the shallow water of LaPrele Creek as it flows beneath the bridge.



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Visitors to the Sheridan Inn can sit on the same porch where Buffalo Bill greeted guests and auditioned acts for his Wild West show.

— SHERIDAN INN COURTESY AUTHOR'S COLLECTION/SHERIDAN INN WITH WILLIAM F. CODY COURTESY SHERIDAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION 2011.053.107 —



The Brinton Museum complex, which also includes the Brinton Ranch House, features an outstanding collection of American Indian artifacts in a newly constructed museum building.

— COURTESY STEVE FRIESEN —



1



2



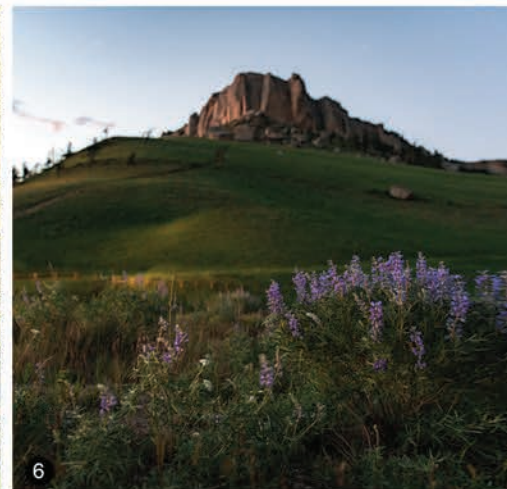
3



4



5



6

Sheridan

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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 of 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.





The historic 1902 Irma Hotel is still a major destination for overnight visitors to Cody, Wyoming. Visitors can stay in the Buffalo Bill suite or dine and drink in the same restaurant with its famous cherrywood bar where the showman regularly hosted dignitaries and guests.

— COURTESY BBCW, P.6.726/
BUFFALO BILL SUITE BY CHAD COPPES —



Continued from page 115

visit in Sheridan is King's Saddlery, a source for Western gear, clothing and décor. The shop also has an amazing collection of saddles and other artifacts. Just south of Sheridan is the Brinton Museum and Ranch. The ranch house, furnished with Remingtons, Russells and other Western art, provides a glimpse of the high life in early 20th-century Wyoming. A new museum building houses a gallery of outstanding American Indian artifacts, a gift shop and a bistro. Nearer to Buffalo is Fort Phil Kearney Historic Site, with its interpretive center telling the stories of the Indian Wars and the Bozeman Trail. In Buffalo, the Occidental Hotel is at the center of over a dozen historic sites, including Craig Johnson's Bucking Buffalo Supply Company, where fans of *Longmire* can get souvenirs, autographed books and Western apparel.

By the 1880s, Buffalo Bill could stay in the finest hotels in the United States. But he also enjoyed camping during the Wild West's off-season. After months of appearing in and coordinating the show, he

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See Yellowstone National Park the way Buffalo Bill Cody would have by taking a guided trail ride in the park like these visitors crossing Swan Lake Flat have.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -

headed west of Sheridan to the Big Horn mountains, his happy hunting grounds. Even before Cody first encountered them, those hills attracted American Indians for both hunting and worship. After crossing the Bighorns on U.S. 14, the Medicine Wheel National Historic Site can be viewed after a scenic one-and-a-half-mile hike. It is estimated that this sacred site has been in use for several

hundred to several thousand years. Surrounded by the majesty of the Rockies and easily accessible, it is easy to see why it has been so important for so long.

The Beautiful Bighorns

The drive across the Bighorns is an apt introduction to what is best called Buffalo Bill country. Passing a scenic waterfall and

descending into the large and fertile Bighorn Basin, one encounters the town of Cody. It was founded in 1895 by Buffalo Bill and his Wyoming friends, who named the town after him. Today the Buffalo Bill Center of the West dominates the town. Sometimes called the Smithsonian of the West, the center's five museums highlight the art, firearms, nature and history of the area as well as the story of the town's founder and one of America's best known historical figures. The center, consistently recognized by *True West* as among the Best in the West, demands at least a full day's visit. Cody has plenty of places to eat and sleep. The most historic is the Irma Hotel, built in 1902 by Buffalo Bill and named for his youngest daughter. A finely carved saloon

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The springs at Thermopolis pour over the Rainbow Terraces into the Bighorn River at a rate of 8,000 gallons each day. Hot Springs State Park, which surrounds the thermal feature, includes shady picnic sites, two hotels and water parks.

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Buffalo Bill stands on the porch of Pahaska Tepee. Built in 1905, the building still stands as part of a modern resort of the same name.

- COURTESY BBCW, PW136_P.69.286 -

back bar, old photographs and artwork decorate the hotel's restaurant. A night in one of the hotel's historic rooms is a step back into a time when visitors like the Prince of Monaco stopped to visit Buffalo Bill on their way to Yellowstone. Other interesting places to dine include the Proud Cut Saloon, just a block from the Irma, and Cassie's Supper Club, a former bordello on the edge of town.

A Showman's Town

Cody is the eastern gateway to Yellowstone National Park, a fact that did not escape its founders and helps drive the town's economy today. Driving toward the park and just beyond Cassie's, one can see, and smell, gases escaping from vents along the Shoshone River (first named the Stinking River by John Colter). At one time, Buffalo Bill invested in a small hot springs resort along the river's banks. His biggest investment, however, was in bringing water to the fertile lands of the Bighorn Valley. The route to Yellowstone passes by a dam named after him, creating a scenic reservoir. Buffalo Bill State Park offers camping and picnic spots. The nearer one gets to the national park, the more interesting the views become, with bizarrely shaped rock hoodoos alongside the road and buffalos crossing it in early springtime. Just outside the park is Pahaska Tepee, established by Buffalo Bill in 1905 and still operating as a resort. Pahaska was Buffalo



Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark in the Bighorn National Forest east of Lovell is reached by an easy, two-mile scenic hike off Forest Road 12. Visitors are asked to be respectful during their visit to the site, which is an active sacred place for many tribes, who put prayer offerings on the fence surrounding it.

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The 1890s Buffalo Bill Hotel in the Rockies

The Irma Hotel, which Buffalo Bill Cody had built and named in honor of his daughter, was a luxurious destination for travelers visiting Cody before they toured Yellowstone National Park.

- COURTESY BBCW, PW136_P.69.286 -


Bill's Lakota nickname, meaning Long Hair. The resort was given that name by Buffalo Bill's friend and Wild West performer Iron Tail.

Yellowstone National Park

The glories of Yellowstone National Park need not be repeated here, except to say that Buffalo Bill frequently spoke on behalf of saving it and other wild places in the West. He left his stamp upon the park and the entire Bighorn Basin area.

Departing Cody, one leaves Buffalo Bill country through the town of Thermopolis. After viewing all of the hot springs and other thermal attractions of Yellowstone, it is a good stop for persons interested in taking a relaxing soak. The site of one of the largest hot springs in the United States, Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis





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WyoHistory.org

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grab: Proud Cut Saloon, Cody; Thermopolis Safari Club, Thermopolis; Sanford's, Casper; The Mint Bar, Sheridan

Lodging: Occidental Hotel, Buffalo; Sheridan Inn, Sheridan; Irma Hotel, Cody; Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Thermopolis



Mormon Handcart Historic Site Martin's Cove, Wyoming

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



Cody's Proud Cut Saloon is a popular gathering place for locals and visitors seeking steaks and prime rib in a Western atmosphere.

- COURTESY PROUD CUT SALOON -

offers several places of lodging and water parks that take advantage of its main geological feature. The route through Buffalo Bill's Wyoming concludes with a drive through the scenic Wind River canyon outside of Thermopolis, leading the visitor back to Casper and I-25.

Wyoming offers both the spectacular and the subtle when it comes to nature and history. While he spent most of his life

traveling the United States and Europe, Buffalo Bill's heart belonged to the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, both a part of Wyoming. Spend a few days along this route and it is easy to see why he grew to love the state.



Steve Friesen is the retired director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave and author of *Buffalo Bill: Scout, Showman, Visionary*. He is currently working on a book about eating and drinking with Buffalo Bill.



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WESTERN ROUNDUP

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John Clymer's *Wild Horses*,
24" x 36" Oil, estimate:
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ART SHOWS

DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM "COWGIRL UP!" EXHIBIT & SALE

Wickenburg, AZ, April 1-30: The 16th annual "Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West" invitational exhibition and sale will attract emerging and established women artists from all over the West who depict the Western lifestyle in painting, drawing and sculpture.
928-684-2272 • WesternMuseum.org

WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST EXHIBITION "MAYNARD DIXON'S AMERICAN WEST"

Scottsdale, AZ, April 1-30: Presenting the most comprehensive retrospective ever of premier artist Maynard Dixon's life and artistic career, this exhibition includes more than 250 works by Dixon, his poetry, custom furniture and a special section dedicated to nine contemporary artists inspired by Dixon's artistry.
480-686-9539 • ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

AWARD SHOW

WESTERN HERITAGE AWARDS

Oklahoma City, OK, April 9-10: The awards honor the best literature, music, film and television to reflect the heritage of the American West
405-478-2250 • NationalCowboyMuseum.org

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

BANDERA CATTLE COMPANY GUNFIGHTERS

Bandera, TX, April 3, 10, 17, 24: Experience the excitement of the Wild West with the award-winning Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters.
830-796-3045 • BanderaCowboyCapital.com

ROSE TREE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 8-10: Tombstone celebrates

the blooming of what is said to be the world's largest rose tree. The crowning of the Rose Queen and her court, a parade, live music, an art show and a pet parade are just some of the festival's offerings.
520-457-3326 • DiscoverTombstone.com

FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 15-25: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations include fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo mission.
877-273-4378 • Fiesta-SA.org

WILD WILD WEST FEST

Andrews, TX, April 23-24: Western heritage is celebrated with cowboy mounted shooting demonstrations, a BBQ cook-off, live music and more.
432-523-2695 • WildWildWestFest.com

COWBOY WAY JUBILEE AT FORT CONCHO

San Angelo, TX, April 29-May 2: A cowboy comic-con features Western stars, authors, workshops and demos, with cowboy music all day, every day.
580-768-5559 • CowboyWayJubilee.com

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Nebraska City, NE, April 30: The home of the first Arbor Day, in 1872, celebrates with free trees, a chili cook-off and a parade.
800-514-9113 • NebraskaCity.com

HISTORY CONFERENCE

62ND ANNUAL ARIZONA HISTORY CONVENTION, ALL VIRTUAL

Tucson, AZ, April 20-24: This year's theme is "Advocating for Change, Navigating Crises." Panelists will present papers and host panels on change-makers from Arizona's past.
520-628-5774 • ArizonaHistory.org

MUSIC

LLANO FIDDLE FEST

Llano, TX, April 2-4: Texas musicians of the past are celebrated with a competition featuring some of the best fiddlers from Texas and beyond.
325-247-5354 • LlanoFiddleFest.com

POWOWS

ANNUAL GATHERING OF NATIONS POWWOW, VIRTUAL

Albuquerque, NM, April 23-24: The Gathering of Nations Powwow will be a virtual live-streamed event, featuring dancers from tribes across North America, award-winning drum groups, outgoing Miss Indian World presentation, music and a dance party both evenings.
505-836-2810 • VisitAlbuquerque.org

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO

Elk City, OK, April 3-4: Novices and professionals alike can shop and learn about products and services for farm, home, lawn, garden and ranch.
580-225-0207 • VisitElkCity.com

OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW

Oklahoma City, OK, April 10-11: The region's finest quarter horses compete for ribbons and prizes in a wide array of classes.
405-440-0694 • OKQHA.org

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



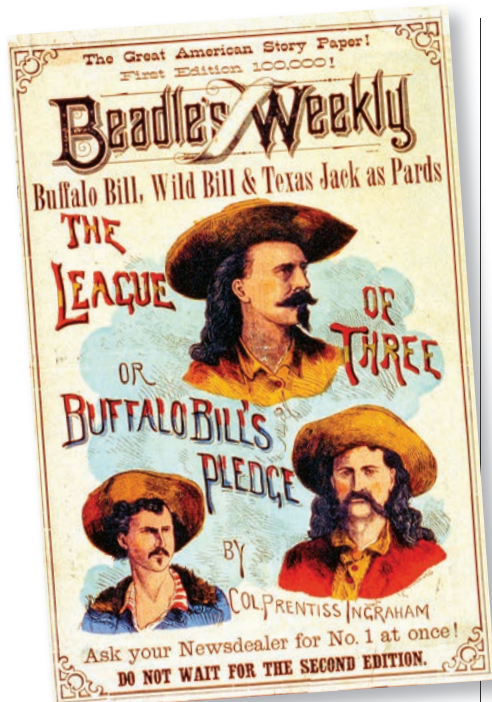
Freedom, Independence and Madness



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.



Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill and Texas Bill had a limited run together on stage, but their famous swashbuckling Western hat styles have endured.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

In many photos of Buffalo Bill, his hats are turned up on the right side. Do you know the reason why so many Old West characters did this?

Allen Fossenkemper
Fountain Hills, Arizona

A hat is an expression of an individual's freedom, independence and style. They used to say you could tell whether a man was from Montana, Texas or California by the crown of his hat. The brim, turned up right or left side, gives one the image of a swashbuckling "Jeb Stuart" type. And image—then and now—can be very important.

When did the wagon trains going West come to an end?

Jan Brown
Meridian, Idaho

From the 1840s to the 1860s, more than 300,000 pioneers crossed the plains and mountains of the West along various routes including the Oregon and Santa Fe trails.

The arrival of the transcontinental railroads and the branch lines off the mainlines pretty much ended that era by the 1890s. Author David Dary writes in his *Santa Fe Trail* there were still a few small wagon trains who made the trek West in the years that followed.

Is it possible for horses to run themselves to death?

Mike Anderson
Deer Park, Texas

Yes. A horse can die of dehydration, heart attack and exhaustion if not rested periodically. Horses can run fast only so long, depending on the conditioning and the breed. Quarter horses are bred for shorter distances, while Arabian horses are noted for endurance. Even today, horses have died in the middle of a race or even afterwards. In wild terrain you're actually better off to have a mule.

What was "prairie fever"?

John Volz
LaGrange, Kentucky

Prairie fever was also known as "prairie madness." It affected settlers—mostly women—emigrating to the Great Plains following the Homestead Act of 1862. It was a depression, withdrawal, changes in personality that often led to violence—so it was an emotional issue.

Women were often left behind while their husbands made the daylong wagon ride to a settlement for supplies. The solitude became too much to handle. In extreme cases, suicide or other violence was the result.

A few years ago, author Glendon Swarthout wrote a best-selling book titled *The Homesman* that was later made into a movie starring Tommy Lee Jones and Hillary Swank. A homesman was a man hired by farmers whose wives succumbed to prairie fever. The men collected the stricken women and took them to nearby settlements where women's societies would try to locate their families in the East. If that failed, they would be taken to insane asylums in Chicago or other cities.

Many young women who homesteaded on the Great Plains of Nebraska suffered depression or "prairie fever" that developed from isolation, loneliness, death of children and spouses, and severe, relentless, unforgiving weather, especially winter.





858. Spearing Trout on Donner Lake, Nevada Co.

Unlike this 1866 Donner Lake fishing party spearing for trout on a summer's day, the Donner Party in 1846-47 had no access to the fish in the frozen, snow-covered alpine lake.

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Were there any fish in what is now called Donner Lake that would have kept the Donner Party from starving?

*Dale Sain
Ewen, Michigan*

The emigrants were delayed several weeks by following the Hasting Cutoff which actually made them arrive late in the Sierra Nevada. They got caught in an early winter snowstorm, so the game was either holed up or had gone down to lower elevations, and the waters were frozen and couldn't be broken. The people were literally snowbound.

Who is the man in the beginning of *Gunsmoke* who is shot down by Marshal Dillon?

*Veronica Boatright
Glennville, Georgia*

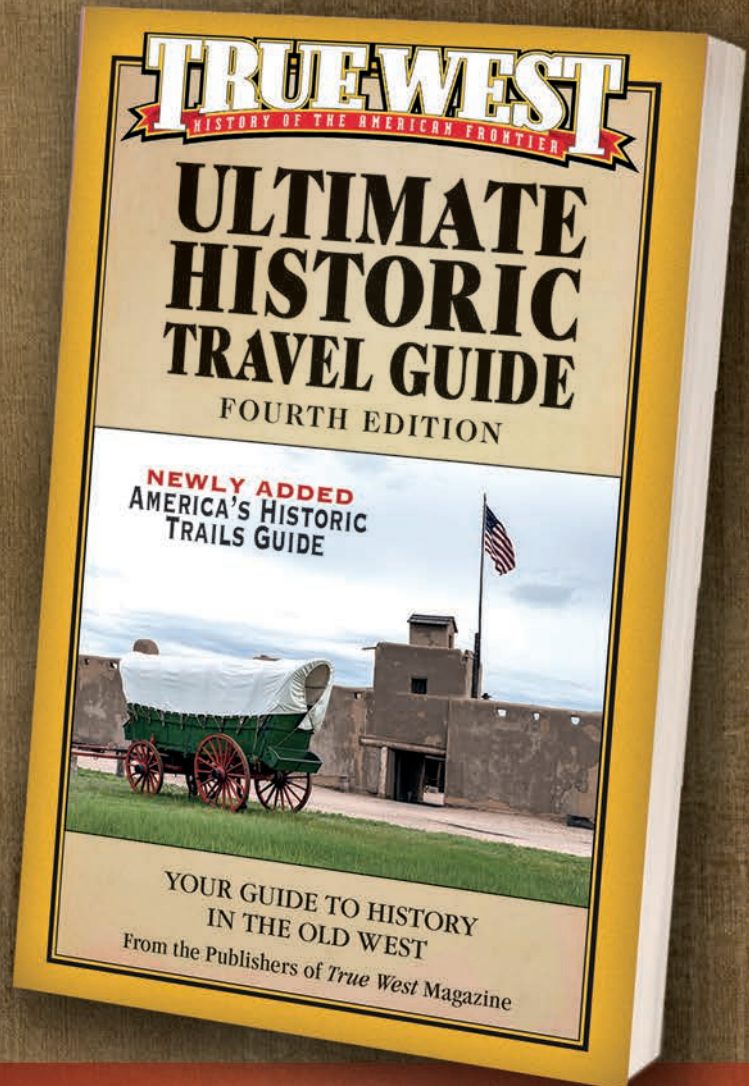
Arvo Ojala was the man who faced 6'7" Matt Dillon every Saturday night on *Gunsmoke*. He trained many Hollywood stars on how to handle a pistol—especially how to develop a realistic fast draw. He also designed the buscadero used on-screen in the early 1950s.

Jim Lockwood told me a few years ago the studio got tired of paying Arvo every week for that brief gunfight scene. So they had Glen Strange (who played Sam the bartender) take over the responsibility—at no extra charge.

Ojala said that, over the years, the *Gunsmoke* residual monies bought him several new Cadillacs. Arvo did okay.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

My parents wanted us to learn about the country's history firsthand. I guess they somehow knew I was visual and had to see it and experience it. They loaded us up in the 1950 Ford. Mostly out West.

My mother's family was from Boulder, Colorado, still very much a Western town in the 1950s. And my great-grandmother had gotten there by wagon, as she told me. I asked her who was president when she was born and she said Grant!

Having a long Western history in the family, my parents put me in cowboy boots when I was little, and I never left them.

When I started shooting photos, I dressed up my friends like Old West cowboys (I thought) and tried to make "old timey" photos. One of these photos ended up at an advertising agency, and I ended up shooting major cowboy ad campaigns for many years.

The 'Cowboy-West-Adventure' thing from childhood drove my life and career.

Somehow along the way, Tyler Beard and I did four books on cowboy boots and Western wear.

Canyon de Chelly. We did weeklong trail rides there for 30 years, camping and acting like cowboys. And I met my French cowgirl, Nathalie, there. So it's a very special place for me.

Visiting Santa Fe on a "forced" vacation from shooting and work introduced me to the high desert village.

Then I moved to Santa Fe. A very historic town.

The next thing I knew, I had a horse, a trailer, an old pickup truck and my cowgirl girlfriend.

And our priority is always trying to keep the West alive.

History has taught me to never disregard it, and to learn from it. Also, the history I was taught in school was incomplete. They left out the Anasazi, and all the other early civilizations of our country. You must do your own research.

For my money, the best Western ever made is *Lonesome Dove*. But, as a kid, Cinerama Theatre playing *How the West was Won* was pretty impressive. And I can always watch *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*.

Don't get me started on disrespect for history, whatever it is, and however it happened.

I have a really hard time with all the cowboy boot experts.

— PHOTO BY NATHALIE KENT —



JIM ARNDT—PHOTOGRAPHER AND AUTHOR

Award-winning New Mexico-based photographer Jim Arndt has been sought after for Western-style ad and publicity campaigns—from Wrangler to George Strait—for decades. He has published over ten books and calendars on cowboy culture and Western art and is currently working on books with country music star Marty Stuart, a Route 66 book with French rocker Johnny Hallyday and with his French cowgirl partner, opening Nathalie's Western Boutique in Santa Fe's Bishop's Lodge. His photographs have been exhibited in galleries in Taos, Santa Fe, Austin and Paris and are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of New Mexico.

My mama taught me family history is important, where you came from. Respect your history.

The best advice I ever got was never push the shutter button if it doesn't look good looking through the camera... It won't look any better when you get the film back.

If you're going to live in Santa Fe, you need to go with the quote from Governor Wallace before he left office in 1881: "Every calculation based on experience elsewhere, fails in New Mexico."

Wish I had a dime for every person I have met who knows the Marlboro Man, or his cousin's brother's uncle.

Also, do you know anybody who can take your picture? Ha. Just joshin' you.



BOB BOZE BELL

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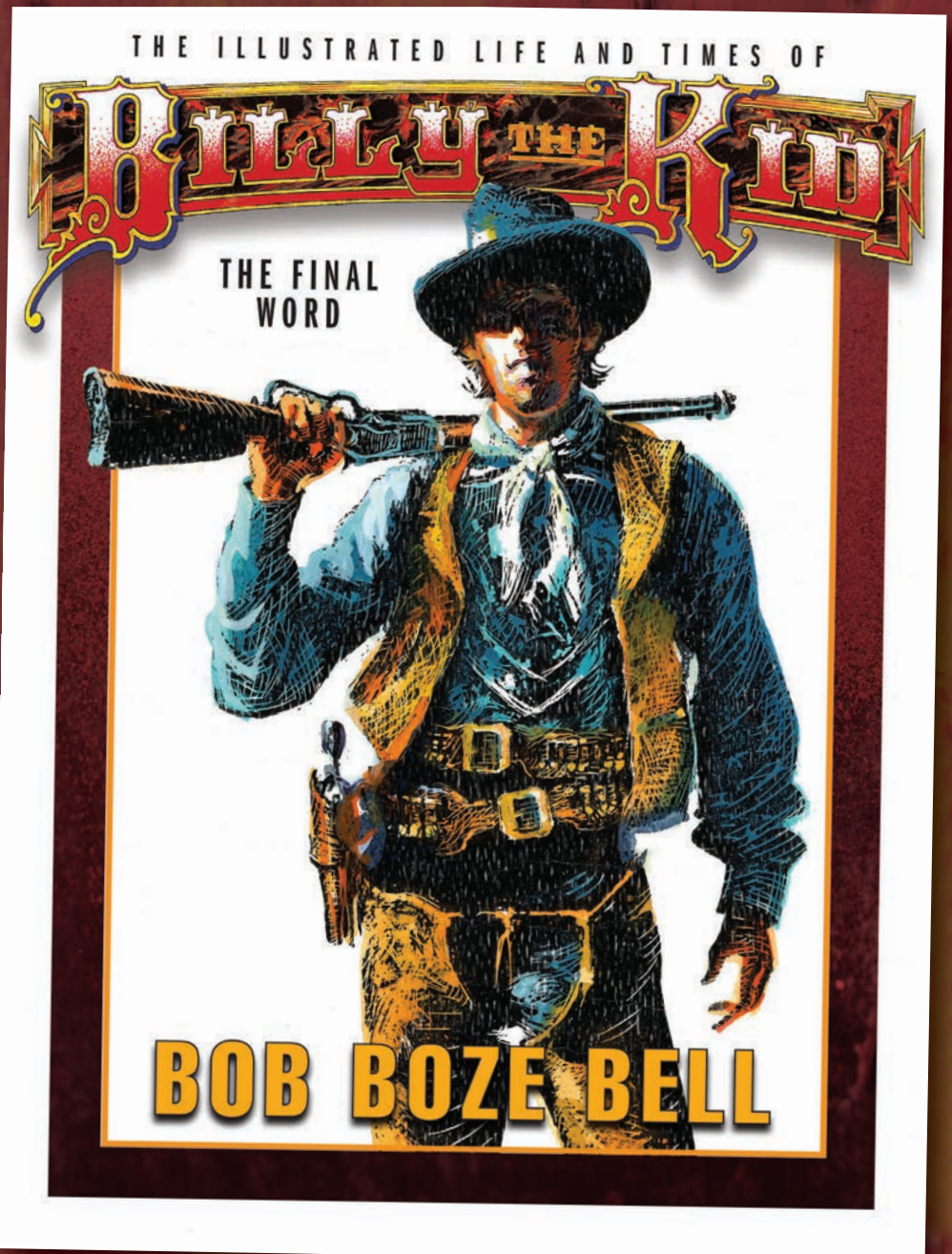
—Mark Lee Gardner, author of *To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett*

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—Lynda Sánchez

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—Bob Reece



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