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by Phil Spangenberg



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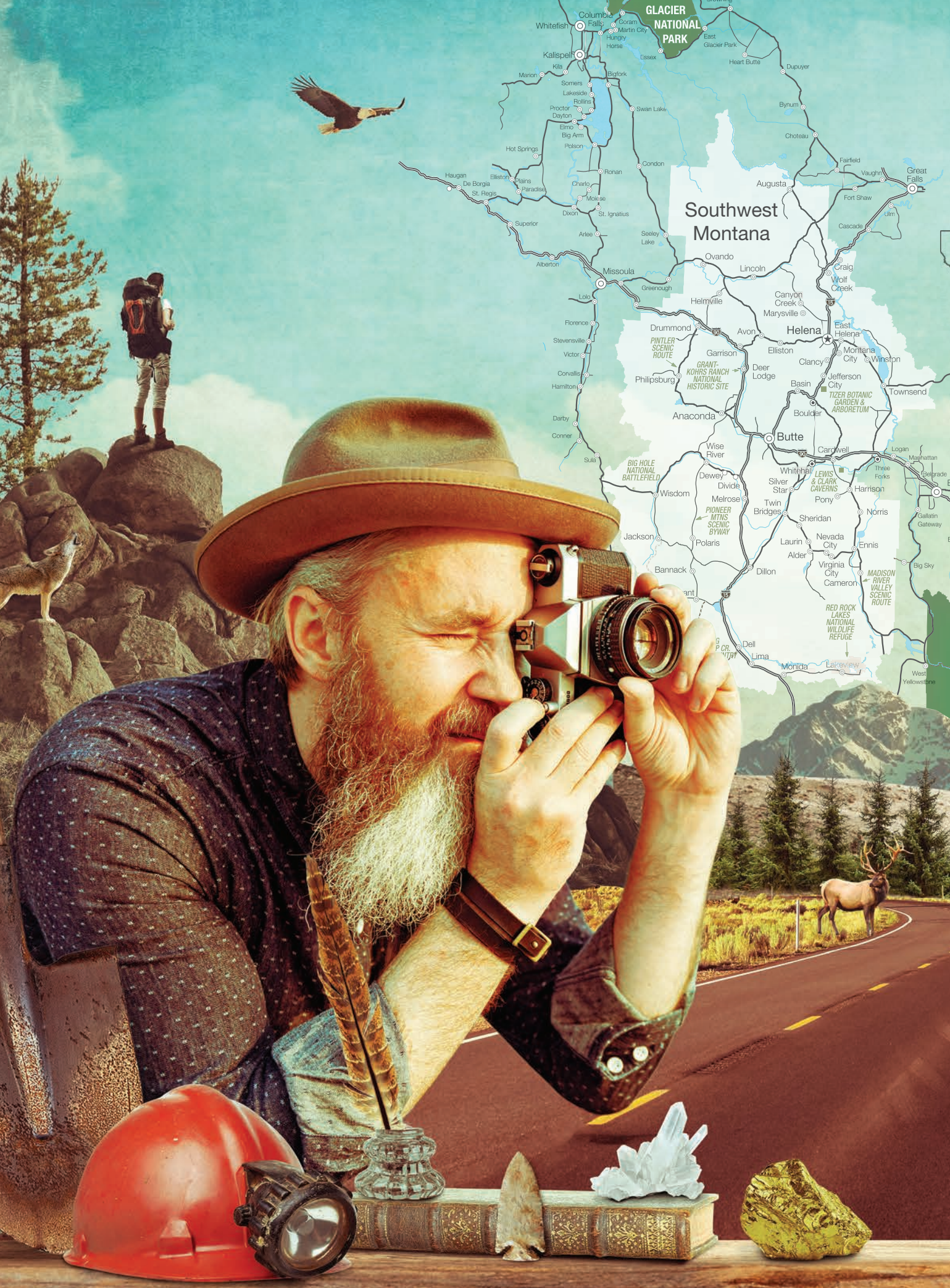


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Private Bill Foster wears his Arizona Ranger badge and holds the standard Ranger 1895 Winchester .30-40 lever-action rifle as he stands to the left of Deputy Sheriff Clark Farnsworth in 1903. Two years later, Farnsworth would enlist with the Rangers. The famed Arizona Rangers served the citizens of the Arizona Territory until 1909, when Territorial politics led to their disbandment.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -







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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- KEN AMOROSANO -



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- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | OPENING SHOT | 58 | WESTERN BOOKS |
| 10 | TO THE POINT | 62 | WESTERN MOVIES |
| 12 | TRUTH BE KNOWN | 65 | TRUE WESTERN TOWNS |
| 14 | SHOOTING BACK | 77 | WESTERN ROUNDUP |
| 38 | CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS | 78 | ASK THE MARSHALL |
| 40 | CLASSIC TRUE WEST | 80 | WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME |
| 54 | RENEGADE ROADS | | |

16

16 THE 12 GUNS THAT WON THE WEST

True West considers these the most significant workhorses of the frontier.

—By Phil Spangenberg



26 THE CURIOUS SAGA OF THE OUTLAW BURT ALVORD

The Arizona deputy sheriff lived a double life as a highwayman, gang leader and train robber.

—By Marshall Trimble



32 RED BADGE OF COURAGE

The young men of a divided nation answered the call of war 160 years ago, and their youthful visages before going to battle still haunt us today.

—By Stuart Rosebrook

26

42 THE SANTA FE TRAIL BECKONED THE MOSTY BROTHERS

Two Kansas City boys hiked the famous road west in 1874 to make their mark in the cattle trade.

—By Kenyon Bennett

32

48 ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL 1821-2021

The bicentennial of the National Historic Trail is a great reason to hit the road and rediscover why it is the West's original "Mother Road."

—By Johnny D. Boggs

68 OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Across the West, historic hotels, guest ranches, lodges, restaurants and saloons eagerly await patrons.

—By Stuart Rosebrook and the Editors of True West

42



48



68



Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

—PHOTO COURTESY FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, CVB—

BY BOB BOZE BELL

The Tom Jonas Map Quest

Winning by a nose.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at what it took to get a map of the location of Doc Holliday's Saloon in Las Vegas, New Mexico ("Classic Gunfights," p. 38). First and foremost, we harnessed the lifelong scholarship of our esteemed colleague and author of the go-to book on Doc Holliday, Gary L. Roberts, who gave us the insights we needed to fill in the gaps on this somewhat confusing gunfight. Meanwhile, the map assignment went out to Tom Jonas, and I told him I wanted a map showing where Doc Holliday's Saloon was in Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1879, when he shot Mike Gordon. I'll let Tom tell you what he had to do to find the location of Doc's Saloon:

"The very first thing I did was search for a street map of Las Vegas in 1879, but none turned up, either through my map compadres or online. So, I searched for a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and the Library of Congress had one from 1883. Next, I began to prepare the basic street grid of New Town Las Vegas, utilizing Google maps to give me an accurate geographical picture that I could then extrapolate to an old bird's-eye view of a Las Vegas drawing, which gave me more information to use.

"Although most of the old street alignments agreed with the modern map, some of the street names had changed several times (Centre Street became Center, and then part of it became Lincoln Avenue, for example). The final names in some cases are "best guess." Finally, extrapolating between old photos and historical accounts, I was able to pinpoint the precise location from a statement from *Insiders-Las-Vegas-NM.com*, which Gary Roberts had sent to you [BBB] and you sent on to me:

"According to a picture from the Citizen's Committee for Historic Preservation, Las Vegas



Photographic Archive, Hilmar Collection, Doc Holliday owned a bar on Center Street in 1879, which is now E. Lincoln Avenue. It is located two storefronts down from Southwest Financial Services in a one-story building.

"A look at the Google Earth street view of Lincoln Avenue shows a modern business called Southwest Financial Services. Two storefronts to the left is a green storefront—apparently vacant. From there, everything fell into place. Whew!"

—Tom Jonas

So, as you can clearly see, this was not an easy assignment.

Lee Marvin in *Cat Ballou*

— COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES —



More Nasal Hilarity

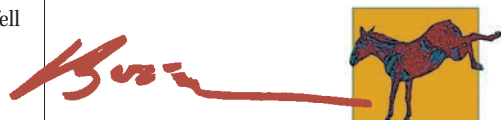
Both Henry Parke and Stuart Rosebrook mentioned the similarities of the Gordon noseless situation ("Classic Gunfights," p. 38) to Lee Marvin's character, Tim Strawn, in the 1965 movie *Cat Ballou*. The film is adapted from Roy Chanslor's novel, *The Ballad of Cat Ballou*. Was the Strawn character based on Mike Gordon? Or have there been other examples in the Old West where men lost their noses in a fight?

It is reported from Chloride that two men had a fight, the other day, in which one man was badly disfigured by the other chewing his nose and cheek. The matter was settled by the "chewer" paying the injured party twenty dollars and settling the doctor's bill.

Mohave County Miner, March 23, 1901

— COURTESY ANDY SANSON —

Well, here is a news item from my hometown area that points to perhaps a wider realm of nose-biting. According to our Western Film editor, Henry Parke, "Sadly, the novelist and two screenwriters from *Cat Ballou* are gone, and cannot be quizzed." So, at this point, the clues are tantalizing, but at least we know where Doc Holliday's Saloon was in 1879. Thanks, gents!



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

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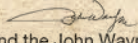
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Old Vaquero Saying

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Quotes

“Pretty near all these stories are true.”

—Wild Bill Hickok, hedging on the veracity of the many tall tales attributed to him in dime novels of the day

“I wasn’t the leader of any gang. I was for Billy all the time.”

—Billy the Kid, to a reporter for the Las Vegas Gazette, December 27, 1880

“You’re a daisy if you do.”

—Doc Holliday to Frank McLaury, who claimed he had a bead on Doc at the Fremont Street fight, October 26, 1881

“Not much, Mary Ann.”

—Andrew L. “Buckshot” Roberts when asked by the Lincoln County Regulators to surrender at Blazer’s Mill, New Mexico, April 4, 1878

“We are rough men, used to rough ways.”

—Attributed to Bob Younger after his capture at Hanska Slough, Minnesota, 1876



James-Younger gang member Robert E. “Bob” Younger (left), was sentenced to life in prison after his capture for the failed Northfield, Minnesota, bank robbery. He died of tuberculosis in the Stillwater prison on September 16, 1889.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

“Go to Hell!”

—Bill Doolin, when asked by lawmen to surrender at Ingalls, Oklahoma September 1, 1893

“Hurry up. I’m late for breakfast in hell.”

—Tom “Blackjack” Ketchum, when asked if he had any last words before being hanged in Clayton, New Mexico

“I will show the Texans there is at least one Mexican in the county who is not afraid of an American’s cowboy.”

—Elfego Baca, at Upper Frisco Plaza, New Mexico October 28, 1884

“During my career of outlawing I rode into town under the glare of the noonday sun, and all men knew my mission.”

—Cole Younger, speaking on his “What My Life Has Taught Me” tour after being released from prison after serving 25 years for the attempted robbery of the Northfield, Minnesota, First National Bank



“Good-bye Emmett. Don’t surrender. Die game.”

—Bob Dalton, while expiring in Coffeyville, Kansas, to his youngest brother, October 5, 1892

Dalton Gang leader Bob Dalton was only 23 years old when he was shot and killed while attempting to rob the Coffeyville, Kansas, bank on October 5, 1892. Fellow gang members Grat Dalton, Bill Power and Dick Broadwell also died during the failed robbery.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

“Where are my friends?”

—Baz Outlaw’s last words as he lay dying on a soiled dove’s bed in El Paso, Texas, after shooting another lawman to death and wounding Constable John Selman

“Four sixes to beat.”

—John Wesley Hardin’s last words in the Acme Saloon, El Paso, Texas, August 19, 1895



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DOUBLE-TAKE ON BASS REEVES AND THE LONE RANGER

The cover of your February/March 2021 issue, showing Bass Reeves masked as the Lone Ranger is simply brilliant.



— COVER DESIGN BY DAN HARSHBERGER/ “LONE RANGER” IMAGE COURTESY ABC TELEVISION AND BASS REEVES IMAGE COURTESY ART T. BURTON —

What a fantastic *True West* issue (February/March 2021) on the Legendary Bass Reeves, deputy United States marshal and Muskogee, Oklahoma, policeman.

I portray the legendary Bass Reeves and this epic magazine coverage means more to me than Mr. Harold T. Holden’s statue of Bass Reeves on horseback with his dog riding *Into the Territory* at Pendercraft Park in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Thank you for the fantastic coverage. I especially enjoyed Art T. Burton’s decades-long research on Old Baz’s life and times and Burton’s and Mark Boardman’s article further explaining the Bass Reeves vs. The Lone Ranger myth. Bass had no master but the letter of the law itself, since he served the murder arrest warrant for his son Benjamin “Bennie” Reeves.

One of the things you missed is whenever I do live entertainment interactive shows at Old Tombstone Western Theme Park and other places, I am in full Bass Reeves wardrobe, so people want to know who I am. They have a very shocking aha moment about the real Wild West history they never knew about, after I quickly explain the forgotten history. This is what *True West* is bringing to light finally. I think it is long overdue, and I truly hope that folks can remember a great lawman with 35 years of service.

As I portray Bass Reeves, deputy U.S. marshal, I hope to see every one of y’all in the Territory, whether I have your writ or not. You might be lucky enough to get a Bass Reeves silver token for gratitude.

—Ernest Marsh
Actor/Reenactor as Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves
Mesita, Colorado

—Rex Rideout
Conifer, Colorado

Well, I’m glad you did not offer me a vote on this month’s cover (February/March 2021). It’s the first cover of *TW* in all I have seen that I really don’t care for. It makes Bass Reeves into a cartoon.

—Larry Floyd
Chesapeake, Virginia

Your February/March 2021 cover is the best-designed, and most relevant to the inside stories, I’ve seen in the years I’ve been reading the magazine. It is perfect: provocative and perplexing, perfectly setting up the reader for the Bass Reeves materials, which are themselves outstanding.

—Dr. Jim Vickrey
Montgomery, Alabama

BUFFALO BILL: DID HE OR DIDN'T HE?

I must disagree with J. David’s Holt’s conclusion that Buffalo Bill did not ride in the Pony Express (*True West*, February/March 2021). During Buffalo Bill’s life, there was nary a word of dissent about his riding in the



— IMAGES COURTESY BBCW —

Pony Express, even when people like Luther North were questioning some of his other stories. The bottom line is that people who had been part of the Pony Express agreed with his claims of having been part of that grand experiment.

Today, those historians who are skeptical can only point to his exaggerations as their basis for questioning his involvement; they do not provide any dissenting statements from those involved with the Pony Express. I showed Holt the statement by Frank Winch that Cody told him he had not ridden in the Pony Express, in the interest of historical disclosure, not because I agreed with it. Winch said Cody denied being a rider in “many talks.” If Cody was so free in his disclosures, why were they only to Winch? And why did Winch continue to write that Cody had ridden in the Pony Express? As they would say in a court of law, Winch’s statement is hearsay. It raises questions, but it is not definitive.

I agree that Will Cody, as Buffalo Bill, probably exaggerated his youthful exploits, including those associated with the Pony Express. But I cannot agree with Holt’s conclusion, based largely on Winch’s private note, that it is “truthful, accurate history” to say Cody did not ride with the Pony Express. Let the controversy continue!

—Steve Friesen
Former Director of Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave and
True West’s “Collecting the West” editor
Littleton, Colorado

The controversy over whether Buffalo Bill Cody rode for the Pony Express or did not may not ever be completely answered, despite Winch's journal entry. What is fact is that Cody promoted his association with the mail service through the end of his life, including being the center of attention at the

dedication of the Pony Express Monument in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1913. He is described in most of the newspaper articles reporting on the dedication as "William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill), one of the original riders."

YOSEMITE VS. YELLOWSTONE

In your February/March 2021 issue on page 12 ["Lincoln: Prepare Ye the Way for the Horde," *Investigating History* column by Mark Boardman], you said Ulysses S. Grant made Yosemite the first national park. This is wrong. Yellowstone National Park was established by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872. Yellowstone was the first national park in the U.S.

—Charles Wold
*True West Maniac # 341
Banner, Wyoming*

Thank you. You are correct. President Abraham Lincoln was the first to protect land for preservation with the Yosemite Grant Act on June 30, 1864, but it was President Ulysses S. Grant who signed into law the first national park, Yellowstone, on March 1, 1872. One factor that influenced both Lincoln's and Grant's decisions were Carleton Watkins and William Henry Jackson's dramatic photographs, respectively, of Yosemite and Yellowstone.



The Grizzly Giant, Mariposa Grove, Yosemite by Carleton Watkins, 1861

— COURTESY MET, DP205144 —



Lower Falls of the Yellowstone by William Henry Jackson, F.V. Hayden's 1872 U.S. Geological Survey

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

THE MYSTIQUE OF FRONTIER VIOLENCE

The gentleman who wrote to complain of "glorifying outlaws, murderers and thieves" (*Shooting Back*, December 2020) has a point, although I'm loath to acknowledge it since he contrasts the practice with his own "integrity." It's been my observation that those who have integrity never make reference to it.

The world of myth is populated with brigands, from Robin Hood to Lochinvar to Daffy Duck; they are the seasoning that provides the flavor. In truth, gunfighters, bank robbers and stagecoach bandits were sideshows, which if they were removed from the equation wouldn't affect the march of Western history one way or the other. That history was made on farmland, cattle trails, battlefields and in the halls of Congress.

The later, underappreciated novelist Richard S. Wheeler summed up the mystique of the frontier when he said it was the place everyone could go to start over fresh, whether he'd failed financially, become ill, or broken the law. No one held him to account for his past, because no one asked; to do so would have risked him being asked about his own. The Wild West is a place that, because it no longer exists, continues to cast its spell.

Keep up the good work!

—Loren D. Estleman
Whitmore Lake, Michigan





TOP 12 GUNS THAT

True West considers these the most significant workhorses of the frontier.

This circa 1860 photo depicts packers resting in the hills of Utah with what appears to be at least one Hawken.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



“The Gun That Won the West!” “Which gun was that?” you may ask, but, as any serious arms enthusiast would tell you, regardless of advertising or promotional rhetoric, no single firearm tamed the American frontier by itself. Rather, a number of different guns were significant in settling our western territories.

The American West was conquered over a period of decades, beginning with the birth of the industrial revolution, a time of great improvements in firearms technology. These guns were used by diverse people, who relied on them for sustenance, defense, conquest, protection of life and property, law enforcement and law-breaking.

After much consideration, I selected 12 firearms that were, in my opinion, key to settling our Western frontier. I’ve included six long guns and six revolvers, and I am presenting them in the order of their introduction and historical time frames. Many of these arms were significant in their own right, and led directly to the introduction of other famous firearms.

Hawken Plains Rifle

The powerful and rugged muzzle-loading flintlock and caplock plains rifles were designed to replace the longer, slender and often less powerful Pennsylvania rifles used during the initial period of our westward movement. Heavy, shorter and more powerful, these plains rifles were carried by explorers, immigrants and the mountain men who were involved in the Rocky Mountain fur trade of the early 19th century. While a number of fine gunsmiths, including H.E. Dimick, J.P. Gemmer and others, turned out such rifles, it was the gun shop of Samuel and Jacob Hawken that became the

standard by which all other plains rifles were judged. Produced in St. Louis, Missouri, where the style was originated by Hawken, the heavy, large bored, full and half-stock muzzleloaders were more powerful arms produced to shoot the large and dangerous Western game, and were better

suited for use on horseback—an important factor in the West. Plains rifles were made from the early 1800s through the 1870s, and the Hawken (1830s-1860s) was the best known of the breed. Hawken customers included Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Mariano Modena, Jedediah Smith, John C. Fremont and William F. Cody.

Colt Paterson Revolver

Despite not being a successful business venture for Samuel Colt, this five-shot, cap and ball single-action became the first practical “revolving pistol.” Although only around 2,850 revolvers were made, this was the handgun



Produced in St. Louis, Missouri, by the Hawken family, these heavy, large-bored, full- and half-stock muzzleloaders were designed for shooting dangerous Western game. More rugged than the earlier Pennsylvania rifles, the Hawkens were considered the best of the plains rifles.

Hawken customers included mountain men Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Mariano Modena and Jedediah Smith, among others.

- FIREARM PHOTO COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY -

TAMED THE WILD WEST



Colt's 1836-patented, five-shot Paterson revolver (left) was the handgun that revolutionized revolvers for all time. The .36 caliber long-barreled model, like this pristine example, was known as the Texas Paterson, and earned its fame for its deadly use against the Comanches by the early Texas Rangers.

- PHOTO BY PAUL GOODWIN, FIREARM COURTESY LITTLE JOHN'S AUCTION SERVICE -

that revolutionized revolvers for all time. The Paterson (its name comes from the city in New Jersey where it was manufactured) was produced in a number of small calibers and model variations ranging from pocket-sized "Baby" Patersons, to larger mid-powered belt revolvers. However, it was the long-barreled .36 caliber Texas Paterson version of this first Colt that was put to such deadly use against the Comanches by the early Texas Rangers. It also saw service in the Mexican-American War (1846-48), the California gold camps and to some extent in the Second Seminole War in Florida. Patented in 1836, the Paterson was not actually produced until the following year and production ran until 1842.

Colt 1849 Pocket Model

Despite its small size—or perhaps because of it—Colt's 1849 Pocket cap and ball revolver became Colt's best-selling revolver of the 19th century, and, arguably, the world. With around 330,000 examples produced from 1850-73, this



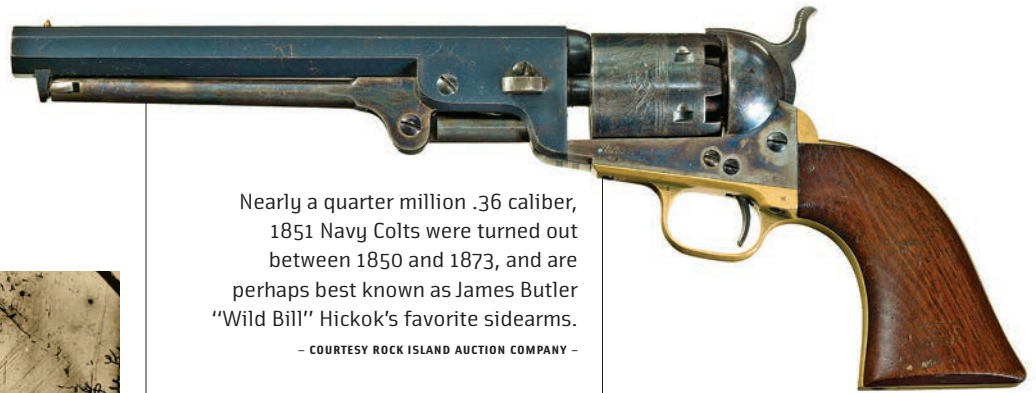
The Paterson came in a variety of sizes and calibers. In the 1840s, this pocket-sized "Baby" Paterson would have been considered an ideal arm for those who felt the need to have a multi-shot sidearm, yet still be discreet. A Baby Paterson was the choice of this 1840s dandy, since it could easily be concealed in his vest or coat pocket.

- COURTESY HERB PECK, JR. COLLECTION -



With around 330,000 examples of the 1849 Colt Pocket Model produced between 1850 and 1873, this .31 caliber diminutive five-shooter quickly became a favorite with the public and military men alike. Thousands were sold in the pre-Civil West, especially in California. This four-inch barreled '49er is shown with a pocket flask that contained compartments for powder, percussion caps and lead projectiles.

- PHIL SPANGENBERGER -



Nearly a quarter million .36 caliber, 1851 Navy Colts were turned out between 1850 and 1873, and are perhaps best known as James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok's favorite sidearms.

- COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY -

Colt 1851 Navy Revolver

One of the best balanced and smoothest-handling belt-sized revolvers of the caplock era, Colt's 1851 Navy model could easily be called the "Percussion Peacemaker." Preferred by many over other sidearms of the pre-metallic cartridge era, it's perhaps best known as James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok's favorite sidearm, as well as the personal favorite of good and bad men alike, including the James-Younger outlaw gang, the Texas Rangers, the Pinkerton detectives, California bandit Tiburcio Vasquez, Texas shootist John Wesley Hardin, Maj. Frank North and the Pawnee scouts, and Col. (later Confederate general) Robert E. Lee, while stationed in antebellum Texas. Like its smaller cousin, the 1849 Colt, in the goldfields

of California, the Navy model sold for far more than its retail price back east. Nearly a quarter-million of these .36 caliber six-guns were turned out from 1850 to 1873. During the 1870s, a number of them were converted to take .38 caliber metallic cartridges. Despite the availability of more modern revolvers, the Navy Colt remained in use well into the final decades of the 19th century.



Whether concealed in a coat, vest pocket or in the voluminous folds of a lady's full skirt, the '49 Pocket Colt was the choice of many who felt the need to be secretly "well heeled." By posing for the daguerreotype this Woodville, Kentucky, lass shows that despite her small size, she's not the type to be messed with. She's chosen a '49 Colt, the revolver that put Col. Sam Colt in business for keeps.

- COURTESY HERB PECK, JR. COLLECTION -

.31 caliber, diminutive "Five-Shooter" became a favorite with the public and the military alike (though never issued). Thousands were purchased in the pre-Civil War West, especially in California, where they sold for many times their factory retail price. Sam Colt, always the clever businessman, determined the need for such a gun and realized that he could eliminate many of the manufacturing steps and parts required in his large Dragoon revolvers to produce an inexpensive, lightweight sidearm. The little 1849 Colt quickly became a favorite with miners, gamblers, merchants, lawmen, women of ill repute and soldiers. For male or female, Colt's Pocket '49er was an ideal, easily handled defensive firearm. This was the gun that sold so well it put Colonel Sam Colt in business for keeps.



Made as a lighter, easier to carry and handle six-gun than the heavy Dragoon models, but still packing plenty of power, Colt's 1860 model, whether in original caplock or converted to metallic cartridge, remained a popular choice with six-gunners and lawmen of the mid-19th-century West. Three Rincon (Prado), California, constables (above), circa 1863, stand ready with tools of their trade. Left to right: W.B. Roberts has his thumb on his cocked 1860 Army Colt, while John Ralph and W.B.'s brother, George, hold their New Model Remington Army and '60 Colt a bit more leisurely, yet show readiness to uphold the law.

- PHOTOS COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER -

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1860 Colt Army Revolver

Produced from 1860 until 1873, Colt's 1860 Army model is the company's third most-produced percussion handgun, and as such is considered by many the epitome of .44 caliber percussion revolvers. Designed as a lighter, easier to carry and handle successor to the big and somewhat cumbersome Dragoon revolvers, it was an immediate success. Of the 200,500 Army models turned out, 127,156 were purchased by the Union government during the Civil War, and thus it became the primary revolver used by federal troops during that bloody conflict. Whether in original caplock or converted metallic cartridge form, it also saw great use. The '60 Army was easily holstered on a man's hip, and it had plenty of stopping power—nearly that of the big cumbersome Dragoon. This eight-inch-barreled six-gun (and the few thousand that were turned out with 7½-inch barrels) quickly became a solid favorite with frontiersmen of the mid-19th century. It was an issue weapon to the U.S. Cavalry, the Texas Rangers, as well as bad men like John Wesley Hardin, Mormon avenger Porter Rockwell, the James brothers and Texas outlaw Sam Bass.

Springfield Trapdoor Rifle

Known on the frontier as the "needle gun" due to its long firing pin, the Springfield trapdoor started life in 1865 as the Allin converted



This late 1860s Westerner is well armed and ready for his trek into the backcountry with a brace of 1851 Navy Colts, and a Model, .50-70 Allin conversion Springfield rifle.

— PHOTO COURTESY AL FLEMING COLLECTION —

Civil War muzzleloader, chambered to fire, at first a .58-caliber rimfire, metallic cartridge, then shortly thereafter the famed 2nd Model Allin Conversion Model 1866, was brought out in a sleeved barrel that handled the .50-70 centerfire cartridge. This was the rifle credited for the U.S. Army's ability to withstand Indian attacks along Wyoming's Bozeman Trail in the Hayfield and Wagon Box fights in



Buffalo Bill killed hundreds of buffalo for meat with his .50-70 Allin, Springfield. He dubbed his rifle "Lucretia Borgia," because he considered it beautiful, but deadly, like the infamous noblewoman of the Italian Renaissance. In this 1860s photo, he sits with his Allin conversion Springfield "needle gun," accompanied by three fellow hunters and Army officers.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

year until the mid-1890s. Initially used to subjugate Native Americans, it was later employed to protect Indians from unscrupulous whites. Carbines were carried by Custer's 7th Cavalry at the Little Bighorn, while both rifle and carbine were used in other battles with the northern plains tribes as well as the Apaches, Comanches and other Southwestern Indians.

It last saw combat in 1890 at Wounded Knee in South Dakota. The moniker of "Trapdoor," was not used until the second 1873 model was introduced with a trapdoor and compartment in the butt stock for storing cleaning tools and a broken shell extractor in 1877. Trapdoors were also popular with civilians who paid hefty prices for "lost" military Springfields, and many surplus trapdoors were converted to sports, along with those offered by war surplus dealers to budget-minded homesteaders.

Among the most famous of the Springfield trapdoors is the 1873 model. This carbine, made in 1875, is the 1st Model, like those that Lt. Col. George Custer's ill-fated 7th U.S. Cavalry rode into battle with at the Little Bighorn River on June 25, 1876. The model, though improved through the years, was the primary shoulder weapon of the military during the Indian campaigns.

— PHIL SPANGENBERGER —

1867. It also was favored by hide hunters in the early buffalo-hunting years. Buffalo Bill killed hundreds of the great beasts for meat with his .50-70 Allin, affectionately called "Lucretia Borgia," because he considered it beautiful, but deadly, like the infamous noblewoman of the Italian Renaissance.

The 1873 Springfield—in rifle or carbine configuration—was the primary weapon of the Indian-fighting army from its inception that





Winchester Model 1866 Rifle

Originally dubbed the “Improved Henry,” the brass-framed, .44 rimfire 1866 Winchester was often called the “Yellowboy” by Indians. Over 170,000 left the factory in 1866-98—long after stronger centerfire ammunition had eclipsed the '66s weaker rimfire fodder. Coveted by

The “Yellowboy” '66 Winchester .44 caliber lever-action (above) succeeded the Henry rifle as a favorite on the frontier after the Civil War. Gen. George Custer’s Arikara scout, Bloody Knife, rode with his '66 Winchester into the Battle of Little Bighorn, as did his Indian enemies to help defeat the 7th Cavalry.

— PHIL SPANGENBERGER —



American Indians, both for its repeating rifle qualities, along with its bright yellow brass receiver, the lever-action rifle was carried by the Union Pacific Railroad’s chief engineer, Gen. Grenville Dodge, desperado Bill Doolin, Sioux Medicine Man Sitting Bull, along with many Texas Rangers, Army scouts, military officers, hunters and ranchers. A number of 1866 Winchesters were among those many repeating rifles used by Crazy Horse’s warriors to defeat Custer’s troops at the ill-fated, June 1876 battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

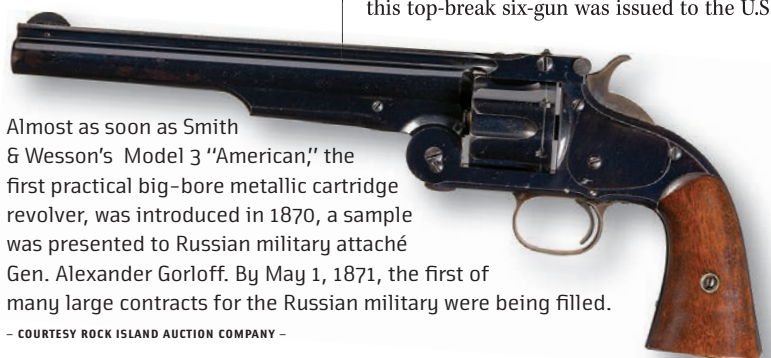
S&W Model 3 “American” Revolver

Introduced in 1870, the .44 centerfire Smith & Wesson Model 3, First Model “American” stands as the first practical large bore, U.S.-made metallic cartridge

Highly popular in the West, the S&W is a top-break six-gun that was issued to the U.S. Cavalry, and was also carried by William F. Cody, Army scout “Texas Jack” Omohundro, El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire and several other noted frontiersmen. This 1870s image depicts a serious-looking fellow, who is keeping one hand on his Model 3 “American” while cradling another famous Old West firearm—the 1873 Winchester.

— PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION —

revolver. This six-shooter laid the groundwork for future successful S&Ws, namely the .44 Russian, .45 Schofield and the New Model No. 3 Single Action. Highly popular in the West, this top-break six-gun was issued to the U.S.



Almost as soon as Smith & Wesson’s Model 3 “American,” the first practical big-bore metallic cartridge revolver, was introduced in 1870, a sample was presented to Russian military attaché Gen. Alexander Gorloff. By May 1, 1871, the first of many large contracts for the Russian military were being filled.

— COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY —

This Sioux warrior proudly shows off his 1866 “Yellowboy” Winchester, while posing for this 1870 photo with an Anglo partner. Despite the great advances in firearms technology in the late 19th century, the '66 Winchester held its popularity, and continued to be manufactured until 1898.

— GLENN SWANSON COLLECTION —

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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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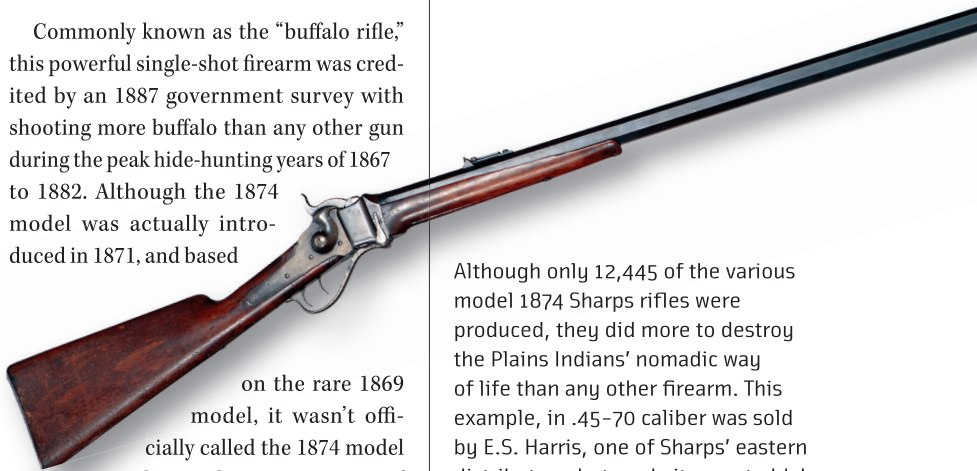
Cavalry, and was also favored by William F. Cody, Army scout "Texas Jack" Omohundro, El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire and Gen. William Palmer, builder of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, and was part of the armament of the famed Wheeler U.S. Geological Survey of the southwestern United States (1871-73). The "Russian" variation of the Model 3 was carried by the notorious John Wesley Hardin, James Younger gang member Charlie Pitts, New Mexico sheriff Pat Garrett and gunman King Fisher, to name a few of the S&W's admirers.

1874 Sharps Rifle

Commonly known as the "buffalo rifle," this powerful single-shot firearm was credited by an 1887 government survey with shooting more buffalo than any other gun during the peak hide-hunting years of 1867 to 1882. Although the 1874 model was actually introduced in 1871, and based

on the rare 1869 model, it wasn't officially called the 1874 model until around 1876. Just 12,445 of the various model '74s were made—including the popular target rifles—they did more to destroy the Plains Indians' nomadic

way of life than any other firearm. The '74 model was made to fire an assortment of .40, .45 and .50 caliber loadings and different barrel lengths and weights, with some guns weighing as much as 25 pounds. It was a borrowed 1874 Sharps "Big Fifty" (.50-90) that buffalo hunter Billy Dixon fired at the 1874 Battle at Adobe Walls, in the Panhandle of Texas, when he toppled an Indian off his horse, seriously wounding him, from a recorded distance of 1,538 yards. To the Indian warrior, the 1874 Sharps rifle was known as the "shoots far" or "shoot today, kill tomorrow" gun.



Although only 12,445 of the various model 1874 Sharps rifles were produced, they did more to destroy the Plains Indians' nomadic way of life than any other firearm. This example, in .45-70 caliber was sold by E.S. Harris, one of Sharps' eastern distributors, but made its way to Idaho. The Sharps played a big part in settling the post-Civil War frontier.

- PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION, PHOTO BY JOE POYER -

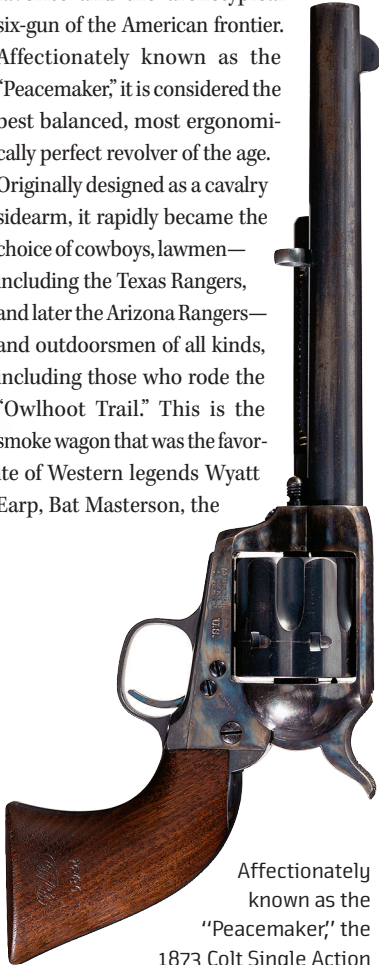


Most of the buffalo harvested during the hide-hunting years of 1867-82, were downed with the 1874 Sharps, which ironically was actually introduced in 1871. This 1880s L.A. Huffman photo shows a Montana buffalo hunter cutting out the tongue, which was considered a delicacy. Many hunters sold range-smoked meat to local markets, as well as hides, to the leather dealers.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Colt 1873 Single Action Army

Undoubtedly one of the most recognized handguns in the world, Colt's 1873 Single Action Army revolver was the hands-down favorite and the archetypical six-gun of the American frontier. Affectionately known as the "Peacemaker," it is considered the best balanced, most ergonomically perfect revolver of the age. Originally designed as a cavalry sidearm, it rapidly became the choice of cowboys, lawmen—including the Texas Rangers, and later the Arizona Rangers—and outdoorsmen of all kinds, including those who rode the "Owlhoot Trail." This is the smoke wagon that was the favorite of Western legends Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, the



Affectionately known as the "Peacemaker," the 1873 Colt Single Action

Army revolver is considered the best balanced, ergonomically perfect revolver of the age. It has become the archetypical six-gun of the Old West, and in its heyday the model outsold all competitors with 192,000 made by the end of the 19th century. Shown is a circa 1880 U.S. Cavalry issue revolver.

- COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY -

Daltons, John Selman, lawman Elfego Baca, Judge Roy Bean and countless others. Known by a number of colorful nicknames like the "equalizer," "hogleg," "Judge Colt and his Jury of Six" and others, it was produced in many powerful chamberings, most notably .45 Colt, .44-40, and .38-40. Colt's 1873 model outsold all competitors with 192,000 made by the end of the 19th century. Colt's Single Action Army is indeed the premier six-gun of the Old West.

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1873 Winchester Rifle

It could easily be debated that the 1873 lever-action Winchester rifle is the most famous rifle of the Old West. The '73 was Winchester's first



Colt's 1873 Single Action Army revolver (in .45 Colt) was originally designed for the U.S. Cavalry, and mounted soldiers relied on it up through the early 1890s. It packed a deadly wallop and saw service all over the West. This circa 1890 trooper (above) is on duty with his .45-70 Springfield carbine, '73 Colt, and his trusty equine companion.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

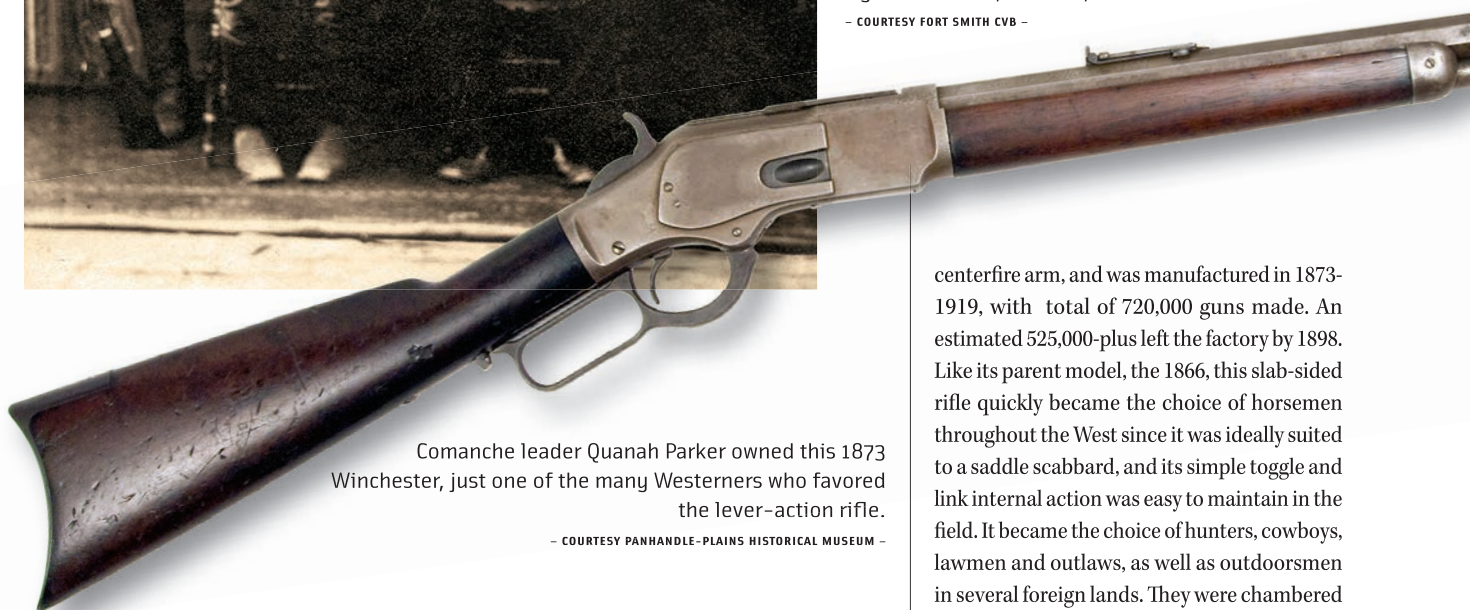
Like their Texas Ranger counterparts, the deputy U.S. marshals of Fort Smith favored the '73 Winchester for its versatility in caliber, ease of carrying in a saddle scabbard and low-maintenance in the field. Deputy marshals involved in the fight with Ned Christie on November 1, 1892, posed for photographs with their Winchester 1873 rifles shortly after they killed the notorious Indian Territory outlaw. Front row, left to right: Charles Copeland, Gideon S. "Cap" White. Back row, left to right: Bill Smith, Bill Ellis, Paden Tolbert.

- COURTESY FORT SMITH CVB -



Comanche leader Quanah Parker owned this 1873 Winchester, just one of the many Westerners who favored the lever-action rifle.

- COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM -



centerfire arm, and was manufactured in 1873-1919, with total of 720,000 guns made. An estimated 525,000-plus left the factory by 1898. Like its parent model, the 1866, this slab-sided rifle quickly became the choice of horsemen throughout the West since it was ideally suited to a saddle scabbard, and its simple toggle and link internal action was easy to maintain in the field. It became the choice of hunters, cowboys, lawmen and outlaws, as well as outdoorsmen in several foreign lands. They were chambered

for rounds .44-40, .38-40, and the .32-30, within a few years of the '73's introduction, a number of gun companies, like Colt, Remington and Smith & Wesson, started turning out revolvers chambered in Winchester calibers. This created the very practical and favored habit on the frontier of mating one's rifle and revolver. This iron-framed lever gun was the premier choice of the post-1874 Texas Rangers, and was also used by Old West notables William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Montana rancher Granville Stuart, Pat Garrett, and outlaws Butch Cassidy, Belle Starr and Billy the Kid.

Double-Barreled Shotgun

Although this may come as a surprise to some gun aficionados, the double-barreled shotgun—in caplock or metallic cartridge—was one of the most important and oft-used firearms on the frontier. Many pioneers invested everything they had in order to make the overland trek out West, leaving little money for

weaponry. The single most versatile—and economical—gun for hunting and defense in a wild, often hostile, environment was—and still is—the double-barreled shotgun. Muzzleloader and breechloader scatterguns from domestic and foreign makers, were a mainstay of settlers, lawmen, express companies, American Indians, soldiers, gunfighters, miners, ranchers and hunters—everyone who needed a weapon realized the value of the old side by side. It was known as the crowd tamer because just the appearance of a shotgun could persuade any mob against carrying out violent acts. And, when hunting in hostile territory, one barrel, loaded with shot for game, and a second charged with a slug for defense, was often the preferred

method. Yes, the old reliable double-barreled shotgun was the true workhorse of the Old West.

There they are, my top 12. Some readers may disagree with my final choices, but I feel everyone can agree that these guns at least qualify for consideration, and each played a significant part in taming America's Wild West. ✪

Muzzleloader or breechloader, domestic or import, the most important and oft-used firearms on the frontier were the double-barreled shotgun. The side by side scattergun was the most versatile and economical gun for hunting and defense in a wild, often hostile, environment. The 1878 Colt, shown here (above), is considered among the finest shotguns ever made in the U.S.

— COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY —

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.



This San Francisco gentleman is all decked out for a day of shotgunning fun with his sidehammer, double-barreled smoothbore. Shotguns not only served for sport, but for many emigrants, a scattergun may have been their only form of sustenance, and/or defense on the frontier.

— COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION —

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

THE CURIOUS SAGA OF THE OUTLAW BURT ALVORD

**THE ARIZONA DEPUTY
SHERIFF LIVED A
DOUBLE LIFE AS A
HIGHWAYMAN, GANG
LEADER AND TRAIN
ROBBER.**



Burt Alvord wasn't exactly a household name among Arizona's notorious outlaws. They also said he wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer. It was claimed his IQ was a little bit less than his waist size. His major interests were poker, pool, guns and practical jokes. On the other hand, he worked for a time in the late 1880s as a deputy sheriff for Cochise County Sheriff John Slaughter, who declared him fearless. Cochise County was blessed with a profusion of colorful characters, so Burt fit right in with the rest.

Boxing and wrestling were two of the most popular sports in the mining camps, and there was always a lot of money in the purse for the winner.

One time Burt and a diminutive Irishman and fellow practical joker named Bidley Doyle hatched a wrestling match scheme pitting Bidley against a muscular, not-too-bright Cornish miner in Bisbee. The match took place in a mule manure pile in front of the Copper Queen Mine. The folks in Bisbee bet heavily on the "Cousin Jack," but unbeknownst to them, Burt had bribed him to take a fall. Then he bet heavily on the little Irishman. The big guy took the fall in the first round when Bidley threw him to the ground and pushed his face into the



For most of a decade, Burt Alvord was considered an upstanding lawman in Cochise County, but after he led his gang's 1899 holdup of a Southern Pacific train, he became known as one of the Territory's most notorious outlaws.

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

manure. Before the crowd had time to react, Burt grabbed the purse, and he and Bidley hightailed it for Tombstone. It goes without saying that for quite some time Burt and Bidley were personae non gratae around Bisbee.

The Constable Outlaw

In 1897, Burt took a job as constable in the town of Willcox, Arizona Territory, during which time he planned and staged one of the most bizarre train robberies in Western history. Burt's plan was to use his job as a lawman to screen his moonlighting as leader of a gang of train robbers. The plan included his drinking cronies, Billy Stiles, Matt Burts and Bill Downing. They would rob the westbound Southern Pacific Railroad between Willcox and Cochise Station. There was a long incline between the two that caused the trains to slow to a crawl. It was a perfect place for one of the bandits to hop aboard the engine, force the engineer to stop, uncouple the passenger cars from the engine and express car, then proceed down the tracks a mile or so to where the others were waiting.

Burt's alibi was cleverly planned. The four would, ostensibly, be playing poker at the time the robbery occurred.

Former Cochise County Deputy Sheriff Burt Alvord and his former lawman-outlaw accomplice Billy Stiles escaped from the Tombstone jail on December 17, 1903, and made newspaper headlines across Arizona Territory.

- PHOTO OF TOMBSTONE, 1909, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

Tombstone, A.T., 1909



On the evening of September 9, 1899, the boys were sitting in the back room engaged in a poker game at Schwertner's Saloon in Willcox (today's Rex Allen Museum). Burt had bribed a porter to carry a round of drinks into the room every few minutes and emerge moments later with a tray of empty glasses and casually assure the patrons that Burt and his pals were having a serious game of poker behind those closed doors and didn't want to be disturbed.

When the train pulled into Willcox, the four laid down their cards and exited a side window, mounted their horses and vanished into the night.

The robbery went smoothly, and afterwards, Alvord stashed the loot. Anybody spending money freely around town would be suspect, and Burt wasn't taking any chances. He'd wait until things cooled down before divvying up the loot. The boys re-entered the back room of the saloon through the side window.

Meanwhile, the engineer backed the train into Willcox and gave the alarm. Someone suggested they alert the town marshal, who was playing poker across the street at Schwertner's Saloon.

Burt was noticeably shocked when told of the robbery. "Great Scott," he shouted, pointing a finger at his three fellow train robbers, "I need

volunteers for a posse, you, you and you."

The next morning they arrived back in town wearing weary faces and claiming they'd lost the trail. There were a few raised eyebrows and rumors floating around town. Some of those rumors pointed to the constable as the ringleader. Burt tried to defuse the gossip by claiming everyone knew he was too dumb to pull off such a clever caper.

Alvord was feeling pretty good about himself. For now, it looked like he'd planned and executed the perfect crime. In all the annals of train robberies in the Old West, it was the only time the robbers and the posse that pursued them were one and the same.

Lawman and future Arizona Ranger Bert Grover suspected Alvord was behind the scheme, so he managed to coerce a confession out of the porter, who then skipped town. Without the porter, Grover would be hard-pressed to build a case. It looked like Burt had planned and executed a perfect train robbery, and so he proceeded to plan another one.

Jeff Milton vs. The Burt Alvord Gang

The railroad linking Benson to Nogales arrived in 1881 in what became the town of



In the 1870s, Jeff Milton served in the Texas Rangers, but by February 15, 1900, Milton was a well-armed Wells Fargo express agent on the ill-fated Southern Pacific train that Burt Alvord's gang tried to rob. Milton's gunfight with Alvord's gang members, Three-finger Jack Dunlop, Bravo Juan Yoas, Bob Brown, and the Owens brothers, George and Louis, is legendary.



Bill Downing was among the Cochise County cowboys who Willcox Constable Burt Alvord simultaneously deputized and recruited into his gang in 1899.

Fairbank on the San Pedro River. It was the closest rail link to the boomtown of Tombstone, at the time one of the largest cities in the West.

On February 15, 1900, the train station was the scene of a sensational attempted train robbery. In the annals of the Old West, it might have been the only time a train robbery was attempted in a station, in broad daylight and in front of live witnesses.

Seriously wounded, he fell back inside the car and dropped behind a trunk. His gunfighter instincts took over, and he grabbed a Wells Fargo short-barrel ten-gauge shotgun, tossed the keys to the strong-box into a dark corner of the express car and waited for the bandits to charge.

Thinking Milton was dead, the bandits rushed toward the open door. As they drew near, he arose from behind the trunk and

Jack was much annoyed at being left behind by his cronies and was only too willing to give lawmen enough information to arrest all the gang members, including the gang leader who doubled as Willcox constable, Burt Alvord.

The gang was rounded up, brought to Tombstone and locked up in the courthouse jail. Billy Stiles decided to turn rat and testified against his friends. He was released, and on April 7, he brazenly walked into the Tombstone jail, stuck his gun in the jailer's ribs and forced him to release Alvord, who then took the jailer's keys and opened the rest of the cells. Some of the prisoners fled, however others chose to take their chances with a jury. The escapees grabbed guns and rifles and headed out the door. When the jailer made one last attempt to stop them, Billy shot him in the leg.

Burt looked at the incident as just another escapade. A few days later, the sheriff received an envelope with the jail keys inside and a note from Burt that said, "Tell the boys we're all eating well."



Willcox Constable Burt Alvord and his gang staged a back-room poker game in Schwertner's Saloon in Willcox (similar to this Willcox bar) as a cover for their robbery of a Southern Pacific train just outside of town on September 9, 1899.

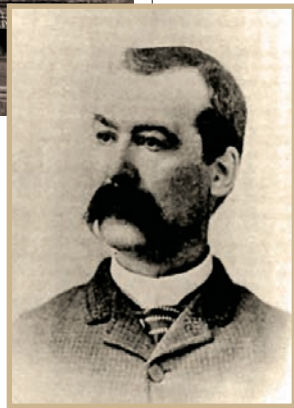
Five outlaws, including Three-Finger Jack Dunlap and Bravo Juan Yoas, were all members of the Alvord gang. Before the arrival of the train, the boys were loitering around the station pretending to be drunken cowboys. What the boys didn't know was the Wells Fargo messenger on that run from Nogales just happened to be the famous ex-Texas Ranger and Texas lawman, Jeff Milton. Not expecting any danger as the train approached the station, Milton was standing in the open doorway.

Suddenly, the desperados jerked their pistols and opened fire on Milton. A bullet ripped into his left shoulder, severing an artery.

opened up with both barrels. Three-Finger Jack was in the lead, and he caught a load of buckshot in the belly. Bravo Juan had just enough time to turn around. He caught a load in the seat of his pants. It was not a good place to be shot when one was going to make his getaway on horseback.

The outlaws quickly decided to clear out and rode away empty-handed. Three-Finger Jack was mortally wounded and was slowing their escape, so a few miles from Fairbank, his pals decided to leave him to die along the trail.

Meanwhile, back in Fairbank, a posse was organized, and trackers easily picked up the trail leading to where Jack lay dying.



When Arizona Ranger Capt. Burton C. Mossman went undercover in Sonora in his pursuit of Mexican bandit Augustine Chacon, he used outlaw-lawmen Burt Alvord and Billy Stiles to help him get close to Chacon and capture him.

Mossman's Outlaw Posse vs. Chacon

Stiles and Alvord headed for Mexico. Two years later, Arizona Ranger Capt. Burt Mossman heard the two desperadoes wanted to come home. In January 1902, he got word to them that if they would help him capture Augustine Chacon, they could share the reward money, and he'd testify in court to their good character. He even went so far as to put Billy Stiles on the payroll as a ranger. Alvord's wife was threatening to divorce him if he didn't come home soon, something that gave Captain Mossman some added leverage.

Chacon was a resident of Sonora but did most of his mischief in Arizona, leading his gang on far-flung forays of pillage and plunder.



Mexican outlaw Augustine Chacon, who had escaped from the Solomonville jail and fled back to Mexico, was finally captured when Arizona Ranger Capt. Burt Mossman went undercover in Sonora with the aid of Burt Alvord and his sidekick, Billy Stiles.

Each time they'd hightail it back to Sonora, where he lived in a well-defended fortress-like ranch. To his admirers Chacon was more of a Robin Hood than a border bandit.

Old-timers claimed Chacon had 30 notches carved on the butt of his smoke wagon.

His undoing came in 1896 when he killed a deputy sheriff named Pablo Salcido in cold blood at Morenci. Lawmen caught up with him before he reached the border, and he was

brought to Solomonville to stand trial for murder. A jury convicted Chacon, and he was sentenced to hang. It looked like the end of the line for one of the Southwest's most notorious outlaws.

But Chacon had an ace up his sleeve. He spent the weeks before his execution plotting an escape.

He was quite a handsome man and a favorite of the young señoritas. He seemed to have one in every village on both sides of the border. He was tall and lean, with a thick shock of hair. Women were always eager to please him. He had other admirers too. The poor Mexicans living in the nearby mining camps saw the handsome outlaw as a frontier Robin Hood. They called him *El Peludo*—the Hairy One. And they were eager to help him escape.

A pretty young señorita inserted a hacksaw blade in the spine of a family Bible and smuggled it into Chacon's cell. Among his cellmates were members of a mariachi band, consisting of a squeaky violin, guitar and concertina.

Each night while Chacon sawed on the bars, the band let forth with some loud, lusty corridos to drown out the noise.

On the night he was to make his break, Chacon's pretty companion showed up at the jail, batted her long eyelashes and with a sweet smile that promised much, lured the night jailer out for a midnight stroll. With the jailer thus preoccupied, Chacon escaped into the night.

Augustine Chacon continued his wild and woolly ways, but the Arizona Rangers were hot on his trail.

In April 1902, Capt. Burt Mossman rode into Mexico posing as a fugitive. He learned Alvord was holed up west of the village of San Jose de Pima. Two days later, he rode into the lair of the lawman-turned-outlaw. The hilltop adobe house was a veritable fortress with loopholes, battle shutters on the doors and windows and a commanding view of the surrounding terrain. Inside one of the rooms, horses were saddled and ready to ride out at a moment's notice.

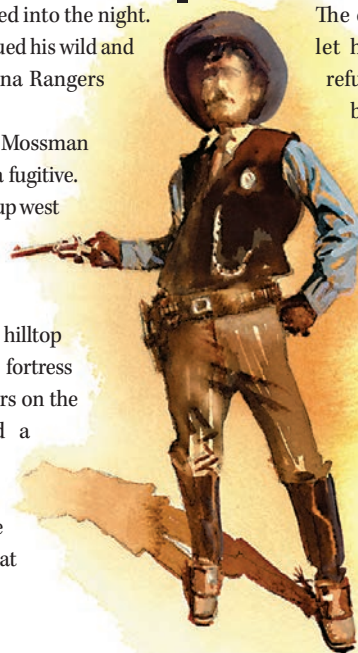
Alvord spent some time thinking about Mossman's offer. He missed his wife and wanted to go home, but he was either afraid or didn't want to betray Chacon. Finally, he agreed to cooperate and set up Chacon so the ranger could make the capture. Mossman then rode north to await word from Alvord on where he could meet Chacon. Billy Stiles would be the messenger.

Several months later, in late August, Stiles brought word that he, Mossman and Alvord would meet Chacon at a spring 16 miles south of the border on the first day of September. To entice Chacon out in the open, they offered to cut him in on a plan to steal some prize horses from a ranch in the San Rafael Valley of southern Arizona.

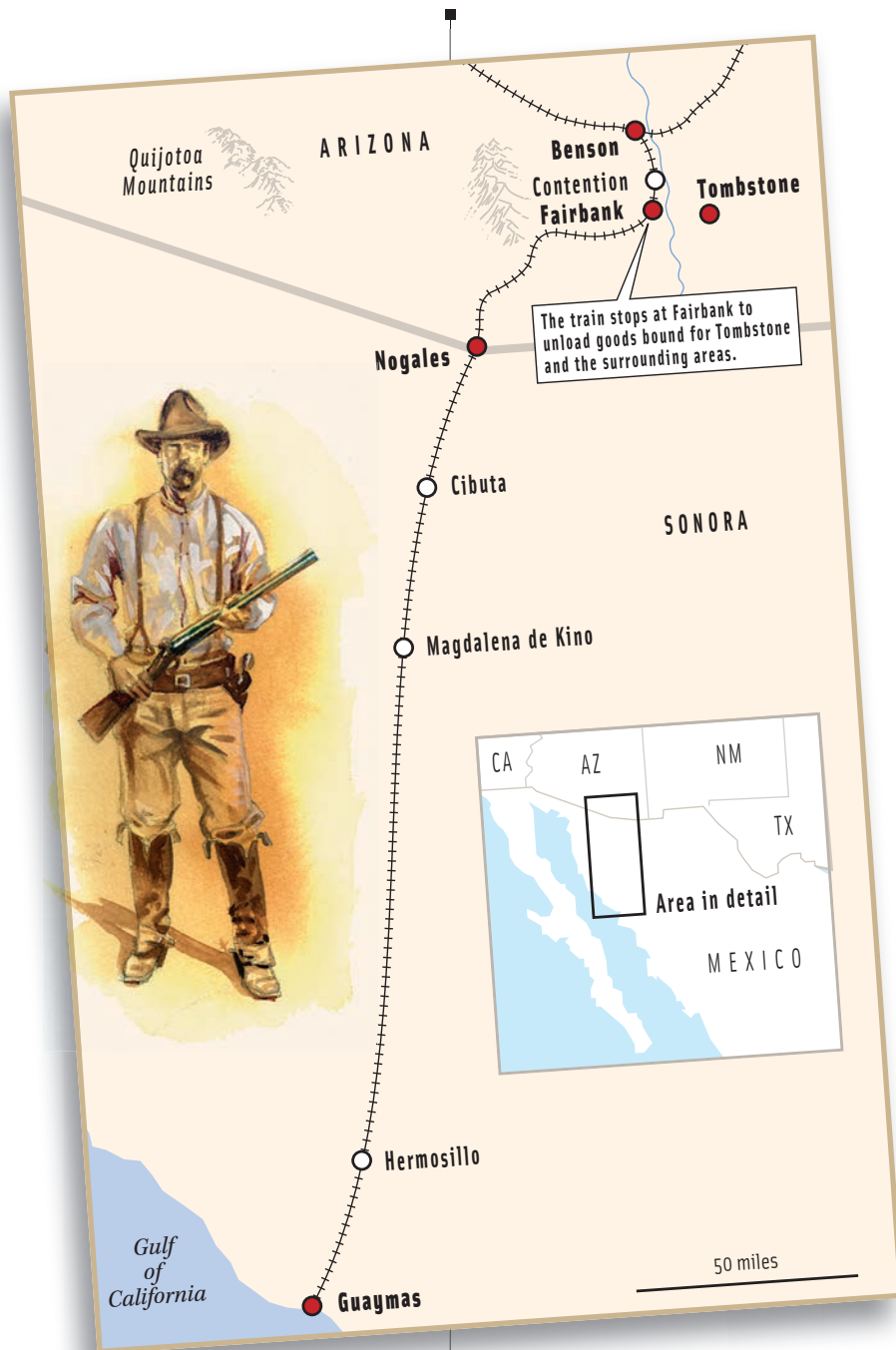
On September 1, Mossman and Stiles rode to the spring, but Alvord and Chacon failed to show. That evening they rode back across the border to spend the night and then returned the next day. Around sunset the following day, they met the two outlaws on the trail. Both were heavily armed. Along with his rifle and pistol, Chacon was packing a large knife. Despite assurances by Mossman, claiming that he too was a fugitive, the cagey bandit was suspicious. His hand was never far from the butt of his pistol.

That night they made camp and Mossman nervously waited out the sleepless hours, his coat pulled up, concealing his face. Beneath the coat, his pistol was trained on Chacon.

The ever-vigilant Chacon never let his guard down either. He refused to let any of the men get behind him. To make matters worse, Mossman wasn't sure he could trust either Alvord or Stiles not to betray him.



Born in Casa Grande, Arizona Territory, Billy Stiles was a cowboy, prospector and lawman before becoming a border outlaw who rode with Burt Alvord.



At daybreak, the men got up and started a fire. While Chacon was fixing breakfast, Burt slipped next to Mossman and quietly said he'd done his part and was heading out. He also warned the ranger not to trust Billy Stiles. Then he told Chacon he was going for water and would return shortly. While the three men were eating, Chacon's eyes narrowed, and he became suspicious, wondering what was taking Alvord so long to return.

After breakfast, Chacon reached in his pocket and took out some corn husk cigarettes and offered them to Stiles and Mossman. As they hunkered down around the fire having

a smoke, Mossman saw his chance. He let his cigarette go out, then reached into the fire with his right hand, picked up a burning stick and re-lit his cigarette. As he reached out and tossed the stick back into the fire, Mossman's hand slid past his holster. Quick as a flash, the ranger pulled his revolver and got the drop on the surprised bandit. He ordered Chacon to put his hands up. The outlaw cursed but did as he was told. Next, the ranger told Stiles to remove Chacon's knife and gun belt. And, to Billy's surprise, told him to drop his gun belt also. He then ordered both men to step back while he gathered up the rifles



The Yuma Territorial Prison, infamous for its terrible living conditions, was also notorious for prisoner escapes (26 in its 33-year history), but Burt Alvord, well-known for escaping twice from the Tombstone jail, remained a model prisoner in Yuma before his early release on September 20, 1905.

and pistols. After ordering Stiles to handcuff Chacon, the trio mounted up and rode for the border.

Mossman decided to avoid Naco, fearing Chacon might have friends there. Instead, he headed across the San Pedro Valley about 10 miles west. Stiles rode in front, leading Chacon's horse, while Mossman covered them both from the rear with his Winchester 30-40. As they neared the border, Chacon began to balk, so Mossman unstrapped his riata and dropped a loop around his neck, warning that he would drag him across the border if necessary. The outlaw cursed again but caused no more trouble.

They arrived at Packard Station on the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad line just as the train to Benson was passing through. Mossman's Scots-Irish luck was holding. He flagged it down and they made the final 50 miles to Benson riding the steel rails. At Benson, they were met by Graham County Sheriff Jim Parks, who was most eager to take Chacon back to the jail at Solomonville, which



DESPERADO ALVORD DEAD
Lived Honestly During Latter Years.
 Burt Alvord, the notorious Southwestern outlaw, who, for several years, terrorized the towns and ranches along the Arizona and Mexico border, and disappeared after a sensational break from the Tombstone Jail in 1903, died of fever three months ago at Barbadoes in the West Indies.
 Information regarding the former desperado's death came in a letter addressed to Homer Dubois, of Los Angeles. He had known Alvord in Arizona and subsequently in Brazil, where the former outlaw was for a time engaged in railroad building. The letter, which is dated Christobel Canal Zone, June 28th, reads as follows:
 "Burt Alvord died in Barbadoes, positively, and the American Consul at Bridgetown, the capital, has \$800 or \$900 in gold that Burt had. His sister could get this if she could prove her claim. She is supposed to live in Los Angeles. Bravo Juan, a former companion of Alvord, died recently up the Amazon."

he'd escaped from in 1897, and to his long-awaited rendezvous with the hangman.

Word spread quickly of Mossman's daring capture of the outlaw Chacon and caused a lot of excitement around the territory. A few eyebrows were raised when it was pointed out that his ranger commission had expired four days before he captured Chacon, and that he'd arrested the bandit on foreign soil. The Mexican government expressed outrage at the flagrant violation of their sovereign soil. Mossman stayed around Arizona just long enough to keep his promise to Billy Stiles. After testifying for Billy, he boarded a train and headed for New York City for an extended visit until the furor subsided.

Alvord's Final Years

On September 10, 1902, Alvord surrendered in Tombstone after helping Mossman capture Chacon.

On December 8, 1903, Burt was sentenced to two years at Yuma Territorial Prison, but Burt and Billy were up to their old tricks, and on December 17, the two escaped the Tombstone jail and headed for Mexico. On February 6, 1904, they robbed a \$7,000 gold bar on the Magdalena Road. Two weeks later, the Arizona Rangers crossed the border and ran them to the ground near Naco. Stiles managed to get away, but Burt was slightly wounded and

After Burt Alvord escaped from the Tombstone jail on December 17, 1903, he and Billy Stiles went on one last crime spree. Stiles escaped the Arizona Ranger posse, but Alvord was wounded, captured and returned to Yuma Prison, where he served out his term until October 9, 1905.

captured. He was taken to the Tombstone jail, then to the Yuma Territorial Prison.

Strangely, despite his escape and robbery in Mexico, Alvord's term was counted from the time of sentencing. He was released from prison early, on October 9, 1905, two weeks before scheduled, and there must have been a reason. On September 20, 1905, a warrant was placed with the U.S. Marshal of Arizona on Burt for robbery in Mexico. Mexico wanted him extradited, but Burt had "flown the coop."

He went to his sister, Mary Shoults in Los Angeles, changed his name to Tom Wright and borrowed money to go to Panama, where he worked on the canal in late 1905. For years Burt disappeared from the pages of history. Recently, we learned the rest of the story. Burt helped build a railroad line along the Amazon River in Brazil. There, he contracted yellow fever and was sent along with other ailing workers to the island of Barbados in the Caribbean's West Indies, where he died November 24, 1909.

Burt Alvord, who at one point was on a career path to fame as an Arizona Territorial lawman, died alone of yellow fever under an assumed name in Barbados a decade after earning notoriety as a train robber who carried a constable's badge.

— JULY 29, 1910 "GRAHAM GUARDIAN" (SAFFORD, A.T.) NEWS CLIPPING COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.COM —



Marshall Trimble, the official Arizona state historian since 1997, has been writing his *True West* "Ask the Marshall" column since 2000. He is also the author of more than 20 books on Arizona and the West, including *Arizona Outlaws and Lawmen: Gunslingers, Bandits, Heroes and Peacekeepers*.

Author's Note:

For further reading: *The Odyssey of Burt Alvord: Lawman, Train Robber, Fugitive* by Don Chaput (Westernlore Press), *When Outlaws Wore Badges* by Melody Groves (TwoDot), *The Arizona Rangers* by Bill O'Neal (Eakin) and *Arizona Outlaws and Lawmen* by Marshall Trimble (History Press)

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

RED-BADGE OF COURAGE

The young men of a divided nation answered the call of war 160 years ago, and their youthful visages before going to battle still haunt us today.

At 4:30 a.m., on April 12, 1861, Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard ordered his batteries at Fort Johnson to begin their bombardment of the Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Thirty-four hours later, at 2:30 p.m., on April 13, the fort's commander, Maj. Robert Anderson, officially surrendered Fort Sumter to Beauregard and the Confederacy. America's greatest conflict to date had begun. No sooner had the smoke cleared on the shot heard round the world from Fort Sumter than the call to arms rang across the divided Republic, and young men—North and South—answered its deadly ring.

At the time the War Between the States began, the divided nation's two armies enlisted numbers were similar, about 200,000 each. By the time Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered, five Aprils later, 2.1 million soldiers and sailors had worn the Union blue and 880,000 had donned the Confederate gray. Half a million of the soldiers who fought in the war were foreign-born, including over 200,000 German and 150,000 Irish-born men. In 1860, four million Black Americans were still enslaved, but by the end of the conflict, 180,000 African American soldiers served in 166 Union Army regiments. The majority who fought on both sides were volunteers.

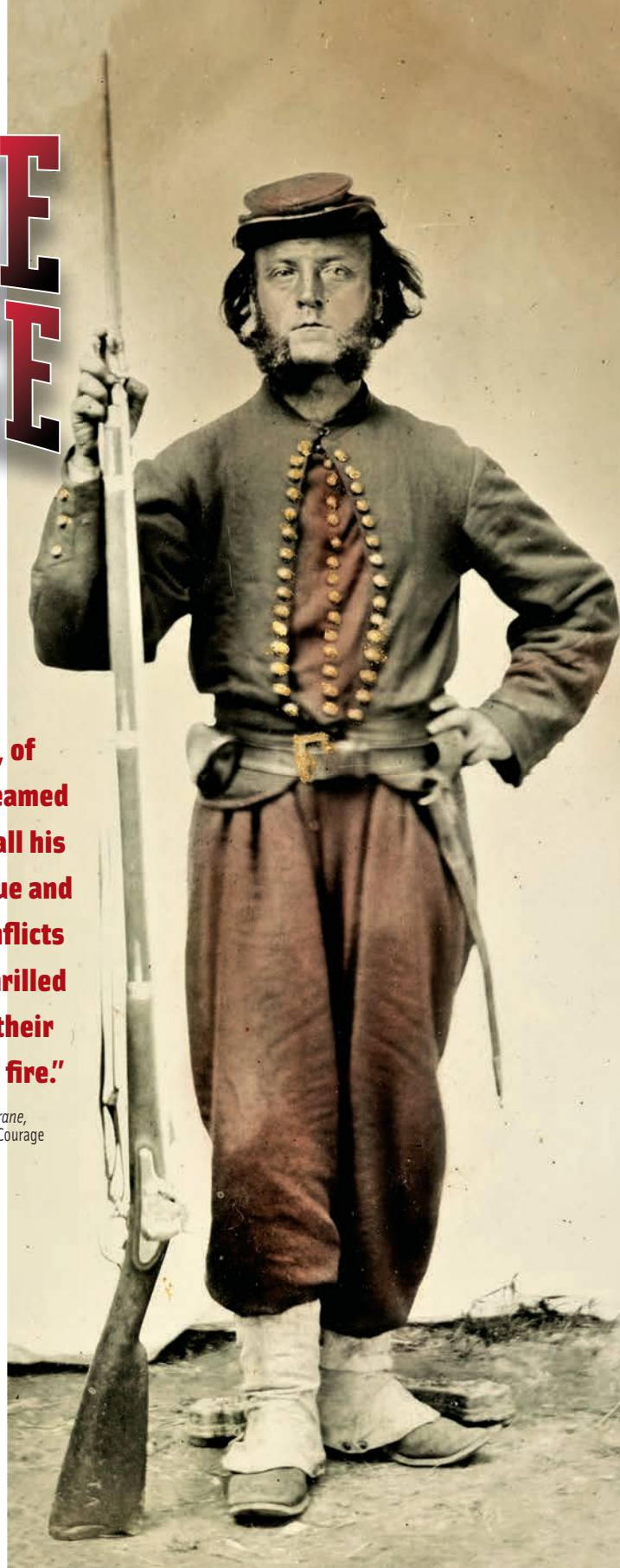
The average age of a Yankee soldier was almost 26, while statistics do not exist for the Southern rebels. Recent statistics have raised the casualty total from the long-accepted 620,000 killed to 850,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who perished in the war. Two out of three who died in service of the North or South expired from disease rather than battle.

Today, 160 years later, most of the names of the men and their loved ones in the photographs may have been forgotten, but their personal sacrifice, Blue or Gray, North or South, white or black, has not. We honor their courage, one and all. Yet, in honoring them, we remember Stephen Crane's reflective words from *The Red Badge of Courage*:

"So it came to pass that as he trudged from the place of blood and wrath his soul changed. He came from hot plowshares to prospects of clover tranquility, and it was as if hot plowshares were not. Scars faded as flowers."

"He had, of course, dreamed of battles all his life—of vague and bloody conflicts that had thrilled him with their sweep and fire."

—Stephen Crane,
The Red Badge of Courage

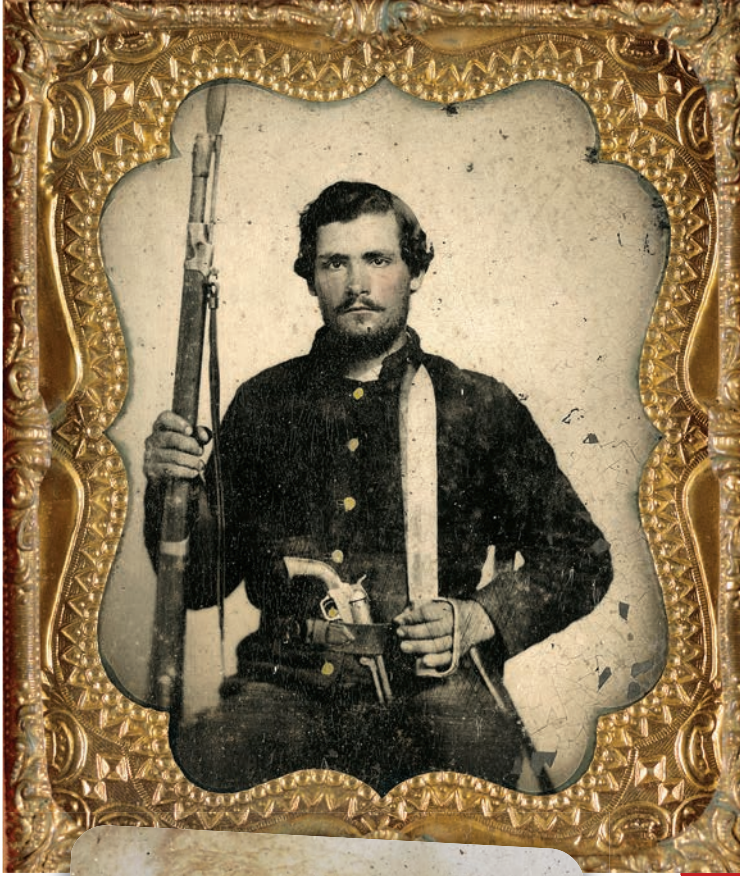


Possibly identified in 2012 as Alonzo F. Thompson of Company C, 84th New York Infantry Regiment, (earlier known as 14th Regiment New York State Militia). The young soldier is wearing a Union zouave uniform with bayoneted 1855 rifle musket with initials A.T. on stock.

—COURTESY LIJENQUIST FAMILY COLLECTION OF CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHS, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/SOURCE: MARTINEZ, RAMONA. "PHOTO MYSTERY SOLVED, THEN DOUBTED, THEN DECIPHERED, THANKS TO READERS"; [HTTP://WWW.NPR.ORG/BLOGS/PICTURESHOW/2012/04/17/150801239/](http://www.npr.org/blogs/pictureshow/2012/04/17/150801239/) —

A Confederate soldier with musket, Horstman & Sons sword bayonet, pistol, and Bowie knife

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A 10th Kentucky Union cavalryman with stocked Colt pistol, Remington revolver, and cavalry saber



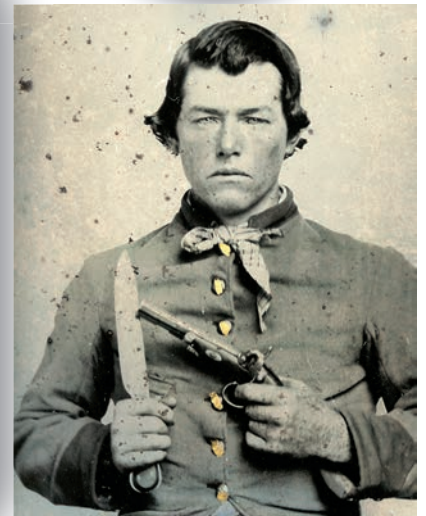
Private William Anthony Holland of Co. K, 10th Virginia Cavalry Regiment with Bowie knife and Colt Army Model 1860 revolver



A Union soldier holding his Company F forage cap with Colt pistol and cavalry sword



An unidentified Union or Confederate soldier wearing a Company K field cap with musket



A Virginia 57th Regiment C.S.A. soldier with Bowie knife and single-shot pistol



The United States Colored Troops were created in 1863. After volunteering, a Black soldier posed with his weapons in front of a painted backdrop at Benton Barracks, Saint Louis, Missouri.



A Union soldier with Colt revolver and slouch hat on his knees



A Union soldier sports a bib-front battle shirt with fez, a Model 1855 rifle musket and a pepperbox revolver.



A Union cavalryman with saber, Burnside carbine, Colt revolver and Hardee hat



Some soldiers, such as this Union soldier, posed with their wives before being deployed.

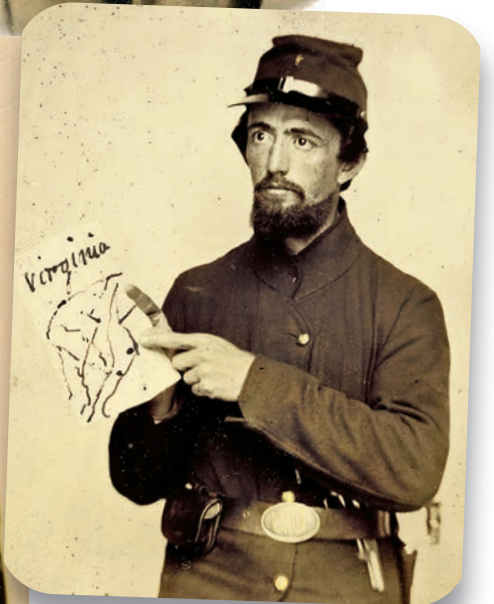
North and South, the armies had marching bands and this Union enlisted man had his portrait made with his over-the-shoulder saxhorn.



An unusually tall Confederate soldier stood with his musket and pistol in what appears to be a homemade uniform.



In a rare photo, a Maryland freedman U.S.C.T. soldier sat with his wife and daughters before being deployed, circa 1863-65.



With his pistol tucked in his belt, a Union soldier poignantly points to a map of his Army's strategic target, the Confederate state of Virginia.



A youthful Union soldier with a bayoneted musket

Nearly 30,000 American Indians served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.



A rare wartime photograph of a Confederate enlisted man, Pvt. C.R. Bataile, who served with Col. John S. "Rip" Ford's Texas cavalry command and fought at Palmito Ranch, circa 1862-63

- COURTESY DEGOLYER LIBRARY, SMU -



An Ohio Volunteer cavalryman with his well-decorated Hardee hat with insignia



Escaped Alabama slaves, brothers Baldy (left) and George Guy joined the Union's 1st Alabama Infantry of African Descent at Corinth, Mississippi, in 1863.



Approximately 40,000 boys and men served as drummers in the Civil War. The youngest drummer boy was nine years old.



A Black Union soldier with pistol and knife, 1862-65



A Union soldier sat for his portrait with his faithful companion, who might also have been a regimental mascot.

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE MAN WITH NO NOSE

DOC HOLLIDAY VS MIKE GORDON

HOODOO BROWN'S COURT
INVENTS "EXCUSABLE
HOMICIDE"

GAMBLER DRAWS A "PAIR OF
SIXES" AND IS "FROZE OUT."



Doc Holliday was serious about his Las Vegas business ventures. He was building an annex to his saloon, which some believe was for a dental office. A shootout with a drunk would derail everything.

- ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL -

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Map by Tom Jonas

Based on the research of Gary L. Roberts

JULY 19, 1879

Mike Gordon has been on a multi-day binge-drunk when he comes into the Holliday Saloon on Centre Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory, and demands that his "mistress" accompany him to another saloon on Railroad Street. She refuses because she is working, so he makes threats and leaves, allegedly swearing he will "kill someone, or be killed himself before morning."

He gets his wish.

The Las Vegas Gazette picks up the story: "Gordon was standing in the street to the right of the hall after some of his threats and drew a revolver and fired, the bullet passing the pants of a Mexican and struck in the floor in line with the bartender who was standing at the rear of the bar. Other shots were fired immediately but it is difficult to tell how or by whom.

"It is said that Gordon fired a second shot. Every person there says three shots were fired, while several maintain that five in all were fired."

According to Bat Masterson, who later told the story to a reporter in 1886, Gordon fired a shot from the sidewalk that "whizzed a couple of inches from

Doc's head and went crashing through a window at the rear of the room. Doc drew his gun and rushed to the front door and saw Gordon standing on the sidewalk with a revolver in his hand. Gordon raised his revolver to fire a second time but before he could pull the trigger, 'Doc' had shot him dead."

Well, not quite. According to the *Gazette*, the Good Doctor's shot hit Gordon in "the right breast, just below the collarbone, and exiting below the shoulder blade." Then we get this: "Gordon at once ceased firing and disappeared. An hour or two later, a Mr. Kennedy went into his tent some thirty or forty yards away, to go to bed and hearing groans investigated and found Gordon laying on the ground outside. The news soon spread and his woman arriving on the ground had him taken to her room east of the court house, where he died at 6 o'clock Sunday morning. In the afternoon the Coroner held an inquest and the jury returned a verdict of excusable homicide."

No charges were filed against the locally well-liked Holliday. His name is not even mentioned in any of the accounts and the coroner's jury apparently believed Gordon got what he deserved.



This old grainy photograph from 1879 shows Holliday's Saloon, which is the fourth building from the right (note the barely visible "Whiskey" marquee). Doc bought the saloon with his partner and financial backer, John Joshua Webb, once a Dodge City lawman.

- COURTESY CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, LAS VEGAS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE, HILMAR COLLECTION -

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

In September of 1879, Wyatt Earp showed up in Las Vegas, with a young woman named Mattie Blaylock, his brother Jim and his family. After spending a month in New Town, the Earps and Doc, along with his live-in girlfriend, Kate Elder, traveled by wagon to the boomtown of Prescott, Arizona Territory. When the Earps moved on to Tombstone, Holliday remained for another several months, even returning to Las Vegas at one point to settle accounts. When Holliday returned to Prescott from New Mexico, he ended up rooming on Montezuma Street with the acting governor of Arizona, John J. Gosper.

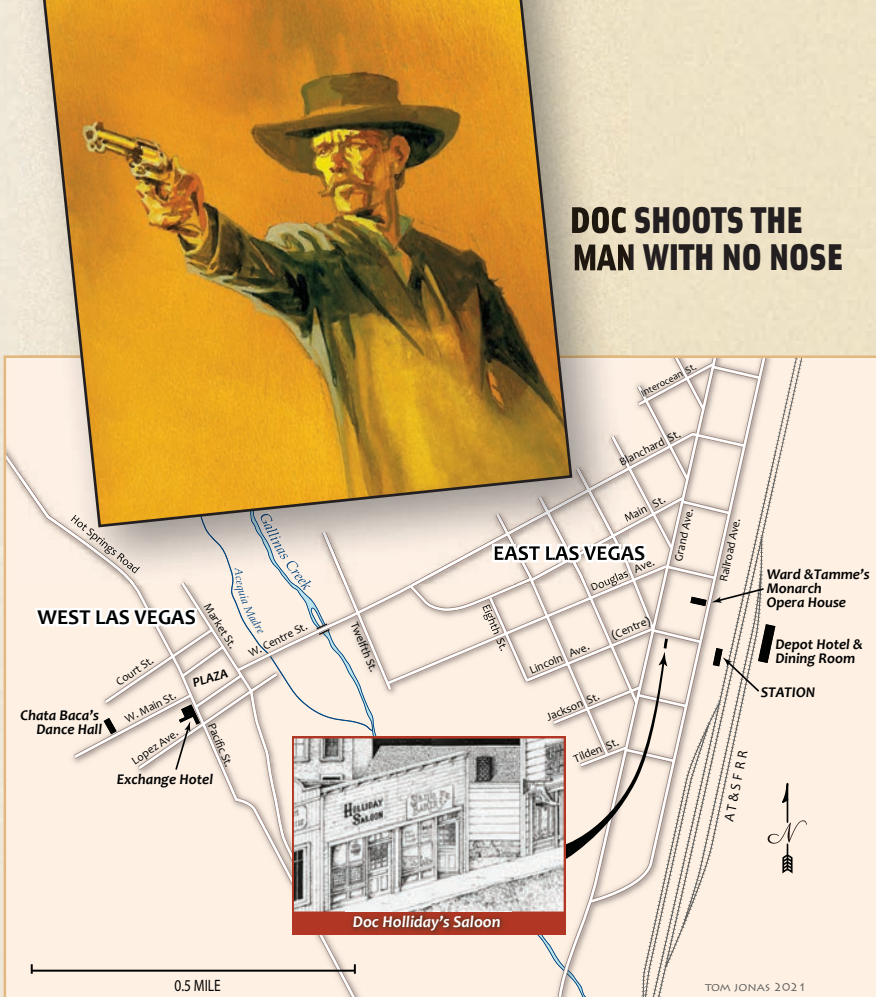
Doc finally arrived in Tombstone in September of 1880 and was soon swept up in the Earps' troubles with the cowboys which culminated with the shootout behind the O.K. Corral on October 26, 1881. Doc rode with Wyatt on his so-called Vendetta Ride and left the state a fugitive in April of 1882.

The Las Vegas Optic, on July 20, 1881, reported, "It will be remembered, especially by the pioneers of the East Side, that Doc Holliday was at one time the keeper of a gin-mill on Centre Street, near the present site of the Centre Street bakery. Doc was always considered a shiftless, bagged-legged character—a killer and professional cut-throat and not a whit too refined to rob stages or even steal sheep. He is the identical individual who killed poor, inoffensive Mike Gordon and crept through one of the many legal loop-holes that characterized Hoodoo Brown's judicial dispensation."

Doc landed in Colorado where he spent time in Denver, Pueblo and Leadville—where he got into another shooting scrape—and, finally cashed in his chips at the Glenwood Springs Hotel in Glenwood Springs on November 8, 1887.

Recommended: *The Life And Legend of Doc Holliday* by Gary L. Roberts, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006

DOC SHOOTS THE MAN WITH NO NOSE



“Of late years, Gordon had been disfigured by the loss of his nose. It was bitten off by a gambler from whom he was taking money. His antagonist seized him with a grasp of iron by both ears and with his teeth wrought the disfiguration.”

—*Las Vegas Optic*

Hoodoo Justice

The coroner for the dead Gordon was Hyman G. Neill, known as “Hoodoo Brown,” who was the big boss of East Las Vegas, also known as New Town. He was also the justice of the peace and the leader of the Dodge City Gang. Besides Holliday, the group also included Mysterious Dave Mather, Dave Rudabaugh, Frank Cady, John “Bull Shit Jack” Pierce, William P. “Slap Jack Bill” Nicholson and Joe Carson, among others. Doc’s partner in the saloon was Jordan Webb, a known associate of Hoodoo Brown. Nobody followed up on the murder. The fix was in.



THE LUNGE

Many believe it was Holliday’s aggressive move with the Wells Fargo shotgun that opened the ball on October 26, 1881.



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: *True West's* late publisher and friend, Robert G. McCubbin, regularly shared his photos and ephemera with the magazine and its readers, believing that his collection should be seen and enjoyed by those who love Old West history. If you'd like to read more of McCubbin's articles and view more of his rare photos of the West, like "Who is Rose of Cimarron?" from the May 2005 issue, please go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to more than 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN

WHO IS ROSE OF CIMARRON?

A GUNFIGHT AT THE OK HOTEL SPURS A CONTROVERSY.

Rose of Cimarron was first introduced to readers in 1915 in a little red paper-covered book titled *Oklahoma Outlaws*.

The book was prepared by a newspaperman using information supplied by Bill Tilghman, a respected lawman in Oklahoma Territory in the 1890s. It was sold at showings of the photodrama, *Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*, which was scripted primarily by Tilghman. In the book and movie portrayal of the Ingalls battle between 13 lawmen and six members of Bill Doolin's gang, Rose of Cimarron makes a dramatic exit from the hotel, carrying a rifle through a hail of bullets to her wounded lover, outlaw Bitter Creek Newcomb.

This story was repeated in numerous books, with and without embellishments, for the next 37 years. The real identity of "Rose of the Cimarron" (which eventually became the most popular version of the title) was never revealed, supposedly because she had become a respected Oklahoma citizen and no one wanted to embarrass her. Finally, in 1952's *Desperate Women*, author James D. Horan revealed that her real name was Rose Dunn, and she

was the sister of four brothers who lived near Ingalls and were alternately outlaws and lawmen. Horan did not know if Rose Dunn was still living in 1952—but she was.

Born September 5, 1878, Rose Dunn was four days short of her 15th birthday at the time of the Ingalls fight, not too young for romantic involvement in that era. She married for the first time in 1897 at the age of 19, and again in 1946 after the death of her first husband. Rose died in Centralia,

Washington, on June 11, 1955, as Mrs. Richard Fleming. After Rose's death, her widower told an interviewer that he first met Rose at an Ingalls square dance when he was 17 and she was 16. "I first heard her referred to as Rose of Cimarron in 1895, soon after I came down here [to Oklahoma]. They called her that, but not because she was a bandit queen. She was a superb horsewoman," Fleming said. "She was a true friend of the outlaws and never betrayed them, but she was never the sweetheart of any."

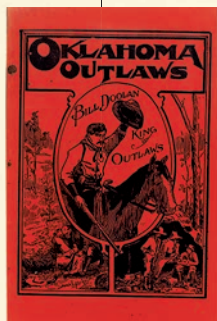
So there really was a Rose of Cimarron, and she was a "friend of the outlaws." Glenn Shirley, a respected author of books on Oklahoma outlaws and lawmen, initially accepted the story of Rose in the Ingalls gunfight (*Toughest of Them All*, 1953) but eventually came to the conclusion she was not there. Shirley couldn't find one mention of Rose, or any other woman, in newspaper accounts of

the gunfight. When an 1873 Winchester with the engraved "Rose of Cimarron" plate in the stock and an accompanying note signed by U.S. Marshal E.D. Nix was revealed to Shirley, he expressed no doubt that the note and rifle were authentic. However, he theorized that the gun was received by the marshal's office after Newcomb's death at the hands of the Dunn brothers (for the reward money) on May 2, 1895, which was a year and a half after the Ingalls battle. Yet, Nix states in the note that the rifle was picked up on an Ingalls street and was the one Rose Dunn took to Newcomb. Nix didn't sell the rifle until two years after the September 1, 1893, gunfight.

Shirley also suggested that the engraved "Rose of Cimarron" silver plate was placed in the stock at a later date and that the rifle may have been one of many that toured with Tilghman and his movie. It is extremely unlikely that Rose Dunn would have put the plate on the gun. Most likely, J.D. Sims, who purchased the rifle, or Tilghman added the plate. In any case, gun experts agree that the plate is quite old.

Tilghman's widow, Zoe, said she knew Rose Dunn. Her husband didn't make up the tale of Rose in Ingalls, she said, however, the story that surfaced later claiming Rose was arrested and tried isn't true (and it wasn't mentioned in Tilghman's 1915 book).

In the early 1940s, Chris Madsen, a deputy marshal who served with Tilghman in Oklahoma Territory in the 1890s, searched for Rose Dunn "to get a contract for the production of a motion picture to be entitled, *Rose of Cimarron*." Madsen



Oklahoma Outlaws was sold at the 1915 photodrama, *Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*.



Is the photo (above) of Rose Dunn, nicknamed Rose of Cimarron? A photo comparison of Dunn in her 70s (left) supports that it may be her.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

didn't locate Rose, who had probably moved to Mountainair, New Mexico, by that time. He probably wouldn't have gotten Rose to sign, as Rose's second husband said after her death: the stories "caused my wife a great deal of embarrassment and forced her into virtual seclusion."

So, what is the truth about Rose of Cimarron? If we are to believe the note that Nix signed in 1895, Rose Dunn was in Ingalls at the time of the gunfight and did take a rifle to Bitter Creek Newcomb after he was wounded. Newcomb ended up being too badly wounded to use the rifle, and he dropped it when he escaped on horseback.

Newspapers may not have reported Rose's involvement for the same reason that Tilghman and others did not disclose her identity until years later—they did not want to embarrass the young girl. After all, Rose was the stepdaughter of Dr. W.R. Call, a prominent resident of Ingalls. She lived with her parents in their home, next door to the OK Hotel, the center of the gunfight. Rose spent a lot of time there and at her brother's place, a few miles away near the Cimarron River. Ingalls and the Dunn home were known hangouts for the Doolin Gang, and

Rose's rumored paramour, Newcomb, was later killed at the Dunn home.

More than 20 years later, Rose of Cimarron's role in the Ingalls gunfight was told in a book and movie, with the usual exaggeration and dramatization. (After the movie's release, a "former outlaw" from Tulsa wrote Tilghman, "Did you know... Rose of Cimarron lives here [Tulsa]? She still retains some of the beauty that caused her to bear the name." He went on to spin some preposterous tales about Rose.)

Conclusions:

- Rose Dunn Fleming wouldn't have been so embarrassed about her role in the Ingalls gunfight if there wasn't some basis of fact.
- Bill Tilghman would not have reported the story if there was not some basis of fact.
- Chris Madsen, who often questioned Tilghman's accounts, would not have searched for Rose Dunn so he could obtain permission to make a movie about her if there was not some basis of fact.
- U.S. Marshal E.D. Nix would not have written a receipt for the rifle if there was not some basis of fact.

Is the photo really of Rose Dunn, Rose of Cimarron? A comparison with a photo of Rose from the 1950s, when she was in her 70s, does not rule out that possibility.

A copy of the original cabinet card appeared in the 1890s with the name Jennie Metcalf penciled in at the top. In Oklahoma outlaw history, there really was a Jennie



(Above) A .44 caliber, 1873 Winchester rifle, No. 272099B, with engraved plate in stock, "Rose of Cimarron." The weapon is also filed as Rose Dunn rifle, and it was picked up by U.S. Marshal Jim Masterson, according to a receipt signed by U.S. Marshal E.D. Nix and stamped "Department of Justice, Dec. 20, 1895."



Cattle Annie (left) and the real Jennie Metcalf, alias Little Breeches.

— COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Metcalf (although her name was actually Jennie Stevens, alias Jennie Midkiff, alias Little Breeches). But a photo of Jennie and her partner Cattle Annie shows that Jennie bears no resemblance to Rose of Cimarron.

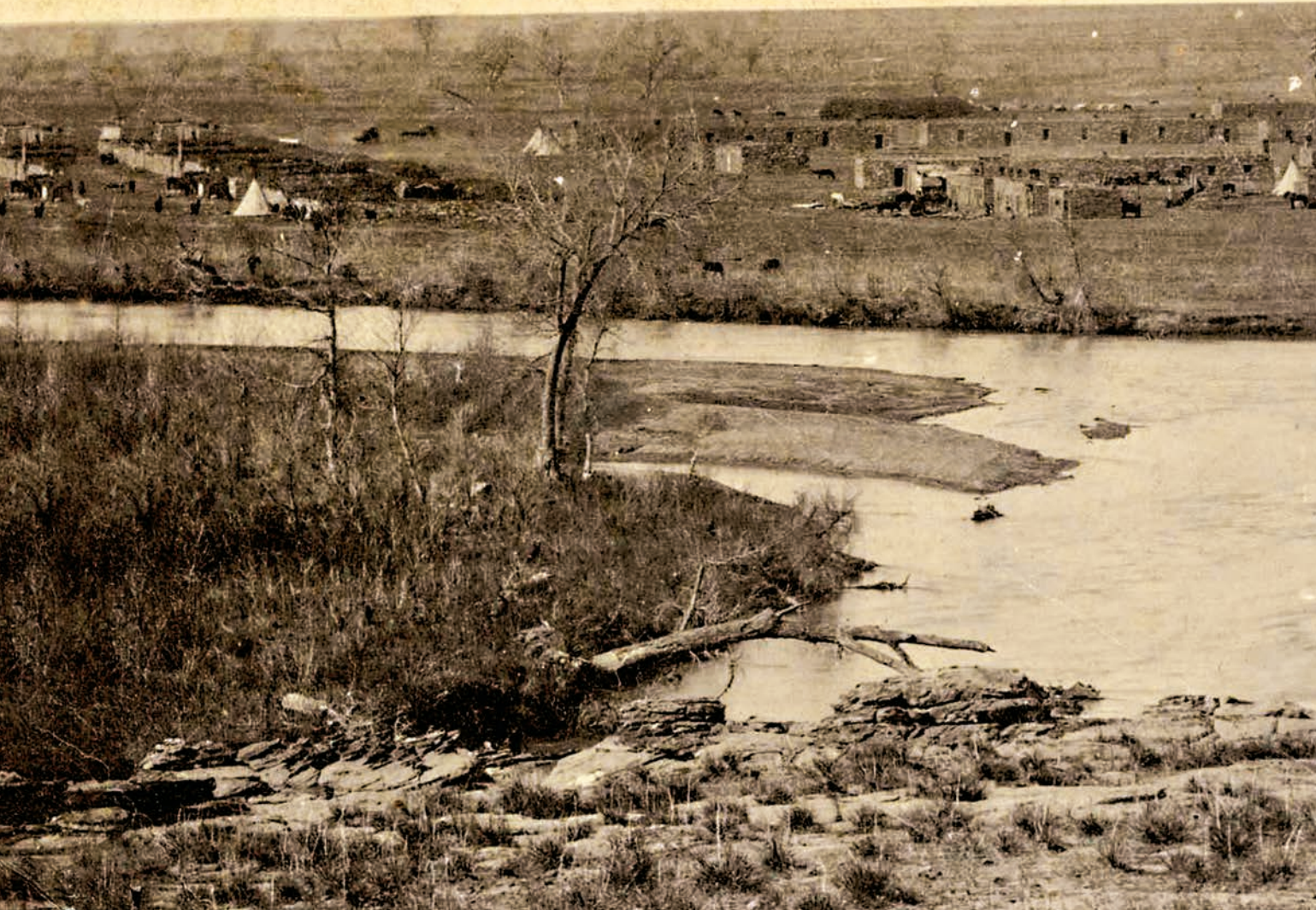
The Rose of Cimarron photo is definitely of the period, as it was grouped with many outlaws in a composite photo that was probably made between Doolin's death in August 1896 and mid-1898, when Little Dick West was killed a few miles from Guthrie (his death photo does not appear in the composite).

Who is the attractive girl in the photo if not Rose of Cimarron?



TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Robert G. McCubbin's original, unabridged article as it appeared in the May 2005 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of McCubbin's articles and subscribe to *True West Archives*, go to TrueWestMagazine.com.
Our past awaits you!



THE SANTA FE TRAIL BECKONED THE

Two Kansas City boys hiked the famous road west in 1874 to make their mark in the cattle trade.

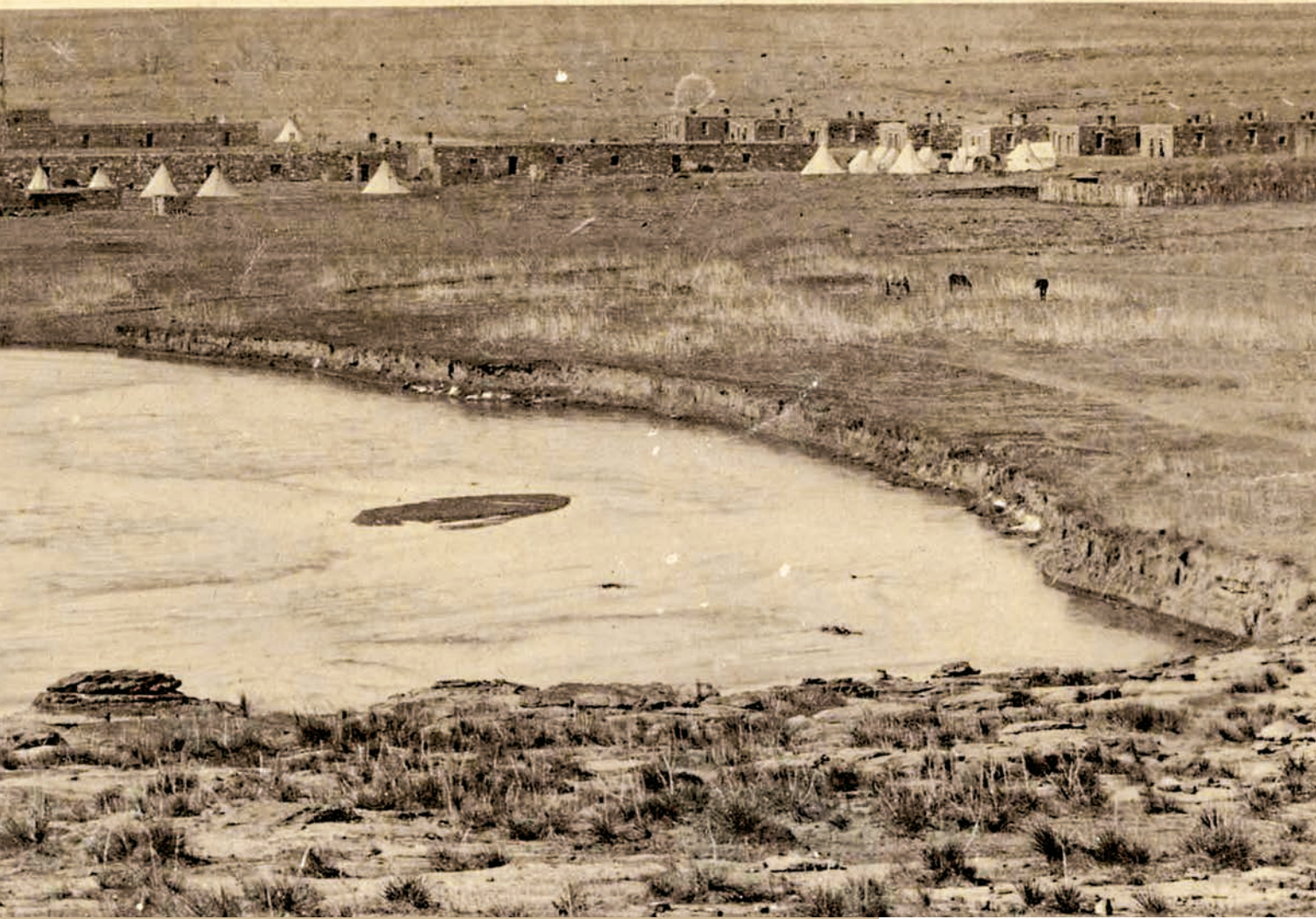
The Santa Fe Trail, a vital commercial route, developed international trade between the United States and Mexico, fostered commerce on the Plains, served as a military road and contributed to westward expansion in the United States. William Becknell and five men, desiring a profitable outcome, began a momentous journey September 1, 1821, from Franklin, Missouri, and in November reached Santa Fe in what was then northern Mexico. Becknell's venture was lucrative, and commerce significantly increased along the Santa Fe Trail, which evolved and divided into the Cimarron and Mountain Routes. Many smaller feeder routes arose from the wagon ruts left alongside strategic waterways, one being the Arkansas River that flowed across the Plains.

In 1874 the Santa Fe Trail fervently beckoned Albert F. and Leander A. (Lee) Mosty as they responded to the West's wild call. Before them had come William Bent and John Wesley Prowers, who had heightened commerce on the trail in earlier decades.

In the early 1830s, Bent, St. Vrain & Company built Bent's Fort, or William's Fort, on the United States side of the Arkansas River in what is now southeastern Colorado. Ceran St. Vrain and brothers Charles and William Bent were partners, as indicated in a January 6, 1831, letter from St. Vrain to Bernard Pratte & Company. Generating much trade among trappers, fur traders, explorers and Plains tribes, Bent's Fort began operating around 1833. The Cheyenne and Arapaho were

The Arkansas River flowed by the original Fort Lyon complex, American Indian teepees and livestock. The river flooded the first fort in 1866, causing the second fort to be built near Las Animas in 1867.

— COURTESY OF THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTION, X-19367 —



MOSTY BROTHERS

BY KENYON BENNETT

regulars. The fort became a major trading destination on the Santa Fe Trail. By 1849 Bent, St. Vrain & Company had dissolved, leaving William the sole owner of Bent's Fort.

Sometime between August 16 and 21, 1849, William blew up his trading post. Cholera outbreaks, broken negotiations for the sale of the fort to the U.S. Army, or a rumor that the military was going to confiscate the fort possibly motivated Bent. Enough structure remained within the ruins for a stagecoach station to emerge a decade later, but by the early 1880s, the old fort served as cattle corrals, emphasizing the cattle industry's marked development.

Bent built a new trading stockade at Big Timbers during the 1850s in the Lower Arkansas River Valley where the Cheyenne and

Arapaho traditionally wintered. This area was part of the Mountain Route. Just west of Bent's New Fort, the U.S. government built Fort Wise, later renamed Fort Lyon, which operated from 1860 to 1867. The government also leased Bent's New Fort. After a severe flood damaged Fort Lyon in 1866, the second Fort Lyon was built near Las Animas in 1867, which the U.S. Army first occupied in 1868. Any viable government fort required livestock and produce, and Prowers filled those needs.

Prowers worked for Bent from 1856 to 1863 and regularly used the Santa Fe Trail to lead supply wagons from Missouri to Bent's New Fort and Fort Union, New Mexico Territory. Prowers brought cattle west in 1861. After leaving Bent, Prowers worked as a sutler at Fort Lyon, and

from 1865 to 1871 freighted government supplies between Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Union. He bought land, increased his cattle herd and oversaw his farming. By 1873 he was a partner in Prowers and Hough, a busy commission house in West Las Animas.

When Albert and Lee Mosty answered the West's siren call during the spring of 1874, the two knew the Santa Fe Trail was an important route. Lee, almost 23, and Albert, only 19, made a pact: "We will hike off into the great West and grow up with the country. We will remain together, we will stick together like wax, we will never part."

Lee resigned from J.E. Forbes & Company Hardware in Kansas City. Albert quit the Olathe Rolling Flour Mill in nearby Olathe. Albert

The Fort Dodge, Kansas, group portrait depicted Arapaho tribe members. Soldiers peered from the roof. From left to right are Little Raven, Little Raven's daughter Grass Woman, Colonel William Bent, and Little Raven's sons Little Bear and Shield.

- COURTESY OF HISTORY COLORADO-DENVER, COLORADO -



wrote and sketched in his monthly journals throughout the journey and the remainder of 1874.

Before heading west Albert purchased a sombrero. Peacock proud, he strutted and waited for Lee at a railroad depot in Kansas City. "Some of the policemen didn't like the looks of me... my hat signified business, while Lee was there one old bopper came up and rapped me with his billy," Albert wrote.

The momentous adventure began. Albert and Lee visited older brother Frank in Butler County, Kansas, and then traveled to Wichita, a cowtown. From there they tirelessly hiked northwest along the Arkansas River and then west behind the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (AT&SF) tracks in Kansas, which roughly followed alongside the Santa Fe Trail.

During a late afternoon in May, Albert and Lee perched on a fence by the AT&SF Depot in Great Bend, Kansas. Two men walked up from the Arkansas River and into the depot. A third man approached the brothers and sat on the fence. "I saw a howling John, sticking out behind, when the two men came out of the depot and went down the steps of the sidewalk," Albert wrote. The man on the fence jumped down and yelled, "Stop!"

The two men turned around. "What do you want?" one asked.

"You swindled me out of ten dollars!"

"Liar!" the two men responded.

"Lay down that money! Lay it down on the sidewalk. Lay it down, right down!"

"Go to hell!" one of the accused shouted.

Albert recorded the gunslinger's actions:

"...so he aimed and shot, the fellows got a good start before he got a shot—they ran a good ways past, he shot at one Then at the other, he shot

one in the body and arm and the big fellow in the leg and foot...the big fellow when he was hit in the leg, fumbled away and looked around several times and then got underway again... they had been gambling, after the man got done shooting he walked around the depot reloading his pistol..."

The gunslinger briefly searched for the wounded men but returned alone. He then galloped his horse swiftly through town, fired his pistol into the air, and yelled "like the devil," Albert wrote. The gunman "wanted to let folks know he wasn't afraid of the whole town."

Upon reaching the AT&SF terminus in Grenada, southeastern Colorado Territory, in late May, Albert and Lee hiked the Santa Fe Trail's Mountain Route. The

brothers walked 15 miles and entered a cowboy camp where friendly cowboys offered them "good bread, good coffee, and good buffalo steak." The brothers spent a night at the welcoming camp, continued their journey, and reached "the most beautiful valley on the Arkansas River. There were groves of trees... then more trees and more trees," Albert wrote. Unbeknownst to the brothers, they had begun walking through Big Timbers, an area with massive cottonwood trees and valleys, on the Santa Fe Trail. To the west lay Las Animas.

The brothers reached Las Animas, not to be confused with newer West Las Animas.

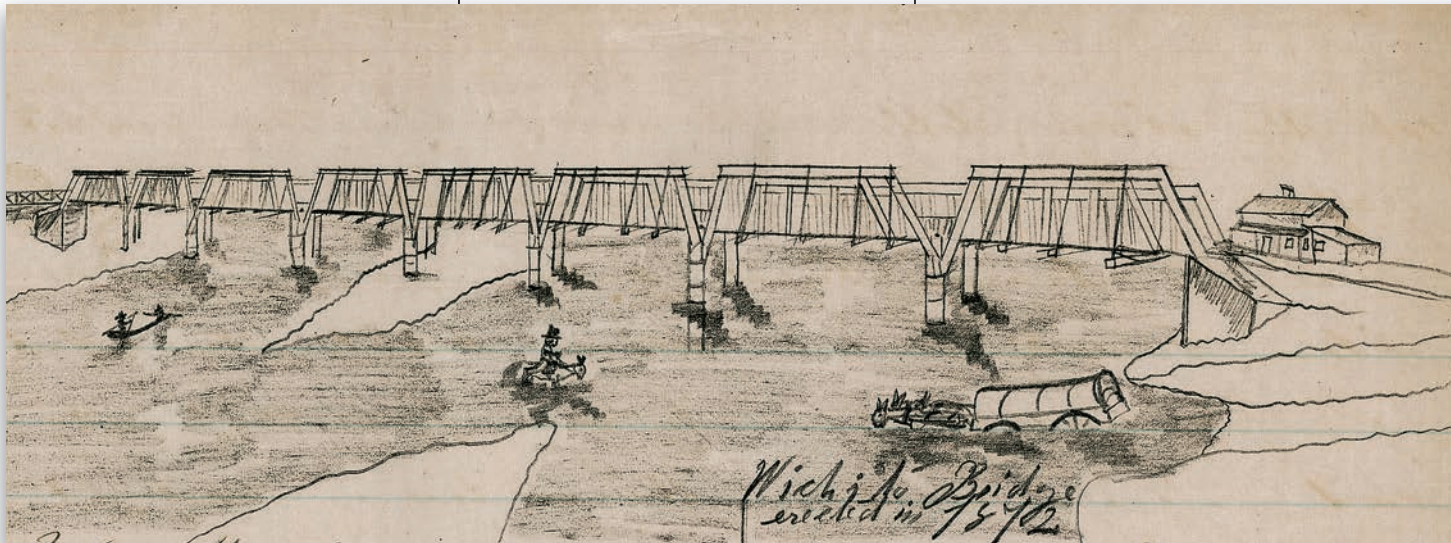
Capricious chance intervened. Albert and Lee bought goods in McMurray Brothers General Store and met Nick Eaton, a stockman from nearby Mud Creek. Eaton needed a seasoned cook and additional drovers to help him drive Texas cattle north. The brothers asked to work for him, but Eaton said he would only hire one greenhorn and left.

"He would give only one of us a job. That let us out, we would not part," Albert remembered thinking.

John Wesley Prowers, former employee of William Bent, became an influential legislator, wealthy rancher and successful businessman, who hired and mentored Albert Mosty. Photo circa 1880.

- COURTESY OF HISTORY COLORADO-DENVER, COLORADO -





In April 1874, Albert Mosty sketched the Arkansas River flowing under the eight-span Wichita Bridge, which was constructed in 1872. Delano, the saloon and brothel district where cowboys, gamblers, soiled doves and outlaws congregated, flourished farther out on the west bank. A segment of the Eastern/Chisholm Trail ran by Wichita, nicknamed "Cowtown," a cattle drive destination.

- FROM THE ALBERT MOSTY COLLECTION OF THE BRYAN MUSEUM, GALVESTON, TEXAS -

Albert was wrong. The next day Lee headed north with Eaton and the Texas cattle. Lee regularly drove large herds of cattle up the trails from Texas to Kansas for Eaton before becoming an independent cattle buyer and trader. Lee died in 1917.

What about Albert?

Prowers, now an influential and wealthy stockman, trader, merchant and an 1873 Territorial legislator, hired Albert one day after Lee's departure. Albert would become a cowboy and later a foreman for the large Prowers Ranch, which had cattle, horses and sheep. With John Carter as head foreman, cowboys in designated camps worked the vast range.

While settling into his new life on the Prowers Ranch in June 1874, Albert herded a large flock of sheep on the bluffs near the Johnson Ranch at Caddoa, about 20 miles east of Las Animas. He recorded that he had killed a big snake and seen a coyote and a black eagle. "The sheep herded like race horses...guess they traveled as far as ten miles, I couldn't stop them no way," the astonished youth wrote.

Albert's August 1874 journal referred to Grand Election Day's disorderly activities in Bent County. Men known as Smith and Mexican John had accompanied Albert to Las Animas, having been elected county seat again in 1872. Albert indicated the three were besieged by political hucksters:

Albert continued illustrating his journals. In September Albert sketched the Prowers Ranch, located 12 miles below Fort Lyon, in October Bent's Fort, and in November Old Fort Lyon. In early 1875 his two-page map of Bent County depicted rivers, creeks, ranches, towns and forts.



"And here they came, I thought about forty of them, I looked around for Smith and he was gone, and all... all hollering here...here is your ticket and every one that could get hold of me was pulling at me to come his way, every one was electioneering for himself or some boddy else, it seemed, all after me, I wondred Where the devel so many men came from, the streets were full, every boddy hollring, some going one way and some another way, some fighting—here came Mexican John with his knife out and sleeves rolled up to the elbow and ready for fight..."

This archived photograph labeled "Cattle Herd on Las Animas," is similar to one labeled "Cattle 'Round-Up' of James C. Jones, Bent County, Colo." in *History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado, 1881*. The photographs, circa 1880, were taken prior to the Jones brothers' sale of the JJ Ranch in January 1882 to the Prairie Cattle Company, a Scottish-based cattle syndicate. James C., Stephen F. and Peyton S. Jones were contemporaries of John Wesley Prowers.

- COURTESY OF HISTORY COLORADO-DENVER, COLORADO -



By 1875 the cattle industry boomed in the Lower Arkansas River Valley. Partners Charles Goodnight, John Hough and Prowers established a slaughterhouse in West Las Animas that year. Goodnight later ranched in the Texas Panhandle.

Prowers depended upon Albert. Due to the ranch's great size and available mailing posts, Prowers wrote Albert a letter on September 2, 1876, requesting him to gather wayward cattle wandering near Kiowa, Elbert County:

"I think you and one of the Boys had better come to Jones camp & there 2 of his men will come along with you & drive back every thing south of Kiowa, I think the best thing would be to come to Kiowa & hunt this way & gather everything & drive back, & when that is done come on toward the river driving what scattering ones you find & when you get here we will rig up an outfit & make a drive back... Let me know how the cattle are doing write me what you think of the prospects of holding them—do they try to go up or down the creek."

Albert visited family for Christmas in Kansas City in 1880 and received a letter from Prowers dated December 20. Adverse weather conditions had caused livestock deaths on the ranch's northern boundary:

"Boys are picking up a few steers & calves on the north side. They went down yesterday but to day I hear the snow is 12 inches deep... I don't think the boys can do anything but take care of the Horses. We lost 2 Head. The white pony 70 that Clif rode & the Bay Hosa [Little Raven] horse that Carter rode this summer. Also 1 mare on the range, I lost 12 saddle Horses from mares. [Malloy] lost 5 Horses and a lot of stock horses has died on Jones range."

By 1884 Prowers owned vast ranchlands and farmland. During one autumn count, his cattle herd had numbered around 70,000. Sadly, Albert's benefactor, only 46, died February 14, 1884. Albert worked for Prowers or Prowers' business managers for almost 15 years and then farmed in Macon, Missouri, where he died in 1931.

In August 1874, electioneers accosted the public during Grand Election Day in Las Animas, twice voted as the county seat. Albert Mosty illustrated himself wearing striped pants (right, foreground).

— FROM THE ALBERT MOSTY COLLECTION OF THE BRYAN MUSEUM, GALVESTON, TEXAS —

The Mosty brothers had answered when the West called and the Santa Fe Trail beckoned. Bent and Prowers had promoted a supply network for those who came after them along the Santa Fe Trail.

Kenyon Bennett grew up on ranches in Lampasas County, Texas, and writes about Old West history. Her current long-term projects focus on cattle drives and a circuit-riding preacher from Lampasas County. She is the features coordinator and journalist for two newspapers in southwestern Wisconsin.

Old Las Animas, Colorado, 1874

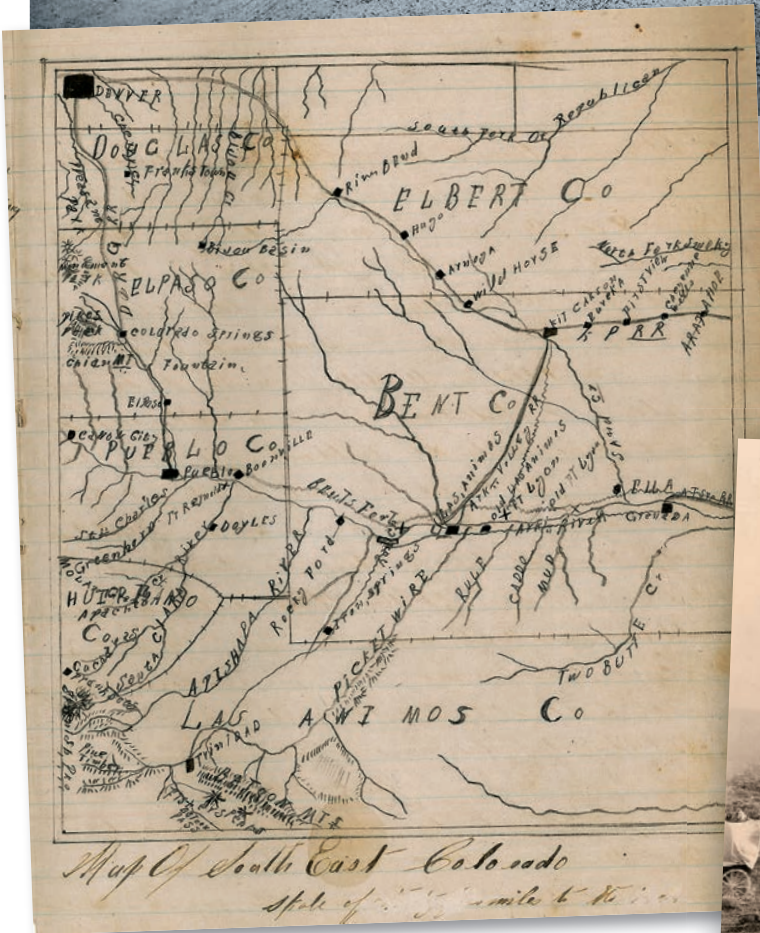
This is how the settlement looked when Albert and Lee Mosty arrived via the Santa Fe Trail and first met Nick Eaton, stockman, at McMurray Brothers General Store.

- COURTESY OF HISTORY COLORADO-DENVER, COLORADO -



The train of covered wagons on the Santa Fe Trail drove up clouds of dust on the plains. The date of the photograph is unknown and is most likely a re-enactment, based on the family-sized covered wagons in the photo versus the bigger Conestoga-type freight wagons used regularly between Missouri and New Mexico.

- COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES AND CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY -



Albert's May 1874 map of southeastern Colorado Territory outlined area counties. *The Las Animas Leader*, the local newspaper, routinely published a similar map.

- FROM THE ALBERT MOSTY COLLECTION OF THE BRYAN MUSEUM. GALVESTON, TEXAS -



BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

On the Santa Fe Trail 1821-2021

The bicentennial of the National Historic Trail is a great reason to hit the road and rediscover why it is the West's original "Mother Road."

When you get right down to it, almost every trail ever blazed was for profit. Despite all the glory associated with them, the lure of money was behind the Chisholm Trail (first for trade goods, then for selling longhorns in Kansas) and the California and Klondike trails (to find goldfields) and the like. The Santa Fe Trail, on the other hand, never even thought about fame—it was all about money.

Says James A. Crutchfield, the Owen Wister Award-recipient for lifetime contributions and author of *On the Santa Fe Trail*: "Probably the most important legacy of the Santa Fe Trail is its role as the oldest overland trail in the Trans-Mississippi West. In contrast with other extended trails which primarily served as roads of emigration—the Oregon and California trails, for example—the Santa Fe Trail was first and foremost a highway of commerce."

West From Franklin, Missouri

That commerce began 200 years ago, when William Becknell pulled out of Franklin, Missouri, in September 1821, bound for New Mexico. In a notice published in the *Missouri Intelligencer*, Becknell said he was forming a party to travel "westward, for the purposed of trading for horses and mules and catching wild animals of every description." It wasn't exactly a wise business decision, but more of a giant gamble (or at least a crazy leap of faith). Mexico had been under Spanish rule, and the Spaniards had closed the border to any trade with Americans. But with Mexico having declared its independence, Becknell's party headed west—through Indian country and the parched Great Plains and rugged Southwest. When they reached New Mexico, they weren't imprisoned, but welcomed. It proved a profitable venture; Becknell made a 200 percent profit.

The Santa Fe Trail was off and running.

"Few stories in westward expansion eclipse that of the Santa Fe Trail in terms of pure adventure or in the profound impact on the growth of the nation," says Deb Goodrich, chair of Santa Fe Trail 200 and Garvey Texas Historian in Residence at Fort Wallace Museum in Wallace, Kansas.

"The 1,200-mile trek—when the mileage from all the routes is counted—saw commerce and conflict, conquest and subjugation. It saw fortunes made and lost, lives buoyed and busted. What had been a highway between nations became the lifeline of an ever-expanding United States."

The National Historic Trail

Those 1,200 miles connect five states—Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico—and the trail was designated a National Historic Trail under the National Park Service in 1987. Today, there are 900 historic trail sites.

Becknell's journey began in Franklin, which was washed away by the Missouri River, but the jumping-off place can be viewed from the other side of the river at Boonville. New Franklin replaced Old Franklin in 1828, and monuments can be found on the town's main square.

With pack mules loaded with trade goods, Becknell and his party followed the wagon road established in 1816 to the ferry at Arrow Rock (Arrow Rock State Historic Site), then took the Osage Trace through Lexington (Battle of Lexington State Historic Site), where James and Robert Aull started outfitting traders bound west in 1822. Due west lies Sibley, where the reconstructed Fort Osage National Historic Landmark illustrates what had been the westernmost Army outpost and a profitable fur factory. It wasn't on the Santa Fe Trail, Crutchfield points out, but that's where the government survey of the Santa Fe Trail started in 1825.



The adobe fur-trading post recreated at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site is a key stop for heritage travelers following the Santa Fe National Historic Trail across the country. Visitors to the living history center will be greeted by re-enactors in period dress and enjoy living-history demonstrations throughout the year.

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



MARCH OF THE CARAVAN.

Josiah Gregg was a Western adventurer who plied the Santa Fe Trail between Missouri and New Mexico between 1831 and 1840. His two-volume autobiography, *Commerce of the Prairie*, included his own maps and illustrations of day-to-day life on the trail, and is still one of the finest primary records of the historic route's history.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Independence, Missouri

More important in Missouri was Independence (Independence Courthouse Square, Woodlawn Cemetery), which took over for Franklin as the primary departing point for merchants and also marked the beginning of the Oregon Trail.

Wide Spot In The Road

National Frontier Trails Museum and Library

Missouri was the jumping-off point for more trails than the one to Santa Fe, New Mexico. And the National Frontier Trails Museum (*CI.Independence.mo.us*) covers the Santa Fe and more, from Lewis and Clark to the Pony Express to the transcontinental railroads—but the focus shines on the Santa Fe, California and Oregon trails. The Independence museum also houses a library named after Merrill J. Mattes (1910-1996), co-founder of the Oregon-California Trails Association, that includes more than 2,600 first-person narratives.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub

A Little BBQ Joint, Independence

Good Lodging

Inn at 425, Kansas City

Westport Landing, now part of metropolitan Kansas City, eventually replaced Independence as what Crutchfield calls “the last ‘official’ beginning for the Santa Fe Trail.” Kansas City has absorbed much of the trail, though the camping site at Archibald Rice farm is now part of the circa-1844 Rice-Tremonti Home in Raytown.

Kansas

The trail entered Kansas, and many merchants stopped in what is now Fairway to take advantage of the facilities (a blacksmith shop) at the Shawnee Indian Mission, now a state historic site. Near present-day Gardner, the Santa Fe Trail kept west, and the Oregon Trail turned northwest.

Ruts can still be seen east of Baldwin City on a self-guided tour at the Robert H. Pearson 1890 Farmstead Home. On June 2, 1856, those ruts came in handy during the Battle of Black Jack. Members of John Brown's Free State militia

and Henry Clay Pate's pro-slavery forces looking to avenge the Pottawatomie Massacre of May 24-25 fought for three hours, and both parties used the ruts for cover. “There are new walkways at the site and signs to interpret the events that occurred here,” Goodrich says. “I never visit without feeling the energy, the very spirits of those who clashed here.”

Just west lay The Narrows, a ridge wagons used to avoid draws often filled with mud and rough terrain. Blue Mound, alias Wakarusa Buttes, roughly three miles south of Lawrence, served as a landmark for merchants and wayfarers, and then came a series of crossings: Switzler Creek and Dragoon Creek near Burlingame, and Soldier Creek about 1.5 miles west. Near Soldier Creek on Kansas Highway 31 is the grave of Pvt. Samuel Hunt, a Dragoon serving with Col. Henry Dodge who died in 1835 while returning to Fort Leavenworth with Dodge's Rocky Mountain expedition.



— MAP BY GUS WALKER —

Operating from 1859 to 1878, Fort Larned was founded as Camp Alert to offer protection and escorts on the Santa Fe Trail.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



After around 10 days of traveling from Westport/Independence, the traders would stop at Council Grove, which offered more than just a respite at the Last Chance Store and today is a must-stop for Santa Fe Trail aficionados for the Post Office Oak, Council Oak, Last Chance Store, Kaw Indian Mission and Hays House Restaurant. In 1825, Kaw Indians signed a treaty that allowed traders safe passage as they journeyed to or from Santa Fe. But the Kaws paid a price. Says Goodrich:



While today's highways are paved to Trinidad, Colorado, the Raton Pass route of the Santa Fe Trail continued to be used and improved as the nation transitioned from wagons to automobiles in the early 20th century. Discover the heritage of Trinidad and the national historic trail at the city's local museums, including the Baca House.

— TRINIDAD MUSEUM PHOTO COURTESY GATES FRONTIERS FUND COLORADO COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PHOTO OF RATON PASS COURTESY NARA, NO. 281_30-N-8550 —

Wide Spot In The Road

Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area

Finding a bison range in Kansas shouldn't come as a surprise—but a *national forest*? Both can be found at the 3,760-acre Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area (KSOutdoors.com) near Garden City. The forest began in 1905, when the 30,000-acre Garden City Forest Reserve was established on a trial basis, then grew by almost 275,000 acres in 1908. Although the project failed, surviving trees can be found today. Bison, however, have endured since being reintroduced in 1924.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub

Hays House Restaurant, Council Grove; Central Station Bar & Grill, Dodge City

Good Lodging

The Wolf Hotel, Ellinwood; Sunnyland Bed & Breakfast, Garden City

“In 1873, the Kaw Nation was moved from their lands along the Santa Fe Trail and relocated to the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The very state that took its name from the tribe booted them out to take the lands along the trail. Since then, the Kaws have incrementally come home, purchasing back some of their ancestral lands and holding sacred events on the ground. Reclaiming their homeland is an ongoing process for the Kaw Nation. Theirs is just one such story that played out on the trail and continues to unfold.”

From there the trail continued west—Diamond Spring, Lost Spring, Cottonwood Crossing—and to familiar places for Western buffs like Fort Zarah in Great Bend, Pawnee Rock, Fort Larned (check out the Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned) and Fort Dodge in Dodge City (Boot Hill Museum). West of Dodge at Cimarron, Becknell made an executive decision on his 1822 trek back to Santa Fe.

On this trip, Becknell had brought three wagons, 24 oxen and 21 men, but he thought that wagons would not be able to get through Raton Pass on the Colorado-New Mexico border (it's not always easy in a car today).

The Cutoff

The Cimarron Cutoff followed the Cimarron River southwest, cutting through a portion of the Oklahoma Panhandle (Camp Nichols was founded by Kit Carson in 1865) and into New Mexico at Clayton, where the Rabbit Ears served as a guidepost despite not looking at all like Bugs Bunny.

The cutoff saved 100 miles and 10 days, but it wasn't easy. Where the land wasn't dry, it was filled with quicksand. Indians, including the Jicarilla Apaches, Comanches and Kiowas, weren't pleased with white men traveling through their country. Near Point of Rocks, between Clayton and Springer, Jicarillas ambushed a caravan in 1849, killing most of



The Sandsage bison herd started with a bull and two cows from Oklahoma's Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

Colorado

The Mountain Route entered Colorado east of Granada and continued west to Lamar (Big Timbers Museum, Madonna of the Trail), through Las Animas and Bent's Old Fort near La Junta (Otero Museum). Founded in 1833 by William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, the adobe compound was the only

Wide Spot In The Road

Cimarron Heritage Center Museum

"Hope died the first time people laid eyes on Boise City, Oklahoma," Timothy Eagan wrote in *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*. "It was founded on a fraud." But today, the Oklahoma Panhandle town that took a beating during the Dust Bowl is home to the Cimarron Heritage Center Museum, which covers everything from dinosaurs to the Dust Bowl and includes restored buildings and exhibits on the Santa Fe Trail. And there's free admission to boot.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub

Blue Bonnet Café, Boise City

Good Lodging

Branding Iron Bed & Breakfast, Boise City



Discover the history of the Santa Fe Trail along the Cimarron River across Oklahoma's Panhandle at Boise City's Cimarron Heritage Center Museum.

— COURTESY CIMARRON HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM —

the party, and kidnapped Ann White, her infant daughter and her servant. Kit Carson served as a scout for an Army patrol, and tracked down the party, but White was killed, the Jicarillas escaped, and the infant and servant were never found.

permanent Anglo settlement between Missouri and New Mexico.

The Spanish Peaks near Walsenburg served as another beacon for travelers and south of Trinidad (Trinidad History Museum) came Raton Pass. "After 'Uncle Dick' Wootton completed his road improvements across the pass, many travelers who previously preferred the Cimarron Cutoff reverted to using the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail," Crutchfield says.



The history of Cimarron County is displayed through its impressive Museum collection.

The 1949 Bruce Goff-designed home serves as a greeting area, a unique gift shop, button and bottle collection and more. Experience a Dust Bowl exhibit, as well as archeology and paleontology displays. Don't miss "Cimmy" the Apatosaurus!



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Wide Spot In The Road

Boggsville

In 1866, Thomas Boggs finally got around to establishing Boggsville, one of the first permanent Anglo settlements in Colorado's Arkansas River Valley. But Zebulon Pike camped here 60 years earlier, and other travelers, including Kiowas and explorer Jacob Fowler, passed through, too. After Boggs built the settlement, good friend Kit Carson became a neighbor in 1867. Carson was buried in Boggsville beside his wife, Josefa, in 1868, but their remains were reinterred in Taos, New Mexico. Today Boggsville Historic Site (BentCountyHeritage.org) includes the homes of Boggs and John W. Powers.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub

Jack & Wanda's Tasty House, Holly;
Copper Kitchen, La Junta

Good Lodging

3rd Street Nest Bed & Breakfast,
Lamar; Tarabino Inn, Trinidad

New Mexico

The trail continued through Cimarron (Aztec Mill Museum) and Rayado (Kit Carson Museum), past Fort Union National Monument near Watrous, through Las Vegas and Pecos and finally ending at the plaza in Santa Fe (New Mexico History Museum).

The Santa Fe Trail proved good for business. In 1822, trade hit \$15,000. In 1860, it was more than \$3.5 million.

"Thus, from a political standpoint, the advent and pursuit of trade along the Santa Fe Trail fared well for both countries," Crutchfield says, "at least until the beginning of the Mexican-American War."



Johnny D. Boggs's latest novel is *Matthew Johnson, U.S. Marshal*.



The Bent County Historical Society maintains Boggsville Historic Site, which showcases Colorado's early Territorial architecture, as well as the first gravesite of Kit Carson and his wife, Josefa.

- JOHNNY D. BOGGS -



Visitors who tour Pecos National Historical Park will discover more than two thousand years of history.

- COURTESY NPS.GOV -



The Santa Fe Plaza was a busy destination of commerce throughout the era of the Santa Fe Trail, and it remains a destination for visitors and merchants today.

- HISTORIC SANTA FE PLAZA PHOTO COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/MODERN SANTA FE PLAZA COURTESY NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF TOURISM -

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Wide Spot In The Road

Pecos National Historical Park

The Santa Fe Trail began in 1821, but Pecos National Historical Park (NPS.gov), about 40 minutes southeast of Santa Fe, follows history that started thousands of years earlier. This story begins with ancient Pueblo Indians and moves on to include the Pueblo Revolt of 1680-92, Santa Fe Trail, Mexican-American War and the Civil War—where soon-to-be-Sand-Creek-butcher John Chivington won glory for the Union at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in 1862—and into modern times.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub

Charlie's Spic & Span Bakery & Café,
Las Vegas;

The Shed Restaurant, Santa Fe

Good Lodging

The Eklund, Clayton;
Hotel St. Francis, Santa Fe

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BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Following Phil Coe's Trail to Death

Have fun trailing the Lone Star outlaw from Texas to Kansas.

Ben Thompson



John Wesley Hardin



Phil Coe



Wild Bill Hickok

- GUNFIGHTER IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Charles E. Rankin, retired editor of the University of Oklahoma Press and astute historian of key figures of the Old West, posed a question a while back when we were having lunch and discussing James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok.

"What the hell was Phil Coe thinking?"
We agreed on the answer.

"He wasn't."

Coe's decision to try to gun down Hickok on October 5, 1871, in Abilene, Kansas, might not have been the wisest choice for a 32-year-old, but it turned out to be a pretty good career move.

Coe was born in Gonzales, Texas (Gonzales Memorial Museum), in mid-July 1839. As far as we know, Coe didn't spend time in the

county jail, but his notable acquaintance, John Wesley Hardin, did—just not at what's now the Gonzales County Jail Museum. That jail wasn't built until 1887.

In 1862, Coe joined the Confederate army, becoming a lieutenant in the 2nd Texas Cavalry, but he was out of the army by the end of April 1863. If we judge by the acquaintances



Old Town Abilene, run by Historic Abilene Inc., recreates many historic Abilene buildings from the cowtown era.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

he had, he wasn't keeping good company after the Civil War.

"I met Phil Coe first there in Brenham," Hardin recalled in his autobiography, "that notorious Phil Coe." Imagine how rowdy a person must have been to have John Wesley Hardin label him *notorious*. Coe also knew William Longley, a racist Texas gunman who would be hanged in Giddings, Texas, in 1878. And Coe served in the Confederate army and later partnered with gunman/gambler Ben Thompson. Thompson's attorney—and his first biographer—William M. Walton gave this description of Coe: "six feet and some inches high, extensive of girth, commanding in appearance, Coe was a gambler by profession and a rough, overbearing jollier by habit."

Coe's sister, Delilah, lived in Brenham with her family, which likely brought Coe to Brenham in 1869. Where he was before is hard to pinpoint, but some suggest that he, like many ex-Confederates, went to Mexico with Thompson to serve Emperor Maximilian. Since the Austrian archduke was executed by Juaristas in 1867, Coe would have been out of a job, and Brenham was, and still is (Brenham Heritage Museum, Brenham Fire Museum, Giddings Wilkin House Museum, Giddings Stone Mansion, Brazos Valley Brewing Company), a happening burg.

North to Kansas

By 1870, Coe had moved north, and is believed to have settled in Salina, Kansas, (Smoky Hill Museum, Central Kansas Flywheels' Yesteryear Museum). How he got there isn't known, but the best way to do it today is loosely following the Chisholm Trail through Waco (Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum), Fort

Worth (Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, Stockyards Museum) and north through Oklahoma past Duncan (Chisholm Trail Heritage Center), Oklahoma City (National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum) and into Kansas: Wichita (Old Cowtown Museum) and Newton (Harvey County Historical Museum).

In May 1871, Coe was in Abilene, Kansas. Who could blame a Texas gambler for heading east from Salina to that rip-roaring cowtown?

"I have seen many fast towns," Hardin recalled, "but I think Abilene beat them all. The town was filled with sporting men and women, gamblers, cowboys, desperadoes and the like. It was well supplied with bar rooms, hotels, barber shops and gambling houses, and everything was open."

Abilene (Dickinson County Heritage Center, Old Town Abilene, Seelye Mansion, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum) had grown substantially since the first Texas longhorns arrived in 1867, and Coe and pal Thompson weren't the only ones drawn there in 1871, Abilene's last season as a trail town. Hickok was appointed city marshal.

Coe and Thompson ran the Bull's Head Saloon. Coe and Thompson were Texans; Hickok, a Yankee. They just didn't get along.

One commonly mentioned reason for the Coe-Hickok animosity involved a woman, Jessie Hasel (or Hazell), usually identified as a prostitute or madam. As Tom Clavin, author of *Wild Bill: The True Story of the American Frontier's First Gunfighter*, points out: "There could be 50 or more men to every woman, and 'love triangles' were unavoidable."

Hickok might have been able to take such things in stride, but Coe was hot-tempered. Of course, one problem with that theory is no

record of Jessie Hasel/Hazell has ever been located. Another account says that Hickok forced Coe to play faro honestly.

But my favorite reason is this: Ever the advertising executive, Coe had a bull painted on his Texas Street saloon. The artist captured said animal in anatomically correct fashion.



What are the chances that Phil Coe's likeness would decorate Abilene walls had the Texas gambler won that gunfight?

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



Visitors to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, Oklahoma, will discover the real story of the Texans and the cowboys who drove the cattle north on the Chisholm Trail through Oklahoma (when it was the Indian Territory) to Abilene, Kansas.

- COURTESY CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE CENTER -

Hickok wasn't a prude, but in the Victorian Age, he strenuously objected to such vulgarity. He demanded that the atrocity be painted over, or he'd burn down Coe's saloon. Hickok, legend has it, got his way and paint was used to castrate the offending bull.

If we believe Hardin, Thompson asked Hardin to kill Hickok, but Hardin, no idiot, declined and eventually left Abilene. So did

Thompson, to join his pregnant wife in Texas. Coe stuck out the cattle-trail season through the fall and took in the Dickinson County fair, where merriment was had by all.

Filled with good spirits and plenty of ardent spirits, several Texans went through town, demanding that citizens buy them drinks. By some accounts, they even approached Hickok, who obliged the revelers. But in front of the

Alamo Saloon, Coe fired his revolver, and Hickok raced to meet the Texans, demanding to know who ignored the Abilene law that prohibited the carrying of firearms in the city proper, let alone shooting one.

The record says Hickok was outnumbered roughly 50-to-1.

Coe said he had fired at a stray dog, and then he fired at Hickok.

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2020

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The Brinton Museum

TheBrintonMuseum.org
Big Horn, Wyoming

A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Coe missed. Hickok didn't, and the Texan, hit twice in the abdomen, died four days later. Mike Williams ran to help Hickok, who shot and killed his deputy by accident. Wild Bill grieved, then got mad, and ran gamblers and cowboys out of town.

Coe's body was returned to Brenham, where he was buried at Prairie Lea Cemetery.

Coe was "a gambler," the *Abilene Chronicle* reported, "but a man of natural good impulses in his better moments" but also "had a spite at Wild Bill and had threatened to kill him."

Clavin put it another way. "Coe could not have been in his right mind when he decided to take on Wild Bill single-handedly."

Maybe not, but would anyone remember Phil Coe today if he had been thinking like a sane man?



Johnny D. Boggs chronicles Wild Bill Hickok, John Wesley Hardin, Mike Williams, Phil Coe and Abilene's 1871 season in *The Fall of Abilene*, a novel due out in trade paperback in June from Blackstone.

SID RICHARDSON MUSEUM

Fort Worth, Texas, has grown a lot since its Wild West days, but it has never forgotten its cowtown roots. And one of the best places for art lovers and Western history lovers to be transported to the Old West is downtown's Sid Richardson Museum. Sid Richardson, an oilman and philanthropist, started collecting works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell in 1942, but he also liked Charles Schreyvogel, Frank Tenney Johnson and Edwin W. Deming, among others. Richardson died in 1959, but his collection lives on in Fort Worth's historic Sundance Square. Admission is free, and the museum is a must stop for anyone touring downtown. But even when COVID restrictions keep the front door closed, the museum is offering virtual tours. You don't even have to take a road trip to Cowtown to see get a glimpse of history and art.

SidRichardsonMuseum.org.

Sid Richardson Museum, known for its Western art collection, is located in downtown Fort Worth, Texas's, historic Sundance Square.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: *Reba's Pizzeria & Deli*, Giddings, TX; *Volare*, Brenham, TX; *Tim's Place*, Duncan, OK; *The Cozy Inn*, Salina, KS; *Hitching Post Restaurant*, Abilene, KS

GOOD LODGING: *Belle Oakes Inn*, Gonzales, TX; *Ant Street Inn*, Brenham, TX; *Flying W Guest Ranch*, Sayre, OK; *CGW Ranch Bed & Breakfast*, Smolan, KS; *Abilene's Victorian Inn Bed & Breakfast*, Abilene, KS



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Home on the Range

Jim Hoy's highly personal biography of the Kansas Flint Hills, two new biographies of Butch Cassidy, Bill Neal's autobiography and Deborah Swenson's debut Western novel.

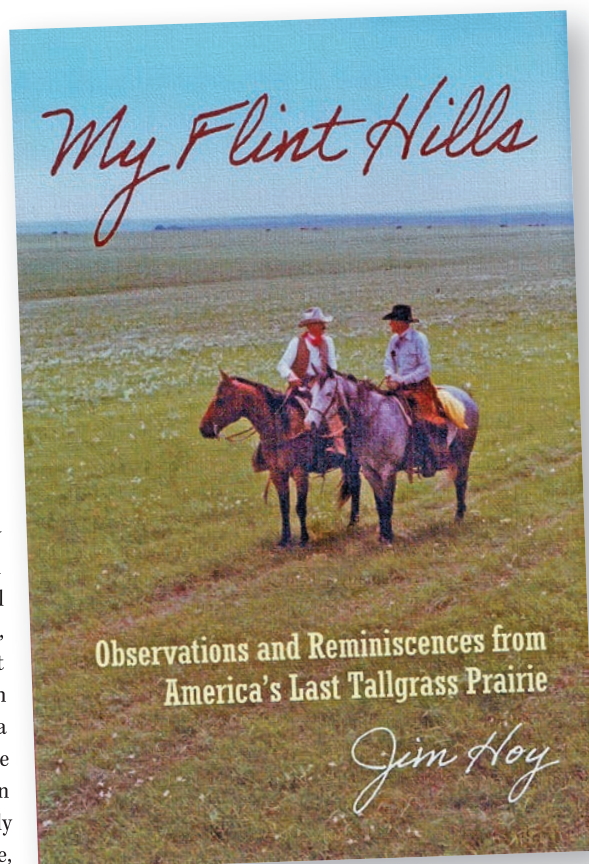
From my earliest years, I remember my parents sharing with me their love of the American West and their appreciation and knowledge of the West's writers, artists, educators and filmmakers. I discovered quickly that I could travel great distances from North Hollywood, California, across the West through the pages of Western writers whose personal experiences and imaginations allowed me to saddle up right along with them and realize "firsthand" the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, the magnificent mystery of the Grand Canyon and the endless, waving, undulating sea of grass of the Great Plains. I know that if I had been given Jim Hoy's *My Flint Hills: Observations and Reminiscences from America's Last Tallgrass Prairie* (University Press of Kansas, \$29.95) as a teenager, I definitely would have sought out the opportunity to explore the Flint Hills in my early years of cross-country travel.

Hoy's highly personal collection of essays on life in the unique geographic, geologic and cultural zone of eastern Kansas and a dab of northeastern Oklahoma brings the region to life in literary style that can only be compared to our greatest Western writers. From putting up hay to a lifetime study of cattle guards and their historic origins (did you know they date to the Iron Age?), Hoy takes the reader—with the added touch of being an English professor—on a literary tour eons into the past of pastoral life, up to the present day of modern Kansas. Just read his chapter on coyotes and you will never think of the much-maligned animal the same ever again. "One of my favorite animals is the coyote, the beast that Mark Twain reviled as the 'living, breathing allegory of Want.' That same animal, however, was a deity in every tribe of Plains people, albeit a fallible one. To many

he was a trickster, like Shakespeare's Puck or the Scandinavian Loki; in others he was Promethean, the inventor of fire."

After reading just a few chapters of Jim Hoy's *My Flint Hills*, readers will quickly discover that he is one of the most important living chroniclers and cultural historians of the American West and the Great Plains. Hoy's poignant and personal recollections and reflections on the Flint Hills and Southern Plains should be considered with Western authors lauded for their literary regional fiction and nonfiction such as Don Coldsmith, Tom Isern, Gretel Ehrlich, Edward Abbey, Max Evans, J.P.S. Brown, William Least Heat Moon, J. Frank Dobie, John Steinbeck, Mari Sandoz and Willa Cather. Even without having had the personal pleasure of meeting Hoy in person, the reader will immediately gain a sense of the man's presence, his quiet strength, passion for teaching and his love of family, the Great Plains and his beloved Flint Hills of Kansas.

Just as a student of Evans, Dobie or Cather will undoubtedly be imbued with their respective ardor for New Mexico, Texas and Nebraska, a reader of Hoy's *My Flint Hills* will gain an appreciation of the history, culture, people and seasons of the Flint Hills as if they had been his student at Emporia State University. (Lovers of lexicon will soak up his glossary of Flint Hills lingo, with the hope a Hoy-penned "Dictionary of the Great Plains" is in the chute.) Just as generations enjoyed Steinbeck's *Travels with Charlie* and Moon's



Blue Highways, Hoy's *My Flint Hills* will lead many to want to pack up and head to the last tallgrass prairie and experience it in person, from the ground up—or from the saddle—just as Hoy describes it after a day's work gathering cattle for shipping. "The world of the Flint Hills, as with any real or imagined world, is transitory (frighteningly so), but maybe, sitting in my pen holding a different kind of pen, I can capture some of the poetry that is the Flint Hills, can fix it into a form as permanent as the flint rock itself." Indeed, Hoy has done that for sure, now and forever, in the pages of *My Flint Hills*, a true classic of American Western literature.

—Stuart Rosebrook



— PHOTO BY ROBERT RAY —

Stand Up for the First Amendment

Censorship is telling a man he can't have a steak just because a baby can't chew it.

—Mark Twain

Recently I've been following a series of social media conversations, newspaper reports and television commentary on the First Amendment. Inevitably, these discussions circle back to the current "cancel culture," overt censorship, the suppression of speech and "reframing," a new term that "warns" the viewer/reader that there might be material deemed by someone to be offensive or, even worse, "triggering."

If you don't like it, don't read it, don't watch it, don't buy it, but don't suppress it or censor it because you don't like it or you think it might offend or upset the reader or viewer.

Sometimes—no, many times—the best literature, the best film, the best art not only offends, it makes us uncomfortable, challenges our own status quo and makes us reconsider a moral and ethical question, and if it is applicable, even reframe it for ourselves.

But that is Free Will—not a federal, state, county or local government agency, school board, network, newspaper or publisher censoring, suppressing, canceling or banning an author, book, show or film.

At *True West* we are committed to the First Amendment in principle and practice.

But we will also not stand for bullying or disrespectful language aimed at our editors, contributors, readers and larger community of writers, editors, publishers and supporters of Western writing and publishing. Please understand, we value your opinion, but please be respectful.

Remember the Golden Rule we all learned in childhood: "Treat others as you would like others to treat you." Or as my mother always reminds me, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

—Stuart Rosebrook

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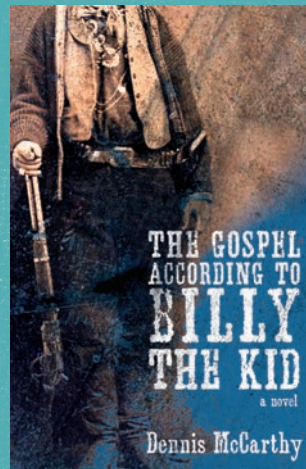
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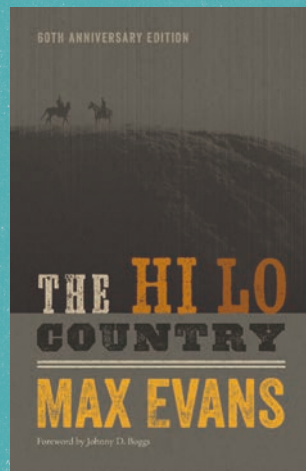
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The Marble Outlaw

Mike Bell is a champion in the field of outlaw history, and his most recent book is a testament

to his life's work chasing the true stories of long-dead bandits on the high plains. *Wyoming Outlaws: Butch Cassidy in Wyoming, 1889-1896: The Great Western Horse Thief War and the Making of an Outlaw* is published by the renowned English Westerners' Society (\$53) and clocks in at 729 pages. Bell, a resident of England,

spared no shortcuts in the book's 42 chapters. *Wyoming Outlaws* traces the life and crimes of Butch Cassidy, but also gives readers careful and critical analysis of the conditions of the period that allowed outlaws like Cassidy to prosper. *Wyoming Outlaws* wasn't the only book published on the Wild Bunch in 2020.

Author and historian Bill Betenson, a descendant of Butch Cassidy and author of *Butch Cassidy, My Uncle* (2012), revisits his notorious relative with *Butch Cassidy: The Wyoming*

Years (High Plains Press, \$19.95). As the book's title suggests, Betenson analyzes the outlaw's time in Wyoming. Masterfully re-researched and written in a lively style, the book brings a breath of life into the high range bandit.

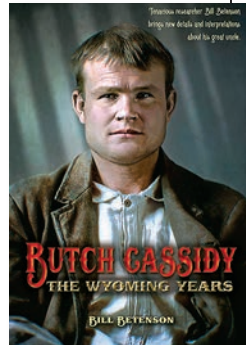
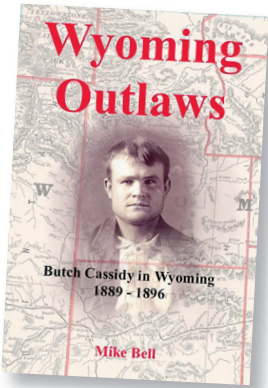
Bell and Betenson have spent considerable time documenting the lives and misdeeds of dangerous men. Both biographies look to raise questions and challenge old assumptions about the role of outlawry in Wyoming and beyond and will likely challenge the reader to seek broader answers within the context of American history.

— Erik J. Wright, author of *West of Hell: The Badmen, Hardcases & Intrepid Lawmen Who Made the West Wild*

A Teller of Tales

Bill Neal has not only educated us with his books on violence in the Wild West, the skulduggery and sex, murder and the "unwritten law" and the best book yet on the notorious killer for hire, James Brown Miller. He has now left the field of violence to tell us of his life and adventures in "*Now You Are Told...*" *A Collection of True Tales from my Yesteryears* (Covenant Books, \$34.95), a memoir of his years growing up in the Panhandle of Texas. Neal graduated number one in the University of Texas Law School; his knowledge may have stunned judges and juries, but with this memoir, we can follow his growing up and learning life's lessons. The numerous photographs add greatly to the book's contents.

—Chuck Parsons, author of *The Texas Rangers*



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— PHOTO BY HOLLY COURTNEY —

A PRESCOTT HISTORIAN SHARES HIS PASSION FOR ARIZONA HISTORY

Bradley G. Courtney is widely known as Prescott, Arizona's, 'Whiskey Row Historian'. His books include *Prescott's Original Whiskey Row* (2015) and *The Whiskey Row Fire of 1900* (2019). Bradley, a former Colorado River boat pilot, is currently working on a definitive history of Prescott's famous Palace Restaurant and Saloon, recently named *True West's Best Historic Saloon*. Here are five must-reads for anyone interested in Prescott history.

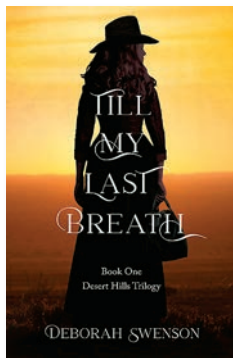
revered historical citizen. Walker's biography is the final say on this charismatic man.

4 *Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971* by Jeb Rosebrook with Stuart Rosebrook (BearManor Media): Jeb Rosebrook and Sam Peckinpah's masterpiece was filmed almost entirely in Prescott. This hard-to-put-down book is both an inside and behind-the-scenes account that include stories involving such flammable personalities as McQueen and Peckinpah.

5 *Wild Women of Prescott* by Jan MacKell Collins (The History Press): Prescott's historic red-light district ran parallel to Whiskey Row. Western prostitution historian Jan MacKell Collins tells the stories of the many "horizontal experts" of Prescott.

A Time-Travel Tale of Two Centuries

Till My Last Breath, Deborah Swenson's debut novel (Bookbaby, \$16.99), is a historical Western romance. It employs a time travel element,



setting it apart from the usual Western-themed novels. With fast-paced action, scores to be settled, and a budding romance, there's something for everyone. Descriptive sentences with an abundance of details combined with striking scenes create a colorful desert back-

drop to make the story line pop. The heroine of the story is Dr. Emily Sweeney, a resourceful, resilient strong woman. She's a 21st-century trauma physician in Seattle with a promising career. A tragic accident seals her fate. She instantly finds herself transported to 1880 Yuma territory, where she struggles to save an injured man. The novel reads at a breathtaking pace.

—Sue Ready, writer and owner of Ever Ready Book Reviews



1 *Virgil Earp: Western Peace Officer* by Don Chaput (Affiliated Writers of America, Inc.): Prescott was Virgil and Allie Earp's favorite Western town. Chaput's classic biography of Wyatt's older brother proves the veracity of this statement.

2 *According to Kate* by Chris Enss (TwoDot): The lady with many names but best known as Kate Elder had strong connections to Prescott. Enss uses previously unpublished material compiled by "Big Kose Kate" herself to tell a fascinating and revealing story.

3 *Rough Rider: Buckey O'Neill* by Dale Walker (University of Nebraska Press): William "Buckey" O'Neill is probably Prescott's most

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Great News

News of the World, Tom Hanks' first Western, is one of the best films of the year.



News of the World stars Tom Hanks as ex-Confederate Capt. Kyle Kidd and Helena Zengel as former Indian captive Johanna in the cinematic adaptation of Paulette Jiles' novel, which was a finalist for the National Book Award.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

While Texas novelist Paulette Jiles liked the idea of *News of the World* becoming a movie, this wasn't her first rodeo. "Larry McMurtry did a script for *Color of Lightning*, but he couldn't sell it to Hollywood. Twentieth Century-Fox bought *Enemy Women*, but they shelved it. So I'd gotten used to disappointment." When her agent said she'd sold *News of the World* to Universal, "and Tom Hanks is playing the captain, I said, 'Has he signed?' He had, and I was just on top of the world. Oh, he does a superlative job with the captain."

Eleven-year-old German actress Helena Zengel is new to the United States, but she won

the German equivalent of the Best Actress Oscar for 2019's *System Crasher*. She plays Johanna, a child of German immigrants taken captive by the Kiowa band who slaughtered her family. After six years, five since the end of the Civil War, she is rescued. When the black soldier entrusted with returning her to relatives is murdered, the obligation falls to ex-Confederate Capt. Kyle Kidd, who scrapes out a living travelling the hostile Army-occupied countryside, giving public readings from the world's newspapers. It's the first Western since *True Grit*, a decade ago, that would interest a child, and be appropriate for them to see.



News of the World is Tom Hanks' first Western in his 40-year acting career, and critics have compared his Captain Kidd to John Wayne's Academy Award-winning Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit* (1969).



In homage to the great Westerns made on location in the American Southwest, *News of the World* director Paul Greengrass and cinematographer Dariusz Wolski placed the movie's stars, Helena Zengel and Tom Hanks, in many wide-angle dramatic locations across New Mexico.

"Helena does a really good job," opines Jiles. "She worked very hard at learning Kiowa to play that part. And Kiowa is difficult because it's a tonal language; it's not easy to do."

Although perhaps never portrayed in fiction before, Captain Kidd's profession, News Presenter, is not Jiles' invention. The character was created for her earlier novel, *The Color of Lightning*, "Which is partially about Britt Johnson, the African-American frontiersman that *The Searchers*' story was based on, [although] they changed it to a white guy—John Wayne. His wife and two children are taken by a joint raiding force of the Kiowa and Comanche people, and Johnson went alone into Indian Territory and got them back. It was the most amazing thing.

"Because he's a freed slave, it had to be conveyed to the reader that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments had been passed. Some good friends who live here in town, their great grandfather was a traveling newsreader named Cornelius Kidd. I said, 'That is fascinating.' I put him in a brief scene where he does a reading, talking about the new amendments. Then I thought, this character is too good to let go. So I gave him his own novel.

"What suggested the story to me was my research into captives, and what happened to them after they returned. So many, when taken young, did not want to come back. There were some successful returns, but only in children who were much older when they were taken, and remembered more of their former life. But [most], they just didn't readjust."

The screenplay was co-written by Oscar-nominated English director Paul Greengrass, famous for three *Bourne* thrillers, and directing

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German actress Helena Zengel was 11 years old when they filmed *News of the World* on location in New Mexico. While it was her first American movie and Western, Zengel is noted for being the youngest actress to win the German Lola (Oscar equivalent) for best actress in *System Crasher* (2019).

News of the World was filmed across the state of New Mexico in numerous locations, a physical challenge for the movie's stars—11-year-old German actress Helena Zengel (center) and Tom Hanks (right, on horseback)—and its large supporting cast, hundreds of extras, teamsters, crew and livestock.

Tom Hanks in *Captain Phillips*, and Australian Luke Davies, an Oscar-nominee for his *Lion* script. Usually filmmakers of very contemporary stories, they successfully tackled the 19th-century plot. "They did a good job," Jiles believes. "They changed many things, and the captain is not the same man that is in the book, [but] they stayed with the basic story."

story, beautifully photographed. The sets are terrific. The girl is wonderful, and they just made a gorgeous film out of it. You'll love it."

So will you.

BLU-RAY REVIEW

TAZA, SON OF COCHISE (1954)

(KINO LORBER; Blu-Ray, \$29.95) It had every reason to be an awful Western: Producer Ross Hunter, famous for bubbly comedies; director Douglas Sirk, the king of overwrought tearjerkers; and Rock Hudson and Barbara Rush leading a cast of talented white actors playing Indians. Remarkably, *Taza, Son of Cochise* is a fine Western, and pretty good history. Cochise, (Jeff Chandler, in a deathbed reprise from *Broken Arrow*) leaves Taza in charge of negotiations with the U.S., while his brother Naiche (Rex Reason) wants the Apaches to fight alongside Geronimo. A betrayal leads to a unique attack on a fort which will have you cheering for the Apaches. It features spectacular views of Utah, and 3-D if you've got the equipment, plus expert commentary by C. Courtney Joyner and David Del Valle.



— COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES —

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.

Pinedale, Wyoming

The historic Green River Valley community is a great place to rendezvous like a mountain man.

A visitor might wonder how any noteworthy history could've occurred in this remote hunting and outfitting settlement of 2,000 people in the Upper Green River Valley. With the beautiful Wind River Mountains as a backdrop, it sits at 7,175 feet and boasts of being 110 miles from the nearest incorporated town with a railroad head.

But the mountain men who rendezvoused here between 1825 and 1840 played a crucial role in establishing the fur trade road, a forerunner to the Oregon Trail that did so much to open the West beginning in 1843.

"We really live the things we do here, enjoying the outdoors, cowboying and ranching," says Samantha Harnack, ambassador at Pinedale Travel & Tourism. "Our tagline is 'The Real Wyoming.'"

The Green River Rendezvous, begun in 1936 to recreate the mountain man era, is Pinedale's biggest annual event featuring four days of fun in July, including a rodeo, a parade, vendors, tours, fur trade lectures and more.

Walk the booths and tents along traders' row to see demonstrations of blacksmithing, whittling and blanket-weaving. Rub shoulders with men in buckskin and watch the beard auction, when, for a price, a mountain man is shorn of his facial hair. It's a hoot.

The Rendezvous Pageant has 70 costumed actors portraying famous characters like Kit Carson and Jedediah Smith. In an hour-long performance, they recreate the early Rendezvous, when Indians and trappers gathered to meet and trade.

Visit a replica Plains Indian camp consisting of wickiups, sweat lodges and meat-drying racks. See a sinew-sewn buffalo hide tipi and hear talks by Seminole historian, actor and stuntman Michael "Bad Hand" Terry.

The Museum of the Mountain Man, which hosts musical and historical events during the Rendezvous, displays relics of the fur trade,



The annual Green River Rendezvous was first held in Pinedale in the summer of 1936. In 2021, the Rendezvous is scheduled for July 8-11. The Plains Indian Encampment is always set up adjacent to the Museum of the Mountain Men.

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including a 40-caliber rifle engraved "J. Bridger," for the famed trapper Jim Bridger.

Also on view is a 34-inch sheep-horn bow made between 1690 and 1730. These were considered the most powerful short bows used by Native Americans on horseback hunts.

Stroll Pinedale's charming downtown to the Cowboy Shop. Opened in 1947, the store has everything cowboys and cowgirls need, as well as an unusual assortment of gifts. Pick up an 1880 map of Territorial Wyoming, a mystery novel by Wyoming's own C.J. Box, or a bottle of Caballero, a men's cologne by Annie Oakley.

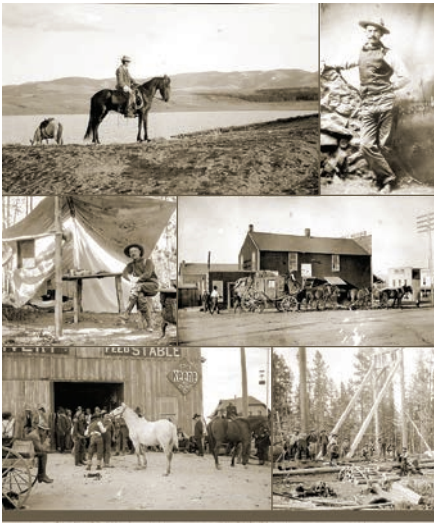
To see a beautiful glacial lake, drive to Fremont Lake Overlook, named for pathfinder John C. Fremont, who mapped the Oregon Trail in 1842.

Wyoming's second largest, Fremont Lake is 12 miles long and 600 feet deep. If the weather is right, try dining at Lakeside Lodge. The views from the deck are magical.

At Trappers Point Overlook, see where six of the original mountain man Rendezvous were held. Visitors might also see a cattle drive in which local cowboys move their stock between winter and summer pastures, the so-called Green River Drift. It occurs twice a year, early



The Green River Rendezvous begins with "The Greeting," in which the mountain men race their horses up the hill to greet the gathering and rededicate the Trappers Point Historical Monument.



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The Fourth of July has always been a major celebration in Pinedale followed by the Green River Rendezvous and its popular parade, held the second Saturday of July.



in spring and again in fall, and has been ongoing since 1896.

"It's a beautiful sight," says Ann Chambers Noble, a rancher and author of a book about Pinedale. "You get an exquisite view of the area, but people have to be careful to stay back from where the cowboys and cowgirls are working. The cattle move very early in the day, so you have to be an early riser."

Noble runs the Chambers House Bed & Breakfast set in a renovated 1933 log home. Take in a quiet, homey atmosphere where guests gather around a big table to visit and enjoy a homemade breakfast.

FUN FACT: The 2016 film, *The Revenant*, with Leonardo DiCaprio, was about fur trade legend Hugh Glass. In 1823, Glass famously crawled more than 200 miles to safety following a bear attack. Visit the Hugh Glass exhibit at the Museum of the Mountain Man to learn the full, dramatic story of the mountain man's life. ❖

Hiking, fishing, camping and horseback riding are just a few of the outdoor activities that bring visitors to Pinedale, Green River Valley and Wind River Mountains in Sublette County every year.

— COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM

Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. He is the author of the mystery novels, *Double Wide* and *Champagne Cowboys*.



The Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale has the most extensive exhibits on mountain men and the fur trade in the United States.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



Artist Jerry McKellar's eight-foot statue of Jim Bridger, *Walking the Line*, greets visitors in front of the Pinedale Visitor Center at 19 E. Pine Street.

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

To plan your trip, contact the Town of Pinedale at TownOfPinedale.us and the Sublette County Chamber of Commerce at SubletteChamber.com.

WINCHESTER RIFLES

See a display of more than one hundred commemorative repeating rifles, as well as shotguns, revolvers and pistols, many of which are rare and never fired.

MuseumOfTheMountainMan.com

GREAT BEERS

At Wind River Brewing Company, taste the company's domestic lager called Housewife, billed as "beer that tastes like beer." Their creations are made from pure glacier water from Fremont Lake. WindRiverBrewingCo.com

SOMMERS HOMESTEAD LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

Reimagine the lives of Jonita and Albert Sommers, who homesteaded in 1907. See a 100-year-old log house, and watch living history demonstrations on roping and other activities. MuseumOfTheMountainMan.com

GREEN RIVER DRIFT

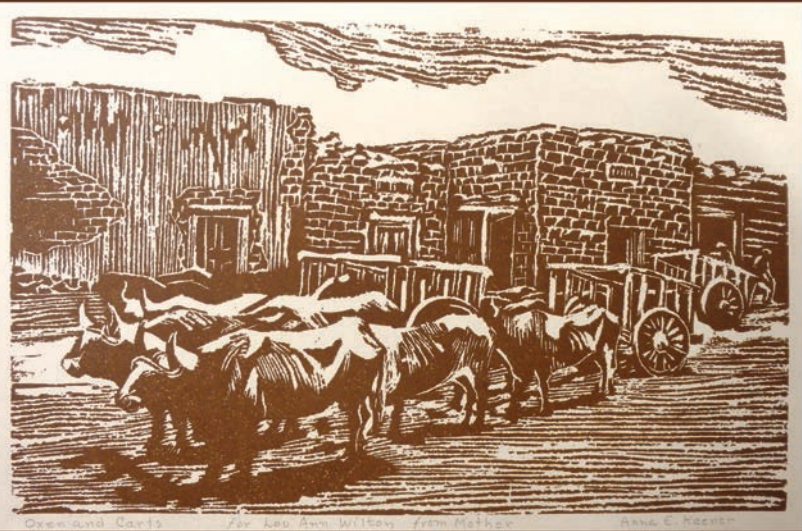
Watch a documentary, released by Wyoming PBS and The Content Lab, on one of the oldest cattle drives. Described as a true story of the Old West in the modern world, *The Drift* explains how the drive continues in spite of obstacles like vacation homes, drilling rigs and grizzly bears. ContentLabMedia.com

WIND RIVER MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

A July weekend of live music, craft beer, historic slide shows, demonstrations of outdoor gear and the daylong Surlly Pika Adventure Race. Team members using bikes, boats and their own two feet, race to find checkpoints in the Wind River Mountain Range. WindRiverFest.com

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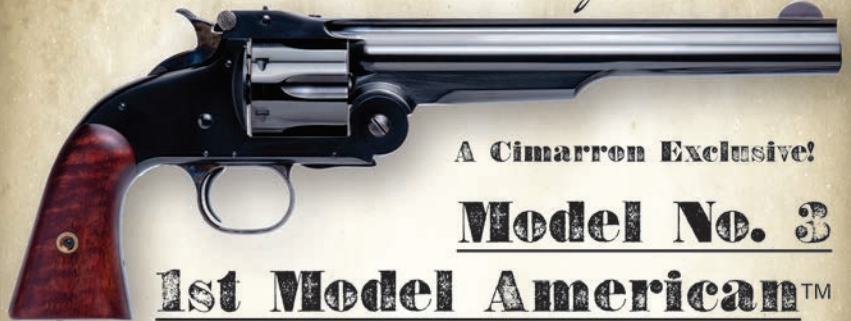
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Across the West, historic hotels, guest ranches, lodges, restaurants and saloons eagerly await patrons.

On a recent trip from Arizona to Washington, I stayed overnight at national chain hotels, local Airbnb cottages and condos and a historic hotel. Everywhere I spent the night on the way to and from Seattle, the owners were welcoming and helpful, the properties were clean and up-to-date and the neighborhood restaurants and shops were eager for visitors to return. In Nevada, Oregon and Washington, every business was set and ready for visitors, and every proprietor was holding onto the deep-seated hope that the pandemic restrictions would be lifted and the business of tourism could return to their establishments and communities.

At *True West* magazine, we encourage our readers—when they are comfortable doing so (hopefully vaccinated)—to rebook that Western vacation, schedule a weekend away or even just go out for an evening to one of their favorite, local historic restaurants. We guarantee the lodging, restaurant and saloon owners who have worked so hard for so many years to maintain, preserve, and in many instances, restore their historic properties are eager for the public to return and immerse themselves in an Old West experience.

For 2021, we have selected 16 diverse historic hospitality properties across the West to inspire your travel plans. And we have included sidebars that spotlight more historic hotels, lodges, guest ranches, restaurants and saloons that we believe our *True West* readers will enjoy. For a more detailed state-by-state list, please consult the fourth edition of the *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide (Store.TrueWestMagazine.com)*. We also recommend contacting the local property owner and consulting with the local chamber and visitors' bureau before making your final plans.

So what are you waiting for? Make those reservations, pack your bags and hit the road West! Experiences of a lifetime are just waiting to be made—so why not make them in 2021?



ARIZONA

Crown King Saloon & Café

Crown King, Arizona



Crown King Saloon

— COURTESY JOE FREEDMAN —

The Crown King Saloon & Café is located high in the Bradshaw Mountains. The historic saloon is the oldest continuously operated bar in the state of Arizona and has been open for 115 years! In 1906 it was disassembled in nearby OroBelle and brought to Crown King piece by piece. The saloon is still well-known for its drinks, while the café, famous for its hamburgers, serves lunch and dinner, with breakfast on the weekends. To visit Crown King, follow County Road 59 from the I-17 Exit 248 (Bumblebee) for 28 miles of well-graded dirt road.

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Crown King, AZ 86343

928-632-7053 • CrownKingSaloon.com

The Occidental Hotel in Buffalo, Wyoming, is one of the state's oldest historic inns. When staying at the Occidental, enjoy a drink in the 1908 Occidental Saloon and a meal in The Virginian Restaurant.

— COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM —

The Hassayampa Inn

Prescott, Arizona

The Hassayampa Inn in the historic district of Prescott offers comforting small-town charm while being situated near the sights and sounds of Prescott. This prime location is walking distance to the Courthouse Plaza, Whiskey Row, museums, art galleries and one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, saloons and antique stores. Designed with Spanish Colonial Revival and Italianate features by Southwest architect Henry Trost, the Hassayampa was constructed as a luxury motor hotel in 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

122 E Gurley St

Prescott, AZ 86301

800-322-1927 • HassayampaInn.com



Hassayampa Inn

— COURTESY PRESCOTT CVB —

CALIFORNIA

The Murphys Historic Hotel Murphys, California



The Murphys Historic Hotel
— COURTESY MURPHYS HOTEL —

The original Murphys Hotel opened in 1856 amidst the Gold Rush. Located on Matteson's stage route from the railhead in Milton to the Calaveras Grove, the hotel has been continuously open since 1860 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Through the decades, the hotel's owners have celebrated its rich history and famous guests, including Mark Twain, and in the past 20 years have rigorously worked to preserve and present an elegant, historic atmosphere for the hotel's patrons. Murphys has 29 rooms (nine in the original hotel), a very popular saloon and an award-winning restaurant.

457 Main St
Murphys, CA 95247
800-532-7684 • MurphysHotel.com

COLORADO

Delaware Hotel Leadville, Colorado

In 1886, during the mining boom in Leadville, the Calloway Brothers of Delaware built and opened the luxurious Delaware Hotel. Today, 135 years later, The Delaware is Leadville's only remaining grand dame from the city's glory days. The Victorian-era hotel, which is described as "part museum, part gallery, and part country inn" is considered the social center of the high-elevation



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Hotel Colorado

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

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Hotel Colorado
- COURTESY HOTEL COLORADO -

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970-945-6511 • HotelColorado.com

Meeker Hotel & Café

Meeker, Colorado

Established in 1896, the Meeker Hotel & Café is northwestern Colorado's only historic hotel. The Meeker welcomes its guests to relax on Main Street in downtown Meeker, a small town with a great Western past rooted in its ranching heritage. Each of the 14 guest rooms carries its own moniker, so book ahead and ask for the Theodore Roosevelt Suite or the Billy the Kid Room. When checking in, note the front desk was once the hotel's bar. The Café is located in the east wing and is famous for its breakfasts, burgers and chicken-fried steak.

560 Main St
Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-5255 • MeekerHotel.com



Meeker Hotel & Café
- COURTESY MEEKER HOTEL & CAFÉ -

The Strater Hotel

Durango, Colorado

A founding member of Historic Hotels of America, The Strater has an international reputation as Durango's finest Victorian-era hotel.

Historic Hotels

Travelers seeking an extraordinary property with an Old West pedigree will enjoy staying at a hotel with great history. These 14 are *True West* favorites, but the West abounds with historic getaways. Before traveling, we recommend you check with each hotel for current availability and seasonal hours, as well as checking with Historic Hotels of America (HistoricHotels.org).

**The Cosmopolitan
Hotel & Restaurant**
San Diego, CA
OldTownCosmopolitan.com

Cliff House at Pike's Peak
Manitou Springs, CO
TheCliffHouse.com

Historic Western Hotel
Ouray, CO
HistoricWesternHotel.com

Rochester Hotel
Durango, CO
RochesterHotel.com

The Idaho Hotel
Silver City, ID
HistoricSilverCityIdaho.com

**Midland Railroad
Hotel & Restaurant**
Wilson, KS
MidlandRailroadHotel.com

Belvada Hotel
Tonopah, NV
BelvadaHotel.com

**Hilton Santa Fe
Historic Plaza**
Santa Fe, NM
HiltonSantaFe.com

The Historic Taos Inn
Taos, NM
TaosInn.com

Geiser Grand Hotel
Baker City, OR
GeiserGrand.com

Hot Lake Springs Hotel
La Grande, OR
HotLakeSprings.com

Crockett Hotel
San Antonio, TX
CrockettHotel.com

Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX
MengerHotel.com

**Gouldings Lodge &
Restaurant**
Olijato-Monument Valley, UT
Gouldings.com

Eighty-eight unique storied rooms, the Henry Strater Theatre, The Mahogany Grille, The Office Spiritorium and The Diamond Belle Saloon are all steeped in craftsmanship at every level. Walk through the doors of The Strater Hotel and open a world of living history and antiques that becomes part of



The Strater Hotel
- COURTESY THE STRATER HOTEL -

every visitor's personal story. The Strater offers a complete experience where guests can stay in rooms restored to their 1887 splendor, enjoy gourmet meals in the hotel's restaurant and Old West entertainment in the saloon and Henry Strater Theatre.

699 Main Ave
Durango, CO 81301
970-945-6511 • Strater.com

MONTANA

Grand Union Hotel

Fort Benton, Montana

At the zenith of steamboat traffic on the Upper Missouri, the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton, Montana, was opened in 1882. Closed in the 1980s, the grand dame was reopened in 1999 after preservation efforts restored the hotel to its 19th-century glory.

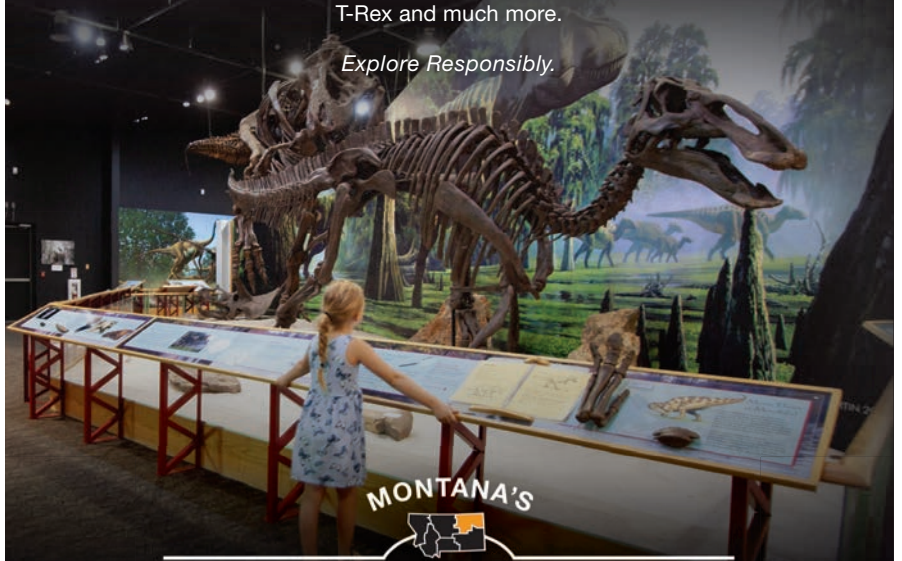


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Historic Ranches

Almost every Western state is home to historic dude ranches, ranch guest homes and lodges. Here is a short list of our favorites. For the most up-to-date list of all-inclusive Western guest ranches, contact The Dude Ranchers Association at DudeRanch.org.

Rancho de la Os
Sasabe, AZ
RanchoDeLaOsa.com

Tanque Verde Guest Ranch
Tucson, AZ
TanqueVerdeRanch.com

Tombstone Monument Guest Ranch
Tombstone, AZ
TombstoneMonumentRanch.com

Rankin Ranch
Calliente, CA
RankinRanch.com

A Painted View Ranch
Westcliffe, CO
APaintedView.com

C Lazy U Ranch
Granby, CO
CLazyU.com

Trappers Lake Lodge
Meeker, CO
TrappersLake.com

Diamond D Ranch
Stanley, ID
DiamondDRanch-Idaho.com

Mountain Sky Guest Ranch
Emigrant, MT
MountainSky.com

The Resort at Paws Up
Greenough, MT
PawsUp.com

Rowse's 1+1 Ranch
Burwell, NE
1+1Ranch.com

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch
Winston, NM
GeronimoRanch.com

Y.O Ranch Hotel
Kerrville, TX
YORanchKerrville.com

Cibola Creek Ranch
Marfa, TX
CibolaCreekRanch.com

Bull Hill Guest Ranch
Kettle, WA
Bullhill.com

Paradise Guest Ranch
Buffalo, WY
ParadiseRanch.com

Triangle C Dude Ranch
Dubois, WY
TriangleC.com

Willow Ranch Creek at Hole in the Wall
Kaycee, WY
WillowCreekRanch.com

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1 Grand Union Sq
Fort Benton, MT 59442
888-838-1882 • GrandUnionHotel.com

Hotel Arvon
Great Falls, Montana



Hotel Arvon
- COURTESY HOTEL ARVON -

Montana mining and ranching pioneer Robert "The Celtic Cowboy" Vaughn opened the Hotel Arvon and an adjacent livery in Great Falls in 1890. The town's founder named the inn for his daughter Arvon. The Hotel Arvon is in the city's oldest commercial building on Great Falls' Arvon block. The luxurious and lovingly restored inn has 11 suites and 22 guest rooms. The Celtic Cowboy,

an Irish pub named after Vaughan, is right next door, and guests and locals equally enjoy the good food and festive atmosphere.

118 1st Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59401
406-952-1101 • HotelArvon.com

NEVADA

The Mizpah Hotel
Tonopah, Nevada

The Mizpah Hotel opened in 1907, and at one time was considered the finest 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. The rooms and suites are decorated with antiques, and coffee

The Mizpah Hotel
- COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA -



service is provided in the hallways every morning. While at the Mizpah, enjoy breakfast and dinner in the award-winning Pittman Café on the first floor.
 100 N Main St
 Tonopah, NV 89049
 775-932-7710 • TheMizpahHotel.com



Historic Plaza Hotel
 - COURTESY HISTORIC PLAZA HOTEL -

NEW MEXICO

Historic Plaza Hotel

Las Vegas, New Mexico

The beautifully restored Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, New Mexico, anchors the city's historic downtown. Known as "The Belle of the Southwest" since it opened in 1882, the Plaza Hotel has undergone a masterful restoration of its 70 rooms, lobby, dining room and saloon. Nineteen of the well-appointed rooms overlook the Plaza Park, which fans of the television series *Longmire* will recognize as downtown "Durant." The Plaza's proprietors have also restored and manage Las Vegas's Castañeda Hotel, and Winslow, Arizona's, La Posada, both former Fred Harvey hotels that served the passengers of the Santa Fe Railway.

230 Plaza Pk
 Las Vegas, NM 87701
 505-425-3591 • PlazaHotelLVNM.com



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SOUTH DAKOTA

Historic Bullock Hotel

Deadwood, South Dakota

In 1894, local sheriff and entrepreneur Seth Bullock built with his partner, Sol Star, the three-story Bullock Hotel after another downtown fire in Deadwood. The brick building took two years to complete but was quickly known as the city's finest and convenient to the Grand Island and Wyoming Central train station, which had been operating passenger service to the town since 1891. Today, The Bullock is the "Jewel of Downtown" Deadwood with 63 rooms and suites. Bully, the hotel restaurant, is named in honor of Bullock's good friend, Theodore Roosevelt. Ask ahead about nightly entertainment and re-enactment events.

633 Main St

Deadwood, SD 57732

806-336-1876 • HistoricBullock.com



The Bullock Hotel

— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

TEXAS

Old Central Firehouse Bed & Brew

San Angelo, Texas

Centrally located in downtown San Angelo, Old Central Firehouse was built in 1929. One of the first firehouses in San Angelo, the stately building remained in service as a firehouse

Old Central Firehouse Bed & Brew

— COURTESY OLD CENTRAL FIREHOUSE BED & BREW —



Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel

— COURTESY JOHN MARGOLIES ROADSIDE AMERICA PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVE (1972-2008), LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

until 1976. Newly renovated into a bed and brew, it is near the city's dining and entertainment district, as well as many local historic sites including Fort Concho. Old Central Firehouse provides a unique, relaxing getaway within walking distance of many of the things that make San Angelo so great.

200 S Magdalen St

San Angelo, TX 76903

325-703-2029 • OCFBedAndBrew.com

Historic Sheridan Hotel

— COURTESY SHERIDAN CVB —



WYOMING

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel

Cody, Wyoming

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody built the internationally renowned hotel in Cody in 1902 and named it for his daughter, Irma. Today, you can stay in historic rooms that housed some of the most famous personalities the world has ever known, including Annie Oakley and Frederic Remington. You can even stay in Buffalo Bill's private suite. While at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, enjoy a meal in the dining room and a drink at the grand cherrywood bar that Queen Victoria gifted to her friend, Buffalo Bill.

1192 Sheridan Ave

Cody, WY 82414

307-587-4221 • IrmaHotel.com

Historic Saloons & Restaurants

Across the West, small towns and big cities are home to historic restaurants and saloons. We recommend you check hours and days of operation in advance and have a good meal and cold beverage at one of these great historic saloons and restaurants.

Big Nose Kate's Tombstone, AZ BigNoseKatesTombstone.com	The Fort Restaurant Morrison, CO TheFort.com	Hamley Steakhouse Pendleton, OR Hamley.com
Crystal Palace Tombstone, AZ CrystalPalaceSaloon.com	True Grit Cafe Ridgway, CO TrueGritCafe.com	Buffalo Bodega Bar Deadwood, SD BuffaloBodega.com
The Oriental Tombstone, AZ OrientalSaloon.com	Hays House Restaurant Council Grove, KS HaysHouse.com	Big Texan Steak Ranch Amarillo, TX BigTexan.com
Palace Restaurant & Saloon Prescott, AZ WhiskeyRowPalace.com	Bale of Hay Saloon Virginia City, MT VirginiaCity.com	The Brick Saloon Roslyn, WA BrickSaloon.com
The Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant Denver, CO Buckhorn.com	Genoa Bar and Saloon Genoa, NV GenoaBarAndSaloon.com	Miners & Stockman's Steakhouse & Spirits Hartville, WY WyomingsOldestBar.com
Diamond Belle Saloon Durango, CO Strater.com	Baldwin's Saloon The Dalles, OR BaldwinSaloon.com	The Mint Bar Sheridan, WY MintBarWYO.com



Historic Sheridan Inn

Sheridan, Wyoming

The end of the Johnson County War opened the door to expansion of tourism in Wyoming, including the opening of the Sheridan Inn in 1893. A gathering place for travelers for decades, the inn was restored and reopened in 2013 with 22 rooms and a popular banquet facility for weddings and reunions. Ask about the inn's five-bed-

room Mountain Lodge, available to rent with a three-day minimum. The Sheridan Inn is the perfect headquarters for exploring the Big Horn region of Wyoming and Montana. 856 Broadway St
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-655-7861 • SheridanInn.com

The Occidental Hotel

Buffalo, Wyoming

The Occidental Hotel was founded in 1879 in a tent before a log structure was constructed in 1880. The hotel hosted many famous people, including author of *The Virginian*, Owen Wister, who frequented the region and based his novel's characters on gunslingers and cowboys he'd met in the Occidental Saloon. The current hotel was constructed between 1903 and 1908 and restored and modernized in 1990 and 2008. The Occidental guarantees today's visitors an Old West experience at its historic Occidental Saloon, Busy Bee Cafe and The Virginian Restaurant.

10 Main St
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-0451 • OccidentalWyoming.com



The Occidental Hotel
- COURTESY THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL -



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21ST ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY DAYS

Pinedale, WY, May 11-13: Each day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the American Mountain Men show the day-to-day life of the Rendezvous era trappers. The program is mainly created for school groups but, kids and adults of all ages are welcome to join. All programs are free. 877-686-6266 • MuseumoftheMountainMan.com



ART SHOWS

NATIONAL FINE ART SHOW & AUCTION

Ellensburg, WA, May 21-23: The Ellensburg art show and auction exhibits works by new and established Western artists for the benefit of the public. 509-962-2934 • WesternArtAssociation.org

GUN SHOWS

COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GUN SHOW

Denver, CO, May 15-16: The show offers more than 1,500 tables of antique and modern firearms and cowboy artifacts. 720-482-0167 • CGCA.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

WYATT EARP DAYS

May 21-23, Tombstone, AZ: In honor of famed Tombstone lawman Wyatt Earp, activities include gunfights, a chili cook-off and an 1880s fashion show. 520-457-3511 • TombstoneChamber.com

OUTDOOR & WILDLIFE EXPOS

UTE MOUNTAIN MESA VERDE BIRDING FESTIVAL

May 2021, dates TBD, Cortez, CO: Observe the local bird population with regional wildlife specialists volunteering as tour guides and guest lecturers. 970-565-1151 • CortezCulturalCenter.org

FORT KEARNY OUTDOOR EXPO

Kearney, NE, May 8: The expo showcases Nebraska's vast outdoor activities, including shooting, archery and fishing, through demonstrations and contests. 888-444-1867 • VisitKearney.org

CANCELED OR POSTPONED EVENTS

FRIENDS OF HAPPY TRAILS BANQUET: CANCELED FOR 2021

Victorville, CA: Make plans now to attend this annual banquet dinner next year with the entire family. The event celebrates Roy Rogers and Dale Evans' Happy Trails Foundation and the work they do to help children. Live entertainment and lots of fun, food, games, raffles, auctions, door prizes and collectibles!

760-240-3330 • HappyTrails.org

JOHN WAYNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 2022

Winterset, IA: Come celebrate the life of John Wayne, this year featuring his classic "Big Jake" and special guest Christopher Mitchum. Musical headliner is Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives. 877-462-1044 • JohnWayneBirthplace.museum

RODEOS

LAS VEGAS DAYS RODEO

May 2021, dates TBD, Las Vegas, NV: The PRCA rodeo, formerly known as the Hellorado Days Rodeo, will be held at the Plaza Hotel and hosted by Bar T Rodeo.

702-870-1221 • RodeosUSA.com

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC

Abilene, TX, May 6-9: This working ranch rodeo also offers cowboy music and poetry, a fiddler's contest, a parade and a trade show. 325-677-4376 • WesternHeritageClassic.com

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



Fighting Earps, Rattlesnakes and the Birds and the Bees



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.



A formal portrait of Nicholas Earp and his second wife, Virginia ("Ginny") Ann Cooksey Earp, c 1880 to 1899

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Did any of the "Fighting Earps" have children?

*Warren Rutherford
Phoenix, Arizona*

Nicholas Earp and his first wife, Abigail Storm, had two children; one was a son they named Newton. Abigail died when Newton was only two. Newton's sister Mariah Ann passed two months after his mother at the tender age of 10 months. Nicholas' second wife, Virginia "Ginny," bore him eight children, including five boys: James, Virgil, Wyatt, Morgan and Warren. Of Nicholas and Ginny's five boys, only Virgil fathered a child, a girl. Newton fathered two boys, Virgil, and Wyatt, naming them after two of his younger half-brothers. All the Earp brothers, including Newton, were close.

In the second *True Grit* movie, there is a scene where they are bedding down for the night. It appears Rooster puts a rope on the ground around Mattie's bed. Why?

*Greg Williams
Apache Junction, Arizona*

There was an old superstition that a rattlesnake wouldn't cross over a rope, so cowboys used to string one around their bedrolls to keep the snakes away. I had a chance to witness a test of whether or not a snake would be thwarted by a rope. It wasn't.

How did Old West figures take care of their guns?

*Vance Johnson
Fillmore, California*

It depended on how much they might need their revolver in a life or death situation. Men like Wild Bill Hickok, Billy the Kid or Jesse James might clean and oil their pistol every day because their lives might depend on it at any given moment. Black powder was dirty, and you didn't want a malfunction at a critical moment. A cowhand, who had different and more infrequent gun needs, might clean it once a month or so.



Working cowboys were always practicing their roping when they had extra time in camp, and some cowboys even became quite proficient at trick roping; but the trick of circling a cowboy's bedroll with his trusty riata to keep the rattlers away? Well, that's one that can't be proven.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

My friends and I were having a discussion about parents having sex in those one-room cabins on the frontier. I said, "Let's Ask the Marshall." They said, "He won't answer that one." So, we made a bet. I said you would.

*Brenda Wade
San Diego, California*

Brenda, you win! There are many ways to answer your question. I could simply say, "They did it quietly," or "They waited until the kids fell asleep." Living in such cramped quarters, modesty was difficult if not impossible. Kids figured out at a young age how babies were made and where they came from. Oftentimes, the older children assisted their mother in giving birth. Add in the fact that kids grew up around livestock and saw animals in the act of mating and giving birth.

In reality, couples just "did what comes naturally." Then someone came along in the 20th century and invented "privacy" along with homes featuring separate bedrooms.



A homestead family—father, mother and children—learned a lot about loving and living in the close quarters of a one-room homestead cabin in the 1870s.

— C.W. TALBOT, COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —

How were elections run in the Wild West?

Jonathan Waller
Hampshire, UK

For the first 50 years of American elections, most voting wasn't done in private, and voters didn't even make their choice on a paper ballot. Instead, those with the right to vote (only white men at the time) went to the local courthouse and publicly cast their vote out loud.

Campaigning and carousing were allowed at the polling place, and candidates often provided whiskey to prospective voters—which might explain why turnout rates were around 85 percent.

The first paper ballots began appearing in the early 19th century, but they weren't standardized or even printed by government elections officials. By the mid-19th century, state Republican or Democratic party officials would distribute preprinted fliers to voters listing only their party's candidates for office. They were called "tickets" because the small rectangles of paper resembled 19th-century train tickets.

Irregularities at the polls were common. In the Pima County sheriff election of 1880, Republican Bob Paul was running against Democrat Charlie Shibell. Paul had a good reputation as a tough lawman while Shibell was more of an administrator. Cowboys Ike Clanton and Johnny Ringo managed to get themselves named election officials. With only 50 eligible voters in the San Simon District, Shibell received 123 votes and Paul only got one. Paul lost the election, but an investigation later declared him the winner.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

— PHOTO BY LINDSAY HARRELL —



JANICE DUNNAHOO, ARCHIVIST

Janice Dunnahoo is the archivist for the Historical Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico. She is a sought-after public speaker on local history topics for government and civic organizations. Dunnahoo writes a weekly column “Historically Speaking” for the *Roswell Daily Record*, (Roswell, New Mexico) and is also a regular contributor to the *West Texas Historical Association Newsletter* and *Texas-New Mexico Border Archives*. In 2020, she was a panelist for the Western History Association Conference and at the New Mexico Humanities conference in 2021. She is also a professional genealogist.

People don't realize how hard it is to put together a historical article when you have several different historical “sources” that vary on what actually happened.

Wish I had a dollar for every time I didn't have a dollar.

One thing I definitely learned from being quarantined is the joy of not being quarantined.

The biggest secret in eastern New Mexico is Pecos Valley diamonds, a natural phenomenon.

You haven't lived until you've had Frederick Nolan serenade you, playing the piano.

A perfect weekend for me is a room with a view, and perfect weather to keep the windows open.

Some things are overrated, like progress...

My greatest challenge has been overcoming shyness... or “some” people.

Most people don't know that I have ancestral links to the Jesse James family, through ancestral friendships. Jesse's dad, Robert Sallee James, was named after my great, great, great grandfather, Oliver C. Sallee. Both families were longtime friends and shared land in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Don't get me started on changes in the world today.

The best advice I've ever received was, go outside, listen to nature.

For me the best Western (movie) ever made is *Tombstone*.

Growing up in Roswell, New Mexico, we often took road trips to the mountains of Ruidoso, New Mexico, where my uncle owned Sallee's Riding Stables. We would take many trails on horseback over the years with my uncle who knew every part of these mountains. As a child it was easy to go back in time and pretend we were part of the Old West, riding over some of the same lands as Billy the Kid and the Mescalero Apaches.

A historian who influenced me was Dr. Elvis Fleming, who was instrumental in building the archives here [at the Historical Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico]. He was a professor, a friend and always patient and kind in teaching, training and even asking for my help in research, which truly flattered me. He was also a talented musician and taught history by playing the guitar and singing songs he had written.

My parents took us on many drives and day trips with picnic lunches to Chisum's Jinglebob ranch, Lincoln-Billy the Kid pageants, Fort Stanton, the Mescalero Apache Indian reservation, and Ruidoso. We lived history many times by Dad telling us what happened, and where, on all of these road trips.

The perfect New Mexico road trip is every direction, from White Sands, Bottomless Lakes, Lincoln/Fort Stanton/Ruidoso, Santa Fe, Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, Taos, Silver City, Carlsbad Caverns, so many more...

When it comes to Billy the Kid and Lincoln, New Mexico, it's just a charming trip back in time.

“Geronimo” is so much more than a term we used when jumping out of a tree as kids. He exemplified bravery fighting both Mexico and United States troops to save his Apache lands.

When it comes to music I can't get enough “Sleep Walk” by Santo and Johnny.

The best part of my job is getting lost in literature, of any kind: old letters, documents, articles, books, manuscripts, periodicals, family stories, pictures, remembrances...then preserving and sharing the history that comes from them, and always research...

History has taught me that:

Each day brings a casual good-bye
Its memory is little more than a sigh
Yet there within a sweetness lies
Pathos lest the memory should die
All the lessons of the fore
For those gone away, with them the lore
A sprinkling of memories
A scattering of sorrows
A cruet of happiness
A trust in the 'morrow

—JD



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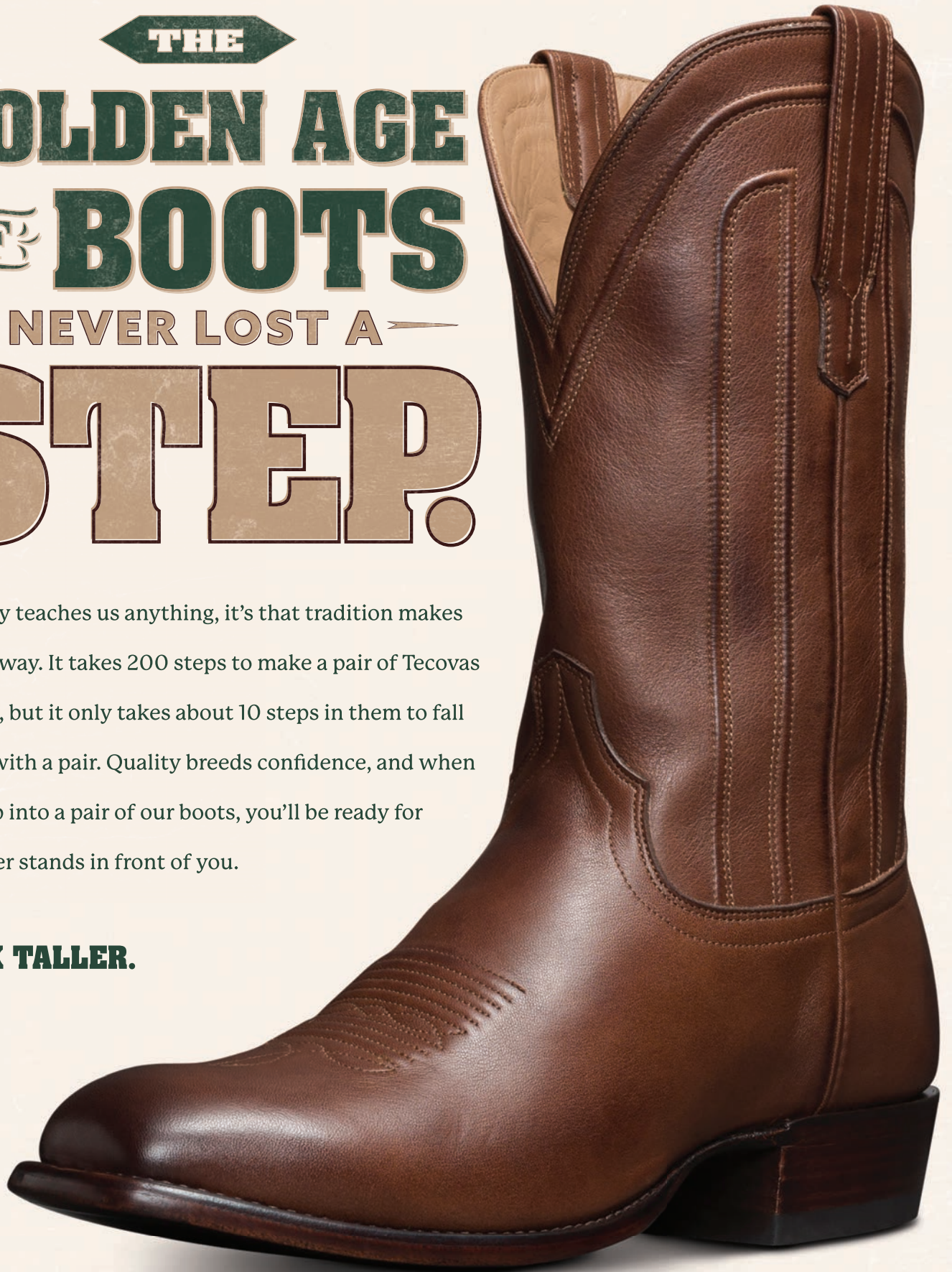
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