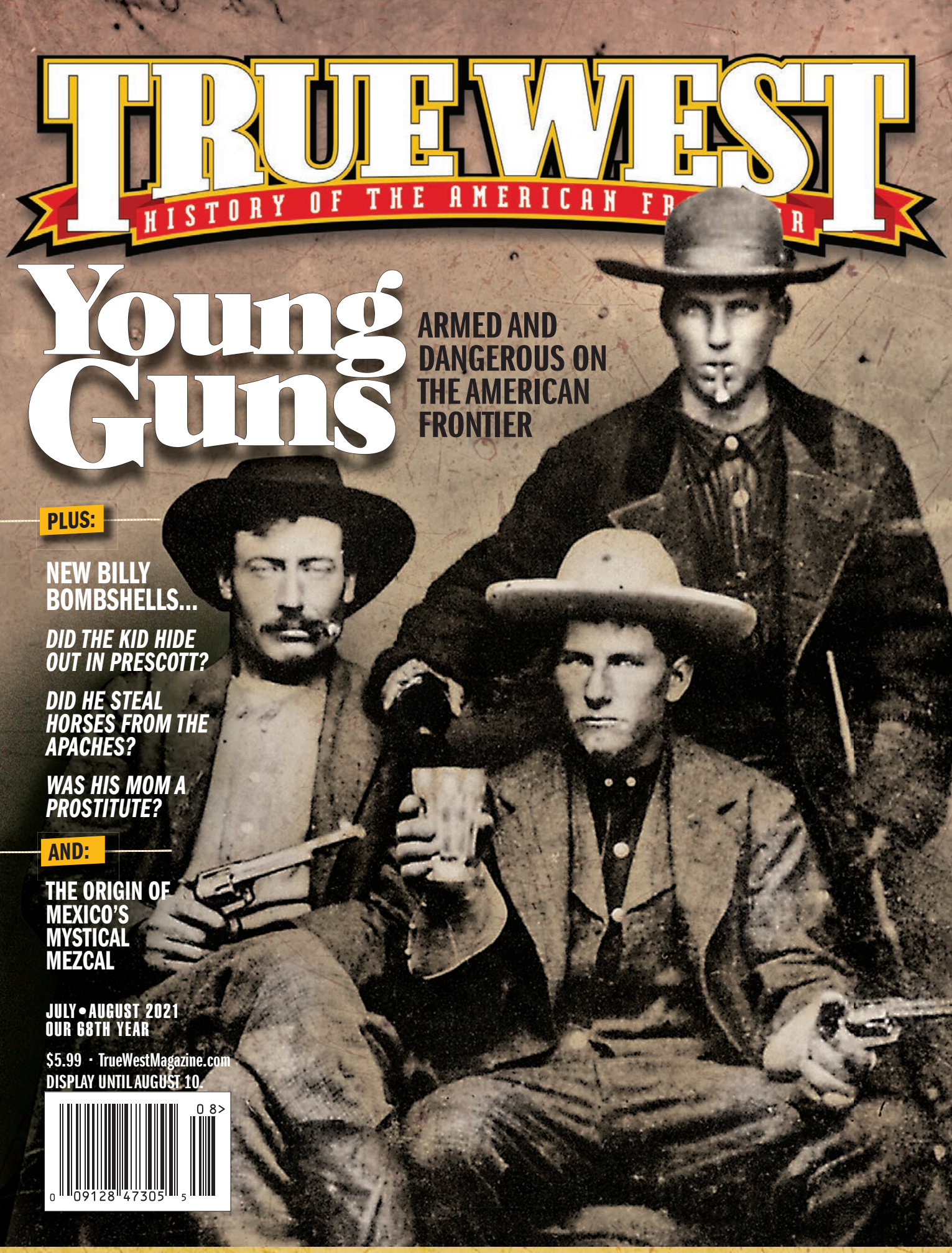
TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FR[illegible]R

Young Guns

ARMED AND DANGEROUS ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER



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DID HE STEAL HORSES FROM THE APACHES?

WAS HIS MOM A PROSTITUTE?

AND:

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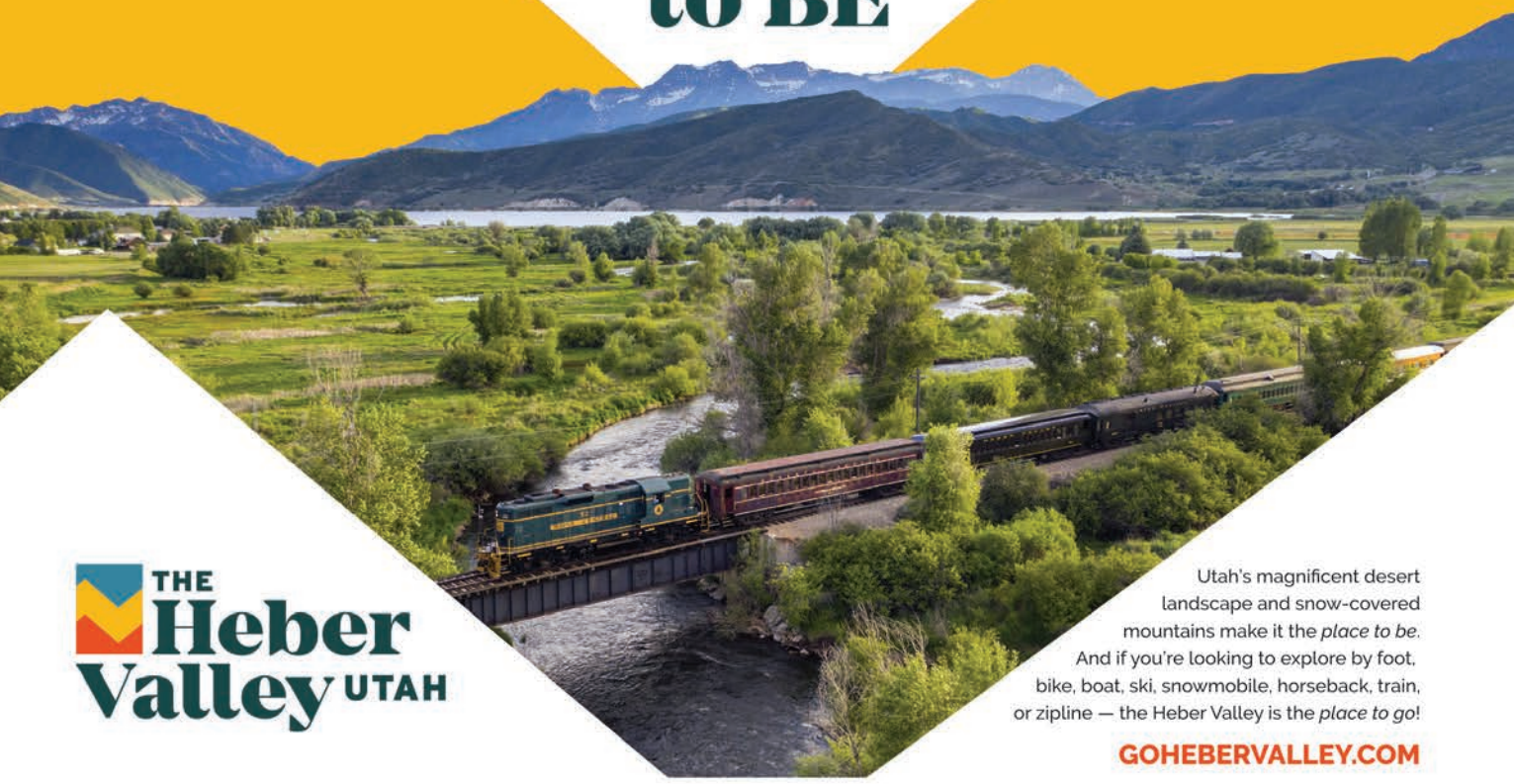

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BOB BOZE BELL

BILLY: THE FINAL WORD

It has taken three decades, but finally, we can see the groundbreaking results, featuring a score of new—and incredibly authentic—illustrations and many rare and never-before published photographs.

"With its invaluable timeline for the Kid, numerous historic photographs, and, of course, Bell's arresting artwork, I was immersed in the color, mayhem, and tragedy of the Kid's world. There wasn't a Billy book I enjoyed more, and this welcome new edition is even better."

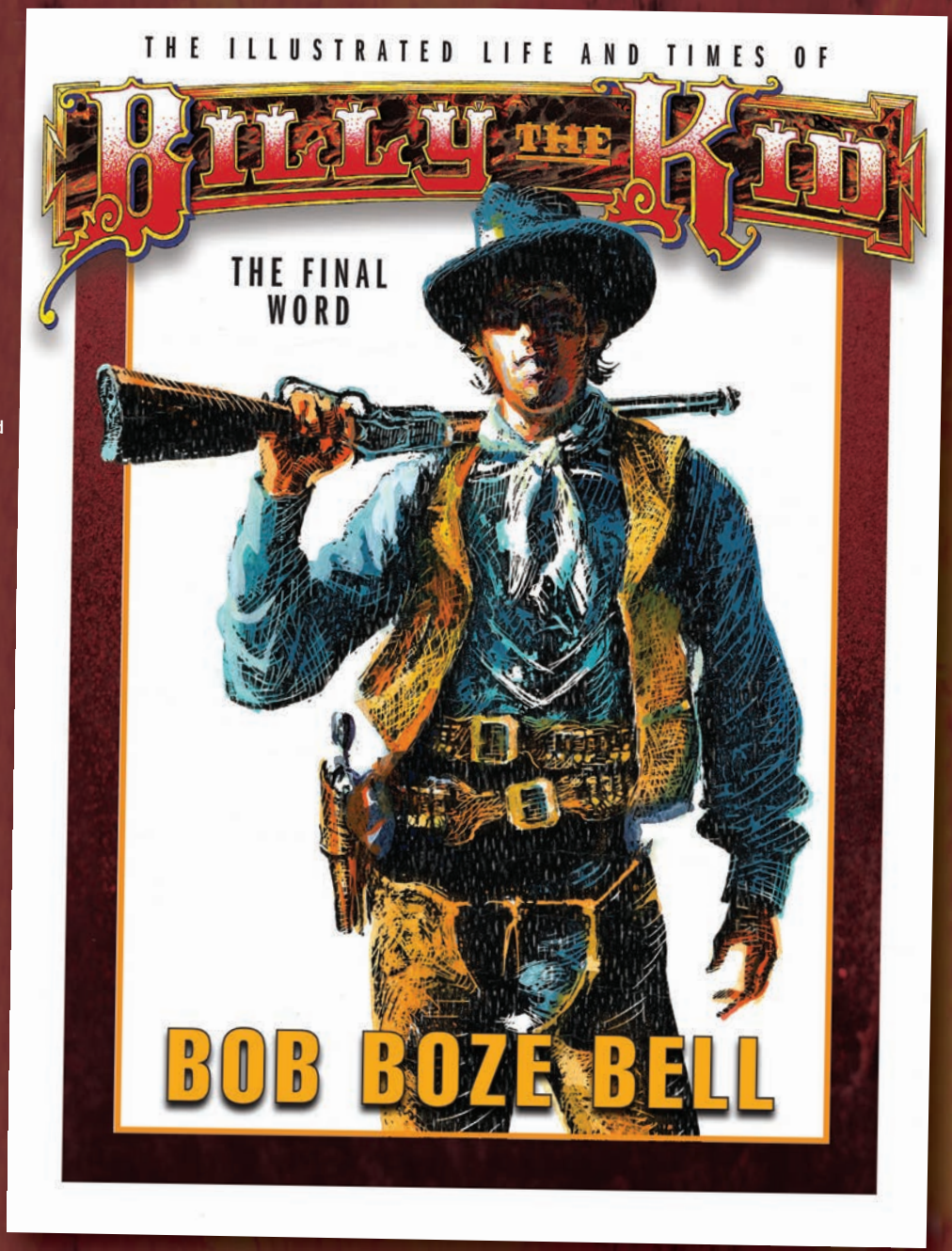
—Mark Lee Gardner, author of To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett

"Having lived in Billy country for almost fifty years, I believe that Bob's intriguing mosaic of historical vignettes, art and images will blow the lid off the staid and proper history books. It will bring in new readers and the colorful legend and life of Billy will continue for yet another century."

—Lynda Sánchez

"I truly believe after we are all gone—when none of us Kid historians walk this Earth—the future Kid historians will refer to this book as your magnum opus, and the beating heart of William H. Bonney."

—Bob Reece



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TWO ROADS WEST

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Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County Regulators carved a name for themselves in the Lincoln County War, a series of shootouts and attacks between rival factions for profits from dry goods and cattle in the New Mexico Territory. The established faction of James Dolan and Lawrence Murphy utilized the manpower of the Jesse Evans gang, and the law in the partnership with Sheriff William Brady. The incoming faction of John Tunstall and Alexander McSween had gathered their own band of farmhands, lawmen like Dick Brewer, and outlaws like Billy the Kid. Conflict arose in 1876 when Tunstall and McSween opened a competing general store to Dolan and Murphy, who had a large operation locally known as "The House." Each side used many tactics to get the edge on trade and resources in the area, and the War was triggered by the murder of Tunstall by members of the Evans Gang. The number of men in each posse then became not just a means to intimidate the other side,but launched a series of revenge killings and manhunts for members of the competing factions.

Conflicts like the Blackwater Massacre and The Battle of Blazer's Mill whittled down the number of allies that each side had. The most explosive fighting happened at what is now called the Battle of Lincoln, where the Regulators were surrounded and outnumbered, separated in two different locations. There were many casualties, including McSween at the end of the three-day shootout. Many of the survivors disbanded their factions and became fugitives. Billy the Kid became one of these fugitives and wasn't apprehended until he had lengthened his list of exploits. Unfortunately, all the violence resulted in loss for both sides and a lingering sense of distrust between economic players within the region. Perhaps the War is best survived as the birthplace of legends and the memory of events that evoke the danger and risk of the Wild West Spirit.

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YOUNG GUNS SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Six decades after the California Gold Rush, adventurous young men from around the world were still flooding the West seeking fame, fortune and, for many, a good fight. With most of the West settled and fenced in 1910, the Mexican Revolution's charismatic leader Pancho Villa offered hot-blooded, well-armed young men the ultimate adventure: a chance to prove their mettle in battle as paid mercenaries in Villa's American Legion of Honor.

Courtesy Library of Congress

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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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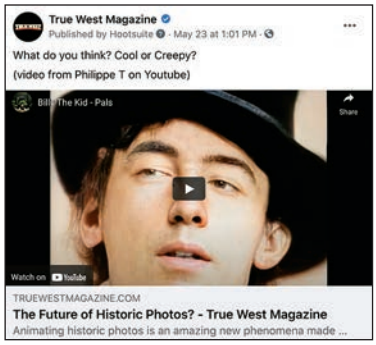
Join us on ***Facebook Live*** for 30 minutes with Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. Each month, BBB will be discussing one of his many books in depth and answering some of your questions.

Upcoming Dates [All at 5:00pm PDT]

June 16, 2021
July 21, 2021
August 18, 2021



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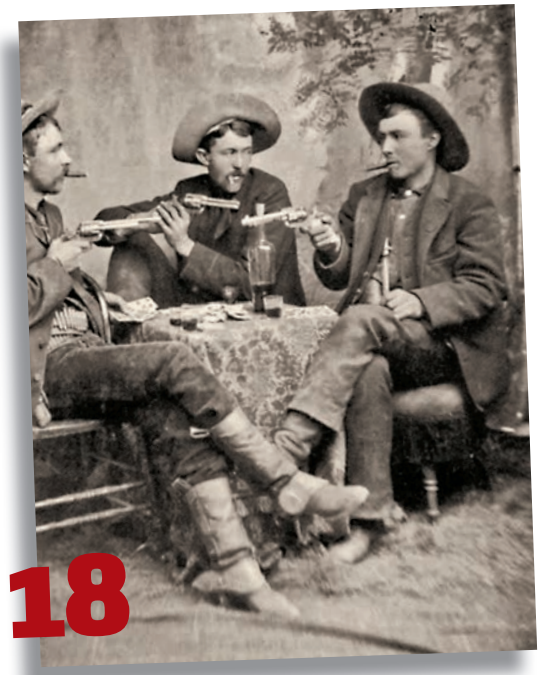
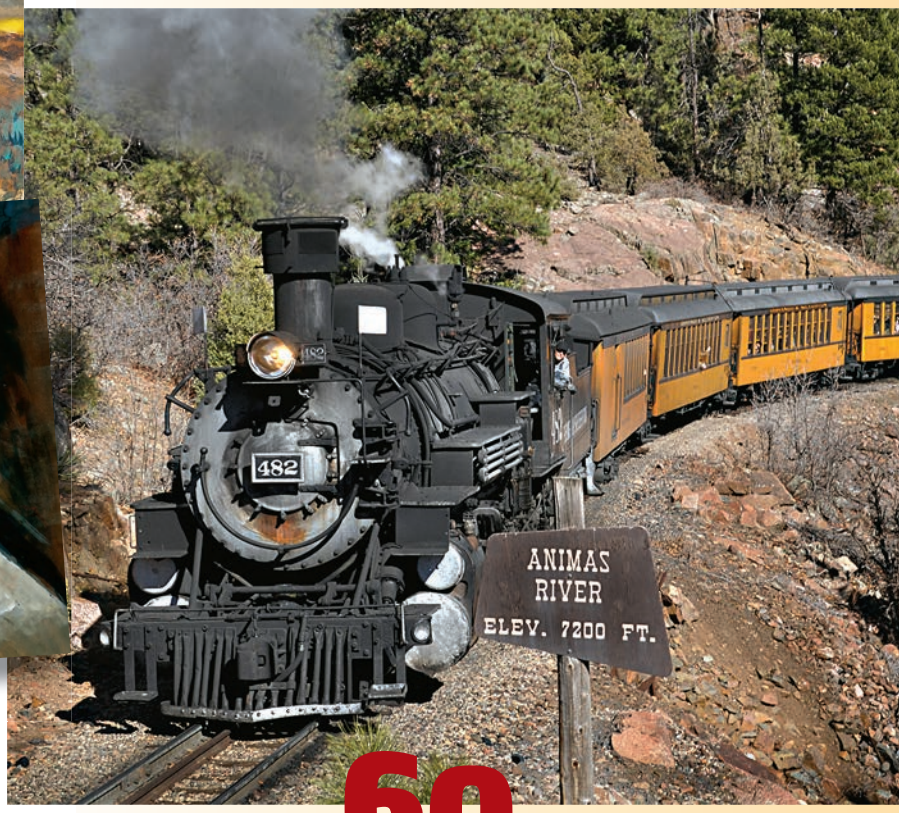




Cover design by
Dan Harshberger

Photo Courtesy True West Archives

TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

Old Vaquero Saying

"The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest."

Quotes

"Have you any idea of what a man must endure who leads such a life? No, you cannot. No one can unless he lives it for himself."

–Frank James

"I got the world by the tail with a downhill pull."

–Sam Bass

True West Archives

Raised in Indiana, Sam Bass was orphaned at 13 and drifted to Texas at 19, where he started up on the outlaw trail. He died on July 21, 1878, his 27th birthday, from wounds suffered while trying to escape from a posse near Round Rock, Texas.

"You make a living by what you earn; you make a life by what you give."

–Winston Churchill

"Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."

–Robert Frost

"Always seein' 'wayoff dreams of silver-blue, Always feelin' thorns that slab and sting. Yet stampedin' never made a dream come true, So I ride around myself and sing."

–Charles Badger Clarke

"You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus."

–Mark Twain

"As a rule, there is no surer way to the dislike of men than to behave well where they have behaved badly."

–Lew Wallace, Ben-Hur

Lew Wallace was an officer in the Mexican-American War and a Union major general in the Civil War. From September 1878 to March 1881, Wallace was the governor of the Territory of New Mexico during the Lincoln County War.

Courtesy Library of Congress

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

–O. Henry

"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."

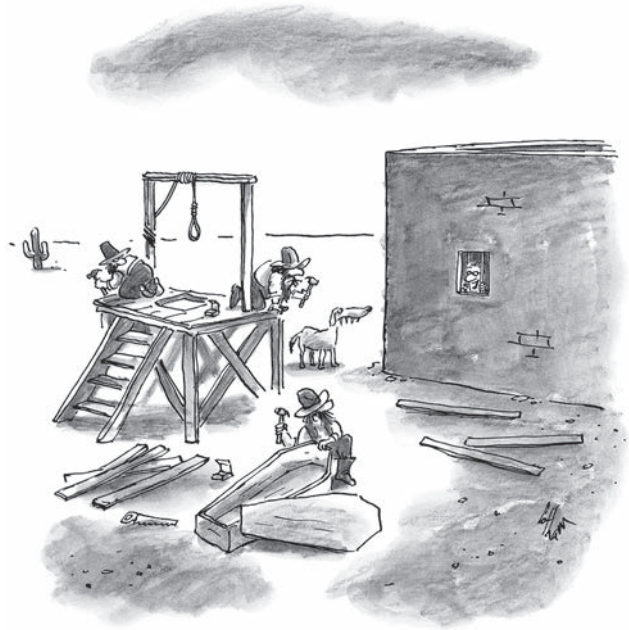
–Ernest Hemingway

"A bird in hand is a certainty. But a bird in the bush may sing."

–Bret Harte

"Don't find fault. Find a remedy."

–Henry Ford



"I can help you guys form a union."

cartoon collections.com

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Here's Looking at You, Kid

The Class of 2021 has turned in their research and—boy, howdy—there are some eyebrow-raisers here.

When I was first diving deep into all the Billy the Kid scholarship back in the last century—doesn't that sound ridiculous?—much heavy lifting had already been done by my go-to researchers, Philip J. Rasch, Nora True Henn, William A. Kelleher and Frederick Nolan. Even then folks thought there was little more to find out.

Now, here we are, more than a half-century beyond that scholarship, and intriguing new finds are still being dug up, sometimes by scholars half a world away. **James B. Mills**, 37, of Australia, found a long lost interview with the Kid in the Santa Fe jail (see *TW*, April 2020). Well, turns out he wasn't finished. In this issue Mills gives us a new look at the bandit boy and the Mescaleros (p. 26). Thanks to Lincoln area historians, **Lynda A. Sánchez**, **Janice Dunnahoo**, and others, my favorite "Little Aussie Bastard" has much new scholarship on the subject and tells a great story. His forthcoming book, *Billy the Kid*: El Bandido Simpático is highly anticipated.

He is not alone. **Chuck Usmar** has uncovered not only a possible New York connection to Billy and his mother but also of Jimmy Dolan being from the same Irish slum (p. 19). **Roy Young** and **Kurt House** are hot on the trail of the only photos of Catherine McCarty Antrim (p. 22) and it will all be in their book about Frank Stewart and his efforts to capture Billy the Kid, which is at the printer as you read this. And from Tennessee, **James A. Townsend** has dug up buried news reports that give us a clearer view of "Windy" Cahill, the first man the Kid killed (p. 23).

In 1994 **Gary Jones** was on a research trip to New Mexico, looking for information about his Great Aunt Maria who was married to J.J. Dolan and later to Emil Fritz. Stopping across from the mill at Ruidoso he encountered a Kid author, sitting at a table (what are the odds?). Gary started chatting with the pushy author and ended up buying a signed copy of *The Illustrated Life & Times of Billy the Kid* for his daughter **Susan Stevenson**. After reading it, they decided they were going to find BTK's father and thus set out on a quest that continues to this day. Susan and her father have also uncovered a census bombshell with one Henry McCarty showing up in Prescott at the same time as Johnny Behan was there (p. 23).

Every one of these researchers has something in common: each wants to get to the truth, once and for all.

So strap yourself in; this is going to be a rocket sled ride of new research on the history we love!

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

The BTK Class of 2021

SUSAN STEVENSON

GARY JONES

JAMES A. TOWNSEND

ROY YOUNG

KURT HOUSE

JAMES B. MILLS

CHUCK USMAR

LYNDA A. SÁNCHEZ

TOM BLYTH (THE KID)

This just in: We received word that Tom Blyth, above, is going to star as Billy the Kid in a new eight-part Epix-MGM series that begins filming in Calgary, Canada, this June and is set to air in 2022. For more on the series and the development of *Young Guns III*, turn to page 55.

Photo of Tom Blyth taken by Tiffanie Owen in the Tunstall Store in Lincoln, New Mexico, on May 27, 2021/All author images courtesy the authors

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

WHO WAS GOODNIGHT'S COURIER?

Charles Goodnight

Courtesy Charles Goodnight Historical Center

In the June 2021 issue of *True West*, there is a reprint of Frederick Nolan's fine article "Ambushed on the Pecos," which I had forgotten reading when it originally published in 2013. At that time we were unaware of Winfield Scott Moore. Nolan mentions Moore on page 57 as the one who "reportedly" was paid $500 by Charles Goodnight to go to Las Vegas, New Mexico, and retrieve Dr. John H. Shout to attend Oliver Loving, dying from gangrene, at Fort Sumner.

We don't know where Nolan got the idea that Scott Moore was even in New Mexico in 1866; he wasn't. He was then only an 18-year-old teenager living with his parents at Palmyra, Douglas County, Kansas. Moore did eventually settle, some ten-plus years later, near Las Vegas, where he became the owner/operator of the famous Old Adobe Hotel at the hot springs north of town. Moore lived an exciting life in New Mexico, but he had nothing to do with being a courier for Goodnight at the time of Loving's malady.

—Roy B. Young, Apache, OK
Kurt House, San Antonio, TX

THE GOLDEN RULE

I enjoy the "Truth Be Known" section in each *True West* issue. Not long ago the great Shawnee chief Tecumseh was quoted. I know this quote and have his poem "Live Your Life" on a wall of my home where I can see and think on it. It is easy for you or me to conduct ourselves with respect for others when no one is trying to kill us or wipe out our entire race. And yet Tecumseh took the time to assemble these good words. Here is an excerpt:

"So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and itspurpose in the service of your people...

–Tecumseh

—Rex Rideout
Conifer, Colorado

Shawnee Chief Tecumseh

Courtesy Toronto Public Library

CORRECTIONS

Courtesy CBS Television

On page 48 of the June 2021 issue the illustration should be identified as Col. George Forsyth, not James; on page 69 of the June 2021 issue, the still photograph with (l.-r.) John Wilder, Ray Teal and Steve McQueen is from *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, not *Have Gun-Will Travel*.

February/March 2021 Cover

"Lone Ranger" Image Courtesy ABC Television and Bass Reeves Image Courtesy Art T. Burton

HI-HO SILVER!

As a subscriber, I would never have believed that I could be so overwhelmingly disappointed with the cover art on a *True West* magazine, but that belief has come to an end with your February/March 2021 issue. I found it truly disappointing and in poor taste. It seemed more in line with the *National Enquirer* than *True West*.

Even more to the point, I think it disrespects the achievements of Bass Reeves. You've taken the notable legacy of a black man and made him look foolish, rather than placing a more distinguished photo of how he actually appeared on your cover. What else can one think but that this is an attempt at sensationalism or even yellow journalism pandering to a "woke" generation obsessed with "replacement" culture. I find it also an attempt to rewrite "television history," while simultaneously tarnishing the memory of Clayton Moore.

Imagine if you will, a prominent magazine placing a white man's face over a celebrated black man's pose and then speculating as to the origin of his image. That would be just as wrong and irresponsible as what you have done, even if there were some chance similarities.

I can only hope that future issues of *True West* will stick to "the facts" and not make unsubstantiated speculation when it comes to cover stories.

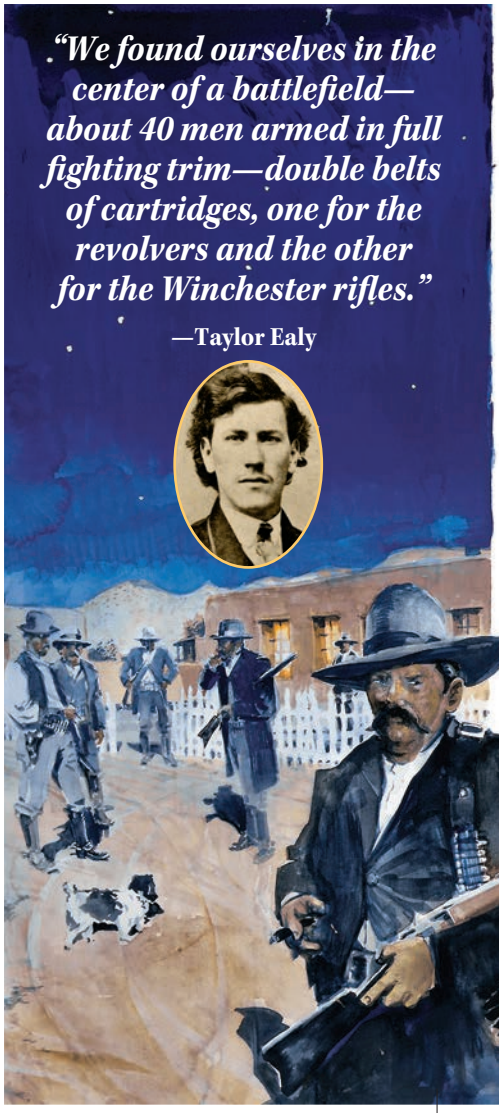
In other words, "Hi-you Silver. No way"!

—Bob Powers
Cincinnati, Ohio

BY MARK BOARDMAN

"Great Danger Rests on the Town! God Save Us!"

A doctor and pastor found little healing during the Lincoln County War.



After moving his family to Lincoln, New Mexico Territory, in February 1878, Presbyterian missionary and physician Taylor Filmore Ealy discovered they had moved into the middle of a bloody range war. Ealy, his wife, Mary, and their two young children barely survived the Five Day Battle of July 15–19, 1878, and soon thereafter were reassigned to a Zuni mission in New Mexico.

Art and Photo Courtesy True West Archives

It must have seemed like a simple assignment—providing medical care and religious ministry to the people of Lincoln, New Mexico. But when 29-year-old Taylor Ealy, his wife, Mary, and their two children got to town on February 27, 1878, they discovered a complex and dangerous situation.

The first order of business that day: be part of the inquest into the death of John Tunstall, the young English rancher and merchant who was murdered by a posse more than a week before. Ealy also officiated at Tunstall's funeral. Without knowing it, Ealy had just taken sides in the Lincoln County War

If that wasn't enough, his association with Alexander McSween—Tunstall's business partner—certainly cemented things. McSween, a fellow Presbyterian, had asked for Ealy to come to Lincoln. The newcomers stayed in McSween's house (leaving before the Battle of Lincoln). And Ealy's out and out dislike of Irish Catholics, including the leaders of The House, placed him firmly in the Regulator camp.

Some of his other actions didn't help matters. When Billy the Kid and others assassinated Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady and Deputy George Hindman on April 1, 1878, Ealy witnessed the event from across the street. He did not go to the aid of the two lawmen—but he did patch up the bullet wound of Jim French, one of the Regulator gunmen. And when Ealy was asked about the assailants, he said he couldn't identify them (which wasn't true).

Three days later, Ealy doctored John Middleton, George Coe and Doc Scurlock after those Regulators were wounded by Andrew "Buckshot" Roberts at the gunfight at Blazer's Mill

As a result, House gunmen frequently threatened Ealy's life, and he was careful about moving around town. Yet men from both factions sought his healing touch, both physical and spiritual, because he was the only doctor and only minister in town. And local children flocked to the school he and his wife, Mary, ran. But it wouldn't last.

The Ealys were basically trapped in their home, next door to the McSween house, during the Five Day Battle of July 15-19, 1878. He did sneak out to tend to a wounded Regulator, but otherwise Ealy hunkered down and waited for a cease-fire. When the fight was over and the Regulators either dead (like McSween) or scattered, the pastor was basically without friends in town. He and his family sought safety at Fort Stanton, but his previous criticism of commanding officer Col. Nathan Dudley led to a tense situation in which Ealy couldn't preach or serve as a doctor. He soon was reassigned to a missionary position with the Zunis of western New Mexico. But the Indians didn't want to be converted.

So Ealy and his family went back east to his native Pennsylvania in 1881. He became a small-town doctor—and the maker/marketer of "Dr T.F. Ealy's Baby Powder." The good doctor left behind diaries and papers about his time in Lincoln County, but not many fond memories.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

The West's First Preservationist Will Surprise You

His name is famous for other notorious things, but don't overlook this.

In Lincoln County, New Mexico, the name John Tunstall is as famous as his hired gun, Billy the Kid.

His ambition, his capitalistic competition, his cattle, his murder—the historical shorthand for all that is the Lincoln County War.

But there's one other title Tunstall deserves—one that's particularly significant these days. When the 21-year-old Englishman came to town in 1876 and looked around for a place to set up his mercantile, he found an adobe already a quarter-century old, restoring part of it as he expanded the property.

That makes John Tunstall perhaps the nation's first Old West preservationist.

A whole army of people have followed him over the last 143 years—people dedicated to using their time, money, influence or pig-headedness to assure that Western heritage doesn't disappear. After all, it was Lincoln's own Lynda Sánchez who once warned this magazine, "If we don't start preserving the Old West, there won't be any Old West to write about."

To this day, the Tunstall Store is one of New Mexico's most iconic buildings. Once a mercantile, bank, law office and living quarters for its owner, the building today is shared by Lincoln's post office and a museum recreating its life as a general store that offered everything. But while the building looks good, it's what you can't see that was causing a problem: it sits now just as it did when Tunstall built it in 1878—on the dirt with no foundation. You don't have to be a preservationist to know that isn't good.

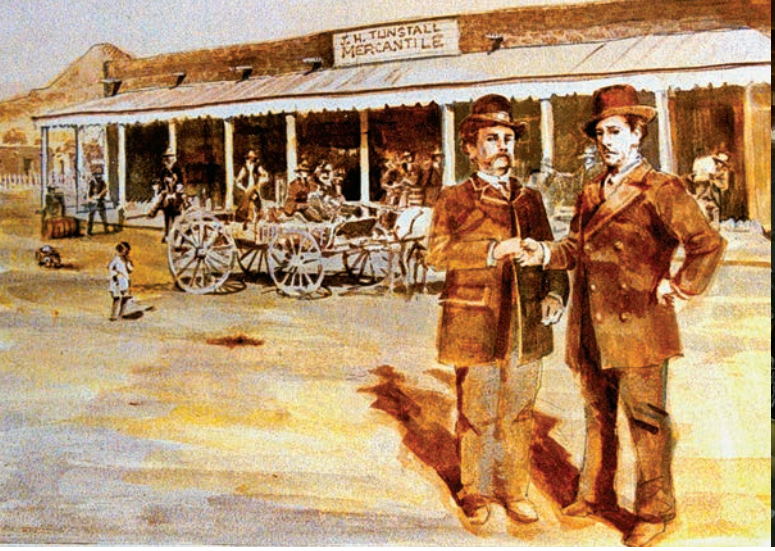
"It should have been done ten years ago, but the government finally came up with the money to build a foundation," Sánchez notes. "The back of the building was falling, and it needed jacking up."

With a solid foundation, the building that can be blamed for some 19 murders in the summer of 1878, should be good for another 143 years—but, hopefully, no more wars.

Anyone interested in the Lincoln County War—five months of open warfare that climaxed in a five-day gun battle in town that saw young Billy the Kid miraculously escape death and become famous—has some 200 books to choose from for every gory detail. (Or watch any of the 40 films made about Billy.) And in every one of them, the Tunstall Store is the centerpiece.

Englishman John Tunstall was just 21 years old when he went to Lincoln, New Mexico Territory, in August 1876 to stake his claim in the American open range cattle business. His ranching career would be cut short by an assassin's bullet 18 months later, but his tutelage of Billy the Kid would become legendary.

True West Archives



Alexander McSween shook John Tunstall's hand in front of the store the Englishman opened to go head-to-head with the House (the so-called Irish firm of Murphy-Dolan) in 1876. McSween had an office in the building. Said Mrs. Susan McSween later, after the tragic events of July 1878, "I told Tunstall and Mr. McSween they would be murdered if they went into the store business." She was right.

Bob Boze Bell

The Tunstall Store was built in 1851. English rancher John Tunstall restored and expanded the floorless adobe Lincoln building into his store. Today, the State of New Mexico has earmarked funds to finally add a solid foundation to preserve the State Historic Site structure and prevent its walls from collapsing.

Courtesy New Mexico Historical Sites

And now, thanks to the State of New Mexico, this story will sit on a solid foundation, always telling the fascinating and infuriating saga of the Lincoln County War.

It wasn't a glamorous war, but neither is preservation work. As Sánchez notes, "People don't like preservation work because it's the nitty-gritty, it's not glamorous."

But without the nitty-gritty, there'd be nothing left to preserve.

John Tunstall knew that when he used an 1850s structure built by earlier settlers to construct his store which would so write history.

Jana Bommersbach has earned recognition as Arizona's Journalist of the Year and won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She cowrote the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written three true crime books, a children's book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate.*

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

The 1841 "Mississippi" Rifle

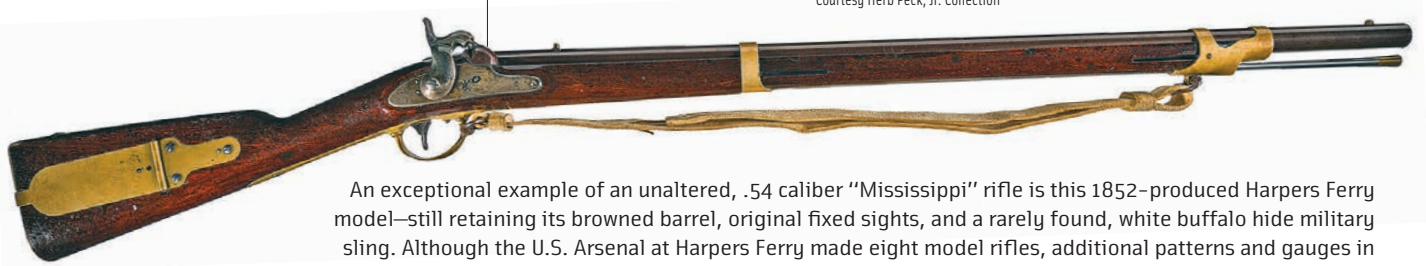
This handsomely rugged 1840s muzzleloader was prized by frontiersmen and military riflemen alike and helped phase out the smoothbore musket.

Although it was officially designated as the U.S. Model 1841 Rifle, it's best known as the "Mississippi Rifle," and has borne that moniker for almost as long as it has existed. This percussion muzzleloader was not only favored by government troops, it was much sought after by civilian trekkers crossing the frontier. In its original .54-bore configuration, using a 75-grain charge of black rifle powder, the rifle earned its most popular nickname through its service with Col. Jefferson Davis' red-shirted militia in the First Mississippi Regiment during the campaigning in Mexico in 1847 and 1848.

Considered one of the most accurate arms of the Mexican-American War, the Model 1841, originally a .54 bore, patched round ball muzzleloader, was by the mid-1850s, largely being rebored to .58 caliber, and converted to fire a modified Minie bullet. These updates gave the model—already considered a long-range rifle—effectiveness out to around 500 yards. Thus, the famed "Mississippi" became the U.S. government's first muzzle-loading Minie rifle. Regardless of bore size, or projectile configuration, the Model 1841 rifle was one of the best longarms of its time, and did much to help phase out the smoothbore musket. Also dubbed the "Yager Rifle," adapted from the

This pre-Civil War hunter proudly displays his M1841 rifle, still in its original .54 caliber with original brass blade front and fixed-notch rear sights, along with an unidentified, holstered pistol, a stag-handled knife, powder flask and cartridge pouch—and of course, his faithful hunting dog.

Courtesy Herb Peck, Jr. Collection

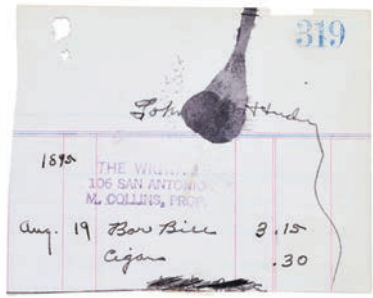


An exceptional example of an unaltered, .54 caliber "Mississippi" rifle is this 1852-produced Harpers Ferry model—still retaining its browned barrel, original fixed sights, and a rarely found, white buffalo hide military sling. Although the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry made eight model rifles, additional patterns and gauges in 1841, the year of the model's adoption, they did not start actual production until March of 1846, while some private contractors, like Whitney, began fabrication in late 1842 and delivered its first rifles in 1845.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company

Bonhams

AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1793



The Early West: The Collection of Jim and Theresa Earle

Los Angeles | 5 August 2021

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Clockwise from top

WILD BILL HICKOK'S SPRINGFIELD RIFLE BURIED WITH HIM AT DEADWOOD, 1876.
$150,000 - 200,000

BOB OLINGER'S ELGIN POCKET WATCH CARRIED AS HE WAS KILLED BY BILLY THE KID DURING LINCOLN COUNTY ESCAPE.
$6,000 - $9,000

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN'S AUTOGRAPHED BAR BILL FROM THE WIGWAM SALOON, SIGNED ON THE DAY HE DIED, AUGUST 19,1895.
$10,000 - 15,000

PAT GARRETT'S COLT SINGLE ACTION WHICH KILLED BILLY THE KID, JULY 14, 1881.
$2,000,000 - 3,000,000

RARE VIRGIL EARP TINTYPE.
$20,000 - 30,000

By the mid-1850s, the U.S. Army had been experimenting with the then-new Minie bullets and were converting rifles to fire a modified version of the French Minie. This Whitney contract "Mississippi," made in 1855, was re-bored to .58 caliber, the barrel was polished bright, and fitted with a long-range "slide pattern" rear sight, and it was fitted for a saber bayonet. Inset reveals a refurbished color case-hardened lock and the long-range rear sight.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company

German word *Jaeger*, meaning hunter, along with the terms "Whitney," or "Windsor" rifle, this longarm was the standard-issue rifle to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen (later redesignated 3rd U.S. Cavalry) who stormed the walls of Chapultapec, Mexico, armed with 1841s. Initially, the model was not intended for use with a bayonet, but in later years, alterations were made to many of them to accommodate a sword-type blade, along with more sophisticated, adjustable rear sights on those re-rifled and modified for the .58 caliber Minie ball.

Distinguishing features of the Mississippi include its brightly finished brass mountings, and a large brass patchbox on the right side of the butt, which also holds an extra percussion nipple. It was fitted with a browned, 33-inch round barrel, rifled with seven grooves, and a steel ramrod of the trumpet head type. '41s made until 1855 had brass-tipped ramrods, while those produced after that date were all steel. Originally, locks were case-hardened, and screws had blued heads.

A total of 25,296 Model 1841s were manufactured at the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, from 1846 to 1855. Starting in 1841, however, until about 1862, approximately 68,000 additional 1841s were produced for the U.S. government under various contractors such as Whitney, Remington and Tryon, along with firms like Robbins, Kendall and Lawrence, of Windsor, Vermont (thus one of the gun's monikers). A small number were made for South Carolina's militia at that state's Palmetto Armory. A number of rifles that failed to pass government inspection, due to fit, finish or perhaps a minor blemish, such as a scratch or dent in the stock, were returned to the manufacturer, but were quickly sold on the civilian market. In an attempt to aid those frontiersmen and emigrants crossing the untamed West, the federal government authorized the sale of surplus military arms to civilian emigrants at greatly reduced prices. Many Mississippi rifles were purchased from U.S. arsenals throughout the country and eventually saw use in places like California's lusty goldfields. During the U.S. Civil War, the rifles were prized by Confederate soldiers and were put to effective use by these rebel riflemen. Considered by many modern arms students as the handsomest of all U.S. military muzzle-loaders, the Mississippi rifle was held in extremely high regard by shooters of the 19th century. As one 1840s frontiersman said of the 1841 Model, it was "a weapon I cannot too strongly recommend for every description of frontier service, from its great accuracy and little liability to get out of order—an important point in a country where no gunsmith can be found."

Phil Spangenberger 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.

Photos by Phil Spangenberger

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AmmoInc.com

BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

Young Guns

ARMED AND DANGEROUS ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

One-hundred and forty years ago, on July 14, 1881, Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid in Pete Maxwell's bedroom at Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory. A little more than three months later, on October 26, Doc Holliday joined Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt Earp behind the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, and shot down Billy Clanton and Tom and Frank McLaury. In both legendary cases, young, hot-blooded, well-armed men found themselves on the unenviable wrong end of the gun and the "don't back down, stand and fight" Code of the American West.

But were these feuds emblematic of the day-to-day violence across the West in the frontier era of 1850 to 1920, a 70-year era that Western historian Richard Maxwell Brown calls "a period in which the violence of the region was not only heavy but destined to become an enduring aspect of the national mythology?" What cannot be debated, is that it was an era when men—and some women—went West well-armed and ready to fight for their honor and their cause. Little did those "young guns" know that their youthful bravado and day-to-day code of honor would become ingrained in our national history and mythology.

Young Cowboys
After the Civil War, thousands of young men went West in search of work, opportunity and their fortunes. Many found work as well-armed cowboys on Texas cattle drives and ranches across the Western United States.

True West Archives

Texas Ranger
Well-heeled and well-armed Private Frank L. Schmid joined the Texas Rangers in 1886 and was in Ranger Company D when he was shot in the line of duty on August 16, 1889. Unfortunately, he never fully recovered and died from complications from his wounds on June 17, 1893.

True West Archives

Bad Boys
Smoking, drinking, gambling and pointing pistols at each other seems to be the way these three New Mexico cowboys had fun. The photo, taken in 1882, offers a good example of the kind of men who fought in the Lincoln County War.

Photo by Joseph E. Smith, Courtesy Museum of New Mexico

Charlie Bowdre
Taken in 1880 by Furlong of Las Vegas, New Mexico, this carte de visite was taken off Charlie Bowdre's body by Pat Garrett (note the bloodstains). Charlie was about 32 at the time of his death.

Courtesy True West Archives

The Kinney Gang
John Kinney (center), a former cavalry sergeant, had a ranch a mile or two west of Mesilla that was well known as the "headquarters and rendezvous for all the evildoers in the country." He eventually rode for the Dolan side in the Lincoln County War.

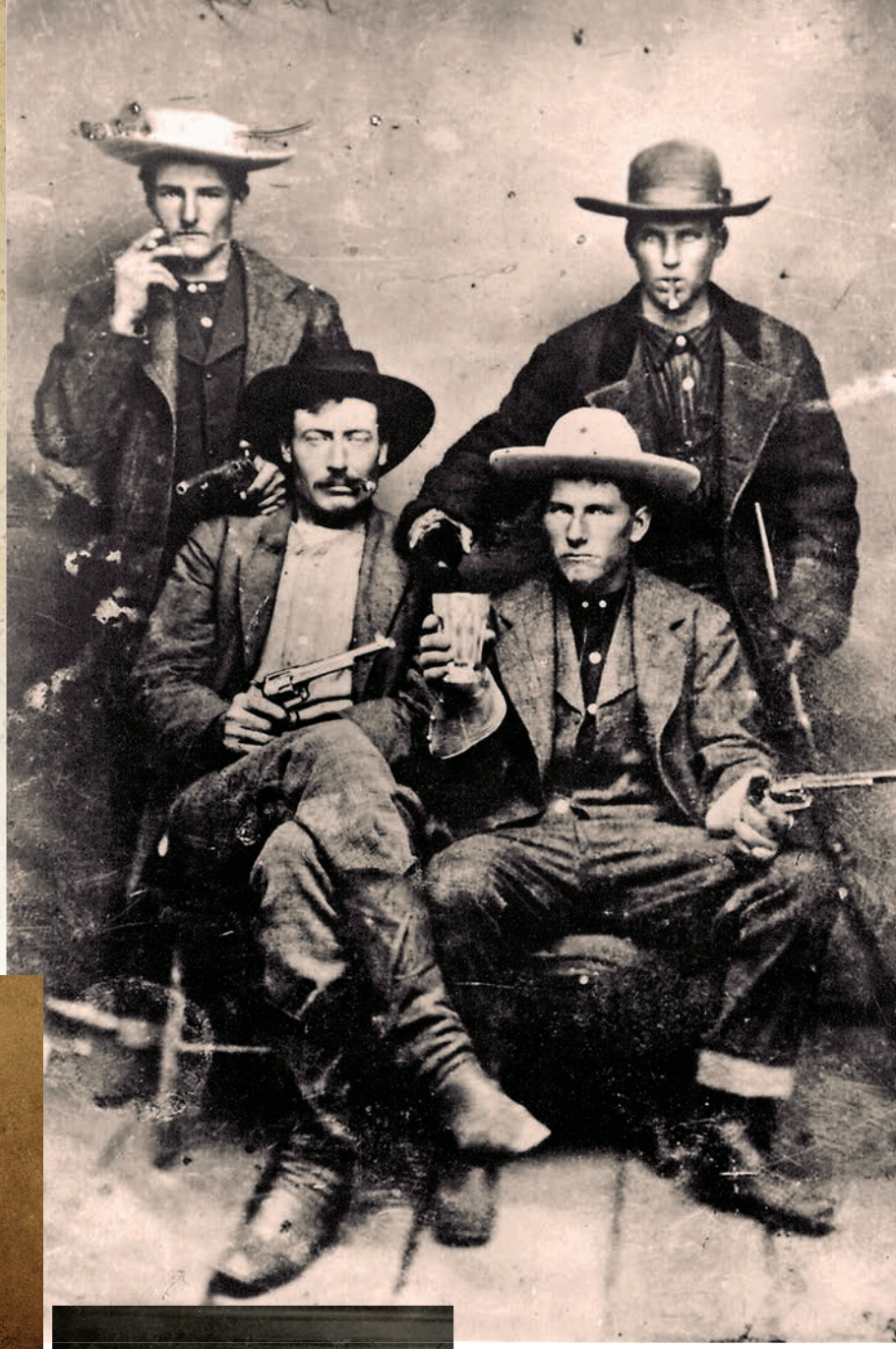
Courtesy True West Archives

Regulators
Regulators Fred Waite (left) and Henry Brown (right) were warriors who ended up riding with Billy Kid and his gang after the war.

Courtesy True West Archives

“That insurance business was what started it all, and then they all wanted to kill somebody. Every son-of-a-bitch over there wanted to kill somebody.”

—William “Billy” Wier, Lincoln County cowboy



Lincoln County Warriors
Drunk and armed sums up the rank and file of the warriors who fought on both sides of the Lincoln County War. Experts cannot agree on the identity of this foursome.
-Mullin Collection, Haley History Center

Gus Gildea
A cowboy in the employ of Arizona cattle baron Henry Clay Hooker, Gus was a gunman who became a violent member of Selman’s Scouts in the Lincoln County War.
Courtesy True West Archives

Dan Dedrick
Dan Dedrick, 31, was a close ally of the Kid. Dedrick always claimed he took part in the McSween fight and carried a .44 slug in his left elbow to prove it, but his name doesn’t appear in the many accounts of the fight. Dan later owned Chisum’s old ranch on the Bosque Grande, where the Kid and his outlaw cohorts often congregated. Dan’s brothers, Sam and Mose, ran a livery stable in White Oaks where Billy often disposed of stolen livestock. Significantly, the Kid gave Dedrick one of the tintype photographs he had taken in Fort Sumner.
Courtesy True West Archives

Bill Tilghman and Unknown Buffalo Hunter

True West Archives

Young Cowboy with a Henry .44

True West Archives

Cowboys in Woolie Chaps

True West Archives

Utes, 1867

Courtesy Massachusetts Historical Society

Young Guns

Arizona Rangers

Courtesy Jeremy Rowe Collection

Sheriff Joel "Joe" Fowler

True West Archives

Canadian Cowboy

Courtesy Alberta Archives

Tombstone Cowboy

True West Archives

Young Cowboys Fooling Around

True West Archives

Young Guns

Texas Ranger Ira Aten
True West Archives

Will C. Barnes, Arizona Rancher
True West Archives

Cattle Annie (left) and the Real Jennie Metcalf, alias Little Breeches
Courtesy University of Oklahoma

Unknown Cowboy
True West Archives

Seminole Lighthorse Police
True West Archives

John Slaughter's Cowboys

True West Archives

Unknown Cowboy

True West Archives

Unknown Vaquero

True West Archives

Mexican Revolutionaries

True West Archives

BY JAMES B. MILLS

BILLY THE KID AND THE APACHES

The audacious outlaw fought and raided his rival renegades without retribution.

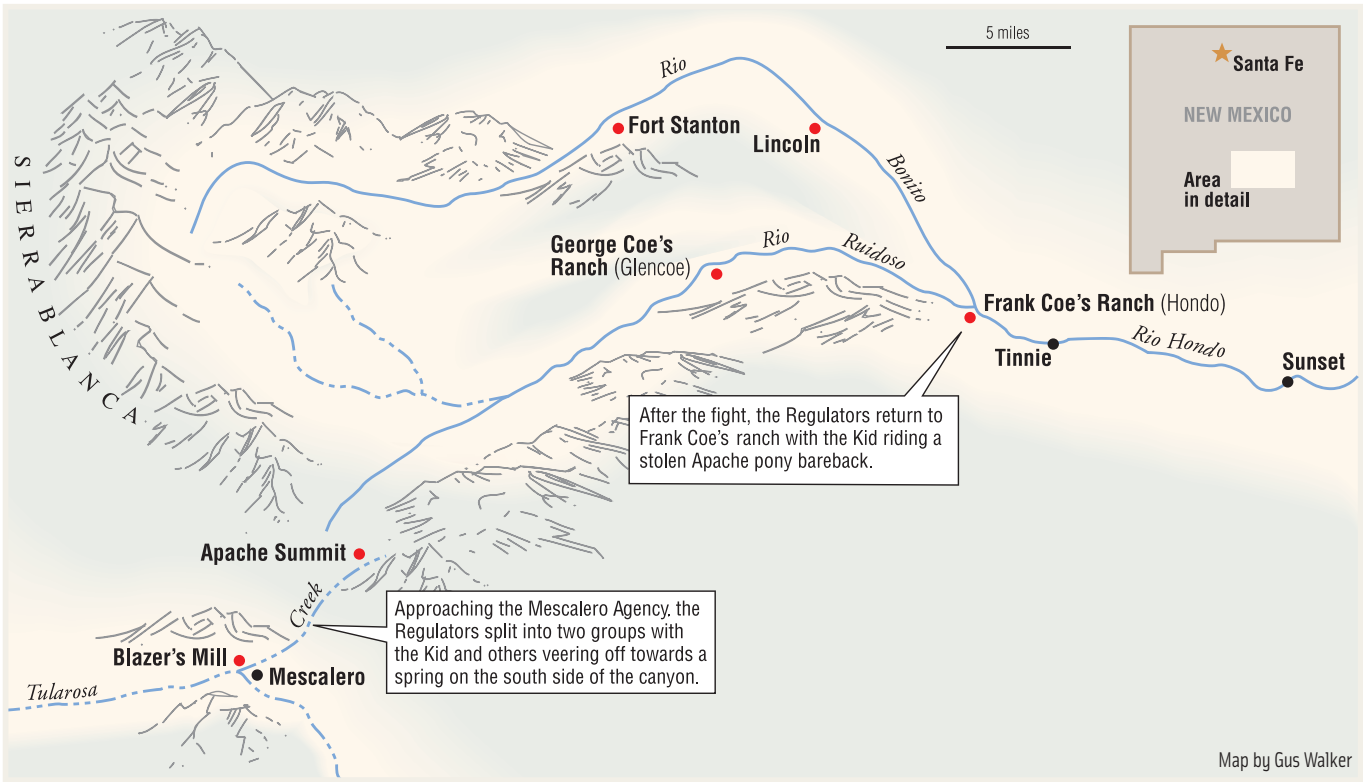
All images courtesy *True West* Archives unless otherwise noted

Their war-cries were enough to jolt even some of the most hardened of men. When you first saw them, they had likely been watching you for quite some time. They could seem to appear from nowhere and dissolve back into the surrounding rugged landscape just as quickly. When attacking their enemies with a ruthless ferocity, their presence was often greeted with a familiar panicked cry heard throughout the Southwest: "Apaches!" And with a party of such menacing warriors having set upon them, young Billy Bonney and friend Tom O'Keefe were in serious trouble.

Billy and Tom had made the mistake of travelling through the northern Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico Territory in the fall of 1877. After filling their canteens in a stream, Billy had started to make his way back to O'Keefe and their horses when the Apaches had sprung upon them, seizing a chance to kill or capture some trespassing White Eyes. After waving O'Keefe to ride out of the ambush, Billy, or "Kid Antrim," as he was also known, quickly found a place to hide. He remained hidden until making his way downstream after nightfall. It must have been a tense journey, with the Apaches potentially reappearing at a moment's notice. The slender teenager survived the night and at dawn began walking an easterly course.

For the next three days, Billy wearily walked during the night and slept during the day. His feet became increasingly raw, swollen and blistered due to wearing boots that were too small for him without socks. After finally

The Mexican contingent of the Regulators broke off from the Kid and others and soon encountered unknown assailants (thought to be a Mescalero hunting party) and a fight broke out. When Mescalero Indian Agent Bernstein rode out to investigate, he was shot out of the saddle.



catching sight of a house in Seven Rivers, he approached and was greeted by the barrel of a Winchester rifle held by Barbara Culp Jones. Realizing the exhausted bucktoothed boy stumbling in the darkness was no threat to her, "Ma'am Jones," as she was widely known, helped him inside and tended to his ghastly feet. After making him drink some warm goat's milk, Ma'am Jones promptly put him into bed with her own sons. As he closed his blue eyes that night, young Billy Bonney could count his blessings for still drawing breath. He was fortunate not to have been killed back in those mountains and even more fortunate not to have been taken alive.

Life Among the Apaches

William H. Bonney would have certainly become aware of the Apaches when arriving in New Mexico Territory as a young boy named Henry McCarty along with mother, Catherine McCarty, stepfather, William Antrim, and brother, Joseph, sometime in late 1872 or early 1873. Living in Silver City for over two years, he likely heard stories of the Apaches' raids, kidnappings and torturous treatment of captives throughout the region. As a teenaged boy, Henry quickly learned to be wary of the Apaches. To the Apaches, white arrivals like Henry and his family were a trespassing and damaging threat to their way of life. The Apaches felt wholly justified in waging war against the White Eyes, who had been increasingly encroaching on their land for years, bringing bluecoat soldiers and diseases with them.

The most prevalent Apache tribe in New Mexico Territory was the Mescaleros. After decades of fighting Comanches, the Spanish and White Eyes, the majority of them settled onto the Mescalero reservation, established on May 27, 1873, by order of President Ulysses S. Grant. At the reservation located near Fort Stanton (Zhúuníidu to the Mescaleros), and at the other Apache reservations throughout the Southwest, hardship, destitution and diseases were commonplace.

It is uncertain if surviving the ambush in the Guadalupe Mountains in the fall of 1877 was the Kid's first experience with Apaches. A note written on a cigarette paper found inside a metal cartridge shell which had been lodged inside a crevice in a cave in the Florida Mountains suggests it may not have been the only encounter he survived. Sometimes referred to as "the last stand note," it reads:

"this is our last shell and about 10 Indians left so our chances look slim. But we are going to take a chanch [sic] yours truly, Wm. Bonney."

If it's authentic—and the handwriting (especially the signature) do look strikingly similar to confirmed letters written in the Kid's hand—it remains unclear when this standoff took place or who Billy's companions were at the time. What is certain is that the Kid's "chanch" paid off and he lived to survive another day.

The Apaches and the New Mexicans

The Hispanos of New Mexico Territory, the people the Kid would immerse himself amongst, largely despised the Apaches for their bloody raids and kidnappings. The Apaches naturally resented the Hispanic presence in what had for so long been their homeland, as well as the brutality they had suffered at the hands of Spanish and Mexican soldiers. A fearsome Bedonkohe Chiricahua warrior

The Apache Agency at Mescalero as it appeared in the 1880s. The fight took place in the middle distance. One of the reasons for the fight is that the Apaches were not getting enough rations, and, in desperation, were given permission to hunt for game. It was perhaps a hunting party that ran into the Regulators on the trail. The Apaches had been targets for horse stealing for a long time, with Chisum and his men stealing horses (in retaliation for Apaches stealing their remuda), along with Jesse Evans and the Boys and others. It is a distinct possibility the Regulators were in the neighborhood to steal horses and the hunting party subsequently confronted them. When the Kid lost his horse, he also lost his saddle and tack, and even perhaps his trusty Winchester. In that time and place, the rig was as important as the horse and to replace both was not easy to do—and it was expensive. Thus, the Kid and his crew turned to even more horse stealing in order to buy new tack and weapons.

COURTESY MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

named Goyaałé (Goyahkla), better known as Geronimo, harbored a particular hatred and contempt for Méxicanos. As the Kid had found himself caught up in a clash between the British and Irish during the onset of the Lincoln County War, he also found himself amidst another clash of cultures with the Hispanos having effectively become his people.

Pedro M. Rodriguez, the grandson of Lincoln County War participant Fernando Herrera, told a story that had passed down through the family and was likely embellished as a result. According to Pedro, his grandfather Fernando Herrera had been living in Ruidoso at the time and owned around 400 head of cattle, grazing them in Turkey Canyon. Mescaleros had taken to butchering some of the livestock. Herrera, whose daughters Manuela and María Antonia Miguela had married Billy Bonney's fellow Regulators Charlie Bowdre and Josiah 'Doc' Scurlock, gathered up a posse which included the Kid. According to Rodriguez:

"They started out early one morning for Turkey Canyon. When they got to Turkey Spring about half way up the Canyon, they met Chief Kamisa and about twenty-five Indians. Kamisa was Chief of the Mescalero Apache Indians. While the posse was talking to Chief Kamisa the Indians formed a circle around the men and told Kamisa to tell them they were going to kill every one of them. Billy the Kid told the men in Spanish, to get off their horses and tighten up their front cinches and follow him. Billy mounted his horse with a six gun in each hand, and started hollering and shooting as he rode toward the Indians. The rest of the men followed, shooting as they went. They broke through the line of Indians and not a one of the men were hurt. They gathered a few head of cattle and took them home and put them in a corral."

Fernando Herrera and Kamisa, who would have been a Mescalero sub-chief at best, apparently became friends soon after. Pedro M. Rodriguez, who was six years old when the Kid was killed, recalled often enjoying talking to the Mescalero leader while growing up.

Rustling Apache Horses

Both Billy Bonney and Fernando Herrera participated in rustling stock from the Mescalero Agency on August 5, 1878. In need of horses after coming out the worst of the infamous five-day siege in Lincoln which served as the climax of the Lincoln County War, the remaining Regulators and a handful of their Hispano allies made their way to the agency expecting little resistance. The Kid and the Regulators had stopped to take a drink from a spring when gunshots rang out ahead of them, startling Billy's horse and

causing it to bolt. Fernando Herrera and his fellow Hispanos had ridden on farther down the road and encountered some armed Apaches. Agent Frederick C. Godfroy and his somewhat shady clerk Morris J. Bernstein quickly mounted up and galloped toward the shooting to investigate. Bernstein was shot dead amidst the fray, presumably by Atanacio Martínez after the clerk had fired shots in his direction. Despite not being in the vicinity, the Kid would be wrongly credited with Bernstein's death for decades.

Agent Godfroy raced back toward the agency before several soldiers provided support. Along with the group of Apaches, they proceeded to open fire on Billy and the Regulators at the spring. Regulator George Coe quickly mounted his horse, with the Kid climbing up behind him, and they soon made their way to the Agency corral after surviving a hail of gunfire. The Regulators promptly opened the gate, and the Kid rode bareback on an Apache pony as they made off with all the Agency's stock.

The chaos at the Agency that day might not have been the only time the Kid helped himself to horses on the reservation. Apolonio Sedillo, whose family the Kid supposedly stayed with for a time in San Patricio, recalled once accompanying Billy in stealing horses and mules from the Mescaleros living peacefully near Fort Stanton. One particular mule (or possibly a horse) was tethered by a rope which was tied off inside a tepee. A small dog's barking prevented them from getting close enough to steal it, until Billy came up with the idea of continually throwing sopaipillas (fried bread), which he kept in his saddlebag. This kept the dog quiet enough for them to sneak up and cut the rope in order to snatch the presumably prized animal under cover of darkness. As Sedillo recalled it, after making off with the stolen stock, they laid low in Ratón Springs before eventually driving the stolen ponies to John Chisum's ranch.

While the Kid became a heroic symbol of resistance against the Santa Fe Ring and Anglo expansion to many Hispanos, to the Apaches he was nothing more than a pest. Successfully stealing horses from the most notoriously skilled horse-thieves in the territory perhaps appealed to the Kid's roguish sense of humor. The Mescaleros, however, were understandably not laughing. The

Chief Peso, Mescalero Apache

PHOTO BY DANA P. CHASE, COURTESY LYNDA A. SÁNCHEZ

last thing they needed on the reservation at the time was a little White Eye snatching their ponies. As a people, they had lost enough already.

Short of horses and gear, the Regulators stopped random riders and asked them to donate to the Regulator cause.

The Renegade and The Kid

In terms of celebrity, 1880 in New Mexico Territory was the year of Victorio and Billy the Kid. A frequent reader of newspapers, the Kid would have known all about "Victorio's War," or at least what was reported. After jumping the Mescalero reservation on August 21, 1879, Victorio and a band of followers, including his mystical woman-warrior sister Lozen and the esteemed warrior-chief Nana, blazed a path of armed resistance across the southwest. Dozens of Whites, Hispano New Mexicans and Méxicanos met their deaths as a result of Victorio's continued defiance in various raids and skirmishes. The May 6,1880, *Las Vegas Daily Gazette* described the Chihenne Chiricahua Apache war chief's resistance as such:

"Victorio is still striking at the peace and prosperity of Southern New Mexico. This is the most remarkable and destructive Indian war, considering the number of Indians, yet recorded in the annals of the country. Somebody has blundered. It is likely that there is not enough troops in the Territory to surround and capture Victorio. He moves with celerity from place to place, killing defenseless people in his road. The troops follow after. When overtaken, he is always found holding a strong position. He kills people, loses few men himself, is fierce in battle, cautious in retreat, wears his opponents out. The Mexican troops whipped Victorio, but on this side of the line he is the "boss." It is time for the citizens to take Victorio in hand and destroy him with or without the permission of the government."

Easier said than done. Neither citizens or the U.S. Army were able to capture or kill the elusive Apache leader. Victorio and many of his followers were eventually cornered by a large contingent of Mexican militia led by Col. Joaquin Terrazas at Tres Castillos in Chihuahua, Mexico, on October 14. The Apache leader and his companions put up a fierce resistance but were eventually overwhelmed the following day. Defiant until the end, after running out of ammunition, rather than allowing the Méxicanos the glory of his killing or capture, Victorio ended his own life by drawing his knife and plunging it into his own heart.

In the wake of Victorio's death, "Billy the Kid," as he was christened by the newspapers, occupied much of the territorial press and his exploits were often embellished. The young outlaw and the Chihenne Apache leader had both rebelled against establishments and what they considered grave injustices—the Kid against the Santa Fe Ring, Victorio against the U.S. government. Both became notorious in their lifetimes and legends posthumously; standard-bearers of a desperate time in a harsh land. Simply sharing notoriety in the same territory naturally didn't necessitate either man ever giving a damn about the other. The day the Kid arrived in Santa Fe in the custody of Pat Garrett on December 27, 1880, the *Las Vegas Daily Optic* reported that when told of having "a reputation second only to that of Victorio," Billy could only laugh in amusement. Victorio on the other hand, had likely never even heard of Billy "the Kid" Bonney and would have been absent a reason to care if he had.

After making his famous jailbreak in Lincoln on April 28,1881, the Kid met his own end through the roar of a nervous Pat Garrett's revolver in the darkness of Pete Maxwell's bedroom in Fort Sumner on the night of July 14, 1881. Billy's body had barely been laid to rest before tall tales, embellishments and

The Rise of the Regulators

How Billy Bonney (left) and his comrades came up with their name is unknown, but there are clues. The moniker "Regulator," which means "to bring under the control of law or constituted authority" was used as early as the Revolutionary War and enjoyed scattered usage during the Civil War. In 1878, the popular fictional character Deadwood Dick, often in the role of a "regulator," was tearing across the pulp tundra, defending communities against evil outsiders. Since the Kid was an avid reader of dime novels, some surmise it may have been Billy himself who christened the Regulators.

outright lies began to surface about his activities. One particularly amusing tale was the Kid single-handedly managing to gun down five Apaches for refusing to sell him a horse. Another fabricated story featured Billy killing three Apaches and running off a fourth in order to save a rancher's wife from being gang-raped. Yet another was the tale of his gunning down three Chiricahua Apaches in order to obtain their blankets and pelts during his time in Arizona Territory prior to his arrival in Lincoln County in October 1877.

While these tales firmly reside in the mythology that developed around William H. Bonney in the decades following his death, they are a testament to even the Apache people not being immune to the engulfing legend of "Billy the Kid."

Suggested further reading: *The West of Billy The Kid* by Frederick Nolan, *The Apache Wars* by Paul Andrew Hutton, *Apache Legends & Lore of Southern New Mexico: From the Sacred Mountain* by Lynda Sánchez.

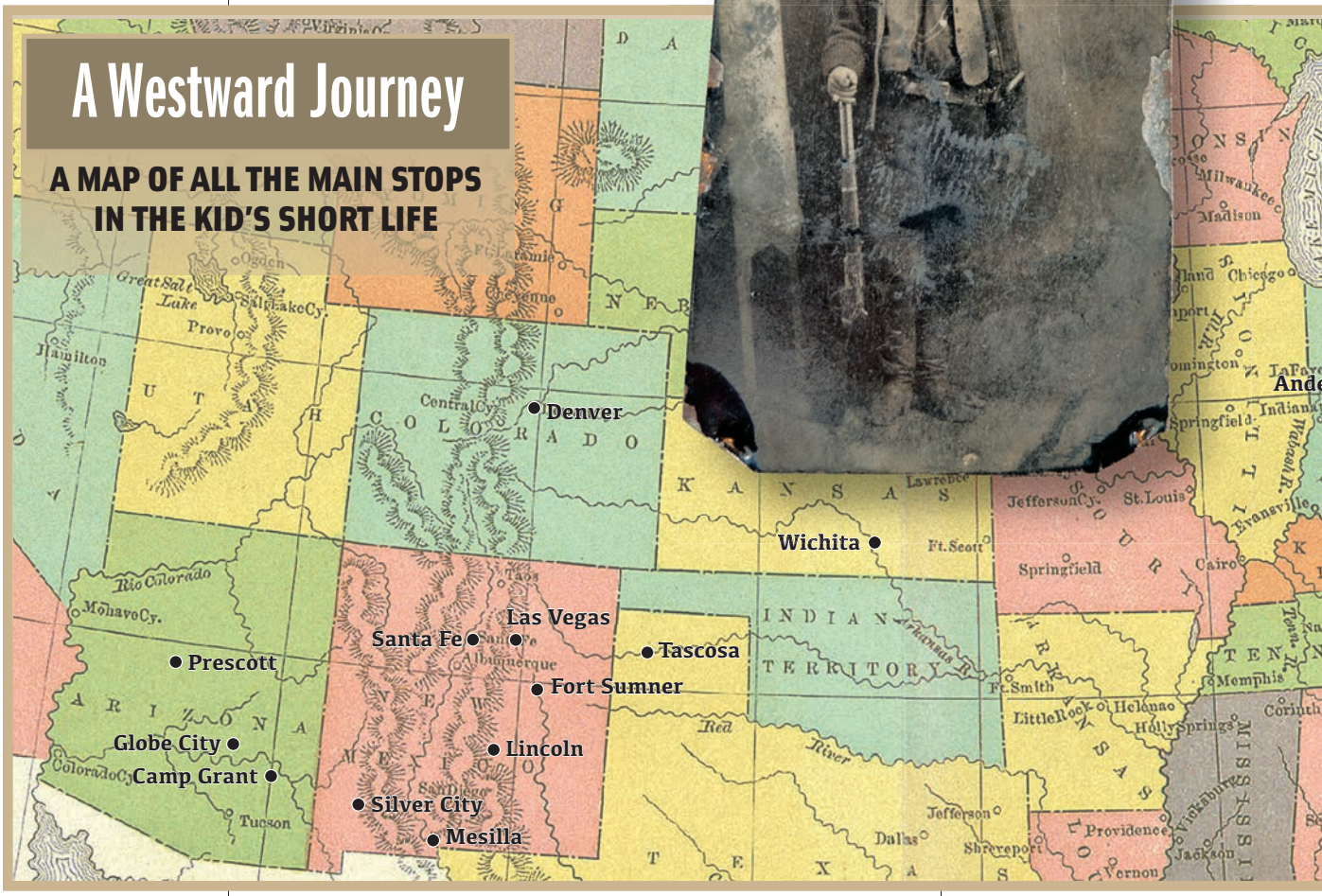
James B. Mills is a historian and published writer. He dedicates this article to Lynda A. Sánchez. He resides in Australia and has spent much of his life researching the American West. His biography, *Billy the Kid*: El Bandido Simpático, will be published in 2022.

BOWERY BOY TO

Scholars uncover answers and create more questions on the outlaw's life and family from New York to New Mexico.

This past year has been a watershed in terms of new scholarship on Billy the Kid. Here, in a *True West* exclusive, are the new finds you need to know about.

—Bob Boze Bell



BILLY THE KID

BY CHUCK USMAR III

Was Billy's Mother a Five Points Prostitute?

When Catherine McCarty arrived in New York, her first work may have been in her aunt's Bowery brothel.

Immigrants fleeing the Great Famine who arrived in New York City were primarily destitute and forced to live in Five Points tenements, a horror show on many levels. Most of the Irish Catholic immigrants were monolingual, speaking only the Irish language. Five-eighths of the residents in Five Points in the late 1840s spoke Irish.

Facts about Henry McCarty's early life have been extremely elusive, which has frustrated historians for decades. Certainly, immediately after the Kid's death, articles claimed that he was born in New York City, and none of Billy's amigos stepped forward to contradict that assertion. In addition, Ash Upson claims Billy was born in New York in *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*, the biography he had written for Pat Garrett. An immigrant from Tipperary, Ireland, Bridget McCarty had a brothel on Mott Street, just a block from the Church of the Transfiguration, also on Mott Street, the heart of the Irish ghetto.

In Five Points, prostitution offered young destitute women far better pay and working hours than any other job available to them. For the clientele who frequented brothels, very young girls from 10 on brought a premium and an even bigger premium if still a virgin. From a police report, Bridget's young niece, 14 years old, came from Tipperary, headed to her aunt's establishment and was immediately put in the family business. Another young girl at the same time hated that business and made out a report for the police, which, of course, brought an investigation. Bridget's niece was interviewed as well but did not give a deposition too harmful to her aunt. The other girl was let go, and Bridget resumed business as usual.

The Five Points, published in the 1855 guide to New York City, illustrated the chaotic life of the Irish slum of Catherine McCarty. Three years later the *New York Herald* described the impoverished mixed-race neighborhood as a "nest of drunkenness, roguery, debauchery, vice, and pestilence."

Unknown artist, circa 1827, Bequest of Mrs. Screven Lorillard (Alice Whitney), from the collection of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, 2016, Courtesy Metropolitan Museum Art, DP265419

Could it be that Bridget brought another niece from Tipperary, perhaps named Catherine?

There were many other bordellos in Five Points. It is known that Italian, German and Irish immigrant girls who were Catholic kept their children and did not abort—as Protestant prostitutes usually did—fearing that their souls would be damned to hell, considered by the Catholic Church as a sin so monstrous, it could never be forgiven.

Catholic prostitutes had their babies in the brothel and never registered the birth since their child would be listed as illegitimate with no known father. In addition, these girls and women avoided the census-taker if they could, as they did not want to be officially listed in known brothels.

When these ladies were approaching 30, they knew they had to make a choice since clients preferred younger females. The women usually kept half of their fees, which they saved up in order to take their children far away from New York City to begin a new life as a widowed woman, instantly "legitimizing" their children.

Many illiterate, young Irish girls, like Catherine McCarty, who stepped off the famine ships onto the cobbled streets of New York City in the 1840s and 1850s, quickly discovered their only way to survive in the city's Irish slums was to work as prostitutes.

True West Archives

Remember that Catherine McCarty was married to William Antrim in a Presbyterian church in Santa Fe. If she indeed had been brought up as a Catholic, she would have been married in a Catholic church. She would had to have done a confession to the priest, and she could never admit these sins. To avoid this unpleasantness, a Protestant church wedding did very well indeed. If the reader feels this could be plausible, then Billy and his brother being half brothers makes perfect sense. Some who knew them both in Silver City seemed to express that opinion.

Finally, if Billy did indeed spend his early years in Five Points, he would certainly have absorbed the Irish language, the same as he did later with Spanish. He certainly had a gift for rapidly absorbing other languages. In tapes that were done with Louis Blatchly, recorded in the early 1950s, one of those interviewed was an old cowboy named Clark Hust. As a kid, his parents let him work for Pat Coghlan, an amigo to the Kid and sometime-supplier to the government of stolen beef. Clark says that Coghlan had brought over his niece Mary from Ireland and hoped she would stay since the Coghlans were childless. Mary, however, could only speak Irish, not a word of English. Pat was an Irish immigrant and did speak the language, so he was the only one who could communicate with her, that is until Billy showed up. According to Hust, Billy translated for her with the cowboys. That was the only time he saw Billy, and that's basically all he remembered about the Kid.

One of Billy the Kid's future enemies in the Lincoln County War was Jimmy Dolan (right), who was born in Ireland but raised by his father Patrick (left) and mother Bridget in the same Five Points neighborhood of the Kid's mother, Catherine.

Courtesy Chuck Usmar III Collection

In the present time, most Americans don't even know there is an Irish language.

Presumably, the Coghlans, like other Irish-Americans who knew Irish, only spoke that language when the other spoke only Irish, and that would have been rare in the New Mexico Territory. His story seems credible to me, but judge for yourselves!

Tens of thousands of famine-impoverished Irish immigrants, including Billy the Kid's mother, Catherine McCarty, found their first U.S. homes in the slums of the Bowery and Five Points in New York City's Lower Eastside.

Courtesy Chuck Usmar III Collection

Author's Note: Perforce, anything about Henry McCarty's earliest years must be conjecture since no unimpeachable documentation has survived. The most plausible explanation may be as I have given. From the many conjectures seen over the years, each Kid enthusiast must judge for himself or herself.

In his blog, Bob Boze Bell called **Chuck Usmar III** a "crackerjack researcher" and he has assiduously done research in Ireland, making two trips of nine days each, as well as in the archives of New Mexico, Utah, Texas, Arizona and New York City.

BY SUSAN STEVENSON, GARY JONES AND DONALD BONNEY

Edward Bonney: Could He be Billy's Father?

It has been established that in 1860 a 30-year-old domestic servant named Catherine McCarty was working in the home of the wealthy John Munn family in Utica, New York. A couple of years earlier, brothers John J. And Edward Finch Bonney lived on the same block of Munn's Castle.

While it is not established when Catherine arrived in Utica, it is highly probable she and the Bonney brothers were living there at the same time. We hypothesized that Catherine may have had a relationship with Edward Finch, as John J. had taken a wife. The Bonney family lived in Hamilton, New York, and appeared to be in the upper class. They possibly would not allow a servant to join their family and left Catherine with an illegitimate boy named William Henry McCarty.

The Bonney family believes the photo is Edward and Almira Bonney and children Villa and Homer, from Donald Bonney's Aunt Ruth Almira Bonney Hatch's collection (note that Ruth's middle name is the same as her grandmother's).

So could this be Billy the Kid's father and half-siblings?

Donald Bonney thinks so.

"I still feel intuition (not worth anything research-wise) that Billy the Kid was Homer's known (or maybe unknown since scandals in those days were kept hidden) half brother," says Bonney, "which would certainly account for my being told at one time that he was a relative."

Bonney Family members believe that this is a photo of Edward and Almira Bonney and their children Villa and Homer. Family history and the authors' research strongly suggest Edward was Billy the Kid's father, and Villa and Homer were the Kid's half-siblings.

Courtesy Ruth Almira Bonney Hatch Family Collection

Edward Finch Bonney
b 12 Apr 1834
d 19 Apr 1910

Almira C Davenport
b 1835
d 2 Jul 1896

Villa J Bonney (spinster)
b 1 Jan 1860
d 1943

Homer Levi Bonney
b 3 Dec 1870
d 21 Dec 1943

Gary Jones is a retired nuclear reactor operator. His daughter **Susan Stevenson** is a professional tax accountant. They have specialized in the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid research for over 27 years, working closely with Kid biographer Fred Nolan. Donald Bonney is a descendent of Edward Finch Bonney.

She was known in Wichita, Kansas, as "The Widow McCarty," which is also how she identified herself in two city directories of Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1867 and 1868. Restless and on the move in search of work to feed herself and her sons Henry and Joseph, the three McCartys are listed in the June 18, 1868, census of Anderson, Indiana.

Illustration by Bob Boze Bell, True West Archives

BY GARY JONES AND SUSAN STEVENSON

More than a Coincidence

Did Catherine McCarty live in Indianapolis in 1867-1868?

Historians have discussed and assumed the Catherine McCarty living in Indianapolis in the 1867 *Edward's City Directory*, was in fact Billy the Kid's mother. *The City Directory* lists a Catherine McCarty residing at 385 N. New Jersey Street as the widow of Michael McCarty. No ages or children were listed in the directory, so it was an unconfirmed assumption.

Billy's mother, Catherine, in later years, married William Antrim, who also lived in the Indianapolis area. William and Catherine ended up in Wichita, Kansas, by the summer of 1870. In Wichita, William Antrim gave a supporting statement as the law required for ownership of Federal land to be purchased, "I have known Catherine McCarty for six years past; that she is a single woman over the age of 21 years and the head of a family consisting of two children and a citizen of the United States." This would indicate that they met in the year 1864.

In the 1868 *Logan's City Directory*, Mrs. Catherine McCarty, widow of Michael, had moved to 199 N. East Street. At that time William Antrim and Frederick Hoffmeyer were driving for the Merchant's Union Express Company. The previous year, Frederick Hoffmeyer's brother William, lived at the 199 N. East Street residence. It is clear that there are connections between Catherine, Antrim and the Hoffmeyers.

We conclude that Catherine McCarty, mother of Billy the Kid, was indeed the widow of Michael McCarty. The connection between William Antrim and Catherine McCarty in Indianapolis has been firmly established.

According to two Indianapolis city directories, Catherine McCarty, widow of Michael, resided at 385 N. New Jersey Street in 1867. A year later, Catherine is listed as a resident of 199 N. East Street, the same address as William Hoffmeyer, the brother of Frederick Hoffmeyer, a Merchant's Union Express Company associate of her future husband William Antrim.

Courtesy Library of Congress

The best-known and most reproduced photograph alleged to be Billy the Kid's mother, Catherine McCarty Antrim, was misidentified by historian Eugene Cunningham when he included it in his seminal gunfighter history *Triggernometry*. He received it from Western collector Noah Rose in the early 1930s.

True West Archives

BY ROY B. YOUNG AND KURT HOUSE

The Disputed Pictures of Billy the Kid's Mother

On March 16, 1978, Robert N. Mullin wrote James D. Horan the second of two letters in which they discussed the commonly proffered picture of Catherine McCarty Antrim. The first letter was somewhat brief; below is the more detailed information from the second one:

[Noah] Rose [collector of photographs of frontier characters] was sometimes the victim of misrepresentation. Eugene Cunningham, with whom I became acquainted when he went to El Paso to live after his discharge from the Navy at the close of World War I, gave me an example of this doubtful labeling in later years when I visited his home in San Francisco. [When Gene's] *Triggernometry* appeared in 1934, it contained a picture bought from Rose, identified as "Mrs. Catherine Antrim, mother of Billy the Kid." The book had not been on sale long before Gene received a letter from a man in Kansas or Nebraska.... The letter enclosed a photograph of the lady Gene had introduced as Billy the Kid's mother. The name of the photographer appeared on the card with the date "1889." The letter to Cunningham identified the lady as the writer's mother, whose name was nothing like Antrim or Bonney. The picture had been identified by other members of the family and, after her death, had been properly identified by surviving friends.

Gene did not want to publicize his mistake in print but planned a revised edition of *Triggernometry*, correcting a few minor slip-ups and showing the authentic photograph of the Kid's mother, one taken by a photographer at Silver City in 1873. This picture was identified as Mrs. Catherine Antrim by Sheriff Harvey Whitehill, and Chauncy Truesdell and others who had lived in Silver City during the early 1870s.

This photograph and one of the very youthful Henry Antrim were used in my [book] *The Boyhood of Billy the Kid*, having been obtained by me from Lawrence E. Gay, of Lordsburg, New Mexico, who had secured them from the effects of John B. Morrill, who had been proprietor of Silver City's first theatre, modestly named Morrill's Opera House. It was on that stage that, according to young Antrim's school teacher, Miss Mary Richards, Henry had played the role of a little girl in a play staged by local talent. I never recovered these photographs which were supposedly mailed back to me but lost in the mail.

The authors contend that the usually published picture of Catherine McCarty Antrim is the misidentified photo obtained by Eugene Cunningham from Noah Rose. Nib Jones, son of Barbara "Ma'am" Jones, told historian Eve Ball, "Billy...gave us his mother's tintype." Likely lost to time, if this picture could be located, it would clear up the question of authenticity of the image of Catherine McCarty Antrim.

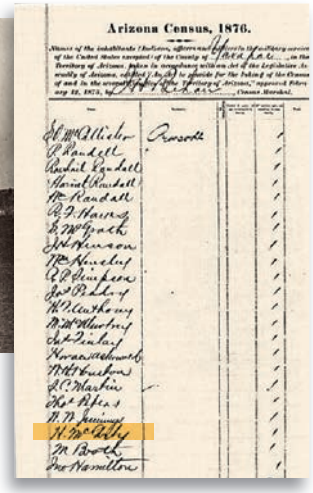
As to the veracity of the Gay/Morrill/Mullin photograph of Billy the Kid's mother, the reader will have to decide their own acceptance or rejection.

Roy B. Young is the Publications Editor for the Wild West History Association. He has authored 12 books on Wild West characters. **Kurt House** is a historian, Western collector, director of the WWHA and author of several books on Western Americana. Their next book focuses on the chase and capture of Billy the Kid in 1880.

According to author of *The Boyhood of Billy the Kid*, historian Robert N. Mullin, this alleged photo of Catherine McCarty Antrim, was given to him by Lordsburg, New Mexico, resident Lawrence E. Gay, who secured it from the late Silver City theatre owner, John B. Morrill.

Roy Young Collection

Courtesy Gary Jones and Susan Stevenson



In the summer of 1876, 17-year-old Henry "The Kid" McCarty had to grow up quickly among the vice dealers and denizens of Prescott, Arizona Territory's, notorious Montezuma Street, aka Whiskey Row.

Courtesy Sharlot Hall Museum Library Archives

BY SUSAN STEVENSON AND GARY JONES

Mile-High Hideout: Was the Kid in Prescott, Arizona Territory in 1876?

In September 1875, William H. McCarty fled Silver City, New Mexico Territory, heading toward Globe, Arizona Territory. According to Frederick Nolan, his first stop was near Clifton while working in the Gila River Valley. Other historians believed that McCarty went to Globe, where he reportedly killed a Chinese man. No proof has ever been furnished to verify this story. Reportedly, he was at Camp Goodwin on March 19, 1876, heading to Fort Grant after stealing a horse. His reputation as a thief was already spreading in the Southwest.

Various historians have tried unsuccessfully to make a stab at determining his whereabouts between March and August 1876. One historian has him possibly in Wichita, Kansas, another in New York and yet another in Mexico.

We believe none of the above, as new information has come to light. We have located an Arizona State Census which lists H. McCarty on the roll in Prescott. It's no wonder he was historically absent the summer of 1876, since Prescott is located a couple of hundred miles northwest of the Gila Valley. Prescott was the original Territorial capital of Arizona, established a dozen years prior due to the booming mining districts. The usual bars and houses of ill repute were prevalent so young Billy could have found some sort of employment.

This was also the home of the now infamous John Harris Behan. He was the county clerk in the summer of 1876 and was the actual census-taker for the town of Prescott. The census was filed in Yavapai County on July 3, 1876. He moved on and was the sheriff of Tombstone during the famous gunfight behind the O.K. Corral.

Also noted on the 1876 State Census were future Billy the Kid compatriots Jesse Evans and John Mackay and adversary W. Cahill in the Globe district. Windy Cahill tangled with McCarty on August 17, 1877, at Camp Grant. Cahill lost, and on that date, Billy graduated from being a horse thief to a full-blown outlaw.

BILLY ON DANDY DICK

BY JAMES TOWNSEND

Justified Homicide

If Billy hadn't fled his killing of F.P. Cahill, would he have been acquitted?

Recently, I uncovered evidence about F.P. "Windy" Cahill that sheds light on his true character. From Tucson's *Arizona Weekly Citizen* on May 19, 1877, just a couple months before he was shot by Billy:

"On May 12, at the post-trader's store near old Camp Wallen, an assault was made by FP Cahill on one Harrison, a colored servant of Lieut. Hanna, in which Harrison was severely stabbed in the back. Cahill was arrested and sent to the civil authorities at Tucson for examination. Hearing today, at 10 am, before Justice Neugass (Nengass?)"

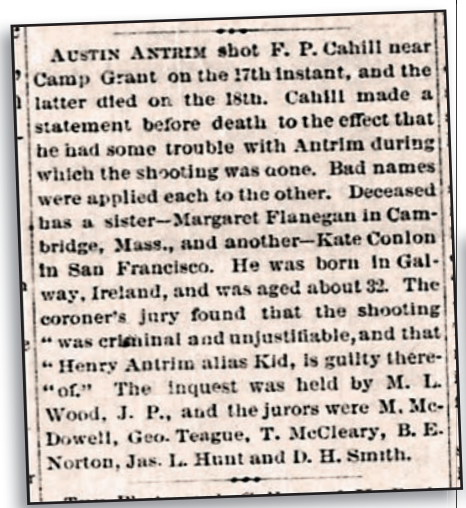
In the J.R. Mackey vs Knox incident in 1875, Mackey was let off the hook for shooting Knox in the throat. The reasoning of the court:

"The defendant acted in the necessary defense of his person; that TR Knox, the wounded party, acted in a riotous and violent manner and was the assailant on several occasions as is stated in the evidence; that although it is shown that Knox was not armed, but his action and assault on the assault made upon defendant were of such a character as to excite the fears of a the defendant as a reasonable man: that the right to defend one's person is founded in necessity, and the evidence in this case does clearly show that Knox being a muscular man and defendant no match for him... ."

If you replace "Knox" with Cahill and "Mackie" with Antrim, it's not hard to see the same reasoning could have applied to Billy. Hard to say how history would've turned out if the Kid had stuck around to plead his case.

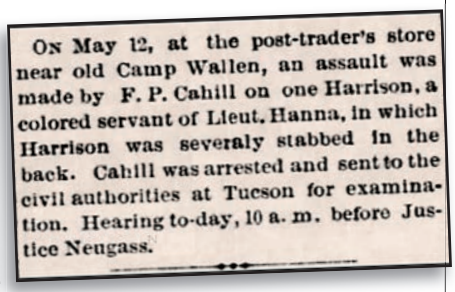
The coroner's jury for Cahill, however, seemed oddly in favor of the victim.

James Townsend is an independent historian from Charleston, West Virginia.



AUSTIN ANTRIM shot F. P. Cahill near Camp Grant on the 17th instant, and the latter died on the 18th. Cahill made a statement before death to the effect that he had some trouble with Antrim during which the shooting was done. Bad names were applied each to the other. Deceased has a sister—Margaret Flanegan in Cambridge, Mass., and another—Kate Conlon in San Francisco. He was born in Galway, Ireland, and was aged about 32. The coroner's jury found that the shooting "was criminal and unjustifiable, and that "Henry Antrim alias Kid, is guilty there-"of." The inquest was held by M. L. Wood, J. P., and the jurors were M. McDowell, Geo. Teague, T. McCleary, B. E. Norton, Jas. L. Hunt and D. H. Smith.

"Arizona Weekly Citizen," Tucson, A.T. May 19, 1877, news clipping courtesy Newspapers.com



ON May 12, at the post-trader's store near old Camp Wallen, an assault was made by F. P. Cahill on one Harrison, a colored servant of Lieut. Hanna, in which Harrison was severaly stabbed in the back. Cahill was arrested and sent to the civil authorities at Tucson for examination. Hearing to-day, 10 a. m. before Justice Neugass.

"Arizona Weekly Citizen," Tucson, A.T., August, 25 1877, news clipping courtesy Newspapers.com

BY SUSAN STEVENSON AND GARY JONES

The Kid and His Blooded Horse

Was Billy's "Dandy Dick" favorite mount one of Col. Emile Fritz's racing stallions?

On September 6, 1878, Billy the Kid and a few of the Regulators stole horses and cattle from the Fritz Spring Ranch and headed toward Fort Sumner and the Texas Panhandle. Were these Lt. Col. Emil Fritz's racehorses he brought from California or possibly their offspring?

Hilario Gallego quoted in his manuscript located in the Tucson Museum: "In 1862 the California Column of the Union soldiers came to Tucson. They were under the leadership of Col. Fritz, a German. The Colonel had some fine racehorses. I remember one was named 'Dandy' and he made me his jockey. After the war he took me East with him. I traveled with the horses for five years and went as far east as St. Louis. Then I came back to Santa Fe and later to Tucson."

Brigadier General James Henry Carleton (commander of the California Column and Department of New Mexico) showed a strong interest in the racehorses. During the war Carleton sent communications to Capt. William McCleave and Capt. Fritz asking for reports on the condition of the grazing camps near posts where they were stationed. Fritz was ordered to inspect and report upon the condition of "certain horses" in his charge throughout the war.

The military records indicate the horses never got far from Fritz's command. On one occasion during New Year's Eve 1863, Fritz had two horses stolen outside the door of his quarters in Tucson. He pursued the thieves 300 miles into Mexico before recovering them. Another time in the spring of 1863, McCleave chased a group of Indian horse thieves 30 miles out of Fort West to recover a group of stolen horses. The Indians paid dearly with a reported loss of 25 lives for their escapade.

Sheriff William Brady and Emil Fritz were friends and neighbors, so just maybe Billy's horse, Dandy Dick, which he sold to Dr. Henry Hoyt in Tascosa, Texas, had some Fritz racing horse blood in him.

True West Exclusive

Classic Gunfights

The Kid's First Kill

Henry Antrim vs Windy Cahill

"I...called him a pimp."

The Kid is an excellent judge of horseflesh, borrowing the fastest horse in the valley when he makes his escape. To his credit, he later returns the horse.

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Fred Nolan & Jerry Weddle

AUGUST 17, 1877

It's a Friday night, and young Henry Antrim is playing poker in George Atkins's Cantina, just outside the military reservation of Fort Grant, Arizona.

Antrim, whose real last name is McCarty, is a young runaway (probably 16, perhaps 17) who has been stealing saddles and horses from the soldiers at the fort. Antrim and ex-soldier John Mackie specialize in a tag team method of grabbing mounts while the troopers are preoccupied in the nearby Hog Ranch (Army slang for a brothel).

That evening, Antrim gets sideways with fort blacksmith Frank "Windy" Cahill, who calls the slight youth a "pimp." Antrim calls the big Irishman a "son of a bitch."

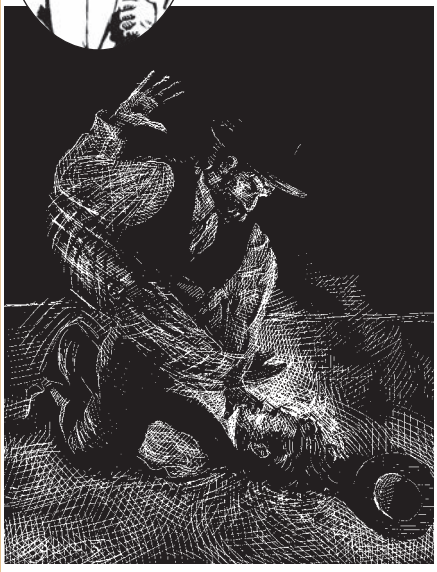
The two begin to tussle. The older man throws the boy to the floor several times, finally pinning Antrim's arms down with his knees and slapping the boy's face.

In spite of being pinned to the ground, the boy manages to retrieve his pistol from the waist of his pants. Bystanders report a "deafening roar" as the boy fires point blank into the blacksmith's belly. Cahill slumps to the side.

The boy squirms free and runs outside where he grabs the fastest horse—Cashaw—that belongs to John Murphy. The newly minted mankiller, who would later gain notoriety as Billy the Kid, spurs the mount eastward toward New Mexico.

The Equalizer

Atkins's Cantina (above) is about a half mile from the Hog Ranch (the lights of which can be seen behind the horse's behind). The Kid frequents both places with his equalizer.



Windy Cahill knocks down the Kid several times. Then he jumps on the Kid, pinning his arms with his knees, but Henry still manages to retrieve his pistol.

Dying Words

The dying words of the blacksmith are printed in the Arizona Weekly Star on August 23: "I, Frank Cahill, being convinced that I am about to die, do make the following as my final statement. My name is Frank P. Cahill. I was born in the county and town of Galway, Ireland; yesterday, Aug. 17th, 1877, I had some trouble with Henry Antrem *[sic]*, otherwise known as Kid, during which he shot me. I had called him a pimp and he called me a son of a bitch; we then took hold of each other; I did not hit him, I think; saw him go for his pistol and tried to get hold of it, but could not and he shot me in the belly; I have a sister named Margaret Flannigan living at East Cambridge, Mass., and another named Kate Conden, living in San Francisco."

Arizona cowboy Gus Gildea sees Henry Antrim near Henry Clay Hooker's Sierra Bonita Ranch: "He came to town, dressed like a 'country jake,' with 'store pants' on and shoes instead of boots. He wore a six gun stuck in his trousers."

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

The gutshot Frank Cahill was taken to nearby Fort Grant, where Assistant Surgeon Fred Crayton Ainsworth did what he could to save him. By the following day, the surgeon could see Windy would not survive his wound. Notary Public Miles Wood (who earlier had arrested Henry Antrim and marched him to Fort Grant before he escaped) was summoned to the fort. He took Cahill's deathbed statement (at left). Cahill died in agony and was buried in the post cemetery on Sunday, August 19, 1877.

Miles Wood, in addition to being the notary public, was also the justice of the peace. He arranged a coroner's inquest, summoning as jurors six locals: Milton McDowell, George Teague, T. McCleary, B.E. Norton, James L. Hunt and D.H. Smith. They quickly came to a verdict that the shooting of Cahill had been "criminal and unjustifiable, and that Henry Antrim alias kid is guilty thereof."

Kid Antrim fled back to the Silver City, New Mexico, area, where he joined up with a roving band of outlaws led by the notorious John Kinney. The group traveled eastward, landing in Mesilla. After a possible stint in jail near there, the Boys traveled to Lincoln, where young Henry became involved in the Lincoln County War. At some point he changed his name to an alias, William Bonney. In the last year of his life, 1880-1881, he became known as Billy the Kid.

A recent addition to this Kid episode has been provided by researcher James Townsend, who found a newspaper account of F.P. "Windy" Cahill being arrested for knifing a "colored servant" of an Army officer in Tucson, prior to his altercation with the Kid, which provides some context and dispels sympathy some have had for Cahill being a victim in the Kid shooting. (See page 32 for the full account.)

Recommended: *The West of Billy the Kid* by Frederick Nolan, published by University of Oklahoma Press. *Antrim is My Stepfather's Name* by Jerry Weddle, published by Arizona Historical Society.

Editor's Note: Award-winning singer-songwriter Juni Fisher, a friend of and contributor to *True West* for many years, is also a noted folklorist of the Old West. If you'd like to read more of Fisher's articles like "The Last Ride of Bonnie McCarroll" from the July 2011 issue, please go to *TrueWestMagazine.com* and subscribe for full access to more then 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY JUNI FISHER

The Last Ride of Bonnie McCarroll

AN ON-THE-SCENE ACCOUNT YOU'VE LIKELY NEVER HEARD UNTIL NOW.

Perhaps the best known photo of a woman bronc riding is the 1915 image of Bonnie McCarroll by rodeo photographer Ralph Doubleday. Bonnie is shown upside down, ringlet curls flying as her head nears the hard-packed grass of Oregon's Pendleton Round-Up arena for a landing that looks as if it could be a serious one. The bronc, a bay called Silver, is high in the air, shown mid-buck, ragged hooves flying.

A remarkable feature of the photo is the presence of a rope hobble, tied to the left stirrup of Bonnie's bronc saddle, apparently broken or severed. Rope hobbles were used by some lady bronc riders as a way of tying the stirrups together, making it possible for a rider to wrap her legs around a bronc and ride out the storm. Free stirrups allowed the rider to rise and fall, spurring with each buck. Yet when a rider secured her feet in the tied-together stirrups, she was more or less locked into the saddle. Since one must fall "up" to fall off, the "up" was not as easy when the top of the foot could lock against the top of the stirrup.

In that same Pendleton arena, in 1929, Bonnie made her final rodeo appearance, intending to retire, with her husband, Frank, following the roundup. Bonnie was 34 years old that September 19. She'd drawn the proven bronc Black Cat for her first ride. In some rodeos, lady riders had a choice between hobbled stirrups or "slick" riding, but at the 1929 Pendleton Round-Up, the ladies were required to ride hobbled.

Though a fair number of eyewitness accounts are recorded, perhaps the most accurate and chilling was by former rodeo clown Monk Cardin, a 19-year-old who knew the sport. Cardin was, by his account, near Bonnie and Black Cat as she mounted.

Important to the accuracy of the account was Cardin's ability to see as an experienced rodeo participant sees an accident. When a rodeo neophyte witnesses a rider taking a spill, he might say, "The rider was thrown from a wild, vicious bucking bronco." A knowledgeable rodeo person, however, might say, "He drew an honest horse that would have scored him in the high 70s, did not score well out of the gate and shook loose the second jump. He let himself get yanked forward and didn't recover. He made about five seconds, and then he tipped off the right side." Big difference in the description, right?

Cardin reports that Black Cat was agitated that day. Just as Bonnie nodded for the snubber to release her for the ride, Black Cat flipped over backwards, crushing her. With Bonnie locked into the saddle by her hobbled stirrups, the bronc jumped up, took a stumbling half jump and somersaulted forward, headfirst landing on the rider again. He clamored up and started bucking across the arena, with Bonnie still in the saddle.

She was knocked out cold, possibly already beyond help, and no longer had the bronc rein in her hand. The pickup rider rode alongside, trying to get hold of the rein to no avail. He reached for Bonnie's arm, making a desperate attempt to pull her free, and almost succeeded. As he pulled her from Black Cat, her foot rotated, jamming her toe against his side and effectively caught her in one stirrup, which was still hobbled tightly to the other stirrup, under the bronc's belly.

Black Cat continued to buck the length of the arena as Bonnie dangled beneath him by one stirrup, her head hitting the hard-packed grass arena with every jump. Her boot finally shook loose, and she came off. Cardin recounted that the spectators fell eerily silent as Bonnie's husband, Frank, rushed to her side. He picked up the limp Bonnie, carried her to a waiting automobile, and she was rushed to the hospital.

The stands cleared out following the awful incident, Cardin said in a 2009 interview (when he was 100 years young). It was obvious to everyone who witnessed the wreck that Bonnie had met her end, by way of insurmountable injuries.

She passed in the hospital on September 29, 1929. The rodeo world mourned the loss of a beloved member, and women's bronc riding was never again included in the Pendleton Round-Up. Perhaps Bonnie's most commonly known legacy, though, is that famous photo, taken 14 years prior to her death, which eerily foretold what would become of her.

Juni Fisher is an award-winning singer, whose latest album, *Let 'er Go, Let 'er Buck, Let 'er Fly*, commemorates the Pendleton Round-Up centennial. In the summer of 2009, she tracked down this 100-year-old former rodeo clown, four months before his death, after digging through the archives at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Singer Juni Fisher wrote the real story of what happened to bronc rider Bonnie McCarroll. Fisher tracked down a rodeo clown who was in the Pendleton Round-Up arena that fateful day. Bonnie is shown upside-down on her bronc, in that same arena, 14 years before another bronc ride would lead to her death.

True West Archives

Vera and Bonnie are probably dressed here for a Roman riding race or for trick riding (note the shoes), which women performers often did at rodeos for extra money.

True West Archives

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Juni Fisher's original, unabridged article as it appeared in the July 2011 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Fisher's articles and subscribe to *True West* Archives, go to *TrueWestMagazine.com*. **Our past awaits you!**

BY CANDY MOULTON

True Grit

Eighteen-year-old Susan Magoffin traveled West with her lady's maid on the Santa Fe Trail.

Kentucky native Susan Shelby Magoffin was 18 and a newlywed when her husband, Samuel Magoffin, an experienced Santa Fe Trail trader, joined a New Mexico-bound wagon train in June 1846. An educated woman, she kept a meticulous journal of the journey. *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847*, is considered a classic of Western American literature.

True West Archives

A tour of the eastern terminus of the famous trading route—historic Independence, Missouri, and its acclaimed National Frontier Trails Museum's exhibits—provides a window into Susan Magoffin's experiences crossing the country in 1846.

Courtesy National Frontier Trails Museum

Susan Shelby Magoffin was an unlikely traveler when she set off on the Santa Fe Trail in June of 1846 with her husband, Samuel Magoffin, an experienced trader familiar with the conditions on the trail. Susan grew up in Kentucky, where her grandfather Isaac Shelby had been the first governor. Used to a household filled with servants, Susan was also formally educated.

She was only 18 when she married 45-year-old Samuel Magoffin in November 1845. Just over six months into their marriage, they loaded trade wagons and set off from Independence, Missouri, following the Santa Fe Trail—a route her husband had frequently taken in his trading operations. Their outfit, according to her diary—published as *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847*—included 14 big wagons, each one pulled by six yoke of oxen, a baggage wagon, a light Dearborn wagon that carried her maid, Jane, and was pulled by mules, and another wagon in which Susan herself rode. The fact that she traveled with a lady's maid shows her status not only as a Santa Fe trader's wife, but also as a woman from a wealthy Kentucky family.

In camp at night, Susan had a tent for sleeping, but it was a luxury accommodation with a bed and mattress, chairs and a table attached to the large center pole. The floor was a piece of carpet made from sail duck.

As the journey began, Susan wrote in her journal whenever the carriage stopped for a break, remarking on the treeless prairie that stretched ahead of their wagon caravan. The quiet stillness of the first Sunday morning on the trail contrasted with the earlier days when teamsters cursed oxen not yet accustomed to pulling wagons.

Susan wrote of prairie flowers, wild roses and a party of U.S. Army Dragoons who overtook their caravan en route to Santa Fe as tensions escalated between the United States and Mexico.

Across the Wide Missouri

They traveled from Independence, Missouri, to Olathe and Council Grove, Kansas, an area Susan described as "a wide expanse of Prairie; as far as the eye can reach nothing but a waving sea of tall grass is to be seen." West of Council Grove, they encountered Charles Bent, who was returning to Missouri from the fort he had established farther west. This meeting gave Susan an opportunity to send mail back to her family, so she quickly wrote a letter to her father and sent it east with Bent.

Susan truly enjoyed traveling and writing about her experiences in great detail, so much so that her journal is a primary source document for anyone writing about the Santa Fe Trail today—and it is a singular piece of writing that led to her induction into the Western Writers Hall of Fame. "I have books, writing implements, sewing, knitting, somebody to talk with, a house that does not leak and I am satisfied," she penned while in camp on one particularly rainy day.

She feared snakes and grasshoppers—which she described as the "green bug," an "*aligator [sic] in miniature*"—saying she held her dress up out of the grass to avoid the bug. She wrote of the incessant whine of mosquitoes, prairie dogs and migrating herds of buffalo. They reached Pawnee Rock, the halfway point on the trail, just west of present-day Great Bend, Kansas, on the Fourth of July, and Susan wrote that she "cut my name, among the many hundreds inscribed on the rock."

But that wasn't the only momentous event of the day, because when they reached Ash Creek, their carriage approached the steep bank and before Susan could climb from the vehicle, as she often did when there was a particularly steep place in the trail, the carriage was "whirled

When following Susan S. Magoffin's route across Kansas on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, enjoy a visit to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and imagine the sea of grass she witnessed while traveling across the plains in 1846.

Courtesy NPS.gov

When re-tracing Susan Magoffin's trek on the Santa Fe Trail, schedule time near Great Bend, Kansas, to tour Pawnee Rock State Historic Site and view the famous cliff face on which she scratched her name on July 4, 1846.

Courtesy Kansas Office of Tourism

completely over." The carriage had extensive damage, and Susan wrote that she hurt her side and back. Samuel, who was riding in the wagon with her, injured his arm and hip.

The wagons soon halted, not because of the accident, but on order of the government. The tension with Mexico was even stronger and the traders were not allowed to continue traveling until additional troops joined them, even though by then the caravan had 70 to 80 wagons. Susan thought it probable they would remain in camp near Pawnee Fork for 10 days, waiting for additional troops, but just five days later, they received word they could continue their journey west to Bent's Fort, on the Arkansas River.

A Sea of Grass

It took almost two weeks to travel across western Kansas, following the Arkansas River to the fort that Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain had built in the early 1830s to serve as a trading site along the Santa Fe Trail. Today's highway route follows U.S. Highway 56 through Larned to Dodge City, and then continues west on U.S. Highway 50 to Lamar and Las Animas, Colorado. Just north of Las Animas, take Colorado Highway 194 west to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, midway between Las Animas and La Junta, Colorado.

By the 18th of July, Susan was quite ill, and Magoffin sent a man ahead of them, to find a doctor he knew traveled with a wagon party that had earlier passed the Magoffins. This doctor, whom Susan characterized as a "polite, delicate Frenchman," had sandy hair and whiskers. When overtaken by Magoffin's man, the doctor, actually a Belgian, waited for their wagons to catch up, and then he joined their party to care for the ill woman.

Susan referred to the intense thunderstorm that struck on July 21 as one that caused a "shipwreck on land" because the violent winds and

Old Bent's Fort National Historic Site near La Junta, Colorado, was reconstructed for the Bicentennial in 1976, using original architectural plans. The living history center recreates the frontier atmosphere that greeted Susan Magoffin in late July 1846.

Courtesy Colorado Office of Tourism

The larger-than-life sculpture *Journey's End* greets visitors to Santa Fe near the intersection of Old Santa Fe Trail and Camino Lejo. Reynaldo Rivera's dramatic bronze is in walking distance of the National Park Service and New Mexico Historic Site offices, the city's museum district and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

Courtesy NPS.gov

heavy rain drenched their camp, and collapsed the tent on top of Susan and Magoffin—with the center tent pole striking her as it fell. She spent part of that storm-ravaged night in their carriage. Some of the Mexicans traveling with them pulled the carriage near the baggage wagon and tied the wheels together so the light vehicle would not overturn in the violent winds. Finally, when the rain abated, Susan found her way to Jane's carriage, where she took over her maid's bed.

Citadel of the Plains

The Magoffins passed a soldier's camp on Monday, July 27, and after traveling another four miles, came to Bent's Fort. To Susan, Bent's Fort was just like an ancient castle. Built of adobe bricks, with rounded corners and a large gate on the east side, the fort had a large square some 90 to 100 feet across, surrounded by about 25 rooms used as bed chambers, kitchens, trading rooms, a dining room, blacksmith's shop, an ice house and more, including a billiard room. The upper-story rooms provided more area for lodging.

The fort's hustle-bustle—the comings and goings of traders, Indians, Mexicans, and the sounds of chickens, cattle, mules and other livestock—set Susan's nerves on edge, in part because she was ill. And, in fact, within days of her arrival at the fort, while still under the Belgian doctor's care, she had a miscarriage.

"My situation was very different from that of an Indian woman in the room below me," Susan wrote on July 31. "She gave birth to a fine healthy baby, about the same time, *and in half an hour after she went to the River and bathed herself and it*, and this she has continued each day since." During that same period Susan was "forbidden to rise from my bed."

The Magoffin wagons rolled away from Bent's Fort on August 8, bound to the southwest on the mountain cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail. They crossed Raton Pass, continuing south to Mora and Las Vegas, New Mexico, before arriving in Santa Fe on August. 31. By then the U.S. Army under command of Stephen Watts Kearny had taken control of the region. The Magoffins eventually left Santa Fe and continued south into Mexico—but that is a story for another time.

SPECIAL 2021 CELEBRATIONS

FOR THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL

August 27-28: Military on the Santa Fe Trail at Council Grove, KS

September 4-5: 200th Commemoration at Fort Osage, KS

September 17-18: Rendezvous at Council Grove, KS

September 22-26: Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium Commemorates the 200th Anniversary of the Opening of the Santa Fe Trail, at Bent's Old Fort and La Junta, CO

November 12-14: Official 200th Commemoration Activity at Las Vegas, NM

Road warrior **Candy Moulton** encourages *True West* readers to learn about and help preserve the Santa Fe Trail by joining the Santa Fe Trail Association at *SantaFeTrail.org*.

A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

BOGGSVILLE HISTORIC SITE

As early as 1806, Zebulon Pike wrote about camping along the banks of the Purgatoire River, and in 1820 Maj. Stephen Long also camped in the location and wrote about it. Thomas Boggs started working at Bent's Old Fort in 1840, spending about six years at that site as a trader and learning the languages of the tribes that frequented the area, as well as the Spanish spoken by the many laborers at the fort. For a time Boggs worked for Lucien Maxwell of Cimarron, New Mexico, bringing sheep and cattle to the area along the Purgatoire River for summer pasture.

By 1862, Boggs, through his wife, Rumelda, obtained land from the Vigil & St. Vrain/Las Animas Mexican Land Grant. They built a home beside the Purgatoire River in 1862, and the town of Boggsville was established in 1866. The following year, Kit Carson, a friend of Boggs, secured his own land grant and moved into the first house Boggs had built in 1862. Boggsville quickly became a gathering place for settlers and at one time had more than 30 buildings. But then the Santa Fe Railroad established a railhead two miles to the north, in Las Animas… and soon Boggsville became a ghost of itself.

Photos by Johnny D. Boggs

Visitors to the Boggsville Historic Site in Bent County, Colorado, will discover a living history center and Kit and Maria Josefa Carson 's original gravesite.

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

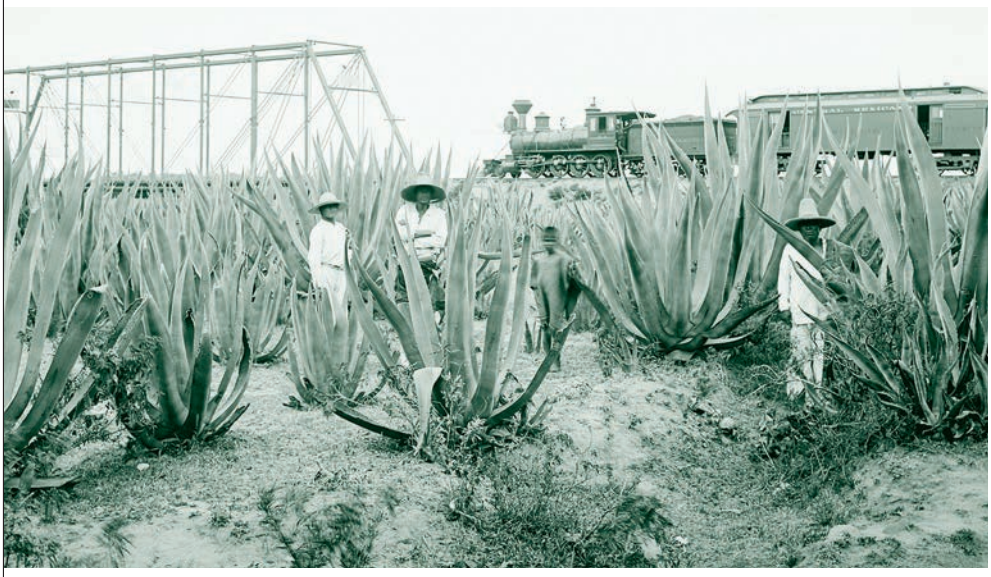
GOOD LODGING: Hotel Phillips, *Kansas City, MO*; **Grand Central Hotel and Grill,** *Cottonwood Falls, KS*; **camping at Boggsville Historic Site,** *Las Animas, CO*; **Hampton Inn & Suites,** *La Junta, CO*; **Plaza Hotel,** *Las Vegas, NM*; **La Fonda on the Plaza,** *Santa Fe, NM*

GOOD GRUB: The Courthouse Exchange, *Independence, MO*; **Hays House,** *Council Grove, KS*; **El Dos de Oros,** *Larned, KS*; **Miss Kitty's Café,** *Dodge City, KS*; **Copper Kitchen,** *La Junta, CO*; **Maurico's Taco Shop,** *La Junta, CO*; **Café Castro,** *Santa Fe, NM*

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Magical Mezcal

The Mexican spirit is legendary on both sides of the border.



For thousands of years in Mexico, maguey agave stems have been cultivated for the sap and fermented into pulque, while the agave piñas, or "pineapple" bases of the agaves are roasted and distilled into mezcal.

Courtesy Library of Congress

The smoky mezcal (or mescal) spirit, a signature product of Mexico, found its way across the border and into the hands and mouths of many a pioneer. This potent alcohol is derived from the agave plant much like tequila is, but the distillation process and type of agave used are different. Tequila is steamed in copper pots and made with blue agave only, while mezcal is cooked in earthen pits with wood and can be made with any agave species.

Mezcal was mentioned in frontier newspapers as early as 1855 when the Rocklin, California, *The Placer Herald* published an article that reported, "The roots of the mescal plant, a variety of [the maguey plant], which grows in our state, is used for making the spirit called *mescal*," and by 1861 it was being sold at grocery provisions stores in Los Angeles. In 1865 the Santa Fe, New Mexico, *Weekly New Mexican* published a story about the bounty of the land in the state. The article identified the maguey plant, known as the American aloe, and noted that it was an abundant wild plant. "The Mexicans make a brandy they call mescal. It is distilled by the simplest and rudest process. We saw a sample which has been made with care, and was four years old, which has an oily body and the flavor of the best brandy. The Indians esteem this plant a great delicacy [and] they cook the heart of the plant. It would be valuable in the manufacture of vinegar." Two years later, the Salt Lake City, Utah, *Deseret News* printed a lengthy story on what it called a century plant and its purpose. It noted that the juice or "pulque dulce or sweet pulque" is extracted, fermented and distilled to make mescal, while the leaves were used for roping, utensils, etc. "Instead of wondering about the 'Century Plants' and their flowers, it would be in better taste and far more profitable to avail ourselves of the many and wonderful properties of the *agave Mexicana*."

Sam Graves, a well-known miner in southeast Arizona, traveled to Mexico in 1882. With his Mexican burro and an American mule he went to Sonora, where he purchased his first gallon of mezcal. After setting up his camp for the night he sampled his new purchase "out of curiosity." Since he didn't notice any mental changes, he tried it again and then proceeded to make his dinner. Still nothing happened, so he sampled some more, lit a pipe and settled into reading his latest edition of the *Tombstone Epitaph*. He read a story of Apache sightings in the area, and well, the mezcal began to work. Thinking his

Legend has it that Judge Roy Bean served mezcal side by side with his form of frontier justice at his Texas–Tamaulipas border cantina, The Jersey Lilly Saloon, in Laredo, Texas.

animals were making noise, he admonished them, and then settled into a bleary sleep. When he woke up the next morning, his mezcal jug was gone, but he soon discovered it was being consumed by some native Mexicans. He did not challenge them and moved on to a ranch along the San Pedro River and purchased another jug. He later got into a gunfight with Mexican custom house officials who thought he was a smuggler. They soon realized he wasn't and allowed him to head back to Tombstone. It was reported he was seen at a late hour searching for a saloon that offered his newly discovered mezcal.

Mezcal was often served at festivals like the annual feast of St. Augustine in Tucson. The 1882 event in September saw over 3,000 attendees who mainly feasted on watermelon, mezcal and whiskey. No historic recipes were located for mezcal, so I created this one using the ingredients consumed at the feast.

WATERMELON MESCALRITA

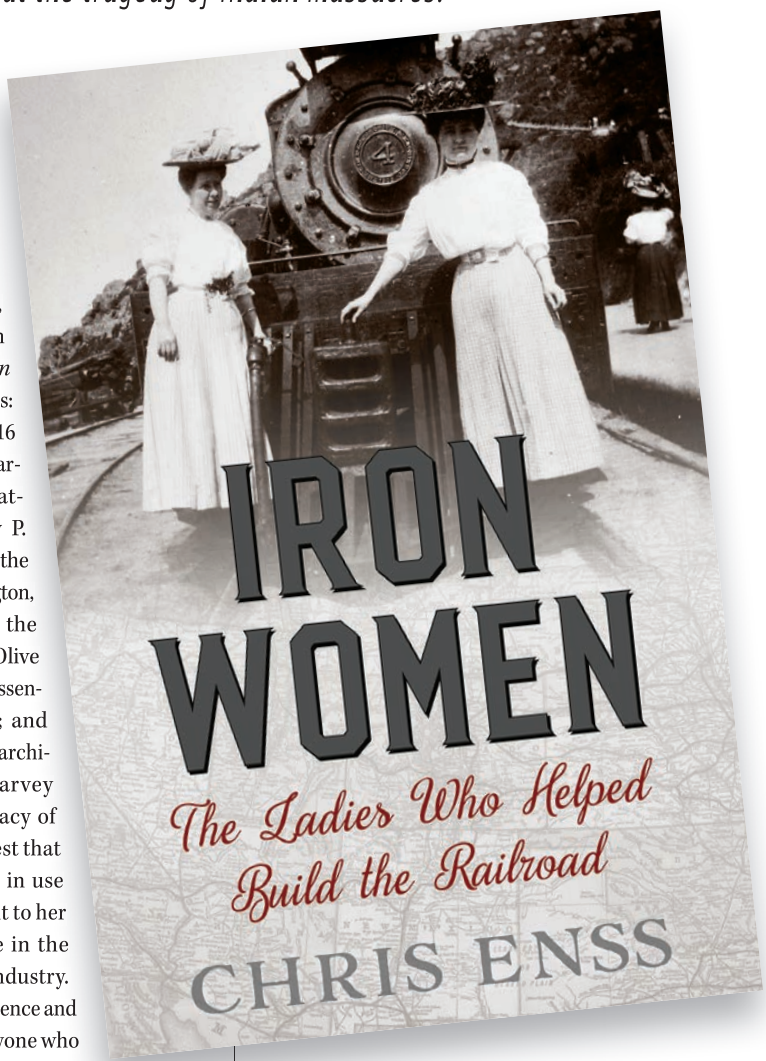
1 oz. mezcal
1 oz. bourbon
2 oz. watermelon
¼ teaspoon fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon agave syrup

Place ingredients into a blender and puree. Serve in a margarita glass rimmed with salt.

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

Riding the Rails into History

A new history of railroad women and new biographies of John Wesley Hardin, Texas Jack, military wives in Arizona, plus an introspective look at the tragedy of Indian massacres.



The well-known story of the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and the Irish and Chinese men who built it has been recounted many times, but the role of women in the development of America's railroads has been mostly overlooked, despite the development of the academic discipline of women's history since the 1960s. Chris Enss's *Iron Women: The Ladies Who Helped Build the Railroad* (TwoDot, $19.95) is a great introduction to the overlooked topic. Her subjects, who lived from the mid-19th century to the late-20th century, range from the first women telegraphers and female industrial engineers and inventors to madams, outlaws, writers, illustrators, models, poets, architects and, even, railroad leaders, including Sarah Kidder, the first woman president of an American railway, California's Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad.

As a historian, Enss is always seeking to uncover new subjects to profile, and diehard rail history fans will discover within the pages of *Iron Women* the stories of women whose lives and accomplishments should have been celebrated many decades before. I was most interested in the women who were industrial designers and inventors, women who understood engineering, and the importance of practical solutions to an industry that critically changed the lives of every American who benefitted from the growth and development of America's railroads. In her introduction, Enss writes that women "provided services essential to the efficiency and effectiveness of the business and transformed the railways from an industrial tool of hauling material and equipment to a refined means of travel."

In 2021, an era in which STEM educations and careers are promoted and encouraged for young women across the United States, these inventive women in Enss's *Iron Women* stand out as role models: Eliza Murfey, holder of 16 patents for railroad bearings and self-lubricating packings; Nancy P. Wilkerson, inventor of the cattle car; Mary Pennington, patented creator of the refrigerator boxcar; Olive Dennis, a pioneering passenger railcar engineer; and Mary Colter, the great architect of the Fred Harvey Company, whose legacy of designs across the West that remain standing and in use are a lasting testament to her groundbreaking role in the railroad hospitality industry.

Enss knows her audience and her format, and for anyone who loves American railroad history, her *Iron Women* opens new doors to our understanding of American industrial history and the role women played in the rail industry, including its freight, passenger, hospitality and rolling stock history. Many publishers allow their authors to publish history books without footnotes or a bibliography, but Enss's volumes of history always include her research—and in this era of the undocumented 24-hour news cycle and conjecture history, that is a breath of fresh air. What's next from Enss? Maybe "Hard Rock Women" or "Working Women of the Timber Camps." Whatever it is, I look forward to reading it.

—Stuart Rosebrook

Photo by Robert Ray

Illegitimi Non Carborundum

At the upcoming Western Writers of America Convention in Loveland, Colorado, I will moderate a panel titled "Writing the West in the Age of 'Enlightenment' or Who Owns History?" with historians Jane Botkin, Terry Del Bene and Linda Wommack. I expect we will have a very lively conversation.

To prepare for the panel, I have reflected on this question and considered if during my academic or professional career I have ever had someone challenge me on the ownership of history. Just the idea that someone can own history is as ridiculous as it sounds.

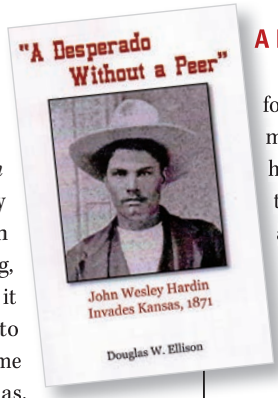
Conversely, can someone reserve the right to retain their story for themselves, for their family, for their own use? Of course, it happens every day, and is at the foundation of the First Amendment. I have encountered it many times in my own work. My late father, Jeb Rosebrook, who had a six-decade-long writing career, most of it in Hollywood, would often say when queried about different aspects of his work, "I'm not ready to share that; I'm saving that for my book." He is not the only one I have heard say that. As a writer, I have been on the short end of many of those conversations. As a historian and journalist, I emphatically respect a subject's right to their story. Unfortunately, many individuals' stories go unrecorded, and we are the lesser for it. (So please, record your story. You will be happy you did, and so will your family.)

I have been privy to stories of writers (in all mediums) being passed over for work because their perspective was not correct for the job because of their gender, race, creed, ethnicity or sexuality. Even worse, a modern, pharisaical generation of journalists and scholars accuse their colleagues and competitors of intellectual theft, threaten legal action or terminate contracts because they are not "enlightened." It is a tragic moment for all of us who believe in the Constitution and the ideals of the First Amendment and free speech.

So what is my solution? Remain independent, truthful, fair, diligent, honest and accountable.

—Stuart Rosebrook

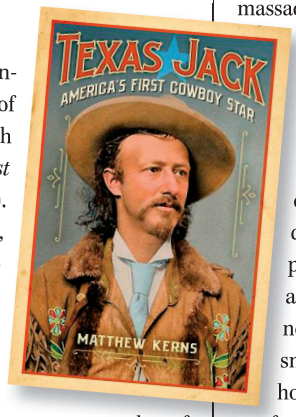
Deadly and Dangerous in Kansas



"A Desperado Without a Peer," John Wesley Hardin Invades Kansas, 1871 by Doug Ellison (Western Edge Book Distributing, $15) is a slim book, but it takes a deep dive into Hardin's account of his time around Abilene, Kansas, when Wild Bill Hickok was marshal. Ellison researched newspaper accounts, memoirs and local histories, comparing them to what Hardin alleged happened in Kansas. Did Hardin kill five Mexican cowboys in a gun battle? Did Wild Bill become friends with Hardin, allowing him to carry his guns in town? Did Hardin pull the so-called "border roll" on Hickok when he tried to take Hardin's guns? How many other men did Hardin kill while in Kansas? Whether you have studied Hardin's life or are unfamiliar with him, you will find Ellison's easy-to-read book chock-full of information about Hardin and his dastardly deeds in Kansas.

—Bill Markley author of Geronimo and Sitting Bull: Leaders of the Legendary West

Dime Novel Hero

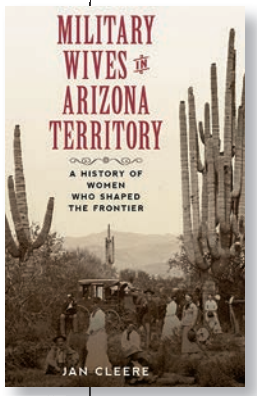


TwoDot Press continues its impressive run of frontier biographies with *Texas Jack: America's First Cowboy Star* ($26.95). Author Matthew Kerns, a Tennessee-based historian and digital archivist, carefully explores the life of John "Texas Jack" Omohundro who rose to national prominence as a member of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows after befriending Cody and Wild Bill Hickok. Later, Texas Jack was the subject of a series of Ned Buntline dime novels. Before his stardom, however, Texas Jack was a Confederate scout and spy and later a trail boss who led cattle drives on the Chisolm and Goodnight-Loving trails throughout the West. *Texas Jack* is a complete and thoughtful biography of a recognizable, but little-understood figure of the American West.

—Erik J. Wright, assistant editor of the Tombstone Epitaph

A Breed Apart

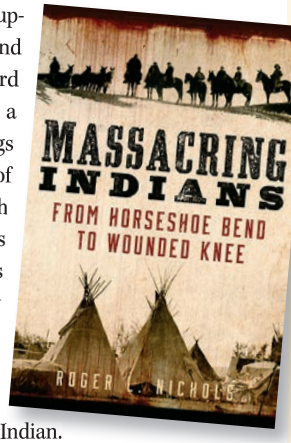
While 19th-century soldiers wore uniforms and some gained the title of hero, military wives who ventured with their husbands into the Arizona Territory are the true heroes. Their stories of hardship, as recounted by Jan Cleere in *Military Wives in Arizona Territory: A History of the Women Who Shaped the Frontier* (TwoDot, $19.95), are surprising, hard to believe, and yet, amazing. How they managed to survive in such a harsh environment is humbling. Some houses had only dirt floors, others wooden planks where all manner of venomous critters lived underneath. For some women who would finally get their homes fixed to their liking, then a higher-ranking wife would decide to move in. Frustrating, no doubt. But there were also women who loved the adventure and looked forward to the next posting. Their stories are truly inspiring.



—Melody Groves, author of When Outlaws Wore Badges

Indisputable and Unjustified

Most would agree that a battle becomes a massacre when the loser attempts to surrender, and the victor continues the slaughter. In Roger Nichols' *Massacring Indians: From Horseshoe Bend to Wounded Knee* (University of Oklahoma Press, $24.95), the author broadens the definition to include winter attacks, destruction of food supplies and property, and assaults that hazard non-combatants. On a small scale he brings home the full horror of warfare in the 19th and 20th centuries when whole cities were put to the torch. This account is a necessary counterbalance to TV and B-Westerns where the gallant and ever victorious cavalry defeats the savage Indian.



—Doug Hocking, author of Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache

BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY

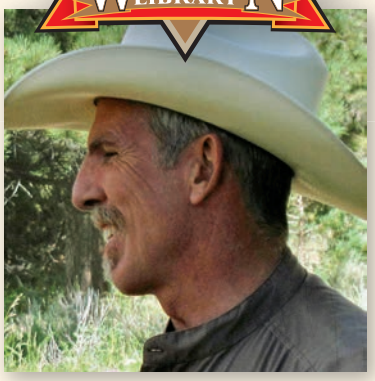


Photo courtesy Jefferson Glass

SADDLE UP WITH WESTERN RANCH HISTORIAN AND HIS FAVORITE AUTHORS

Spur Award-winning author and historian Jefferson Glass grew up in the ranch country of southeastern Oregon. He relocated to Wyoming 40 years ago, which further expanded his interest in cowboy culture and ranching history. His latest work, *EMPIRE: The Pioneer Legacy of an American Ranch Family*, arrived in bookstores the first of November from TwoDot Books.

When you have finished reading *EMPIRE*, he recommends you read a few of his favorite fireside companions:

❶ ***The Day of the Cattleman*** (Ernest Staples Osgood, University of Chicago Press): Osgood shares his observations on the development of the cattle industry during the open range years. He cuts through the romance of novels and movies and tells the story as he saw it a century ago.

❷ ***Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*** (J. Evetts Haley, University of Oklahoma Press): The author conducted multiple interviews of his crusty subject, and combined them with decades of research into the most unvarnished saga possible for the era.

❸ ***Longhorns North of the Arkansas*** (Ralph F. Jones, Naylor Company): Jones compiled this book 40 years after Osgood's, and does not mince words in describing how powerful cattlemen controlled the open range economy and "free grass" from Texas to Canada.

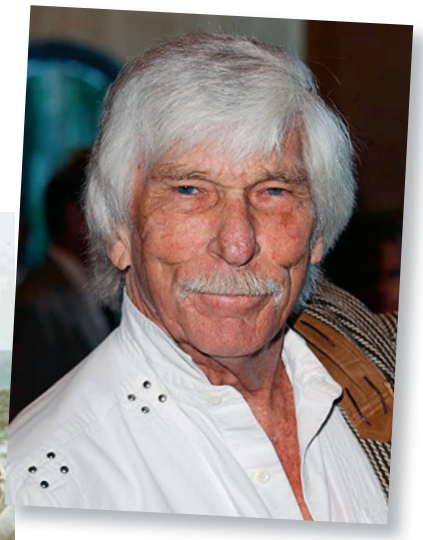
❹ ***The Ranchers: A Book of Generations*** (Stan Steiner, Alfred A. Knopf): Steiner compares the stories of fortitude and lifestyles of multigenerational Western ranch families scattered across the West from the 19th-century frontier to 20th-century modern ranching.

❺ ***The Ladder of Rivers: The Story of I.P. (Print) Olive*** (Harry E. Chrisman, Dawson County Historical Society): Another great picture of life in the saddle over a century ago, Chrisman's story centers around Print Olive and the founding of the Olive Brothers' Ranch in Nebraska.

By Henry C. Parke

L.Q. Jones, a Villain With a Grin

The highly respected Texas actor and director reflects on a 50-year career in Hollywood.



While L.Q. Jones is retired from acting at 93 years old, his entertainment career spanned over five decades, and included three credits as a director and writer, including the sci-fi cult classic *A Boy and His Dog*.

In one of his most memorable roles in his lengthy career in Western film and television, L.Q. Jones was cast as bounty hunter T.C. (standing, right) in Sam Peckinpah's epic ensemble film *The Wild Bunch* (1969).

Courtesy Warner Bros./Seven Arts

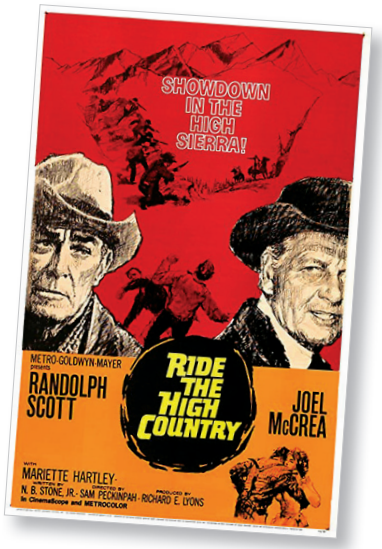
L.Q. Jones, the sandy-haired giant with the high cheekbones, warm smile and ice-cold blue eyes, is set to celebrate his 94th birthday this August. He's been a constant, mostly menacing, screen presence for five decades. His last film was 2006's *Prairie Home Companion*. The veteran of hundreds of big and small-screen performances recently told *True West*, "We didn't know it while it was taking place, but when we did *The Wild Bunch*, it changed the way the pictures were accepted, changed them 180 degrees. And, oddly enough, I happened to be in another picture, *The Mask of Zorro*, that changed it back." He explained that the former brought an unflinching look at brutal violence, and the latter marked a return to thrills with less realistic blood-letting. It's no surprise that his lengthy career has bridged many cinematic trends.

He got his boot in the door thanks to his former University of Texas in Austin roommate, Fess Parker, who also got fraternity brother the late Morgan Woodward his first role. Woodward recalled, "Fess sneaked him in to see director Raoul Walsh, and L.Q. is so crazy, he convinced him that he ought to be in the picture." It didn't hurt that Fess, by then TV's *Davy Crockett*, also got writer and future director Burt Kennedy to rewrite L.Q.'s dull audition scene. L.Q. was so pleased with the role that he took his character's name for his own; until then he'd been Justus McQueen.

From 1955 on, he recalls, "Between war movies and Westerns, work was constant." He was sidekick to Clint Walker on *Cheyenne*, did three movies with Elvis Presley, including the excellent *Flaming Star*, and guest-villained on series like *Annie Oakley*, *Rin Tin Tin*, *The Rebel*, *The Rifleman*, *Have Gun Will Travel* and *Laramie*.

"I was regular on about seven Westerns." About *The Virginian*, on which he played ranch hand Beldon, he says, "We became a family. We were putting on a new *Virginian* every other week. You had two weeks to make an hour-and-a-half show, which is a full motion picture."

The seed of one of his biggest breaks was planted in 1955, but took a few years to flower. *Annapolis Story* director Don Siegel's dialogue



Ride the High Country (1962) co-star Mariette Hartley remembered L.Q. Jones's death scene in the Sam Peckinpah Western: "I keep watching that scene where he was shot by Ron [Starr]. And we watch him roll slightly down that hill, in the dirt. He pushed himself away from the rocks in order to be able to move, because he really hit those rocks. I mean he just threw himself into everything. I just adore him."

Courtesy MGM

For five decades, L.Q. Jones was regularly cast as a villain in television Westerns. He appeared seven times on *Gunsmoke*, including a memorable role as the racist Kittridge in the episode titled "The Good Samaritans" (1969).

Courtesy CBS Television

coach, Sam, took a liking to L.Q. "At the end of it, he said, 'Listen, kid, I guarantee you we're going to be working together, because I'm going to be a director, and I will remember you.' And I said, 'Yeah, thanks a lot. Heard that before.' Later I was in my agent's office and they called and wanted me for *Ride the High Country*, and I realized it was Sam Peckinpah." Counting shows that didn't work out, "We ended up doing, I think, 17 projects together."

"Sam, if he was good at two things, it was attention to detail and casting the right people. The man was a genius, but Sam had

Director Martin Campbell remarked of L.Q. Jones's (center) portrayal of Three-Fingered Jack in *The Mask of Zorro* (1998), "I've always loved his acting. I've always wanted to work with him, and he's absolutely wonderful in the movie."

Courtesy TriStar Pictures

a strange way of operating, sort of like John Ford's." He purposely created hostility between members of the cast and crew. "He has you so overwrought that everybody detests everybody else. And then he starts to put you back together. And within a week, there's only one human being in our universe, and that's Sam Peckinpah. It worked for him until we got into *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*. He tore us down, and then Sam was so sick that he couldn't put us back together."

A man of many talents, Jones adapted and directed Harlan Ellison's sci-fi novel, *A Boy and His Dog*, which starred Jason Robards and helped make a star of Don Johnson. He produced *The Brotherhood of Satan*, giving his frequent co-star, Strother Martin, one of his best non-Western roles, "And in one scene, he's completely nude. Just for a few frames."

L.Q. Jones's last role as a member of Sam Peckinpah's film company was in *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973), which was filmed entirely in Durango, Mexico, with a very large ensemble cast of famous Western character actors. Jones played Black Harris, a member of Billy the Kid's gang.

Courtesy MGM

But above all, L.Q. Jones is an actor. "I know this sounds Pollyannish, but any show I do is my favorite for the moment." But for TV Westerns? "I did seven *Gunsmokes*. Over the years, almost everything I'm in, they ask me to change it, to fit me. Not on *Gunsmoke*. You take what they give you, hit your mark, say your words and pick up your check. Because they've done a hell of a job, the writers, the producers, the crew. They were so professional in what they did.

"I did the *Gunsmoke* where the entire cast, with the exception of the regulars, was black. And I played a terrible person. A racist, I kicked dogs, beat kids, chased women. The Monday after they showed it, I had about a 45-minute trip to the studio. I was driving my MG, top down, and I was booed and hissed for the entire 30 miles. They had all seen the show, and they were throwing things. You know you made an impression. The other shows I enjoyed as much, but that is my favorite because of what happened after the fact."

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.

During L.Q. Jones's 50-year acting career, directors and producers could always count on his professional skills, no matter the genre, including as singer Chuck Akers in his final film role in the comedy-musical *A Prairie Home Companion* (2006).

Courtesy Picturehouse

Battle of the Billys

The legendary Western outlaw is saddling up to return to film and television as early as 2022.

Courtesy Morgan Creek Ent./20th Century Fox

Two high-profile Billy the Kid projects have appeared on the none-too-distant horizon: one a movie sequel, the other a miniseries.

Back in 1988, Emilio Estevez made an indelible impression with his maniacal Billy in the surprise hit *Young Guns* and the sequel, *Young Guns II*. Now Estevez says a follow-up "is definitely in the works." He'll star and direct, and is collaborating with the author of both earlier films, John Fusco, on *Guns III: Alias Billy the Kid*—the artwork playfully has the word "Young" obliterated with bullet holes.

Epix and MGM have announced an eight-part *Billy the Kid* series, a romantic adventure written and produced by Englishman Michael Hirst, who wrote *Elizabeth* and *The Tudors* and *Vikings*. Photography will commence in Calgary in June, with English actor Tom Blyth in the title role.

While some dismissed *Young Guns* for having so many handsome actors—Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen, Lou Diamond Phillips, et al—Western historian Paul Hutton calls it the "first film to do full justice to the Regulators, and to play most events of the Lincoln County War accurately." To make the first sequel after killing off the lead character, *Guns II* was told in wraparound segments by Brushy Bill Roberts, who in 1950 claimed that he was the real Billy, and that Pat Garrett had killed someone else. While calling Brushy's story "unproven" is generous, letting Billy live until 1950 opens up all kinds of plot possibilities for *Guns III*. Are the original stars interested in returning? Phillips speaks for most or all: "I'd show up in a heartbeat."

"Michael Hirst is one of the most gifted and prolific storytellers in this exciting new TV landscape," notes Fusco. "He also has a palpable love for complex historical epics and knows how to slow-burn a saga. Personally, I am looking forward to his vision of the Lincoln County War and his take on William Bonney."

"Billy the Kid has always been a hero of mine since I was—well, a kid!" Hirst told *The Hollywood Reporter* about his limited series for Epix Studios and MGM International Television Productions. "He was an outlaw...but he never wanted to be. Born into a poor Irish family of immigrants, he always wanted to go straight, to be a 'new American.' But he was never allowed to... In the end it's not just a story at all—it's an American myth!"

—Henry C. Parke

BY PETER CORBETT

Medora, North Dakota

Theodore Roosevelt's Western home is where legends were made—and still celebrated.

Beautiful natural vistas and wildlife, including a large bison herd, are two of the main reasons visitors come to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, North Dakota.

Courtesy NPS.gov

Future United States President Theodore Roosevelt made Medora, Dakota Territory, his home as a rancher in the Maltese Cabin in the 1880s. The cabin was built by Sylvane Ferris (in wagon) in the winter of 1883–84, and rancher S.N. Lebo (on horseback) managed the ranch for Theodore Roosevelt. The site is now part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Courtesy NPS.gov

It's hard to imagine a Western town with a more unusual backstory than Medora in the Badlands of North Dakota.

The town was founded in 1883 by French nobleman Antoine Amedee Marie Vincent Manca de Vallambrosa. He named it for his wife, Medora Von Hoffman, daughter of a New York investment banker. The nobleman, known as the Marquis de Mores, lost millions of the Hoffman fortune on a cattle and meatpacking venture that went bust within three years.

A New Yorker, 25-year-old Teddy Roosevelt, arrived in the Dakota Territory about the same time as the Marquis de Mores. The two were neighborly but nearly squared off in a duel over property rights. The Marquis was later jailed on a charge of murdering a ranch hand but was acquitted.

Meanwhile, Roosevelt acquired two ranches along the Little Missouri River in what's now far western North Dakota. But he sold his ranches by the late 1880s and ended his foray in ranching. By 1901, Roosevelt was living in the White House as the 26th president of the United States.

Marquis de Mores returned to France, the meatpacking plant in Medora burned down in 1907 and the town languished for a half century.

Then came angel investor Harold Schafer, who decided to clean up the town. He succeeded in making Medora, population 130, one of the top

French nobleman Marquis de Mores (inset) founded his entrepreneurial cattle town along the Little Missouri River in Western Dakota Territory in 1883 and named it after his wife Medora (foreground). The summer home he built is now maintained as part of the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

Historical Home Photo Courtesy North Dakota Office of Tourism/
Photo of Marquis de Mores Courtesy True West Archives

tourism attractions in North Dakota with a million annual visitors. How did he do it?

Ever hear of Mr. Bubble, Glass Wax or Snowy Bleach? Schafer's Gold Seal Co. made him a multimillionaire selling bubble bath, window cleaner and bleach.

In 1962, Schafer bought and rebuilt the 1884 Rough Riders Hotel in Medora. He then acquired a dilapidated outdoor theater and launched a variety show called *Teddy Roosevelt Rides Again: A Medora Musical.*

That musical, updated annually, has entertained 4 million people since 1965.

"*The Medora Musical* has been such a fan favorite for decades because it celebrates the Western spirit, the can-do, hardworking attitude of the cowboy, and without stating it, honoring the Code of the West," said Justin Fisk, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation spokesman.

The show's finale includes a performance of "God Bless America" with fireworks and a mounted cowboy on a bluff next to a Medora sign of white, cutout letters, similar to the famous Hollywood sign.

Every summer more than 100,000 guests enjoy the *The Medora Musical* celebration of America and the settling of the West in the Burning Hills Amphitheater in Medora, North Dakota.

Courtesy North Dakota Office of Tourism

The show attracts travelers visiting the adjacent Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The park, established in 1947, features the Maltese Cross Cabin Roosevelt first lived in when he arrived in the Badlands.

Attractions on the park's 36-mile loop drive include the 135-year-old Peaceful Valley Ranch and a Badlands overlook. Park wildlife includes prairie dogs, elk, wild horses and bison.

Tiny Medora hosts the musical and park visitors with 350 hotel rooms and more than 300 campsites. But it's no one-horse town. Medora has seven museums, three parks, 23 shops, 16 restaurants and the Bully Pulpit Golf Course, according to Maria Miller, Medora tourism bureau director.

"A lot of people don't realize Medora is here," Miller said of travelers visiting Mount Rushmore or Devils Tower, both about four hours away.

"I always describe it as you're immersed into kind of another time, another place the second you drive into town because we maintain the Western culture and heritage and integrity of our buildings," Miller said.

A top Western attraction is the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame that honors Roosevelt, Marquis de Mores, Louis L'Amour, Sitting Bull, trick rider Audrey Hall-Davy and many other ranchers and cowboys.

The Chateau de Mores State Historic Site features the 26-room home built in 1883 as the Marquis' summer home.

Medora's Old Town Hall Theater is a popular venue where actor Joe Wiegand portrays Teddy Roosevelt in a daily show.

Visitors to the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame will learn the history of ranching and rodeos and the state's most famous cowboys and cowgirls through the museum's entertaining and informative exhibitions.

Courtesy North Dakota Office of Tourism

If that's not enough attractions, a foundation plans to build a Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library on a 93-acre site in Medora, to open in 2025, Miller said. (Presidential libraries did not emerge until after Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.)

Vittles in Medora include the Pitchfork Steak Fondue on a bluff overlooking the Badlands. The steaks are flash-fried on actual pitchforks.

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

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

The New York rancher's famous Maltese Cross Cabin was restored and located adjacent to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Visitors Center.

Courtesy NPS.gov

MEDORA AREA CVB
Start your trip at the Medora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 330 Pacific Ave.
MedoraND.com

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK
Start your tour at the South Unit in Medora. Rangers can provide directions to the North Unit in Watford or Painted Canyon, Interstate 94, Exit 32.
NPS.gov

HOLDING ON TO NORTH DAKOTA'S PAST
North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is a history roundup of the state's Native Americans, ranching and rodeo communities. 250 Main St., Medora.
NorthDakotaCowboy.com

GOOD MUSIC IN THE BADLANDS
Entertainers in Western garb put on *The Medora Musical*, a boot-scootin' show that celebrates patriotism, Theodore Roosevelt and the American West.
Medora.com

ECHOES OF THE BULLY PULPIT
Actor Joe Wiegand brings the 26th president to life with his Teddy Roosevelt Show at the Old Town Hall Theater.
Medora.com

DID TEDDY ROOSEVELT SLEEP HERE?
It's rumored that Roosevelt stayed in the Rough Riders Hotel, built in 1884.
Medora.com

BY MELODY GROVES

RIDE THAT TRAIN!

HISTORIC RAIL EXCURSIONS AWAIT THE ADVENTUROUS ACROSS THE WEST.

Towering pines whirl past an open window ushering in pine-scented breezes. The click-clack of train wheels underneath relaxes riders. Puffs of locomotive smoke sail beside the car. In the distance, a wide blue ribbon meanders through hills forested with shrubs and wildflowers showing off their yellow beauty.

Spending a day riding the rails, connecting with nature and history, enjoying time with family and friends, is a great way to immerse yourself in a summer getaway. Short train excursions in the West are an ideal way to occupy a glorious summer day.

Summer is here and so are trains, museums, restaurants, hotels! Visit Sacramento, home of the Gold Rush, where people from all over the world flocked to make their fortune. Or ride the narrow gauge train transporting passengers from bustling Durango to laid-back Silverton, Colorado.

No matter where you visit, there's much to see and do.

Editor's Note: Due to variances in COVID-19 travel restrictions in each state, as well as business closures and changes in hours of operation, travelers should check with local chambers of commerce and visitors bureaus for current rules and confirm operating hours with businesses.

The Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, Nevada, drives its passenger trains every weekend from mid-April to mid-October with historic, century-old steam engines. On weekdays diesel engines pull the trains.

Courtesy TravelNevada

ELY, NEVADA

Historic Ely, founded as a stagecoach stop, where the Pony Express rushed through, stopping only long enough to change riders and pick up mail, is a true summer getaway (*ElyNevada.org*).

For train enthusiasts, the Northern Railway Museum (*NNRY.com*) includes restoration and operation of historic railroad equipment. *The Ghost Train of Old Ely*, a working steam-engine passenger train, travels through ghost towns and mines offering a unique Star Tour at night.

DOING

Renaissance Village, with six restored historic houses, showcases 100-plus ethnic cultures of people who settled here. Stroll along the old Cherry Creek Mining District famous for wild cherry tree groves. White Pine Public Museum (*WPMuseum.org*) features the original settlers, Shoshone Indians, gold rushes and Pony Express.

Outdoor aficionados will enjoy mining garnets at Garnet Hill or spelunking the Lehman Caves at Great Basin National Park. Visit the 700-acre Ward Mountain Charcoal Ovens Historic State Park (*Parks.NV.gov*) which protects the 19th-century beehive-shaped charcoal ovens.

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely, NV

Courtesy TravelNevada/Historic Photo Courtesy True West Archives

EATING AND SLEEPING

Taking visitors back to Wild West days is Ely's fine dining restaurant, The Cellblock (*JailhouseCasino.com*). Margarita's Mexican Restaurant and Steakhouse features Mexican food plus steaks and burgers.

Nevada's oldest brothel and bar, the Big 4 Ranch, opened in 1880, and now offers lodgings (*Lodging-World.com*). The tallest building in the state for years, Hotel Nevada and Gambling Hall (*HotelNevada.com*) remains in its original glory but with modern amenities. Your gateway to the Great Basin is the Jailhouse Motel and Casino, near the historic U.S. Route 50. The Jailhouse is, logically, home to the Cellblock Steak House.

EXPERIENCE WILLIAMS

GATEWAY TO THE GRAND CANYON ®

Williams, Arizona has something for everyone.
Plan a visit and see why visitors have fallen in love with Williams.

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Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO

Courtesy D&SNGRR/Historic Photo Courtesy True West Archives

DURANGO, COLORADO

Chosen in 1880 as a site for railroad facilities, within five years Durango (*Durango.org*) sported hotels, restaurants, saloons and stores. Ride the heritage railroad D&SNG (*DurangoTrain.com*), operating since 1882, for a 45-mile trip on narrow-gauge track running between Durango and Silverton.

DOING

Three museums offer a day of history and culture. In nearby Ignacio, the Southern Ute Cultural Center Museum (*SouthernUteMuseum.org*) chronicles the story of the Ute people through photographs, audiovisual displays and life-size replicas of tipis, a cabin and schoolroom.

Tucked in behind the depot, the Railroad Museum offers the fascinating history of railroading, transportation and mining.

Sorrel Sky Gallery (*SorrelSky.com*) offers new jewelry, painting and sculptures by local and national artists. Family-owned gallery Toh-Atin (*Toh-Atin.com*) focuses on Native American and Southwestern artwork, jewelry and rugs.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Historic 1887 Strater Hotel (*Strater.com*) features handcrafted woodwork, period wallpaper and a large collection of American Victorian antiques. Step into the Strater's Diamond Belle Saloon (*Strater.com*), which started life as a drugstore. Waiters in period clothing serve up salads and burgers. Most

Grand Canyon Railway, Williams, AZ

Courtesy Grand Canyon Railway

evenings the Diamond Belle hosts ragtime piano music or local poets.

The Bar D Chuckwagon Suppers and Show (*BarDChuckWagon.com*) offers a true Western experience. This chuckwagon supper of beans, meat and biscuits features Old West cowboy songs by the Bar D Wranglers.

In downtown Durango, Carver Brewing Company (*CarverBrewing.com*), the first brewery in the four corners area since Prohibition, serves classic American food, including buffalo burgers.

Stay at Durango's premier 1898 Victorian downtown hotel, The General Palmer (*GeneralPalmerHotel.com*) next to the train depot. The Rochester Hotel's (*RochesterHotel.com*) guest rooms are decorated with Western character and charm.

WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

"Awesome" doesn't do justice to viewing sunsets over the Grand Canyon, where the canyon walls explode in oranges, pinks and yellows.

Known as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon," Williams (*ExperienceWilliams.com*) is where visitors catch a ride on the Grand Canyon Railway (*TheTrain.com*) which whisks them through forests to the Grand Canyon. The ride is almost as dramatic as the canyon.

SEEING AND DOING

Dating back 140 years, Williams has something for everyone. Bearizona (*Bearizona.com*) is a drive-through wildlife park with animals rescued from across the country. For auto enthusiasts, the best-preserved stretch of Route 66 in Arizona runs through downtown.

Grand Canyon Railway, September 17, 1901.
Grand Canyon Village, AZ
Courtesy NPS.gov

Elephant Rocks Golf Course (*Elephant-Rocks.com*) is nestled among ponderosa pines and rolling hills.

Ah, the Grand Canyon! A wonder of the world. Take a mule ride to the bottom, step out onto the clear walkway, ride the Colorado River rapids or fly over. It's all breathtaking. Spend a few hours or several days; there's much to take in.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Hungry after all that adventure? Pine Country Restaurant (*PineCountryRestaurant.com*) features home-cooked meals and pies. Or stop in at Rod's Steak House (*Rods-Steakhouse.com*) for prime rib. Check out the famous neon steer out front. For a cozy atmosphere on Route 66, check out Red Raven (*RedRavenRestaurant.com*), known for fresh salads and wide variety of wines.

Within walking distance to Route 66 and all of Williams is the Historic Yellow House (*HistoricYellowHouse.com*) for family or group lodging. Trappers Rendezvous (*TrappersAZ.com*) features cabins and home-cooked meals, campfires and s'mores. The secluded and romantic Sheridan House Inn. (*SheridanHouseInn.com*) is a bed-and-breakfast for adults only.

Georgetown Loop Railroad, Georgetown, CO

Courtesy Georgetown Loop Railroad/Historic Photo Courtesy NYPL Digital Collection

GEORGETOWN, COLORADO

Georgetown, "The Silver Queen of Colorado," has evolved into a lively historical small town with preserved structures from its 1859 founding. On the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, Georgetown offers much for history and train enthusiasts.

The 1884 Georgetown Loop Railroad (*GeorgeTownLoopRR.com*), considered a marvel of its time, is a narrow-gauge heritage railroad running between Georgetown and Silver Plume. The 4.5-mile trip ascends 640 feet through mountainous terrain.

DOING

Georgetown, once the third-largest town in Colorado, boasts 1,000 people. Little has changed since its mining days. Colorado history-lovers can take in Hotel de Paris Museum (*HotelDeParisMuseum.org*), a former 1875 French inn, open on weekends only. Hamill House Museum (*HistoricGeorgetown.org*) interprets 19th-century residential Georgetown living, including architecture, furnishings, Victorian plants and landscaping.

The oldest co-op in Colorado, Georgetown Fine Art Gallery (*GeorgetownGalleryCo.com*), displays works by Colorado artists. Grizzly Creek Gallery (*GrizzlyCreekGallery.com*) sells photography of Colorado and Southwestern scenes.

Visit the Georgetown Wildlife Viewing Area where bighorn sheep roam. Or drive over beautiful Guanella Pass where the fall colors are breathtaking.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Guanella Pass Brewery (*GuanellaPass.com*) offers locally brewed beer along with pub food. Mountain Mamas' Needful Things (*MountainMamasLLC.com*) serves breakfast and lunch.

After a long day of skiing, ice fishing, hiking or walking Georgetown's historic downtown, relax at the Georgetown Lodge (*GeorgetownLodge.com*). Or stay at the Rose Street Bed & Breakfast, the 1882 Taylor-Dewey House (*RoseStreetBNB.com*), situated at the beginning of Guanella Pass. Located downtown, Clear Creek Inn (*ClearCreekInn.com*) is a warm, inviting space surrounded by mountain views and bordered by Clear Creek.

HEBER CITY, UTAH

Founded in 1850, history-rich Heber City (*GoHeberValley.com*) enjoys year-round entertainment and is near Sundance ski resorts and Deer Valley. On Main Street, the original town square houses city offices as well as the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle and the Amusement Hall.

What better way to see the countryside than the Heber Valley Railroad (*HeberValleyRR.org*)? Ride the 1899 vintage train and watch eagles soar overhead. Thrill at the breathtaking Heber Canyon where moose watch the passing train.

SEEING AND DOING

Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum (*SpringvillePioneermuseum.org*) contains artifacts from the town's founding. Heritage Ranch Museum houses a Mormon Battalion uniform, 60 dairy cows and Paul Bunyan's tricycle. Main Street Park features multi-level playgrounds for kids, picnic areas and outdoor concerts.

EATING AND SLEEPING

After an exhilarating day of train-riding or touring, visit the Back 40 Ranch House Grill (*Back40Utah.com*) which serves family-friendly, healthy food made with locally sourced ingredients. Don Pedro's Family Mexican Restaurant (*DonPedrosHeber.com*) located on Main Street, offers a wide variety of Mexican and Southwestern food. Also on Main is Chick's Café serving breakfast, comfort food and homemade pies.

Stomach full, the day coming to an end, a room at the Swiss Alps Inn (*SwissAlpsInn.com*) provides a Swiss atmosphere surrounded by nature's playground. The 1886 Homestead Resort (*HomesteadResort.com*) is an iconic Utah resort where accommodations are separate cottages located throughout the grounds. Invited Inn (*InvitedInn.com*), a Swiss-style bed-and-breakfast, overlooks the surrounding mountains and Heber Valley.

Heber Valley Historic Railroad, Heber City, UT

Photos Courtesy Heber Valley Historic Railroad

CHAMA, NEW MEXICO-ANTONITO, COLORADO

Connected by a narrow-gauge train track, Chama (*ChamaValley.com*) and Antonito (*ConejosVacation.com*) share history and visitors. The historic 1880 Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (*CumbresToltec.com*), pulled by a completely authentic steam engine, carries riders through steep mountain canyons, high desert, lush meadows and across Cumbres Pass.

Although a train ride is a must, both towns offer other activities. Visit the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Museum, the Conejos County Museum (*MuseumTrail.org*) in Antonito, the Jack Dempsey Birthplace in nearby Manasas, Colorado, and the Georgia O'Keeffe House Museum (*OKeeffeMuseum.org*) in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

Day trips can take visitors to Heron Lake for fishing or enjoying the water. A bit farther from Chama are the Great Sand Dunes near Alamosa, Colorado. Or spend time relaxing in the Hot Springs at Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Chama, NM/Antonito, CO

Photos Courtesy Cumbres & Toltec RR

Heber Valley Historic Railroad Cowboy Entertainers

EATING AND SLEEPING

In Chama, The LOCAL Restaurant (*ChamaLocal.com*) serves Southwestern fare and pizza. Chama's Boxcar Café serves Mexican food. In Antonito, the Dutch Mill Café is a family-style restaurant.

Spend a relaxing night at the Parlor Car Bed & Breakfast (*ParlorCar.com*) across the street from the Scenic Railroad. Also across from the railroad in Chama is Fosters Hotel and Restaurant (*Fosters1881.com*), built in 1881 and Chama's first commercial building. Have a beer in an Old West saloon or eat in the restaurant. On the Colorado side and half a mile from the train station is the Indiana Jones Bed & Breakfast (*IndianaJonesBedAndBreakfast.com*) in Antonito. Antiques decorate the three upstairs guest rooms.

Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad, Abilene, KS

Photos Courtesy Abilene, Kansas CVB

ABILENE, KANSAS

Named "Best Small Town to Visit" by *Smithsonian Magazine* and hometown of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abilene (*AbileneKansas.org*) offers history with a large dose of charm. Ride the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad (*ASVRR.org*), the only steam locomotive in Kansas. Enjoy an open-air car or dine aboard the dinner train.

DOING

Enjoy Wild West Shows by reenactors, country music, cattle drives and more in Old Abilene Town (*OldAbilenetown.org*). Tour the 1905 Seelye Mansion (*SeelyeMansion.org*), which contains original furniture, a Steinway grand piano, a Tiffany-designed fireplace, Edison light fixtures and a bowling alley.

Seelye's Mansion houses The Patent Medicine Museum displaying many artifacts of the 1890 A.B. Seelye Medical Company.

EATING AND SLEEPING

President Eisenhower once ate at Mr. K's Farmhouse Restaurant (*MrKSFarmhouse.com*). Located on a gentle hill slightly west of Abilene, Mr. K's offers hearty plates of chicken, chops and hamburger.

Built in 1887, Abilene's Victorian Inn Bed & Breakfast (*AbilenesVictorianInn.com*) was where Eisenhower spent many happy days as a youth playing with his close boyhood friend. Or stay at the historic 1910 Engle House Bed & Breakfast (*EngleHouse.com*) for comfortable rooms, great hospitality and tasty meals.

Locally owned Taylor County Taphouse (*TaylorCountyTaphouse.com*) serves up great steaks and Texas-style comfort food.

CANON CITY, COLORADO

Colorado's Royal Gorge region is home to world-class scenery and attractions. An unforgettable experience is a spectacular train ride through the Colorado Rockies on the Royal Gorge Route (*RoyalGorgeRoute.com*).

DOING

Canon City (*CanonCityColorado.com*) offers a diverse range of museums. The Museum of Colorado Prisons (*PrisonMuseum.org*) features a colorful history of prison life. Downtown's Royal Gorge Regional History Museum (*Museum.CanonCity.org*) showcases the area's unique history and natural features. The Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience (*DinoXP.com*) contains a state-of-the-art world-class display of everything dinosaur.

ALL ABOARD! HISTORIC RAILROADS NOT TO MISS

Mount Hood Railroad, Hood River, OR

Courtesy TravelOregon

Leadville, Colorado & Southern
Leadville, CO • *Leadville-Train.com*

Mt. Hood Railroad
Hood River, OR • *MtHoodRR.com*

Pikes Peak Cog Railroad
Manitou Springs, CO • *CogRailway.com*

Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge RR
Cripple Creek, CO • *CrippleCreekRailroad.com*

Eagle Cap Excursion Train
Wallowa, OR • *EagleCapTrainRides.com*

Grapevine Vintage Railroad
Grapevine, TX • *GrapevineTexsUSA.com*

Great Smoky Mountains RR
Bryson City, NC • *GSMR.com*

Sumpter Valley RR
Sumpter, OR • *SumpterValleyRailroad.org*

Texas State RR
Palestine, TX • *TexasStateRailroad.net*

Wisconsin Great Northern RR
Trego, WI • *SpoonerTrainRide.com*

Arkansas & Missouri RR
Springdale, AR • *AMRailroad.com*

Oregon Coast Scenic RR
Garibaldi, OR • *OregonCoastScenic.org*

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum
Chehalis, WA • *SteamTrainRide.com*

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Peninsula, OH • *CVSR.org*

Fillmore & Western Railway
Fillmore, CA • *FWRY.com*

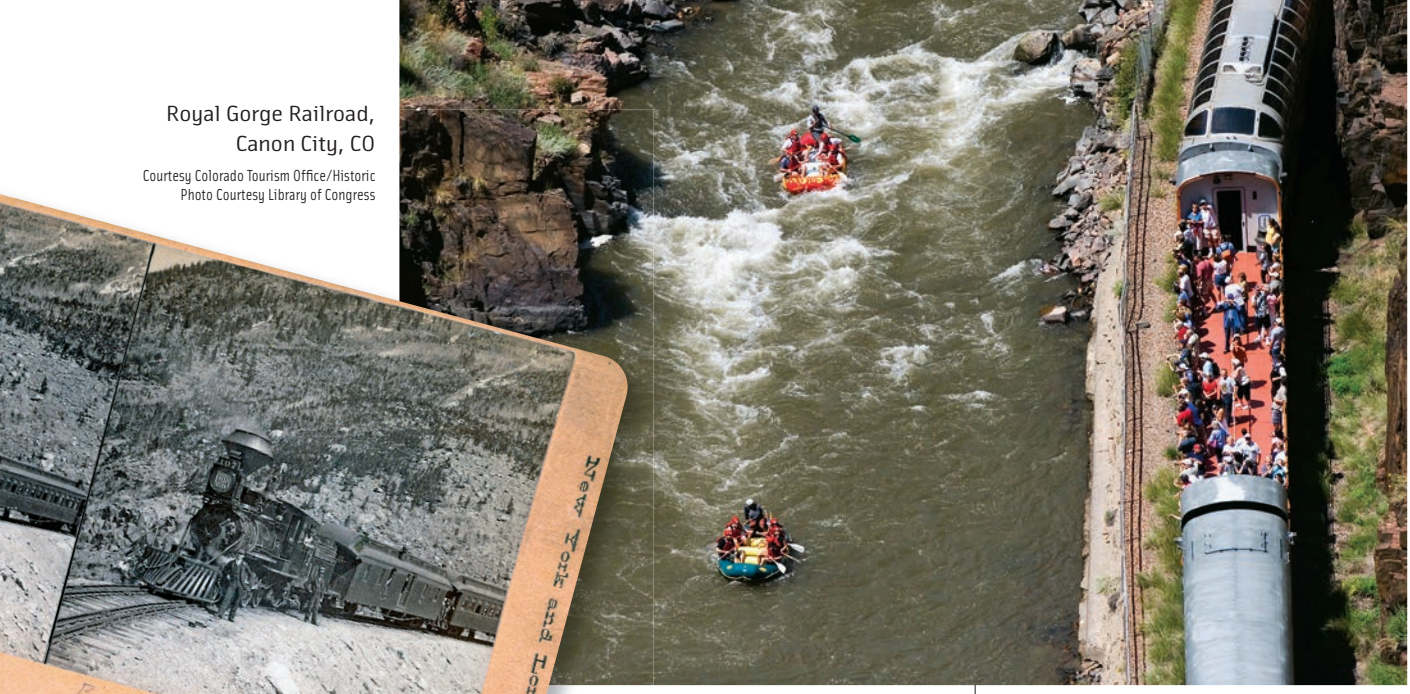
Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad
Nevada City, CA • *NCNGRRMuseum.org*

Santa Fe Southern Railway
Santa Fe, NM • *SantaFeNewMexican.com*

Verde Canyon Railroad
Clarkdale, AZ • *VerdeCanyonRR.com*

Virginia & Truckee Railroad
Virginia City, NV • *VTRailway.com*

Whitewater Valley Railroad
Connersville, IN • *WhiteWaterValleyRR.org*



Royal Gorge Railroad, Canon City, CO

Courtesy Colorado Tourism Office/Historic Photo Courtesy Library of Congress

OLD TOWN, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

In 1839, John Sutter established an agricultural community, but also struck gold.

The Sacramento Southern Railroad (*OldSacramento.com*) takes center stage as visitors enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of authentic steam or diesel locomotives. Rolling along the Sacramento River levees provides the feel of earlier times.

DOING

Sacramento Old Town embraces California's history. The expansive California State Railroad Museum (*CaliforniaMuseum.org*) houses several locomotives and cars.

Nearby, the Historic Park features a cluster of early Gold Rush sites, including the Eagle Theatre, the B. F. Hastings Buildings, the western terminus of the Pony Express and the 1855 Big Four Building.

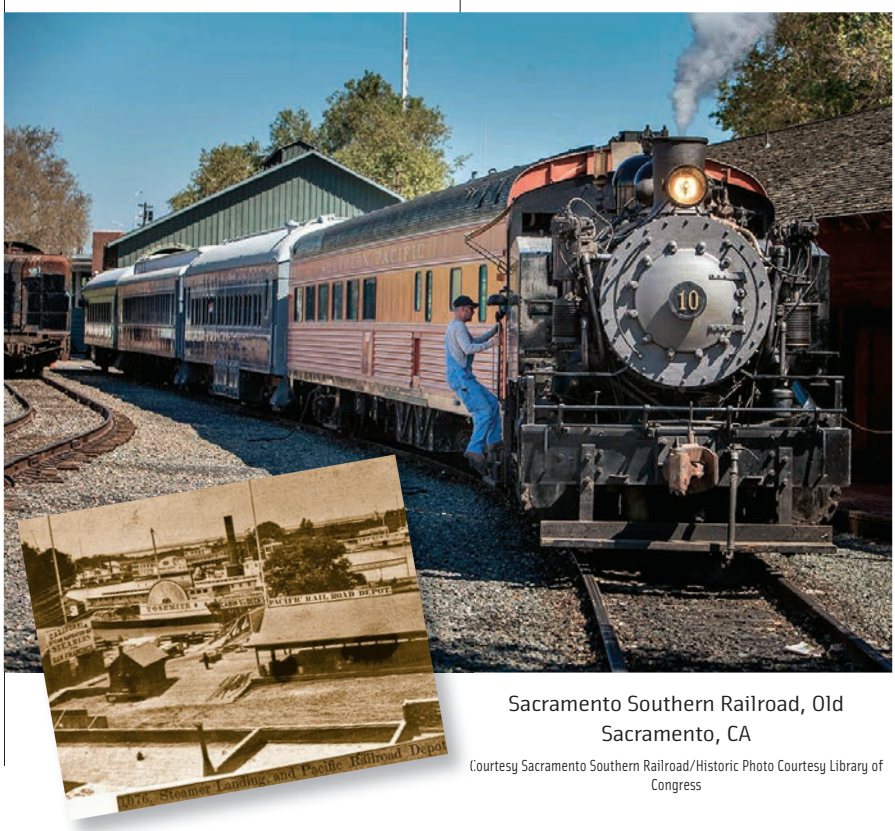
Aspects of California life are showcased at the History Museum, which tells the story of the city founders, rivers, the Gold Rush,

On Main Street visit the art galleries featuring unique gifts and fine jewelry by local artists. The Fremont Center for the Arts (*FremontArts.org*), provides fine art exhibits. Or take a day trip with Arkansas River Tours (*ArkansasRiverTours.com*), offering river rafting excursions. Home to America's highest suspension bridge, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park (*RoyalBridge.com*) offers unparalleled views, a zip line running 956 feet above the river, and the World's Scariest Skycoaster.

EATING AND SLEEPING

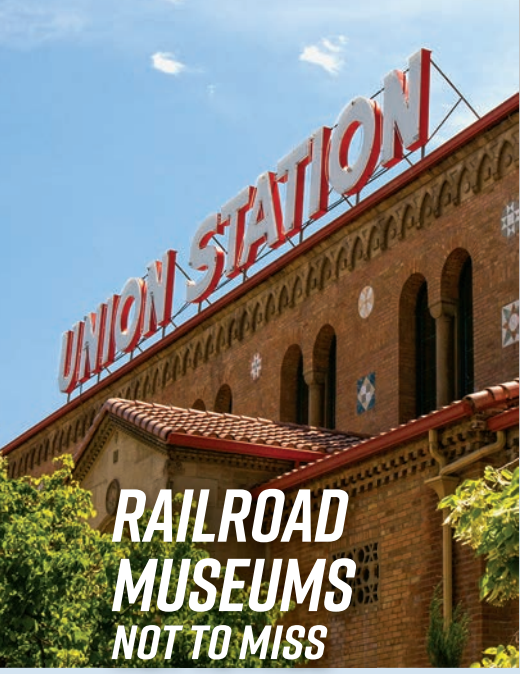
All that zipping and rafting works up an appetite. Try 8 Mile Bar & Grill (*RaftEcho.com*) for fresh, home-cooked food and a Colorado crafted beer. Or enjoy lunch and stunning views while riding the Lunch Train on the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. Served in the luxurious parlors of an 1882 Royal Gorge grand mansion, Afternoon Tea includes savory treats, freshly brewed teas and clotted cream.

The Royal Gorge Cabins (*RoyalGorgeCabins.com*) are perfect for a family reunion or a couple's retreat. For long-term guests, the Starlite Campground (*StarliteClassicCampground.com*) has sites for 30-day stays. Hillside Colorado Cottages (*TownOfHillside.com*) offers close access to the Royal Gorge and modern rustic cottages providing views of the Sangre de Cristo mountains.



Sacramento Southern Railroad, Old Sacramento, CA

Courtesy Sacramento Southern Railroad/Historic Photo Courtesy Library of Congress



RAILROAD MUSEUMS NOT TO MISS

Union Station Museums, Ogden, UT

Courtesy Matt Morgan, Utah Tourism

Arizona State Railroad Museum
Williams, AZ • *AZStateRRMuseum.org*

Golden Gate Railroad Museum
Redwood, City, CA • *GGRM.org*

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

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

Utah State Railroad Museum
Ogden, UT • *TheUnionStation.org*

Colorado Railroad Museum
Golden, CO • *ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org*

Pueblo Railway Museum
Pueblo, CO • *PuebloRailway.org*

Galveston Railroad Museum
Galveston, TX • *GalvestonMuseum.com*

Texas Transportation Museum
San Antonio, TX •*TXTransportationMuseum.org*

Museum of the American Railroad
Frisco, TX • *MuseumOfTheAmericanRailroad.org*

The St. Louis Museum of Transportation
St. Louis, MO • *TransportMuseumAssociation.org*

The Durham Museum
Omaha, NE • *DurhamMuseum.org*

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

Tennessee Valley Railroad
Chattanooga, TN • *TVRail.com*

Northern Pacific Railway Museum
WA • *NPRYMuseum.org*

Kettle Valley Steam Railway
Summerland, BC • *KettleValleyRail.org*

Kentucky Railroad Museum
New Haven, KY • *KYRail.org*

Arkansas Railroad Museum
Pine Bluff, AR • *ArkansasRailroadMuseum.org*

Montana Museum of Railroad History
Carter, MT • *MMRH.org*

South Dakota Railroad Museum
Hill City, SD • *1880Train.com*

The Folsom Railroad Museum
Folsom, CA • *FEDSHRA.org*

agriculture, the media, industry, culture and more.

Crocker Art Museum (*CrockerArt.org*), one of the leading art institutions in California, contains a fine collections of California art.

Sutter's Fort Historic Park (*Parks.CA.gov*) is where in 1839 John Sutter offered supplies and rest to pioneers. Later, it housed a blacksmith shop, bakery, living quarters and more. Nearby museums include the State Indian Museum, Heidrick Ag History, Medical History and Wells Fargo museums in Old Town Sacramento.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Ready for a meal? The Railroad Fish & Chips (*OldSacramento.com*) is footsteps from the river. Eat under the shaded outdoor pet-friendly patio.

The epitome of an Old West hangout is the River City Saloon (*TheRiverCitySaloon.com*) in Old Town. Offering homemade sarsaparilla and beer, it serves deli-style sandwiches. The Firehouse (*FireHouseOldSac.com*) combines an intimidate dining experience with a locally sourced menu and an extensive wine collection.

Built in 1927, *The Delta King*, an authentic paddlewheel riverboat, was converted into a boutique hotel (*DeltaKing.com*) A short hour west, the 1880s Volcano Union Pub & Inn (*VolcanoUnion.com*) is an Old West-style saloon and boardinghouse reborn as a pub and bed-and-breakfast.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Named in honor of the "Father of Texas," Austin (*AustinTexas.org*) offers history, music, sports and education. Ride the Austin Steam Train (*AustinSteamTrain.org*) which travels through Texas Hill country. Ride during the day or take the Sunset Express.

DOING

After riding the rails, visit the Bullock Museum (*TheStoryOfTexas.com*) which tells the story of Texas. The Blanton Museum of Art (*GlantonMuseum.org*) is one of the largest university art museums in the country. The Texas Memorial Museum (*TMM.UTexas.edu*) houses fossils, gems, native wildlife and other scientific specimens.

Worth a visit is Prickly Pear Galleries (*PricklyPearGalleries.com*), primarily a reproduction print and canvas gallery. The Shelton Smith Collection (*SheltonSmith.com*) is a Western art gallery featuring original paintings, sculptures and fine art photography.

Watch millions of Mexican free-tailed bats at the iconic Congress Avenue bridge where they emerge in the evenings to feed on mosquitoes. West of the city, the sprawling Texas Hill country sits atop the Edwards Plateau which invites day trips from Austin.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Scholz Garten Restaurant (*ScholzGarten.com*), established in 1866, remains a favorite spot to enjoy traditional German food. The Fonda San Miguel (*FondaSanMiguel.com*) focuses exclusively on traditional Mexican cuisine from Mexico's interior.

Central to most Austin events, the 1886 Driskill Hotel (*DriskillHotel.com*) offers a historic setting entrenched in timeless charm. Art and style have been important components of Hotel Ella (*HotelElla.com*) since 1910. Hotel Saint Cecilia (*HotelSaintCecilia.com*) honors the patron saint of music and poetry by paying tribute to creative legacies. Five suites, six poolside bungalows and three studios are mere steps away from the heart of south Austin.

Award winner **Melody Groves** writes what she knows and loves—the Southwest. She lives in Albuquerque and plays rhythm guitar in the Jammy Time Band. Her latest book is *When Outlaws Wore Badges.*

Austin Steam Train, Cedar Park, TX

Courtesy Austin Steam Train

Discover Where History Happened in the Old West

True West magazine has inspired travelers to take the road less traveled and explore the historic sites and towns of the American West. The Third Edition of the *True West* Ultimate Historic Travel Guide has been carefully updated with recommendations on the essential museums of the Old West. Anyone who wants to discover a region from the ground up—and immerse in its local history—willbe inspired to visit a Western museum and experience the dynamic, enthralling history of the American West.

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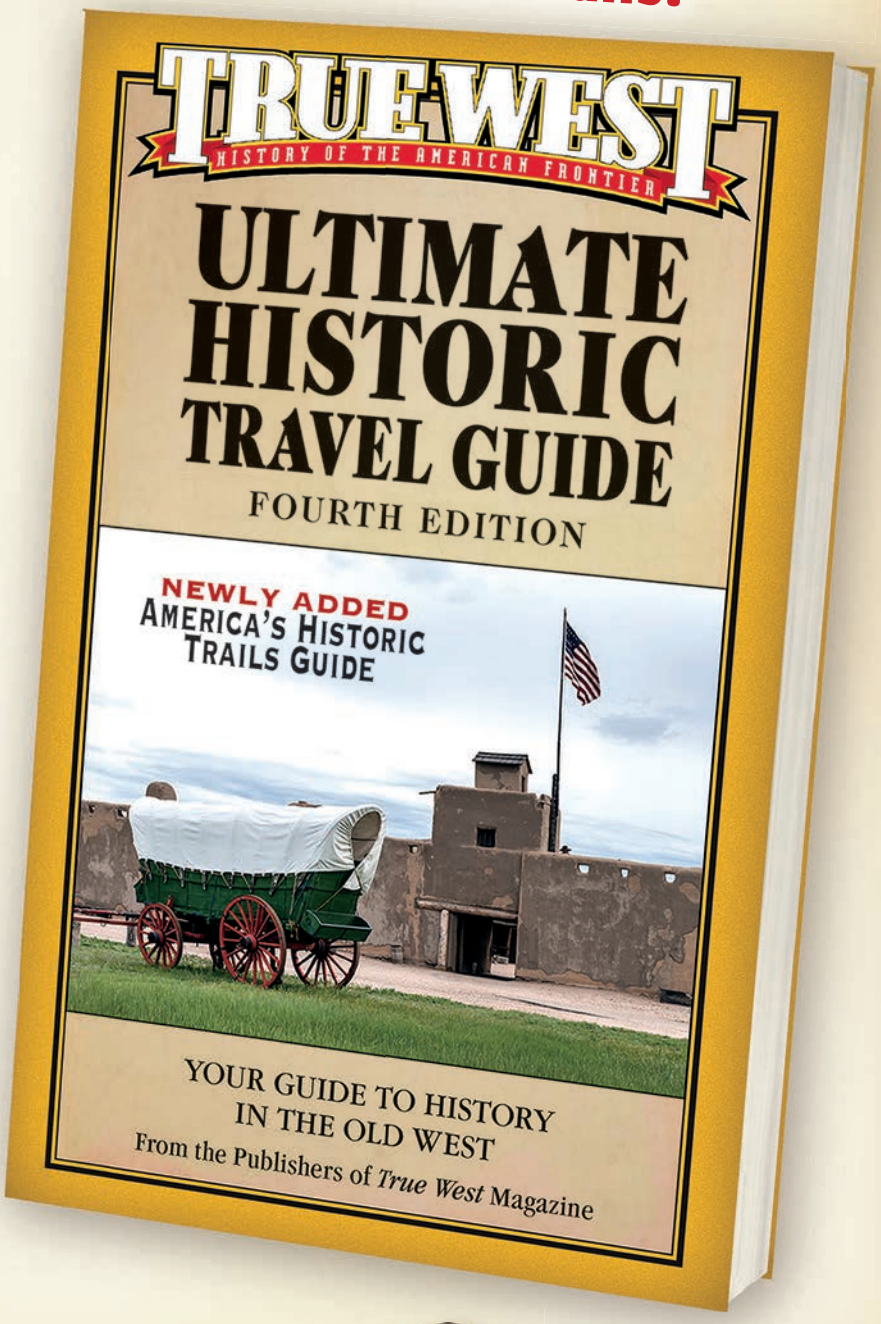
Now Including Our National Historic Trails!



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TWO ROADS WEST

TRUE WEST

TRADING POST

Western Roundup

FOR JULY/AUGUST 2021

THE ART OF ROBERT MARTINEZ

Big Horn, WY, July 10-September 5: Award-winning Northern Arapaho artist and 2019 Governor's Arts Award recipient Robert Martinez from Riverton, Wyoming, is featured in a one-person show of his contemporary drawings and paintings.
307-672-3173 • *TheBrintonMuseum.org*

Brokenhorse by Robert Martinez

Courtesy The Brinton Museum

ART SHOWS

HOLD YOUR HORSES INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION & SALE

Prescott, AZ, August 7-September 26: Horse lovers, art enthusiasts, and Western art collectors will all be enthralled with this annual exhibition and sale at the Phippen Art Museum.
928-778-1385 • *PhippenArtMuseum.org*

AMERICA'S HORSE IN ART

Amarillo, TX, August 14-October 16: This sale of horses depicted in pencil, paintings and sculptures raises money to benefit the American Quarter Horse Foundation.
806-376-5181 • *AQHA.com*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

LARAMIE JUBILEE DAYS

Laramie, WY, July 3-11: Wyoming's hometown honors the Western lifestyle with a kid's horse show, PRCA rodeo, parade and carnival.
800-445-5303 • *VisitLaramie.org*

OREGON TRAIL DAYS

Gering, NE, July 8-11: A kickoff barbecue, old-fashioned parades and live music are just some of the highlights of the annual weekend celebration of the pioneers who settled western Nebraska.
308-632-2133 • *OregonTrailDays.com*

GREEN RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Pinedale, WY, July 8-11: This 1833 mountain man encampment honors rendezvous culture with fur trade lectures and a pageant.
307-367-4136 • *VisitPinedale.org*

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Bandera, TX, July 24-25: Honor cowboys at this dinner and concert under the stars, on the Frontier Times Museum grounds.
830-796-3864 • *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*

THE LAST ESCAPE OF BILLY THE KID PAGEANT & OLD LINCOLN DAYS

Lincoln, NM, August 6-8: This annual folk pageant with re-enactors portraying Billy the Kid's last escape and the notorious Lincoln County War is a regional favorite with food vendors, live music, food, arts, crafts and a parade.
575-653-4025 • *Facebook.com/LincolnHistoricSite*

CHAMA DAYS

Chama, NM, August 12-15: Chama Days is a three-day event that includes a double elimination softball tournament, two-day rodeo, parade and dances.
800-477-0149 • *NewMexico.org*

WESTERN LEGENDS HERITAGE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kanab, UT, August 27-28: Western Legends is a two-day festival in "Little Hollywood" that includes a rodeo, parade, country band contest, Wild West show, a four-day wagon train trek and special events with over a dozen Hollywood Western celebrities in attendance.
435-644-4374 • *WesternLegendsRoundup.com*

MUSIC

VIVA BIG BEND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Alpine, Marfa, Fort Davis and Marathon, TX, July 29-August 1: More than 50 bands in 10 venues perform Texas music in desert mountain landscapes or against peculiarities such as the Marfa lights.
432-729-4772 (Marfa County Tourism) • *VivaBigBend.com*

POETRY GATHERINGS

ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING

Prescott, AZ: August 12-14: For nearly 33 years the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering has celebrated the traditions and history of cowboy poetry and music in Prescott, Arizona.
928-713-6323 • *AZCowboyPoets.org*

RE-ENACTMENTS

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN SECRET SOCIETY

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

RODEOS

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS: WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

Prescott, AZ, June 28-July 4: Prescott Frontier Days presents the 134th annual World's Oldest Rodeo at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. Since 1888, this traditional event has occurred annually over the 4th of July weekend with eight breathtaking performances.
866-407-6336 • *WorldsOldestRodeo.com*

NATIONAL LITTLE BRITCHES RODEO

Guthrie, OK, July 5-11: Cheer on youth rodeo contestants as they compete to win the roughly $300,000 in awards and college scholarships.
719-389-0333 • *NLBRA.com*

SILVER STATE STAMPEDE

Elko, NV; July 9-11: The Silver State Stampede is the oldest rodeo in Nevada. Today's Stampede has grown into a multifaceted event, showcasing the best of rodeo and ranch cowboys alike.
800-248-3556 • *SilverStateStampede.com*

SHERIDAN WYOMING RODEO

Sheridan, WY, July 14-17: Western-style family fun runs take place throughout rodeo week, which features the Boot Kick-off, downtown pancake breakfast, high-speed bed races, Sneakers & Spurs 5K, Main Street Parade, powwow, carnival, street dances and more.
307-675-9963 • *SheridanWYORodeo.com*

THE DAYS OF '76

Deadwood, SD, July 26–31: The Days of '76 includes parades on Deadwood's Historic Main Street and has been a staple event each summer for 99 years.
605-578-1657 • *DaysOf76.com*

CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS RODEO

Joseph, OR, July 27-August 1: This PRCA rodeo offers traditional American Indian dances, a bucking horse stampede and a friendship feast.
541-432-1015 • *ChiefJosephDays.com*

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

CATTLEMEN'S DAYS

Gunnison, CO, July 15-17: This PRCA rodeo offers horse and livestock shows, a carnival and live cowboy music and poetry.
970-596-0149 • *CattlemensDays.com*

TWMag.com:
View Western events on our website.

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.

The Trails and Tales of the Old West Go on Forever

What event marked the end of the Old West?

Daniel Proctor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

That's hard to say precisely because the Old West covered thousands of square miles. Stagecoaches were still hauling passengers in remote parts of Arizona into the 1920s. The Arizona Rangers were still breaking up gangs of rustlers in early 1900, as were the Texas and New Mexico Rangers. There are areas in the West including parts of the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and even California, Oregon and Washington that are still "Western." I've been there and seen 'em.

I don't think you can pick a particular event and say that marked the "end" of the Old West. As Tom Mix said, "The Old West is not a certain place, in a certain time, it's a state of mind. It's whatever you want it to be."

Tom Mix followed in the footsteps of Buffalo Bill Cody as one of the Old West's greatest promoters and entertainers.

True West Archives

Were soldiers used as bounty hunters against deserters or civilian outlaws after the Civil War?

Mats Hägglund
Sundsvall, Sweden

Soldiers were used to pursue and arrest deserters, etc., but they were not paid a bounty. The government did pay civilians for bringing in deserters, but there were no photos, and descriptions were vague, so few took the job. Also, the bounty was so small it was hardly worth the effort. In the 1870s, a hunter could bring in a deserter and collect all of $30.

Desertion was common on the Western frontier. Many soldiers had joined the Army for adventure but soon found that instead of action-packed campaigning, most of it was tedious and boring. The temptation to go hunting for gold was much more appealing.

Up until 1878, the Army could go after civilians, but Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act, which limited the powers of the federal government in the use of federal military personnel to enforce domestic policies within the United States.

Does Billy the Kid have any descendants?

Clay Howe
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

As far as we know, Henry McCarty aka William Bonney aka Billy the Kid left this world with no offspring. There are rumors he may have fathered a Mexican child or two but there is no proof.

Did frontier hotels have bathtubs?

Kim Payne
Eagle, Idaho

Hotels in the West varied widely. If you booked a room at a better class hotel, it's likely it would have an indoor communal bathtub. Women would be more likely to have a private bathtub since they required and got a little more privacy. A maid would bring hot water, and used bathwater was tossed out a window or door, much the same as the chamber pots.

Folks weren't into hygiene back then. They didn't know much about the importance of sanitation to one's health. It was common for a woman to bathe once a week and a man less frequently.

In 1866, the four-story brick-and-wood International Hotel in Virginia City, Nevada, was considered one of the best hotels in the West. Before it burned in 1875, guests enjoyed the convenience of steam-heated rooms, gas lighting, a bar, restaurant and the stagecoach line office on the first floor, but patrons wanting to bathe had to visit a local bathhouse down the street.

Courtesy Library of Congress

General Ely S. Parker, a member of the Iroquois tribe of New York, held the highest rank of any American Indian in the U.S. Army during and after the Civil War.

True West Archives

Who was the highest-ranking Indian in the U.S. Cavalry?

John Rogers
Nixa, Missouri

That was Ely Parker, an Iroquois from New York. He was trained as an engineer and served as Gen. U.S. Grant's adjutant after he became commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi. At Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender, Parker helped draw up the surrender documents. Lee extended his hand and said, "I see one real American here." Parker replied, "No, Sir, we are all Americans." After the war, he became a brigadier general and commander of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry. In 1869, Grant named him the first Native commissioner of Indian affairs. The town of Parker, Arizona, is named in his honor.

What firearm did Johnny Behan carry, and how did he carry it?

Doug Stidvent
Tucson, Arizona

Behan carried a four-inch Colt .45 Sheriff's model. Generally, when in town, a lawman rarely carried a weapon—but if he did, it was usually in a pocket or waistband. In the field, on horseback, it's likely Behan wore a holster.

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Photo by Jim Arndt

RONNIE DUNN, SINGER-SONGWRITER

Ronnie Dunn was born in Coleman, Texas, in 1953. He began his country and western singing career in college in the early 1970s. His first solo release was "It's Written All Over Your Face" in 1983. His singing partnership with Kix Brooks started in 1990 and is considered the most successful duo in country music history. As Brooks & Dunn, they sold more than 30 million records, released 15 albums and had 21 number-one *Billboard* hits. Dunn has been inducted into the Country Music, Nashville Songwriters, Texas Heritage Songwriters, Oklahoma and Arkansas Music halls of fame. His most recent album is *Re-Dunn: Twenty-Four Hit Songs* (Little Will-E Records, 2020). He and his wife, Janine, have been married since 1990.

History has taught me that it repeats itself. Don't get caught with your head in the sand.

My first guitar was a secondhand Silvertone bass guitar given to me by my father for my 14th birthday. The amplifier was built into the case.

I got my first pair of boots when I was three years old. They were red with white piping with a white inset steer head. I have never not had a pair of boots. They are very much a part of who I am.

My dad was a country music singer and guitar player. He was also a cowboy. I was conceived in a small stone ranch house where he and my mother lived near Coleman, Texas, where I was born.

My wife and I kept a house in Santa Fe, New Mexico. for 20 years. The sunsets are epic and the air is perfect.

I like the quiet still of the desert.

I've spent the last six years playing in Las Vegas. On my off days, I take my camera and point it west.

It's really hard for me to sit still.

My mind is always churning with a song idea or some creative project, so it takes a few days for me to be able to unwind and just let go.

I have land just west of Nashville; we call it "The Bluff." It's on the Turnbull River.

I went out with some buddies 12 years ago to build a tractor barn and ended up turning it into a house/lodge. We have ATVs, tractors, of course, and even a bulldozer. The abundance of wildlife is insane. There are three lakes on the property and the river to play with.

The best (worst) art is highly subjective. The best art should "sing" to you.

I didn't have a clue until I moved to Nashville what a long shot it is to break into the music business. The odds of becoming successful and sustaining success are astronomical.

Best advice I've ever received is inspiration is a waste of time without perspiration.

The most overrated thing is mainstream media.

Music is the only thing that ever really interested me; anything else was way down my priority list.

Country music is in my blood. I was born in Texas, lived in Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico.

My poor mother taught hellfire and brimstone. She raised me and my three siblings on shame and fear. It was all she knew. The only way to break rank was perceived as rebellion. I rebelled.

My favorite Western movie is *Unforgiven*.

Writing is hard work.

Don't get me started on politics.

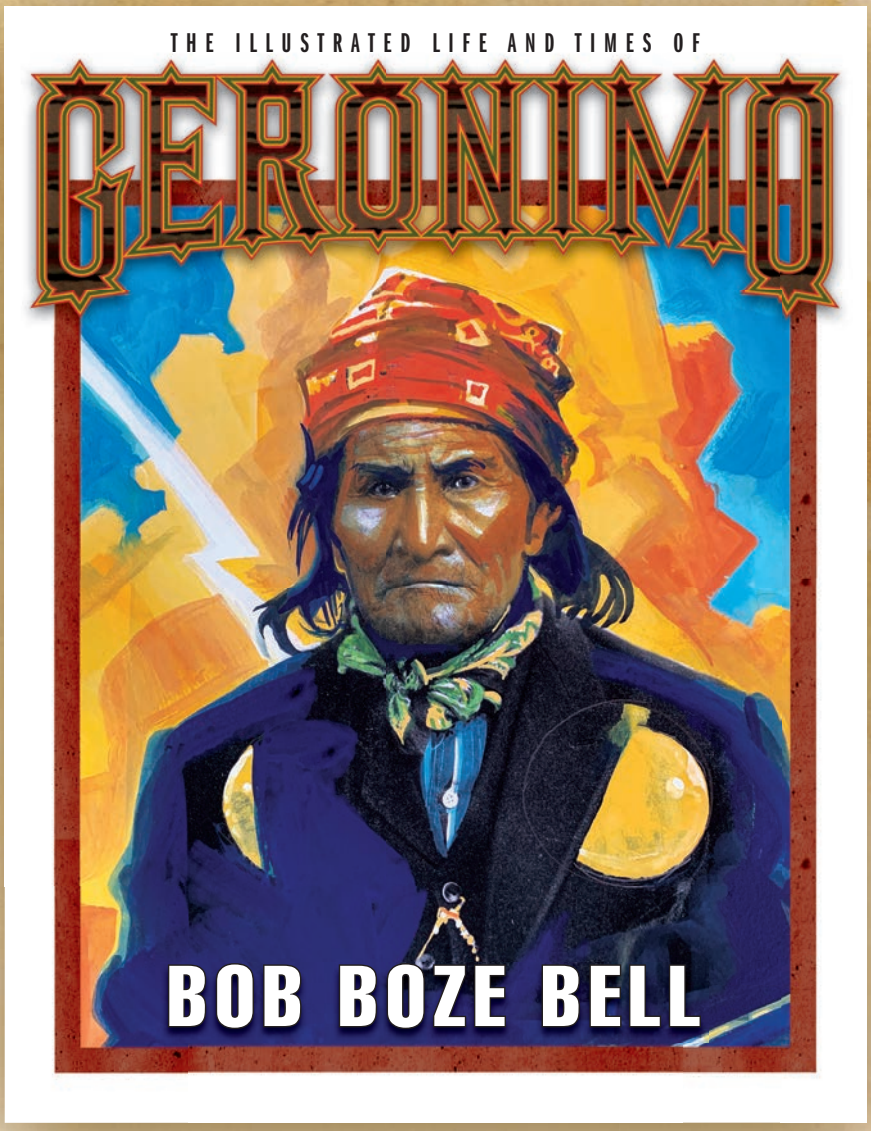
I won't tolerate arrogance.

Wish I had a dime for every time I was told that something can't be done.

My cowboy tattoo was inked from the inside out.

"Fasten your seat belt for this one!
Bell's trade-mark blend of superb artwork, authoritative research,
and fast-paced prose—always accompanied by a wicked sense of humor
—makes this another masterful, must-have Boze western book."

—Paul Andrew Hutton



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

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