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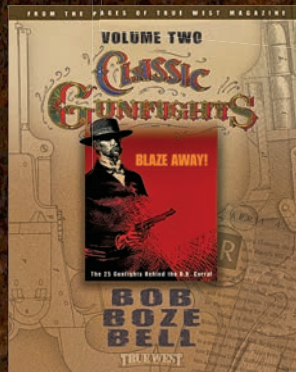
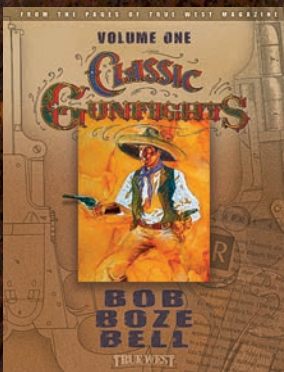
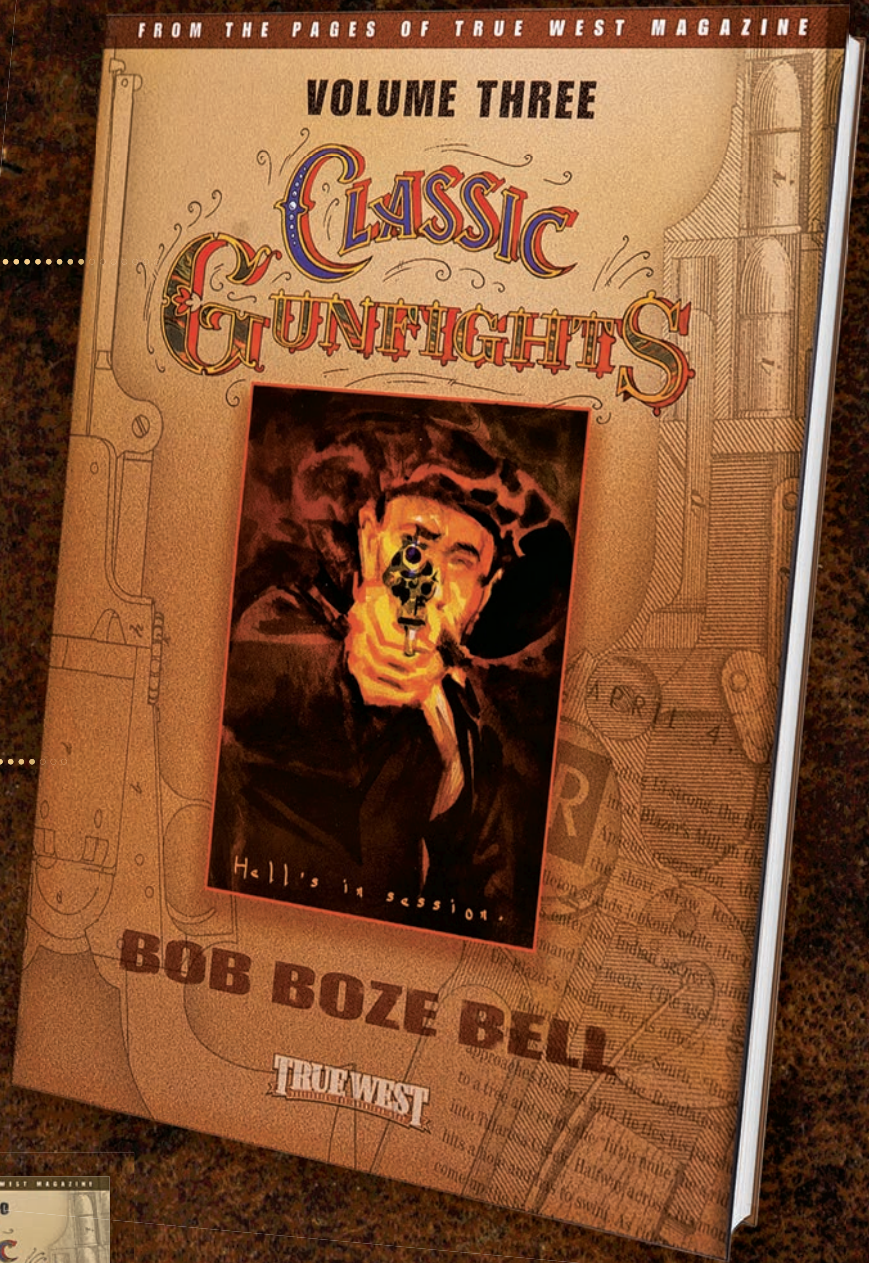
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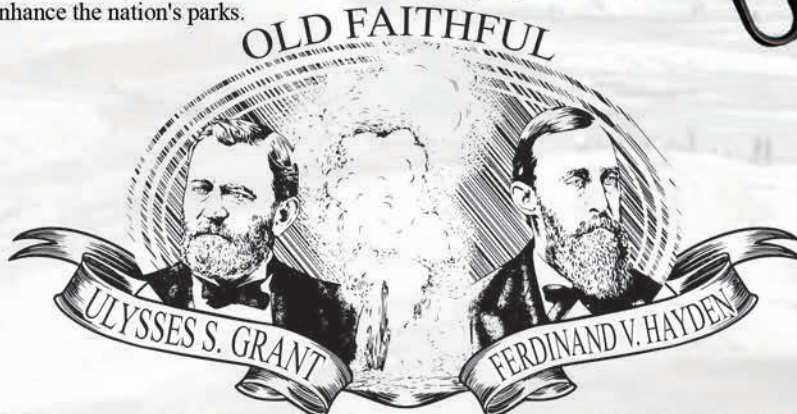
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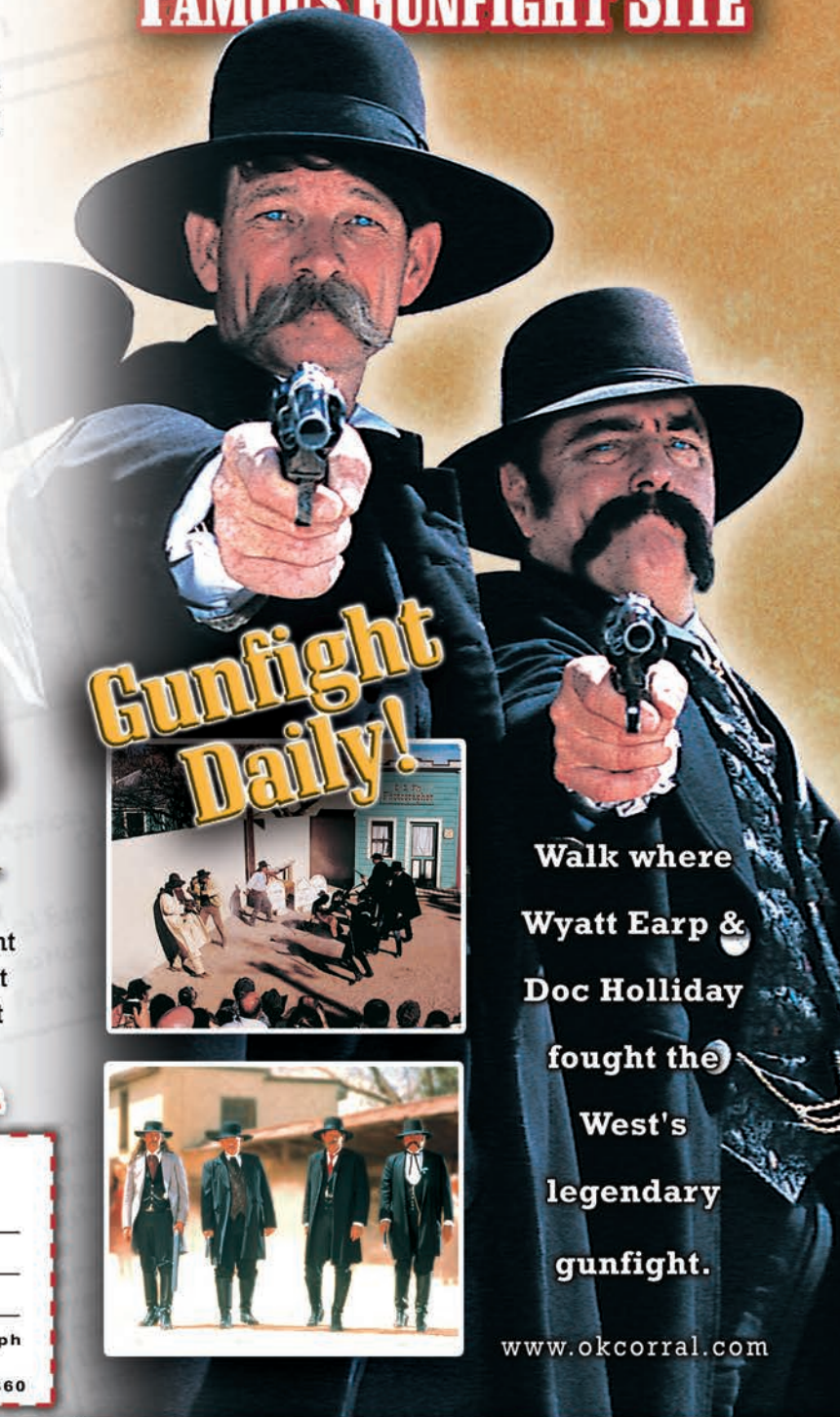
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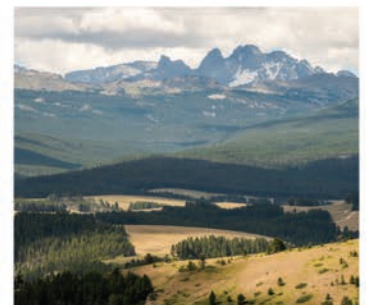
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(Top) Maynard Dixon - *Thru the Beautiful Border-land via Southern Pacific Lines* 18 3/4" x 57" | Gouache (Middle) Navajo Third Phase Chief's Blanket | c. 1900s | 85.5" x 54" (Bottom) Geronimo and Group at 1901 Fair | 16" x 8" | Photograph

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THE EDGE OF THE WEST

William Henry Jackson, a member of the Hayden Survey, photographed the miners working the North Star and Mountaineer lodes at their camp on King Solomon Mountain, above Cunningham Gulch in San Juan County, Colorado, in 1862.

Courtesy USGS



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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Early American Indian police played a strong role in the settlement of the West.

—By John Langellier and Glenwood J. Swanson

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30 MR. AUTHENTICITY

True West's Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg has spent decades gun coaching many of Hollywood's top actors, while adding authenticity to films, wherever he could. Here are his recollections of a colorful career in movies and TV.

—By Phil Spangenberg

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Pearl Hart was a real wildcat on and off the outlaw trail.

—By John Boessenecker

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The 150th anniversary of the first national park commemorates the beginning of America's grand and wonderful national parks and monuments system.

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Cover design by Dan Harshberger

Photo Courtesy Glenwood J. Swanson Collection

Old Vaquero Saying

“You can’t change the truth, but the truth can change you.”



Quotes

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

—Marcel Proust

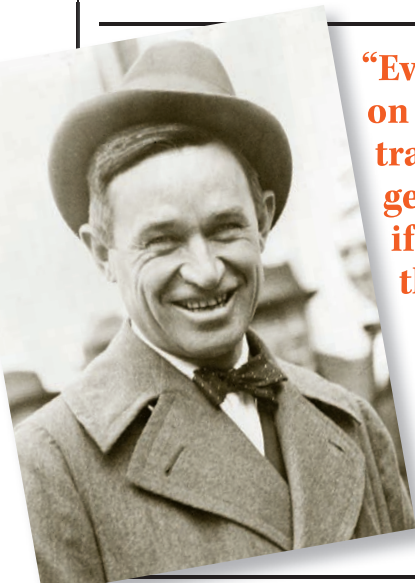
“It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.”

—Herman Melville

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

—Will Rogers

Will Rogers
All Images Courtesy
Library of Congress



“Revenge proves its own executioner.”

—John Ford

“Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”

—George Bernard Shaw

“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.”

—E. E. Cummings

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

—Bret Harte

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine— and shadows will fall behind you.”

—Walt Whitman

“If you want to succeed you should strike out on new paths, rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success.”

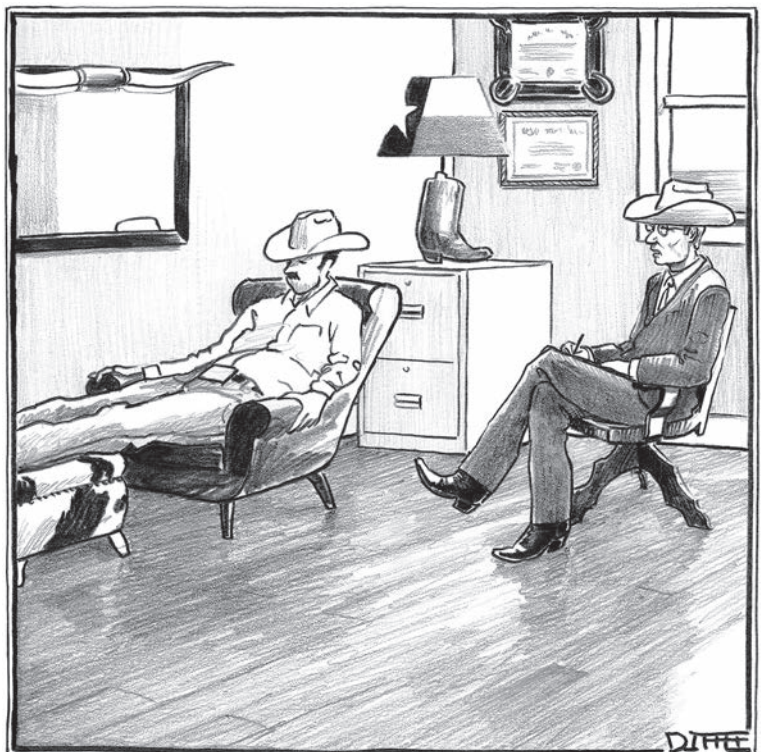
—John D. Rockefeller



Walt Whitman

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.”

—Benjamin Franklin



“I think you need to enroll yourself in a good two-step program.”

CartoonStock.com

An O.K. Day!

Funny what a hunch can produce.

I didn't see any ads or notices about the event in Tombstone. I just knew I had to be there, in the corral, for the centennial of the Earp-Clanton gunfight on October 26, 1981. So, on a hunch, I simply got in my Ford F-150, dropped my daughter off at Grandma's house in Tucson, drove down to Tombstone and went straight to the O.K. Corral. Turns out, I wasn't alone. So many people I met that day had a profound influence on my future. To say the event changed my life is almost an understatement.

Here is just a partial list of the people who had the same hunch as me: Bob McCubbin, Jeff Morey, Richard Ignarski, John Bianchi, Ben Traywick and Phil Spangenberg. Turns out they each had the same love for the same history as I did.

Fast forward: in 1999, Bob McCubbin and I made the decision to buy *True West* magazine over breakfast in the O.K. Cafe (kitty-corner from the O.K. Corral). Richard Ignarski opened the Gunfighter Museum in Tombstone, Jeff Morey helped me reconstruct a step-by-step analysis of the fight in my Doc Holliday book, John Bianchi became one of our biggest supporters in the magazine (see his ad on page 82) and Phil Spangenberg became our firearms editor in 2003. Since then, Phil has written almost 200 columns and features for *True West*, including two more in this issue, pages 30 and 58. We are proud to name our friend, Phil Spangenberg as the recipient of our True Westerner Award for 2022 (see page 48).

Stay tuned for details at TWMag.com.



First shot from my 8mm film taken in Tombstone on October 26, 1981.

All Images Courtesy Bob Boze Bell and True West Archives



Actor and future Gunfighter Museum founder Richard Ignarski poses in the corral during the centennial event.



Historian Ben Traywick (second from left) was Wyatt Earp at the centennial of the famous Earp-Clanton gunfight.



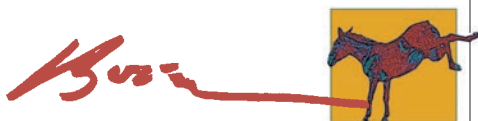
Phil Spangenberg (center) with fellow unknown reenactors at the O.K. Corral Centennial.



The Renegades

Because of the 1981 event, I met even more Tombstone history buffs, and by 1994 we were making annual trips to the O.K. Corral and called ourselves "The Renegades." Standing from left: Bob McCubbin, Jim Dunham, Bob Palmquist and Jeff Morey. Kneeling: Allen Barra, Paul Northrop, Casey Tefertiller and BBB.

Photo by Wyatt Earp (I'm not joking!)



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

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

THE REAL DEAL: BEN JOHNSON

The November 2021 cover story "Ben Johnson: A True American Cowboy" by Marshall Trimble struck a sentimental chord with our readers, and here are some of the great responses:

What a great article on Ben Johnson! Informative, interesting and well-written.

—J. David Holt
Nathrop, Colorado



In 1996, Ben Johnson participated in a sentimental trail ride with Don Donnelly's trail-riding outfit and author Marshall Trimble in Monument Valley, where Johnson's film career had started over 50 years earlier. It would be Ben Johnson's last ride.

Photo by Gary Johnson

Director John Ford, who greatly admired Ben Johnson and his skills as a horseman, helped the Oklahoma cowboy develop his career in Hollywood from wrangler-stuntman to leading man, and cast him in *Wagon Master* in 1950.

Courtesy Republic Pictures

That was an outstanding article on your friend Ben Johnson, and great pictures. It added so much depth and personal info to what a great man he was. We just got back from Oklahoma two weeks ago and sure wish we'd run up to Pawhuska, but next time for sure!

—David Dyas
St. George, Utah

I just wanted to drop you a line and thank you for the cover story on Ben Johnson. I became a fan when I saw him in *The Sacketts* and *Shadow Riders* as a kid, and an even more serious fan after seeing his Academy Award-winning performance in *The Last Picture Show*. I agree with whoever it was that said every movie he was in was better for having him in it. Sometimes his mere presence in a not-so-great Western underscored that he was the most authentic thing about it. He was truly a great, underappreciated talent.

—Shawn Cote
Fort Fairfield, Maine

Your article, "Ben Johnson: A True American Cowboy," is probably the best article I've read in *True West*. You painted a compelling picture of your good friend which will remain with me. Upon his passing, I'd say you lost a brother as well as a true friend.

Thanks again for a terrific article.

—Robert Matters
Avon, Indiana

Oh, my lord, I kept reading this article on Ben Johnson, and I was saying to myself this is best article I've ever read in *TW*. Of course I'm from Oklahoma, and his picture caught my eye immediately. I had to let you know how good it is and how much I really enjoyed it, and it's double now because Marshall Trimble wrote it. It's really great and emotional, Marshall.

—Ronnie Bishop
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Just picked up the November 2021 issue of *True West* featuring Ben Johnson on the cover. What a class act he was. He was the real deal, the epitome of the cowboy.

Great article on the many styles of cowboy hats.

Excellent interview with *Yellowstone* creator Taylor Sheridan. Can't wait for *Y:1883*. I'm sure Ben Johnson would be a *Yellowstone* fan, except for all the cussing.

Keep up the excellent work. Great to see Westerns are back on TV and on the big screen.

—Paul Hoylen
Deming, New Mexico

Just got my November *True West* with the tributes to Ben Johnson. I have always considered him to be the ultimate cowboy/pioneer. No matter who was the "star," if his name was on the poster, it was a must-see for me and my Daddy. From Sam the Lion to Cap Roundtree, his presence in a movie added something I do not know how to express. I know the 1996 ride in Monument Valley is a treasured memory for Marshall Trimble. As with Ben's name on a poster, Marshall's name on an article makes it a must-read for me. Thank you for sharing.

—Ned Nichols
Screven, Georgia

I enjoyed reading about Ben Johnson and other articles in the November 2021 issue of *True West* magazine. I saw a youthful Stuart Rosebrook on page 9. Fun!!! The photos of Old West cowboy hats were fantastic!

—Judy Bennett
Mineral Point, Wisconsin

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

Earp Versus Breakenridge

The feud continued long after the two had left Tombstone.

Wyatt Earp. William “Billy” Breakenridge. They were certainly on opposite sides during the Southeast Arizona conflicts of 1880-82. Breakenridge was part of a posse trying to capture Earp’s Vendetta Riders after the killing of Cowboy Frank Stilwell.

Later in life—in the 1920s—the two seemed to lower the flame, meeting on several occasions in what seemed to be pretty amicable discussions. Or not.

Breakenridge’s book *Helldorado: Bringing the Law to the Mesquite* came out in 1928. In it, the former John Behan deputy tore into Earp, questioning his character. Most galling to Earp: a claim that Wyatt wore an iron vest when he killed Curly Bill Brocius at the Iron Springs shootout. Earp denied that and wrote to his biographer, Stuart Lake: “Another one of his damn lies... If there ever was a mean contemptible person he certainly is the man.” Contemptible because Breakenridge in person acted friendly toward Earp, but in print he was quite different.

It looked like the battle between the two would reignite, but Earp died in January 1929. “His” book would be finished by his wife, Sadie, and writer Lake for a 1931 release. But before then, Billy Breakenridge offered his own valedictory on the “Lion of Tombstone.” The *Arizona Daily Star* tracked him down for an article published on January 14, 1929.

“Well, well! Wyatt’s dead. That’s the last of the Earps!” former deputy United States marshal and two-gun man of Tombstone’s “Helldorado” days, was thusly epitomized by Col. William “Billy” Breakenridge, “than whom there is none than whomer” as far as a raconteur of the early days of the mining camps are concerned.

Found in Room

Breakenridge was found in his room at the Old Pueblo club. He was in bed but had not

retired. His first impulse upon learning of the death of Earp was to go to Los Angeles for the funeral, he said, but on a moment’s consideration decided that the trip would be too much for him at present. He only recently returned from the coast and had for the past few days been confined somewhat by a cold.

“There were five of the boys,” Colonel Breakenridge said, speaking of the Earp family. “They were Virgil, the city marshal; Wyatt, the deputy city marshal, and also deputy United States marshal; Morgan, the policeman—all of whom lived in Tombstone; and there was Warren, who lived over in Willcox. Besides those four there was the half-brother, Jimmie, who died at that time.” [Note: James Earp died in 1926.]

The colonel had much praise for Wyatt, and said, “He made a good officer and was noted as a brave man. All the while he was in Tombstone he held office of some kind, either in the United States marshal’s office or with the city.”

“Colonel Breakenridge is the author of a recent book on Tombstone’s ‘true story’—*Helldorado*. The book is probably the most accurate historically of any published about the mining camp, critics have said. In that book the colonel has much to say of the Earps, and the days when Wyatt Earp was a peace officer are there retold for the benefit of all who care to read.”

The colonel closed with the statement that Wyatt Earp was “very loyal and true to his friends. He got into a good deal of trouble because of that loyalty.”



Billy Breakenridge

By Bob Boze Bell

Of course, *Helldorado*’s “true story” characterization may a bit rosy. And Billy’s comments about Wyatt being a “good officer” and “brave man” were contradicted by his own actions in 1882 and his words in the book.

In any case, Breakenridge died in January 1931, just months before *Frontier Marshal* began creating the myth and legend of Wyatt Earp. For decades, Wyatt would be known as brave, courageous and bold. Breakenridge would be painted as an effeminate weasel. And even today, the battle continues...



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BY JOHN LANGELLIER AND GLENWOOD J. SWANSON

BRAVES AND BADGES

EARLY AMERICAN INDIAN POLICE
PLAYED A STRONG ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT
OF THE WEST.



Longtime friends to the whites, the Shoshones served as allies, scouts and police in their Wyoming homeland.

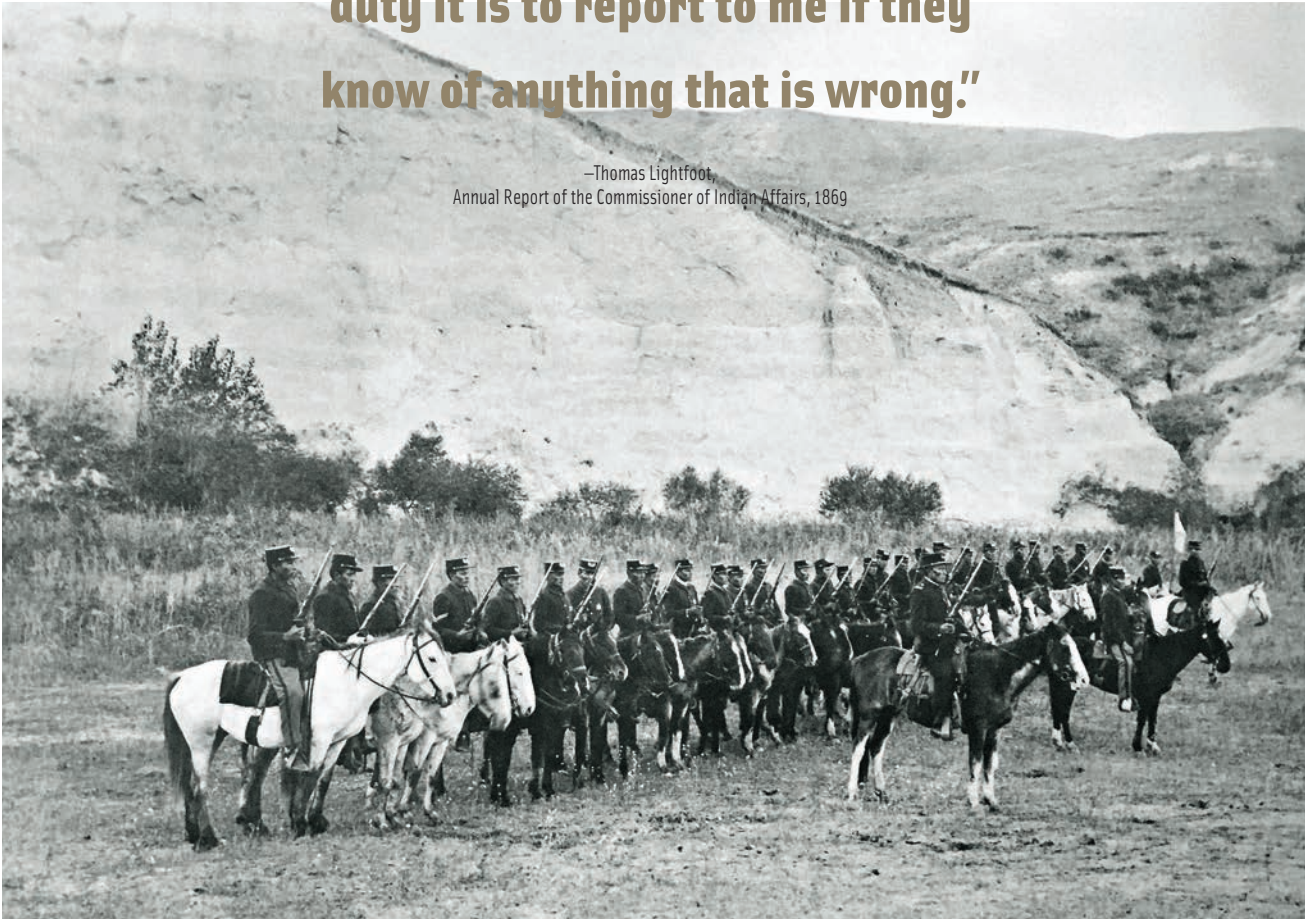
All images are from the collection of Glenwood J. Swanson unless otherwise indicated

Before recorded history, American Indians practiced some form of policing. The Sioux possessed the most organized tribal police society called the Akicita, also known as warrior societies, policing societies or whip bearers. Their duties included general social control. They especially played an active role during the annual hunts, keeping tribal members from starting too early or making unnecessary noise and controlling stragglers. Once the buffalo hunt ended, they ensured the equal distribution of meat and probably intervened in discussions of who could claim a specific kill.

But the Cherokees created the original tribal police force recognizable to Europeans. By 1779 “Regulating Companies” came into being mainly to deal with horse thefts, some by the whites. In 1808 the Cherokees appointed sheriffs and a group of small companies called the “lighthorse” who patrolled the villages and enforced the first written code promulgated by an Indian tribe.

“I have appointed a police, whose duty it is to report to me if they know of anything that is wrong.”

—Thomas Lightfoot,
Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1869



By the turn of the century Sioux police at Pine Ridge could stand tall and compete with counterparts in many metropolitan precincts of the era.

The First Indian Police

Nearly a century later, in 1865 at Fort Laramie, some Sioux wishing to remain aloof from growing conflict with the whites on the Northern Plains, set up camp east of the post. They received rations “for which, in return, they were to serve as scouts and camp police. Trader Charles Elliston commanded the paramilitary unit....” During May “some of Elliston’s police apprehended the Oglalas Two Face and Black Foot,” who the local commander, Col. Thomas Moonlight of the 11th Kansas Cavalry, subsequently hanged.

By 1869, Thomas Lightfoot, United States Indian agent to the Iowa and the Sac and Fox tribes in Nebraska, established a federally sponsored Indian police. Agent Lightfoot acted in response to a major shift in United States policy toward the Indians. Instead of viewing tribal peoples as sovereign nations, the evolving approach meant the government would engage with Native people as individuals. In 1869, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Ely S. Parker (U.S. Grant’s chief of staff at the end of the Civil War) expressed this view when he urged an end to treaty-making.



In 1878, at the end of the Sioux War, Valentine T. McGillicuddy, the agent at Pine Ridge, decided to organize a police department, appointing Man Who Carries the Sword (Mi-wa-kan-yu-ha-la) aka Sword or George Sword (center in uniform) as captain and had him recruit 50 warriors for his force. He rose to captain of the police force on his reservation because of his leadership skills and the respect of his people. Later, Sword temporarily headed up the police for *Buffalo Bill's Wild West*.



The Navajo Police

While policy waxed and waned, Lightfoot and others improvised. For example, in 1872, Agent William Army commissioned Navajo police to guard the reservation borders and control cattle- and horse-rustling, while Special Indian Commissioner for the Navajos Gen. Oliver O. Howard organized a cavalry of 130 Navajos to guard reservation boundaries, arrest thieves and recover stolen stock. The force successfully recovered 60 head of stock in three months and continued to exist despite orders from Washington that it be disbanded.

In fact, although they were effective and served as a model for others to follow, the Navajo units were disbanded by the Department of the Interior partly because they lacked official funding or approval. A similar, long-lasting initiative, however, took root among the Apaches in Arizona.



Indian policemen began to wear badges much like their counterparts in other law enforcement agencies. This copy was based on an original belonging to Henry Bullhead.



Sometimes erroneously known as the “sole survivor of Custer’s Last Stand,” Crow scout Curly (standing) later became a policeman, a not uncommon transition for men from many reservations.

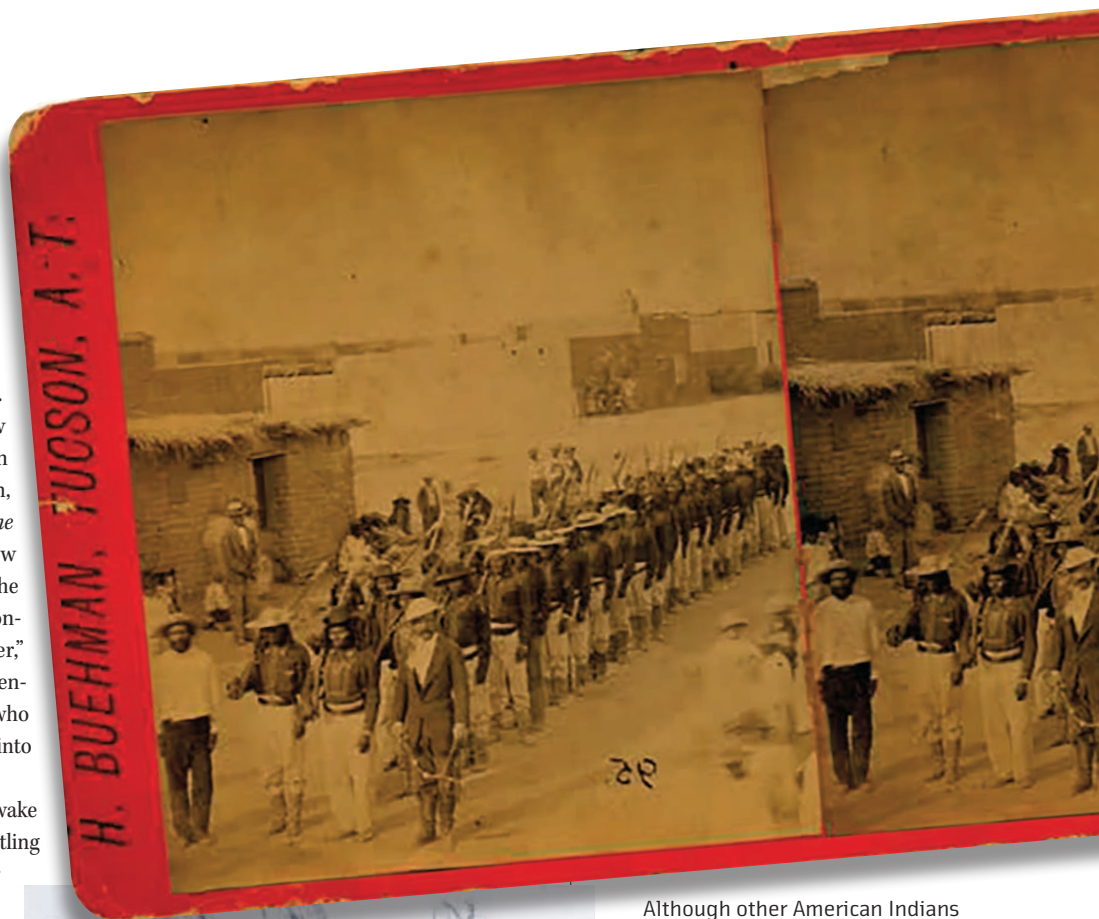
John Clum Arrives

On February 26, 1874, John P. Clum received an appointment as Indian agent for the White Mountain Apaches at the San Carlos Reservation. There he was charged with the well-being of 4,500 Apaches. Recently discharged from the U.S. Army Signal Corps in nearby New Mexico, he arrived at San Carlos on August 8, which, according to his son, Woodworth Clum in *Apache Agent; the Story of John P. Clum*, opened “a new era in southwestern Indian affairs.” The 22-year-old New Yorker “soon demonstrated his innovative character,” although his “cocky” demeanor alienated many important Army officers who resented Indian Bureau interference into Arizona matters.

Clum came onto the scene in the wake of the ever-changing approach to settling the “Indian Question” during another experiment by U.S. Grant’s administration dubbed the “Peace Policy.” Several different religious denominations assumed operations of various Indian reservations. The Dutch Reformed Church took on responsibilities for San Carlos, which resulted in the need for a new agent.

Despite “no experience with Indian affairs, based on recommendations of former classmates at Rutgers College, Clum accepted a commission from the church, which also supported his alma mater. His knowledge of the Southwest was limited to a three-year stint” taking meteorological observations in Santa Fe.

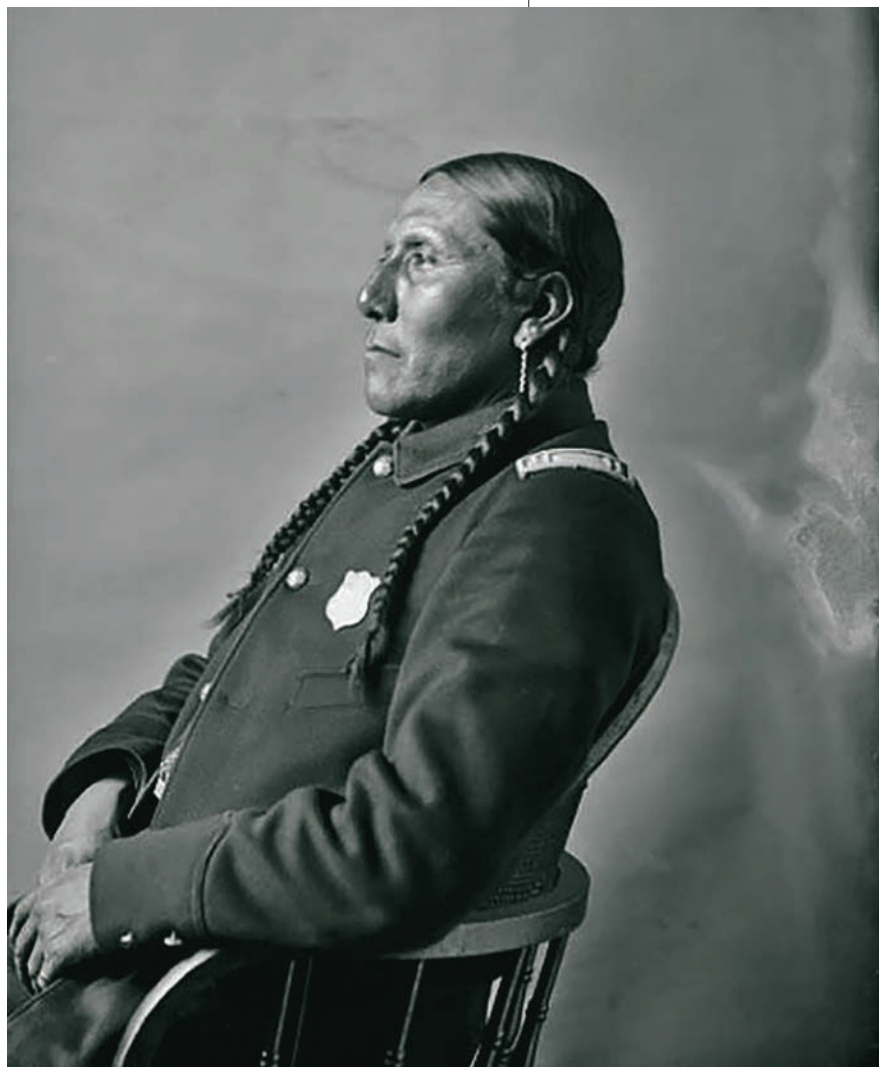
Clum travelled to Tucson and from there to the agency. According to Clum’s son, wise heads in that community advised him not to go to San Carlos, warning “Better go back to the farm and save your money as well as your scalp.” He answered, “The Government is paying my traveling expenses so I cannot lose any money by going to



Although other American Indians have served as police officers since the 1860s, John Clum, the agent to the Apaches at San Carlos, made much of his establishment of such a force at that reservation during the 1870s, intimating that he pioneered the concept.

Courtesy Cowan's Auctions

Fast Horse signed on to the Pine Ridge Indian Police on June 2, 1882, and remained on the rolls for years thereafter as indicated by this portrait taken in the 1890s. Demonstrating the close connection between scouts and police, Fast Horse wears the regulation uniform prescribed by the U.S. Army in 1890 for Indian scouts.



San Carlos, and having no hair, I cannot very well lose my scalp.”

When Clum arrived, he was not pleased by what he saw: “Of all the desolate, isolated human habitations! Wikiups [*sic*], covered with brush and grass, old blankets, or deerskins, smoky, smelly. Lean dogs, mangy, inert. A few Apaches strolling around as wild and vicious as the inmates of an old folks’ home!” The agency office consisted of adobe chinked between small poles. The same poles served as the roof with dried grass as a covering.

Fortunately, Clum was not easily frightened, otherwise he might have resigned after he was shown where an agency employee was stabbed to death, another location by the Indian trader’s store where 5th U.S. Cavalry 1st Lt. Jacob Almy met his death on May 27, 1873, and a third spot where two teamsters were murdered—all by reservation Apaches.

The next morning five Apaches brought a gunny sack into Clum’s office which contained

the head of an Indian renegade, an instigator of a recent outbreak. General George Crook, a major proponent of deploying Indian scouts as part of his strike force against Geronimo, had told them they could only return to the agency if they brought in the man. They had not been able to bring him in alive, and could not carry the body, so they brought the head!

Impressed with Clum’s progress, in 1878, the U.S. Congress approved \$30,000 for the employment of 430 privates and 50 officers at various agencies in the West. In 1880, appropriations provided for 480 Indian police; but in 1881, 49 of 68 agencies had Indian police. Nevertheless, in its 1883 session Congress authorized 1,000 privates and 100 officers.

The rest is history. Tribal police remain a vital part of life on reservations to this day.



John Langellier provided this abbreviated excerpt from a work in progress—*Indian Scouts, Police, Judges, and Soldiers*, based on preliminary efforts by the late **Glen Swanson**.

Under Quanah Parker and other fierce fighters, the Comanches, dubbed Lords of the Plains, ruled their vast empire. When they made peace, a number of former warriors became competent policemen.



The Akimel O'odhams, or Akimel O'othams, had long been referred to as the Pimas. These residents of central and southern Arizona farmed extensively, living in settled villages where police helped maintain order.



Given the size, remoteness and rugged terrain of many reservations, such as Pine Ridge, horses often played a role in maintaining law and order.

The Ojibwas or Chippewas lived mostly in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Ontario. At many of these locales members of the group provided law enforcement for their people.



Renowned photographer Edward Curtis produced an incredible portrait of a Navajo policeman. Today, Navajo Nation law enforcement officers carry on a long tradition, while their fictional counterparts remain the mainstay of novelists Tony Hillerman and Anne Hillerman.

Courtesy Library of Congress

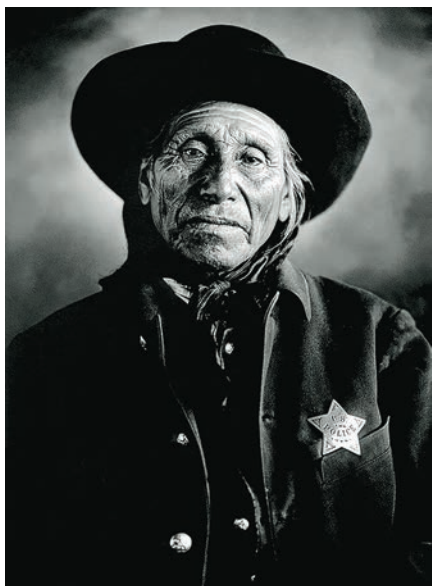


This 1890 photograph of Black Dog (left), a member of the Sioux police at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, reveals the lack of uniformity typical among tribal law enforcement members. For instance, he has pinned his badge on a surplus U.S. Army five-button blouse with first sergeant chevrons as well as added military fur gauntlets and cap plus a fanciful neckerchief. He holds a Springfield .45 caliber rifle, while his holster flap is opened to expose the grips of his Remington nickel-plated revolver.



Perhaps best known for their heroic 1877 exodus under Chief Joseph and other leaders, later in the century, the Nez Perce tribe was among the many Native groups to have a police force.

Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection



Some of his neighbors near the Standing Rock Lakota Reservation in North Dakota often called this member of the local police force "Medicine Joe."



Middle Bull wears sergeant chevrons on a surplus U.S. Army five-button blouse indicative of the paramilitary nature of law enforcement on the Standing Rock Lakota Reservation in South Dakota in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



The Indian Girl
A group of Indian girls
and Indian policemen
at Big Foot's village



During the Ghost Dance in South Dakota, policemen were sent to arrest Sitting Bull. While he was being taken into custody, the officers were attacked by angered Sioux Indians, and a half dozen officers, including Lieutenant Bullhead (seen here), died in the violent aftermath.

Indian police officers (above) stood with a group of women in front of their homes at Big Foot's village in 1890.

John C.H. Grabill, Courtesy Library of Congress

WESTERN PHOTOGRAPHY CO. AND HOME STATE MINING CO.

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

MR. AUTH E

TRUE WEST'S

FIREARMS EDITOR

PHIL SPANGENBERGER

HAS SPENT DECADES

GUN COACHING MANY

OF HOLLYWOOD'S

TOP ACTORS, WHILE

ADDING AUTHENTICITY

TO FILMS, WHEREVER

HE COULD. HERE ARE

HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF

A COLORFUL CAREER IN

MOVIES AND TV.



NTICITY



In 1980, Phil Spangenberg stood with his horse "Jeb Stuart" for a 15-second exposure by a photographer who made his way across the nation in a horse and wagon, making his living by taking tintypes and developing them in the wagon, while customers waited. Many who saw the photo for the first time believed it was a 19th-century photo.

According to Phil, Jeb Stuart swished his tail, adding a bit of authentic flavor to the image. The saddle is a restored original 1880s Sam Stagg-rigged stock saddle with brass-bound Ox Bow stirrups. The headstall uses an original globe grazing bit—one of the most popular styles with 1880s cowboys, as it allowed the horse to get its mouth close to the grass to graze while wearing the bit. Phil's bib-front shirt was made by his company, Red River. The rifle in the California horn loop on the saddle is a Shiloh .45-70 Sharps, and the six gun is a 4 ¾-inch barreled, Colt 1873 Single Action (circa 1880s) in .44-40 chambering.

Courtesy Author's Collection

Many fans of Westerns, especially the *True West* maniacs, are guilty of picking them apart for the anachronisms all too often found in such films. I recall having a conversation about the 1969 flick *Little Big Man*, with a friend who raved on about it, and I answered that although I enjoyed the film, there were several period errors in it. By the time I'd picked it apart, he commented, "Gee, I thought I liked it until I talked to you!"

For the past 40-plus years, I've had the opportunity to put in my two cents on a number of movies, television shows and live theater, striving to give Westerns a more authentic look. For my humble efforts, I've been honored with Hollywood's "Cowboy Oscar," the prestigious Golden Boot Award for achievements in film and live Western entertainment. I've also earned the nickname one of "Hollywood's Hired Guns," and have been told that the gunleather my Red River company supplied to various prop houses was largely responsible for starting the trend of seeing more authentic holsters and belts on

the screen. While serving as a technical or historical advisor/consultant, I've learned that one can only advise as to what is correct—not dictate! Producers and directors have the final word, and they are often quick to remind the expert that the production is a dramatic story, not a documentary. Nonetheless, I have done my best to add to the realism of every production.

Hollywood Calls

Although I'd produced and performed in live Wild West shows in the U.S. and abroad, and worked on small independent films for years, my career with Hollywood movies and TV started around 1979, when a call came in from my friends at Stembridge Gun Rentals, then located on the Paramount movie lot. My relationship with them had begun years before, when I obtained firearms from them for use in the Wild West shows I performed in around the globe.

When I was the black powder editor at *Guns & Ammo Magazine (G&A)*, Syd Stembridge called and asked if I could help prop man Bud Shelton select some authentic firearms for Charlton Heston's then-latest movie *The Mountain Men* (1980). Bud had purchased several commercially produced, so-called



For years before Spangenberg worked professionally in the motion picture industry, he performed as a gun-spinning roughrider in Wild West shows in countries around the world and volunteered his time working with friends in the L.A. area who produced small Western films. Here's 32-year-old Phil doing a running rescue pickup on a "Producer's Showcase" sample horse opera, in which he portrayed a bank robber with his compadre, actor Bill O'Hagen.

Courtesy Author's Collection

"Hawken" muzzle loading rifles, but they were too modern looking with their polyurethane coated stocks, short blued barrels and brass furniture. Unfortunately, Shelton said he'd

already purchased them and had to use them. When I suggested that I knew an artisan who could give them a proper 1830s look, he agreed to have them "uglified." The guns were sent to my longtime pal Frank Costanza, who within about ten days, transformed these modern-looking smokepoles into what looked like well-used, cut-down, tack-decorated with rawhide repairs, frontier-era Plains rifles—the real deals!

Everyone was so pleased with how authentic these guns now looked, that I was asked to train Heston in the use of muzzleloaders. Jumping at the chance to meet and work with one of my favorite actors, this black powder enthusiast was soon found on a reserved firing line at Angeles Shooting Range, in northeast L.A., showing the man who portrayed Moses, El Cid, Andrew Jackson and so many other historical icons, how to manage my Green River Rifle Works Hawken and a caplock pistol. As an added bonus, Director Richard Lang invited me to be a mountain man extra in the movie's rendezvous sequence, and eventually, I wound up traveling to the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, location for about 10 days to do some additional coaching and background work with a passel of muzzle-loading amigo extras. My involvement became a lead story in *G&A*, and a featured spot on ABC-TV's *The American Sportsman*. Incidentally, much credit for the overall authentic look and feel of that fur-trade era movie goes to friend and renowned Western artist, Jerry Crandall, and his wife, Judy, who were technical consultants and were present during filming.

Serving as a gun coach and technical consultant on major motion pictures like *Hidalgo* sometimes involves giving actors a brief gun-handling lesson for a specific scene. While on the *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show set in Southern California, Phil gave a quick lesson in spinning a Peacemaker Colt to character actor J.K. Simmons (near left) for his portrayal of Colonel Cody.

Courtesy Touchstone Pictures





Spangenberg was brought on board *The Mountain Men* to teach iconic star Charlton Heston how to load and fire muzzle-loaders for this 1980 feature. Here, he and Heston (above, right) stand by with Phil's Green River Rifle Works Hawken, while filming in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, during an on-location gun coaching scene from ABC-TV's *American Sportsman*.

Photo by Michael Levasheff, Courtesy Guns & Ammo Magazine,

While I worked at *G&A*, calls would come in from Stemberge, and various film producers, seeking firearms information. I suggested to the *The Long Riders* (1980) prop people that one



This photo, reminiscent of a period image of frontier troopers in the field, shows Spangenberg (fourth from right, standing) on location in Hot Springs, South Dakota, with part of the 150 dismounted cavalry and artillerymen under Phil's command. They were used as background players for the 1890 Battle of Wounded Knee sequence in the Touchstone Pictures movie *Hidalgo*. Spangenberg trained 50 of them in dismounted drill, and the manual of arms for the 1873 Springfield Trapdoor carbines, for the hit film.

Photo by Jim Hatzell

or more of the James-Younger gang use Smith & Wesson) Schofields, since they were known to have carried them. Stacy Keach's Frank James character packs one in the film. Another time



Spangenberg (center) has enjoyed playing small parts in a number of Westerns, including in the action-packed DVD horse opera *Vengeance Trail*, in which he portrayed an outlaw with real-life pals (l.-r.) Jeff Wall and Larry Brady.

Courtesy Author's Collection



During the initial meeting with people from Disney's *Tall Tale*, Spangenberg was told Patrick Swayze's "Pecos Bill" character should carry a brace of six guns that would not look familiar to the average Western fan, but should be something that Swayze could handle with ease and twirl like a pro. Phil selected Merwin, Hulbert & Co. large frame, double-action revolvers for Swayze, who proved very adept with them, using those six-shooters in the movie. Swayze is shown here with costar Nick Stahl. This is one of the few times, and possibly the first time, these six-gun models were featured in a major motion picture.

Courtesy Walt Disney

I suggested the use of the Auto Mag pistol, and connected the filmmakers with Harry Sanford, then president of the Auto Mag Corp., so they could acquire two (made from leftover parts) for Clint Eastwood's *Dirty Harry* 1983 action thriller, *Sudden Impact*. I'm particularly proud of having played a small part in the Australian Western *Quigley Down Under* (1990), by suggesting they use the 1874 Sharps (rather than a percussion breechloading rifle, that could not produce any believable accuracy at 1,200-plus yards) and put the producers in touch with Shiloh Rifle Mfg. Co., in Big Timber, Montana. (See the full story in the April 2021 issue of *True West*.)

On-Set With Firearms

Sadly, a couple of tragic incidents in Hollywood led to more work in film for me. After a couple of unfortunate gun mishandling accidents that caused the death of two young popular actors, I received a call from a studio prop man who was giving a two-day seminar on firearms safety. He had his classes divided into specific genres—military, law enforcement, full auto and more. I was brought aboard to host



When working on smaller projects, Phil often found himself choreographing scenes with directors and cinematographers—especially action scenes involving guns and horses. This shot reveals a typical example of Phil coordinating an action sequence with mounted Indian buffalo hunters for the History Channel's *Wild West Tech* episode, "Hunting Tech."

Courtesy Author's Collection



for his 1994 production of *Maverick*. After a successful audition with the film's production people, including Mic Rodgers, stunt coordinator, and Gibson's stunt double, I

soon found myself in Mel's production offices. I must say that Mel, and most of the big names I've worked with were a joy to be around. Mel in particular, was a quick and eager learner, whose on-screen fast and fancy gun-handling with an 1873 Colt Peacemaker proved to be an excellent calling card for me for years afterward. Also helpful was the fact that our initial one-hour session

was videotaped and a few moments of my gun coaching with Mel made it to a televised "Making of *Maverick*" special.

After presenting a Western firearms safety class to motion picture prop personnel, Spangenberg was hired to coach Mel Gibson in fast and fancy handling of an 1873 Colt Peacemaker, for his hit oater *Maverick*. Gibson was a quick and eager learner whose gun work on-screen proved to be an excellent calling card for Phil for years afterward. This studio still shows the three leads, Mel Gibson, James Garner and Jodie Foster.

Courtesy Rob Word's "A Word on Westerns" Archives

the class on guns for the Western/Period. I did so while dressed in an Old West frock coat outfit, accompanied by my wife, Linda, who appeared in a Victorian bustled day dress, to show the many places in 19th-century garments a woman could hide weapons. After my firearms handling and safety discussion, I performed a fancy gun handling and blank shooting demonstration a la Wild Bill Hickok.

At the conclusion of the class, I was approached about working with Mel Gibson



While a staff writer/editor at *Guns & Ammo Magazine*, Phil received frequent phone calls requesting firearms information for movies. He offered suggestions that filmmakers used to add authentic touches to their productions. He recommended to the prop people on *The Long Riders* (1980) that one or more of the James-Younger gang use Smith & Wesson Schofields, since the gang was known to have carried them. Stacy Keach's Frank James character (above, front right) packs one in the film, as seen in this studio still photo.

Courtesy MGM

Boomtime

The mid-1990s was a booming time (pun intended) for Westerns, and I was kept quite busy. This latest rage with trail dust sagas brought the opportunity to work with Rob Lowe for *Frank & Jesse* (1994), Armand Assante's 1994 HBO oater *Blind Justice*, as well as *Lightning Jack* with Paul "Crocodile Dundee" Hogan (1994), and with Patrick Swayze and Catherine O'Hara in that same year's *Tall Tale*.

As the cowboy craze receded, film work still came my way as an on-camera "talking head" historical interviewee and/or behind the scenes as a consultant, and sometimes wrangling horses (including my own), on a host of History Channel series—the popular *Tales of the Gun*, *Modern Marvels* and others. While I was working on the cable network shows, along with hand doubling actors for trick gun scenes (including twirling a pair of power drills for a scene in TV's *Parker Lewis Can't Lose*), calls came in for more "A" pictures. Coaching Will Smith in some fancy



gun work for 1999's *Wild Wild West*, and a one-day flintlock-loading stint with Mel Gibson again for *The Patriot* (2000), produced more opportunities to add my two cents' worth of authenticity to movies. For that Mel Gibson epic, I spent several sessions getting Heath Ledger and a 12-year-old Trevor Morgan to where Heath could load and fire a Brown Bess flintlock musket at the same rate as a British soldier of the 1770s (three shots per minute), while little Trevor, who was but a few inches taller than Miss Bess, fired his trio in 70 seconds flat!

Safety First

When training or working on set with actors, we took special care while loading and handling any gun. We wouldn't hand the actor any loaded firearm until the moment before "action" was called and filming commenced. We instructed actors to treat any gun as loaded, never aim directly at anyone, and to point any firearm at an angle slightly off to the side of their make-believe adversary in a safe direction (camera angles can adjust to give the desired look). Firearms safety was always our utmost concern, and we've never had any accidents with guns.

While working on various projects, my goal was to add little bits of realism, not only in the type of guns used for the different eras in Westerns, but also gunleather, period costuming and other areas that depict the film's timeframe more accurately. In November 2002 I was on location in South Dakota, schooling 50 of 150 cavalryman extras assigned to me in the dismounted drill and manual of arms (with trapdoor Springfield carbines), circa 1890, for the Touchstone Pictures movie, *Hidalgo* (released in 2004). Director Joe Johnston teased me, saying I had my own army,

For Mel Gibson's Revolutionary War-era epic *The Patriot*, Phil gave actor Heath Ledger extensive training in how to load and fire a Brown Bess musket (using blank paper cartridges), a Kentucky rifle (loading from a horn at his side), and flintlock pistols. Ledger was an eager student and told Phil that he enjoyed his time at the range with these period firearms.

Courtesy Columbia Pictures

Movie Magic

Working in movies has been fun, and some of the most rewarding experiences were working with small production crews, as we did for shows like the History Channel's highly popular *Wild West Tech* series, which ran for three years (2003-'05). On an independent,

non-union project, one often wears many hats, and historical advice is generally appreciated by all. Having played a part in many of the episodes filmed for that series, either as a consultant, an on-camera interviewee, an actor, assistant director, wrangler, or just helping out in a number of ways, I had some of the most fun and worked on shows I am quite proud of. On these productions, I had the opportunity to work closely with my pal Al Frisch of Hollywood Guns & Props, and together we feel we definitely affected the overall look of those programs. We were able to use period-correct firearms, saddles and tack, costuming—even casting many of the character actors in those colorful shows. Eventually, we had our own stock company of players for these and other projects we were involved with, including the History Channel's *Conquerors*, and *Texas Rangers*, the Discovery

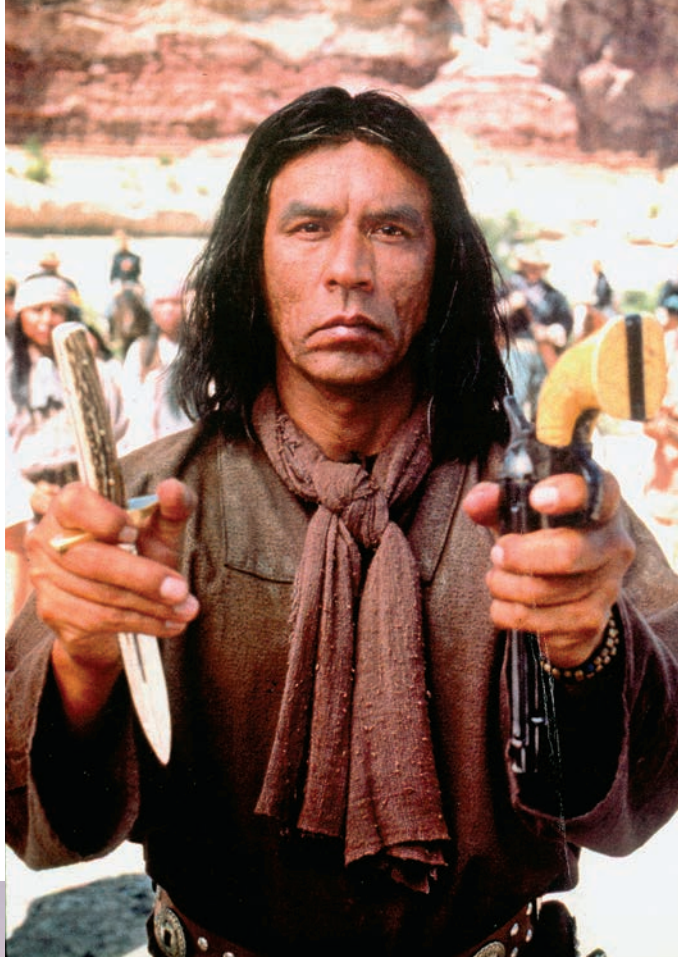


For the Western *Frank & Jesse*, Phil and his wife, Linda, worked closely with actor Rob Lowe. Phil worked in the afternoons with Rob, teaching him safe and fancy six-gun handling, while Linda gave Lowe horseback riding lessons earlier in the day. This studio still shows Rob holding an 1860 Army Colt and Bill Paxton in a tense scene.

Courtesy Trimark Pictures

Channel's *Unsolved History*, American Heroes network's *Secrets of the Arsenal*, and others.

Of all the "movie magic" tricks we used to add realistic touches to a show, one bit of creativity that stands out in this Westerner's mind was for a sequence about buffalo hunting. It was a scene where Frisch and I set up a hide hunting camp with two men skinning an animal on camera. However, because of the difficulty in obtaining a real animal carcass, we created a "dummy" critter, using a taxidermy buffalo head and shoulder mount, a tanned hide and several boxes and blankets stuffed up underneath. Once we rounded the hide off, giving it the appearance of a dead buff, it was filmed from the animal's hide side, while the skinners worked on the stomach side with hands and skinning knives bloodied. Even from a couple of feet away, it looked like they were actually skinning a buffalo! That's just one example of the extra effort



Among Spangenberg's work in the film industry has been firing live ammunition in everything from black powder antiques to modern full-auto weapons, for authentic live-fire sound effects. For the movie *Geronimo: An American Legend*, he shot black powder cartridge guns from his personal collection. These included a Colt .45 Single Action, an 1873 .44-40 Winchester, a 12-gauge shotgun, and a .45-70 Sharps rifle, to duplicate the genuine gunfire sound for the scene in which Wes Studi (above), in the title role, fired a Sharps at a trooper drinking from a jug.

Courtesy Columbia Pictures



Spangenberg served as Will Smith's (above, left) gun coach for several sessions before production started on *Wild Wild West*. Once filming began, Phil spent time working with Smith on the various stage sets on both the Sony (formerly MGM) and Warner Bros. lots. Inset at left shows Phil, who also worked as a background player in the saloon sequence, as one of the six gun-totin' drinkers, with a "ceegar chompin'" lady of the evening.

Photos Courtesy Author's Collection

we put forth to give a film authenticity. On any project I've been involved in, my goal has always been to make it look authentic. I sincerely hope the audience feels we've succeeded.



Phil Spangenberg is a longtime Old West historian, professional gun writer, world-traveled Wild West mounted showman, Hollywood gun coach, technical consultant and character actor. He has written for *Guns & Ammo Magazine* and is *True West's* Firearms Editor.



Spangenberg has worked on a number of films besides Westerns, including crime, fantasy and mystery films. For 2015's fantasy action film *Blunt Force Trauma*, about an underground dueling culture, he trained Freida Pinto (*Slumdog Millionaire*) and Ryan Kwanten (*True Blood*) in the art of fast draw.

Courtesy Author's Collection



Spangenberg was brought on board to train the *American Outlaws* oater's James-Younger gang members in the use of 1860s-era Colt and Remington six guns (converted to use cartridge blank ammo for filming purposes), including a week on location in Dripping Springs, Texas, at a "Cowboy Boot Camp," where the stars went through extended training in gun-handling, horseback riding and other Western skills needed for the movie. Here (l.to r.) Scott Caan, Colin Farrell and Gabriel Macht brandish their pistols in a scene from this 2001 flick.

Courtesy Warner Bros.



Red River Frontier Outfitters, a company Spangenberg created and ran for decades, supplied authentic Old West custom gunleather and costuming to the films *Tombstone*, *Unforgiven*, *Wyatt Earp*, *Maverick* and *American Outlaws*, to name a few, along with costuming for Universal Studios Western stunt shows. Red River gunleather was worn by Gary Busey and Willie Nelson in *Barbarosa* (above).

Courtesy Universal Pictures



Gun coaching many of Hollywood's top stars—including Tom Berenger, seen here receiving training—has provided Spangenberg with an inside look at the making of movie magic and the talented craftspeople who bring authenticity to their productions. Kelly Farrah (*Gettysburg*, *Last of the Mohicans*), prop man for the Curtis-Lowe Production *Avenging Angel*, supplied interesting period firearms, including the rarely seen S&W American revolver Spangenberg is holding.

Courtesy Author's Collection

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

A Real Woman Bandit

**Pearl Hart was a
wildcat on and off
the outlaw trail.**



This rare photo of Lillie Davy in the mid-1890s was taken before she went West and became Pearl Hart.

Courtesy John Boessenecker

Arizona-Bound

After many misadventures, Lillie married an abusive, morphine-addicted piano player named Dan Bandman. In 1893 she fled her violent husband and went west. In 1894, Lillie landed in Arizona Territory, where she adopted the alias Pearl Hart and found work in brothels in Tucson and Phoenix. She later said that she came up with the idea of robbing a stagecoach in order to get enough money to return to her mother in the Midwest. Pearl teamed up with an out-of-luck miner named Joe Boot. They procured horses, guns and supplies and rode out of the mining town of Globe in late May 1899. Pearl dressed like an Arizona cowboy,

with wide-brimmed hat, men's knee boots, six-shooter and rifle.

The two rode through Pioneer Pass, then descended into Kane Spring Canyon. According to a journalist of the day, "The road at that point is one of the worst in the Southwest, following the bed of a creek." The trail was steep and skirted high cliffs. Finally Pearl and Joe rode into Riverside, on the Gila River. It was a small settlement with a stagecoach stop and a population of about 50. Nearby, they made camp and watched the coaches as they came in and out of the station. Pearl and Joe soon figured out the stage schedule and learned that Wells Fargo guards did not regularly ride the road from Globe. That was good news, for only a very daring or very stupid bandit would tangle with a Wells Fargo shotgun messenger.

Several townsfolk spotted the two strangers in Riverside, and one of them later said that the holdup plan originated with Pearl, not Joe. The witness overheard them discussing a possible robbery, and Boot declared, "I can never do it. Never, never, never!"

"But you must—we must!" she insisted. "And it's easy. All you'll have to do will be to hold your gun out straight and keep quiet. I'll do the rest."

Few Old West outlaws have had so many myths written about them as Pearl Hart, the Arizona stage robber. Despite the legends, Pearl, unlike almost every notorious woman of the Old West, was a real frontier bandit. For the last hundred years, misinformed Western writers have featured a plethora of purported female Western desperadoes. However, few of these "wild women" were outlaws. Annie Oakley was a sharpshooter and performer, not a criminal. Calamity Jane (true name Martha Jane Canary) claimed to have been a U.S. Army scout, but in fact she was a frontier prostitute and camp follower. Eleanor Dumont, better known as Madame Moustache, was a Western gambler, not a desperado. Many writers have claimed that Belle Starr (1848-89) was a frontier robber, and she is known today as the Bandit Queen of Oklahoma. In fact, Belle Starr was primarily a consort of outlaws. Although she was once convicted of horse theft, she never robbed anyone.

Pearl Hart's true story has been long lost in the mists of the past. Her real name, her real background, and her real adventures have been lost and replaced by folklore and fiction. But today, genealogical data banks and digital newspaper sites have provided the key to unraveling the facts of her life. She was born Lillie Davy in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, in 1871, and raised by an abusive, rapist father and a kindly but badly abused mother. Several times she and her younger sister ran away from their troubled, impoverished home, hopping freight trains and dressing as boys to ward off unwanted sexual advances. There was no social safety net in that era, so Lillie and her sisters, all physically attractive, turned to prostitution for survival.

Pearl Hart was famous for saying
"I shall never submit to be tried
under the law that neither I nor
my sex had a voice in making."

True West Archives



The Robbery

On May 29, 1899, the pair rode out of their camp near Riverside, splashed their horses across the Gila River, and headed back to Kane Spring Canyon. Pearl later told the story:

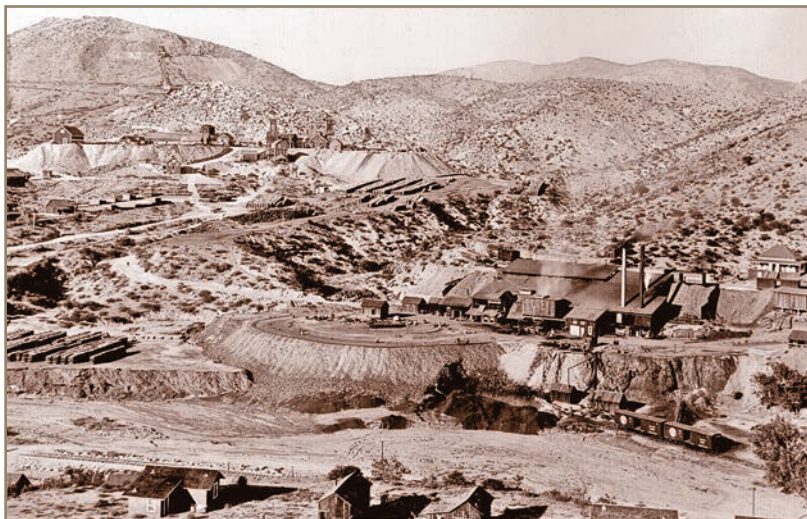
“On the afternoon of the robbery we took our horses and rode over the mountains and through the canyons, and at last hit the Globe road. We rode along slowly until we came to a bend in the road, which was a most favorable spot for our undertaking. We halted and listened till we heard the stage. Then we went forward on a slow walk, till we saw the stage coming around the bend. We then pulled to one side of the road. Joe drew a forty-five, and said, ‘Throw up your hands!’ I drew my little thirty-eight and likewise covered the occupants of the stage. Joe said to me, ‘Get off your horse.’ I did so, while he kept the people covered. He ordered them out of the stage. They were a badly scared outfit. I learned how easily a job of this kind could be done.

“Joe told me to search the passengers for arms. I carefully went through them all. They had no pistols. Joe motioned toward the stage. I advanced and searched it, and found the brave passengers had left two of their guns behind them when ordered out of the stage. Really, I can’t see why men carry revolvers, because they almost invariably give them up at the very time they were made to be used. They certainly don’t want revolvers for playthings. I gave Joe a forty-four, and kept the forty-five for myself. Joe told me to search the passengers for money. I did so, and found on the fellow who was shaking the worst 390 dollars. This fellow was trembling so I could hardly get my hand in his pockets. The other fellow, a sort of a dude, with his hair parted in the middle, tried to tell me how much he needed the money, but he yielded 36 dollars, a dime and two nickels. Then I searched the remaining passenger, a Chinaman. He was nearer my size, and I just scared him to death. His clothes enabled me to go through him quickly. I only got five dollars, however. The stage driver had a few dollars, but after a council of war, we decided not to rob him.”

Good-Hearted Bandit

Pearl gave another account in which she provided more details:

“When the coach came in sight we rode down into the canyon to meet it. Our masks were lost in going to the camp, but we didn’t mind that. So on we rode. As we came upon the coach the driver



When Pearl Hart and Joe Boot arrived in Globe in mid-April 1899, the Gila County seat was home to one of Arizona Territory’s largest copper mining operations.

True West Archives

reined his horses to have a word with us, as travelers out there do, and as the three passengers stuck their heads out to see why the stop was made, we covered them and ordered all four men to line up outside. While Joe kept their hands up at the point of the Winchester, I searched the men. I

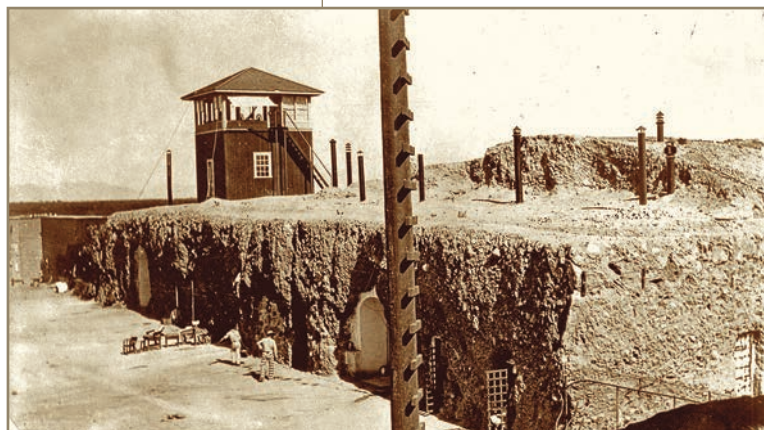
had to pull off one of my gloves to do this, and in this way the men saw by my hand that I was a woman. I can still see the Chinaman, who was one of the passengers, holding our horses. He was smiling at the thought that he was so kind we would not rob him. You can bet he was smiling on the other side of his face when I was through with him. I left about two dollars for each man, and told them to continue their journey and not to look back under penalty of being shot.”

Pearl later claimed that, after returning the driver’s money, she told him with a laugh, “You may keep that. I believe you’ve earned it by driving three such cowards across the hills.”

Pearl added that after giving a few dollars back to the passengers, she told them, “Being a good fellow, I kind of hate to see folks dead broke, so I’ll stake you all. And now take a run back along the trail for the good of your health.”

Then, watching the stagecoach disappear down the canyon, she exclaimed, “Come on, Joe!” The two then walked to the spot where their horses were tied, mounted up and rode off.

Pearl’s account was reasonably accurate and differed slightly from the details later provided by the stage driver, his passengers and lawmen. She and Joe set up their ambush at a spot in Kane Spring Canyon that was four miles from the Gila River. It was a narrow, twisting bend where the driver could not see more than twenty feet ahead of his lead horses. The outlaws waited for three hours for the coach to arrive. It was five p.m. when the stage from Globe came rattling down the rough trail. It was not a large, six-horse Concord coach of the type commonly seen in television and film. Instead the



Pearl Hart’s stage robbery with Joe Boot led to three years as a prisoner in the infamous Yuma Territorial Prison.

True West Archives

stage was a much lighter conveyance that looked like a carriage, known as a “mud wagon.” It had three seats, a canvas top, and a four-horse team. At the “ribbons,” or reins, was stage driver Henry Bacon. He had three passengers: Oscar J. Neil, a traveling salesman; an old man named Harding; and a Chinese passenger whose name was never recorded. Pearl and Joe stepped out from the roadside brush and Joe called out, “Halt!”

Bacon pulled back on the reins and quickly set his brake.

“Climb out of there!” Joe barked. The driver and passengers meekly complied, even though Bacon and Neil were armed with large revolvers. Pearl and Joe lined the four men up and went through their pockets. From Neil they took 390 dollars, his pistol and a gold pocket watch worth 50 dollars. Henry Bacon coughed up his six-gun and eight dollars, but Pearl handed the money back to him. They relieved the Chinese passenger of 30 dollars. The bandits took 40 dollars from the other passenger, Harding. However, before climbing out of the stage, Harding had slipped into his mouth a tobacco pouch holding 80 dollars in gold. A journalist who later interviewed the passengers wrote, “He presented a ludicrous appearance with his cheeks swelled out and the strings of the pouch hanging from his lips. The highwaymen failed to notice it, however.”

Joe Boot did most of the talking, probably because Pearl did not want her voice to reveal that she was a woman. The only words she actually spoke were to one of the passengers who was slow in handing over his cash. Pearl barked, “Cough up, partner, or I’ll plug you.”

After completing the search, Pearl handed back four silver dollars to each of the victims. The passengers later said that they were convinced that “the smaller of the two robbers was a woman. Her figure had only been illy concealed by the crude garb she wore of rough shirt and blue overalls, the latter tucked into coarse boots that were plainly far too large. Under the dirty cowboy hat...there showed a curl or two of dark hair, and the hands that had deftly turned their pockets inside out were small and white.”

Joe then ordered the men back into the stage. Henry Bacon whipped up his team, and the coach lurched off toward Riverside.



Pearl Hart and Joe Boot were tried in the Pinal County Courthouse in Florence in November 1899.

True West Archives

Pearl and Joe then mounted their horses and fled south, headed for the Southern Pacific railroad. A sheriff’s posse was soon in pursuit. The lawmen managed to capture the pair after a long manhunt. The case made newspaper headlines throughout the country, for a woman stage robber was unheard of. Pearl soon broke out of jail, was recaptured after another manhunt and became the most famous convict ever lodged in Yuma

prison. Thus began even more adventures for Pearl Hart—but that is another story.



Pearl Hart and Joe Boot robbed this stagecoach in Kane Spring Canyon on the Globe to Florence road on May 29, 1899.

Photo circa 1899, Courtesy John Boessenecker

In an era when a woman’s role was domestic—cooking, cleaning, working on the family farm, raising children and attending church—Pearl Hart violated every one of society’s taboos. She swore, smoked, drank, robbed, rode hard, broke jail and used men with abandon. The Old West never saw another woman like her.



John Boessenecker has studied and written about the history of outlaws and lawmen of the Old West for more than 50 years, and has authored books and dozens of magazine articles on the subject. “A Real Woman Bandit: Pearl Hart was a wildcat on and off the outlaw trail” is an exclusive excerpt from his new book, *Wildcat: The Untold Story of Pearl Hart, the Wild West’s Most Notorious Woman Bandit* (Hanover Square Press, 2021).



After Pearl Hart was captured and taken to Florence, Arizona, she posed for a photographer on the steps of the jail with the pistol she used in the stage holdup.

Courtesy John Boessenecker



The remote town of Riverside, on the Gila River, is shown as it looked a few years after Pearl Hart was there in 1899.

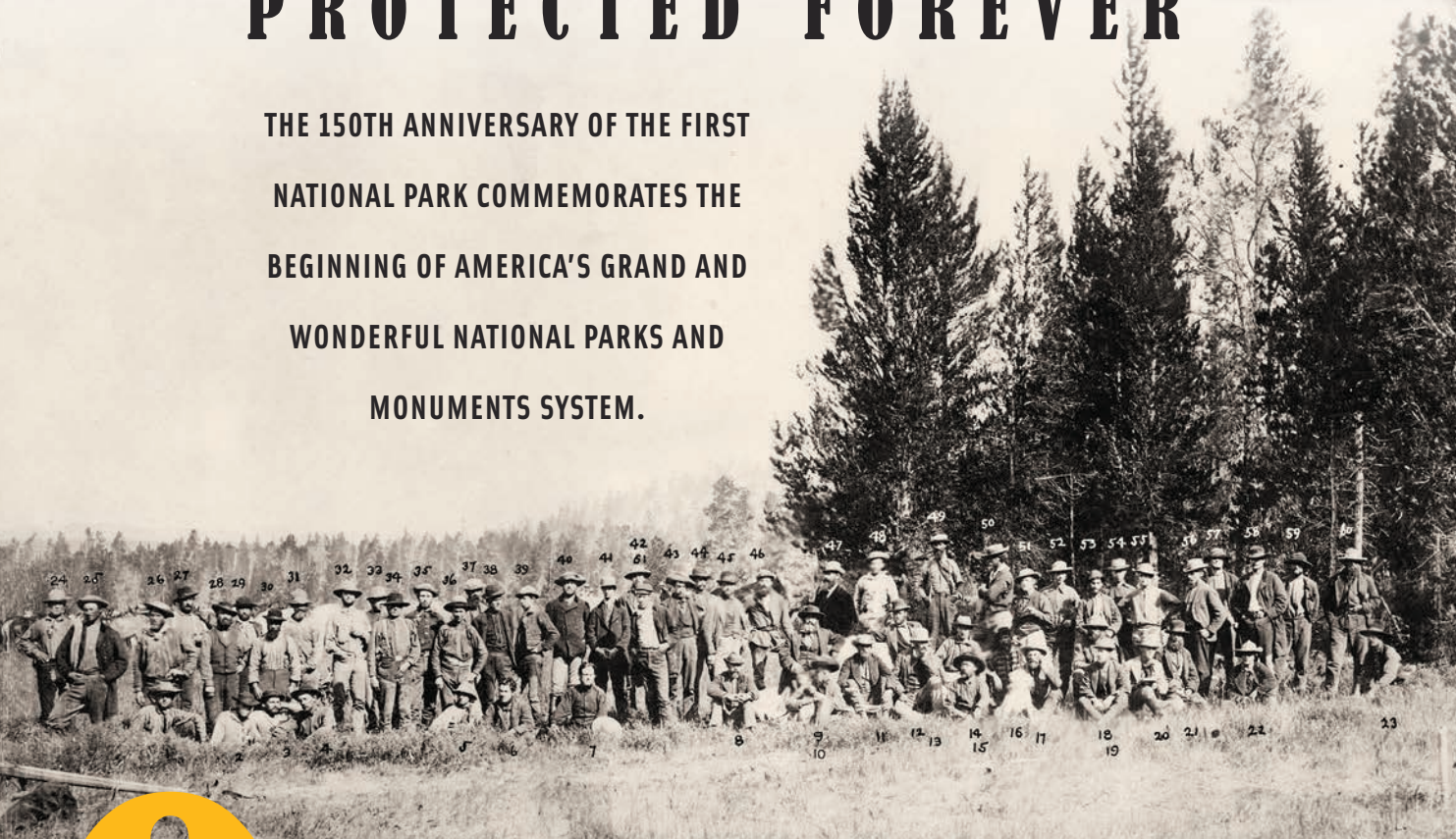
Courtesy John Boessenecker

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

Yellowstone

PROTECTED FOREVER

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK COMMEMORATES THE BEGINNING OF AMERICA'S GRAND AND WONDERFUL NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS SYSTEM.



On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law Congressional legislation that created Yellowstone National Park, the first of its kind in the

world. As reported in the *Helena (Montana) Weekly Herald* on March 28, 1872: "Yellowstone....embracing an area of 575,000 square miles....covers the sources of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, together with all the natural wonders and transcendent scenery of that romantic and incomparable locality. It will heretofore be known to the world as Yellowstone National Park, and will be visited in the years to come by thousands of the scientific and the curious, seeking to become acquainted with this unparalleled section of America's wonder-land."

An extraordinary group photo by William Henry Jackson of the Hayden U.S. Geologic Survey at Firehole Basin in Yellowstone in 1872.

1. W. Nicholson; 2. T.B. Brown; 3. (Blank); 4. (Blank); 5. S.C. Jones; 6. W.R. Taggart; 7. T.W. Jaycox; 8. Dr. Reagles; 9. J. Curtis; 10. F.H. Bradley; 11. F.V. Hayden; 12. J. Stevenson; 13. Wm. Blackmore; 14. W.H. Holmes; 15. A. Burck; 16. (Blank); 17. (Blank); 18. (Blank); 19. H. Gannett; 20. A.E. Brown; 21. J. Savage; 22. (Blank); 23. (Blank); 24. (Blank); 25. (Blank); 26. (Blank); 27. (Blank); 28. (Blank); 29. (Blank); 30. (Blank); 31. (Blank); 32. C. Carrington; 33. C.H. Merriam; 34. (Blank); 35. W.A. West; 36. C.R. Campbell; 37. (Blank); 38. J.M. Coulter; 39. S. Spencer; 40. P.S. Beveridge; 41. S.F. Hamp; 42. R. Adams; 43. (Blank); 44. (Blank); 45. G.R. Bechler; 46. R. Hering; 47. N.P. Langford; 48. (Blank); 49. (Blank); 50. (Blank); 51. W.B. Logan; 52. W.B. Platt; 53. A.C. Peale; 54. A.E. Bingham; 55. T.O.C. Sloan; 56. E.B. Wakerfield; 57. (Blank); 58. (Blank); 59. (Blank); 60. (Blank); 61. J.S. Negley

Blanks are unidentified packers, cooks and others, although in 2019 Yellowstone Park researchers noted: "The men named below were on the [1872] survey, but are not listed in the caption, so it seems likely that they make up some of the unknown men. Jim Alexander, unknown role; Jack Bean, Packer; Boteler, Hunter; Tom Cooper, Chief Packer; Crissman, Photographer; Goodfellow, helper; Bill Hamilton, unknown role; George Mefford, Packer; S.H. Nealy, General Assistant; Joseph E. Smith, unknown role; Dr. Charles S. Turnbull, Surgeon; Ticknor, Packer; "Red" Williams, Cook. The remainder were likely the staff from the other survey, headed up by James Stevenson."

Courtesy USGS



Hayden Survey artist Thomas Moran went to great lengths while exploring Yellowstone, as seen here examining the Upper Basins of Soda Springs in 1871, to gain perspective for his influential sketches, watercolors and paintings of the future national park.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

Just one year earlier, Secretary of State Columbus Delano tapped geologist and Civil War physician Ferdinand Vandever Hayden to lead a major geological survey of the headwaters of the Yellowstone River and the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho territories.

Dr. Hayden, an Army veteran, had had a desire to survey the Yellowstone region since he'd first ventured into the region before the Civil War started.

Hayden built a 50-man survey team that included artists Thomas Moran and Henry W. Elliott and adventurous Civil War and landscape photographer William Henry Jackson. Little did Elliott, Jackson or Moran know that their resulting maps, sketches, art and photography of Yellowstone would influence Congress and President Ulysses S. Grant's decision to create the national park.

In honor of the sesquicentennial of Yellowstone National Park and the beginning of the most influential national park and monument system in the world conservation movement, Yellowstone survey photographs—and Western survey photographs made at many future national parks, monuments and forests created after 1872—illustrate this issue's Best of the West sections that begin on page 86.



William Henry Jackson's large format and stereographic images of Yellowstone's geologic features, including the Yellowstone River's Grand Canyon, heavily influenced Congress and President U.S. Grant's decision to create Yellowstone National Park 150 years ago.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



Extraordinary efforts by twenty-eight-year-old Hayden Survey photographer William Henry Jackson to photograph Yellowstone with his large-format camera—across hundreds of miles of unsurveyed terrain—helped influence Congress's creation of the first national park.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



Civil War physician and geologist Ferdinand Vandever Hayden led the American government's first geological survey of the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho territories. Hayden, who posed with his horse "Patsy" in 1870, had had a desire to survey the Yellowstone region since he'd first ventured into the Yellowstone River Valley in 1860.

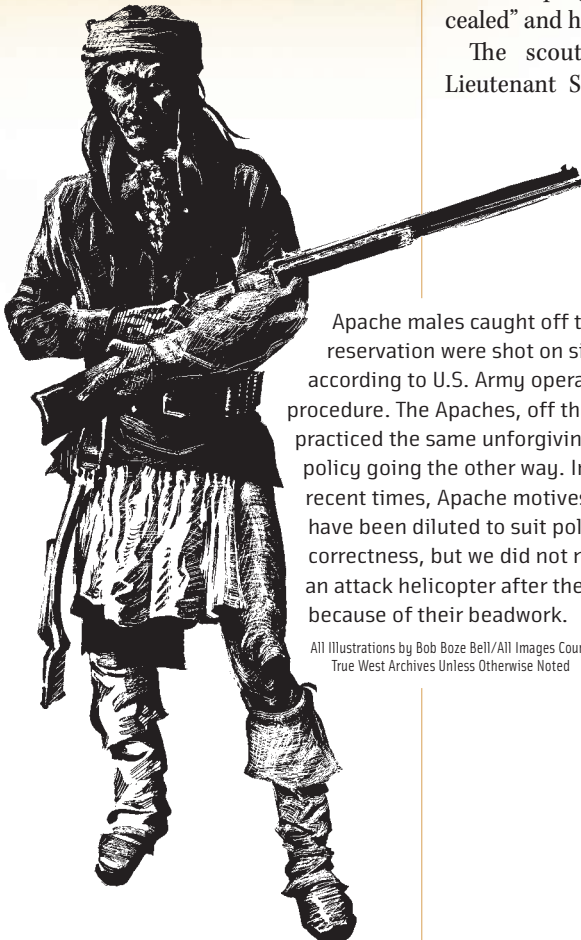
William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

CAVE CREEK AMBUSH

TONTO APACHES VS AL SIEBER AND THE 5TH CAVALRY



Apache males caught off the reservation were shot on sight, according to U.S. Army operating procedure. The Apaches, off the res, practiced the same unforgiving policy going the other way. In recent times, Apache motives have been diluted to suit political correctness, but we did not name an attack helicopter after them because of their beadwork.

All Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell/All Images Courtesy True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Robert M. Utley and Bob Boze Bell.

DECEMBER 22, 1873

Stationed at Camp McDowell, northeast of Phoenix, A.T., a unit of the 5th Cavalry, led by Lt. Walter S. Schuyler, has been on the hunt since

December 1, looking for bronco Apaches (Indians who have left the reservation). Under Schuyler's command are 11 enlisted men, 25 mules carrying supplies and ammunition, numerous civilian packers and 14 Indian scouts led by Chief of Scouts Al Sieber.

The party scouts east of the Verde River and north of the fort, finding nothing. Crossing to the west side of the river, the patrol heads southwest, and some of the Apache scouts climb New River Mesa to get a look at the surrounding area. They find fresh signs of Tonto Apache activity.

After a cold night on the mesa above Elephant Butte, the scouts track signs down Cave Creek to a cave on the west bank of the stream. The scouts locate 11 wickiups (brush huts) "cleverly concealed" and hugging the cliff wall.

The scouts report their find to Lieutenant Schuyler, but he is afraid

the hostile Tonto Apaches have already spotted the troops. If his force attacks straight on, the Apaches may escape into the rough hillocks northwest of Black Mountain.

Schuyler decides to guide the troop train westward to the Agua Fria River, making it appear the soldiers haven't seen the renegade enclave.

After a day in camp, the troops openly march eastward along Camp McDowell Road (south of the present-day Carefree Highway). Schuyler is gambling the Apache lookouts, who are surely watching, will assume the soldiers are heading back to the fort. He is correct.

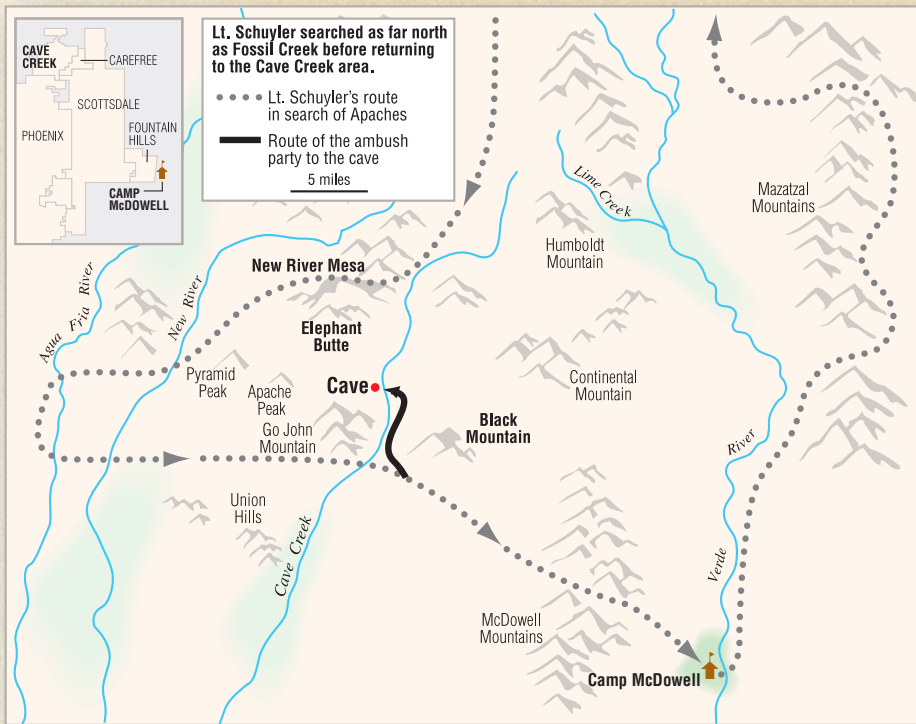
A few days before Christmas, Schuyler, Sieber and the Apache scouts quietly creep up alongside Cave Creek until they are opposite the Apache camp.

Once the first rays of morning break across the sky, the ambush party opens fire from its rocky concealment, killing nine Tontos.

An untold number of Indians flee in panic and escape, as the soldiers burn several tons of food.



Al Sieber and Apache scouts



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Lieutenant Walter S. Schuyler and his troops returned to Camp McDowell the next day. Several more skirmishes were fought in the Cave Creek area until the Apaches were successfully corralled on reservations. The last skirmish of the Apache Wars fought in Arizona was in 1882, but that's another Classic Gunfight.

Several years ago, a group of Apache War buffs came to Cave Creek, armed with the lieutenant's report and a couple metal detectors, and they scoured the famous cave for which Cave Creek is named. At previous Apache battle sites the buffs had visited, including Horseshoe Canyon and Dragoon Mountain's South Pass, they discovered numerous bullets and casings. Unfortunately, they didn't find any bullets in the biggest and most well-known Cave Creek cave. The Army report doesn't specifically name the cave the battle was fought in (several other caves are in the area, but none are big enough to hold nine huts), and so it remains a mystery as to where the December fight took place.

Recommended: *The Indian Frontier, 1846-1890* by Robert M. Utley, published by University of New Mexico Press.



The cave Cave Creek is named for sits on the west side of Cave Creek (the stream and the town). Although some doubt the fight happened here, the cave fits the description of the Army reports to a T. The Desert Foothills Land Trust owns the conservation easement to the privately owned cave, which has numerous petroglyphs on its walls. The Land Trust periodically sponsors limited public hikes. Interested locals and tourists should call 480-488-6131 to reserve a spot for an excursion to this famous landmark.



Inset: Elephant Butte (in the middle ground) and New River Mesa (farthest mesa) are prominent features in the Cave Creek area. New River Mesa is where Lieutenant Schuyler's group spent a cold December night. Several of the Apache scouts tried to fool him, probably because they had relatives in the "hostile" camp, but Schuyler and legendary scout Al Sieber prevailed.



Legendary scout Al Sieber

Courtesy Sharlot Hall Museum

BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

BEST of the WEST
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO



**OUR 20TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF THE ABSOLUTE
BEST OF THE WEST**

THE UPPER FALLS OF THE YELLOWSTONE

THE YEAR 2021

was a year of both reflection and celebration. Once again, as spring became summer, travelers began packing the highways, hotels, historic sites and museums across the West. In many places, masks were required indoors (and still are in some places, including airports and airplanes), nevertheless, eager tourists began going out and exploring the many wonders and wonderful towns, parks and monuments of the Western United States. The hard-working men and women who own small businesses, run galleries and shops, manage and volunteer at museums, operate historic railroads and sites, and national and state parks were excited and ready for tourism to return to pre-COVID levels. We may not yet be back to pre-pandemic numbers, but states across the West are open for business and ready to provide you with the best service possible.

One of the highlights of our annual *Best of the West* issue is the awarding of the True Westerner of the Year, which in 2021 is being given to *True West's* very own Phil Spangenberg. Since the August-September issue of 2003, Phil has been regaling us with his insightful tales of firearm and weapon history, informative articles on trends in modern Old West firearm reproductions and detailed behind-the-scenes stories on firearms in film and television. (Don't miss his feature on how he has kept history real in the movies on page 28, our profile of him on page 48 and his Best of the West column on page 58). We are proud to call Phil a close friend of *True West* and grateful for nearly two decades of columns and features.

True West dedicates this 20th Annual Best of the West issue to the men and women who work and volunteer every day to make travelers feel welcome as they explore the wondrous region we all love so much, the American West.

During the 1871-72 Hayden Survey of Yellowstone, photographer William Henry Jackson dared great heights and broke many new trails to photograph the natural wonders of Yellowstone, including the spectacular Upper Falls of the Yellowstone River.

William Henry Jackson, 1871, Courtesy USGS



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

BEST of the WEST

TRUE WESTERNER

OF THE YEAR

RIDING—AND WRITING—FOR THE BRAND!

PHIL SPANGENBERGER

If you have ever spoken to Phil Spangenberg about the Old West, historical firearms, history, horses, hunting, Westerns—or almost any subject, for that matter—you will immediately realize that he loves life and all that he does. He has been *True West's* firearms editor since 2003, and in that time has penned more than 200 articles and features for us. His expertise in historical firearms and accessories, weapons, militaria, uniforms, frontier clothing and equestrian saddlery and tack is encyclopedic. He is also an expert on weapon use in Western cinema, a go-to advisor on firearms and weapons in film and television. (See column at right and Phil's feature "Mr. Authenticity" on page 30.)

A native of Miami, Florida, Phil grew up loving horses, history and Westerns. "I was enthralled by the real people, especially those who explored the West, rode horses, fought battles and lived early on America's frontiers," he recalls. "What really captured my interest was watching the Walt Disney TV series on Davy Crockett (and the later technicolor movie) with Fess Parker—who about 40 years later I got to meet and spend a little time with."

After his family moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1957, Phil graduated from high school and was drafted into the Army in October 1963. He served two years in the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery. After his service he bought his first horse and "joined a group of like-minded historians called the 'Military Memorial Regiment'—reenactors who wore the uniforms, rode horses, shot the old guns



Phil was in a Wild West Show he produced at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede, in Branson, Missouri.

All Photos Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Unless Otherwise Noted

and learned the drills and skills of the 1870s 7th U.S. Cavalry and the Civil War-era First North Carolina Cavalry, C.S.A."

By the early 1970s, Phil began writing about historical firearms. Through encouragement and a recommendation from his mentor, Garry James, Phil was hired in 1973 by *Guns & Ammo* magazine, a publication he would be associated with for four decades, including 35 years as the black powder editor.

Today, after many decades in Southern California, Phil lives with his wife, Linda, in Chino Valley, Arizona. She is an accomplished equestrian, having won numerous honors,

including three Women's World Championships in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association and one in the Single Action Shooting Society's mounted competitions.

What does it mean to Phil to be named the True Westerner of 2022?

"To be named the True Westerner of the Year is indeed an honor that, when I think of those names who've been so honored in the past, I feel quite humbled to be listed among such talents as the late Larry McMurtry, Dr. Paul Hutton and others whose accomplishments are world renowned. I think to myself, "How the heck did this ol' horseman ever get here? I'm just doing what I love."



For a 1979 article in *Guns & Ammo*, Phil reenacted a cavalryman firing an 1873 Springfield trapdoor carbine .45-70 from his horse Jeb Stuart.

Courtesy "Guns & Ammo"



Spangenberg had Nevada trained to bow by the legendary horse trainer, Glenn Randall, who trained Roy Rogers' Trigger, Gene Autry's Champion, Rex Allen's Koko and the Ben Hur chariot horses, among other great equines. After each wild and woolly performance of galloping and shooting, Phil would have her make a bow, and the audience loved it. He says she was a great horse that never let him down.

Phil was a gun coach, technical consultant, military advisor and extra on Touchstone Pictures' *Hidalgo* (2004). He was put in a couple of short "eye-blinking" scenes in the Wounded Knee sequence in which he was a first sergeant in command of 150 dismounted 1890-era 7th Cavalry soldiers. He wore a greatcoat and fur cap, and carried a '73 Springfield trapdoor carbine and 7½-inch, holstered Colt Single Action Army revolver.



Phil Spangenberg and Richard Ignarski, future owner of Tombstone's Gunfighter Hall of Fame Museum, attended the 100th anniversary of the O.K. Corral shootout on Oct. 25, 1981. For more on this fateful day, read BBB's column on page 15.



For many years, Phil's love of the horse cavalry saw him recreating the skills and tactics of the 1880s U.S. Cavalry. Here Sergeant Spangenberg commands recreated "C" Troop, 6th U.S. Cavalry. He's equipped with authentic 1880s uniform and equipment, as he sits his mount, Jeb Stuart, during a three-day field exercise at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in 1977.

True to the West

Highlights of Spangenberg's career supplying the entertainment industry

Through the years, when Phil Spangenberg was operating his Red River Frontier Outfitters company, they made and supplied gunleather, costuming, assorted props and other services to many Western (and occasionally other genre) movies and television programs. The company brought authenticity to the screen. Here are a few of the highlights:

Unforgiven: Produced all of the gunleather for the stars of this Academy Award-winning film, except Clint Eastwood's rig. Gunbelts and holsters made for stars Gene Hackman, Richard Harris, James (Schofield Kid) Woolvett and others.

Hidalgo: Supplied circa 1890-type gunleather, custom crafted by Jake Johnson, rawhide reatas, period spurs and other personal props for star Viggo Mortensen.

American Outlaws: Created all of the 1860s- and 1870s-type holsters for star Colin Farrell's Jesse James, the James-Younger Gang members and other cast members.

Maverick: Supplied star Mel Gibson's period gunbelt and Cheyenne-style holster.

Riders of the Purple Sage: Custom crafted a brace of unique, early 1870s holsters and cartridge belts for star Ed Harris.

Tombstone: Produced the gunleather worn by the Mexican Rurales in the opening church wedding massacre scenes.

Wyatt Earp: Made nearly all of the historical gunleather used in the film by Kevin Costner, Martin Kove and others. Also supplied assorted costuming and several leather prop items.

Geronimo: An American Legend: Produced leather cavalry cartridge boxes and assorted military equipment for the movie's troopers.

Tall Tale: Created most of the gunleather used in this fantasy-Western movie, including the double gun rig used by star Patrick Swayze.

Pale Rider: Made most of the 1860s-era gunleather for star Clint Eastwood and many of the actors in this Western.

Barbarosa: Crafted and aged special gunleather for Willie Nelson, Gary Busey and other actors.

Four Eyes and Six-Guns: Created special holsters and gunbelts for star Judge Reinhold in this TNT movie.

Rambo: First Blood Part II: Supplied actor Martin Kove with special shoulder holster for his S&W Model 29, .44 Magnum revolver.

El Diablo: Created and specially aged down period gunleather for stars Louis Gossett, Jr. and Anthony Edwards.

Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman: Made special black, 1860s-style holster for Johnny Cash.

History Channel: On such shows as the *Wild West Tech* series, and programs like *Conquerors*, *Texas Rangers*, *Comanche Warriors*, *The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth*, and more, Spangenberg worked in coordination with Hollywood Guns & Props, and assisted in supplying horses, reenactors and select period artifacts.

Universal Studios Tours: Custom made frontier-era costuming for Western live stunt shows at Universal Studios tour.

Movie Sound Effects: Fired live ammunition from an assortment of antique and modern weaponry for *Rambo: First Blood Part II*, *Hoffa*, *Dick Tracy*, *The Sicilian*, *Geronimo: An American Legend* and others.

Video Games: Assisted in firing an array of World War II pistols, rifles and full auto machine guns to be used as sound effects for the video games *Medal of Honor* and *Allied Assault*.



BY STEVE FRIESEN

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

IT'S NOT JUST THE MONEY; IT'S THE STORY

Auction houses and Western collectors enjoyed a banner year of selling and buying art, collectibles and firearms.

Why do we collect *The West*? For most of us it's not about the money, nor is it just an investment. It is about a love of the artifacts. And why? Sometimes it's their sheer beauty, like the exquisitely engraved firearms offered by Rock Island Auctions at the beginning of 2021, or the luminescence of a R. Tom Gilleon painting of a tepee and offered at The Russell Auction this past August. Or it might be the unusual nature of an item, like the Harrington and Richardson Arms Company's countertop display offered at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in June. But above all we are drawn to the stories associated with artifacts, like the revolver used by Pat Garrett to kill Billy the Kid. The sale of that otherwise ordinary firearm established a world record at Bonham's in August. In 2021 artifacts that also told a story drew the most attention.

The year began with the sale of Hollywood-associated hats, firearms and other clothing as part of Brian Lebel's auction in Mesa, Arizona. Some artifacts came from tales told by Hollywood, like the rifle used by John Wayne in his role as Rooster Cogburn and the shirt worn by him in *The Searchers*, both of which sold at Brian Lebel's Mesa auction in January. In addition to the firearms associated with Billy the Kid at the Bonham Auction, hanging Judge Isaac Parker's gavel brought a hefty price. And why not? Imagine the stories it could tell.

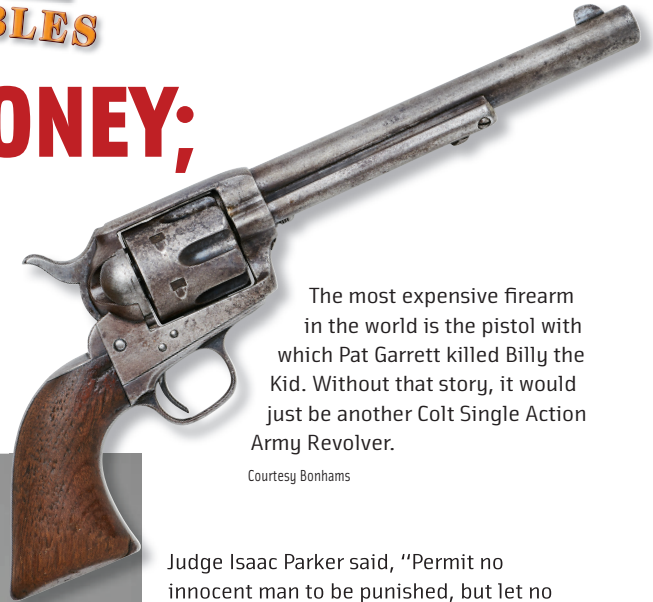
Speaking of stories, Rod Stewart sang "every picture tells a story," and that was the case with artwork sold at auction in 2021. Works by Alfred Bierstadt, Carl Rungius, Joseph Henry Sharp and Oscar Berninghaus, each with a story to



The bib shirt worn by John Wayne in *The Searchers* is an iconic Hollywood artifact, representing one of Hollywood's best efforts to tell a story of the American West.

Courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction

tell, made a strong showing at the Scottsdale Art Auction in April. At the Russell Auction, Charles Russell's *Drifting*, a scene based on his time spent as a cowboy, depicted a moment of tension common to that experience. *Blood on the Horizon*, a contemporary piece by Bill Schenck at the Scottsdale Auction, presented a modernized figure of a cowboy looking back

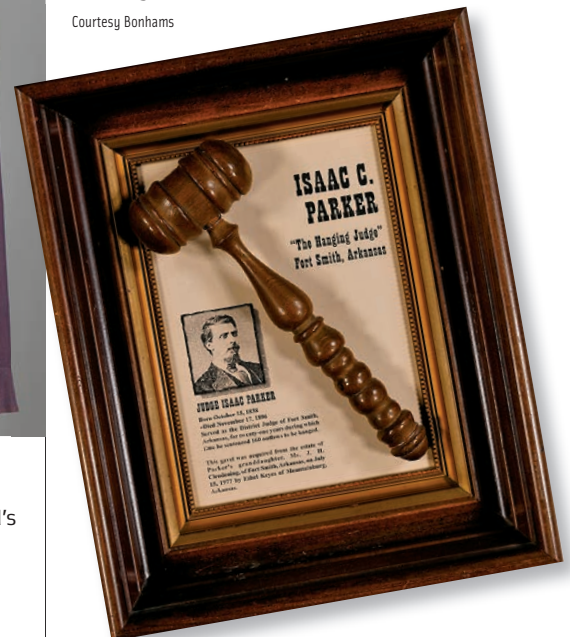


The most expensive firearm in the world is the pistol with which Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid. Without that story, it would just be another Colt Single Action Army Revolver.

Courtesy Bonhams

Judge Isaac Parker said, "Permit no innocent man to be punished, but let no guilty man escape." This gavel ensured that 160 presumably guilty men did not escape, sending them instead to their deaths.

Courtesy Bonhams



at an unseen threat. The robust sales of art and artifacts at auctions in 2021 demonstrate that the telling of Western tales is still alive and appreciated. 

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



Pistol drawn, a cowboy rides at breakneck speed from some unseen threat. Bill Schenck's title for this painting, *Blood on the Horizon*, suggests this story will not end well.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



A bear, seemingly relaxed but able to spring into action within a moment, wanders across an alpine environment in Carl Rungius's painting, simply titled *Grizzly Bear*.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



Harrington and Richardson Arms Company, an early manufacturer of firearms, enticed buyers with this unusual countertop display of pistols.

Courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction



Master engraver John Ulrich transformed a utilitarian Winchester Model 1866 into a work of art.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

January 21-23, 2022

32nd Annual Mesa Old West Show & Auction
 Brian Lebel's Old West Events (Mesa, AZ)
OldWestEvents.com • 480-779-9378

February 25, 2022

Art of the West
 Heritage Auctions (Dallas, TX)
HA.com • 214-528-3500

April 8-9, 2022

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



Charles Russell was a night wrangler for 11 years. His autobiographical painting *Drifting* depicts cowboys trying to maintain control of a herd during a driving rainstorm.

Courtesy CW Russell Museum



ART AND COLLECTIBLES

During multiple surveys of the canyonlands of the Four Corners region of the American Southwest, photographers recorded the ancient art of the original inhabitants of the region, including this wall of petroglyphs that is now protected in Smith Fork, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah.

Courtesy USGS

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTION

Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville, OK

Hidden away in the rugged Osage Hills of Northeastern Oklahoma, Woolaroc was established in 1925 as the ranch retreat of oilman Frank Phillips. The museum has an outstanding collection of Western art, American Indian artifacts and Colt firearms. The ranch is also a 3,700-acre wildlife preserve, home to many species of native and exotic wildlife, including bison, elk and longhorn cattle.

Woolaroc.org

READERS' CHOICE: The A.R. Mitchell Museum, Trinidad, CO

BEST AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. and New York, NY

One of the Smithsonian Institution's cornerstone museums has two sites: one on the National Mall in the District of Columbia, which opened in 2004, and one in downtown Manhattan in the historic Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, which debuted in 1989. The two museums' exhibitions and galleries are dedicated to 12,000 years of Indigenous North American history and artwork. A popular ongoing exhibit in New York is "Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian." In Washington, visitors should make sure to visit this spring to see "Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World" before it closes after a 16-year exhibition.

AmericanIndian.SI.edu

READERS' CHOICE: Museum of the Plains Indian, Browning, MT



In 1892–93, Smithsonian ethnographic photographer James Mooney visited Keams Canyon on the Navajo Reservation, where he photographed a Navajo woman weaving on a horizontal loom, a child, Nedespa, carding wool, a second woman spinning wool (left) and a third woman weaving at a belt frame.

Courtesy Library of Congress

BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTOR

Tim Peterson, Cape Cod, MA (Scottsdale's Museum of the West)

Renowned and highly respected Western art collector Tim Peterson developed a passion for the West and Western art during his childhood in the Midwest. Today, Peterson's Family Collection is on loan at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, showcased in the second-floor "Courage and Crossroads: A Visual Journey through the Early American West" exhibition. Peterson also recently

collaborated with the museum to exhibit his Paul Calle collection in "Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon," his Maynard Dixon collection in "Maynard Dixon's American West" and his Edward Curtis collection in "Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward Curtis."

ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

READERS' CHOICE: Tom Petrie, Denver, CO (Petrie Institute of Western American Art)

BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR

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

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

BigCedar.com

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

BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX

The exhibits at this nationally renowned Western museum on the campus of West Texas A&M University comprehensively walk the visitor through 14,000 years of history, including the key role of the Texas longhorn in the development of the region known worldwide for its cowboy and cattle culture. With more than 200,000 square feet of exhibition space, Panhandle-Plains is the largest history museum in the Lone Star State.

PanhandlePlains.org

READERS' CHOICE: Cowtown, Wichita, KS

BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

Brian Lebel's Old West Show & Auction, Santa Fe, NM & Mesa, AZ

In 2021, Lebel's popular auctions in Mesa in January and in Santa Fe in June were well-attended and gaveled out highly collectible Western art, cowboy and Hollywood collectibles and firearms. Lebel's 2022 annual auctions are highly anticipated by sellers and buyers, and the following are currently scheduled: the 32nd Annual Old West Show & Auction in Mesa, Arizona, January 21-23, and the Annual Old West Show & Auction in Santa Fe, which is traditionally held every June, with details at press time tbd.

OldWestEvents.com

READERS' CHOICE: Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

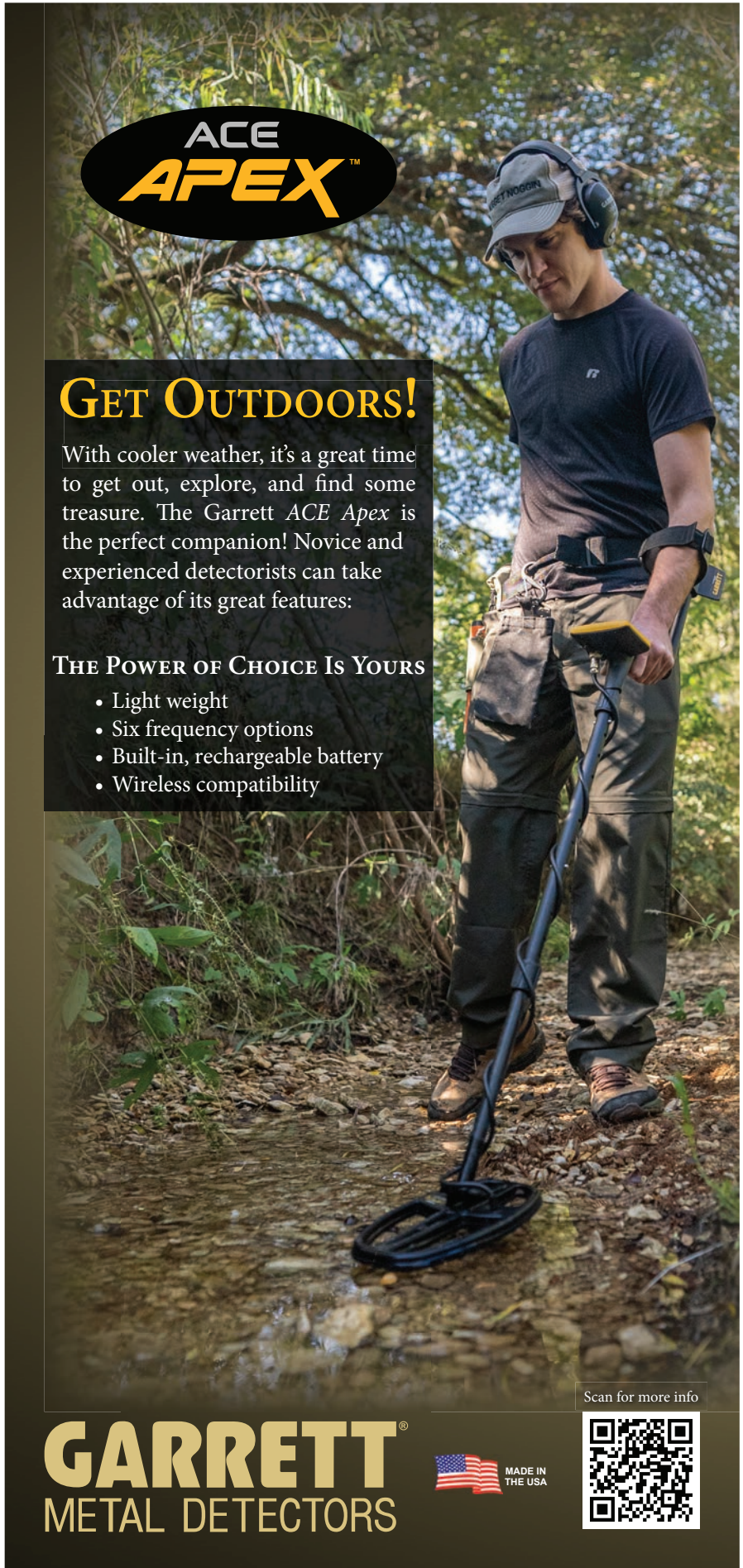


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A pottery maker at Bandelier National Monument is probably a descendant of the ancient Queres tribe now in the pueblo of Chochiti, New Mexico. The prehistoric village of the Queres is in the cañon of the Rito de los Frijoles, where hundreds of their dwellings were carved out of the pumice cliffs. The monument was created in February 1916.

Courtesy USGS

PAWNEE BILL RANCH & MUSEUM



Maj. Gordon W. Lillie

This 500 acre historic ranch was once the showplace of wild west showman Gordon W. Lillie (Pawnee Bill). Visitors can tour his 1910 mansion, museum, ranch buildings, bison, horses and longhorn cattle in the drive-through pasture. The Ranch is also a day use park and picnic facility complete with shelters and a fishing pond.

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BEST WESTERN COLLECTIBLES GALLERY

Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

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

LegacyGallery.com

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

BEST OLD WEST ART AUCTION

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

Heritage Auctions is an internationally recognized leader in selling Western Americana, Texana, art, movie posters and collectibles. Major Western artists' originals auctioned in 2021 included pieces by Frank Reynolds, Bill Owen, John Wade Hampton, Joe Beeler, Nick Eggenhoffer, Olaf Wieghorst, Edward Borein, Curtis Wingate, Joseph J. Mora and Wilson Hurley.

HA.com

READERS' CHOICE: Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale AZ

BEST OLD WEST FIREARMS AUCTION

Morphy's Auctions, Denver, PA

One of the nation's finest auction houses, Morphy's is renowned for its Early Arms & Militaria, Extraordinary Firearm, Field & Range Firearms, Edged Weapons, Armor and Militaria and Collectible Firearms & Militaria auctions. The auction house, which can be found at all of the top American and Canadian gun shows, also partners with Borderview International Firearms Logistics to provide Canadian buyers and consignors of firearms and related items with seamless export and import services.

MorphyAuctions.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Rock Island Auctions, Rock Island, IL / Bonhams, Los Angeles, CA

BEST TREASURE HUNTING DEVICE

Electroscopes by Thomas, Jersey Shore, PA

An internationally recognized metal detector company founded in 1988, Electroscopes has five models that are popular for detectorists and treasure hunters. All of Thomas Afilani's unique electronic products,

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

including the Regulator, Gravitator Recovery System, Model 301, Fieldscope and Ancient Artifact Relic Hunter are made in the U.S.A.
MetalDetectorDistributors.com

READERS' CHOICE: Garrett Metal Detectors, TX

BEST WESTERN PAINTER

C.M. Russell (1864-1926)

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

READERS' CHOICE: George Catlin (1796-1872)

BEST WESTERN PAINTER (LIVING)

Martin Grelle, Clifton, TX

Born and raised near Clifton, Texas, the self-taught, award-winning Lone Star State artist has been a member of Cowboy Artists of America since 1995. Grelle, who lives with his wife on their ranch just outside of town, has served the storied organization as its president and chaired its 50th anniversary events in 2015. He has held over 30 one-man exhibitions and earned numerous awards including the Prix de West Purchase Award twice at the Prix de West Invitational at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
CowboyArtistsOfAmerica.com

READERS' CHOICE: Sherry Blanchard Stuart, Scottsdale, AZ / Howard Terpnig, Tucson, AZ

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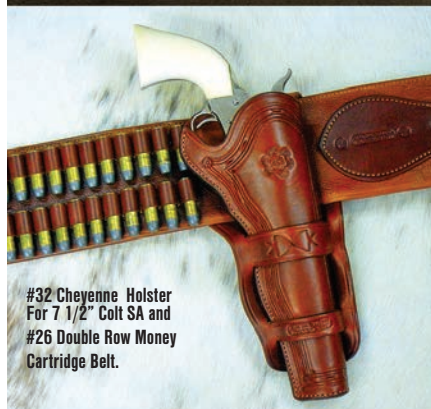
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BEST WESTERN ART MUSEUM GALLERY

Taos Art Museum, Taos, NM

Located in the former adobe house of Russian-born artist Nicolai Fechin (1881-1955), the Taos Art Museum is an intimate, extraordinary experience that celebrates the Taos Society of Artists and the life and work of the immigrant painter who made his home in Taos from 1927 to 1933. A new exhibition, "Sun Patterns, Dark Canyon: The Paintings and Aquatints of Doel Reed (1894-1985)," will debut May 24, 2022.

TaosArtMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE: Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA

BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, AZ

Founded by Dr. Mark Sublette, a former physician, Medicine Man Gallery is internationally recognized as one of the finest dealers of Maynard Dixon artwork. Sublette is also well-known for showcasing Early American and Western paintings, antiques, American Indian art, contemporary Western artists and sculptors, and works by members of the Taos Society of Artists and Cowboy Artists of America.

MedicineManGallery.com

READERS' CHOICE: Sorrel Sky, Durango, CO

BEST WESTERN BRONZE FOUNDRY

Bronzsmith Fine Art Foundry and Gallery, Prescott Valley, AZ

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

Bronzsmith.com

READERS' CHOICE: Eagle Bronze, Lander, Wyoming

BEST WESTERN BRONZE ARTIST Dustin Payne, Cody, WY

A member of the Cowboy Artists of America, Dustin Payne is acclaimed for his artwork and monumental bronzes. His remarkable Western bronzes celebrate our

Western heritage, the ranching West, wildlife, Native cultures and the American cowboy. The Wyoming artist is also well-known for his monument work, including *The Legend*, *The Lore*, *The Law* at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, Texas.

DustinPayne.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Bill Nebeker / Brad Williams, Prescott, AZ

BEST CLASSIC WESTERN BRONZE ARTIST

Solon Borglum (1868-1922)

Born and raised in Ogden, Utah, Solon Borglum was the younger brother of Gutzon, best known for the acclaimed carvings of four presidents on Mount Rushmore, South Dakota. Solon developed his style of bronze monumental work, especially of Westerners and soldiers on horseback and American Indians, that became internationally acclaimed. His *Rough Rider/Bucky O'Neill* monument, commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt, is a landmark at the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza in Prescott, Arizona. His monumental sculptures are on display in eight states and Washington, D.C. The largest collection of Solon's bronzes can be viewed at the New Britain Museum of American Art, in New Britain, Connecticut.

NBMAA.org

READERS' CHOICE: C.M. Russell (1864-1926)

BEST WESTERN MUSEUM

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

For the second year in a row, Western Spirit has earned the title of best Western museum. The extraordinarily designed building has some of the finest exhibition space in the West. The Tim Peterson Family "Courage & Crossroads: A Visual Journey through the American West," the "Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection" and "The Morton and Donna Fleischer American Military Saddle Collection" are extremely popular cornerstone exhibits. Major exhibits in 2021 were "Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward Curtis," (on display until October 2023), "Paul Calle's Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon," (until September 2022) and "Maynard Dixon's American West," which closed in August 2021, after a nearly two-year run.

ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Blackhawk Museum, Danville, CA / Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA



ART AND COLLECTIBLES

FRANCE'S WILD WEST

The Musee des Confluences's exhibit honors France's long-standing love and appreciation of American Indian history.



This exhibit case contains items worn by Sioux (Lakota) performers Joshua Spotted Owl and Charly Little Boy while in France and Belgium in 1935. An enlarged photograph of them in Brussels is at the center of the case.

All Photos by Steve Friesen

Visitors to "On the Trail of the Sioux" at Lyon's Musee des Confluences wander among headdresses and other artifacts while watching footage from Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

The newest exhibit in France is not about the Impressionists or about the French Revolution, but it's about American Indians. Postponed for over a year due to Covid, "On the Trail of the Sioux," opened on October 21, 2021, at the Musee des Confluences in Lyon and will remain open until the end of August 2022. After receiving my special invitation to the exhibit opening, I shoved my CDC vaccination card into my pocket, put on a mask, and crossed the Atlantic to see just how they would treat this aspect of America's true West. I was not disappointed; as the first major exhibit in the country to deal with the subject, it is outstanding in the scope of its artifacts, audio-visuals and design.

One could say that France became an extension of the American Wild West during the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. It began with George Catlin, who took groups of Indians

there to perform in the 1840s. Later, the Wild West dominated France as Pawnee Bill, Buffalo Bill and others toured their shows throughout the country. Buffalo Bill's Wild West first exhibited during the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris (which premiered the Eiffel Tower), then returned just over a decade later for a full year, visiting nearly 120 towns. The American West continues as a near obsession. When Disneyland Paris opened in 1992, it offered a re-creation of Buffalo Bill's Wild West that continues to draw several thousand people each evening. And, to the French people, the most fascinating aspect of the Wild West has been the Indian performers, the Lakota (Sioux).

"On the Trail of the Sioux" opens with artifacts, Indians and information associated with the first visits to France by the Indians with Catlin, then huge screens showing live

footage and photographic images of Buffalo Bill's Wild West set the context for the next portion of the exhibit, which features over a hundred artifacts left in Europe in 1935 by a group of performers from Pine Ridge. The exhibit concludes with an examination of French stereotypes of American Indians based on Indian performances at Wild West shows and their depiction in Western movies.

The Musee des Confluences is one of the newest museums in Europe and is France's leading natural history museum. After the Louvre, it is the second most popular museum in the country. "On the Trail of the Sioux" is sure to add to its popularity. The magnitude of this exhibit, and the rarity of the artifacts shown, make it worth a trip across "the pond."

—Steve Friesen



BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

FIREARMS

OLD WEST CLASSICS REMAIN POPULAR

Timeless frontier six-guns, rifles and scatterguns lead the list for this year's top guns.

While the world is continuing to fight its way out of the Covid 19 pandemic, the replica Old West gun world has been busy keeping up with record demands for firearms, while facing the aftereffects of the 2020 global shutdowns. With an estimated four million new gun buyers nationwide, replica arms sales are well represented. Rather than introduce new models, the import companies have been busy focusing on filling a backlog of orders of their timeless classics, caused by the shortages of labor, the supply chain of raw materials and product and other manufacturing holdups.

As in the past decades, this past year has once again seen the traditional single-action peacemaker-styled revolvers, Winchester lookalike lever-actions and single-shot Sharps and Springfield rifles, along with double-barreled scatterguns reign as the royalty of the replica gun kingdom. Although there have been a few new reproduction six-guns and longarms introduced in the past couple of years, new firearms owners and veteran shooters alike are keeping the replica houses busy meeting the

A U.S. Cavalry patrol poses in front of the General Sherman tree in Yosemite National Park in 1913, the last year of the Army's service in the park.

Courtesy NPS.gov

demands in supplying their long-favored frontier firepower.

Gunleather and other accessories, like engraving, keep Western artisans at their workbenches, whether to personalize a firearm with a name or other personal motif, or create elaborate decorations like those seen on the hardware of yesteryear. When it comes to packing iron, whether you favor authentic 19th-century-style holsters and cartridge belts, or go for a more stylized look to house your six-shooters, today's market offers a multitude of commercially produced and custom handcrafted gunleather to suit the tastes of any modern-day Westerner.

True West's annual "Best of the West" list once again represents the most favored selections of firearms and gun-related offerings. Selected by both the editors and our readers, each group is



A major role of the U.S. Cavalry in Yellowstone beginning in 1886 (14 years after the national park was created) was to protect the fragile geologic sites and the endangered wildlife in the park. In 1894, Army troopers posed with heads of bison they captured from notorious poacher Edgar Howell.

Courtesy NPS.gov

made up of people who know their subject and appreciate the time and talent that goes into bringing these guns and other products to you, the shooter and firearms fancier. ✦

Phil Spangenberg has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West's* Firearms Editor.

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OldWestReproductions.com

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



Old West Reproductions
l.-r: The Border (full rig), The Territory, The Border, Slim Jim (top)

Courtesy Old West Reproductions



BEST FIREARMS ENGRAVER

Jim Downing, The Gun Engraver, Springfield, MO

Having cut his first gun in 1988, Jim Downing has since built an international reputation for his excellence in hand-engraving of firearms and edged weapons. While he's mastered a variety of styles, his forte is that of the late 19th century, recreating the looks of yesteryear.

TheGunEngraver.com

READERS' CHOICE: Turnbull Restoration, Bloomfield, NY



Uberti USA
Cattleman El Patron

Courtesy Uberti USA

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or stainless steel frames, steel back straps and trigger guards and are tested and certified for fit and function. It's a frontier classic.
Uberti-USA.com

READERS' CHOICE: Taylor's & Company
 Smoke Wagon, Winchester, VA

Uberti SAA hand-engraved by Jim Downing
 Courtesy Jim Downing, The Gun Engraver



Cimarron Firearms
 1866 Yellowboy Trapper
 Courtesy Cimarron Firearms

BEST COWBOY ACTION RIFLE
Cimarron Firearms 1866 Yellowboy Trapper, Fredericksburg, TX

A frontier favorite, the bright yellow brass receiver '66 was the first true cowboy lever-action. Cimarron's .38 Special caliber, straight-gripped 16-inch-barreled Trapper holds 10+1 rounds and weighs just 7.06 pounds. Handy and lightweight—a really easy-to-handle beauty!
Cimarron-Firearms.com

READERS' CHOICE: Winchester
 Repeating Arms Model 1873, Morgan, UT

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Courtesy Heroes & Patriots

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EMF Company Hartford SXS Shotgun, Santa Ana, CA

This Old West, 12-gauge scattergun looks like it's ready to hand up to the stagecoach's shotgun guard, with its classic external sidehammers, pistol-gripped stock, 20-inch twin blued barrels and schnabble fore-end. Lightweight and easy to swing onto targets, here's a working smoothbore for Cowboy Action shooters.

EMF-Company.com

READERS' CHOICE: Cimarron Firearms Doc Holliday Shotgun, Fredericksburg, TX

BEST SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

Shiloh Sharps 1874 Saddle Rifle, Big Timber, MT

The Sharps was the first choice of the old-time buffalo hunters on the frontier, and Shiloh Sharps continues that tradition of top-quality arms. Like all of Shiloh's guns, their 26-inch, octagon-barreled, .30-40 Krag Saddle Rifle is a modern-day favorite with hunters and target shooters

ShilohRifle.com

READERS' CHOICE: Uberti Springfield Trapdoor Rifle & Carbine, Pocomoke, MD



Shiloh Sharps 1874 Saddle Rifle
Courtesy Shiloh Sharps



BEST COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE

Heroes & Patriots Oklahoma Land Rush Commemorative, Fort Collins, CO

Using a .22LR Henry Golden Boy, Heroes & Patriots had it sandblasted, then dipped in copper and nickel, then finished in 24-karat gold. Artwork includes a laser-engraved walnut stock, and metal parts with laser-engrave historic scenes depicting the famed Oklahoma Land Rush.

HeroesAndPatriotsLLC.com

READERS' CHOICE: Henry Military Service Tribute 2nd Edition Rifle, Bayonne, NJ



Frontiersman John Johnston was famous for his Hawken, a .56-caliber rifle weighing 12-plus pounds with a 31-inch-long octagonal barrel.

Courtesy Cody Firearms Museum, BBCW, Gift of F.W. Roebling, III, 2000.14.1

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TheHawkenShop.com

READERS' CHOICE: Dixie Gun Works Dixie Pietta 1851 Brass Frame Navy Revolver Kit, Union City, TN

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

www.ConcordiaCemetery.com, www.Facebook/ConcordiaCemetery

Don't miss Dia De Los Muertos; Day of the Dead, November 6, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours, shrines, exhibits and more.

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



BY SHERRY MONAHAN

OYSTERS AND CHAMPAGNE RING IN THE NEW YEAR

The tradition has been enjoyed across the West for more than 150 years.



German immigrant Jacob Schram founded Schramsberg Vineyards on Diamond Mountain near St. Helena in Napa Valley, California, in 1862. In 1870, Schram added the first caves in Napa Valley for wine-aging and storage. His family vineyard was known internationally for its quality and vintages.

Credit Schramsberg Vineyards

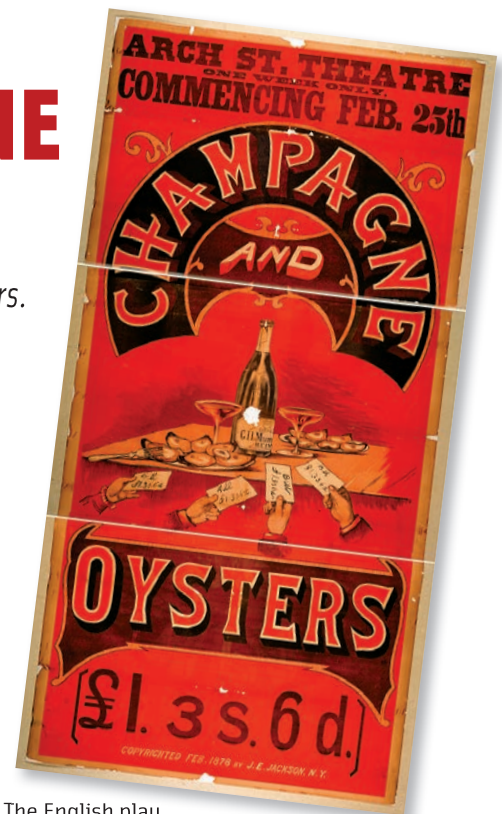
Champagne and oysters went hand in hand when pioneers issued in the new year on the frontier. The *Perkins County Herald-Sentinel* in Grant, Nebraska, was one of many newspapers that advertised dances and oyster suppers available in their cities. Oysters were the trendy food in America during the 19th century. They were largely imported from the East Coast, but some came from Mexico and the West Coast.

Merchants advertised, "Headquarters for oysters," "Bulk oysters," "Oysters! Oysters!! Oyster!!! The best, the freshest, and the cheapest..." Oysters were used by the ladies in Helena, Montana, who held a holiday fair in 1875 to raise funds for the Catholic church. The event was held at the International Hall on Broadway where a variety of items were offered. They advertised, "Refreshments, including oysters in every style, will be served at all hours. A grand dinner will be served on Christmas and New Year's."

Champagne, of course, can only come from France, but California was well on its way to

creating some tasty sparkling wines. However, 19th-century California winemakers, mostly from Europe, referred to all sparkling wines as Champagnes. Schramsberg, Cooks and Korbel were and still are made in California and were wildly popular and well-known. French brands included Due de Montebello, Perrier Jouet, Louis Roederer and DeMontigny, and they averaged about \$30 per bottle in 1887. Compare that to a miner's salary which was about \$4 per day!

Kansas City, Missouri, celebrated the arrival of 1891 in high style with parties, theater events and a wicked snowstorm. One local paper reported, "The snow commenced...a blustering wind arose, and the thermometer dropped a few notches below freezing." Despite the weather, the manager of the Western Sash and Door Company threw a banquet for associates and employees. The menu included oysters in cream, ham with champagne sauce, lobster salad, Saratoga chips, champagne punch,



The English play *Champagne and Oysters* debuted in London in 1878 and was shortly on tour across the United States to mixed reviews. It is not known if the farcical comedy directly influenced the rise in popularity of the culinary pairing, but it does suggest the producers knew audiences would be titillated by its title.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Roman punch, angel food cake, ladyfingers, bananas, oranges and nuts.

San Francisco was a bustling city by 1892, and its residents celebrated New Year's Day in style. Dining out at the luxurious Palace Hotel was a special treat that not everyone could afford. But those who could were pampered. The extensive menu included over one hundred wines, liquors, liqueurs and more. Champagne offerings included Perrier Jouet, Moët & Chandon, Monopole, Jules Mumm, Veuve Clicquot and L. Roederer. Dinner began with clams and oysters, followed by green turtle consommé and puree of goose soup. Hors d'oeuvres included radishes, olives and celery. The fish course included trout and fillet of sole served with duchess potatoes. Following that was a course of Virginia ham braise with Champagne sauce. For the main entrees, diners could choose from spring chicken, filet mignon, lamb steak and mallard duck. Assorted vegetables included asparagus on toast, artichokes with hollandaise sauce,

WESTERN FARE

mashed potatoes, squash, boiled rice, French peas, French string beans and baked sweet potatoes. Roman punch was served next to cleanse the palate before the next course of cold meats, which included beef, chicken, turkey, goose, lamb, veal and mutton. As if that wasn't enough already, patrons needed to loosen their waistbands because the roast course was next. It included prime ribs of beef, teal duck, mallard duck, lamb, goose, stuffed turkey, fresh pork, veal and domestic duck. The salad course followed this and included lobster, doucette and romaine. If anyone had room for dessert, they could choose from English plum pudding with rum or hard sauce, apricot and pear tartlets, mince, apple, and pumpkin pies and coconut cream sandwiches. The meal ended with ices that included orange water, strawberry and pistachio ice cream.

The *Omaha Daily Bee* in Nebraska suggested some champagne-themed items to serve for the New Year, including champagne punch and a cheese spread (recipe below). The punch included half cup of lemon juice, a pound of sugar, two quarts of water, a quart of sherry, two quarts of Moselle white wine, a glass each of maraschino, curacao, chartreuse, two glasses of Benedictine, a pint of brandy and four quarts of champagne.



CHAMPAGNE BLUE CHEESE SPREAD

1 tablespoon butter, softened
1 cup blue cheese, or to taste
Dash cayenne pepper, or to taste
Dry champagne, enough to moisten

Place the butter, cheese and pepper into a bowl and blend with a fork. Stir in enough champagne to moisten the mixture so it will spread onto crackers. Serve with champagne.



Recipe adapted from *The Omaha Daily Bee*, December 30, 1898.

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.



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WESTERN FARE



Cooks make a meal at the cook tent on the Hayden U.S. Geological Survey at Ogden, Weber County, Utah, 1871.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

BEST HISTORIC SALOON OF THE WEST

Miners & Stockman's Steakhouse & Spirits, Hartville, WY

Open year round, Thursday through Sunday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Miners & Stockman's Steakhouse & Spirits has the oldest bar in Wyoming and is famous for its steaks and whiskey selection. Its Brunswick bar was made in Germany in 1862 and was originally used in the Fort Laramie Officer's Club. Miners first settled the area in the 1870s, and the town was founded in 1884.

WyomingsOldestBar.com

READERS' CHOICE: Big Nose Kate's, Tombstone, AZ

BEST HISTORIC RESTAURANT

The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Prescott, AZ

The Palace's swinging doors have been open on Montezuma Street, better known as Whiskey Row, in Prescott since at least 1877. Famously rebuilt in 1901 around its 1880s Brunswick bar—which was carried across to the Courthouse Plaza during the Prescott fire of 1900—the Palace is Arizona's oldest operating saloon. In 1996, the Palace permanently added a restaurant, which is well-known for its cowboy cuisine Old West dining atmosphere and 19th-century frontier reenactors.

WhiskeyRowPalace.com

READERS' CHOICE: Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO

**BEST CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFF****Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium,
Ruidoso Downs, NM**

Founded by legendary New Mexico cowboy singer Ray Reed in 1990, the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium has grown from its humble roots in Glencoe, New Mexico, to one of the biggest annual festivals celebrating the cowboy way of life. Held at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino every October, the three days offer visitors world-class cowboy music, a championship chuckwagon cook-off, events for the whole family and a Western Expo with over 110 vendors.

*CowboySymposium.com***READERS' CHOICE: Wild West Fest,
Andrews, TX****BEST CHUCKWAGON SHOW
& SUPPER****Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show,
Rapid City, SD**

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

*MountRushmoreTours.com***READERS' CHOICE: Chuck Wagon
Festival, National Cowboy Museum,
Oklahoma City, OK**

"Potato John" flipped pancakes in camp in Colorado in 1874. It is believed Jackson used a trick in the darkroom to create the "pancake," as his camera would have been too slow to show Potato John actually flipping a pancake.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



William Henry Jackson chronicled life on the Hayden Survey from the wondrous to the mundane, including himself (right) at camp in 1873 with (l.-r.) J.M. Coulter, Lt. Carpenter, a packer, unidentified man with string of trout and the cook of the party.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

WESTERN
PRESERVATION

BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE

Awards are already piling up.

I get to write about winners. Risk-takers. Visionaries. Bullheaded folks who have a passion and hold on tight.

Each January, I get to look back at my “Old West Savior” columns and pick the one I loved most.

It’s a special treat when that column is about my colleagues—about one of the most exciting projects I’ve ever encountered.

They call it *Packing the West*, and it’s about to change the minds about “boring history” for Western schoolchildren.

As I noted in the original in February of 2021: “Today’s students not only don’t know their history, they don’t care. They find it boring. Some think that Lewis and Clark are guys that Taylor Swift dated.”

The Western Writers of America wised up to that some five years ago, when they started planning a new way to teach history: by

recreating authentic scenes from the lives of notable men and women; by trunks filled with “cool things;” with scripts that reveal how these people lived and thrived and suffered and died.

“We want to at least expose young people to history, and combine history with reading and writing because we think they are the core of life,” explained Candy Moulton, executive director of WWA and a writer for *True West*.

The project was swimming right along when Covid hit in 2020 and classrooms were shut down. Working with WWA Board President Chris Enss, Moulton just pivoted to create digital presentations.

They produced four 30-minute films that year when almost everything else stopped in America. Everyone expected things to be back to normal by 2021, but sadly, Covid didn’t go away. But Moulton and Enss did two more films.

“We’re also developing the curriculum for teachers, and our trunk program is ready to go,” Moulton said in a recent interview. “Chris has taken the project to teacher conferences, and we find teachers are very enthused.”

So are those who know what quality education is all about. Already, the project has won two major awards: First in technology by the Mountains and Plains Museum Association, and the Gold Award for digital education by the Southwestern Museum Conference.

They’re also developing a website that should be online very soon and they hope to actually get into the classrooms with those “cool” trunks this year.

“We’re looking for partnerships with museums,” Moulton notes, stressing that they try to film at historical locations.

Like how they told the story of William Bent,



California gold miner Louise Clappe shows four student actors how to use a rocker box to mine for gold during filming of *Packing the West* near Encampment, Wyoming.



Filming for the *Packing the West* story of William Bent, Bent's Old Fort and its role in the commerce of the Santa Fe Trail took place at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, which is an exact replica of the original post, bringing a measure of authenticity to the project.

All photos courtesy of Western Writers of America

who in the 1830s and '40s built the largest building on American soil between St. Louis and the Pacific Ocean—Bent's Old Fort along the Santa Fe Trail that became a major trading post. It's been restored and now is a National Historic Site. "It felt like we were right there in time and place," Moulton remembers.

I'm betting she's right that kids are going to eat this stuff up!

To help, contact Candy Moulton at: www.moulton@gmail.com.



Jana Bombersbach 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*.

The cast and crew for the historical segment of *Packing the West* about Nat Love and the Western cattle trails gathered at the chuckwagon for a group photo after filming the reenactment beside the Arkansas River near La Junta, Colorado.





WESTERN PRESERVATION



BEST PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC WESTERN BUILDING

**Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum,
Pawnee, OK**

Wild West entertainer Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie once called the 500-acre ranch his home. Today, the fully furnished circa 1910 14-room mansion is completely decorated with Lillie family photographs, artwork and memorabilia. Tour the museum's exhibits and learn about Pawnee Bill, his popular Wild West shows and the Pawnee tribe. During the second weekend in June, the ranch hosts Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show. Visitors enjoy the drive-through exhibit pasture, where longhorns, bison and draft horses are on exhibit.

OKHistory.org

READERS' CHOICE: Fort Smith National Historic Site (Hanging Judge Parker's Courthouse), Fort Smith, AR

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

**Santa Fe National Historic Trail,
CO, KS, MO, NM, OK**

The bicentennial commemoration of the Santa Fe Trail began in 2020 and continues in 2022. The international highway between the United States and the state of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico changed North American history and began American citizens' settlement in the far Southwest. Today, travelers can enjoy revisiting the historic highway from western Missouri to New Mexico, with trail markers, civic centers, main streets, museums and historic sites marking the way for exploration and education about the trail's significance. The Santa Fe Trail Association (*SantaFeTrail.org*) has events planned in communities along the historic trail throughout 2022.

NPS.gov

READERS' CHOICE: California National Historic Trail, MO, KS, NE, WY, ID, UT, NV, CA

This photo of Crater Lake from Mount Scott was taken a year before President Theodore Roosevelt designated the natural wonder in Oregon a national park.

All Images Courtesy USGS

BEST PRESERVATION EFFORT OF THE WEST

**Jesse James Farm & Museum,
Kearney, MO**

Until 1978, the James Farm was owned by descendants of the famed outlaw, Jesse James. Today, the historic site in Kearney, Missouri, is a Clay County Museum dedicated to the James Family, the history of the region, the Border War and the Jesse and Frank James years as outlaws. The visitors center and museum are in the restored 19th-century family home.

JesseJames.org

READERS' CHOICE: Fort Larned, KS

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LET'S RIDE

Photo: © Craig W. Cutler Fine Art





WESTERN PRESERVATION



BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY OF THE WEST

Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

El Paso's historic Concordia Cemetery is home to 60,000 beloved—and not so beloved—souls, including the notorious gunslinger John Wesley Hardin. Walk the grounds and remember the heroes, heroines and common folk who rest eternally in Concordia—Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Rangers, Civil War veterans, early Mormon pioneers and some local legends.

ConcordiaCemetery.org

READERS' CHOICE: Boot Hill Museum/
Boot Hill Cemetery, Dodge City, KS

BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST

Fort Laramie National Historic Site, WY

Originally established as a private fur-trading fort in 1834, Fort Laramie evolved into the largest and best-known military post on the Northern Plains before its abandonment in 1890. This “grand old post” witnessed the entire sweeping saga of America's Western expansion and Indian resistance to encroachment on their territories. Today, visitors to Fort Laramie National Historic Site will experience a living history center with expert ranger- and docent-led tours, a great collection of restored and

Balcony House, shown here in 1911, is one of the treasured cliff dwellings permanently protected when President William H. Taft created Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado in 1906.

well-maintained 19th-century Army buildings and popular living history events during the summer months, including a frontier-style Fourth of July.

NPS.gov

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Fort Concho, TX/
Fort Davis, TX



BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN

St. Joseph, MO

Known best as the trailhead for the Pony Express, St. Joseph's historic district will inspire the imagination and remind visitors of the importance to Western history of Missouri's frontier towns. Begin tours of historic St. Joseph at the Pony Express Museum, followed by a visit to the extraordinary St. Joseph Museum, with its extensive displays on the culture and history of the region, including American Indian and Civil War exhibitions. Also, don't miss the Patee House Museum and Jesse James Home, Robidoux Row Museum and Pony Express Monument.

StJoMo.com

READERS' CHOICE: Wallace, ID

BEST MUSEUM ADDITION

Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, KS

Boot Hill Museum just completed a 13,000-square-foot \$6 million expansion that has nine new permanent exhibits highlighting Plains Indians, the Santa Fe Trail, buffalo hunting, railroad expansion, the Western Cattle Trail and Dodge City's Front Street. Wall portraits of notable Dodge City residents including George Hoover, Dora Hand and a Harvey Girl come to life and talk to guests. The Spirit of Dodge engages guests in a conversation between Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Chalkley Beeson and Mayor A.B. Webster. Youngsters have always loved the rumble floor in the buffalo stampede, and the new museum immerses visitors in the massive herds on the open prairie. The Spirit of Dodge highlights the city's founding fathers and includes personal artifacts. The museum's popular Front Street Replica remained untouched in the expansion.

Boothill.org

READERS' CHOICE: Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco, TX



Canyon de Chelly on the Navajo Nation in Arizona is one of a few national monuments co-managed by the U.S. government and local tribal authorities. President Franklin D. Roosevelt protected the spectacular landscape and sacred canyons as a monument in 1934.



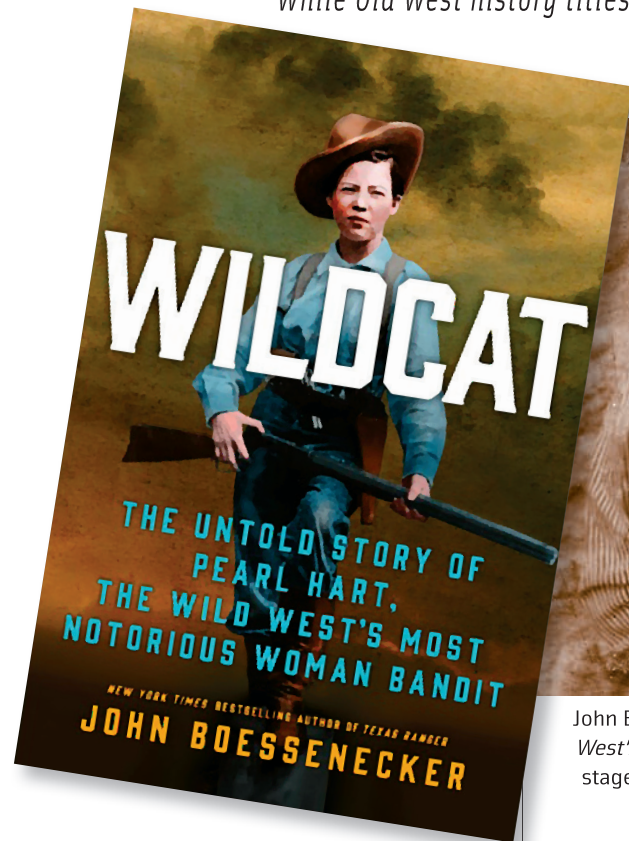
In southwestern Utah, the Three Patriarchs loom over Zion National Park, which was brought into the park system in 1919 during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson.



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

WESTERN
BOOKS

THE WESTERN HANGS ON

While Old West history titles wane, classic Western fiction continues to sell.

John Boessenecker's latest book, *Wildcat: The Untold Story of Pearl Hart, the Wild West's Most Notorious Woman Bandit*, reveals the true story of Pearl Hart and her stage robbing partner Joe Boot, and how they both ended up in Yuma's notorious Arizona Territorial Prison. Read an excerpt from *Wildcat* on page 38.

Pearl Hart Image, True West Archives/Joe Boot Image Courtesy John Boessenecker

The canary in the coal mine of Old West history publishing is the waning number of Old West titles published annually by university publishers. I wish I had better news to report on this matter, but the time has come when most major academic houses are publishing fewer than 10 new traditional 19th-century titles a year. This may be the perfect time for an entrepreneur, or a set of small houses based in the West, to combine forces and take a lead in partnership with the Wild West History Association to start a new Western history imprint.

In Western fiction, three companies are responsible for its current vitality in trade, mass market and even in hardcover: Five Star,

Kensington/Pinnacle and Wolfpack. I encourage our readers who love Western fiction to support them as much as possible, because without them, new classic Western titles would more or less be available from just a handful of other presses. One bright new start in Western fiction is TwoDot, while some of the university presses, including Bison Books, also have expanded into Western fiction.

But what about the state of Western fiction publishing in New York, once the center of all great American fiction publishing? I am not sure if even Larry McMurry or Elmore Leonard could get a contract from a major New York fiction house in 2022. It may be the end of the road for the literary Western novel in New York. We shall

have to see what Forge has planned in 2022, but Westerns are not even listed as a category on its website.

My recommendations about the state of Old West history publishing: first and foremost, keep buying Old West history titles. Second, let the university publishers you have supported for years know your displeasure about their lack of nonfiction titles about the 19th-century West. Third, get involved in your local and state historical societies, attend book signings and book fairs and keep buying Western history, biography and fiction. Just remember, without your support and interest, publishers will continue to marginalize the Old West history genre out of the marketplace entirely. ❏



WESTERN HISTORY

BEST AUTHOR AND HISTORICAL NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

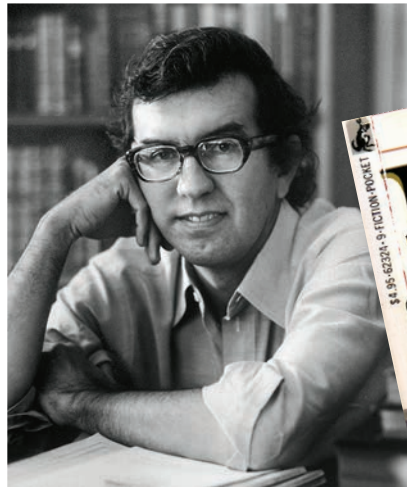
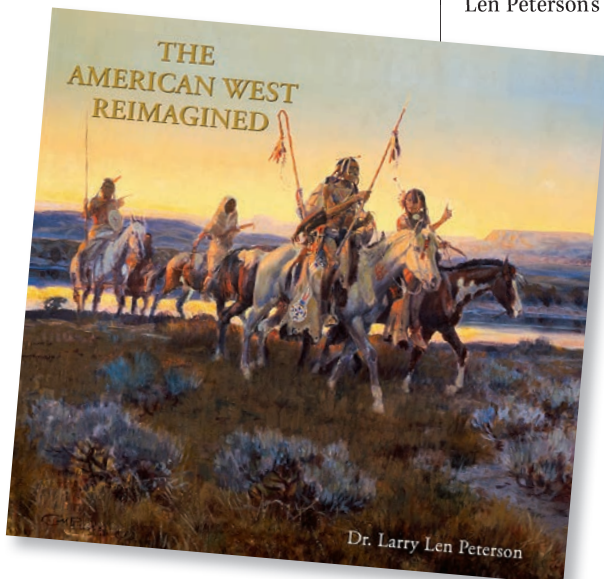
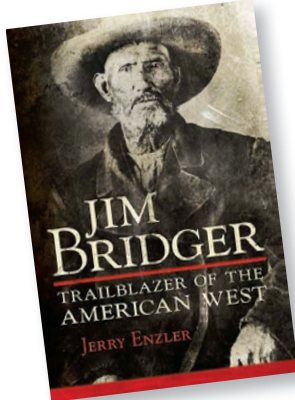
John Boessenecker and *Wildcat: The Untold Story of Pearl Hart, the Wild West's Most Notorious Woman Bandit* (Hanover Square Press)

For five decades the San Francisco-based historian has been a leader in his field, and *Wildcat* has set a new standard for biography and Western women's history. (See page 38 for an excerpt.)

As Boessenecker states so eloquently in his introduction to *Wildcat*: "Pearl Hart was woman far ahead of her time. She was self-reliant, adventurous, unconstrained by convention, and sexually liberated. Those attributes were extremely rare for a women in the nineteenth century."

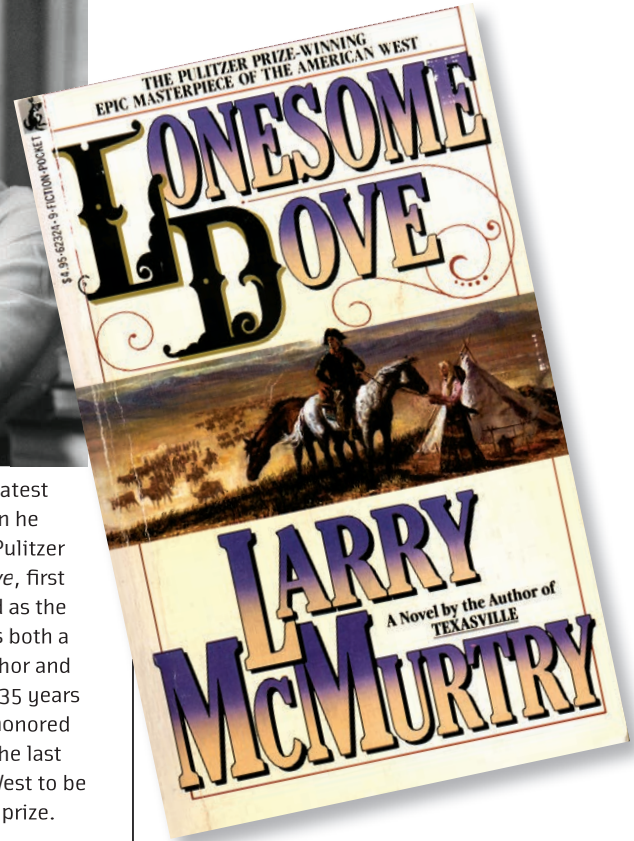
HanoverSquarePress.com

READERS' CHOICE: Jerry Enzler and Jim Bridger: Trailblazer of the American West (University of Oklahoma Press)



Larry McMurtry was the greatest living Western author when he died on March 25, 2021. His Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*, first published in 1985, is honored as the best work of fiction in 2021 as both a tribute to his legacy as an author and as a testament to the fact that 35 years after the Pulitzer committee honored *Lonesome Dove*, it remains the last novel set in the 19th-century West to be awarded the coveted fiction prize.

True West Archives



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WESTERN ART

The American West Reimagined: Gems from the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction (The Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, Sweetgrass Books, an imprint of Farcountry Press)

A masterpiece on Western art, history and culture, this highly collectable coffee-table book includes 560 color illustrations and profiles of 120 artists in what many will consider Dr. Larry Len Peterson's greatest book to date. As he notes in the book's preface and acknowledgments: "The goal of this publication is to open the aperture on Western American art—its traditions, history and legacy. May the eyes of your heart be enlightened."

FarcountryPress.com

WESTERN FICTION

In 2021, traditional Western fiction houses—Five Star of Waterville, Maine; Wolfpack Publishing of Las Vegas, Nevada; and Pinnacle of New York, New York—kept Western fans reading and listening all year. Across the board, the 20th-century and contemporary Western mystery genre is still the leader in Western fiction, but select university publishers—Nebraska, TCU, Oklahoma, New Mexico—and traditional history imprints, including Two Dot, continue to—or have started to—publish Old West fiction.

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST AND NOVEL

Larry McMurtry and *Lonesome Dove: A Novel* (Simon & Schuster, 1985)

In honor of the passing of Larry McMurtry on March 25, 2021, we've chosen the Texas-born author and his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove* as the best historical Western novelist and novel of the year. While there were dozens if not hundreds of traditional Western novels published in 2021, none can be judged in the same class and category of prose as McMurtry's greatest work of fiction, nor are the authors currently writing about the West at his level.



WESTERN BOOKS

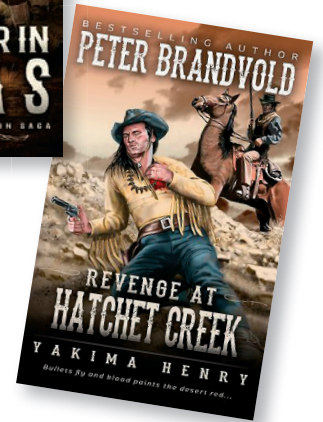
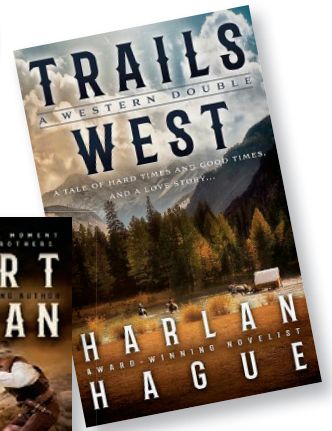
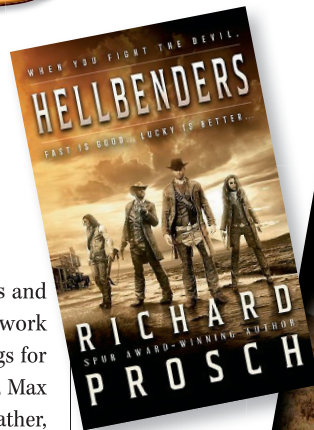
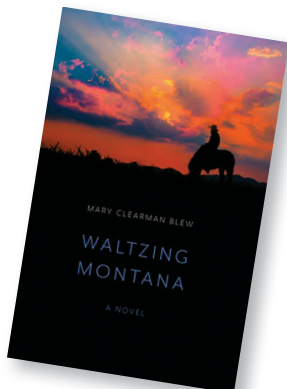
My hope is that New York publishers and their agents will once again begin to work together and find room in their catalogs for literary Western authors like McMurtry, Max Evans, Jim Harrison, J.P.S. Brown, Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz, Ivan Doig, Wallace Stegner and Dorothy Johnson, to name just a few.

Enjoy a short passage of McMurtry's prose from *Lonesome Dove's* Chapter 46:

Sitting on the low bluff, watching the moon climb the dark sky, he felt the old sadness again. He felt, almost, that he didn't belong with the very men he was leading, and that he ought to just leave: ride west, let the herd go, let Montana go, be done with the whole business of leading men. It was peculiar to seem so infallible in their eyes and yet feel so empty and sad when he thought of himself.

Call could faintly hear the Irishman still singing to the cattle. Once more the bull lowed. He wondered if all men felt such disappointment when thinking of themselves. He didn't know. Maybe most men didn't think of themselves.

READERS' CHOICE: Mary Clearman Blew *Waltzing Montana* (University of Nebraska)



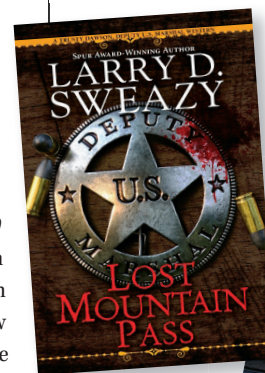
BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

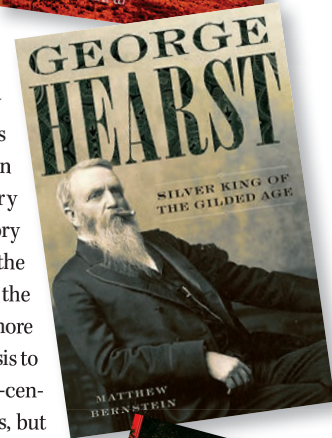
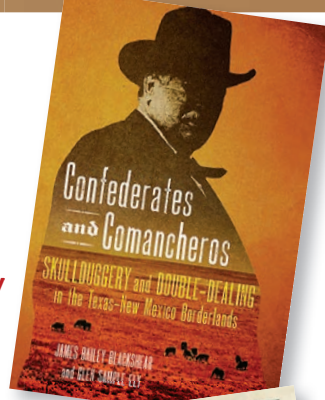
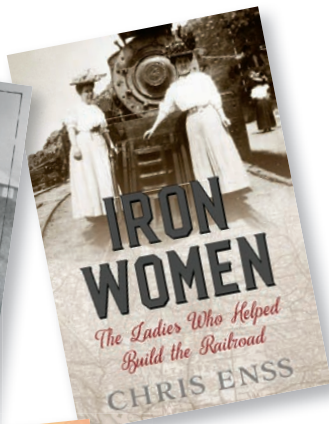
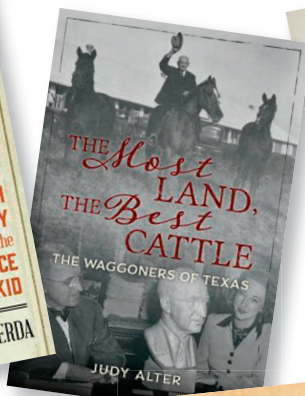
Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV

In less than 10 years, Wolfpack Publishing has positioned itself in the forefront of Western fiction publishing with a hybrid combination of new authors, fan-favorite writers and backlists, all published in a hybrid model of e-books and trade paperbacks. The Las Vegas-based imprint was founded by veteran author Larry Martin and marketing expert Mike Bray, and the Western genre accounts for more than 60 percent of its catalog. According to Bray, "2021 was another big year for Wolfpack. In addition to recognition from *True West*, Wolfpack made *Publishers Weekly's* list of fastest growing publishers and the *Inc. 5000* list of fastest growing private companies in the U.S. Wolfpack author Preston Lewis won Gold and Silver Will Rogers Medallions. A few of the new Western authors to join the Wolfpack stable include, James Reasoner, W. Michael and Kathleen Gear, Harlan Hague, Win Blevins, Gordon D. Shirreffs, Don Coldsmith, Nelson Nye and Jack Ballas."

WolfpackPublishing.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Pinnacle Books, New York, NY / Five Star Books, Watertown, ME





WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHING

What is the future of Western history publishing, especially for 19th-century history and biography?

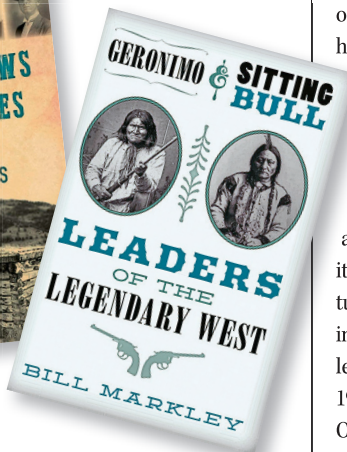
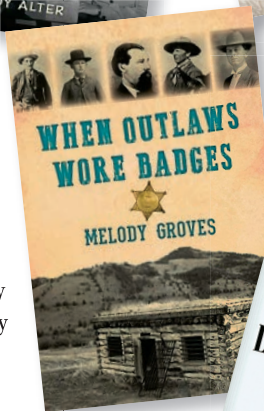
The future is difficult to quantify.

The major university publishers have definitely reduced their annual titles in the genres.

The good news is that TwoDot, Arcadia/HistoryPress, Farcountry, Caxton Press, Montana Historical Society, South Dakota Historical Society, Mountain Press and Sunbelt Publications continue to regularly publish Old West history.

Want to stay up on trends and changes in academic publishing? Subscribe to university catalogs to take the pulse on trends in the publishing of these genres.

Looking back at 2021, the commercial publishers of Western history, especially TwoDot and Arcadia/HistoryPress, led all competitors, and we must be mindful that if these two imprints wane, there will be a large void left in the marketplace for aficionados of the Old West.



BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER

TwoDot, Lanham, MD

In the shifting sands of Western history publishing, readers can count on fewer and fewer titles of Old West history from major New York publishers. TwoDot, a Globe Pequot imprint under the umbrella of Rowman & Littlefield, has emerged as the go-to popular press for Western history authors in recent years, and it appears it will be that way in 2022.

TwoDotBooks.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Arcadia / The History Press, SC / Farcountry Press, Helena, MT

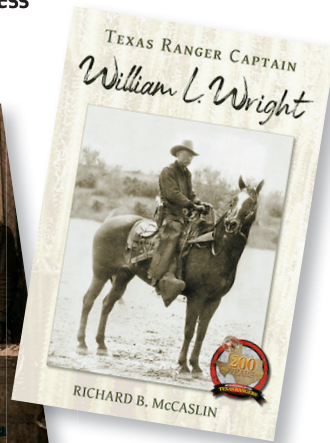
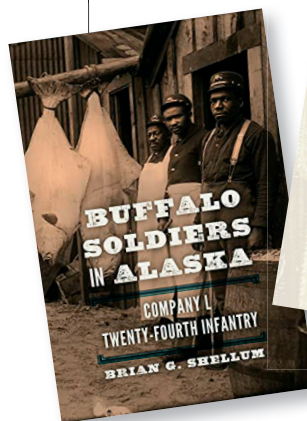
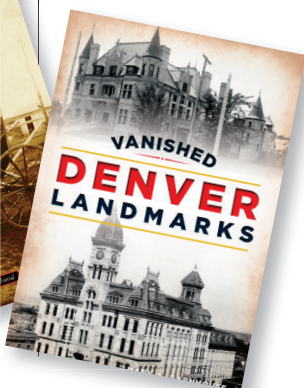
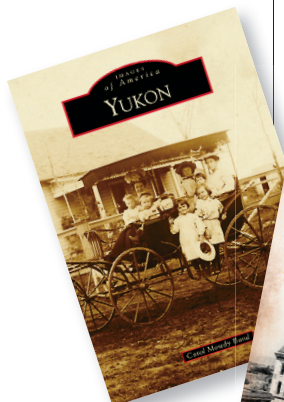
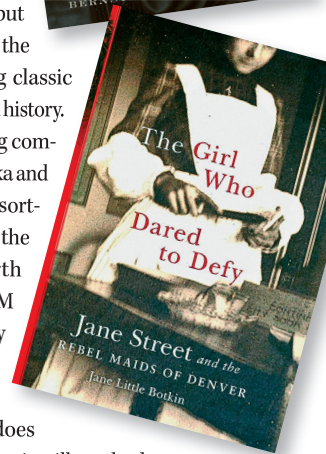
BEST UNIVERSITY PRESS

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK

The University of Oklahoma Press has been a leader in 19th-century Western history since 1929. In the past few years, the press has given more and more emphasis to its 20th- and 21st-century Western titles, but in 2021 they were still the leader in publishing classic 19th-century Western history. Oklahoma has strong competition from Nebraska and the Texas Book Consortium, which includes the University of North Texas and Texas A&M Press, but currently they are the standard bearer for the genre. We hope that this does not change in 2022, as it will not bode well for 19th-century Western historians.

OKHistory.org

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: The University of Nebraska Press / The University of North Texas Press





The late Larry McMurtry loved books and bookselling as much as he loved writing, and Booked Up, his hometown Archer City, Texas, bookshop keeps that legacy alive with one of the largest inventories of vintage books for sale in the Lone Star State.

Courtesy Johnny D. Boggs

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOKSELLING

Do you love a good new and used bookstore? When you travel across the West (or the world, for that matter) are you always drawn to the local bookshop for tips on the town you are visiting and its out-of-the-way historic sites and the area's best restaurants and inns? If so, don't stop doing that, and make a point of supporting local bookstores wherever you live and travel.

As a former employee of Dutton's Bookstore in North Hollywood, California, I can tell you that there remains a community void across Los Angeles where Dutton's shops once welcomed bibliophiles. This is true across the West where many of our favorite little booksellers once operated. In my travels in 2021, the best little, out-of-the-way bookstore I visited and recommend is proprietor Michael Sykes' Floating Island Books in Cedarville, California. Across the street from the Hungry Hearth (well worth stopping in for a homestyle meal), the store is in a historic building at the four-way-stop crossroads of State Highway 299 and Modoc County Road 1.

If my love of books means I will drive out of my way in search of a good bookshop experience, I am guilty as charged. My recommendation to all our readers is to continue to shop books in person as well as online because many

of the proprietors of old and new books and collectibles keep their lights on with sales through ABE Books, Amazon, eBay and their own portals. The fact that your purchase was made online or even over the phone, does not diminish your support and love of local bookshops. But just remember: the local stores are where you will meet the authors, mingle at book signings and meet like-minded readers and book collectors.

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

Booked Up, Archer City, TX

Founded by the late Larry McMurtry, Booked Up is the cornerstone of commerce in his hometown of Archer City. A bookman before a Pulitzer Prize-winner, McMurtry loved books, and his passion is displayed on every shelf at Booked Up. For anyone who loves books and the West, a pilgrimage to Booked Up should be a bucket-list activity just to experience the beauty of 150,000 to 200,000 books under one roof.

BookedUpAC.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, TX / Hooked on Books, Colorado Springs, CO

ROUGH DRAFTS



Photo by Robert Ray

As *True West's* book review editor, I am the fortunate recipient of hundreds of books and notices of new publications annually.

I applaud the Old West historians and novelists who remain determined to publish their latest research and novels by whatever publishing medium they choose. My hope is that in 2022 and beyond we will enjoy a renaissance in 19th-century Western American history and novel writing.

Here are 10 books I received this year—in addition to the titles specifically mentioned in Best of the West categories—that I believe represent the spirit of Western writing today and I hope to see more of in 2022.

Blood and Gold: The Legend of Joaquin Murrietta by Jeffrey J. Mariotte and Peter Murieta (Sundown Press)

The Ghost Rifle by Max McCoy (Pinnacle)

Hellbenders: A Traditional Western Novel by Richard Prosch (Wolfpack)

John B. Denton: The Bigger-Than-Life Story of the Fighting Parson and Texas Ranger by Mike Cochran (University of North Texas Press)

Rio Bonito: Three Rivers Trilogy—Book Two by Preston Lewis (FiveStar)

Standoff at High Noon: Another Battle Over the Truth in the Mythic Wild West by Bill Markley and Kellen Cutsforth (TwoDot)

Time in the Wilderness: The Formative Years of John "Black Jack" Pershing in the American West by Tim McNeese (Potomac Books)

The True Story of Notorious Arizona Outlaw Augustine Chacon by David Grasse (The History Press)

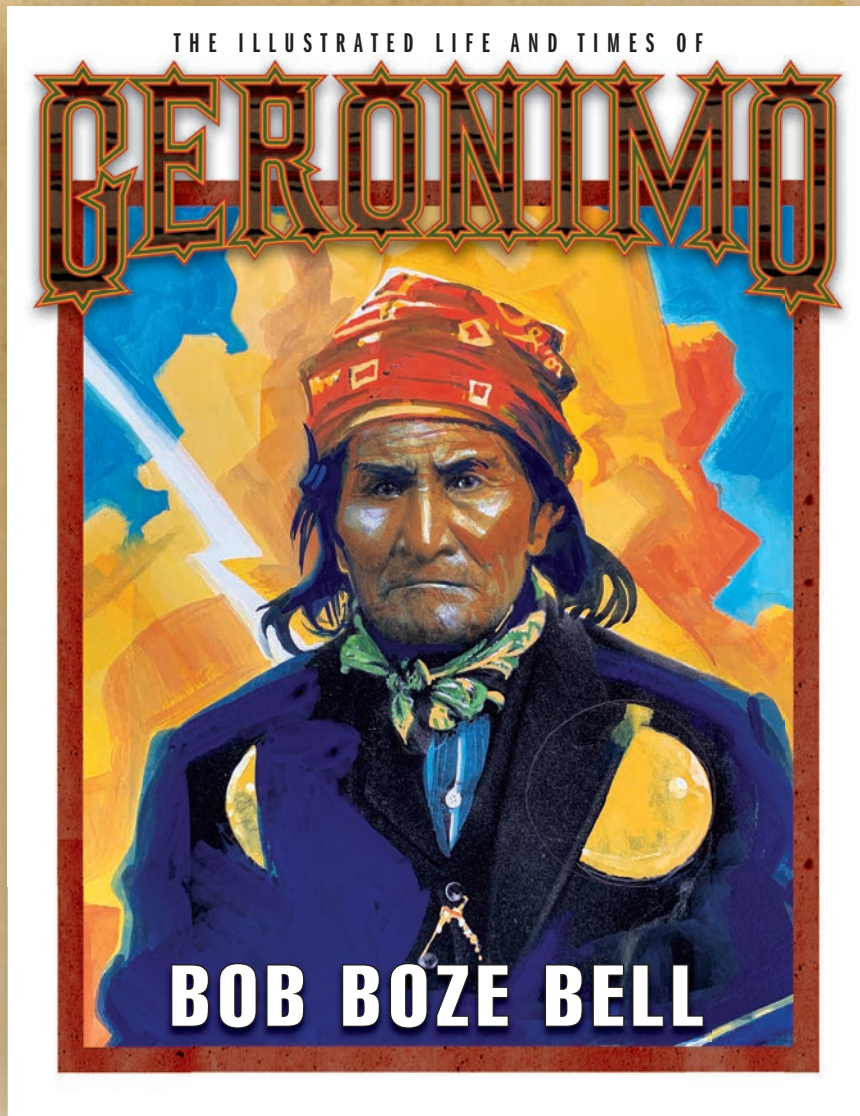
War on the Border: Villa, Pershing, the Texas Rangers, and an American Invasion by Jeff Guinn (Simon & Schuster)

When Outlaws Wore Badges by Melody Groves (TwoDot)

“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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BY HENRY C. PARKE

WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

WALL-TO-WALL WESTERNS

After a drought in the classic genre in 2020, Western productions returned with both barrels in 2021.

What a difference a year makes!

Twelve months ago, we were bemoaning the fact that while there were a number of Western-friendly major releases, there were practically no historical-period Westerns at all. This year, with little fanfare, we find ourselves surrounded with Westerns, mostly historical, with many more on the way.

After beginning the year with the wonderful *News of the World*, starring Tom Hanks as a professional news-reader trying to return a captive child to her parents, there was a gap of major releases until September. From there, they were released monthly: in *Cry Macho*, aging horse-trainer Clint Eastwood travels to Mexico to rescue a friend's son, and rethinks the rest of his own life. In *Old Henry*, farmer Tim Blake Nelson's kindness to a wounded outlaw places himself and his son in jeopardy. In *The Harder They Fall*, a film full of Black historical figures (although not full of history), when outlaw Nat Love (Jonathan Majors) learns that Rufus Buck (Idris Elba) has been freed from jail, he goes to gun him down. In *Power of the Dog*, awkward and unmanly Kodi Smit-McPhee has mixed feelings when his formerly hostile uncle, Benedict Cumberbatch, decides to take the youth under his wing. A sixth film might be added, although *Concrete Cowboy*, starring and produced by Idris Elba, is set in North Philadelphia. It tells the story of a black teen in trouble with the law, who reluctantly moves in with his father, and his subculture of ghetto cowboys. Of the group, only *Concrete Cowboy* is contemporary, and *Cry Macho* is far outside of the classical Western period, being set in 1978. The greatest unifying theme? Aside from *The Harder They Fall*, all are about father- or surrogate-father-and-child relationships. There's just no beating the appeal of *The Rifleman*.

Those are the bigger-budget films with name stars in them; Netflix spent \$90 million to make

Possibly the most anticipated Western of the year, *News of the World* was adapted from Paulette Jiles' novel of the same title, and starred Tom Hanks and Helena Zengel.

Courtesy Universal Pictures



The Harder They Fall. But Bruce Dern reminds us that while studios claim it would cost a hundred million to make a Western, "the people I know can make a Western for \$2 million." And making the rounds of film festivals, and on numerous streaming services, included or cheap, are a plethora of new Westerns—many made for considerably less than \$2 million.

Among the traditional period Westerns are *Buckskin*, *Potter's Ground*, *Honor Among Thieves*, *Lost Outlaw*, *Above Snakes*, *Niemand*, *Death Alley* and *Hang the Pale Bastard*. If you'd like a Western from a different point of view, *Monteford: The Chickasaw Rancher*, is the true story of a Chickasaw man who built a cattle empire along the Chisholm Trail. *Lady Lawman* is the true story of Francis Miller, said to be the first female deputy. *Life for Mile* is a Canadian Western about Chinese and First Nation laborers who helped build the railroads.



Tim Blake Nelson costarred with Gavin Lewis, Scott Haze and Trace Adkins in *Old Henry*, a classic Western drama.

Courtesy Shout Factory



In a tip of the hat to *Junior Bonner*, *Mackintosh & TJ* and *When the Legends Die* of the early 1970s, Clint Eastwood stars in *Cry Macho* as an aging rodeo star seeking redemption in a journey across Texas and Mexico in 1978.

Courtesy Warner Bros.

If you like your Westerns with at least one familiar actor, *Promise* stars Don Murray, *Righteous Blood* stars Michael Pere, *The Contested Plain* stars Darby Hinton and Buck Taylor, *A Town Called Parable* stars Eric Roberts, *Forgiven This Gun4hire* stars Shirley Jones, and *The Reckoning* features singer Ricky Skaggs. Foreign Westerns include the Latvian/Swedish *Wild East*; the Bavarian Western comedy *Hopfen, Malz und Blei*; the Turkish *Demir Atli Motingo*; the French *Dark West*; Australian *Witness Red Bullet*; French Canadian *Hank est en ville* and the Russian existential Spaghetti Western *Haunters of the Dark*. With *The Young Chief Winnetou*, Germany has reclaimed the creation of Eurowesterns from Italy and Spain, going back to writer Karl May, the most popular author of Westerns in the non-English-speaking world. And then there are the horror Westerns: *Death Rider in the House of Vampires*, *Skinwalker*, *Ghosts of the Ozarks*, *30 Seconds in Hell* and *Cowgirls vs. Pterodactyls*.

Of course, volume isn't everything. Writer and director Taylor Sheridan, who began with *Hell or High Water*, continued with the hugely popular *Yellowstone* series, and is following up with the period spinoff *Y:1883*, warns, "There's an appetite for any genre if you do it well. You're going to see a lot more Westerns coming out. They're shooting a bunch of them. And a lot of them aren't going to be very good, because the majority of movies aren't very good."

Modern Westerns continue to be a popular niche of the genre, and *Concrete Cowboy* took the West all the way East to the inner streets of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Courtesy Netflix



Possibly the biggest budget Western of 2021, *The Harder They Fall* starred Regina King, Idris Elba and Lakeith Stanfield.

Courtesy Netflix

Remarkably, one man is personally responsible for about half of the Westerns released this year. About six years ago, Arizona filmmaker Travis Mills started promoting his idea of making "12 Westerns in 12 Months." Despite the difficulty of production during the pandemic, he directed a dozen Westerns in 2020, and released one a month in 2021, with titles like *Bastard's Crossing*, *The Pleasant Valley War*, *New Frontier* and *She Was the Deputy's Wife*, most of them available from Amazon Prime. The shooting schedules were tight. "Some of those bigger films we shot in 20 days. *Counting Bullets* we did in 11. We were not going under 10." Covid certainly didn't help. "The main thing was limiting the amount of people you've got in a space, and asking them to quarantine beforehand. I think the biggest lesson has been that a smaller crew is more effective than a larger crew, though my 'large' crews are unimaginably small to a

Hollywood production. When you get eight, 10 people on set, it's difficult to all be on the same page, all have the same vision. When you have three or four, you can work incredibly fast. I was so in sync with the team and the cast, because it's so small, it's so intimate."

Among the notable smaller Westerns this year comes *Apache Junction* from Justin Lee, a writer/director with a knack for crafting soliloquies that Oscar-quality actors like Bruce Dern, Mira Sorvino and Wes Studi find irresistible. In it, a female reporter (Scout Taylor-Compton) comes to an outlaw town, stirring up fireworks between the likes of Stuart Townsend, Thomas Jane and Trace Adkins.

Michael Feifer directed several Westerns over the past year, including *The Last Shootout*, starring Bruce Dern; *Shooting Star*, which opens on Father's Day; and *Catch the Bullet*, which is streaming on Amazon. In *Catch the Bullet*, which



WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* prequel *Y:1883*, starring Sam Elliott (far left), is drawing comparisons to *Lonesome Dove* and is the most anticipated Old West television series since *Deadwood*.

(Courtesy Paramount+)

was shot in Buffalo, Wyoming, in some of the actual locations of the Lincoln County Wars, a deranged villain takes a lawman's son hostage in order to flush the man out. The photography, especially the use of drones, is thrilling and it's well-acted. Aside from Tom Skerrit as the lawman's father, the cast isn't familiar, but they sure can ride. Feifer explains, "All the actors are riders and wranglers first, except for the boy."

There are many new and already highly anticipated Westerns around the corner. Taylor

Sheridan's Paramount+ series *Y:1883* will tell the story of *Yellowstone's* Dutton family's ancestors, and will star Western icon Sam Elliott, along with Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Billy Bob Thornton. In Walter Hill's *Dead For a Dollar*, starring Christoph Waltz, Willem Defoe and Rachel Brosnahan, enemies meet when a famed bounty-hunter is hired to bring a stolen wife back to her husband. *Young Guns 3* will feature the return of Emilio Estevez, Lou Diamond Phillips and Christian Slater to their original

roles. And Nicolas Cage will be starring in two Westerns—*The Old Way* and *Butcher's Crossing*.

The Western on everyone's mind these past months has been *Rust*, and the tragic accidental killing of Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, and wounding of Director Joel Souza, when star Alec Baldwin fired what should have been a blank in their direction. Should this event cause a ban of working guns on Western sets? Knowledgeable opinions differ. As armorer Peter Sherayko, whose company, Caravan West, has done over a

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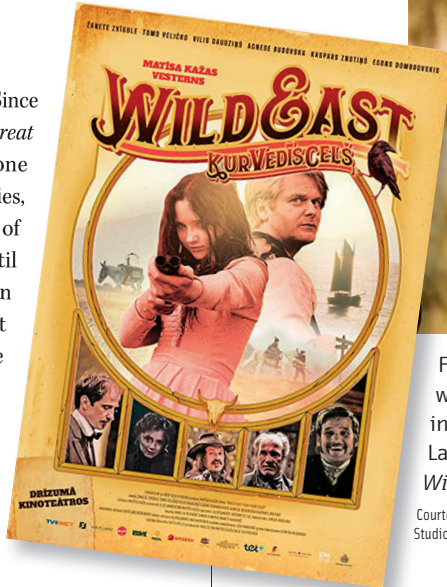
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Clint Eastwood wasn't the only nonagenarian making a Western in 2021: 92-year-old Don Murray (far right) whose first Western was *Bus Stop* in 1956, costarred with Joe Cornet (near right) in *Promise*.

Courtesy Postmark Audio Services/San Rafael Pictures



Foreign Westerns were a popular genre in 2021, including the Latvian/Swedish film, *Wild East*.

Courtesy Albolina Film/Deep Sea Studios LV/FenixFilm

everybody's ears. And at the same time, visual effects were getting better and cheaper and easier. So for the time in which I have to make my movies, it just made sense to add the smoke and the muzzle-flashes later."



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

thousand shows, sees it, "Since 1903, when they did *The Great Train Robbery*, we've done 20,000 plus Western movies, fired millions of rounds of blanks. And no one until recently was ever killed on a Western set by a gun. It has nothing to do with the operation of the guns or the blanks; it has to do with the qualifications of the people in charge. If they follow the simple rules, everyone walks out of there happy."

While Director Michael Feifer agrees that "twenty or thirty thousand Westerns have been made without an accident like this," he adds, "I've made maybe eight Westerns. The

first in 2011, *Wyatt Earp's Revenge*, was the first and last time I used blanks on a Western. It takes a lot of time to set up blanks, to warn everybody, to yell 'fire in the hole,' to cover

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WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

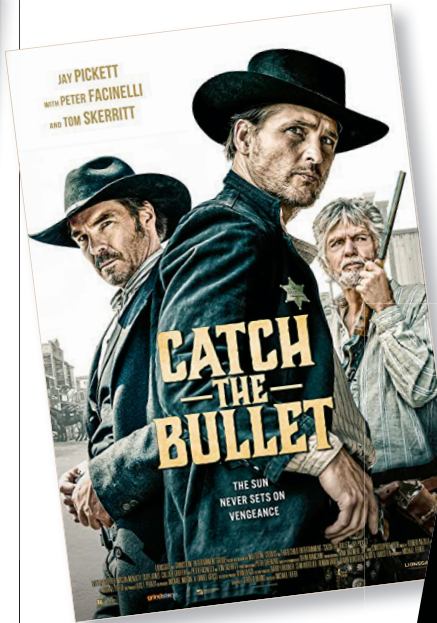


BEST 2021 WESTERN MOVIE

News of the World (Universal Pictures)

Tom Hanks struggles to return a former child captive of Indians to her German family.

READERS' CHOICE: *The Harder They Fall* (Netflix)



BEST 2021 TV WESTERN SERIES

Yellowstone (Paramount TV)

The saga of the larger-than-life Dutton family continues.

READERS' CHOICE: *Old West Chronicles* (INSP)



BEST 2021 WESTERN TO STREAM

Catch the Bullet (Lionsgate)

The classic old-fashioned Western in the spirit of John Wayne's *Big Jake* has lots of action and gunplay.

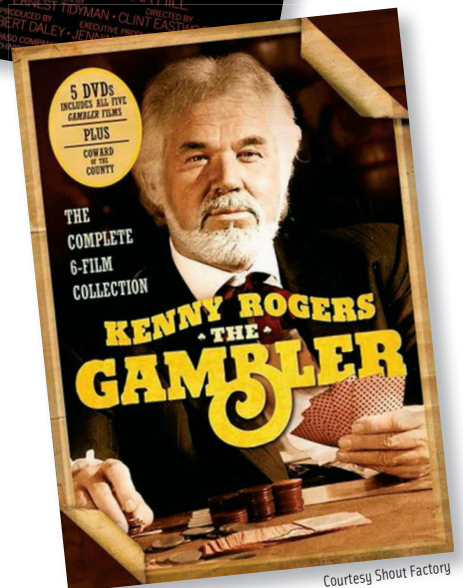
READERS' CHOICE: *Old Henry* (Shout Factory)

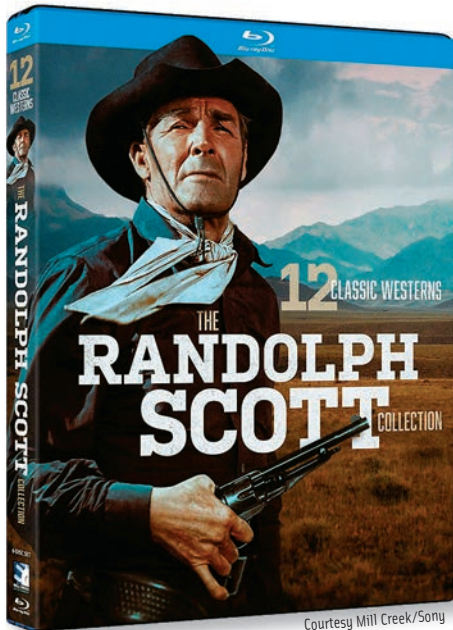
BEST 2021 BLU-RAY WESTERN MOVIE

High Plains Drifter (Kino Lorber)

Nearly 50 years before *Cry Macho*, Clint Eastwood directed his first Western, *High Plains Drifter*, by turns realistic, supernatural, allegorical and always enthralling. The Blu-ray offers numerous special features.

READERS' CHOICE: *The Gunfighter* (The Criterion Collection)





Courtesy Mill Creek/Sony

BEST 2021 WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

The Randolph Scott Collection—12 Western Films (Mill Creek)

A dozen of Randy's best.

READERS' CHOICE: *Roy Rogers: Mackintosh and T.J., Under Western Stars* (MVD Visual)

BEST 2021 TV DVD COLLECTION

The Gambler: The Complete 6-Film Collection (Shout Factory)

Kenny Rogers and Bruce Boxleitner are title character and protégé, surrounded by great supporting casts, in all five exuberant Western adventures inspired by the hit song.

READERS' CHOICE: *Rawhide: The Complete First Season* (Paramount)



Courtesy First National Pictures

BEST 2021 SILENT WESTERN

The Great Divide (1915) (Grapevine Video)

When Ethel Clayton moves out West, she spurns the doctor who followed her, wanting a rough-and-tumble Westerner—and, boy, does she get one in House Peters. It's set against the Grand Canyon.

READERS' CHOICE: *Thundering Hoofs (1924)* (Oldies.com)

BEST 2021 WESTERN DOCUMENTARY

My Heroes Were Cowboys (Netflix)

Robin Wiltshire, a lonely boy growing up in Australia, fell in love with Westerns and horses, and came to the U.S. as the genre was disappearing. He became a master trainer of horses not only for Westerns like *Django Unchained*, but for the Budweiser Clydesdales.

READERS' CHOICE: *Django & Django: Sergio Corbucci Unchained* (Nicomax Cinematografica)

BEST 2021 FOREIGN WESTERN

The Power of the Dog, New Zealand (Netflix)

Otago, New Zealand, makes a beautiful, surreal 1925 Montana, in Jane Campion's story of mismatched ranching brothers, and how one's marriage changes their lives.

READERS' CHOICE: *Gunfight at Dry River, English and Spanish* (Quiver Productions)



Courtesy Netflix



Courtesy Netflix



BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

HERITAGE TRAVEL

ADVENTURES ABOUND!

Pack your bags and head West to discover firsthand where history happened.



American bison, an iconic American West wildlife species, were nearly extinct at the turn of the 20th century before a concerted conservation effort in Yellowstone National Park was made to save them.

1905, Courtesy Library of Congress

The American West conjures romantic visions of majestic mountains, endless plains and dramatic deserts. The vistas are forever, and the experiences are wildly adventurous, a place to rediscover oneself, get closer to nature at national parks, monuments and forests, and discover the cultural history of North America's Native people and the European and American settlement of the West.

The story of the settlement of the West is grand as well tragic, inspiring and also requiring

reflection. Across the Western United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, thousands of men and women are dedicated to the tourism trade, ready to welcome you to their hometown to make your travel experience the best you've ever enjoyed.

So, make your plans today for a Western adventure during which you can sleep, eat, drink and walk where history happened. At *True West*, we promise that you'll make memories that will last a lifetime! ✦

Tower Falls of Hot Spring Creek are among Yellowstone National Park's best-known water features. Hayden's Survey first encountered the 115-foot falls on July 24, 1871.

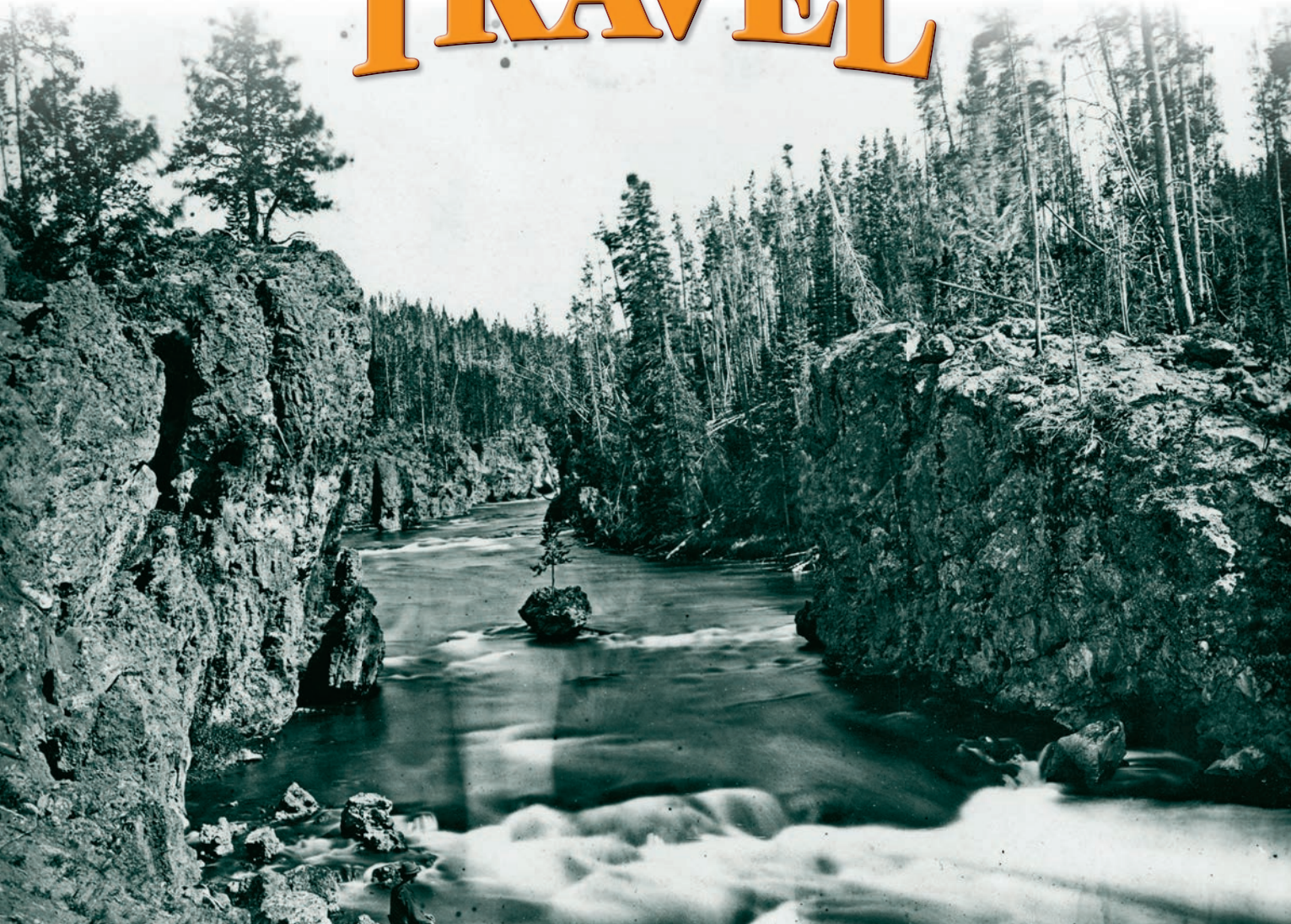
William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



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HERITAGE TRAVEL



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

San Angelo, TX

Visitors to San Angelo can stroll back in time on the city's oldest boulevard, Concho Street, before attending the San Angelo Stock Show in February and the San Angelo Rodeo in April. The rodeo is one of the nation's largest annual PRCA events, and the livestock show has over 5,500 4-H and FFA exhibitors. Don't miss a tour of the Santa Fe Depot and Railway Museum at the historic station on the south side of downtown or a walk around Fort Concho's grounds, museum and 23 original and restored buildings.

SanAngelo.org

READERS' CHOICE: Prescott, AZ

A series of swift cascades flow between walls of trachytic rock in the canyon of the Upper Madison River between Gibbon Fork and the Firehole River.

William Henry Jackson, 1872, Courtesy USGS

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

Sheridan, WY

In 1882 John D. Loucks founded Sheridan, which he named in honor of his commanding officer in the Civil War. The gateway city to the Big Horn Mountains and Little Big Horn country of Montana, Sheridan became an economic center for the bi-state region after the railroad arrived in 1892. Today, visitors can stroll historic downtown, visit local landmarks,

King Ropes and the Mint Bar, tour the local Brinton, Sheridan County and Bozeman Trail museums and stay at Buffalo Bill Cody's fully restored Sheridan Inn. In 2022, Sheridan's Annual WYO Rodeo, the Mountains States 2021 Circuit "Large Rodeo of the Year," will be held July 12-17.

SheridanWyoming.org

READERS' CHOICE: Bandera, TX

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HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN Tombstone, AZ

Take a walk down Allen and Fremont streets and discover legendary Tombstone, known internationally for its stormy and storied past. Walking the streets of Wyatt Earp and "Doc" Holliday and the infamous Gunfight Near the O.K. Corral is a unique step back into the Old West—a true encounter with history in "The Town Too Tough to Die." Don't miss a tour of the O.K. Corral, the Birdcage Theatre, Boothill Graveyard, Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park and the *Tombstone Epitaph* building.
TombstoneChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE: Deadwood, SD

BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN RE-CREATED

Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, TX

Family-owned and operated in the Hill Country of Texas, Enchanted Springs Ranch is a one-of-a-kind Old Western town that was originally built in 2001 as a Western movie set. Today, the past comes alive in the six-acre town and 40-acre back country at the ever-popular Old West Summer Fest and Old West Christmas Light Fest, weddings, family reunions and corporate events, as well as commercial and film productions.

EnchantedSpringsRanch.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Virginia City, MT / Nevada City, MT

BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

Jackson, WY

With the Grand Tetons as a backdrop, Jackson in northwestern Wyoming has become one of the most popular art communities in the West. Artists flock to the beautiful setting, nestled in picturesque Jackson Hole between the Teton and Gros Ventre mountain ranges, to paint and sculpt the natural beauty of the region and its wildlife. The area's rich history and cultural heritage also inspire Western artists, which makes Jackson, with its many galleries and museums, including the National Museum of Wildlife Art, a destination for all generations of art lovers. Don't miss the Jackson Hole Art Festival and Jackson Hole Art Auction held every September.

JacksonWY.gov

READERS' CHOICE: Santa Fe, NM

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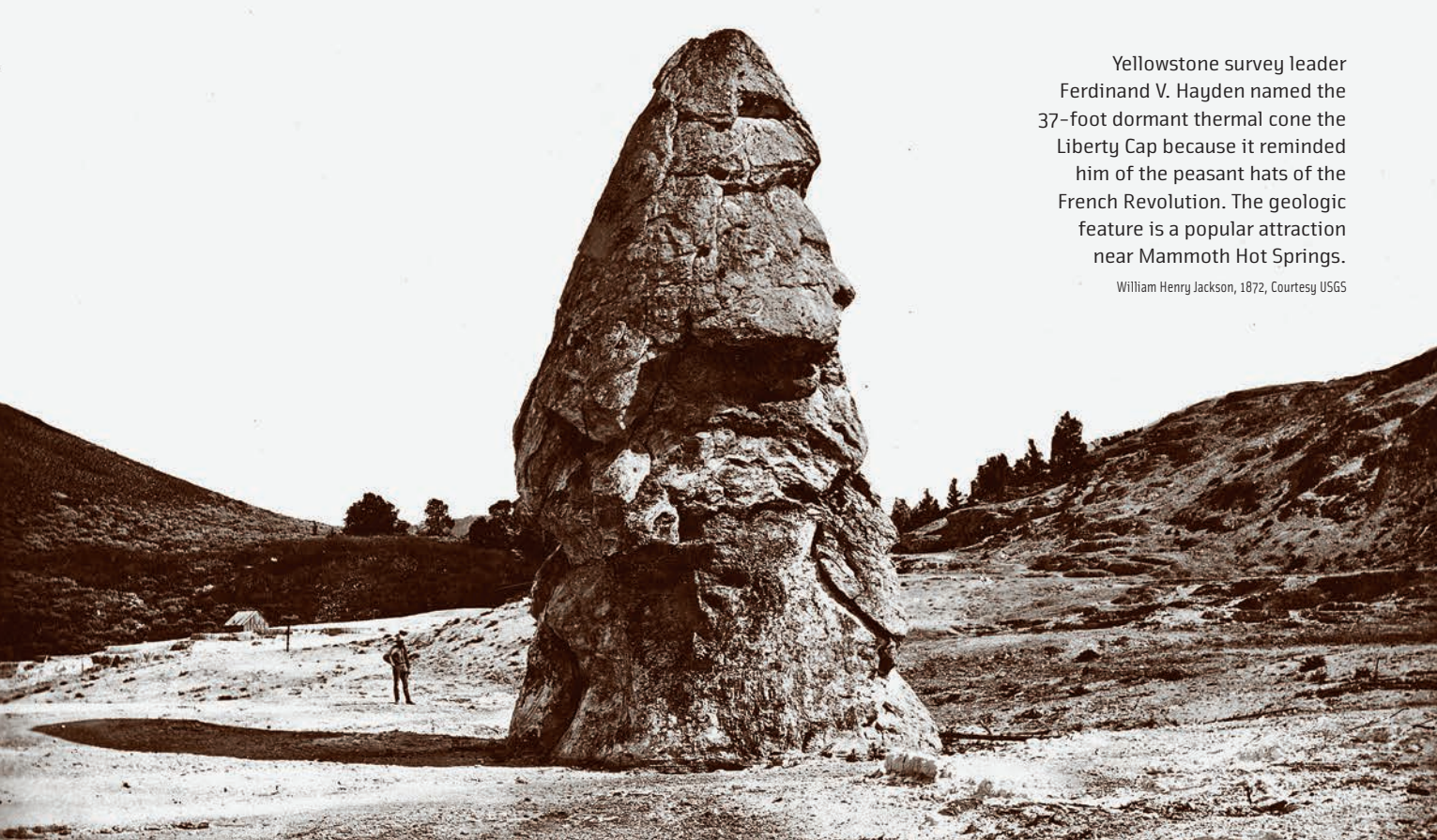
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Yellowstone survey leader Ferdinand V. Hayden named the 37-foot dormant thermal cone the Liberty Cap because it reminded him of the peasant hats of the French Revolution. The geologic feature is a popular attraction near Mammoth Hot Springs.

William Henry Jackson, 1872, Courtesy USGS

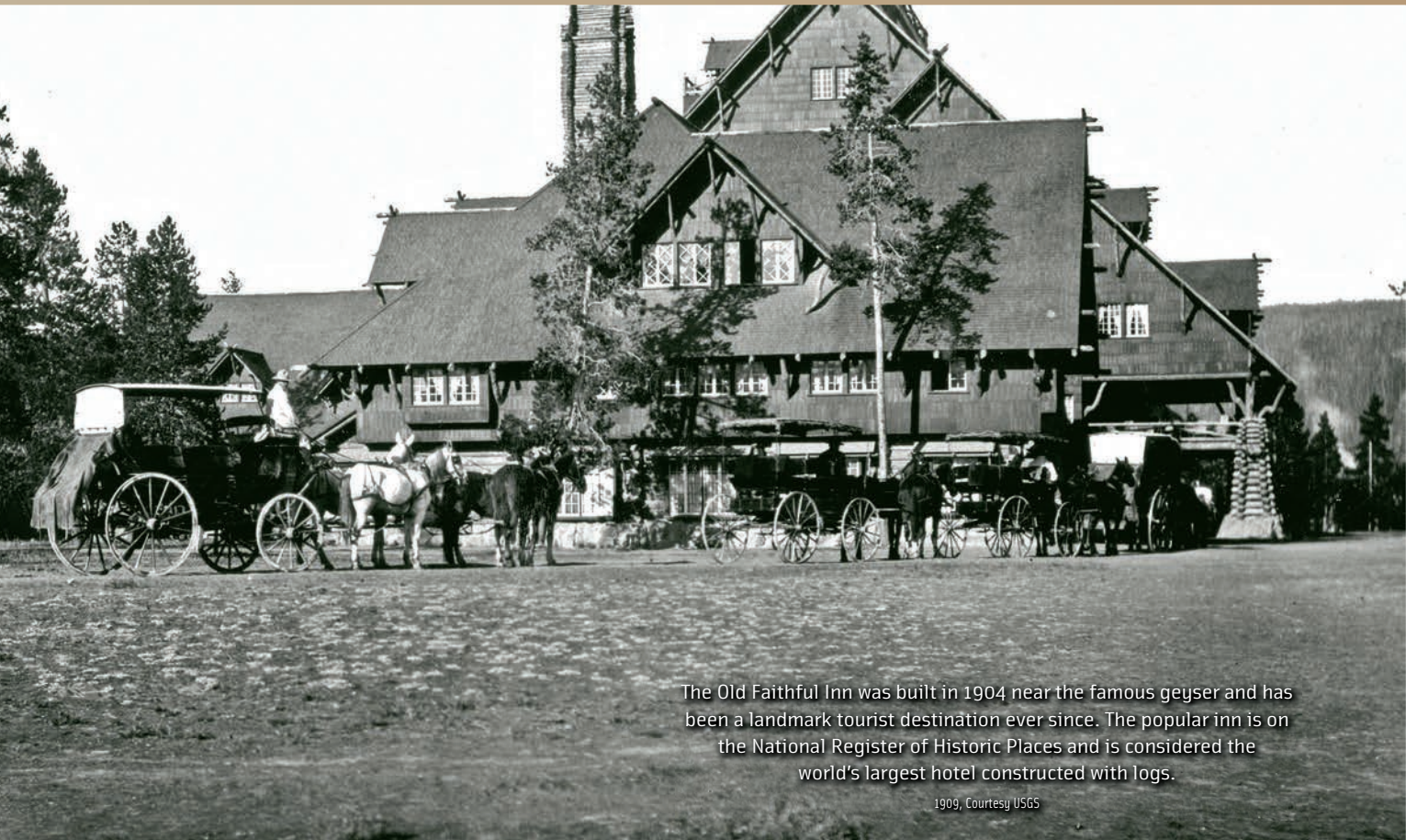
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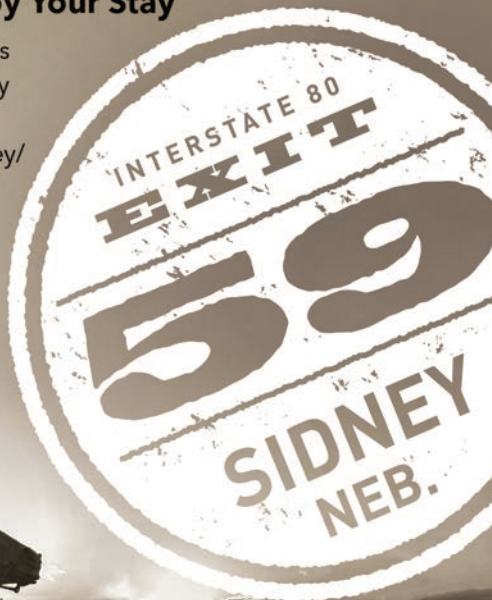


The Old Faithful Inn was built in 1904 near the famous geyser and has been a landmark tourist destination ever since. The popular inn is on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered the world's largest hotel constructed with logs.

1909, Courtesy USGS

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BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT

Medora, ND

Among North Dakota's most beautiful—and entertaining—places are the restored historic village of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Every summer the town of Medora celebrates the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt at the *Medora Musical*. Frenchman Marquis de Mores founded the town in 1883 and named it for his American wife from New York. The marquis's settlement also attracted another New Yorker, Teddy Roosevelt, who built a cattle ranch nearby in 1883. Visitors will enjoy staying in the recreated Western town. Don't miss a tour of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame and the annual highlight of the holiday season, Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas.

Medora.com / NDTourism.com

READERS' CHOICE: Deadwood, SD

BEST LIVING HISTORY FARM MUSEUM

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, NM

This living history center dedicated to the heritage of farming and ranching in the 47th state offers tours and exhibits at the dairy barn, greenhouse and gardens and the Antique Equipment Park, which features a collection of farm implements. Visitors can also watch forging at the blacksmith shop and sewing, spinning and weaving crafts at the Bruce King Building. Special events are held throughout the year, but two of the most popular are Cowboy Days in March and the Blessing of the Fields in May.

NMFarmAndRanchMuseum.org

READERS' CHOICE: Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE

BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

Dodge City Trail of Fame, Dodge City, KS

Sidewalk medallions and statues along Dodge City's Trail of Fame commemorate the city's famous and infamous denizens—and the actors who have portrayed them. Some celebrities have signed and left handprints in the concrete near their medallions. Pick up a map for the free walking tour at the information center. While on the tour enjoy the bronze monuments to Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, *Gunsmoke's* Matt Dillon and El Capitan the Longhorn.

DodgeCityTrailofFame.org

READERS' CHOICE: True Grit Walking Tour, Ridgway, CO

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www.TexasRanger.org

HERITAGE TRAVEL



264. HEAD OF YELLOWSTONE RIVER.

In late July 1871, Ferdinand Hayden led his survey party around Mount Washburn in search of the head of Yellowstone River, which William Henry Jackson was the first to photograph.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

Abilene, KS

The historic Chisholm Trail railhead is the perfect place for the history lover. After a tour of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum, the Seelye Mansion and the Dickinson County Heritage Center, take a ride on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad.

And don't miss a tour of Old Abilene Town's historic buildings and "downtown" storefronts, the always popular Old West gunfighters show, and of course, the Can-Can Girls, who kick up their heels on the Alamo Stage every Saturday night from late June to late August. AbileneKansas.org

READERS' CHOICE: Deadwood, SD

BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN
Tombstone, AZ

For the second consecutive year, Tombstone is the best Old West town to live in. The town in Cochise County in southeastern Arizona is within driving distance of multiple historic towns and sites, including Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista and Wilcox. "The Town Too Tough to Die," with its historically significant downtown, restaurants, saloons, shops, museums, hotels and annual Old West festivals such as Helledorado Days, is the ideal Western town to live in if you want to live and breathe Western history 365 days of the year.
TombstoneChamber.com

READERS' CHOICE: Prescott, AZ

BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD OF THE WEST

Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park, Georgetown, CO

Built in 1884, Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad is one of the engineering wonders of the Rocky Mountain state's historic narrow-gauge rail lines. Passengers of all ages will enjoy the thrill of riding on historic rolling stock pulled by a steam-driven locomotive across the new High Bridge. Guests can choose from a variety of special train packages, mine tours and gold-panning opportunities offered throughout the year.
GeorgetownLoopRR.com

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

BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE" HOTEL
Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

Built by Buffalo Bill Cody in 1902 and named after his daughter, the Irma Hotel is still a gem just outside the east entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Relax in modern accommodations or choose to stay in historic rooms enjoyed by Annie Oakley, Calamity Jane, Frederic Remington or Bill Cody, himself. Don't miss the restaurant and historic saloon with the cherrywood bar, a gift to Cody from Britain's Queen Victoria.
IrmaHotel.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Rough Riders Hotel, Medora, ND / Occidental Hotel, Buffalo, WY



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HERITAGE TRAVEL



Yellowstone Lake was one of the most prominent geologic features photographed during the 1871 survey. The lake, which is 20 miles wide and 14 miles long, is the largest body of water over 7,000 feet in North America and second largest in the world at that elevation.

William Henry Jackson, 1871, Courtesy USGS

BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, CO

Since 1893, the luxurious Hotel Colorado, a “Grande Dame of the Rockies,” has hosted presidents, celebrities and the rich and famous. Today, the Glenwood Springs landmark welcomes guests from around the world to enjoy its famous hospitality, fine dining and relaxing Rocky Mountain atmosphere. A favorite of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, the hotel was also frequented by numerous famous and infamous people, including “The Unsinkable” Molly Brown. Visitors wanting a special treat should request a stay in the Molly Brown Suite.

HotelColorado.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Strater Hotel, CO / The Grand Canyon Hotel, Williams, AZ

Artist, surveyor and conservationist Henry W. Elliott was a key member of the 1871 Hayden Survey. He was the first to topographically and artistically sketch Yellowstone Lake's shores and create the first bathymetric map of the giant alpine lake—a remarkable feat he accomplished from the 11-foot *Annie*, the first boat to sail the lake.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS



BEST DUDE RANCH OF THE WEST

Rainbow Trout Ranch, Antonito, CO

A little less than 25 miles from downtown Antonito, Colorado, Rainbow Trout Ranch is a spectacular relaxing getaway on the Conejos River in the San Juan Mountains in southcentral Colorado's Rio Grande National Forest just east

of the San Luis Valley. The fly-fishing has been legendary for over 100 years, trail riding is spectacular and the dining and lodging are unforgettable.

RainbowTroutRanch.com

READERS' CHOICE: Flying E, Wickenburg, AZ



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HERITAGE TRAVEL

BEST HERITAGE BED & BREAKFAST

Chambers House, Pinedale, WY

The charming bed-and-breakfast began as Pinedale's schoolhouse. In the 1930s the beautiful building was enlarged and enhanced with cut logs from the local national forest. Today, proprietor and author Ann Chambers Noble operates the B&B, which is well known for its seven unique rooms, sumptuous breakfasts and downtown location.

ChambersHouse.com

READERS' CHOICE: Fairweather Inn, Virginia City, MT

BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH

Eatons' Ranch, Wolf, WY

Located on the pine-covered eastern slopes of the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, Eatons' Ranch is a working cattle ranch and all-inclusive Western riding resort. The three Eaton brothers started their ranch in 1879 in Medora, North Dakota, and then moved their operations to the ranch's current location in 1904. All ages will enjoy horseback riding, hiking, swimming, fine dining, and of course, relaxing under the wondrous Wyoming skies.

EatonsRanch.com

READERS' CHOICE: White Stallion Ranch, Tucson, AZ

BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering, Heber City, UT

Every October, the Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering celebrates the cowboy way of life and heritage through poetry, music and art. With international stars of Western music and cowboy poetry, the Heber Valley festival offers entertainment for all ages, including the Mountain Man Traders Camp and Buckaroo Fair.

HeberValleyCowboyPoetry.com

READERS' CHOICE: Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango, CO

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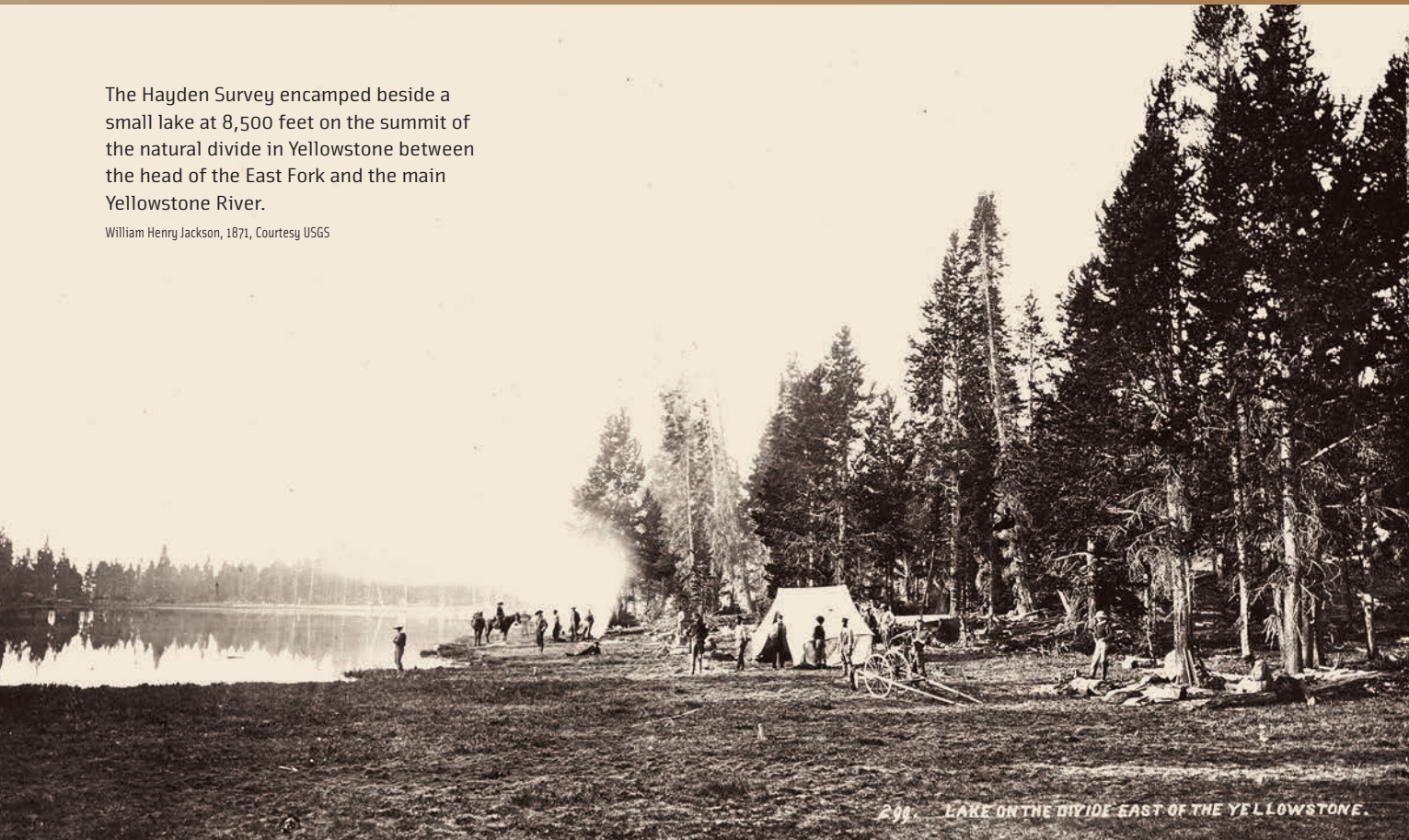
BanderaCowboyCapital.com
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The Hayden Survey encamped beside a small lake at 8,500 feet on the summit of the natural divide in Yellowstone between the head of the East Fork and the main Yellowstone River.

William Henry Jackson, 1871, Courtesy USGS



291. LAKE ON THE DIVIDE EAST OF THE YELLOWSTONE.

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HERITAGE TRAVEL



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On July 25, 1871, the Hayden Survey camped near Tower Creek and its dramatic volcanic breccia.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING

Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, Newhall, CA

Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio opened in 1915. Over the years its 22-acre back lot has been used to shoot such classics as *The Lone Ranger* and *The Magnificent Seven*. More recently, *Deadwood* and *Django Unchained* were filmed here. Beginning in 1994, the ranch has hosted the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival every April. In 2022, the popular Western festival will be held April 22-24 and will include five stages for live entertainment, a cowboy cook-off and cowboy poetry.

CowboyFestival.org

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

BEST OLD WEST MOUNTED RE-ENACTMENT

Little Big Horn Battlefield, Crow Agency, MT

Near Garryowen, Montana, on the Crow Nation, the Real Bird Family hosts the annual re-enactment of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Watch Native braves and Cavalry troopers crash through the river, and battle along its banks, where some believe Custer was killed. The re-enactment is held in June in conjunction with the anniversary of the battle. In 2022, it will be held June 18-26.

LittleBighornReenactment.com

READERS' CHOICE: Green River Rendezvous, Pinedale, WY

BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

Six Guns & Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX

Six Guns & Shady Ladies has entertained audiences all across the country since Bernie and Melissa Sargent founded the El Paso troupe in 1998. With nearly 50 skits, the Wild West re-enactment group brings humor and history to every show, with thrilling gunfights, including the famous "Four Dead in Five Seconds."

SixGunsAndShadyLadies.Homestead.com

READERS' CHOICE: Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

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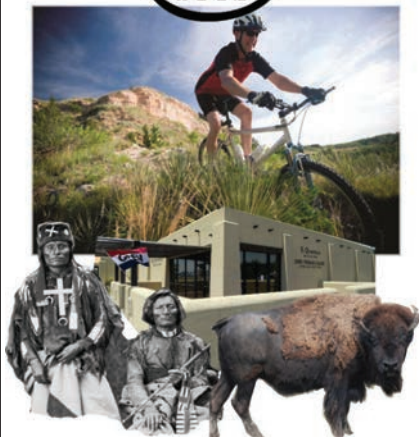
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UPPER FIRE HOLE, FROM OLD FAITHFUL

The Upper Basin near the Firehole River, as seen here from Old Faithful Crater, has over 250 geysers, the most active geothermal area in Yellowstone National Park.

William Henry Jackson circa 1871-1872, Courtesy Yale University



Upper Falls of the Yellowstone River

Images by William Henry Jackson, 1871, Courtesy Library of Congress

BEST WILD WEST SHOW

Deadwood Alive, Deadwood, SD

From the end of May to late September, the professional re-enactment group, Deadwood Alive, puts on three free Main Street Shootouts during the day and the *Trial of Jack McCall* in the evening, Monday through Saturday. After enjoying a show, put on your boots and hat and walk on down Deadwood's Main Street and enjoy famous restaurants, museums, saloons, shops and haunted hotel tours at the Historic Bullock Hotel and the Historic Fairmont Hotel and Oyster Bay Bar.

Deadwood.com/DeadwoodAlive.com

READERS' CHOICE: O.K. Corral, Tombstone, AZ

BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ

Since 1888, the Prescott Frontier Days rodeo has been held over the Fourth of July weekend. The World's Oldest Rodeo will celebrate its 134th annual performance with eight shows from June 28 to July 4, 2022. In conjunction with the rodeo, the always popular annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, and the Rodeo Dance the evenings of July 1-3. In 2022, special events will also be planned in honor of the 50th anniversary of the locally filmed fan-favorite, *Junior Bonner*.

WorldOldestRodeo.com

READERS' CHOICE: Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY



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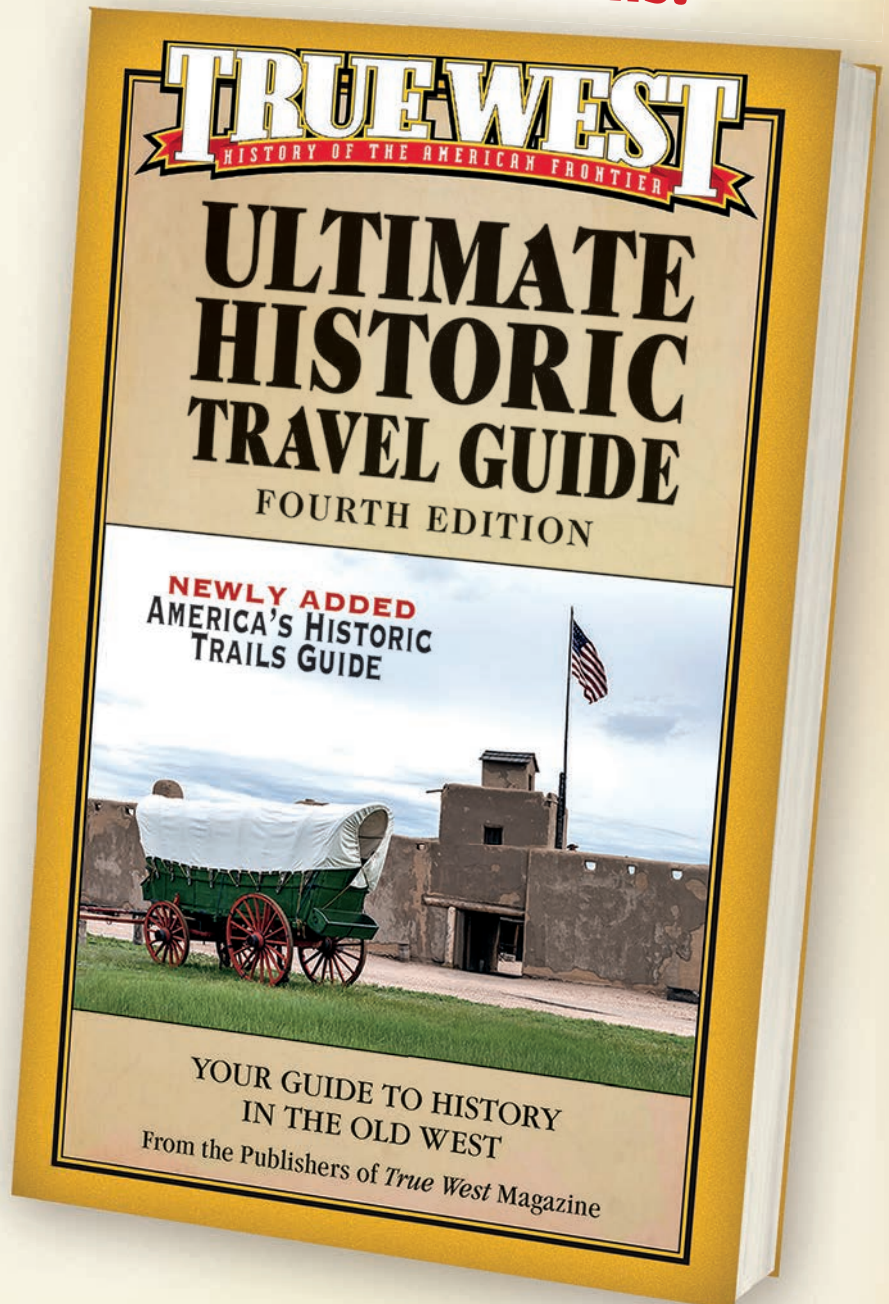
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BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

WESTERN
WEAR

KICK UP YOUR HEELS!

Western wear companies keep the West alive with their best boots, hats and clothing.

The Powell–Ingalls Special Commission met with the Southern Paiutes near St. George, Washington County, Utah, in 1873.

Courtesy Smithsonian Institution: BAE neg. no. 1662-A, Paiute

Since John B. Stetson invented his signature “Boss of the Plains” in 1865, the cowboy hat has become an American icon worldwide. A few short years later the cowboy boot was born out of necessity in cobbler shops in Kansas and Texas. For working cowboys, a good hat, a pair of well-made boots, spurs and

clothes made to last were essential to their everyday work. With the rise in the late 19th and early 20th centuries of popular Western culture—including Western films, novels and Wild West shows and plays—Western wear soon moved from the ranch to the city and became as fashionable for city folks as it was for going-to-town cowboys and cowgirls.

Today, nearly 160 years after the first Stetson hat was shaped and sold, Western wear is still popular worldwide and as iconic as ever. In 2022, *True West* salutes the artisans and companies who keep the Old West alive and all of us wearing the best in traditional Western boots, hats and clothing





WESTERN WEAR



Packers Bob and Steve were part of the Hayden U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado in 1874.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

The wagon boss and teamsters in the Hayden U.S. Geological Survey were photographed in camp in 1870, location unknown.

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy USGS

BEST WESTERN BOOTMAKER

Tecovas, Austin, TX

Tecovas' hand-crafted men's and women's boots have taken the cowboy-boot marketplace by storm since Paul Hedrick founded the innovative Western brand in 2015. The Austin, Texas-based company has all its boots hand-made in its León, Guanajuato, Mexico, factory, and ships them to customers worldwide. In addition to 10 Texas stores, Tecovas also operates retail shops (boots, clothing and accessories) in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee.

www.tecovas.com

READERS' CHOICE: Tecovas, Austin, TX

BEST WESTERN HATMAKER

Stetson (Hatco), Garland, TX

Hatco, the parent company of Stetson, the most storied cowboy hat company in the world, is also the international distributor for Resistol, Charlie 1 Horse, Wrangler and Dobbs hats to fine retail establishments worldwide.

Hat-Co.com

READERS' CHOICE: TIE: Knudson Hat Co., Golden Gate, CA/Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX

BEST WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Miller International, Denver, CO

In 1918 Philip Miller moved to Denver for health reasons and to sell hats for his family's New York City-based Miller Brothers Hat. Miller's trip to Denver evolved into a Western clothing business and a passion for the American West. The Miller Ranch and Cinch Brands are based on the traditions and values that made the company a significant part of Western heritage and culture.

RockyMountainClothing.com

READERS' CHOICE: Recollections, Hawks, MI

BEST PERIOD WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

Scully/Wahmaker, Oxnard, CA

For the second year in a row, Scully/Wahmaker is the editors' choice for best period Western clothing maker. The storied company has been making and selling clothes since 1906 and remains one of the country's oldest firms making leather apparel for men and women. From military and expedition clothing, the lines expanded over time into other key specialty clothing sectors, including Wahmaker and Rangewear Old West clothing and accessories and Legend and Cantina Western clothing.

ScullyLeather.com

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

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WESTERN ROUNDUP

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COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Golden, CO, January 15-15: Experience cowboy poetry performances by Dave Stamey, Terry Nash, Andy Nelson, Eli Barsi, Susi Knight, Terri Nash and much more. 720-213-6446 • ColoradoCowboyGathering.com

Award-winning singer-songwriter Kristyn Harris has been a popular performer at the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Golden, Colorado.

Photo by Bill Patterson, Courtesy Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering

AUCTIONS

BRIAN LABEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION & SALE

Mesa, AZ, January 21-23: A dealers show and sale, along with an exciting, live Saturday night auction, this event showcases the best authentic cowboy, Indian and Western art, antiques and artifacts available for sale. This event is known worldwide as the premiere show and auction in the Western Americana collecting industry. 480-779-9378 • OldWestEvents.com

FAIRS

MONTANA WINTER FAIR

Lewistown, MT, January 27-30: The Montana Winter Fair celebrates 77 years of promoting Montana agriculture and an enviable Western way of life. 406-538-2200 • MontanaWinterFair.com

LIVING HISTORY FAIR

Watertown, SD, January 28-29: See live demonstrations and actors recreating how our ancestors lived, worked and played. 605-753-0282 • VisitWatertownSD.com

HERITAGE RAILROADS

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

Durango, CO, through January 1, 2022: All ages can experience the warmth and fun of the Christmas season on a special steam train trip to the North Pole. 888-827-4607 • DurangoTrain.com

SANTA'S NORTH POLE ADVENTURE

Georgetown, CO, through January 5: Santa Claus passes out presents and goodies to the little ones. Join Santa and his helpers aboard decorated, enclosed, heated coaches throughout the holiday season. 888-456-6777 • GeorgetownLoopRR.com

RODEOS

COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 17: Held since 1995, this rodeo brings together cowboys from diverse cultures to celebrate their Western heritage. 817-922-9999 • CowboysOfColor.org

AMERICAN FINALS RODEO

Tulsa, OK, January 21-23: Watch the top 15 cowboys and cowgirls compete in a variety of Western events. While there, be sure to check out the event's free Western trade show. 918-456-9814 • ACRARodeo.com

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 8-23: Since 1906, this show has hosted livestock and horse sales and seminars, plus rodeo events, at National Western Complex. 303-296-6977 • NationalWestern.com

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 14-February 5: Held since 1896, Fort Worth's exposition livestock show and rodeo attracts cowboys to its auctions, livestock and horse shows, rodeos and concerts. 817-877-2400 • FWSSR.com

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.





Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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

Billy the Kid, Gunfighters and Rewards

During a film class on Western films it was observed while watching the film *The Gunfighter* a main character was wearing one spur throughout the movie. Back in the real West days, did a cowboy, or in the case of the movie, a town marshal, wear one spur as a normal matter of dress or was one spur an exception and two spurs the normal?

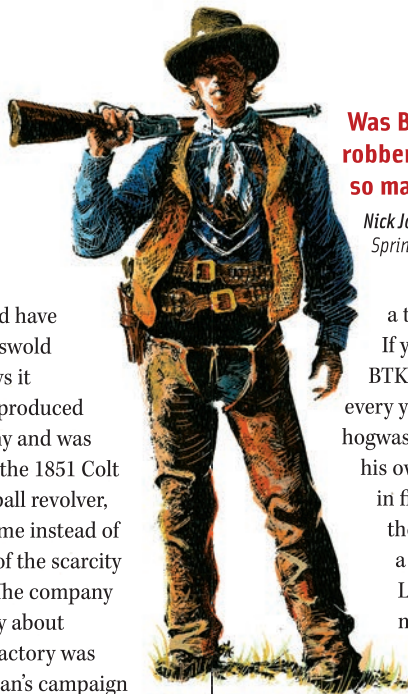
*John Chase
Walla Walla, Washington*

Spurs are used to communicate commands to your horse. A slight touch of the spurs can urge it to pick up the pace, move to the side, turn or settle down. Spurs also can help a horse focus on the rider and its task. It is unusual to see someone wearing only one spur, but there's nothing that says you have to wear two.

Was the Griswold & Gunnison revolver made in .32 and .36 calibers?

*Emil Karlsson
Västernpodden, Sweden*

Everything I know and have seen concerning the Griswold & Gunnison revolver says it was a .36 caliber. It was produced for the Confederate Army and was almost an exact copy of the 1851 Colt .36 percussion cap and ball revolver, except it had a brass frame instead of steel. This was because of the scarcity of metals in the South. The company was able to produce only about 3,600 pieces before the factory was destroyed during Sherman's campaign through Georgia in 1864.



Was Billy the Kid a bank robber? And why did he kill so many men?

*Nick Johnson
Springfield, Missouri*

No, Billy never robbed a train or held up a bank. If you're talking about BTK killing 21 men, "one for every year of his life," that was hogwash. Billy killed four men on his own and was a participant in five more. Considering the times and the fact that a war was going on in Lincoln County, that isn't many, relatively speaking.

Billy the Kid did not need to rob trains to earn his reputation as a cold-blooded outlaw in New Mexico's Lincoln County Cattle War.

Illustration by Bob Boze Bell



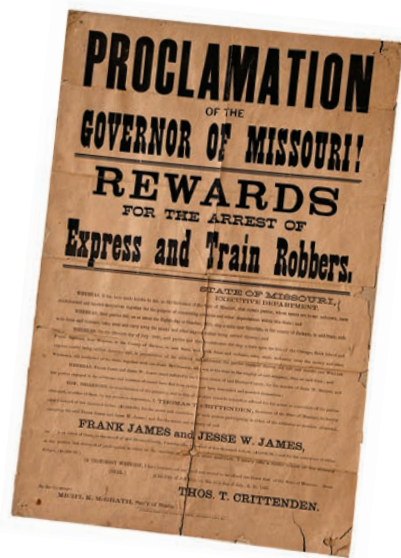
Spurs, their rowels and leathers come in hundreds of styles and are as individual as the cowboys who wear them.

True West Archives

Was it common for axle nuts on wagons, carts and stagecoaches to be secured with left-hand threads with the thinking that left-hand threads would tend to tighten as the axle shaft turned, rather than loosen turning right?

*Spencer Ward
Gaithersburg, Maryland*

Doug Hansen of the Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop in Letcher, South Dakota, is the expert on anything to do with horse-drawn wagons. He says, "Correct, left-hand threads on the left side of the wagon to tighten as the wagon moves forward."



Not all wanted posters are as famous as Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden's for Frank and Jesse James, but the men who tracked the outlaws expected a payout in hard currency, no matter the fame of the captured—or killed—fugitive.

True West Archives

How was reward money collected in the Old West?

Frank Farmer
Dallas, Texas

Different entities paid bounties. For example, the government paid a bounty on Army deserters, but it was so cheap that few civilians made the effort. Back in the 1830s, the Mexican government paid a bounty on Apache scalps: 100 pesos for a male, 50 for a female and 25 for a child. Wells Fargo paid a bounty on stage and train robbers who robbed the express cars and stages. The Pinkertons paid bounties on outlaws who robbed their customers. Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden placed a bounty on Jesse James. It was a tough business, and there were few “bounty hunters,” as they are portrayed in the movies. Most bounties/rewards were collected by duly authorized lawmen.

Was Wells Spicer a judge or a justice of the peace?

Doug Stidvent
Tucson, Arizona

Wells Spicer was a justice of the peace. A justice of the peace is a judge of a court of limited jurisdiction, a magistrate or a quasi-judicial official with certain statutory or common law magisterial powers. Proceedings involving justices of the peace are often faster and less formal than those in other courts. During a trial, the justice of the peace will hear and weigh evidence, then deliver a final decision and, if a defendant is convicted, impose a sentence.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Michael is a fourth-generation Coloradoan and grew up all over the state. His family first came to the state as hard rock miners in 1859.

Kathleen's parents left Oklahoma and Arkansas during the Dust Bowl. She was raised on a cotton and alfalfa farm in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Our love of history was nurtured by our parents. Some of our earliest memories are of visiting ghost towns and ancient ruins across America. We never got over the sense of wonder.

The greatest struggle of our careers has been fighting the Hollywood image of America's native peoples as "primitive." Hollywood has yet to do a film about one of the extraordinary civilizations that flourished in North America over the past 20,000 years.

Writing about prehistoric cultures came naturally to us. We are both professional archaeologists with master's degrees.

We've also written 25 science fiction novels based on anthropological and historical themes. Basically, it's frontier fiction set in the future.

Research is the heart of everything we write. In fact, it's half the fun of writing.

The West is where our hearts live and breathe. It's our greatest inspiration.

If we could share a meal with an author...

Kathleen would love to ask Mark Twain what he thinks about his books being censored and banned. Michael would ask Norman Zollinger if the afterlife is everything he'd hoped it would be.

Our favorite musicians are Mike Blakely and W.C. Jameson.

Archaeology, bison, and books are our passions.

Our favorite meal is Kathleen's blue corn buffalo enchiladas drenched in her magnificent red chili sauce.

Our favorite place is Wyoming. The grandeur of the country, the magnificent wildlife and the die-hard independence of the people are constant sources of inspiration.

Yellowstone is next door. When we're tired or feeling down, we go stare at buffalo and grizzlies, and the world is better.

We raised champion bison for 29 years, and they changed our lives. They taught us humility and magic, not to mention that God lives in the eyes of buffalo.

AUTHORS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS AND RANCHERS

W. Michael Gear and **Kathleen O'Neal Gear** are award-winning archaeologists and *New York Times* bestselling authors of 80 books and over 200 nonfiction articles. With nearly 18 million copies in print, their books have been translated into 29 languages. Michael worked as a forensic anthropologist and was principal investigator in his own archaeological research firm. Kathleen served as the Wyoming state historian and tri-state archaeologist for the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 2015, the United States Congress honored her with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her work. They are also Spur Award-winning authors. For 29 years, they raised bison on their remote ranch near Thermopolis, Wyoming.



Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear received The Owen Wister Award for lifetime achievement in Western literature from the Western Writers of America at the annual WWA Convention in Loveland, Colorado, on June 18, 2021.

Johanny D. Boggs

Writing together is just plain fun. We never argue about the actual writing, but we have some fierce arguments about what information to include.

We were stunned and deeply grateful to have received The Owen Wister Award for lifetime achievement in Western literature from the Western Writers of America.

History and archaeology have taught us that the interpretation of the past is never settled.

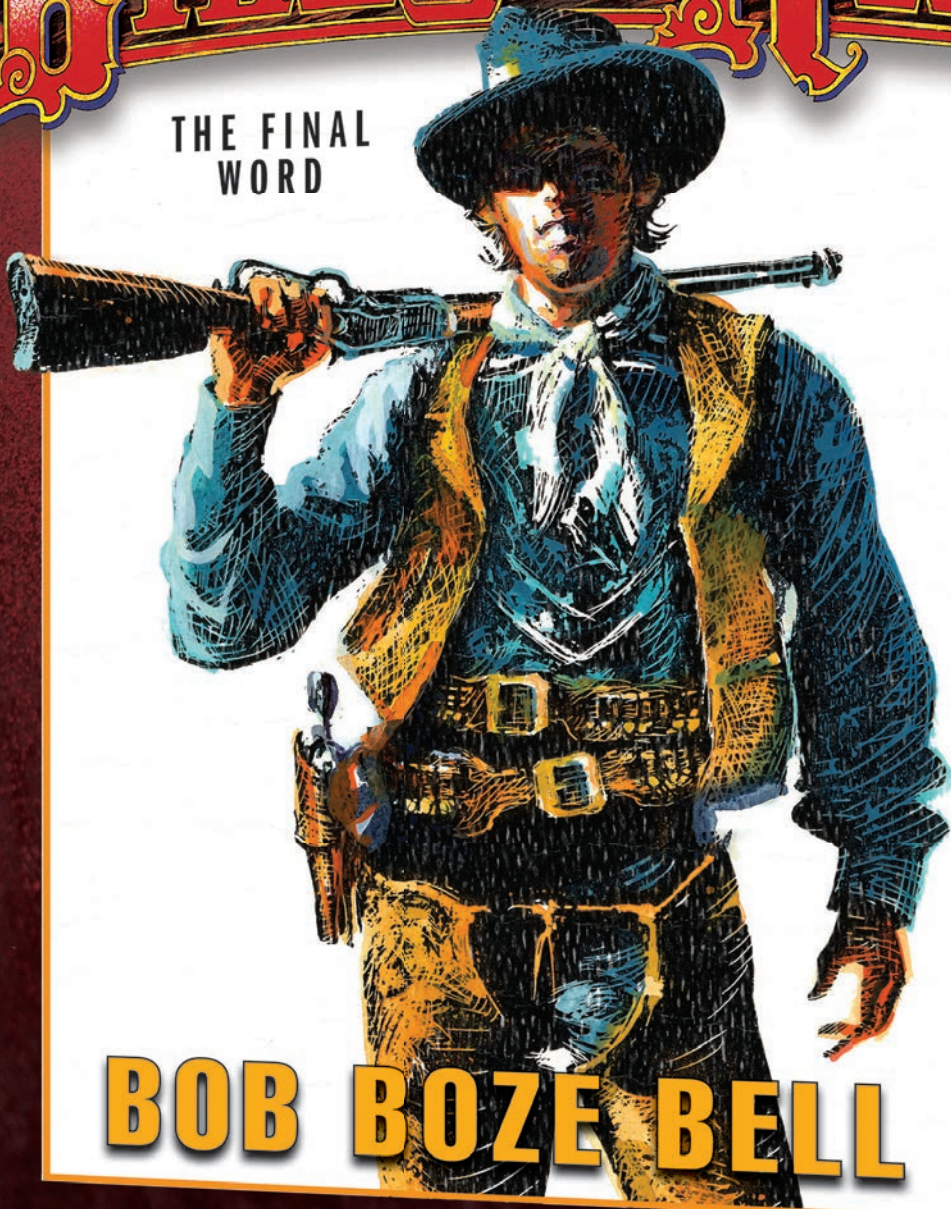


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A close-up, low-angle shot of a row of people's feet wearing brown leather boots, likely cowboy boots, standing on a metal walkway. The boots are arranged in a diagonal line from the top left towards the bottom right. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting with artificial light. The metal walkway has a ribbed texture.

A TIMELESS LINEUP

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