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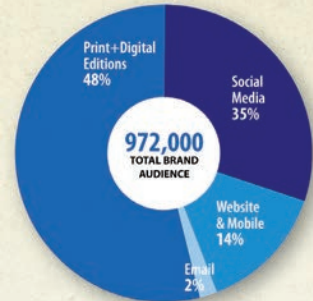
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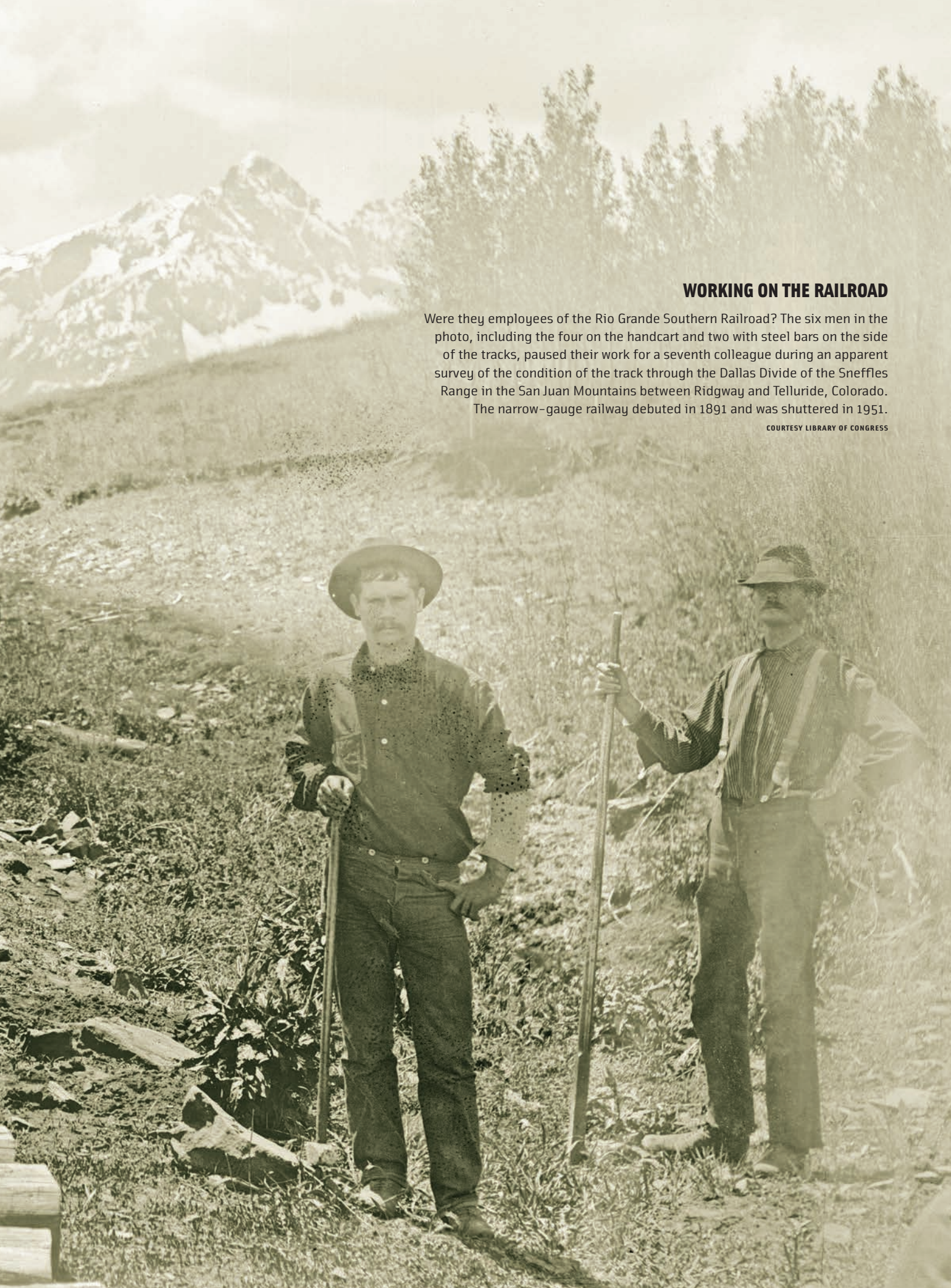
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WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

Were they employees of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad? The six men in the photo, including the four on the handcart and two with steel bars on the side of the tracks, paused their work for a seventh colleague during an apparent survey of the condition of the track through the Dallas Divide of the Sneffles Range in the San Juan Mountains between Ridgway and Telluride, Colorado. The narrow-gauge railway debuted in 1891 and was shuttered in 1951.

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

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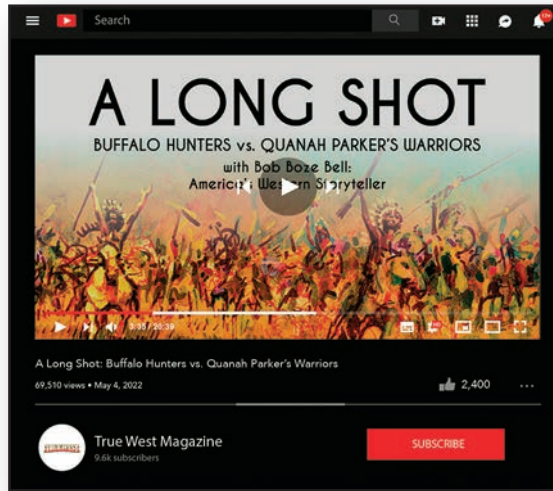
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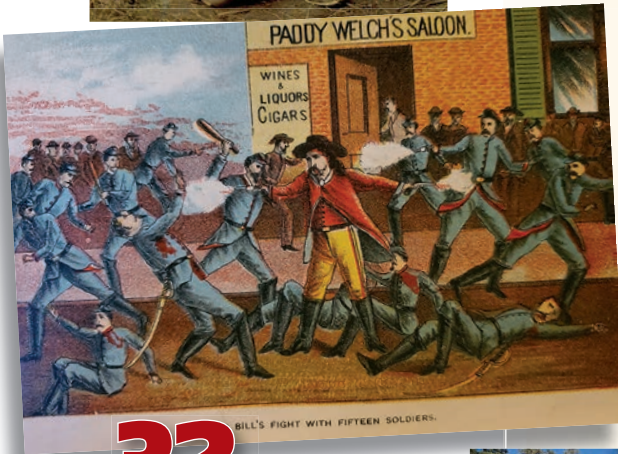
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Cover Illustration by Bob Boze Bell
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

Old Vaquero Sayings

“Woe to the house where the hen crows and the rooster keeps still.”



Quotes

“It is in the darkness of their eyes that men lose their way.”

—Black Elk



Black Elk (left) and Elk toured Great Britain as members of Buffalo Bill's Wild West. True West Archives

“Belladonna, n.: In Italian, a beautiful lady; in English, a deadly poison. A striking example of the essential identity of the two tongues.”

—Ambrose Bierce

“When writing a novel a writer should create living people; people not characters. A character is a caricature.”

—Ernest Hemingway

“A great artist is a great man in a great child.”

—Victor Hugo

“Nothing wilts faster than laurels that have been rested upon.”

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

—Florence Nightingale

“Look at nature, work independently, and solve your own problems.”

—Winslow Homer



The Reaper, 1878, by Winslow Homer
Courtesy Art Renewal Center

“I never saw a woman to come into one of our mining camps in California but her mere presence effected a change in the conduct of all the men there.”

—Leland Stanford

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

—Badger Clark, Sun and Saddle Leather, Including Grass Grown Trails and New Poems

“A man who has never gone to school may steal a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.”

—Theodore Roosevelt



Early identity theft

Crazy Hunt

Our team's quest to capture Crazy Horse's visage was a bear.

There are no known photographs of Crazy Horse. Yes, there are several photographs floating around that some claim are of the great Sioux chief (see page 39), but they so far have been unproven. Fortunately, there are several eyewitness descriptions of Crazy Horse, and we have author and historian Mark Lee Gardner (see his excellent cover story on page 18) to thank for sharing them with us. Going against the expected, the real Crazy Horse had curly hair, a narrow face and a non-aquiline nose. He favored a lone feather, and he had a bad scar above his lip on the left side of his face because of a bullet wound from a jealous husband. With that specific information, my artist amigo, Buckeye Blake, sent me a photograph he found of an Oglala Sioux brave that approximates the look about as close to the verbal descriptions as we can expect to get. So I painted four versions of Buckeye's photo, adding the upper lip scar and tweaking each face a tad to see if I could capture the magic of the man. I'll leave it to you decide if we have succeeded.



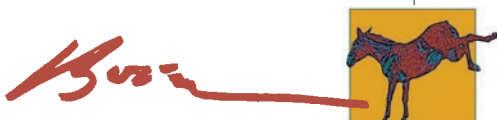
Western artist Buckeye Blake is a longtime friend of the magazine.

True West Archives



The Four Faces of Crazy Horse

Utilizing Buckeye Blake's photo of an anonymous Oglala Sioux brave, I whipped out four versions of the legendary Sioux leader. Our art director, Dan the Man Harshberger, utilized elements of several of them for his composite cover image. Can you spot which ones he used?



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.

1883 AND YELLOWSTONE INSPIRATION?

It would appear that Grant County’s murderous cattle baron, Tom Lyons (right), was the original John Dutton of the hit series, *Yellowstone*. Lyons, what a great name for a murderous predator! But like Kevin Costner’s fictional character, John Dutton (below right), Tom Lyons possessed some good qualities too. One person remarked that he was “a fine man to anybody he liked; he’d do anything in the world for them.”

Like John Dutton, Tom Lyons possessed a huge, sprawling ranch that stretched 40 miles from east to west, and 60 miles from north to south. Dutton and Lyons were alike in that neither one allowed anyone to get in the way of them acquiring even more land and water. While John Dutton’s hired hands got rid of their victims by taking them to the “train station,” Tom Lyons had his thugs take rivals to the mountains and shoot them.

The Tom Lyons story, with all of its menace, murder, mayhem and drama, would make compelling viewing on TV or the big screen. Maybe call such a film “The Lyons King.”

—Paul Hoylen
Deming, NM

We will follow up with Taylor Sheridan about who inspired his John Dutton character. We believe quite a few Old West cattle barons could have inspired the Dutton Clan characters in 1883 and Yellowstone, and 1932, the 1883 sequel currently in production.

HISTORY LIVES IN NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA!

Just got the latest issue of *True West*. I always read it cover to cover, even the ads. One ad in particular caught my eye and brought a chuckle.

I heard a story over a Thanksgiving dinner with my in-laws that, a few months later seemed easy to check out with the publication of a book subtitled *Dark Angel*. I wrote the author and my deep friendship with Leon Metz began. Shortly afterward, I began intense research of my own and became friends with Bob McCubbin and Bob DeArment. They got me to join NOLA and later WOLA, and then got me on the program to present some of my findings at NOLA-Mankato-July 2000. I was there to present “A Surprising Genealogy of Central Texas.” Half the audience got up and walked out. But Leon Metz, Bob McCubbin and Bob DeArment took seats in the front row. Chuck Parsons assisted me because I’d recently broken an arm. I got a standing ovation and lots of backslapping afterward, then Leon and I spoke excitedly as we walked up the stairs after the crowd and exited the building—and then it happened!

A man rode up to us on a frenzied horse. He was wearing a duster and hat, waving a pistol at us! He yelled, “GET OFF THE STREET! GET OFF THE STREET!”

Leon and I bolted for the curb terrified—and then I realized we were in Northfield, Minnesota, in the middle of the reenactment of the James Gang’s infamous raid.

Look at the ad just inside the cover of the June 2022 issue. IT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THAT TO LEON AND ME!

And I was hooked. What a great experience!

—Dennis McCown
Lockhart, Texas

Thank you for your vivid description of The Defeat of Jesse James Days. Guaranteed, this editor has a trip to Northfield, Minnesota, to attend the reenactment on his bucket list!

The Defeat of Jesse James Days in Northfield, Minnesota, is still thrilling audiences every year and in 2022 will be held September 7-11.

Courtesy The Defeat of Jesse James Days



True West Archives



Courtesy Paramount Network





GOINGSNAKE: LEGALLY SPEAKING

Per Mark Boardman and David Kennedy's June 2022 article "The West's Worst Shootout" on the Goingsnake Massacre, the basis of the dispute was over who had legal jurisdiction. The Cherokee Nation took a stance that was legally correct by the agreement at the time for whom had the jurisdiction for the trial of Zeke Proctor.

The real story here was the U.S. Marshals succumbing to political pressure brought by the family in Fort Smith to void that agreement in this instance because they wanted the head of Zeke Proctor (above). This actually goes to the heart of the recent McGirt decision in the U.S. Supreme Court, essentially rolling that question of jurisdiction back to the pre-1906 status; that is what just happened with McGirt.

Same issue as Zeke Proctor. The trial of Zeke Proctor was a line-in-the-sand sovereignty issue for the Cherokee Nation at the time. It is not that this is inaccurate so much as the omission of why it could not be diplomatically settled between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Marshals as so many previous issues had been.

That the Cherokee Nation was willing to shoot it out (literally) with the agents of the Federal government over who had jurisdiction over Zeke Proctor made it unique.

—Keith Nobles, Cherokee Tribal Member
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Thank you! Your insight into such a complex legal matter brings the topic full-circle to the present, proving once again the importance of studying our past to understand current events and help guide our future.

PRAISE FOR THE JUNE 2022 ISSUE

Gentlemen, the new Bat Masterson issue is superb! Marshall Trimble has written a masterpiece in telling the highlights of Masterson's life. BBB's "Battle of the Plaza" and Paul Hutton's "Get Out of Dodge" cap a trilogy of articles that would make Bob DeArment and Robert M. Wright proud.

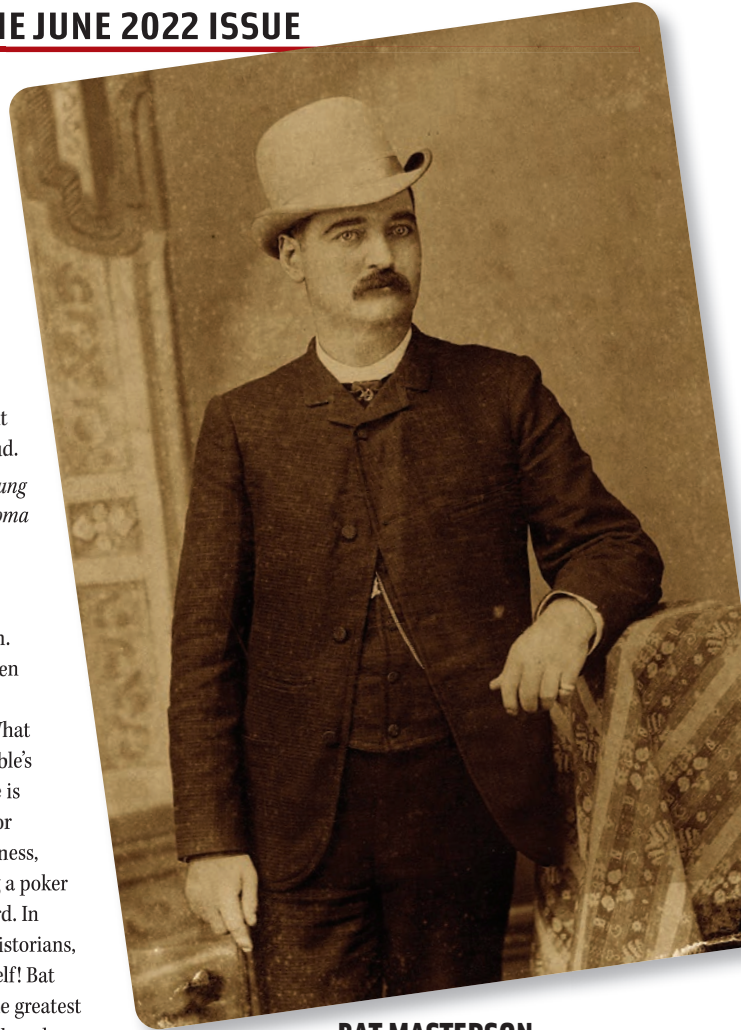
—Roy Young
Apache, Oklahoma

Finally, the definitive biography of Bat Masterson. Marshall Trimble has written one of the finest Western histories in recent years! What I love about Marshall Trimble's history reporting is this: he is a plain dealer. No excuses or suppositions or PC correctness, just the facts. Like winning a poker hand with a single high card. In the pantheon of Western historians, Marshall Trimble is top shelf! Bat Masterson's life is one of the greatest of all Old West stories, black and white and gray—but at the same time just imagine...from Adobe Walls to Dodge to Tombstone and finally New York City! It's hard to imagine an old West legend who could compare to the bio of Bat Masterson.

—Coy Prather
Montalba, Texas

This is the best issue [June 2022] this year—informative and interesting. I especially like the Dodge City focus ["Get Out of Dodge!" by Paul Andrew Hutton] and references to the related movies. The more references to Western feature films the better. How about a future focus on Fort Worth, Santa Fe, Wichita, Dallas and others? Tucson has had its fair share already. Since I've not seen every past issue, you may have already done some of this.

—Jim Vickrey
Montgomery, Alabama



BAT MASTERSON

Zeke Proctor Image Courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Waldon Collection/Bat Masterson Photo Courtesy True West Archives

Bat Masterson issue! I always read "Truth Be Known," Bob's column "To The Point" and shuffle through the mag. Just wanted you to know that I really had a good time throughout the Bat Masterson issue—not only because I've often fancied myself as a Bat Masterson type of girl. The article on Masterson tells it all—from Kansas to NYC—he led a big life! The message from Damon Runyan published in the *San Francisco Examiner* was touching—another big deal. I had to find out who wrote this article and was not surprised that it was Marshall Trimble.

Also, the large font used in "Get Out of Dodge" was a relief from the tiny text I'd been reading. Another great article with great images (the Dodge City Peace Commission for sure and the handshake), movie posters and comics. When I checked who wrote it—of course it was Top Secret Writer Paul Andrew Hutton! I know there's a paper shortage, etc., but think about using big fonts now and then.

—Kristi Jacobs
Anthem, AZ

BY MARK BOARDMAN

America's Sherlock Holmes

William J. Burns proved a worthy competitor to the Pinkertons...for a time.

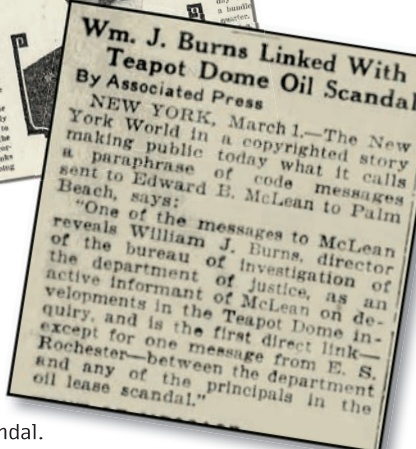
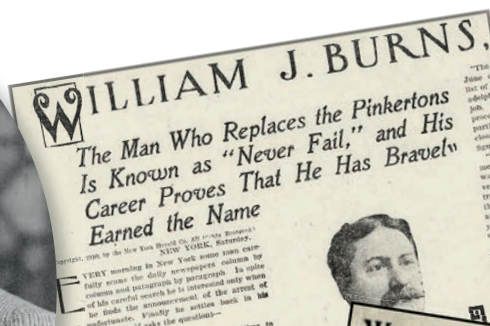
For a few years in the early 20th century, the William J. Burns International Detective Agency was close competition to the Pinkertons. It made worldwide headlines in its work against labor union violence and activism. No less an authority than British novelist Arthur Conan Doyle called Burns "America's Sherlock Holmes," which may have been a bit strong—but that was in keeping with William Burns's publicity talents.

Burns was born in Baltimore in 1861, around the time that Allan Pinkerton was just building his own detective agency. The younger man made his mark as a secret service agent in the late 1800s. But reputation didn't mean money, so Burns went off on his own in 1906 and then formed his own company in 1909.

The next year, Burns hit the big-time. On October 1, 1910, a bomb went off outside the offices of the *Los Angeles Times*, killing 21 and injuring scores of others. Burns just happened to be making a speech in L.A. the next day. Mayor George Alexander decided the detective was just the man to find the bombers, so he went outside his own police force and hired Burns.

It was actually a pretty easy case. The *Times* had been engaged in contentious dealings with the Iron Workers Union, a group that had been advocating violence. J.B. McNamara, brother of union treasurer J.M. McNamara, was found with bomb-making materials in his room. His brother and others were also arrested, as Burns's agents infiltrated the Iron Workers to collect additional evidence. The McNamaras eventually pleaded guilty and spent many years in prison.

Burns—who had wanted to be an actor as a child—played up the case for all it was worth. He exaggerated his own role in the investigation. He wrote books and pamphlets, gave as many press interviews as possible, and watched as new cases rolled in. The 1910s were a decade of great success for William J. Burns and associates, often to the detriment of the Pinkertons.



William J. Burns and his William J. Burns Detective Agency competed with the Pinkerton Detective Agency for headlines, fame and infamy across the country in the early decades of the 20th century. Burns rose to head the Bureau of Investigation, the precursor to the FBI, before he was forced to resign for his role in the Teapot Dome Scandal.

Burns Photo Courtesy True West Archives/Los Angeles Evening Express, March 1, 1924, and Los Angeles Herald January 30, 1910 Newsclippings Courtesy Newspapers.com

But he wanted more. In 1921, Burns's friend Attorney General Harry Daugherty hired him as the head of the newly formed Bureau of Investigation (BOI), the forerunner to the FBI. Here he ran into trouble. Not all the press was good as he used government resources to shift work over to his private company. And any newspaper that gave him bad press was liable to get a visit from a BOI representative, who would use threats to obtain retractions and promises of future puff pieces.

That reached a climax when Daugherty and others were implicated in the so-called Teapot Dome Scandal involving oil leases in Wyoming. Burns did what came naturally—tried to dig up dirt on senators investigating his friends. All of that came to light when various newspapers, already resentful of Burns's hardball tactics, published even more negative stories about the detective. He was allowed to

gracefully retire in 1924 (when he was replaced by J. Edgar Hoover).

His sons continued to run the agency through the 1920s. During that time, Burns the huckster came to the fore. He wrote numerous books, many novels with a hero that seemed suspiciously like the author. Burns continued to give interviews, all of them changing the record to make the agency seem like the best criminal investigation outfit of all time.

And the boy who wanted to be an actor? Burns was in 19 short films, mostly in 1930-'31, portraying himself as the ultimate crime fighter. By the time he died in Florida in 1931, William J. Burns had done much to buff the dents out of his reputation.

As for his agency? Many decades later, it was swallowed up by international conglomerate Securitas, which also bought up the Pinkertons.

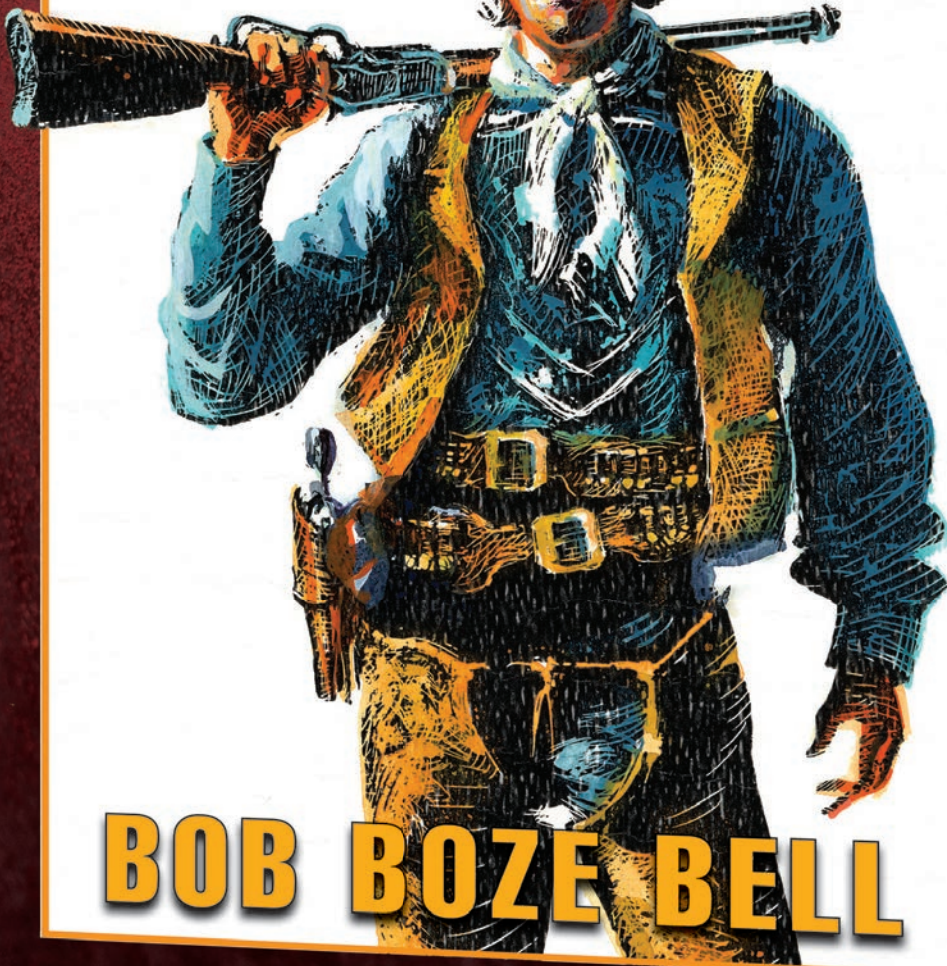


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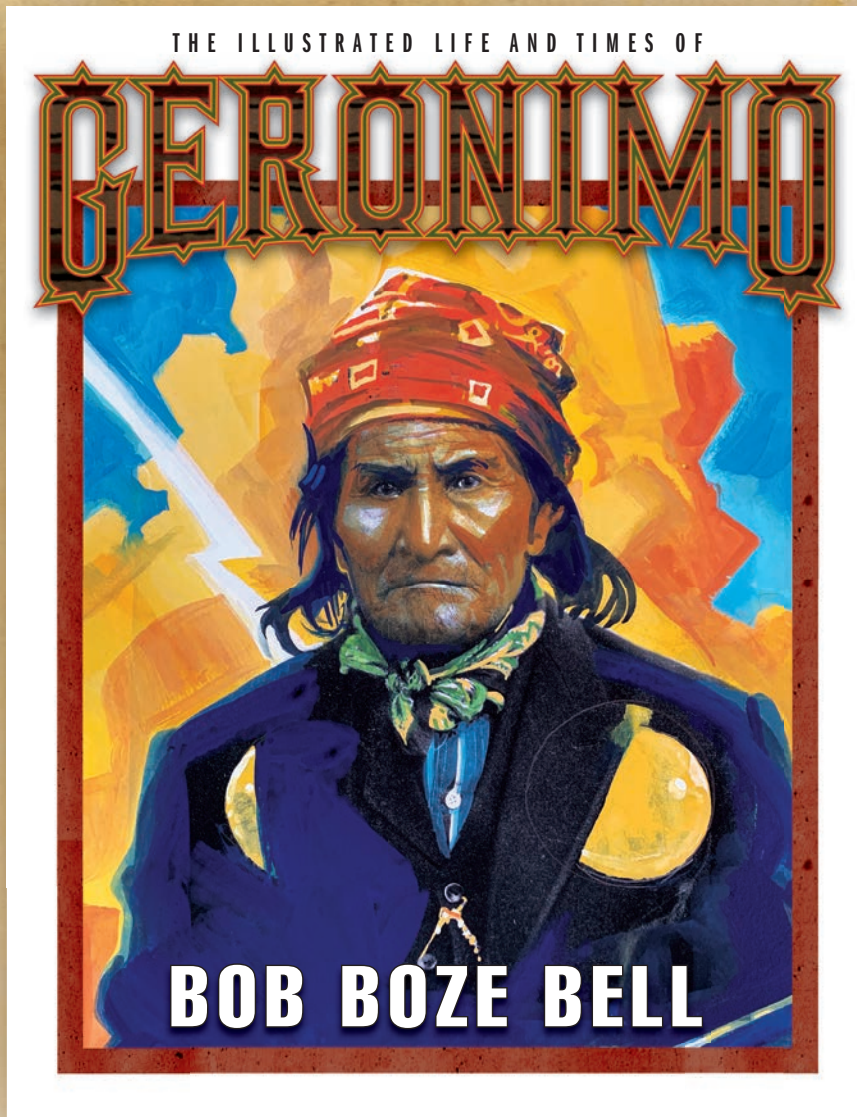
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—Paul Andrew Hutton



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

If it Moves, If it Spins, You'll Find it Here

This truly was the "engine" for Albuquerque.

The first thing Rabbi Isador Freed did in 1920, as he de-parted the train in a dusty New Mexico town, was drop to his knees and declare, "Albuquerque is a special paradise on earth, and we will never leave this place."

It had been a long journey, as the Rabbi and his family were escaping the antisemitism of Russia. But he was right—they never left, becoming a mainstay family as Albuquerque grew from 15,000 to a half-million today.

His granddaughter, Leba Freed, has honored the family by devoting 26 years to saving that railroad station. (Her father, who was eight when they arrived, grew up to become a major merchant—and a devoted friend to this magazine, advertising for decades.)

"I wanted to give back to Albuquerque," Leba says.

The 1914 Rail Yard had once been the largest steam repair shop between Chicago and Los Angeles. It had been abandoned and "laying fallow," since 1977, but in 1994 the railroad said it would let it go for \$2 million.

Leba wasn't the first woman to ignore an out-of-reach price tag. "I called 50 times because I wanted to tour the property. I'd never seen the inside. They wouldn't return my call." Finally, she was allowed in.

"I broke down crying," she remembers of touring the 27-acre property with 10 big buildings and its 350,000 square feet. Inside these walls, the Santa Fe had repaired 40 steam locomotives a month, employing 1,500. "It turned Albuquerque from a dusty town to a middle-class city."

Leba begged for money everywhere, but this wasn't a priority to anybody else. But she never gave up.



Leba Freed's grandparents and father first arrived at Albuquerque's Santa Fe Railway Station, with its famous Alvarado Hotel and Indian Building, in 1920.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections



The WHEELS Museum, housed in Albuquerque's former Santa Fe Railway Shops that serviced the rail line's locomotives, includes 30,000 artifacts dedicated to the transportation history of the city and state.

Photo by Irene Fertik



WHEELS founder Leba Freed has worked 26 years to see her dream come true of a museum at the historic Albuquerque Santa Fe railyards. The New Mexico Historical Society recently honored Freed for her dedication to saving the cultural landmark and creation of the living history center.

Photo by Irene Fertik

In 2007 a developer came to town, wanting to tear down all the buildings and use the land for a wind power business. Now attention was paid and Leba went into high gear.

With a new mayor, the city committed \$8.5 million, took title to the property, and gave Leba a mandate to create a museum. And that's exactly what she's done, starting with the Storehouse. She filled it with 30,000 items and \$3 million worth of exhibits to showcase the transportation history of the West.

The New Mexico Historical Society honored Leba this year with the Edward Lee Hewett Award that recognizes her outstanding service to the people of New Mexico.

But this isn't the end. Leba dreams about heritage rail tourism, enticing the other four-corner states into a railroad network. "It would be a unique attraction for the Southwest—an epic center of culture and excitement."

And here's a surprise: WHEELS doesn't mean the obvious but is an acronym for "We Have Everything Everyone Loves Spinning."



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

BY STEVE FRIESEN

Big Irons on the Block

Rock Island and Morphy firearms auctions ring up big profits.

Marty Robbins famously sang about a stranger who came out of the West wearing a "big iron on his hip." This spring the "big irons" weren't on hips, but they were certainly on the block at two of America's better-known firearms auction companies. The Rock Island Premier Firearms Auction, held May 13-15, featured more than 756 handguns; the Morphy Extraordinary Firearms Auction on May 18 had 125. But more important than sheer numbers was the significance of some of these firearms in the history of the American West.

Like the Arizona ranger in Robbins' song, Wild Bill Hickok wore big irons on his hips. One of those sold for \$626,875 at the Rock Island Auction. The thorough documentation of an engraved Colt 1851 Navy revolver no doubt helped drive the final price to more than twice the high estimate of \$225,000.

Hickok was a lawman but lost his life while gambling. One of the most famous gamblers in the West was neither a lawman nor, for that matter, a man. Poker Alice was an English immigrant who took up the gambling profession in Colorado after her husband died. She eventually moved to Creede, where she gambled in a saloon owned by Jesse James's killer, Robert Ford. A Hopkins and Allen #4 revolver with holster, given to her by Ford, and her gambling set, gathered in \$12,300 at the Morphy Auction.

One of the largest and most studied defeats of the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars was at the Battle of Little Bighorn. A well-documented Colt Single Action Army revolver and holster, carried by a member of Custer's command and retrieved at the



These Remington revolvers, with accessories and rosewood case, were presented to Ulysses S. Grant and sold for more than \$5 million. The revolvers were engraved by master craftsman L.D. Nimschke and each has a grip decorated with an eagle and Grant's portrait.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction

Little Bighorn not long after the battle, sold for \$763,750 at the Rock Island Auction.

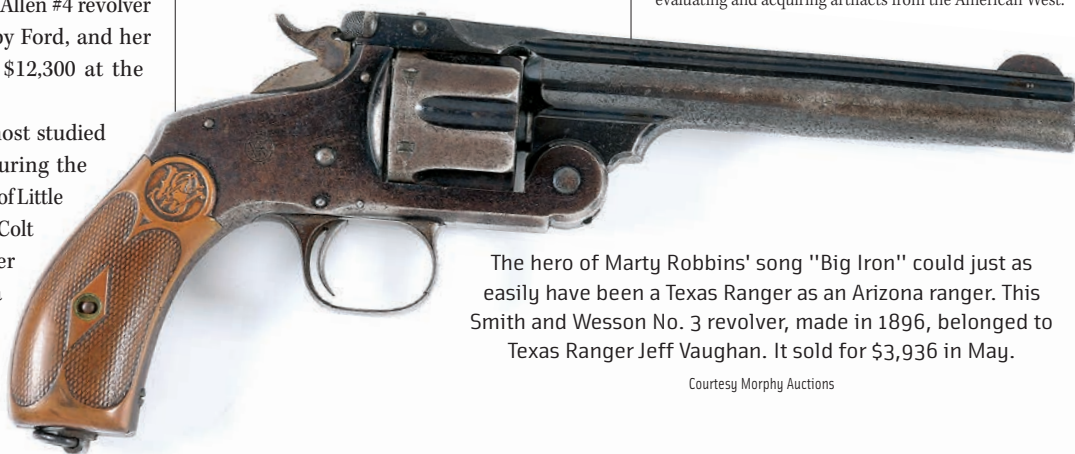
As president from 1869 to 1877, Ulysses S. Grant oversaw the handling of the Indian War on the Great Plains, including the defeat at Little Bighorn and its consequences. Before that he was commander of the Union Armies during the Civil War, which also had an impact on the American West. A pair of Remington New Model

Army revolvers, presented to General Grant after he took Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, captured \$5,170,000 at the Rock Island Auction.

The big irons worn by lawmen, gamblers and even presidents during the country's move westward continue to attract collectors, as proven by the Rock Island and Morphy auctions.



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

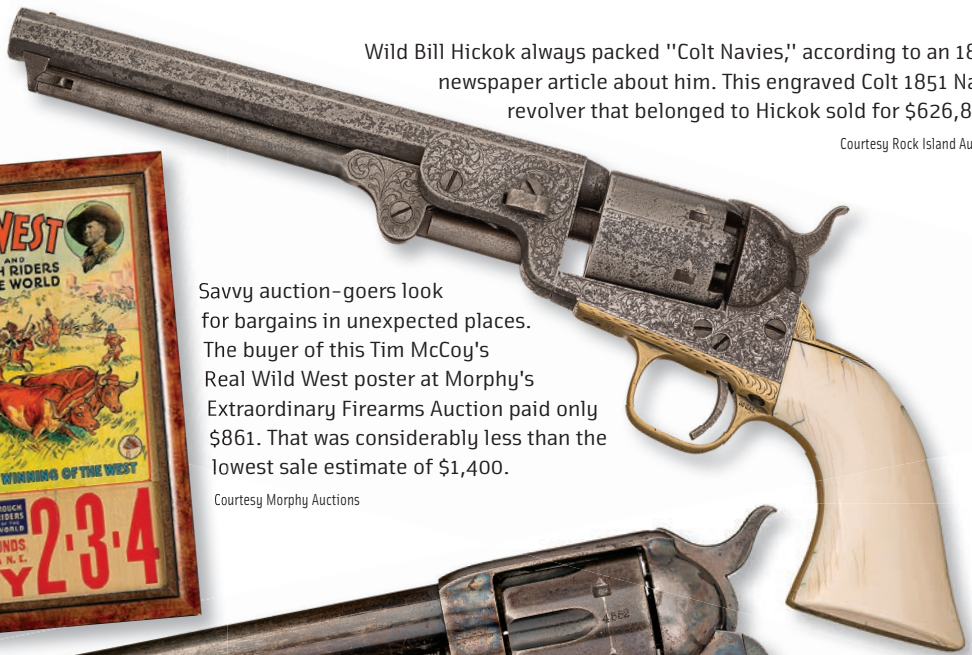


The hero of Marty Robbins' song "Big Iron" could just as easily have been a Texas Ranger as an Arizona ranger. This Smith and Wesson No. 3 revolver, made in 1896, belonged to Texas Ranger Jeff Vaughan. It sold for \$3,936 in May.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions

Wild Bill Hickok always packed "Colt Navies," according to an 1876 newspaper article about him. This engraved Colt 1851 Navy revolver that belonged to Hickok sold for \$626,875.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction



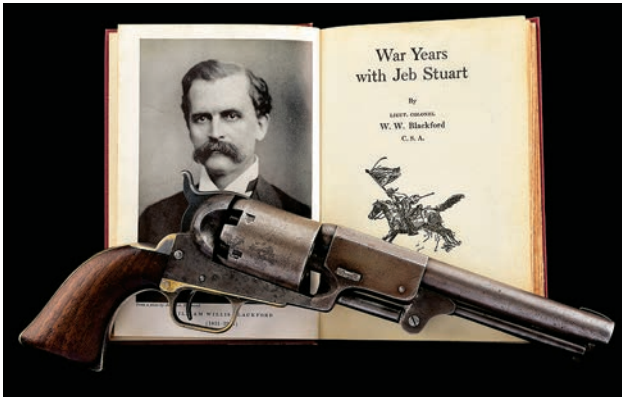
Savvy auction-goers look for bargains in unexpected places. The buyer of this Tim McCoy's Real Wild West poster at Morphy's Extraordinary Firearms Auction paid only \$861. That was considerably less than the lowest sale estimate of \$1,400.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions



Carried by a member of Custer's command and left at the Battle of Little Bighorn, this Colt Single Action Army revolver and holster sold for \$763,750.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction.



This 3rd Model Colt Dragoon, inscribed "Capt. W.W. Blackford, November 5, 1861" on its backstrap, sold for \$32,980. Blackford was aide-de-camp to Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. His Civil War memoir *War Years with Jeb Stuart* was published in 1945.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions



True West Archives

Poker Alice Tubbs (right) made a career as a gambler, saloon owner and brothel keeper. She was rarely to be seen without a cigar clamped between her teeth, and a revolver hidden on her person.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions

Poker Alice Tubbs' gambling set, including cards, chips, dice and personal items, and a pistol given to her by Robert Ford, killer of Jesse James, went for \$12,300.



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

August 26, 2022

Premier Firearms Auction #86
Rock Island Auction Co. (Rock Island, IL)
(800) 238-8022 • RockIslandAuction.com

September 16-17, 2022

16th Annual Jackson Hole Art Auction
Masterworks of the American West
(Jackson Hole, WY)
(866) 549-9278 • JacksonHoleArtAuction.com

September 19-24, 2022

Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale
Rendezvous Royale (Cody, WY)
(307) 587-5002 • RendezvousRoyale.org

BY MARK LEE GARDNER

Crazy Horse's Final Vision

THE PROPHETIC LAKOTA LEADER'S FINAL DAYS
STILL HAUNT US TODAY.

Lakota leaders like Spotted Tail, Red Cloud, American Horse, and others feared Crazy Horse because he was a threat to their status at the agencies. These chiefs believed they had a good thing going with the white man, and the last thing they wanted was a defiant Crazy Horse shaking up agency politics. Feeding their anxiety was a rumor that said the Great Father intended to make Crazy Horse chief over all the Lakotas.

All this fear put Crazy Horse in extreme danger. Many whites and Lakotas would sleep much more soundly if Crazy Horse no longer lived. When an early report from White Hat's failed attempt to corral Crazy Horse's band claimed the war chief had been killed, one of the officer's wives wrote that it was "considered good news."

Lee and Captain Burke assured Crazy Horse they meant him no harm and that he was safe at the Spotted Tail Agency. Lee was willing to consider a transfer of Crazy Horse's band, but it was something that would have to be worked out with the authorities at the Red Cloud Agency and Camp Robinson. In the meantime, Crazy

There were too many tongues. Crazy Horse sought quiet on solitary walks on the prairie, away from his village. On one of these walks, he chanced upon a dead eagle, and it deeply disturbed him. Crazy Horse returned to his lodge and sat in silence for several hours. The war chief was often immersed in his own thoughts, but those close to him sensed something was different. When asked what troubled him, Crazy Horse's answer was startling. He said he'd found his dead body on the prairie.

A short time after this incident, Crazy Horse experienced a terrifying dream. In the dream, he rode a white pony on an elevated plain. On all sides were enemies and even cannons. Crazy Horse said he was killed in this dream, but how he met his fate he didn't know. All he knew was that he didn't die from a bullet. For a man guided by visions and dreams, this powerful nightmare could only be a foreboding.

Horse would be under the protection of his friend Touch the Clouds during the night. Lee instructed Crazy Horse to report at Sheridan the following morning, when Lee would accompany the war chief back to Red Cloud to see what could be arranged. No troops would be part of the escort, Lee promised.

Fear of Trouble

Crazy Horse arrived at the post the next day as requested but informed Agent Lee he'd changed his mind about going to Red Cloud. He said he "feared some trouble would happen." The war

chief asked Lee to make the trip without him and settle the matter about the transfer. Lee made it clear, however, that that wouldn't do. The agent stressed to Crazy Horse that no one intended to harm him and that he would have to return peaceably to Red Cloud as planned. But Crazy Horse wanted additional assurances. Accordingly, Lee promised a meeting with the Soldier Chief, Colonel Bradley, in which he would explain everything they'd discussed at Camp Sheridan. Crazy Horse would then have a chance to give his side of the events that led to his flight.

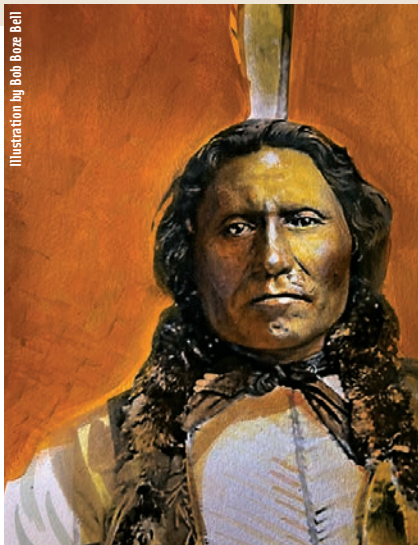


Illustration by Bob Bore Bell



Camp Robinson and the Red Cloud Buttes are shown as they looked in 1877, the year of Crazy Horse's death.

Courtesy Newberry Library

If Crazy Horse was truthful, Lee would tell Bradley that he, Captain Burke, and Spotted Tail were agreeable to the transfer of Crazy Horse's band to the Spotted Tail Agency. Lee and Crazy Horse also agreed that both would travel to Red Cloud unarmed.

Now that Crazy Horse was going to make the forty-three-mile journey, he decided he wanted a saddle; he'd ridden bareback from his village to Spotted Tail. Crazy Horse started back to Touch the Clouds's camp to get one. Lee planned to meet him there with the ambulance. Two Sheridan Indian scouts were ordered to follow Crazy Horse to the camp. Even though Lee and Captain Burke told Crazy Horse several times not to worry about being harmed, they weren't about to take a chance of the war chief escaping. If Crazy Horse tried to flee, the scouts were instructed to shoot his mount. If that didn't work, they were to shoot Crazy Horse.

When the mule-drawn ambulance arrived at Touch the Clouds's camp, Crazy Horse seemed in no hurry to leave. Eager to get going, though, was Lee, who sent the interpreter Bordeaux after the chief. But just as the interpreter found Crazy Horse, Touch the Clouds invited the war chief to his lodge for a breakfast of bread, meat, and coffee. The two friends took their time eating, seemingly trying to put off the inevitable as long as possible. Finally, having finished their leisurely meal, Crazy Horse said he was ready to go.

As promised, no troops appeared to escort the party, but a number of warriors and

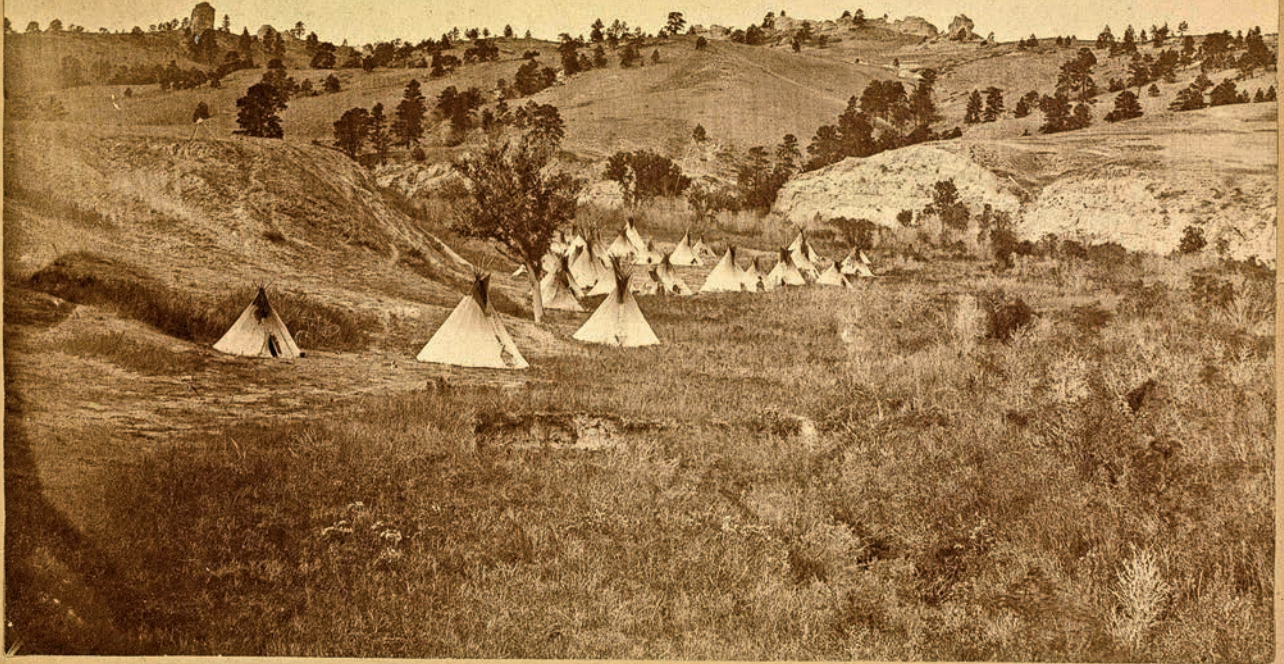
headmen came along, some friends of Crazy Horse whom he requested and others there to make sure the Oglala leader didn't try to get away. Seated in the ambulance with Lee were Bordeaux, Touch the Clouds, and three other chiefs. Crazy Horse, a bright red trade blanket draped around his upper body, rode horseback.

After the procession was about fifteen miles out, it became obvious Crazy Horse wasn't going to get away even if he'd wanted to. Small groups of scouts from Spotted Tail began to come up on their back trail. By the halfway point to Red Cloud, some forty scouts had joined the party. This sudden increase of strength had all been planned. Crazy Horse tested the escort just once by suddenly spurring his pony ahead and galloping over a rise a hundred yards away and out of sight. The scouts gave chase and brought the chief back to the ambulance. Crazy Horse said he'd only gone ahead to find water for his horse. Lee instructed him to ride behind the ambulance for the remainder of the trip. Crazy Horse now grew very serious and uneasy, more



Little Big Man, onetime lieutenant of Crazy Horse and Little Bighorn veteran, later played a despicable part in the war chief's death.

Photographed in Washington, D.C., October 1877, Courtesy Library of Congress



Indian Village at Fort Robinson

An unidentified Sioux village set up with traditional buffalo hide teepees at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, was photographed circa 1877. The photo may have been taken by Gen. George Crook's aide-de-camp 1st Lt. Walter Scribner Schuyler, who served the three-star general from May 30, 1876, to January 19, 1882.

Courtesy Huntington Digital Library, Provenance: Schuyler 1943 (Capt. Schuyler, 5th Cav.)

uncertain than ever as to what awaited him. This prompted Lee to reassure Crazy Horse and his friends that he would do exactly as promised, and Crazy Horse would be allowed to state his case to the Soldier Chief and request a transfer.

When within fifteen miles of Red Cloud, Lee sent a runner ahead with a message to Lieutenant Clark asking if he should bring Crazy Horse to the agency or to Camp Robinson. Lee also mentioned his promise to Crazy Horse

of an audience with Colonel Bradley and asked that this be arranged. After going another eleven miles, a rider delivered Clark's written response: take Crazy Horse directly to the adjutant's office at the post. Clark said not a word about the requested meeting with the colonel, and as the adjutant's office was next to the post guardhouse, Lee figured that was where Crazy Horse was going to end up. Lee still hoped for a brief talk with Bradley, however; he'd given Crazy Horse his word.

The procession passed the Red Cloud Agency at a good clip. Groups of Indians stood silently near their lodges to catch a glimpse of Crazy Horse as he passed. They'd been warned not to approach the party; it could be confused as a rescue attempt. The Indian scouts were already on edge, leery of a possible ambush from Crazy Horse's people. A mile and a half more and the column pulled into Robinson. The time was approximately 6:00 p.m.; in a little more than an hour, sunset would bring a close to this crisp, clear day.



Spotted Tail, head chief of the Brulé tribe, was Crazy Horse's uncle. Like Red Cloud, he fell into disfavor with both Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse for not joining them in their war against the white man and for signing away Lakota lands.

Courtesy Newberry Library

Alerted to the war chief's approach, a crowd of several hundred had gathered at the post: Crazy Horse's people, agency Lakotas, Cheyennes, Arapahos, and Bluecoats. Crazy Horse rode in front of the ambulance as it crossed the parade ground. Among those waiting to see the war chief was He Dog, who rode up on the left side of Crazy Horse and shook hands. He Dog leaned close to his friend. "Look out," he whispered, "watch your step. You are going into a dangerous place."



Red Cloud, fierce Oglala war chief and leader of the Bad Face band, vowed to fight to the death until the forts in the Powder River country were abandoned, which happened in 1868. Red Cloud subsequently signed the Treaty of Fort Laramie and never again went to war against the whites.

Courtesy National Anthropological Archives

The Betrayal

The ambulance stopped in front of the adjutant's office, on the south side of the parade ground. Here several artillery pieces were arranged in a line, not unlike in Crazy Horse's dream. As Lee stepped down from the vehicle, the post adjutant met him and said Crazy Horse was to be turned over to the officer of the day. This meant the guardhouse for the chief. "No, not yet!" Lee blurted out. He requested that Crazy Horse be allowed to speak to Colonel Bradley first. Only the colonel could decide that, the adjutant replied, so Lee had Crazy Horse dismount and go into the adjutant's office to wait. Crazy Horse was joined by his friends Touch the Clouds, High Bear, and other Lakotas who'd made the journey from Spotted Tail.

Lee rapidly walked the 175 yards across the parade ground to Bradley's quarters, passing through throngs of Lakotas on horseback and on foot, all wondering what was transpiring with Crazy Horse. But to Lee's utter dismay, Bradley refused to see the chief. General Crook, who'd departed Robinson the morning previous, had telegraphed orders to send Crazy Horse under guard to Omaha. From there, the chief was destined for exile at Fort Marion, Florida, the War Department's prison of choice for American Indians who dared resist the loss of their lands and freedom.

Lee tried to delicately reason with his superior, explaining that the only way he'd been able to convince the Oglala leader to come was by

promising he could have a hearing before the Soldier Chief. But Bradley was unsympathetic and firmly told Lee it was too late for any talk. Orders were orders. Turn Crazy Horse over to the officer of the day, he said, and tell the chief "not a hair of his head should be harmed." Desirous of somehow finding a way to honor his pledge to Crazy Horse, Lieutenant Lee asked the colonel if it would be possible to meet with the chief in the morning. Bradley gave Lee a glance that signaled their talk was over.

This was a disconcerting turn of events for Lee; he'd betrayed Crazy Horse's trust. Nevertheless, a promise to an Indian, one his fellow officers considered a troublemaker and a murderer, definitely wasn't worth risking his career over. Lee walked back to the adjutant's office and told Bordeaux to bring out a few of Crazy Horse's friends. Through the interpreter, Lee told them he'd done all he could for Crazy Horse and that Colonel Bradley would take care of him for the night. Then Lee, who wished to avoid any uncomfortable questions from Crazy Horse, told Bordeaux to go in and tell the Oglala leader that night was coming, and thus it was too late to talk to the Soldier Chief. Instead, he was to go with the officer of the day, Captain James Kennington, who would get him settled and keep him from any harm.

Crazy Horse appeared satisfied with Bordeaux's words and walked out with Kennington, followed by the Lakotas who'd been



A former warrior under Crazy Horse and a nephew of Red Cloud, Hunts the Enemy (George Sword) traveled to Crazy Horse's camp in the spring of 1877 and helped persuade the chief to go to the Red Cloud Agency and surrender with his people.

Hunts the Enemy is pictured here as a Metal Breast (Indian policeman) at the Pine Ridge Agency.

Courtesy Newberry Library

waiting with him. Suddenly appearing near the door was Little Big Man, who roughly took Crazy Horse by the left arm. "So you are the brave man," he sneered. "Come on, you coward." Crazy Horse was both astonished and taken aback. Little Big Man had seized this moment when Crazy Horse was at his most vulnerable to demonstrate how big a friend he was to the white man. Two soldiers of the guard followed close behind the war chief. Several Indian scouts watched with weapons at the ready. A distance of sixty feet separated the adjutant's office from the guardhouse. Like many structures at the post, both buildings were constructed of pine logs. The guardhouse, one story high, contained

two rooms, and from the outside, there was little to suggest its purpose. Its main door opened into the guardroom; to the right was the prison room, and it currently held a number of inmates, the chains of their leg irons clinking and rattling on the wood floor every time the men moved.

Crazy Horse stepped through the door of the guardhouse with Kennington and Little Big Man, followed by a cluster of allies, among whom were Touch the Clouds and Horn Chips, Crazy Horse's friend and holy man. Neither Crazy Horse nor his friends realized what they were walking into until Touch the Clouds heard the sound of the chains and saw the door to the prison room with its barred window. In a startled voice, Touch the Clouds said the place was a jail. Crazy Horse instantly sprang back, careening into bodies of guards and Indians. Even though the war chief had promised Lee he would not come armed, he wore a revolver and a knife beneath his blanket. In a blur of movement, he yanked his knife from its sheath. Seeing a knife on Little Big Man's belt, he seized that, too, and began slashing wildly in all directions while moving toward the outside doorway.

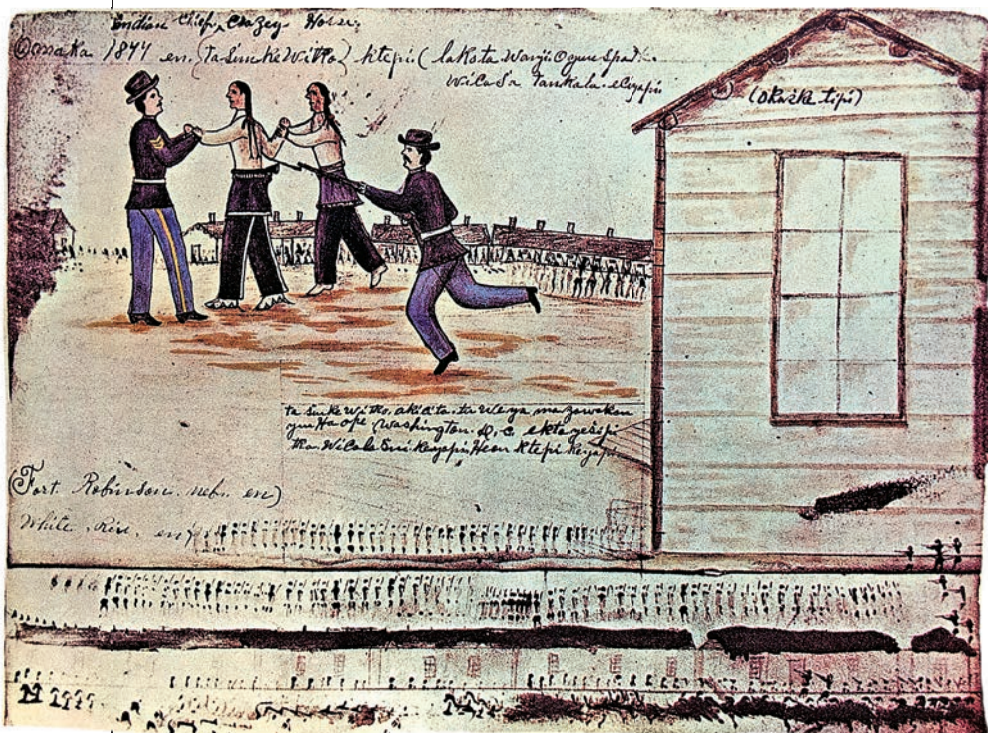
Kennington drew his saber. Little Big Man grabbed one of Crazy Horse's arms. "Let me go! Let me go! Let me go!" the chief shouted. Stunned onlookers in the parade ground saw flashes of polished steel and heard sounds of chaos: shouts, stomping feet, chairs tumbling. Crazy Horse spun around so his back faced the doorway and lunged for the outside, dragging Little Big Man with him. Several Indian scouts raised their revolvers, causing Kennington to yell, "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!"

Crazy Horse brought the sharp blade of his knife down on Little Big Man's hand, cutting deeply into his thumb and forefinger. Little Big Man howled in pain and jerked his hand back, blood spurting from the wound. Indian scouts and guards grappled with the chief, who violently



An image from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Times* June 9, 1877, depicts Crazy Horse's band on their way from Camp Sheridan to surrender to Gen. George Crook at Red Cloud Agency on Sunday, May 6, 1877. The notes with the Albert Berghaus illustration claim it was created from sketches by a Mr. Hottes. It is the only illustration known of the surrender.

Courtesy Library of Congress



pulled in all directions, trying to break free. Kennington hovered near the frenzied mass of bodies looking for an opportunity to deal a blow with his saber, yelling, "Kill the son of a bitch! Kill the son of a bitch!"

A sentry next to the door, intently watching the scuffle, already had his Springfield rifle

The killing of Crazy Horse was imagined and illustrated by Oglala artist Amos Bad Heart Bull (1869–1913).

Courtesy University of Cincinnati Archives and Rare Books Library



Lieutenant William Philo Clark and Little Hawk, uncle of Crazy Horse, were photographed in 1877. Clark, head of the Indian scouts at Camp Robinson, failed in his efforts to manipulate or “work” Crazy Horse, and later commented that the chief’s death “will save trouble.”

National Anthropological Archives



Ellen “Nellie” Larabee proposed to Crazy Horse in the summer of 1877 and subsequently shared his lodge with Black Shawl, the chief’s first wife. The multilingual Nellie kept Crazy Horse informed of the news and gossip circulating through the villages and at Camp Robinson.

Courtesy Mark Lee Gardner

lowered, an eighteen-inch bayonet blade affixed to the gun’s muzzle. He swiftly guided the sharp point of the bayonet between those struggling with the chief and made a sudden jab, pushing the triangular steel blade deep into Crazy Horse’s abdomen, just above the hip. Crazy Horse stiffened for an instant and gasped as the sentry withdrew the blade. “Let me go, you’ve got me hurt now,” he cried. The sentry thrust again but missed the squirming chief and struck the doorframe, the rigid bayonet sinking deep into the pine wood. The soldier jerked the Springfield back to make another stab, accidentally slamming the butt of the gun into Horn Chips, dislocating the holy man’s shoulder.

Nauseated from pain, Crazy Horse stopped fighting and sank to the ground. An Indian scout grabbed the grip of the war chief’s revolver and jerked it out of its scabbard; Crazy Horse had never tried to use it. The scout held the gun triumphantly in the air. As the Indian scouts and guards stepped back from the war chief, Crazy Horse was seen to be writhing on the ground in a fetal position, moaning loudly. Crazy Horse’s father, Worm, had watched in horror as his son

fought with Little Big Man and the soldiers. He now jumped off his pony and ran toward Captain Kennington, a cocked revolver in one hand and a bow and arrows in the other. The Indian scouts knocked the old man down and disarmed him. Doctor McGillicuddy also witnessed the melee, and he pushed his way through to Crazy Horse’s side. The war chief was frothing at the mouth, and his pulse in both arms was weak and intermittent.

The doctor searched for the wound and found it on Crazy Horse’s right side, where blood trickled from a small puncture on the upper edge of the war chief’s hip. The entry wound didn’t look bad, but the doctor assumed the bayonet’s long blade had traversed the entire width of Crazy Horse’s body, slicing through vital organs and causing internal bleeding. The Oglala leader had but a short time to live.

Meanwhile, Crazy Horse’s friends and followers in the crowd began shouting angrily and brandishing their weapons. The Indian scouts fled across the parade ground to the front of Colonel Bradley’s quarters. Kennington ordered his guards to take Crazy Horse back inside the guardhouse, but when they attempted to pick up the wounded chief, the crowd became more threatening, chambering rounds and cocking hammers. At this point, the interpreters Bordeaux, Billy Garnett, and Frank Grouard decided to make themselves scarce. Kennington and McGillicuddy became increasingly anxious and uncertain as what to do, neither one being able to speak or understand Lakota. All it would take was one gun going off to commence an all-out firefight.

After several tense moments, a mixed-blood Lakota offered to translate and informed the crowd that McGillicuddy wanted to move Crazy Horse inside the guardhouse so he could be treated. “Don’t take him in the guardhouse,” someone shouted, “he is a chief.”

“What shall I do with him?” said McGillicuddy.

Several in the crowd motioned to the adjutant’s office. “Take him there,” they said.

Crazy Horse was carefully removed to the adjutant’s office and placed on a pallet of blankets on the floor. McGillicuddy made a more thorough examination of Crazy Horse’s wound, confirming his earlier assessment. The doctor gave the war chief a hypodermic injection of

morphine to ease his pain and bandaged the swollen puncture on his side. Touch the Clouds and Crazy Horse's father were allowed to stay with the chief. Others in the room included post surgeon Charles E. Munn, Captain Kennington, and officer of the guard Lieutenant Henry R. Lemly. Louis Bordeaux had gotten over his fright and was there for the next few hours as interpreter.

As darkness settled on Camp Robinson, the crowd of Indians gradually melted away. Most didn't know exactly how Crazy Horse had been hurt, whether it was from a knife or a bayonet. And they didn't know the culprit, either. The bayonet thrust had been so quick that very few saw it, and the soldier who skewered the war chief was immediately relieved by a new sentry. Some strongly suspected Little Big Man stabbed Crazy Horse to gain favor with the Long Knives. Another theory was that Crazy Horse stabbed himself. This fantastical theory involved Little Big Man, too, for he claimed afterward that when Crazy Horse cut his hand, the blade glanced off and entered the war chief's body. The Crazy Horse-killed-himself scenario was especially liked by White Hat. He telegraphed General Crook that he was "trying to persuade all [the] Indians" that was indeed what happened.

Under the warm glow of kerosene lamps, Crazy Horse slipped in and out of consciousness. McGillycuddy shot morphine into the war chief's veins as needed. Lucid moments were far apart and brief. During one of these, Crazy Horse told Bordeaux the soldiers shouldn't have stabbed him. "I had no desire to do injury to any of them," he said. "The only man to whom I wished to do harm was Little Big Man, for his insolent treatment of me, but he got away. I don't know why they stabbed me."

Worm sat on the floor next to his son. Crazy Horse looked up at him and said, "Father, it is no use to depend upon me; I am going to die."



Worm and Touch the Clouds began to sob uncontrollably.

Late in the evening, about 11:00 p.m., "Big Bat" Pourier relieved Bordeaux as interpreter so Bordeaux could get some rest. Crazy Horse's face had become very pale, and his body was growing cold. The war chief, as if speaking from a dream, began a sort of chant: "Father, I want to see you." He repeated this several times. It was the last that Crazy Horse's voice was heard in this world. He died at approximately 11:40 p.m. Touch the Clouds pulled Crazy Horse's blanket over his face and pointed to his body. "There lies his lodge," he said. The Miniconjou then motioned toward the heavens and said, "The chief has gone above."

Crazy Horse, Tasunke Witko, was with the Thunder Beings.



"Crazy Horse's Final Vision: The prophetic Lakota leader's final days still haunt us today" by Mark Lee Gardner is excerpted from Chapter 12, "Father, I Want to See You," of his latest book *The Earth Is All That Lasts* (Mariner/HarperCollins). Gardner is the award-winning author of nine books. A review of Gardner's dual biography can be read on page 46.

This drawing is believed to depict the August 5, 1873, "Battle" of Massacre Canyon, in which Crazy Horse was a participant. The drawing is one of ten contained in a small ledger book that Crazy Horse presented to a journalist in May 1877. Crazy Horse said the drawings represented the life of a famous warrior, but he wouldn't say whether or not that warrior was himself.

Courtesy Denver Art Museum



Pictured is the reconstructed Camp Robinson guardhouse. Crazy Horse was bayoneted just outside the guardhouse door.

Photograph by Mark Lee Gardner

General George Crook, commander of the Department of the Platte, arrived at Camp Robinson on September 2, 1877. He planned to council with Crazy Horse until he heard a rumor the Oglala leader planned to kill him, a lie spread by Red Cloud's cousin, Woman Dress.

True West Archives



BY W. MICHAEL FARMER

A HERO'S JOURNEY FROM WAR TO PEACE

In 1934 Chato, well into his 80s, a shiny silver medal pinned to his vest, enjoyed good White Eye whiskey with his friends parked in a dilapidated old car up a Mescalero canyon out of sight of the main road. Finishing the whiskey, they let the car roll chugging and grinding out of the canyon and down main road ruts running by a creek. Despite being drunk, it was easy enough to steer the car along in the ruts until it suddenly swerved off the road, rushed down the creek bank, and landed in cold, rushing water. A passerby helped get Chato out of the car and to a doctor's care. Pneumonia soon took him. The wind carried rumors of retribution across the Mescalero Reservation saying, "Yep, they finally got him." There was no proof, only the knowledge that the old Apaches had very long memories and never let perceived wrongs go unavenged even if they had to wait years. The rumors soon died like the wind to light breezes of occasional whispers.

Chato outlived most of his friends and enemies, but the memories that seemed to make him a pariah at Mescalero were from his days as an Army scout and his bitter antagonism with Geronimo, once friend and ally. Their antagonism reflected the Chiricahua war and peace tribal factions that existed after the breakout of 25 percent of the Chiricahuas from Fort Apache on May 17, 1885.

Goyahkla (Geronimo, as the Anglos called him after the Mexican nickname, "Jeronimo"), was

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BETRAYAL OF ARMY SCOUT CHATO IS STILL A STAIN ON AMERICAN HISTORY.



Photographer Frank Randal famously posed Geronimo and Chato in a temporary photo studio he set up on the San Carlos Indian Reservation in the spring of 1884. The rival Chiricahua leaders both ended up as prisoners of war, even though Chato had fought against Geronimo as a U.S. Army scout for Gen. George Crook.

Chato Photo Courtesy Smithsonian/Geronimo Photo And All Other Photos Courtesy True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted

never a chief. He was a powerful *di-yen*, a shaman, who, with seeming supernatural Power, could cure diseases; tell the direction of enemy approach; predict time, place and manner of future enemy attacks; and envision events at great distance when they happened. Geronimo was a consigliere to the young Chokonon Chiricahua chief, Naiche, who also made him his war leader,

and he was the *segundo* (number two) for the indomitable Nednhi Chiricahua chief, Juh. A hard-eyed killer, Geronimo loved his People and his family, but hated disloyalty. He called Chato a traitor and at least once, told his brothers Fun and Tsisnah to kill him.

Pedes-klinje was a Chiricahua chief the Mexicans nicknamed "Chato" (flat-nosed), the name by which the Anglos also called him. Eve Ball quotes James Kaywaykla from *In the Days of Victoria*: "The White Eyes had no more implacable enemy than Chato. His brother had met death at their hands; and so had their father, Mochas. Chato boasted of taking many White Eye lives in retaliation." In the late 1870s

through the mid 1880s Chato led a small but powerful band of about 10 warriors and 30 women and children. He was always ready to fight and not reluctant to express his opinion in councils, even when it wasn't wanted, which made him less than popular with other Chiricahua and Chihenne leaders. Chato said of Geronimo, "I have known Geronimo all my life and have never known anything good about him."

Geronimo's surrender conference with Gen. George Crook at Embudos Canyon on March 25, 1886, led to the Apache leader's first surrender.



Chato, 30 years younger than Geronimo, often served as his *segundo* in numerous raids and fights from 1877 until 1883. Along with 375 other Chiricahuas, he eagerly followed Geronimo and Juh when they left San Carlos for the Sierra Madre in late September 1881. The following year, in April 1882, Chato played a major role supporting Geronimo in abducting Loco's 350 Chihenne (aka Warm Springs) Apaches, which included 50 fighting men, from San Carlos to Juh's Sierra Madre stronghold. The abduction was a major success during their run toward the border, the Chiricahuas losing only one warrior in a fight with cavalry near Stein's Peak in New Mexico. But within the span of two days, after crossing into Mexico, Loco lost more than 40 percent of his People and about half his warriors. Many Chihennes held Geronimo responsible for the loss of so many of their People and developed a long and abiding dislike for him and his supporters who had forced them from their San Carlos homes. Surprisingly, the other chiefs involved in the abduction, including Chato, received little of this animosity.

The following year, in May 1883, Gen. George Crook suddenly appeared at the camp of Chato

and Bonito at Mesa Tres Ríos in Sonora (the Apaches called the area Bugatseka) with 193 Apache scouts and 50 mounted soldiers. The Apaches were stunned to see that the Mexicans let Crook cross the border, that he had found their camps, and that his primary soldiers were Army scouts, their own people. When Crook took the camp, Geronimo and Chato were at least 120 miles away leading some of their best warriors to take captives they could trade back to the Mexicans for family members who had been taken into slavery.

The same day Crook's scouts attacked the camp with little bloodshed, Geronimo had a vision telling him Blue Coats were in their camp. The warriors raced back to Bugatseka to find the vision was true. Geronimo and the other chiefs including Chato thought Crook had god-like powers that enabled him to cross the border and find and take their camps. The chiefs and Geronimo agreed to return to San Carlos where Crook promised to give them good reservation land for their sole use and to protect them from agent theft of their rations and annuities.

Chato had a long talk with Crook at Bugatseka and decided that it was best for him

and his band to accept the leadership and direction of the Army. In June, needing to get about half the People (those who had come in) to San Carlos, but running out of supplies, Crook let the chiefs stay in Mexico to gather their scattered people and then return. The last two leaders to return were Chato in early February and Geronimo in late February 1884.

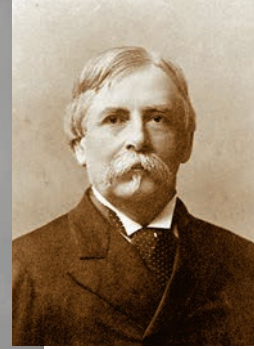
General Crook gave the Chiricahuas a piece of the Fort Apache Reservation along Turkey Creek and made Lt. Britton Davis their Army commander. After they crossed the Black River in May 1884, on the way to their first camps on Turkey Creek, General Crook joined the chiefs and leading men in a council. During the council Chato pleaded with Crook to use his influence to get their people out of Mexican slavery, and Crook promised to do what he could. The promise gave Chato hope of getting his wife and children back and made him fiercely loyal to Davis and Crook.

Chato's loyalty to Davis and Crook led him to report to Davis nearly every day on how the camps were doing and if there were any concerns among the People that Davis needed to address. The Chiricahuas knew Davis had

President Grover Cleveland



Secretary of War William C. Endicott



three spies informing him about what was going on, and because Chato spoke with him almost every day, they thought Chato was a spy. He was not a spy. In fact, at that time, he wasn't even an Army scout, but he often used his daily reports to make any rivals for tribal power look as bad as possible—at least that's what some Chiricahuas believed.

After spending a peaceful time during the summer and fall months of 1884 on Turkey Creek and a winter at Fort Apache, the Chiricahuas returned to their camps and nascent farms on Turkey Creek. In April 1885, tensions between the Army and the Chiricahuas increased, as they had earlier in 1884, over General Crook's rules against wife-beating and making and drinking tizwin, a strong corn beer. The Apaches considered these rules interference in their private affairs. All the Apaches, except the scouts who were led by Chato as First Sergeant, challenged Davis on the tizwin rule by getting drunk at the same time one evening in mid-May 1885. They came to his tent the next morning, some with a hangover, others still drunk, and wanted to know if he intended to lock them all up. They didn't believe he could. Davis referred the decision to General Crook, but due to a communications snafu, Crook never got the request.

After waiting two days for Crook's answer, Geronimo decided it was imperative to leave the reservation on May 17, 1885, before he was thrown in the guardhouse or taken to Alcatraz. He told his brothers, Fun and Tsisnah, to assassinate Davis and Chato at the next scout assembly, take all the ammunition out of Davis's supply tent and get all the scouts they could to join them.

Late on the afternoon of May 17, 1885, Fun and Tsisnah, at the scout assembly in front of Davis's supply tent, heard Davis tell Chato to command the scouts to "butt" their rifles (hold their rifles by the end of the barrel with the

Chato was originally photographed at the time he met with Secretary of War William C. Endicott (inset, right) at their July 26, 1886, meeting in Washington, D.C., before President Grover Cleveland (inset, left) presented Chato his silver medal.

Courtesy The Smithsonian/Endicott Photo Courtesy Library of Congress/
Cleveland Photo Courtesy National Portrait Gallery, no. 2007-308

butts on the ground) and to shoot anyone who raised a rifle among the assembled scouts. They decided the assassination attempt was too risky and slipped away with two other deserters.

When Geronimo, Nana, Mangas, Naiche and Chihuahua left the Fort Apache Reservation only about 25 percent of the band was with them. The rest stayed peacefully on the reservation, minding their own business and tending their farms. It was learned later that Naiche and Chihuahua left because Geronimo had mistakenly told them that Davis and Chato had been assassinated, and they believed they would be implicated.

After leading the scouts who tracked the escaping Apaches, Davis and Chato left to return to Fort Apache, but left their scouts to support Capt. Allen Smith. Davis wanted to brief General Crook as soon as possible on the facts of the situation by wire. Chato with Bonito, both very bitter

about the escape, wanted to select and organize scouts to hunt down the escapees. Seventy percent of the Chiricahua men who had stayed on the reservation would eventually serve as scouts in the search for the escapees in Mexico. For some, the work of going after friends and relatives was not pleasant, but most, with relatives

they wanted out of Mexican slavery and who disliked Geronimo, were anxious to join Chato and Bonito. Their enemy had become their own people and their anger was directed at their symbolic leader, Geronimo, whose actions had threatened their livelihood on Turkey Creek and the chances of Crook getting their People out of slavery in Mexico. Their leader was Chato. Many of the Chiricahuas believed Chato had great supernatural Power, which he claimed years later came from dreams that told the future and muscle tremors that warned of immediate danger.

Chato became the trusted advisor to General Crook, Captain Crawford and Lieutenant Davis. He successfully led scouts into Mexico during the long, hot summer of 1885, forcing Geronimo and the chiefs with him to split, reunite and



Geronimo's half-brothers, Tsisnah (right) and Fun (left), were asked to assassinate Chiricahua Army Scout Chato and Lt. Britton Davis, the leader of Apache Scouts Companies B and E in 1885-86.



split again to avoid attack on their camps and capture. Weary from the cat-and-mouse struggle in Mexico, Chato and many other Chiricahua scouts didn't reenlist in November 1885. They returned to Turkey Creek to tend to their farms.

In late March 1886, the Chiricahuas surrendered to General Crook at Embudos Canyon about 10 miles south of the border, but two days later, just before they crossed the border, a band led by Geronimo and Naiche broke away from the main group and refused to surrender until late August 1886. The main group under Chihuahua was shipped as prisoners of war to Fort Marion, Florida, in April 1886.

In July 1886 Chato was asked to leave his farm and lead a delegation to Washington and petition Secretary of War William C. Endicott to allow the Chiricahuas who helped the Army bring in the Chiricahua renegades to keep their land at Fort Apache. Endicott gave them a paper that they thought said they could stay at Fort Apache, but it only stated they had visited his office. President Cleveland gave Chato a fine



Deemed prisoners of war, (l.-r.) Geronimo, Naiche and Mangus were sent directly by train to Fort Pickens, Pensacola, Florida, after their surrender in September 1886. Other Chiricahuas, including Chato, who had aided the U.S. Army in defeating Geronimo and his followers, were also ungraciously imprisoned as POWs, despite their protests that they had fought for peace against their own people.

silver medal that he wore on his vest or coat until his end of days. After the delegation boarded the train back to Arizona, in a stunning, shameful betrayal, they were delivered to Fort Marion and became prisoners of war for the next 27 years.

Geronimo and others blamed Chato for betraying the Chiricahuas to the White Eyes, but it was the White Eyes who betrayed all the scouts and innocent Chiricahuas who had lived peacefully on their farms while Geronimo and others rampaged across Sonora and Chihuahua. Chato survived the unrewarding, 27-year prisoner-of-war internment but had become a bitter old man when he was released from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1913. He and his wife, Helen (who he had married at Fort Marion to save her from being shipped to the Carlisle school when she was 15), moved with other Chiricahuas to the Mescalero Reservation in New Mexico.

The factional hatred that living together as prisoners of war had kept in check finally made Chato a pariah to other Chiricahuas and many Mescaleros. Geronimo's nephew, Asa Daklugie,

a leading light for the Chiricahuas, passed on to younger generations the belief that Chato was a traitor.

In 1913 most of the Chiricahuas chose to live in the White Tail area of Mescalero. Chato chose to live with Helen alone at Apache Summit about 10 miles from the Mescalero Agency. He hauled water from the agency once a week, not an easy job for a man near 60. His death in August 1934, whether from revenge or accident, ended the life of one about whom Lt. Britton Davis wrote in 1929, "Chato is the finest man, red or white, I have ever known."



W. Michael Farmer's historical novels and nonfiction books on the Mescalero and Chiricahua Apaches have won Will Rogers Medallion Awards and New Mexico–Arizona Book Awards for Adventure–Drama, Historical Fiction, Literary Fiction and New Mexico History.



Loco, chief of the Mimbrenño Apache tribe, also posed for Randal at San Carlos in the spring of 1884. A tireless advocate of peace, he opposed Geronimo and Victorio, but still ended up a prisoner of war at the end of Geronimo's war and died at Fort Sill in 1905.



The Chiricahua people who relocated from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to Mescalero in New Mexico, lived on the Whitetail section of the reservation (above). Chato, who many still saw as a traitor, lived with his wife, Helen, 10 miles away from the Mescalero Agency headquarters.

Courtesy The Smithsonian



When in the field, Gen. George Crook greatly depended on his two favorite Apache scouts, Dutchy (left) and Alchesay (right).



Apache leaders (l.-r.) Chihuahua, Naiche, Loco, Nana and Geronimo posed for posterity while imprisoned at Mt. Vernon Barracks. Of the five men, Loco was the only one not to flee the reservation on May 17, 1885. Mangas also fled but is not in the photo.



About the silver medal given him by President Grover Cleveland in July 1886, Chato asked Gen. George Crook, "Why did they give me [this] to wear in the guard-house?" Chato lived as a prisoner of war for 27 years before living free on the Mescalero Reservation from 1913 to 1934.

Chato Photo Courtesy True West Archives/Aug. 16, 1934
 "Albuquerque Journal" Newsclipping Courtesy Newspapers.com



When the federal government transferred the Chiricahua tribe from Mount Vernon, Alabama, to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1894, proper housing was not available and they had to live in makeshift wikiups and tents. All Chiricahua people would be considered prisoners of war until they were given their freedom in 1913.



Asa Daklugie, a sworn enemy of Chato, also chose to leave Fort Sill, relocate to Mescalero and live on the Whitetail portion of the reservation. He is shown here at a picnic on June 21, 1917.

Courtesy The Smithsonian



Cattle ranching became a mainstay of life for the Apache people on the Mescalero Indian Reservation near Ruidoso.

Courtesy The Smithsonian

BY JEFF BROOME

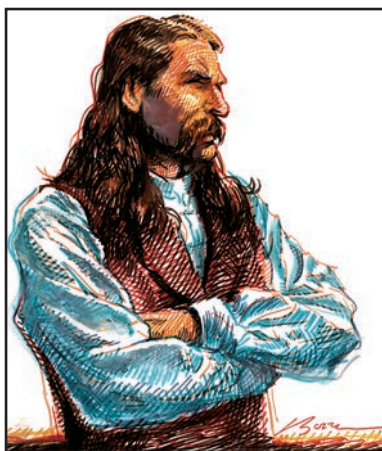
Hickok's Twist of Fate

On July 17, 1870, Wild Bill Hickok had one whale of a brawl in Tommy Drum's saloon in Hays City, Kansas. What makes this fight arguably Hickok's most important is that he killed a trooper in Custer's 7th Cavalry who had earlier been awarded the coveted Congressional Medal of Honor. The truth of the brawl and cavalymen involved has only recently surfaced from military records in the National Archives. Biographers of Hickok injected so much fiction in recounting this brawl that the truth seemed forever lost.

James W. Buel's *Heroes of the Plains* (1885) produced a narrative wrong in every detail including saying the fight occurred in Paddy Welch's saloon. Buel claimed Wild Bill's widow gave him Hickok's diary and thus the brawl is straight from Hickok. It started on February 12, 1870, as a fistfight in the street with a 7th Cavalry sergeant, but as Hickok was winning, 15 soldiers joined the fracas, pummeling Hickok until Paddy handed Hickok his pistols. Hickok then killed several soldiers and was wounded seven times and escaped across the Smoky Hill River—11 miles distant.

Later biographers followed Buel with certain emendations until William Connelley changed it to a different February date and said the brawl was caused by George Custer's drunk younger brother Tom. A greater fiction could not be told. Connelley's notes on his book, housed in the Denver Public library, cite the source as a letter written in 1926 by a man who was not even born when Tom Custer was alive. Eugene Cunningham also used this story in his popular book *Triggernometry: A Gallery of Gunfighters* (1934) and now the mighty legend became "fact." It is all bunk.

WILD BILL'S 1870
DRUNKEN BRAWL WITH
CUSTER'S TROOPERS IS
AS LEGENDARY AS THE
MAN OF MANY NAMES
HE KILLED.



WILD BILL HICKOK

All Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

Uncovering the Truth—Ryan's Report

Joseph Rosa's 1974 *They Called Him Wild Bill* gathered the first facts. Using military reports, Rosa identified just two cavalymen involved in the brawl, John Kile and Jerry Lonergan. It happened on July 17, 1870, and not in the winter. Kile was mortally wounded and died the next morning. Lonergan was wounded and spent weeks recovering in the post hospital. Rosa

included an obscure Eastern newspaper account from 1909, giving the most detailed account of the row. It was written by John Ryan, an enlisted man in the same company as the brawling soldiers, who said Kile had earlier served in Company M under the name John Kelley but had deserted in 1867 and shortly before the fight had re-enlisted as John Kile. When Ryan recognized "Kelley," he went to George Custer to get his desertion absolved and transferred back to Company M, as he had re-enlisted in Company I. Because Kelley/Kile had important "meritorious papers" as well as a recent honorable discharge as a first sergeant in the 5th Cavalry, Custer approved Kelley/Kile's transfer back to Company M. Shortly afterward, he was killed in the saloon fight.

Ryan's memoirs said something new: at one point in the fight, Lonergan had Hickok pinned to the floor, and Kile took out his revolver, which had been hidden under his shirt, put it against Hickok's head but it misfired. This allowed Hickok time to shoot his pistol behind him, hitting Kile in the wrist. A second shot to the stomach mortally wounded the trooper. A third shot struck Lonergan in the knee and Hickok escaped, knowing soldiers would soon be after him.

Ryan's account is supported in the earliest extant documents. One is a diary of a teenage girl visiting relatives posted at Fort Hays that summer. Annie Roberts wrote:

In the middle of the night we were aroused by a man wanting a priest, Father Swembergh to go over to the town with him—for 'God's Sake'—that two men were shot. He went over—'Wild Bill,' a celebrated Desperado shot them. One died this morning [July 18]—there were shots fired backwards & forwards across the bridge.



While Jeremiah Lonergan slips up behind Wild Bill Hickok at the bar, John Kile pulls a Remington pistol out from under his coat and prepares to pounce.

Company F Private Winfield Scott Harvey also kept a diary. He wrote on July 18: “Two soldiers were shot last evening in Hays City by Wild Bill Hickok. One died this morning and the other is badly wounded....” This confirms what the *Rocky Mountain News* reported July 20: “Wild Bill shot two soldiers of the 7th cavalry, in Hayes City, on Sunday night, last, while drunk.” Custer’s wife, Libbie, wrote of the brawl in *Following the Guidon*: “With the free hand the scout drew his pistol from the belt, fired backward without seeing, and his shot, even under these circumstances, was a fatal one.” George Custer wrote in *Life on the Plains* that the victims of Hickok’s deadly brawls included “one...being at the time a member of my command.” The earliest book mentioning the brawl was W. E. Webb’s 1872 *Buffalo Land*. He confirmed only two soldiers were involved and said a “musket” placed against Hickok’s forehead misfired, otherwise he would have been killed. These accounts confirm what Ryan wrote, including the claim of a weapon misfiring.

Ryan’s memoirs are themselves an interesting story. Only a portion of them were published in 1909, and they remained lost until early 2000 when a Custer scholar fortuitously acquired the typed manuscript and published them in 2001 as *Ten Years in Custer’s Cavalry: A 7th Cavalryman’s Memoirs*. Ryan served two enlistments under Custer and survived Custer’s defeat in 1876. His memory is not distorted by anything anyone else wrote unlike all other accounts of the brawl surfacing in later Hickok biographies. There is no



reason to doubt him saying the brawl happened in Tommy Drum’s saloon. That Buel cited Welch’s saloon is reason enough to reject it, since every other claim he made about the brawl was unadulterated fiction.

Who was John Kile?

Additional records in the National Archives support Ryan’s account and tell us much more about the soldier killed, John Kile. When a soldier died, his company commander issued a Final Statement explaining how the soldier expired. There are two such papers on Kile. The first simply said he died July 18 of a gunshot wound in Hays City. It was sent back from department headquarters asking whether Kile died in the line of duty. Captain Myles Keogh, who died with Custer, commanded Company I, the company Kile initially was assigned to (exactly as Ryan reported in his memoirs). Keogh wrote a second statement, noting Kile died in a “drunken row” in Hays City and not in the line of duty. But more importantly, he noted: “Private Kile (alias Kelley)

was originally a deserter of Troop M of this regiment, and on re-enlisting was assigned to Troop I but attached and doing duty with Troop M at the time he was killed.” This important statement shows that Kile and Kelley were the same person, just as Ryan said.

Company muster rolls show in 1867 Kelley (who is really John Kile) and Ryan, both corporals of Company M, together deserted on the same day in June, while Custer’s men were camped near Fort McPherson in Nebraska during Custer’s first Indian campaign. Ryan’s memoirs do not mention his desertion. Turning himself in weeks later, Ryan was court-martialed and, in his defense, he stated on the morning of his disappearance he was filling canteens in a distant stream but got lost returning to camp due to a dense fog. This was confirmed by his company commander, and Ryan was exonerated. The likely story is that Ryan and Kelley/Kile left camp the night before and visited a nearby “hog ranch,” as Custer camped a few miles from the post the

After Kile's pistol misfires, Wild Bill Hickok struggles to free his pistol from his holster. Wild Bill clears leather and fires, hitting Kile in the wrist.



and participated in the Republican River Expedition, sent to punish Dog Soldier warriors who had raided north central Kansas in late May. That campaign ended in the destruction of Tall Bull's village at Summit Springs on July 11.

Three days earlier Kile, along with two other soldiers sent in search of an abandoned cavalry mount, had a brisk fight with

more than a dozen warriors who thought they could easily kill the men caught miles from their command. Instead, several warriors were killed, most wounded and the men escaped to report Kile's heroics in saving their lives. He received the Medal of Honor on August 24, finished his enlistment and was discharged as a first sergeant May 17, 1870. His discharge papers noted his excellent character.

night before the dense fog. This is confirmed in the Itinerary journal of Lt. Henry Jackson. The fog disoriented the two corporals and the command left without them.

Kelley/Kile went to St. Louis, and on July 24 enlisted into the 37th Infantry as John Kile. His new company was assigned to New Mexico where his company C constructed a camp later named Fort Lowell. On Christmas Day 1867, Kile was arrested by his first sergeant for being drunk and stealing goods from the sutler's store. He was confined and court-martialed. Found guilty, he was given a dishonorable discharge and ordered to serve three years hard labor at the Jefferson City, Missouri, federal prison. He escaped in June 1868 while being escorted. He went back to Tennessee where he had earlier served when he

first enlisted in the 5th Cavalry on December 9, 1865, but deserted on November 20, 1866. He re-enlisted three days later as John Kelley and was assigned to the newly formed 7th Cavalry. Now back with the 5th Cavalry, Kile was court-martialed for desertion and found guilty—he never mentioned his stint in the 7th Cavalry as John Kelley—sentenced to a year of hard labor but not discharged. Four months were erased for voluntarily surrendering. At the conclusion of that he served under Brevet Maj. Gen. Eugene A. Carr in the winter campaign of 1868, when Custer's 7th Cavalry had its November 27 victory against Black Kettle's Cheyenne village on the Washita in present-day Oklahoma, with Ryan participating. Carr's command was soon sent north to Fort McPherson in the spring of 1869

On June 2, he enlisted as John Kyle in the 1st Infantry in New York—his citation for the Medal of Honor misspelled his name as Kyle—but he deserted the next day and then appeared in Chicago June 9th and enlisted back into the 7th Cavalry as John Kile. He must have recognized an officer in New York

Tommy Drum's saloon in Hays, Kansas, is where Kile was shot by Hickok on July 17, 1870. He died in the Fort Hays hospital the next morning.

Courtesy Leon Staab, Hays, Kansas



Tommy Drum's saloon in Hays, Kansas, is where Kile was shot by Hickok on July 17, 1870. He died in the Fort Hays hospital the next morning.



An illustration of Wild Bill fighting 15 men appears in James Buel's *Heroes of the Plains*. Everything Buel wrote about the brawl was fictional, as was the saloon.

Courtesy the Author's Collection

WHAT HAPPENED TO JERRY LONERGAN?

Military papers in the National Archives show Jerry Lonergan was a baker from Cork, Ireland. He enlisted at New York City December 26, 1867, at age 22. He had hazel eyes, brown hair, fair complexion and was five feet, nine inches tall. After Hickok wounded him, he remained in the Fort Hays post hospital until August 25. Five months later he was arrested and court-martialed for a drunken outburst which ended his career in the 7th Cavalry.

His trial began February 25, 1871. Several soldiers testified in the early morning hours of February 1 Lonergan appeared at the bunk of Corporal Zametzer and tried to arouse him from bed. He kicked at the bed several times and began to curse at Zametzer. Two soldiers escorted Lonergan to his bunk and told him to go to sleep. Lonergan was intoxicated, loud and boisterous. Corporal James Byrne said Lonergan threatened that “he would shit in the room [barracks] if he had a mind to and nobody would say a word to him.” Things calmed down until shortly before dawn when Lonergan got up, and according to bugler John Murphy, “instead of going to the rear he stopped and done his business in the quarters.” When asked what Murphy meant, he replied that Lonergan had “made a deposit of man manure on the floor.”

Upon learning this, Capt. Frederick W. Benteen ordered Lonergan arrested. First Sergeant Frederick Thies went to awaken Lonergan and escort him to the guardhouse. Thies was the same soldier who three years earlier arrested John Kile for a drunken escapade in New Mexico while in the 37th Infantry, and who after re-enlisting in the 7th Cavalry arrived at Hays on the same day Hickok had his deadly brawl. Thies reported:

Seeing that he wished to make resistance I put on my belt and pistol and then ordered him to follow me to the guardhouse immediately. Upon that the prisoner drew a clasp knife from his pocket, opened it, and said, “If you say another word to me I’ll cut the guts out of you,” I, knowing the disposition of the prisoner, then drew my pistol and thereby probably prevented actual violence on his part.

Lonergan called several soldiers in his defense, who stated he was only slightly intoxicated and denied he was boisterous and loud. The trial lasted four days. He was found guilty on all counts, sentenced to the Fort Leavenworth prison for the remainder of his enlistment—until December 26, 1872—forfeited all pay and given a dishonorable discharge.

Six months into his sentence Lonergan wrote to Secretary of War W. W. Belknap and pleaded for a second chance. He believed his trial was not fair because the officers were already prejudiced against him. He wrote:

I hereby ask for a remission of sentence and to be a gain restored to duty if such is possible having bin in the US service since 61 and endured all the hard ships of a soldiers life during the late rebellion suffered the hard ships of Southern prison as a prisoner of war for 8 months upon being discharged I a gain joined the Regular Army and have served honorably ever since until the misfortune of being court-martialed befell me I have no disliken to become a soldier a gain having never deserted the Army I feell my self capable of doing the duty of a soldier in every respect.

Lonergan was denied clemency and disappeared from recorded history. If Ryan’s memoirs are correct, Lonergan was soon killed in another incident involving an infantryman. But there is an enticing different possibility needing further investigation. Records in 1903 from an old soldiers’ home has a log book noting:

“Jeremiah Lonergan b. abt 1838 Ireland entered Soldiers Home Bath, NY 1903; Co E, 12 NY Cav, Enlisted 09-21-1864, Troy, NY [two of Kile’s five enlistment papers said he was born in Troy, so if this is the same Lonergan this might be why they gravitated into friendship in 1870]; Discharged 06-19-1865, Halifax, NC.”

Could this be confirmation that Lonergan did serve in the Civil War as he reported in his appeal to stay in the service?

who knew of his earlier dishonorable discharge in the 37th Infantry. It is the best explanation for his desertion after only one day. Both the June 2nd Kyle and the June 9th Kile enlistment papers have written on the back that he ended an earlier enlistment in the Company M, 5th Cavalry. Hence, both Kyle and Kile are one and the same. And so is the Kile/Kelley persona noted in Keogh’s statement after Kile’s death. Further, his 5th Cavalry court-martial confirms his initial enlistment in 1865 as a teenager. Thus, it is the same soldier who had four enlistments in five years, under three names, three desertions, two court-martials, one dishonorable discharge and escaped prison sentence, and one final hell of a fight with Wild Bill Hickok.

In an amazing twist of fate, the very day Kile was shot, 84 new recruits arrived by train. One was Frederick Thies, who was also assigned to Company M. Had Kile not been killed by Hickok, Thies would have recognized him the next day as the 37th Infantry soldier dishonorably discharged who escaped a three-year prison sentence. Thies was Kile’s company first sergeant who arrested him on Christmas Day 1867 and testified against him at his New Mexico court-martial. When Thies’ 37th Infantry enlistment expired he re-enlisted and was sent to the 7th Cavalry. But he never knew the man shot that first night in the 7th Cavalry was the same man court-martialed in his 37th Infantry company in 1867.

And now we know the details of the man killed by Hickok, shot in Tommy Drum’s saloon the night of July 17, 1870. Kile was a brave soldier who unfortunately stumbled across the path of Wild Bill Hickok and lost. Had his pistol not misfired, today we likely would not know a man called Wild Bill. And that is why the July 17, 1870, fight is the most interesting of all of Hickok’s gunfights.



Jeff Broome is a sixth-generation Coloradan. He has published several books on the Indian war covering 1864-69. His newest book is *Indian Raids and Massacres Essays on the Central Plains Indian War* (Caxton Press, 2020). A retired philosophy professor, Jeff lives in Beulah, Colorado.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE TALE OF THE EMPTY CHAMBER

BILLY THE KID VS JOE GRANT

AN EYEWITNESS REVELATION



In December 1880, Billy the Kid will write a letter from Fort Sumner to Lew Wallace, the governor of New Mexico, claiming he, the Kid, isn't the "captain" of any gang.

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Bob Boze Bell, Frederick Nolan and James B. Mills

JANUARY 10, 1880



"William Bonney" shows up on the 1880 census, living next door to Charlie Bowdre and his wife, Manuela, in the abandoned Indian Hospital at Old Fort Sumner.

Bob Hargrove's saloon in Old Fort Sumner, New Mexico, is packed with cowboys, including James Chisum, brother of John, and three of his cowhands. Chisum and his men have been invited to take a drink with Billy the Kid, who enters the saloon with them.

Joe Grant, a newcomer to the area, notices the cowboys entering and snatches an ivory-handled pistol from Jack Finan's holster while, at the same time, putting his own pistol in the cowboy's holster.

The Kid steps up to him and says, "That's a beauty, Joe." The Kid takes the pistol from Grant's hand and spins the cylinder, checking at the same time to see how much ammunition it contains (three cartridges). He purposely moves the cylin-

der so that the next load will be a failure, then he returns the revolver to Grant.

"Pard," says Grant, as he sneers at the Kid, "I'll kill a man quicker'n you will for the whiskey."

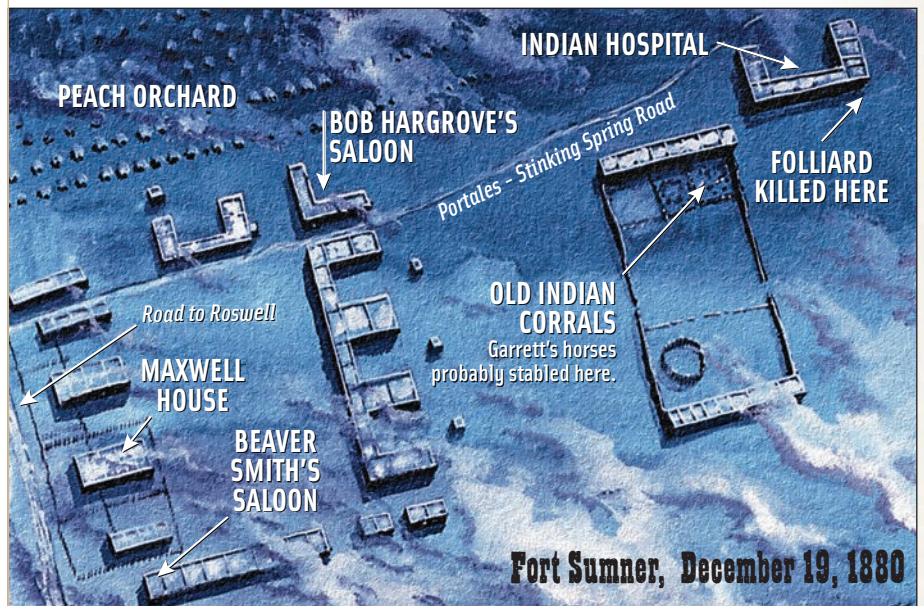
"What do you want to kill anybody for?" asks the Kid, flashing his winning smile. "Put up your pistol and let's drink."

Grant moves behind the bar and starts viciously knocking about glasses and decanters with his pistol.

"Let me help you break up your house-keeping, Pard," says the Kid, drawing his own pistol and joining in the glass breaking.

Grant suddenly stops and eyes James Chisum. "I want to kill John Chisum, anyhow, the damned old—"

"You've got the wrong pig by the ear, Joe," says the Kid. "That's not John Chisum."



On December 19, 1880, Sheriff-elect Pat Garrett and a posse of west Texas cowboys ambush Billy and his gang at the old Indian Hospital, then shoot and kill the Kid's neighbor, Charlie Bowdre, at Stinking Spring. The posse brings Billy and the rest of his gang back to Sumner, where Billy is allowed to kiss his sweetheart, Paulita Maxwell (next page, top), before being transported by wagon to Las Vegas, New Mexico.

“That’s a lie,” shouts Grant. “I know better.” And with that, he turns, points his pistol at the Kid and pulls the trigger. Instead of an explosion, the gun clicks loudly. Cussing, Grant raises the hammer for another shot, but before he can thumb it, a ball from the Kid’s revolver crashes through his brains. He collapses behind the counter.

Emptying his spent shell, the Kid remarks, “Unfortunate fool; I’ve been there too often to let a fellow of your caliber overhaul my baggage. Wonder if he’s a specimen of Texas desperadoes.”

A bystander wonders aloud whether Grant has been killed and warns the Kid to watch out. Billy smiles and says, “No fear, the corpse is there, sure, ready for the undertaker.” ★

While being held at the jail in Las Vegas, the Kid is brought outside so the crowds can gawk at the captured celebrity. Perhaps as amazed as anyone, Billy later remarks to a reporter: “There was a big crowd gazing at me, wasn’t



Billy later dismisses the Joe Grant shooting as “a game of two, and I got there first!”

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Some scholars debate whether the Grant fight actually took place. Passed down by Jim Chisum’s son, the details of the shooting became part of the folklore around Fort Sumner and the “facts” in the case are mighty slim. Still, the fight has the ring of truth to many Billy scholars and is generally accepted as being a bona fide event because the Chisums are a trustworthy source; also a *Las Vegas Daily Gazette* newspaper quote from Billy helps to substantiate the shooting.



Billy the Kid continued rustling cattle (mostly Chisum’s) in the Fort Sumner area and also demanded \$500 from John Chisum for services rendered to the Tunstall-McSween cause during the late Lincoln County War. John declined to pay, and Billy vowed he would “steal from your cattle until I get it.”



A new book by James B. Mills makes a good point:

“Strangely, Paco Anaya’s firsthand recollection of the shooting in Anaya’s *I Buried Billy* [pp. 77–81], has been routinely disregarded in favor of these secondhand Anglo accounts. Although he recalled the time frame incorrectly by a couple of months (November 1879), unlike both Will Chisum and Charlie Foor, Paco Anaya was both physically present in the saloon and an actual resident in the Fort Sumner region at the time of the shooting. Hence, his vivid recollection of the saloon fight should rightly take precedence, which is why I have used it as my primary source. Paco Anaya was there. Will Chisum, Charlie Foor, Pat Garrett and Ash Upson were not.”



Recommended: *Billy the Kid: El Bandido Simpático* (University of North Texas Press, \$34.95) by James B. Mills



CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: Crow Tribal leader Dr. Alden Big Man Jr. is well-known for his writing and research on the Crow Tribe and American Indian history. If you'd like to read more book reviews by historians like "The Return of Crazy Horse" by Big Man Jr. from the November 2006 issue, please go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to more than 69 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY ALDEN BIG MAN JR.

THE RETURN OF CRAZY HORSE

TWO NEW BIOGRAPHIES CLAIM TO TELL THE FULL STORY OF THIS CUSTER-CONQUERING CHIEF.

Over the last several decades, great strides have been made to correct some of the historical inaccuracies created by early scholars of the American West, particularly when it comes to Indian history. More and more, we find White scholars using and validating Indian sources; many have also gotten the message that each tribal nation is independent from one another. And more Indian scholars have emerged, adding their expertise to the advancement of Western scholarship. Through it all, new heroes emerge while others fade quietly into history. One figure who has consistently stayed famous is the Oglala War Leader Crazy Horse. This year, two presses, the University of Oklahoma Press and WPI Publishers, have paid tribute to him by publishing his life story.

Rise to Popularity

Crazy Horse is easily one of the most recognized figures associated with the West, much like Geronimo. His name is found on everything from campgrounds, tack shops, trading posts and restaurants. A mountain is being carved in his image in the Black Hills of South Dakota to honor his role in resisting White encroachment of the West, while a new memorial is found on the very site he and his fellow tribesman and allies defeated Custer and the Seventh Cavalry in June 1876.

But how did he gain such recognition? Many credit Mari Sandoz, author of the 1942 book *Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas*, who wrote with such passion for Crazy Horse that she seemingly brought him back to life. She placed the reader in his world as he fought against Indian enemies and White invaders. This book single-handedly made the Oglala war leader one of the most famous Indians in White America.

From there came other books, such as Dee Brown's 1971 *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, that shocked audiences but eventually opened readers' eyes to the struggles of Indian resistance to American-ization. In 1999, Viking Penguin Books led off its prestigious "Penguin Lives" series with *Crazy Horse*, ahead of other great figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Buddha.

Crazy Horse has also gained the interest of scholars. Award-winning articles about the Oglala leader by Jeffery V. Pearson, a PhD candidate in History at the University of New Mexico, have been published in recent issues of *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*. Another scholar who has done much to promote Crazy Horse and his people is Joseph Marshall III, a member of the Rosebud Sioux. His 2004 book, *The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History*, presents an oral history from the Lakota side, giving readers an inside perspective

of the Lakota people, of which Oglala is a sub-tribe.

But why, more than 100 years later, has Crazy Horse stayed so popular while other great leaders, such as Tecumseh, Red Cloud and Plenty Coups, faded from public attention? Legislation has kept him popular, or unpopular, in recent years. The chief has come to epitomize the resistance put forth by many tribes against the invading Whites, which finally came to a head on June 25-26, 1876, on what became known as Custer Battlefield National Monument. On this battlefield, George Armstrong Custer gained recognition for fighting the Indians and clearing the way for settlers coming West. The story was set: Custer represented the advanced civilization, giving his life for the cause of White America, while Crazy Horse fought to preserve a dying one.

In 1991, however, Congress authorized changing the name of the battlefield from Custer Battlefield to Little Bighorn Battlefield. The name change had long been argued for by descendants of the combined forces of Sioux and Cheyennes, as well as non-Indians sympathetic with the cause. Congress also approved an Indian Memorial to be built on the site that would commemorate the Indians who had fought and defeated the Seventh Cavalry. In 1996, a committee oversaw the competition for the memorial

to be built north of Last Stand Hill. When the design was selected and the memorial built, it gave validity to the Indian story that had been ignored for so long.

A Biography Worth Reading

In the midst of all these changes, Crazy Horse remained the single symbol of resistance. The reemergence of Crazy Horse was inevitable, and we see it today with two new biographies published this year. Frank Salazar's *Crazy Horse the Unconquerable* and Kingsley M. Bray's *Crazy Horse: A Lakota Life* attempt to reintroduce the Oglala hero to the nation. Both books utilize more of the traditional Indian sources found in interviews conducted by Mari Sandoz as well as those by Eli S. Ricker and Eleanor H. Hinman, which are housed in the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Bray takes it a step further, though, and interviews modern Lakotas familiar with Crazy Horse. This approach adds a new dimension to the life of Crazy Horse. For example, Bray goes into great detail about the early life of Crazy Horse, or Curly as he was known as a boy, and how his mother had committed suicide. Bray argues that the suicide of his mother had a great impact on Curly and created the man he became. Although Bray's book does not offer anything new or groundbreaking, it does add a freshness to the historiography of the life of Crazy Horse. Because Bray utilizes modern oral history with more traditional sources, he is able to fill in a lot of voids found in other books about Crazy Horse. For that reason, the dual approach makes his work that much stronger than other works on the war leader.

Caution to Readers

Crazy Horse remains a popular figure today and likely will continue to be regarded as such for years to come. Hundreds of thousands of people visit Little Bighorn Battlefield every year, and seeing the Indian Memorial on the battlefield, visitors will gain a sense of the struggles of the Indian people. The battlefield has also recently begun identifying where Indian warriors had fallen and marking the spots with red markers to commemorate their role in the victory.

Yet, caution should be used when identifying Crazy Horse as a hero to our nation's

Indians. Most tribes have their own heroes, such as the Nez Perce who view Chief Joseph as their hero, while the Northern Cheyenne honor Little Wolf for his bravery and the Crow see Chief Sits-In-The-Middle-Of-The-Land as a great leader. In any case, Crazy Horse remains the most recognizable symbol of resistance in the canon of the American West. But with all the emerging scholarship in Indian history, don't be surprised if others take on this role in the future.



Alden Big Man Jr., earned his PhD in history from the University of New Mexico in 2011 after he completed his dissertation, "Crow History 1750-1900: A Political and Social Battle to Retain Their Culture." He is currently the Cabinet Head of Public Safety of the Crow Tribe.



Crazy Horse resurfaced in two biographies published in 2006. Mari Sandoz, who first brought the Lakota chief to the public eye, wrote that no photographs exist of Crazy Horse, yet the Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen, Montana, exhibits the above tintype of him, citing family provenance and a battle scar on the left cheek as proof that the image is valid. Who knows? This face may have been among the last Custer ever glimpsed.

Courtesy Custer Battlefield Museum

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Alden Big Man Jr.'s original, unabridged article as it appeared in the November 2006 issue. To learn more about how you can read more scholarship on the literature of the West and subscribe to *True West Archives*, go to TrueWestMagazine.com.
Our past awaits you!

BY CANDY MOULTON

Magnet for Miners

A tour of Western Montana is rich in mining heritage, ghost towns and living history centers.



Author Candy Moulton (fourth from left) enjoys participating in Western frontier reenactment events and regularly attending the 1865 Victorian ball in Virginia City, Montana.

Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism

Gold seekers started flooding into western Montana in 1863, setting off the first rush for riches and the establishment of the town of Bannack, which became the territorial capital of Montana the following year. Almost simultaneously prospectors found gold in Alder Gulch, and miners quickly rushed there and gave rise to Virginia City, which then became the territorial seat of government in 1865.

Today Bannack is a ghost town, and quite an interesting one at that, where about 50 of the structures from the town's heyday still line the dirt street. It is now Bannack State Park, which

is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day with tours and a variety of activities.

Virginia City is a state historic site and compared with Bannack is still quite a going concern. Business continues in many of the town's historic structures and it is an easy stroll from one end of the commercial district to the other. This National Historic Landmark is open year around with a variety of key activities during the summer including the Alder Gulch Shortline Railroad operations and an opportunity to do some gold panning. Pick up some period attire at Ranks Mercantile before you attend the Brewery Follies, or have a libation at the Bale of Hay Saloon. On occasion the city also holds an 1865 Victorian ball.

Just a mile from Virginia City is Nevada City, which has an outstanding collection of 19th-century buildings that have been moved from various areas of Montana to create a town that interprets much of the mining and early settlement history in the state.

Butte also began as a gold and silver mining camp in the late 1800s, but by the early 1900s a new mineral was sought: copper. Miners flocked to Butte from around the world and following them were the people who populated the city, from Cornish families to brothel workers who offered plenty of action in the red-light district along Mercury Street. This mining camp exploded in population and the



The World Museum of Mining in Butte, Montana, is located on the site of the Orphan Girl Mine. Visitors can take a guided tour 100 feet down into the hard-rock silver mine and tour Hell Roarin' Gulch, a recreation of an 1890s mining town with 50 historically accurate structures.

Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism

mineral resources made many men rich beyond their dreams. These copper kings included Marcus Daly, F. Auguste Heinze and William A. Clark.

At the World Museum of Mining, see original equipment at the Orphan Girl Mine and extensive exhibits that give you a chance to see—and in some cases, handle—equipment. Dozens of original and replica buildings are a part of “Hell Roarin’ Gulch,” including a Chinese laundry.

Other places to visit include the Copper King Mansion, which was the residence of William Andrews Clark. The 34-room mansion was built from 1884 to 1888 in the Romanesque Revival architectural style. Today many of the mining-era buildings, homes and mansions remain in

what is undoubtedly a historically significant location in the mining west

To the northwest of Butte, Phillipsburg started in 1866 after the discovery of silver and the construction of Hope Mill, Montana’s first silver mill. The town is now also known for its sapphires, and you can mine for some of your own while visiting. Visit the Granite County Museum to learn more of the mining history in this area. The museum offers information about and directions to the nearby Granite Ghost Town State Park with its remnants of buildings from the area’s heyday as a mining town.

Granite townsite was established after Hector Horton found silver in the general area in 1865. The Granite Mine was established in 1872 with operations moved in 1875. It became

one of the richest silver mines in the territory, yielding more than \$40 million in silver riches during its heyday. The camp is now a part of Granite Ghost Town State Park and includes remnants of the old miners’ Union Hall as well as the Granite Mine superintendent’s house.

Montana’s territorial capital moved from Bannack to Virginia City in the mid-1860s, but the seat of government moved again in 1875 to Helena where four gold miners working in Last Chance Gulch, had found gold on October 30, 1864.

The mine in the Helena area ultimately proved to be the second biggest placer gold discovery in Montana. The Last Chance claims produced around \$19 million in gold in just four years. Just to the northwest, an even richer



Historic Virginia City, Montana, is the centerpiece of the Big Sky state’s historic gold mining communities along Alder Gulch.

Modern Photo by Donnie Sexton, Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism/
Historic Photo Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections



A Statue of Liberty adorns the top of Montana's State Capitol's copper dome. The sandstone and granite capitol building was completed in 1912 and overlooks Prickly Pear Valley.

Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism

vein of gold was discovered and developed at the Drumlummon Mine, operated by Irishman Tommy Cruse. That mine spawned the town of Marysville.

It took a while for territorial Montanans to decide where they would place their capital,

having moved it from Bannack to Virginia City and then to Helena, but when it came time for the territory to become a state, there was no further change. Helena became the state capital. To learn more about this city, take a historic tour, or visit the Montana State

Historical Society, which is in the final planning stages for a new heritage center. ✪

Candy Moulton has a small bag of sapphires she "mined" in Phillipsburg, and she says it is dangerous for her to visit Virginia City because the period clothing at Ranks Mercantile is way too tempting.

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A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Nez Perce Indians seeking to remain free crossed through western Montana in 1877 trying to stay ahead of the federal army led by Gen. Oliver O. Howard who wanted to force them onto a reservation in Idaho. They traveled south from Lolo Hot Springs through the Bitterroot Valley and into the Big Hole where they stopped at a campsite they called

the Place of the Ground Squirrels. They had recently cut new tipi poles, and the camp was a place to rest from their flight and prepare the new tipi structures. On the morning of August 9, 1877, their sleep was interrupted by an attack of soldiers commanded by Col. John Gibbon. While warriors counterattacked and held off the Army, the women, children and elders of the tribe organized, and under direction of Chief Joseph

Big Hole National Battlefield,
Wisdom, Montana

Courtesy NPS.gov

with Chief White Bird's assistance, fled south through Big Hole Valley. While camped at the Big Hole, Joseph wore traditional clothing including a waist-length red coat decorated with ermine tails attached like a fringe to the shoulders and sleeves and accented with blue beads, brass rivets and small circles of navy-blue material. That coat is now included in the visitor center exhibits at the Big Hole National Battlefield. Annually, on August 9, Nez Perce descendants of the embattled tribe return to the site for a commemoration of the battle.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: *Star Bakery & Restaurant*, Virginia City; *Brick's Pub*, Phillipsburg; *Nancy's Pasty Shop*, Butte; *Steve's Café*, Helena; *Marysville House*, Marysville

GOOD LODGING: *Just an Experience Bed and Breakfast*, Virginia City; *Sacajawea Inn*, Three Forks; *Copper King Hotel and Convention Center*, Butte; *Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel*, Helena

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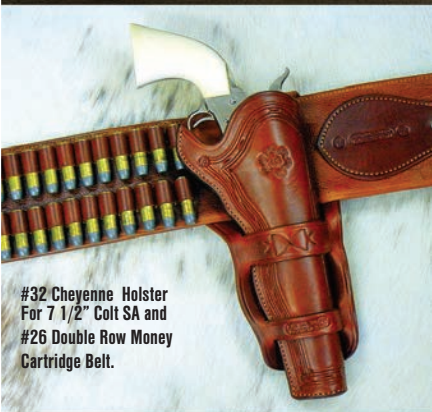
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Idaho Trout

The Gem State's stream and lake waters are famous for the popular game fish.



Fishing for Yellowstone cutthroat trout on Idaho's Snake River, as seen here in 1920, has been popular since pioneers began settling the territory.

Courtesy Water Archives

Idaho may be synonymous with potatoes, but trout has been a pioneer staple since it was first settled where cold rivers, streams and creeks were well-known for their abundance of various trout species. Fishermen were known to pull several trout from the cool waters to feed their families or supply local businesses.

Newspaper ads and editorials filled papers with trout information as early as the mid-1800s. Idaho attracted tourists and locals alike to fish and hunt, so a need for hotels and lodges rose. The Middle Boise Hotel opened in 1866, and *The Idaho World* reported, "first-class principles during the season, and all the delicacies of the country. Trout, grouse, squabs, fresh salmon, etc., are among the choice viands up their bill of fare."

A restaurant called Dick's "Big Three" in Hailey advertised in 1884, "Grand chicken dinner and fresh brook trout" and the editors noted, "The trout have begun to bite ravenously in the lakes. When a trout comes out of his winter quarters and is as lean as a rail and as hungry as a country newspaper man, he will bite anything."

Vacationers like Grace Wakerman trekked to Idaho to fish. She was only 13 years old when she fished in Idaho in the fall of 1894. She and

her parents left Denver and were accompanied by other travelers, as they made their way along clear, cool waters to fish. They camped on Little Black Foot River where she pulled a large salmon trout that weighed about two and a half pounds. She recalled, "I was a proud girl and thought I had done well for one of my age; the excitement can only be felt by experience." They also camped at Medicine Lodge Creek about which she stated, "This is a sportsman paradise as the stream is literally alive with gamy mountain trout; the water is so clear that one can see the trout sporting up and down the stream, tempting the fisherman to take one from its mountain home. The weather is not as nice as we would wish for out door sport, but still papa keeps us supplied with game and fish; he caught 55 trout in four hours."

Newtown Hibbs shared his appreciation of the natural bounties of Idaho with the *Idaho County Free Press* in Grangeville in 1895. He enjoyed mountain outings with friends where they camped as they hunted and fished. He reported, "The fishing in Fayette is good at some seasons of the year. On French creek the beautiful brook trout fairly swarmed. They came at the flies at every cast in platoons. They were so ravenous that they tore our flies, which were evidently made for us in dry weather, into shreds."



Two types of cutthroat trout are popular to catch and eat in Idaho: the Yellowstone cutthroat of southeastern Idaho's Snake River watershed and the Westslope cutthroat, from part of the Columbia River basin in northern and central Idaho.

Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pioneers and visitors alike enjoyed the fish whether in their homes, tents, cabins or restaurants. Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Harris offered a massive bill of fare in 1898 at their restaurant in Rocky Bar that included include Mackinaw, lake and mountain trout.

Priest Lake was a popular spot for trout fishing, and by 1902, the Hotel Klockman was opened and operated by Williams and Downey in Coolin on the water's edge. It soon became known as the Northern Hotel. The hotel, plus Camp Sherwood and the Bungalow Café were in full swing by the 1920s and operated by Mrs. Ida Handy. She offered cottages, cabins, rooms, camping and boats and advertised, "cutthroat trout fishing was never better" in 1929. It's still open today so you can experience history. There's also the Teton Valley Lodge in Driggs which has a historical connection going back 100 years.



BAKED IDAHO TROUT

*1 whole 1-pound trout, scaled
Salt and pepper, to taste
Paprika, as you like
1 14.5-ounce can tomatoes
4 onions, sliced thin
4 green peppers, sliced
1 cup olive oil*

Wipe the inside and outside of the fish to dry it and place it in an oven-safe dish. Cut a few ¼-inch deep slices across the skin to expose the meat. Sprinkle with the salt, pepper and paprika to your liking. Combine all the other ingredients in a bowl and pour over fish and baste occasionally. Bake at 350 degrees for about an hour or until fish flakes apart.



Recipe adapted from *The Idaho Daily Statesman*, March 9, 1908.

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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Hallowed Heroes, Sacred Lands

A dual biography of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, plus a novel of the Mexican War, a history of slavery on the border, a classic Western and a history of Indian wars.

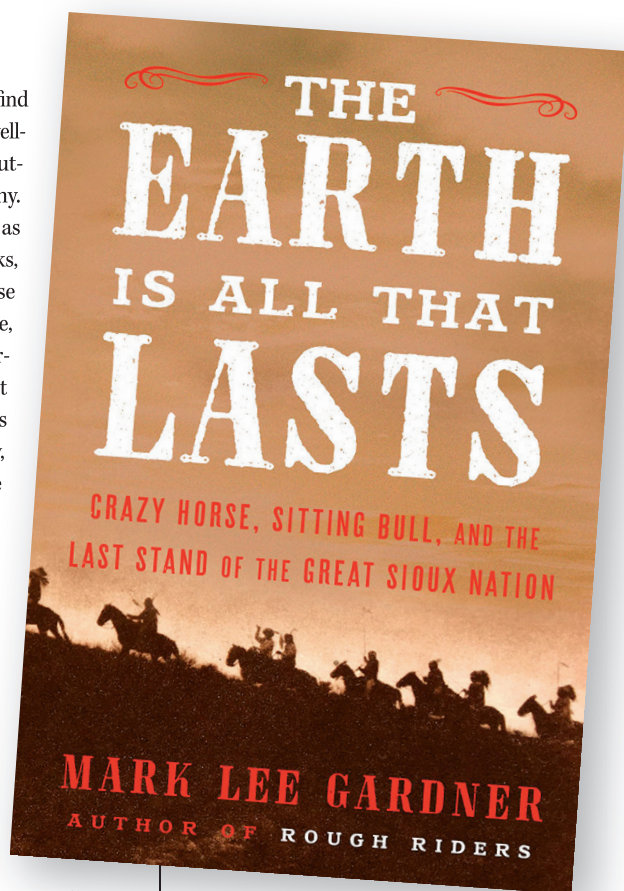
Mark Lee Gardner's *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation* (Mariner/HarperCollins, \$28.99) is the most ambitious American history published in 2022 (see page 18 for an excerpt). For the first time, a major scholar of the West has tackled a subject as well covered as any in Western historiography—the Great Sioux War—and distilled the known (and well-annotated) primary and secondary sources equally with heretofore unused Sioux Indian oral history, correspondences, memoirs and interviews to create the finest dual-biography ever written about Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. Gardner gives credit where credit is due in his afterword titled “American Indian Informants.” He provides us with an index of the names of the primary sources he researched and synthesized to write the book and praises their critical importance in reaching conclusions on a subject that remains controversial and contested: the war against the Sioux and the breaking of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. He writes: “In researching and writing this book, I consulted dozens of interview (i.e., oral histories) of Indian contemporaries of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, both published and unpublished, as well as the known words and sayings of the two Lakota leaders themselves.”

But why Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull together? Why not separate volumes? The Colorado resident eloquently states: “In my own journeys through Lakota lands researching this book, I felt the presence of Crazy Horse’s and Sitting Bull’s spirits on many occasions.” Readers of *The Earth Is All That Lasts* will discover their spirits in Gardner’s writing, but equally important, the

researcher and scholar will also find a pathway to his conclusions in well-annotated endnotes and an outstanding, inclusive bibliography. Gardner does his own research, as he did for his eight previous books, and it is evident in his careful use of his sources, facts and language, especially in the use of Indian vernacular. The reader will soon get used to his decision to use words such as Long Knives for cavalry, Metal Breasts for Indian Police and Three Stars for Gen. George Crook. Through the final pages readers will have taken a literary and historical journey that will leave them with a greater understanding and perspective on one of the most heralded and written about cultural conflicts and wars in United States history.

What holds for Mark Lee Gardner in the future? Is *The Earth Is All That Lasts* his magnum opus?

The Missouri native’s body of work could be classified by some as Western American history, but the context in which he describes his subjects squarely places his work within the category of popular history. Following in the footsteps of Robert Utley, Stephen Ambrose, David Lavender, Bernard DeVoto and Stanley Vestal, Gardner takes ahold of the well-known and brings the stories alive through strong scholarship and literary prose. Gardner, like his contemporary chronicler John Boessenecker, keeps his readers guessing as to his choice for his



next subject. Without a doubt the intrepid historian’s next volume will provide a new perspective and fresh conclusions gleaned from primary sources previously untapped. I, for one, will be at the front of the line waiting for it, whether it be a presidential biography, a law-and-order opus or another dual biography. Whatever it is, I will be eager to be enlightened and entertained.

—Stuart Rosebrook



Photo by Robert Ray

2022 SPUR AWARD WINNERS

The WWA Spur winners and finalists are scheduled to be honored June 22–25 in Great Falls, Montana. Congratulations to this year’s winners in the following categories.

Historical Nonfiction Book: *Cheyenne Summer: The Battle of Beecher Island: A History* by Terry Mort (Pegasus Books)

Biography: *The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon’s Life of Science and Art* by Wynne Brown (Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press)

First Nonfiction Book: *Public Waters: Lessons from Wyoming for the American West* by Anne MacKinnon (University of New Mexico Press)

Short Nonfiction: “The Right Man to Do a Wrong Thing: Charlie Thex, the Bear Creek Sheep Raid, and the Primacy of Fear” by Shane Dunning (*Montana The Magazine of Western History*, Summer 2021)

Historical Novel: *Ridgeline* by Michael Punke (Henry Holt & Company)

Traditional Novel: *The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint* by Chase Pletts (Inkshares)

Original Mass-Market Paperback Novel: *This Side of Hell: A Widomaker Jones Western* by Brett Cogburn (Pinnacle/Kensington Publishing)

Romance Novel: *Imperfect Promise* by Susanna Lane (Five Star Publishing)

First Novel: *The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint* by Chase Pletts (Inkshares)

Short Fiction: “Skin” by David Heska Wanbli Weiden, published in *Midnight Hour: A Chilling Anthology of Crime Fiction from 20 Authors of Color* (Crooked Lane Books)

Drama Script: *Last Shoot Out* by Lee Martin (Feifer Worldwide)

For a complete list of winners and finalists in all categories, visit WesternWriters.org.

—Stuart Rosebrook

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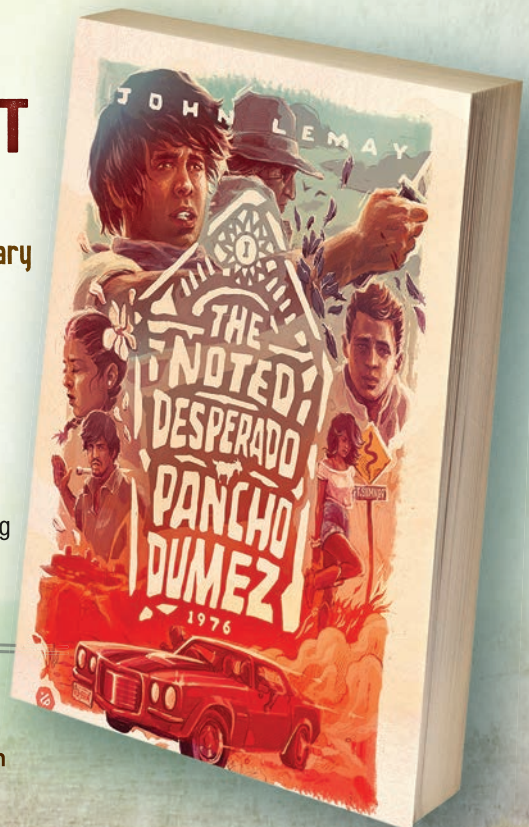
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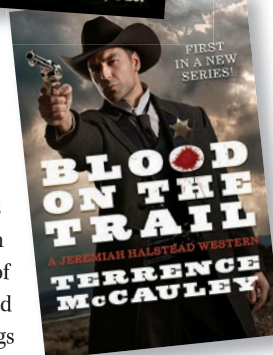
The saga of a former slave, who became the first African American appointed a Deputy U.S. Marshal, by Judge Isaac C Parker (The Hanging Judge), who had to survive against all odds in the deadly Indian Territory.

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Changing Flags

Ray Herbeck Jr.'s *Changing Flags: A Novel of the Battalion of St. Patrick* (Five Star, \$25.95), his first historical novel for Five Star centers around John Riley, an Irish professional soldier, in 1846 during the border dispute between Texas and Mexico. Riley deserts the U.S. Army to join the Mexican Army, trying to make his way back to Ireland with the promise of money and land by the Mexican government. Many details describe the life of a deserter in the Mexican Army that plague Riley in his plans to go home. Herbeck has done an outstanding job showing the inside of the Mexican Army and how they treated deserters. I recommend *Changing Flags* as it shows the history researched about the 1846–48 war with Mexico. I am looking forward to Herbeck's concluding volume in his two-volume series, *To the Color*, which was just released in June.

—Lowell F. Volk, author of the *Luke Taylor* and *Trevor Lane* series



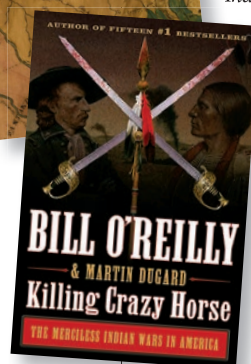
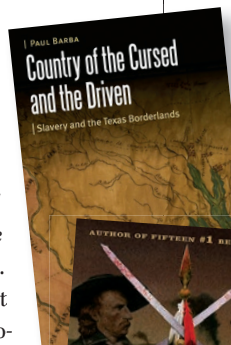
Terrence McCauley's action-packed *Blood on the Trail* (Pinnacle, \$8.99) is the first book in the Jeremiah Halstead series. Respected Western writer McCauley has created a cast of characters who represent the diverse and rich population of the Old West. He effectively captures the classic Western spirit of the times with his attention to details.

—Sue Ready,
EverReadyBook Reviews

Hard Country

The University of Nebraska Press continues its handsome Borderlands and Transcultural Studies Series with *Country of the Cursed and the Driven: Slavery and the Texas Borderlands* (\$65). Bucknell University Assistant Professor Paul Barbara has produced an exhaustive and academic study of the history of slaves and slave trading along the southern border. In Texas during the 18th and 19th centuries, the borderlands were a contested patchwork of loosely connected alliances between Anglo-Americans, Comanches and Hispanic slave trading groups. This volatile region laid the foundation for borderlands violence during this era and beyond as American and European colonists began to flood the region both to settle Texas and en route to points west, such as the goldfields of California. *Country of the Cursed and the Driven* provides fresh light on this early tradition of violence and human suffering that has been long ignored by other scholars.

—Erik J. Wright, assistant editor of *The Tombstone Epitaph*



An American Tragedy

Killing Crazy Horse: The Merciless Indian Wars in America by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt, \$17.99, paperback) is an exciting book not just about Crazy Horse as the title strongly suggests. Rather it is a page-turner describing the relentless war waged by our Revolutionary War patriots (Anglos) who destroyed the Indians' way of life followed for decades later by American leaders. Crazy Horse, the 25-year-old Sioux warrior is first mentioned on page 142. This is the only negative mark one can make against O'Reilly's masterpiece of narration of the Indian Wars. Half the book is not about Crazy Horse, which from the title is misleading. In spite of this, it is an excellent narrative. O'Reilly impresses every reader with his ability to make history exciting reading and remaining true.

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





HISTORICAL NOVELIST SHARES HER FAVORITES

Native New Yorker **Ashley E. Sweeney** writes Western historical fiction. Her first two novels, *Eliza Waite* and *Answer Creek*, have won a total of 11 awards, including the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, the WILLA Literary Award, and the Nancy Pearl Book Award. Her third novel, *Hardland*, set in 1899 Arizona Territory, releases in September. Sweeney lives in Tucson and the Pacific Northwest. She recommends these five Western novels:

- 1 ***Inland***, by Tea Obreht (Random House): In 1893 Arizona Territory, one day unfolds in the lives of two disparate characters, homesteader Nora Lark and an outlaw and cameleer known only as Lurie, as their lives intersect toward an explosive ending.
- 2 ***All Things Left Wild***, by James Wade (Blackstone): Reminiscent of Cormac McCarthy, this 2021 WWA Spur Award-winner centers on 16-year-old horse thief Caleb Bentley as he's on the run with his no-good brother Shelby across Texas in 1910.
- 3 ***One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow***, by Olivia Hawker (Lake Union). When neighbors Cora Bemis and Substance Webber have an affair in Wyoming in 1876, Cora's husband murders Webber and he is imprisoned. Over winter, the wives are forced to share lodging and supplies—and plan their futures.
- 4 ***Whiskey When We're Dry***, edited Edward S. Barnard (Reader's Digest Assoc., Inc.): Another compilation by various authors includes intriguing sections such as *The West Beckons*, *The Great Rush West*, and *The West Comes of Age*, among others.
- 5 ***Soldiers, Sutlers, and Settlers Garrison Life on the Texas Frontier*** by Robert Wooster (Texas A&M University Press): The episodes and incidents presented in this book are representative of what happened all over the Old West under similar circumstances.



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Lee Martin

A born storyteller, the California ranch girl has worked hard at her craft to become a successful Western novelist and screenwriter.



During her writing career that has spanned over six decades, Lee Martin has been thrilled to watch the successful productions of her Western novels, including *Last Shoot Out* (2021).

Lee Martin Image By Jasmine Barsukov/
Poster Courtesy Lionsgate Home Entertainment

Sklyar Witte as rancher Jocelyn Miller Callahan seeks refuge and safety with Brock Harris as gunman Billy Tyson in Lee Martin's *Last Shoot Out* (2021).

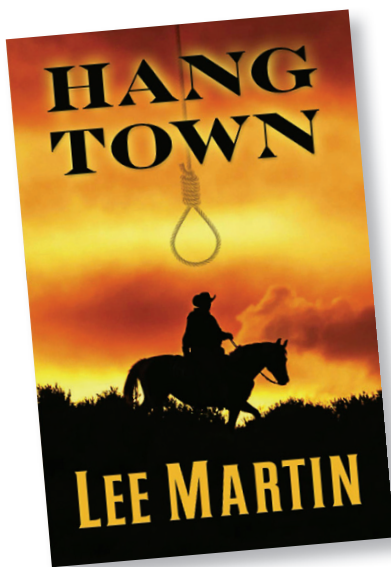
Courtesy Lionsgate Home Entertainment

When Western novelist and screenwriter Lee Martin visited the set of *Shadow on the Mesa*, the first film based on one of her books, the cast and crew were astonished to meet the author. “When my sweetheart and I went to the location, they all thought *he* was Lee Martin. One of those crusty old guys almost swallowed his cigarette. But [leading man] Kevin Sorbo didn’t bat an eye when he saw that I was female; he was very gracious. I’ve always wanted him to be in my Westerns; he’s attached to *Hang Town* right now, when we get the funds.”

For the author of 28 Western novels, with three Western movies made, the romance and mystery of the West was a perfect fit. “My father came to California on horseback. He

was part Cherokee and French and German. He worked on different cattle ranches. And he had a cattle ranch at the end. We lost him when we were young, so my brothers became my heroes, and they are probably in some of my novels. My sister and I followed them around the rodeos.”

Martin hasn’t been influenced by any particular Western authors. “Actually, I was influenced by movies, all the Westerns, and John Wayne especially. In third grade I started writing stories in spiral notebooks. I didn’t *decide* to be a writer: I never had a choice. I just began writing stories because they were in me and had to come out. When I write, even now, it’s spontaneous, without planning; and sometimes the hero demands it.”



Lee Martin's screen adaptation of her 2020 novel *Hang Town* is in pre-production. Michael Feifer is signed as director with actors Kevin Sorbo and Justin Ament in leading roles. Ament is also acting as producer of the Western.

She skipped fifth grade at her one-room schoolhouse. "Best education you can ever get is in a one-room school. You have to tow the mark." She graduated from high school at 16. "I had the highest grade in the county in the English/Subject A exam given by the University of California at Berkeley, and could have gone, but had no money. We were struggling on the ranch, so I went to work as a waitress in a truck stop." She kept writing. At 20, she was married to, then divorced from, a bull-rider. She moved back to the ranch. "My first short story sold when I was in my late 20s."

One of the last of the pulps, *Ranch Romances*, started publishing her short stories in 1959, and would publish about 20 of her 43 short stories. "Jim Hendryx was the editor, and he gave me a second pen name of M. Lemartine so he could use two in an issue." Other Western stories appeared in *Zane Grey Magazine*, *Great Western Short Stories*, and various men's magazines. "The last seven were in *Woman's World*, after the Western market ended," around 1970.

In her early forties, "[w]hile I was working full time and trying to write, I met my sweetheart, Jim. We both went to night law school. In California, if you've only been to high school, you can pass a two-year college equivalency exam. I sold my first novel to

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Michael Feifer produced and directed Lee Martin's *Last Shoot Out* (2021) with an ensemble cast that included (l.-r) David DeLuise, Brock Harris and Peter Sherayko.

Courtesy Lionsgate Home Entertainment

Avalon about eight years later, and then 16 more. I did practice law for about 13 years. I didn't like it, so I just retired and went into writing full-time."

While she continues to write Western novels, she knew the screen was her real calling. "What really sent me was the Saturday afternoon matinees with Red Ryder, The Lone Ranger: that's what I wanted to do. To me, a screenplay

is like the short stories I used to write, which were small movies in print with a beginning, middle and climax."

Her break came when Martin found InkTip, a website where writers pay to have their screenplays made available to producers. "I sold all three Westerns off of InkTip."

Michael Feifer has directed two films based on Martin's novels, 2021's *Last Shoot Out*,

featuring Bruce Dern, and 2022's *The Desperate Riders*, featuring Trace Adkins and Tom Berenger. He's also signed on to direct *Hang Town*. "I have never met him and only spoke with him on the phone once or twice," Martin says, "but I dearly love him. He has shown so much respect for my writing and made very few changes."

"Actors will stick to the script if they like the dialogue," Feifer explains, "if they feel it's strong,

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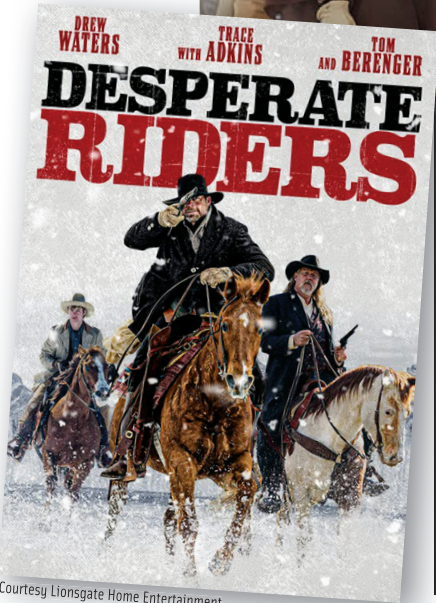
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Author Lee Martin adapted her novel *The Desperate Riders* for the 2022 Lionsgate film starring (l.-r.) Sam Ashby, Vanessa Evigan, Drew Waters and Cowboy Troy.

Courtesy Lionsgate Home Entertainment



Courtesy Lionsgate Home Entertainment

I think actors like Lee's dialogue because it's rich and of the period. It feels right to them. And that's a compliment to Lee's writing that actors don't change it too much." What makes Martin's scripts stand out? "An attention to detail, a care for story, and an interest in women in the Old West, too. A lot of times I receive scripts, or I write scripts myself, and it's just like, men killing men, and you don't really get the backstory. You don't really see the romance."

"I'm big on happy endings," Martin agrees. "The guy's gotta get the girl in the end. You know, my big, tough rodeo brothers, they wanted to see the guy get the girl too."

BLU-RAY REVIEW

THE DESPERATE RIDERS

(Lionsgate Home Entertainment, BluRay, \$21.99; DVD, \$19.98) In this action Western from writer Lee Martin and director Michael Feifer, the riders have every reason to be desperate: when Kansas Red (Drew Waters) saves young Billy (Sam Ashby) from a card cheat's death, Red finds himself compelled to help rescue the boy's mother (Victoria Pratt). Outlaw Thorn (Trace Adkins) has widowed her, plans to wed her, and he's taken two of her friends, Leslie (Vanessa Evigan) and Marianne (Erin Bethea), hostage. Modestly budgeted, but with a complex backstory worthy of an epic, and stunning snow-covered Tennessee locations, *The Desperate Riders* also features Tom Berenger as an in-demand bullet-yanking dentist.



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



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BY PETER CORBETT

Muskogee, Oklahoma

The historic city celebrates its music, history and Old Glory.



Anyone of age in 1969 when Merle Haggard released his megahit song “Okie From Muskogee” knows what a touchstone anthem it was for America’s silent majority in response to the counterculture.

Most folks don’t know a thing about Muskogee, Oklahoma, U.S.A. Especially its violent frontier era of brutal outlaws and brave lawmen in the Indian Territory. More deputy U.S. marshals were killed within 200 miles of Muskogee than anywhere in the West, according to Roger Bell, historian at the local Three Rivers Museum.

Muskogee, which is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year, was thick with thieves and fortune seekers when the Missouri, Kansas, Texas Railroad bridged the Arkansas River and rolled into a new townsite on January 1, 1872.

“There were tons of people following the railroad. All these Western characters, gamblers and you name it,” Bell said. “There was

Exhibits at Muskogee’s Three Rivers Museum tell the story of Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves (inset) and the history of federal marshals’ law enforcement in the Indian Territory.

Museum Photo by Lori Duckworth, Courtesy Oklahoma Tourism/Bass Reeves Courtesy NPS.gov

actually a murder the first night Muskogee was formed. We can only imagine what a rough crowd it was.”

Visitors can delve into what Muskogee was like 150 years ago at the Three Rivers Museum and the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, housed in an 1875 Indian agency building, to learn about the Muskogee (Creek), Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Seminole tribes.

Three Rivers refers to the confluence of the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand rivers where Muskogee was founded. It was a ranching, cotton-farming and commercial center that was larger than Tulsa well into the 19 teens.

Nearby Fort Gibson has a reconstructed log fortress established in 1824 to keep the peace between the Osage and Cherokee tribes. It became the Union headquarters for the Indian Territory during the Civil War as Fort Blunt.

A Civil War battle was fought in 1863 at Honey Springs, an historic site 23 miles south of Muskogee. Nine thousand men clashed on a battlefield that included Indian soldiers fighting for both the Blue and the Gray, along with the first regiment of Black soldiers on the Union side.

The lawmen who helped tame Muskogee included Bass Reeves, Bud Ledbetter and Sam Sixkiller, first captain of the U.S. Indian Police, who was gunned down, off-duty and unarmed, on Christmas Eve.

Ledbetter was a valiant deputy U.S. marshal. In 1897, he nabbed four train robbers of the Jennings Gang by himself. He also served two years as Muskogee police chief.

“I can’t believe how I ever kept from being killed,” Ledbetter often said.

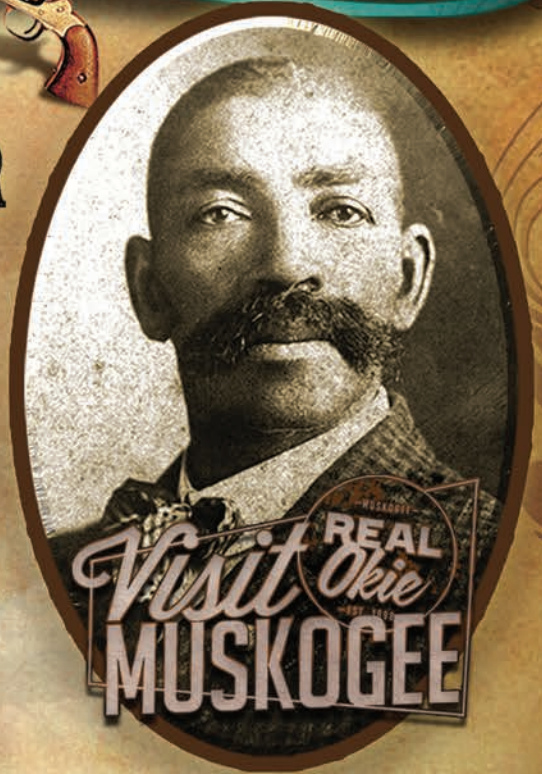
A freed slave, Reeves became the first Black deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi,

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The Five Civilized Tribes Museum, housed in the former Union Indian Agency building in Muskogee, introduces visitors to the history and cultural heritage of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee-Creek and Seminole tribes.

Lori Duckworth, Courtesy Oklahoma Tourism

tracking down outlaws in the Oklahoma Territory and Arkansas. Reports say he apprehended close to 3,000 criminals and killed 14 of them in self-defense.

In July, Muskogee will host a Bass Reeves Western History Conference with *True West* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell as the keynote speaker. It will be held at the Three Rivers Museum, in the renovated 1916 railroad depot.

The museum includes exhibits on lawmen and outlaws like Cherokee Bill, Dick Glass and Belle Star, a horse thief known as the Outlaw Queen. In 1889, she was ambushed and killed with 60 shots near her home at Younger's Bend. Her original grave marker is in the Three Rivers Museum.

In addition to its museums, Muskogee is home to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

It's in the Frisco Freight Depot, which hosts regular concerts.

Merle Haggard was among the first inductees in 1997 with Woody Guthrie and Patti Page. Others honored include Gene Autry, Bob Wills, Hoyt Axton, Leon Russell, J.J. Cale, Toby Keith and Carrie Underwood, who was born in Muskogee.

Historian Bell noted that efforts are underway to honor Haggard with a bronze statue and bench where people can sit and look at "Old Glory waving at the courthouse."



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



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Fort Gibson Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark, dates to the 1840s and was a key military crossroads, stage stop and river landing at the Three Forks during America's expansion across the American Plains and West before and after the Civil War.

Lori Duckworth, Courtesy Oklahoma Tourism

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in the Frisco Freight Depot honors the state's great contributors to the American music catalog including "Okie from Muskogee" songwriter Merle Haggard.

Lisha Newman, Courtesy Oklahoma Tourism

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The Five Civilized Tribes Museum explains the history of the Muscogee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Seminole tribes in an 1875 Indian agency building.
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Muskogee's Three Rivers Museum in a former train depot documents the town's history at the confluence of the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand rivers.
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BY DENNIS TUBERTY

Riding for the Guidon

U.S. CAVALRY SCHOOL AT LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD IS A REAL-LIFE HISTORY LESSON.



Presentation of the 7th Cavalry at the Real Bird family ranch near the original Cheyenne encampment

All Images Courtesy Dennis Tuberty Unless Otherwise Noted

I stood on the banks of the Little Bighorn River at Medicine Tail Coulee Ford. Early one morning last June, I saw a small group of Indian ponies come down to the opposite bank for water. Their classic silhouettes in the predawn light of the Eastern sky were reflected in the water and caused me to have a reflection of my own.

I remembered when I was about seven or eight years old, playing Cavalry and Indians by a small creek that used to flow behind our homestead after a heavy rain. I was with my older brother. We were riding our horses back and forth through the creek and fighting or chasing make-believe Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. We were outfitted with black hats, light-blue denim shirts and dark denim jeans with a yellow crayon stripe down the legs along the outer seams. We were armed with wooden swords, pistols and carbines that were honed from old scrap one-by-four-inch lumber.

That was the beginning of my journey into the history of the American West, and I must thank my brother for my being at that hallowed spot that morning well over 60 years later. This is the spot at the ford on the Little Bighorn where two companies of Custer's battalions

tried to cross and attack the village. They were repelled by a brave band of Sioux warriors led by the War Chief Crazy Horse. I was imagining what was going through their minds at that moment, how they must have felt on both sides of that water—fear, anger or something else? I was looking out at the surrounding landscape, absorbing what it must have looked like. Much of it is as it was then; the large clay bluffs to the south, the coulee to the center and the Greasy Grass Ridge to the north.

I am here thanks not only to my brother, but the U.S. Cavalry School and especially the members of the Real Bird Family of Garryowen, Montana, who own the land upon which we are camped. It is the same piece of ground upon which the Sioux village was located that fateful day. Some of the old, towering and gnarled cottonwood trees may have been just saplings back then. Those trees were shedding their cotton-like balls of seed resembling falling snowflakes.

The U.S. Cavalry School is run by Keith Herrin of Fort Harrison, Montana. He has been teaching students of history for the last 15 years. Keith runs his school much like the Army, with the exception of the mess. The real Army does not have a master chef, at least not for the

enlisted. I was expecting beans, bacon, hardtack and coffee. But we were served gourmet meals prepared by Chef Tony Schann, with help from Bridgette Van Houten and Julie Benson.

Many of the talented instructors are former military. They assign one student with one instructor, and the emphasis is on safety. This year the school provided an emergency physician, an EMT and an ER nurse to watch over the group of about 60 riders. This is a dangerous hobby, with large animals, guns and gunfire; anything could go wrong if you're not paying attention. We were conditioned along with our mounts, and we were schooled on the anatomy and care of the horse.

We learned the correct way to approach the animal, communicate with it, and establish confidence and trust with one another. We were instructed in the proper way to saddle our mount with an 1870s reproduction McClellan saddle and gear. It is much different than a Western or English saddle because it sits toward the midsection of the horse's back. We were taught the military way of mounting and dismounting. This comes in handy when lifting yourself up into the saddle with all your accoutrements: you must navigate your leg over the



Pack mules pausing under a full moon on an evening patrol above Reno's Timber fight



Indian ponies drinking water in the predawn from the Little Bighorn River at Medicine Tail Ford

saddlebags, bedroll, great-coat, shelter half, gum blanket, poncho and other items. This is especially more complex with a carbine over your shoulder. But these movements were taught gradually, not all at once. Things got heavier and more complicated as the days of training progressed.

Once we were mounted, we rode around the large corral with our instructor in twos, meaning our half of the squad of four. We tried to ride stirrup to stirrup, always looking to our right to keep abreast with our bunkie, a pet name for our comrade-in-arms. We rode in file (ones) or by twos and then in fours. We drilled in maneuvers, executing turns by fours, flanking movements (90-degree turns), right-about (making a 180-degree turn), right into line (when the whole regiment forms up into one long line, stirrup to stirrup). Then we worked on getting our horses in line and dressed right, straightening the formation.

It's an effort to move and position your mount in a tight formation. I learned to maneuver the



Cavalry school bunkies Dennis Tuberty on Cosby and AJ Reese on Bill taking a break from training

Photo by Richard Shea

horse sideways, a movement called side pass. Not all horses are trained to do that well, and mine was one of those. It took me all eight days to persuade Cosby, my 15.2 hands gelding, to do so. What I had learned about horseback riding in the past all went away. I had to relearn

to ride the Army way. It was tough, educational, but fun.

We had classroom and field lessons on the history of cavalry horsemanship and tactics. We learned the importance of all the different formations and maneuvers and how to do them correctly and quickly. Our bunkie's and our own lives were dependent upon executing them properly.

One of the more interesting experiences was crossing the river mounted. Due to the movement of the horse and the flow of the water, one can suddenly become disoriented, called vertigo. The horse begins to drift with the water. We were told to fix our eyes on an object on the opposite shore and focus on it. If the horse drifts with the current, we were to rein it back into line. One must focus, as even our peripheral vision was experiencing vertigo. It's not as easy as it looks.

Now I understand why so many animals drown crossing rivers; they get disoriented and drift downriver to a swifter current and perish.

Another experience for the more adventurous or younger troopers was an overnight patrol, camping in the wooded area close to Reno's timber fight. We all mounted up and rode out in two companies. The first company was to stay and camp out. The second company merely followed. It comprised the less adventurous types who needed a cot to sleep on and



Dennis Tuberty was an eager student at the U.S. Cavalry School at the Real Bird family ranch in Gerryowen, Montana, for the June 2021 Little Bighorn Reenactment.

a healthy hot breakfast come morning.

Additionally, I was lucky enough to be chosen one of 16 troopers to form an honor guard. We were allowed to ride from our campsite into the Little Bighorn National Park. We were escorted by the Park Police to the Last Stand Hill and the monuments of the 7th Cavalry and the American

Indians who died defending their way of life. We rode to the top of Last Stand Hill opposite the 7th's Monument and came into line next to the Native American monument. Park officials and our own Gary Stewart, aka Lt. Col. G.A. Custer, said a few appropriate words to remind us of the tragedy that occurred here 145 years ago. Miss Montana, Jessica Criss of Bozeman, Montana, led us all in "Amazing Grace," followed by trumpeter Mark Jacobsen who played taps.

After the ceremony, we remained for a short while to greet the visitors and allow them to take photos. Some of us older troopers dismounted and allowed some of the younger ones to take the reins of our mounts so that they also had the opportunity to ride in formation within the park.

Once back in camp, preparations were underway for the reenactment. The presentation was written and produced by the Real Bird Family. In it, Jack Real Bird tells the story of the Crow and other Plains Indians tribes.

Mr. Real Bird and his brother then tell of the impact of the White man, beginning with Lewis and Clark, followed by trappers, miners and wagon trains, heading for the goldfields. Tribes had to travel farther and farther to hunt game and ventured into other tribes' hunting areas. Conflicts arose among the Indian tribes and with the White settlers. The Army was sent in to separate the parties and bring peace to this region. But the continued broken treaties, the building of forts and then the railroads further

Indian warriors preparing for a counterattack in the Real Bird Family reenactment near the Medicine Tail Coulee Ford



H Company crossing the Little Bighorn River at Medicine Tail Ford during cavalry training

Photo by Mama Herrin

aggravated the Plains People and pushed them into war.

That was our cue, and we paraded out in a column of fours. General Custer and his headquarters staffed the way under the Custer banner, a red over blue sparrow tail Gideon with white crossed sabers. We were followed by M troop, at intervals, and then the color guard of four with the national colors, followed closely by H troop. We all came into line, stirrup to stirrup, and presented our colors. Introductions were given, followed by the screaming, yelling and war cries of the plains Indians with young Crow braves charging out in full war paint and loin-cloths. These war cries raised the hair on the back of my neck. Thank goodness my horse didn't flinch since I was a bit unsettled. These war cries were meant to intimidate us. It worked on me!

Later we portrayed Reno's attack. My assignment was to be a horse holder, as I am too old to dismount and remount in the thick of battle. While the companies splashed across the river at a gallop, my horse slowed to a walk and took its own sweet time crossing. Once across, his long stride allowed me to catch up with the rest of the company. He never minded taking the ramping paths, so it flew up and over the steep cut bank and into the chaos unfolding. The troopers had dismounted and looked desperately for their horse holders. In the mass confusion, we all got separated. I couldn't get to my squad fast enough, so I took those horses that were closest to me. I hoped I would remember whose horses I had because shortly the skirmishers would be

barked orders to the troops to stay in line, do their duty, and maintain fire discipline. Then the bugle called and retreat was ordered. We horse holders needed to find our comrades so they could remount and beat a hasty retreat back across the river and to safety beyond. Some of those troopers didn't make it, and we had to leave them behind lest we become victims of the counterassault. However, once across, we were pursued by some of the most marvelous horsemen riding bareback on painted ponies. We were chased until we reached the high ground of an upper bank.

This experience was repeated for the Last Stand where we encircled. Everyone got off their horses and started to fight on foot. All was lost; the Indians were too many and the soldiers were out of ammo. The shooting diminished until all had fallen. The dust started to settle. Then came the celebratory cries of triumph from the braves.

Recall was sounded. The dead came back to life, and the audience applauded. Again we all lingered a bit so the visitors could come to the field, meet the participants and take photos. We all congratulated each other for having survived without injury from getting bitten, kicked, burned or thrown off.

We repeated the performance two more days. Then came cleanup time.

Thinking back over those eight days, I decided it was really worth the money, time

needing to remount and make a hasty retreat. There was noise, dust, smoke, gunshots and war cries.

Officers screamed at the NCOs, who in turn

and effort. We came and saw the elephant. With all the noise, smoke, dust and gunfire, it was easy to imagine the real thing. I think that was the U.S. Cavalry's School's main goal with their Custer's Last Ride adventure course, and to do it safely. They delivered. It was a wonderful and memorable experience. It was thrilling, exhilarating and exhausting all at once. But it was a one-and-done experience for this old trooper. I'm glad I did it, but I will let some of the younger students return next year. I discovered there is a scholarship fund for those students who do not have the resources for the cost of travel, tuition, horse, accoutrements, uniform, weapon rental, transportation from Billings' airport, a cot in a wall tent and three great meals a day. It can be expensive, but what you receive is a very good deal. Some students can



Cavalry school being held under the cottonwoods near the Reno's Timber fight

work as interns to help defer expenses. If I do return, it will be as a spectator. I think I will donate to that scholarship program so others can experience the joy of learning firsthand from experts the history of this sacred place.

For more information on the U.S. Cavalry School, visit their website at USCavalrySchool.com.



Dennis Tuberty is an active Western reenactor who was raised on a farm near Albert Lea, Minnesota. Retired from the construction industry, he and his wife Kathryn live in Prescott, Arizona. In 2021, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Prescott Western Heritage Center.

RIDIN'



A vacation in the cool high-country of Durango, Colorado, should include a ride on the internationally acclaimed historic Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railway.

Courtesy Library of Congress

THE RAILS

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Santa Cruz Beach Train, Roaring Camp Railroads, Felton, CA

Courtesy Roaring Camp Railroads

Redwood Forest Steam Train, Roaring Camp Railroads, Felton, CA

Courtesy Roaring Camp Railroads



FELTON, CALIFORNIA

Named for San Francisco Judge John B. Felton, this historic logging community (SantaCruzMountains.com) served as the lower terminus of the San Lorenzo Valley Logging Flume. Expanded by a rail line transporting logs to the Santa Cruz wharf, lime kilns and forests in this area provided repair materials for the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

The area's first railroad, Santa Cruz & Felton, began carrying tourists to the Big Trees and the beach in 1875. Roaring Camp Railroads (RoaringCamp.com) offer two excursions—Redwood Forest Steam Train and the Santa Cruz Beach Train.

Using 1890 steam engines, the trains travel over trestles, through redwood groves and up a winding 9.5-percent grade to Bear Mountain summit. Conductors narrate the use of narrow-gauge steam locomotives.

The Beach Train departs Santa Cruz Mountains, travels through Redwoods State Park, down the San Lorenzo River Gorge, across a 1909 steel truss bridge and through an 1875 tunnel, arriving at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

SEEING AND DOING

The unique Bigfoot Discovery Museum (BigfootDiscoveryProject.com) showcases facts about mystery primates, including Bigfoot. San Lorenzo Valley Museum (SLVMuseum.com) is housed in an historic church.

Stroll across the pedestrian-only 1892 Felton Covered Bridge, believed the tallest such bridge in the U.S. Nature enthusiasts can explore the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park offering many outdoor activities.

EATING AND SLEEPING

With “portions big enough for a cowboy,” the Cowboy Bar & Grill (FeltonCowboy.com) serves food ranging from prawns to tacos. “One of the legends of the Santa Cruz Mountains” is Monty’s Log Cabin (Montys-Log-Cabin.edan.io).

Fern River Resort (FernRiver.com) offers views of the river and redwoods. Brookdale Lodge (BrookDaleLodge.com) tenders newly renovated rooms set among redwoods. The beer garden and bar host weekend and holiday events.

WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

Gateway to Grand Canyon National Park, Williams (WilliamsAZ.gov) lies in the Kaibab National Forest and on historic Route 66. Shops and restaurants from the early 1900s line the main street.

Blending adventure, history and the area’s culture, a ride on the Grand Canyon Railway (TheTrain.com) delivers passengers to Grand Canyon’s South Rim. Watch terrain change from high desert to pine and experience sunrise or sunset over the Grand Canyon.

SEEING AND DOING

“Walk through Williams and you’ll find it’s a Route 66 Open Air Museum,” reports a local. Pete’s Route 66 Gas Station Museum, housed in an old station, contains a collection of vintage vehicles.



Grand Canyon Railway, Williams, AZ

Courtesy Grand Canyon Railway

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Drive through Bearizona (Bearizona.com) wildlife park and see animals rescued from across the country. Bill Williams Monument Park stands in tribute to the town's founder.

EATING AND SLEEPING

In downtown the Red Raven Restaurant (RedRavenRestaurant.com) offers fine casual dining. Grand Canyon Brewery (GrandCanyonBrewery.com) features locally brewed beer.

Visitors can rest at the Red Garter Inn (RedGarter.com), an historic four-room inn which began life in 1897 as an upstairs brothel and ground-floor saloon. Twelve-foot ceilings and antique furnishings capture the 1890s atmosphere.

Trapper's Rendezvous B&B boutique hotel (TrappersAZ.com) has six cabins on five acres. Next door to the train station, the 298-room Grand Canyon Railway Hotel (TheTrain.com) features a pool and hot tub.

At Wild West Junction (WildWestJunction.com), stay in a Western-themed room at the Drover's Inn. Enjoy Western hospitality and a cold beverage at the Long Horn Saloon. Try the Branding Iron Restaurant next door for amazing BBQ.



Northern Nevada Railway, Ely, NV
Courtesy Northern Nevada Railway

ELY, NEVADA

Founded as a stagecoach and Pony Express stop, Ely, Nevada (ElyNevada.org) became a copper mining boom camp in 1906.

Exchanging stagecoaches for a train, The Nevada Northern Railway (ElyNevada.net), a working steam-engine passenger train, travels through ghost towns and mines offering a variety of trips. The Northern Railway Museum (NNRY.com) includes restoration and operation of historic railroad equipment.

SEEING AND DOING

Experience what it was like, how it worked at the East Ely Railroad Depot (ElyRailroadMuseum.org). Guided tours of the rail yards complete the day. Visit White Pine Public Museum (WPMuseum.org) featuring original settlers, Shoshone Indians, gold rushes and Pony Express.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park (Parks.NV.gov) protects 19th-century beehive-shaped charcoal ovens. Spend time at Renaissance Village where six restored historic houses

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showcase 100-plus ethnic cultures of people who settled here. Stroll along the old Cherry Creek Mining District famous to see wild cherry trees.

EATING AND SLEEPING

The Cellblock Restaurant (*JailhouseCasino.com*) takes visitors back to Wild West days. Nardi's Homestyle Restaurant (*NardisFamilyRestaurant.com*) serves healthy meals and plant-based food. Shooters Bar & Grill (*ShootersBarGrill.business.site*) serves stir fry to burgers. Racks Bar & Grill (*RacksBarMevada.com*) offers a full-service restaurant with an outdoor courtyard.

Now offering lodgings, Nevada's oldest brothel and bar, the 1880 Big 4 Ranch (*Lodging-World.com*), provides five generously appointed rooms. The tallest building in the state for years, Hotel Nevada and Gambling Hall (*HotelNevada.com*) remains in its original glory, but with modernized amenities.

DURANGO, COLORADO

Chosen as an 1880 site for railroad facilities, by 1895 Durango (*Durango.org*) had mushroomed into a town of restaurants, saloons, and hotels. Railroad aficionados will enjoy riding the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge (*DurangoTrain.com*). This 1882, 45-mile track,



Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO

Photo by Stuart Rosebrook

travels mountains and canyons from Durango to Silverton.

SEEING AND DOING

Tucked behind the depot, the Railroad Museum (*DurangoTrain.com*) features the history of railroading, transportation and mining. Chronicling the story of the Ute people, the Southern Ute Museum (*SouthernUteMuseum.org*) has photos, tipi replicas, a cabin and a schoolroom. The Animas

Museum (*AnimasMuseum.org*) is housed in a transformed 1904 Animas City School.

Sorrel Sky Gallery (*SorrelSky.com*) showcases jewelry, paintings and sculptures. Earthen Vessel Gallery (*EarthenVessel.com*) offers unique ceramic, jewelry, glass and mixed-media art.

Accessible by car or train, Silverton (*SilvertonColorado.com*) is nestled in the San Juan Mountains' ancient caldera bowl. A year-round recreation destination, the area offers

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Georgetown Loop Railroad, Georgetown, CO

Courtesy Georgetown Loop Railroad

trails, camping, panning, skiing, snowboarding, river rafting, and more.

For over 700 years, Ancestral Pueblo people built communities on the mesas and cliffs of Mesa Verde (48 miles west of Durango). Today, 26 Pueblos and Tribes offer visitors a window to the past, notably the massive Cliff Palace.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Animas Brewing Company (AnimasBrewing.com) offers a brewpub inside a cabin and serves Irish-influenced food. You can't get more "cowboy" than spending an evening at the Bar D Chuckwagon Supper (BarDChuckwagon.com)

where singing along with the Bar D Wranglers is encouraged. Family-friendly cowboy supper is served on tin plates.

The Strater Hotel (Strater.com) has it all. In addition to 88 unique, period-appointed Victorian rooms, the 1887 Strater offers fine dining at the Mahogany Grille. Ingredients are sourced from local family-owned farms and ranches.

Durango's 1898 Victorian hotel, The General Palmer (GeneralPalmerHotel.com), sits next to the train station. Rochester Hotel's (RochesterHotel.com) guest rooms are decorated with Western charm.

GEORGETOWN, COLORADO

"The Silver Queen of the Rockies" has grown from a silver mining camp into a lively small town. Well-preserved buildings reflect its 1859 founding.

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

SEEING AND DOING

Little has changed since Georgetown's mining days. The Hotel de Paris Museum (HotelDeParisMuseum.org) is a former 1875 French inn. The Hamill House Museum (HistoricGeorgetown.com) interprets 19th-century residential living. Georgetown Energy Museum (GeorgetownEnergyMuseum.org) is in a fully functioning and operational hydroelectric generating plant.

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

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Pan for gold and tour 1870s silver mines (*GeorgetownLoopRR.com*). Enhance your train ride with an optional 1.5-mile walking tour of the Lebanon or Everett Silver Mine tunnel (*VisitClearCreek.com*) located at the halfway point of the train trip.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Locally owned Cooper's on the Creek (*CoopersOnTheCreek.com*) serves lunch, dinner and pub fare—pizza, sandwiches and Italian basics all made from scratch, The Alpine Restaurant and Bar (*AlpineRestaurantGeorgetown.com*) offers live music. On Georgetown Lake, family-friendly Cabin Creek Brewing (*CabinCreekBrewing.com*) offers foods, beer and cocktails.

Recharge at the Georgetown Lodge (*GeorgetownLodge.com*). The Hotel Chateau Chamonix's (*HotelChateauChamonix.com*) luxury lodging offers a "touch of Europe." The Silver Lake Lodge (*TheSilverLakeLodge.com*), for "romantic adults only," is nestled in the Rocky Mountains in nearby Idaho Springs.

LEWISTON, MONTANA

An agricultural community at the center of Montana, Lewiston (*EnjoyLewistown.com*) features well-preserved historic businesses and



Charlie Russell Chew Choo Train, Lewiston, MT

Courtesy Charlie Russell Chew Choo Train, Lewiston, MT

homes. Train enthusiasts enjoy the 46-mile Charlie Russell Chew Choo excursion (*MontanaDinnerTrain.com*) which includes a full-course meal, live music and Western entertainment as riders travel through Big Sky country. The train cars are 1950s vintage stainless steel and travel on a 1912 spur track.

SEEING AND DOING

Charles Marion Russell lived the Western life he captured on canvas. The C.M. Russell Museum (*CMRussell.org*) in nearby Great Falls shares his life through his work and that of other artists. Central Montana Historical Museum (*VisitMT.com*)

features displays and photos celebrating the central area of the state.

Day trippers can retrace the path explorers Lewis and Clark (*VisitMT.com*) took as they paralleled the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. Or visit Beargulch (*BearGulch.net*), 27 miles southeast of Lewiston, a well-preserved pictographs and petroglyphs site with guided tours.

The 37th annual Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering, set for August 11-14, 2022, (*MontanaCowboyPoetryGathering.com*) celebrates Western ranching lifestyle and the heritage of the American Cowboy of the Upper Rocky Mountains.

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- DAISY LONGSTEM'S SALOON GIRLS
- DARIUS MUNGER
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- FLINT HILLS OUTLAWS
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EATING AND SLEEPING

An inviting coffee shop atmosphere at the 406 Café (406Cafe.com) features breakfast and lunch. Central Feed Grilling Company (CentralFeedGrillingco.com) is a steakhouse, wine bar and craft beer haven under one roof.

The Yogo Inn (YogoInn.com) features a year-round heated indoor pool and spa. Perfect for the business traveler, The Calvert Hotel (TheCalvertHotel.com) offers a “Grab and Go” breakfast. For something unusual, stay at the Montana Bunkhouse (MontanaBunkhouse.com), a converted old schoolhouse, now cabin, perfect for special events or visitors wanting to “get away.”

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Full of history, Austin (AustinTexas.org), a melting pot of cultures, is a hub for technological businesses and musical experiences.

Austin Steam Train (AustinSteamTrain.org) runs three routes on vintage cars from the '30s, '40s and '50s on 1882 lines. Choose from the 66-mile Hill Country Flyer, the 44-mile Bertram Flyer or the Sunset Express, which follows the Bertram Flyer route.

SEEING AND DOING

The Central Texas Hill Country town of Driftwood (AustinTexas.org) is resplendent with farm tours, wine tasting, wildlife, hills, Texas Oaks, walking trails, restaurants and breweries. Seventy-five miles west of Austin, Fredericksburg (VisitFredericksburgTX.com) displays its 1846 German heritage with museums, cuisine, music and residents who speak “Texas German.”

Bullock Texas State Museum (TheStoryOfTexas.com), a few blocks north of the state capitol, interprets the “Story of Texas.” One of the largest university art museums, the Blanton Museum of Art (BlantonMuseum.org) displays a collection of over 21,000 works.

View collectible art at the Prickly Pear Galleries (PricklyPearGalleries.com) located

in Driftwood. Austin’s Shelton Smith Art Gallery (SheltonSmith.com) features Western art, Native American antiques and Western Americana.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Vic & Al’s (VicAndAls.com), is a third-generation restaurant, that serves up Southern Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast cuisines. Blue Corn Harvest Bar & Grill in Cedar Park and Georgetown, support local farms and distilleries.

Stay at the 189-room historic Driskill Hotel (DriskillHotel.com) in the heart of downtown Austin. For relaxed European elegance with vintage furnishing, enjoy the 10-acre retreat, the Commodore Perry Estate (AubergeResorts.com). Located in the heart of Austin, Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta Hotel (Sonesta.com) sports an Art Deco facade and sophisticated decor.

ABILENE, KANSAS

Home of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abilene (AbileneKansas.org) began as a stagecoach stop in 1857. Ten years later, the railroad came through; the town mushroomed as the Chisolm Trail cowboys ended their drive there, making Abilene a railhead.

Enjoy a ride aboard the Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad Train (AbileneKansas.org) pulled by a 1919 Baldwin Santa Fe steam engine. Ride the 10.5-mile trip through the Smoky Hills River Valley in an open-air car or dine aboard the dinner train.

SEEING AND DOING

Spend a day at Old Abilene Town (OldAbileneTown.org) filled with Old West reenactors, cattle drives and entertainers. Tour the 1905 Seelye Mansion (SeelyeMansion.org) containing many original features—11 bedrooms, a ballroom, bowling alley, dining room and music room with a Steinway piano.



Austin Steam Train,
 Austin, TX

Photo by Janae Melsha, Courtesy
 Austin Steam Train Association



RAILROAD MUSEUMS

NOT TO MISS

Nevada Train Museum Carson City, NV
 Courtesy TravelNevada

Arizona State Railroad Museum

Williams, AZ • AZStateRRMuseum.org

Golden Gate Railroad Museum

Redwood, City, CA • GGRM.org

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum

Ely, NV • GreatBasinHeritage.org

Nevada State Railroad Museum

Carson City, NV • NSRM-Friends.org

Utah State Railroad Museum

Ogden, UT • TheUnionStation.org

Colorado Railroad Museum

Golden, CO • ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org

Pueblo Railway Museum

Pueblo, CO • PuebloRailway.org

Galveston Railroad Museum

Galveston, TX • GalvestonMuseum.com

Ridgway Railroad Museum

Ridgway, CO • RidgwayRailroadMuseum.org

Museum of the American Railroad

Frisco, TX • MuseumOfTheAmericanRailroad.org

The St. Louis Museum of Transportation

St. Louis, MO • TransportMuseumAssociation.org

The Durham Museum

Omaha, NE • DurhamMuseum.org

Golden Spike Tower & Visitors Center

North Platte, NE • GoldenSpikeTower.com

Tennessee Valley Railroad

Chattanooga, TN • TVRail.com

Northern Pacific Railway Museum

Toppenish, WA • NPRYMuseum.org

Kettle Valley Steam Railway

Summerland, BC • KettleValleyRail.org

Amarillo Railroad Museum

Amarillo, TX • AmarilloRailMuseum.com

Arkansas Railroad Museum

Pine Bluff, AR • ArkansasRailroadMuseum.org

Montana Museum of Railroad History

Carter, MT • MMRH.org

South Dakota Railroad Museum

Hill City, SD • 1880Train.com

The Folsom Railroad Museum

Folsom, CA • FEDSHRA.org

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Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad, Abilene, KS

ASVRR Image Courtesy Abilene, KS
Tourism/Historic Abilene Courtesy True West Archives



The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library (EisenhowerLibrary.gov) features Kansas, World War II history and Eisenhower's story. An 11-foot bronze statue of Eisenhower greets visitors. Making history a lot of fun, the Dickinson County Heritage Center (DickinsonCountyHistoricalSociety.com) houses a buffalo head, hand-carved carousel, pioneer cabin's cookstove, horse-drawn fire engine and other items from the past.

EATING AND SLEEPING

A family restaurant serving home-cooked meals, the Hitching Post Restaurant and Saloon (AbileneKansas.org) offers take-out and dine-in. "A small-town gem," Joe Snuffy's Old Fashioned Grill (AbileneKansas.org), home of the Chisholm Trail Steak, serves breakfast and lunch.

Built in 1887 and close to museums and downtown Abilene, the Victorian Inn B&B (AbilenesVictorianInn.com) serves a gourmet breakfast. This was the home of Eisenhower's boyhood friend Swede Hazlett. A mission arts and crafts home, the 1910 Historic Engle House B&B (EngleHouse.com) offers elegant rooms and tasty meals.

SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

"Poultry Capital of the World," Springdale (SpringdaleAR.gov), is nestled on the Springfield Plateau, deep in the Ozark Mountains.

Experience the area with a trip on the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad (AMTrainRides.com). A variety of tours offer day-long rides and shorter trips, taking visitors through tunnels, over trestles and through the Ozarks.

SEEING AND DOING

Explore life on the frontier and Indian Territory at Fort Smith Historic Site (NPS.gov) located in Fort Smith. Visit historic buildings and displays. Spend time in the heart of the Ozarks at Eureka Springs (EurekaSprings.org), where Victorian homes hug cliff sides and the entire downtown is listed on the Register of Historic Places.

Ed Cooley Gallery (EdCooleyGallery.com) in Rogers represents work from award-winning photographer Ed Cooley with over 500,000 images. At Art Ventures (ArtVentures-nwa.org) in Fayetteville, the educational organization provides access to art for everyone.

Learn about the history and culture of north-west Arkansas at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (ShilohMuseum.org). Explore exhibits and six historic buildings on the museum's grounds. Outdoorsmen will enjoy visiting the 61-acre Ozark Highlands Nature Center (AGFC.com) to learn about the area's nature and outdoor recreation. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville (CrystalBridges.org) offers art, tours, exhibitions, a museum and nature trails.

EATING AND SLEEPING

Wright's Barbecue (WrightsBarbecue.com) in Johnson and Fayetteville believes true barbecue flavor uses an open-flame wood pit. Susan's Restaurant (SusansAr.com) in Springdale serves breakfast and lunch and says it's "internationally famous here locally." Try the MarketPlace Grill (MarketPlaceGrill.com) for lunch or dinner.

Rest at Springdale's Inn at the Mill (InnAtTheMill.com), where "past meets the

present.” In Fayetteville, stay at “The University’s Front Porch,” the boutique Inn at Carnal Hall (InnAtCarnalHall.com).

BRYSON CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

Gateway to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Bryson City (BrysonCityNC.gov) is an outdoor adventurer’s paradise, offering fly fishing, arts, local breweries and the Smoky Mountains Railroad.

Completed in 1883, a branch of the Southern Railway connected small towns. Today, Great Smoky Mountains Railroad (GSMR.com) operates excursions to various destinations using two Baldwin steam locomotives. The route passes through fertile valleys, a tunnel and across Smoky Mountains river gorges.

SEEING AND DOING

Camp, hike or fish the Deep Creek area (NPS.gov), celebrated for its many streams and waterfalls. Or travel the Road to Nowhere (AtlasObscura.com), a six-mile unfinished road from Bryson City to Deals Gap that ends at a quarter-mile-long tunnel.



Arkansas & Missouri Railroad,
Springdale, AR

Courtesy Arkansas Tourism

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Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, Bryson City, NC

Bryon Burton, Courtesy Great Smoky Mountains Railroad

Watch artisans make pottery or browse the gallery at Sawmill Creek Pottery (TripAdvisor.com) in Bryson City. Great Smoky Mountain Trains Museum (GSMR.com) has a collection of 7,000 Lionel engines, cars and accessories in an operating layout. Located in the downtown 1908 historic courthouse, Swain County Heritage Museum (SwainHeritageMuseum.com) offers photos, exhibits and videos about the life of early settlers. Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians (FlyFishingMuseum.org) exhibits equipment and the history of Southeast fly fishing.

Close to downtown and the trains, the Fryemont Inn (FryemontInn.com) offers front-porch views of the Great Smoky Mountains from its historic lodge. Breakfast and dinner are served at the dining room.

Enjoy views from the deck running behind Riverbend Lodge (RiverbendLodging.com). Try wading, fishing and kayaking from the motel. Known for unfussy and unpretentious accommodations, the Lakeview at Fontana (LakeviewAtFontana.com) offers treetop soaking cabanas nestled in nature.



EATING AND SLEEPING

Loretta's Snak Shak offers budget-friendly meals of burgers, soups and pasta salads. Serving hamburgers, hotdogs, ribs, chicken and more, Bar-B-Que Wagon is a Bryson City staple.

Award-winning author **Melody Groves** loves "riding the rails" whenever possible. She's ridden the Durango-Silverton excursion, and recently, Amtrak's Super Chief from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Kansas City, Missouri.

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SKY RAILWAY

New Mexico's Santa Fe's Adventure Train, Sky Railway (SkyRailway.com), travels the historic rail spur between Santa Fe and Lamy (a railroad junction 18 miles south of Santa Fe). In the 1880s, civil engineers planned to run a train from Atchison, Kansas, to Santa Fe. However, the hills surrounding the New Mexico town made it impractical to build. They ran the railway through Lamy instead.

Premiering Spring 2022, Sky Railway offers adventures across beautiful Southwestern landscapes on restored passenger cars. Choose from the Wine Line excursion, Wild West Express, Lamy Brunch Run, Theater in Motion, Sunset Serenade, New Mexico Ale Trail, Santa Fe Scenic, Lore of the Land, Stargazer, Cocktails and Rails, Acoma Lounge Car from the original 1937 Super Chief, or Speakeasy Express. Sky Railway was created by train enthusiasts—authors George R. R. Martin and Douglas Preston, along with local businessmen—who combined personal resources to revive the 141-year-old railroad. Sky Railway is one of the nation's most original, imaginative and exciting short-line railroads.

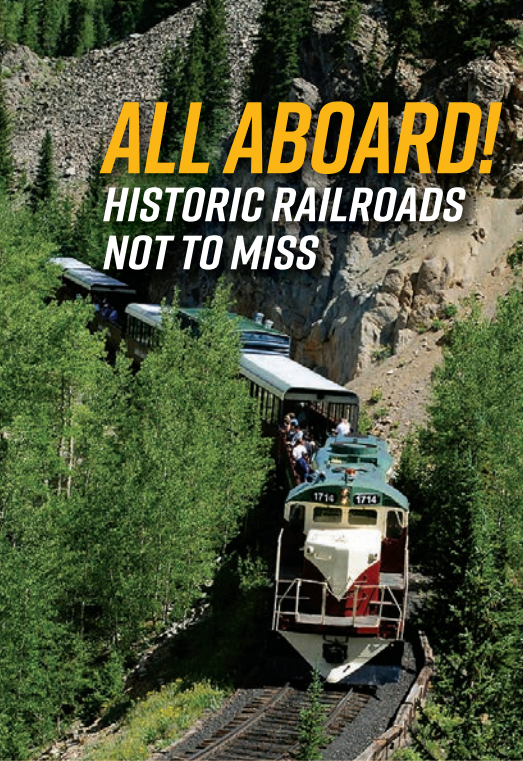
Santa Fe's Adventure Train, Sky Railway, Santa Fe, NM

Courtesy Sky Railway



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Hood River, OR • MtHoodRR.com

Pikes Peak Cog Railroad
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Cripple Creek, CO • CrippleCreekRailroad.com

Eagle Cap Excursion Train
Wallowa, OR • EagleCapTrainRides.com

Royal Gorge Route Railroad
Canon City, CO • RoyalGorgeRoute.com

Sumpter Valley RR
Sumpter, OR • SumpterValleyRailroad.org

Texas State RR
Palestine, TX • TexasStateRailroad.net

Wisconsin Great Northern RR
Trego, WI • SpoonierTrainRide.com

Oregon Coast Scenic RR
Garibaldi, OR • OregonCoastScenic.org

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

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
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Fillmore & Western Railway
Fillmore, CA • FWRY.com

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Nevada City, CA • NCNGRRMuseum.org

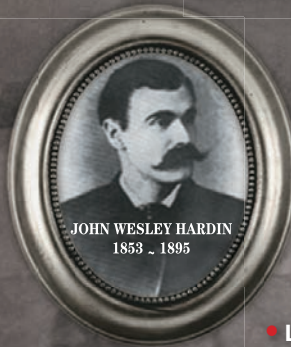
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Virginia & Truckee Railroad
Virginia City, NV • VTRailway.com

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Connersville, IN • WhiteWaterValleyRR.org

Concordia Cemetery

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- Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.
- Veterans from the War of 1812 through recent conflicts, as well as "The World's Tallest Man," reside in permanency.
- Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia.

• Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin - August 20, 2022 at 6 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise—and on October 15, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for the annual Sundown Walk With the Spirits of Concordia Cemetery, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

• Exciting Monthly night time Ghost Tours held Saturday nights, 8-10 p.m. Check website or Facebook for dates!

915-842-8200 • ConcordiaCemetery.org • [Facebook/ConcordiaCemetery](https://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaCemetery)
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WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JULY/AUGUST 2022



Courtesy Miller Photo

ART SHOWS

BIGHORN RENDEZVOUS EXHIBIT

Big Horn, WY, July 9- August 27: View artwork by 13 talented, award-winning artists who work in various genres.
307-672-3173 • TheBrintonMuseum.org

HOLD YOUR HORSES INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION & SALE

Prescott, AZ, August 6-September 25: Horse lovers, art enthusiasts and Western art collectors will all be enthralled with the Phippen Art Museum's annual *Hold Your Horses!* exhibition and sale.
928-778-1385 • PhippenArtMuseum.org

ENCAMPMENTS

GREEN RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Pinedale, WY, July 7-10: This mountain man encampment honors rendezvous culture with fur trade lectures and a pageant.
307-367-4136 • VisitPinedale.org

FAIR AND HORSE RACES

ELKO COUNTY FAIR & HORSE RACES

Elko, NV, August 26-September 5: This year, the Elko County Fair celebrates its 101st anniversary. Featuring crafts and critters, live music and fair food, horse racing and the Stock Horse Show, the Elko County Fair is one of the most popular annual events in Nevada.
775-738-3616 • ElkoCountyFair.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

OREGON TRAIL DAYS

Gering, NE, July 7-10: A kickoff barbecue, old-fashioned parades and live music are just some of the highlights of the annual weekend celebration

of the pioneers who settled western Nebraska.
308-632-2133 • OregonTrailDays.com

BASS REEVES WESTERN HISTORY CONFERENCE

Muskogee, OK, July 21-23: Bob Boze Bell, Executive Editor of *True West* will be the 2022 Bass Reeves Western History Conference main speaker. Meet and greet on the 21st at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Roxy Theater.
918-686-6624 • BassReevesConference.com

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Bandera, TX, July 23-24: Honor cowboys at this dinner and concert under the stars on the Frontier Times Museum grounds.
830-796-3864 • BanderaCowboyCapital.com

BILLY THE KID PAGEANT & OLD LINCOLN DAYS

Lincoln, NM, August 5-7: "The Last Escape of Billy the Kid" is a folk pageant centering around the life of the legendary outlaw, Billy the Kid. This pageant was first presented in 1940.
Facebook.com/Billy-the-Kid-Pageant;
877-784-3676 • DiscoverRuidoso.com

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN SECRET SOCIETY

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

ANNUAL DOC HOLLI-DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, August 12-14: Help celebrate the life and legend of Doc Holliday in Tombstone to experience the town like you never have before.
520-457-9317 • TombstoneChamber.com

CHAMA DAYS

Chama, NM, August 12-15: The three-day event includes a double-elimination softball tournament,

two-day rodeo event, parade and dances.
800-477-0149 • ChamaDays.com

LONGMIRE DAYS

Buffalo, WY, August 18-21: Robert Taylor and actors from the hit series *Longmire* gather to celebrate cowboy culture and Old West heritage
307-684-5544 • BuffaloWY.com

MOTORCYCLE RALLY

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Sturgis, SD, August 5-14: Five hundred thousand riders and concert fanatics converge in the Black Hills to attend this annual South Dakota event, now in its 82nd year.
605-720-0800 • SturgisMotorcycleRally.com

POETRY GATHERINGS

ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING

Prescott, AZ, August 11-13: For 34 years the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering has been a featured event in the state's original territorial capital city. The gathering celebrates both contemporary and historic cowboy poetry and music.
928-713-6323 • AZCowboyPoets.org

RODEOS

LARAMIE JUBILEE DAYS

Laramie, WY, July 2-10: Wyoming's hometown honors the Western lifestyle with a kids' horse show, PRCA rodeo, parade and carnival.
800-445-5303 • VisitLaramie.org

SILVER STATE STAMPEDE

Elko, NV, July 8-10: The Silver State Stampede is the oldest rodeo in Nevada. Today's Stampede has grown into a multifaceted event, showcasing the best of rodeo and ranch cowboys alike.
800-248-3556 • SilverStateStampede.com

SHERIDAN WYOMING RODEO

Sheridan, WY, July 12-17: Western-style family fun runs throughout rodeo week, including the Boot Kick-off, downtown pancake breakfast, high-speed bed races, Sneakers & Spurs 5K, Main Street Parade, POW-WOW, carnival, street dances and much, much more.
307-675-9963 • SheridanWYORodeo.com

CATTLEMEN'S DAYS

Gunnison, CO, July 14-16: This PRCA rodeo offers horse and livestock shows, a carnival and live cowboy music and poetry.
970-596-0149 • CattlemensDays.com

CHEYENNE FRONTIER DAYS

Cheyenne, WY, July 22-31: The sounds, the lights, the competition equals the experience of a lifetime. Bring Western culture to your life with professional bull riding, an unforgettable night show and an overall event you will not soon forget.
308-778-7222 • CFDRodeo.com

THE DAYS OF '76

Deadwood, SD, July 24-30: The Days of '76 Rodeo, which also includes parades on Deadwood's Historic Main Street, has been a staple each summer in Deadwood for 100 years.
605-578-1657 • DaysOf76.com

CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS RODEO

Joseph, OR, July 26-31: This PRCA rodeo offers traditional American Indian dances, a bucking horse stampede and a friendship feast.
541-432-1015 • ChiefJosephDays.com

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.





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

Cowboys, Shotguns and Hackamores



Cow-boys of Arizona, roused by a scout, sketched by Frederic Remington and drawn by W.W. Rogers, captures the rough-hewn life of the Ike Clanton gang that included the notorious outlaws and rustlers Curly Bill Brocius and John Ringo.

Courtesy Yale University

Where did Cowboys like John Ringo and Curly Bill Brocius live?

*Walt Serefin
Shawnee, Kansas*

They spent much of their time in Galeville, Arizona Territory, an outlaw-friendly town in the north end of the Chiricahua Mountains. They both were mobile, spending time in Tombstone, Charleston and at ranches that were friendly to Cowboys.

I've been watching the TV show 1883. Why would immigrants who landed in Texas travel to Oregon in wagons?

*Elmer Groton
San Antonio, Texas*

It's historical fiction—one that I believe will be a Western classic. Some of the characters like Gen. George Meade (Tom Hanks) and Jim Courtright (Billy Bob Thornton) are real people. There was a large German immigration to Texas through the Port of Galveston. The costuming is authentic. The characters look like they've really been exposed to the elements. It would be easy to believe this is based on a

true story of the Westward expansion, but most has been created by Taylor Sheridan.

Unlike the show, by 1883, the Comanche people were all living on a reservation in Oklahoma. There were settlements all along the way. Also, by that time, there were several transcontinental railroads crossing the West. If the wagon train was bound for Oregon, they would have reached the Oregon Trail in Nebraska or eastern Wyoming and headed west toward Fort Hall. Montana was a huge detour that practically nobody made, unless they decided to follow the Bozeman Trail north and forego traveling west on the Oregon/California Trail.

What is sarsaparilla?

*John Sparks
Reno, Nevada*

It was a soft drink made from wild sarsaparilla, a North American member of the ginseng family. It was called the "father of root beer." The predominant root beer flavoring used to be a sassafras root. I say used to be, at least in the U.S. because it contains safrole, believed to be a carcinogen.

How did horses survive the brutally cold temperatures in the Rocky Mountains?

*Mike Stanton
Hamilton, Montana*

Horses can handle cold weather much better than humans. Their winter coats are longer and their hair is coarser. That serves as insulation by reducing the loss of body heat. In the open, a horse will be okay down to 18 degrees, but with some kind of shelter or windbreak, they can handle temperatures as low as -40 degrees.

Were there any female shotgun messengers?

*David Fuller
Lisbon, Connecticut*

John Boessenecker, author of *Shotguns and Messengers: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West*, says, "[There were] definitely no female shotgun messengers and most of the stuff written about Charley Parkhurst are tall tales. She was in fact a hostler and may have driven



Whether Wells Fargo or the U.S. Army, a well-armed shotgun rider always accompanied valuable cargo, especially Army pay, as witnessed on the U.S. Paymaster stage on the Deadwood Road to Fort Meade, Dakota Territory.

John H. Grabill, Courtesy Library of Congress



The Californios who settled the West brought with them the *jaquima*, or hackamore, for training young horses, as seen on this Quarter Circle U Ranch horse in Big Horn County, Montana, in 1939.

Arthur Rothstein, Courtesy Library of Congress

stages in the Santa Clara, California, coastal area, but she was never robbed and had no adventures that were mentioned in 19th-century newspapers." Also note that Mary Fields did drive a stage in Montana but there is not a single mention of anyone called "Stagecoach Mary" in the pre-1900 newspapers.

In the movie *Tom Horn*, Steve McQueen can be seen riding a horse using a hackamore instead of a traditional bitted bridle. How common was that?

Spencer Ward
Gaithersburg, Maryland

A hackamore is traditionally used in the progression of a horse's training. Some riders prefer using one instead of a traditional bridle. It doesn't have a bit but has a noseband that works on pressure points on the face. There is a common misconception that bitless bridles are kinder than those with a bit. However, horses have many sensitive nerve endings in their faces and the hackamore applies pressure to them. As a result, the severity of it depends on the hands of the rider, similar to a traditional bit.

The word "hackamore" is derived from the Spanish word *jaquima*, meaning headstall or halter. It is most closely affiliated with the vaquero tradition of horse training, and most commonly seen today in Western riding for starting young horses.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, POET

W.K. (Kip) Stratton wrote the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller *The Wild Bunch: Sam Peckinpah, a Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Film* and *Chasing the Rodeo* as well as eight other books. His newest, *Last Red Dirt Embrace*, will be published this summer by Lamar University Literary Press as the concluding title of the five-volume *Dreaming Sam Peckinpah Quintet* poetry cycle. His next, which concerns Oklahoma Territory lawmen and outlaws, is under contract to Dutton-Penguin.

I grew up in Guthrie, Oklahoma, the capital of Oklahoma Territory. My mother's family was in the Great Land Run of 1889. The area was the epicenter of the 1890s war between lawmen and outlaws such as the Daltons. Family legend holds that my great-great-grandfather allowed Bill Doolin and company to camp on the homestead.

My mother was a rodeo girl who wanted "to be a cowboy's sweetheart" when she graduated from high school. She succeeded. And here I am. Her cowboy romances didn't work out, but she never lost her love of rodeo, so I grew up around the sport in cowboy country.

We went to the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City every year. I was in the arena when Freckles Brown rode the unrideable bull called Tornado in 1967. I'd just turned 12 years old. I later got to know Freckles some. He was quiet and unassuming and one of the most remarkable human beings I've ever met.

Oklahoma's great treasure is its American Indian heritage. I've reconnected with it in recent years thanks to what I consider my Comanche family in Oklahoma. Many Comanches consider places in the Wichita Mountains in the southwestern part of the state to be sacred. I do too.

A mentor was Harry Ebeling, an English professor at what's now the University of Central Oklahoma. From him I learned about Western "literary" books such as Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire* and Edwin "Bud" Shrake's *Blessed McGill*. I own Shrake's office chair.

Kenny Walter was the most important educator in my life. He was a civics teacher and a coach, but his real passion was creative writing. He made me a writer. He's still a friend.

I had a bedroom full of bowling trophies when I was growing up. But mostly I was a washout at sports until I began training in earnest as a boxer in my 40s. I'm still at it 24 years later. You don't want me to hit you with my left hook.

The Wild Bunch is Sam Peckinpah's great masterpiece, but the family drama *Junior Bonner*, from a terrific Jeb Rosebrook script, is my favorite film of his because it's about rodeo at the time I was closest to the sport. Steve McQueen does his best acting in it.

A Western hero is someone you'd ride the river with. I'd ride the river with Bass Reeves, Rufus Cannon and Charles Pettit. They were Black men who were outstanding Old West lawmen. Reeves is getting his due. Cannon and Pettit remain overlooked.

Walt Whitman taught us to liberate ourselves from the tyranny of European literary forms. He showed us how to write using an authentic American voice. I still read him.

Sam Peckinpah was a great poet who used motion picture images as metaphors, not words printed on paper. No artist has had a greater effect on me. Sam was a drunk and had many other problems, but he was a true artist with an important vision.



Photo Courtesy W.K. Stratton

Summertime is great because I love hot weather. I hate snow and cold winds. I live in the Texas Hill Country, surrounded by trees and spring-fed streams. But I'm a desert rat by nature.

Larry McMurtry was a huge influence. He proved you can make real literature from life in small West Texas towns like Archer City. Or about a couple of flawed Texas Rangers named Gus and Woodrow.

The Southern Plains are what shaped me as person and as a writer. I have a Comanche bow hanging in my office. I know that in an earlier life I used one like it to hunt buffalo from the back of a paint.

A good meal is *carne guisada* and *frijoles charros* with *tortillas de maiz* and plenty of iced tea. An aside: I'm the world's greatest chili cook. No brag. Just fact.

Eating a piece of pecan pie from the Bluebonnet Café in Marble Falls, Texas, is instant nirvana.

The writer's life often seems like an endless colonoscopy.

An author who influenced me is my fellow Oklahoman, N. Scott Momaday. I took a seminar taught by him at the University of Oklahoma: a life-changer. *The Way to Rainy Mountain* is a literary diamond.

What history has taught me is that Faulkner was right: The past is never dead. It's not even past. History is alive and constantly revealing new things about itself. We need to pay attention.



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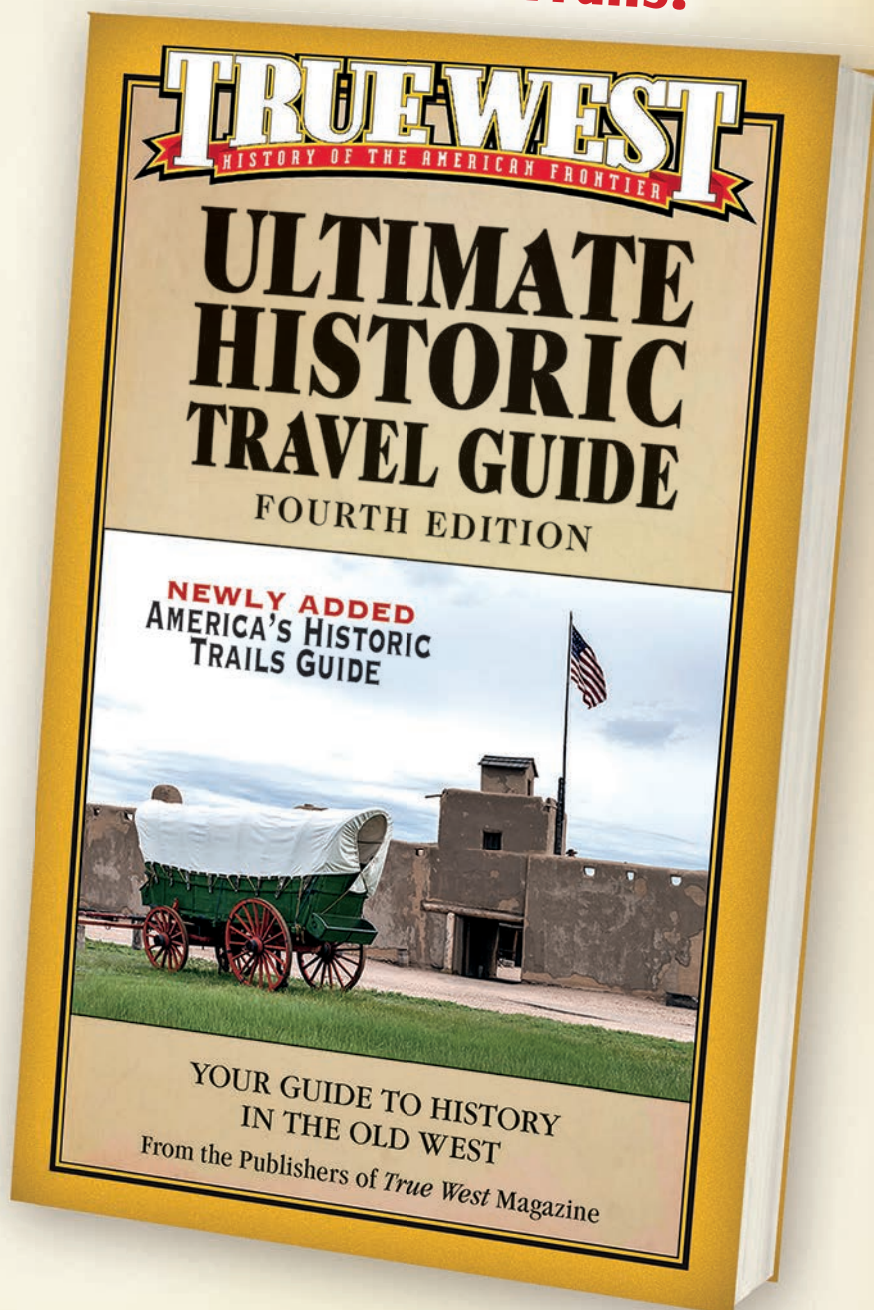
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