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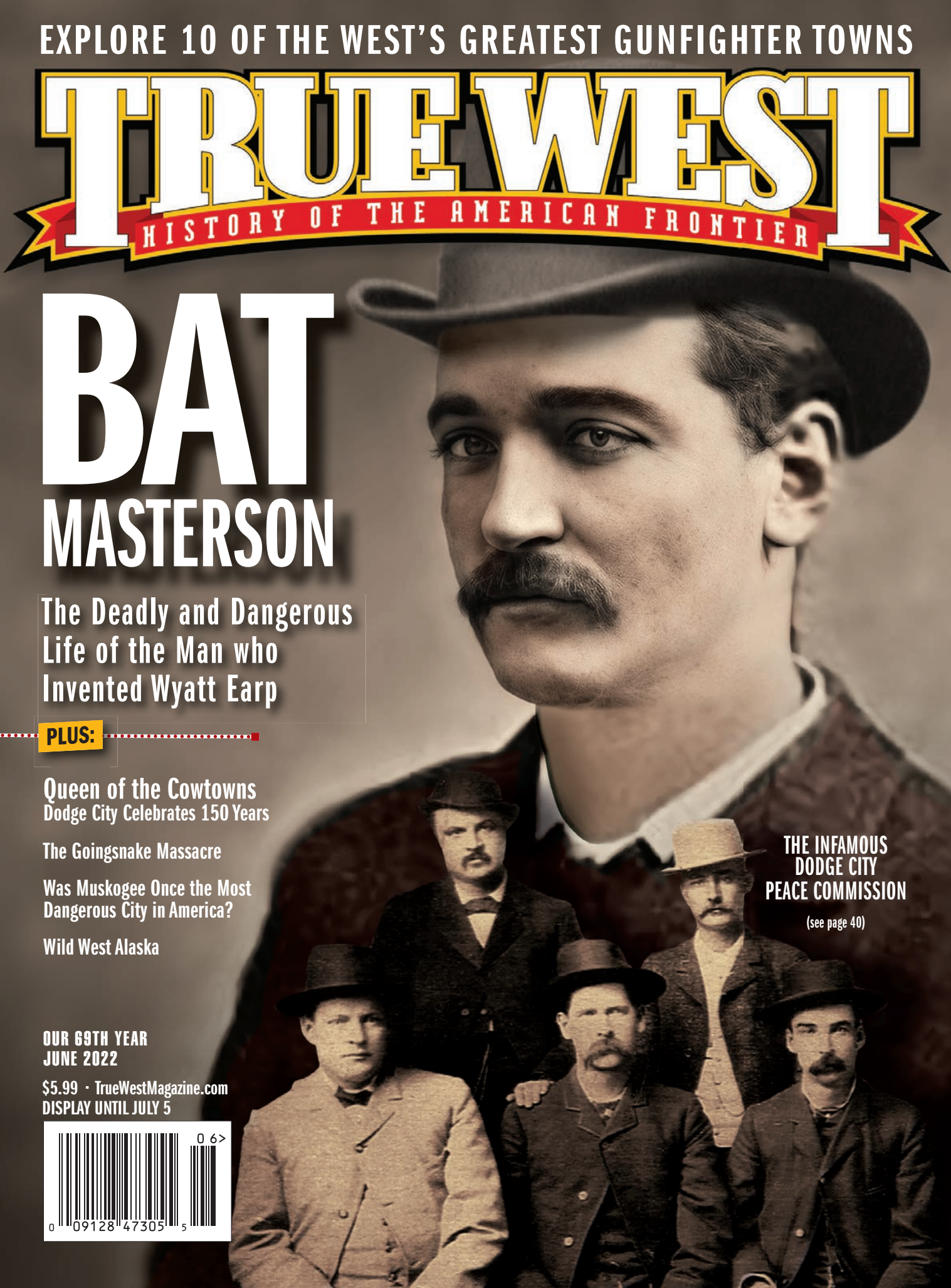

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(see page 40)

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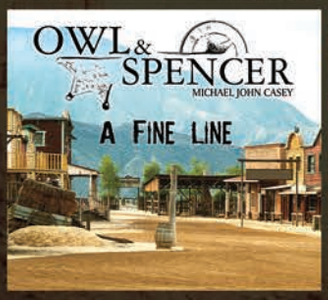

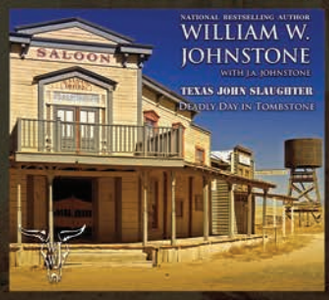

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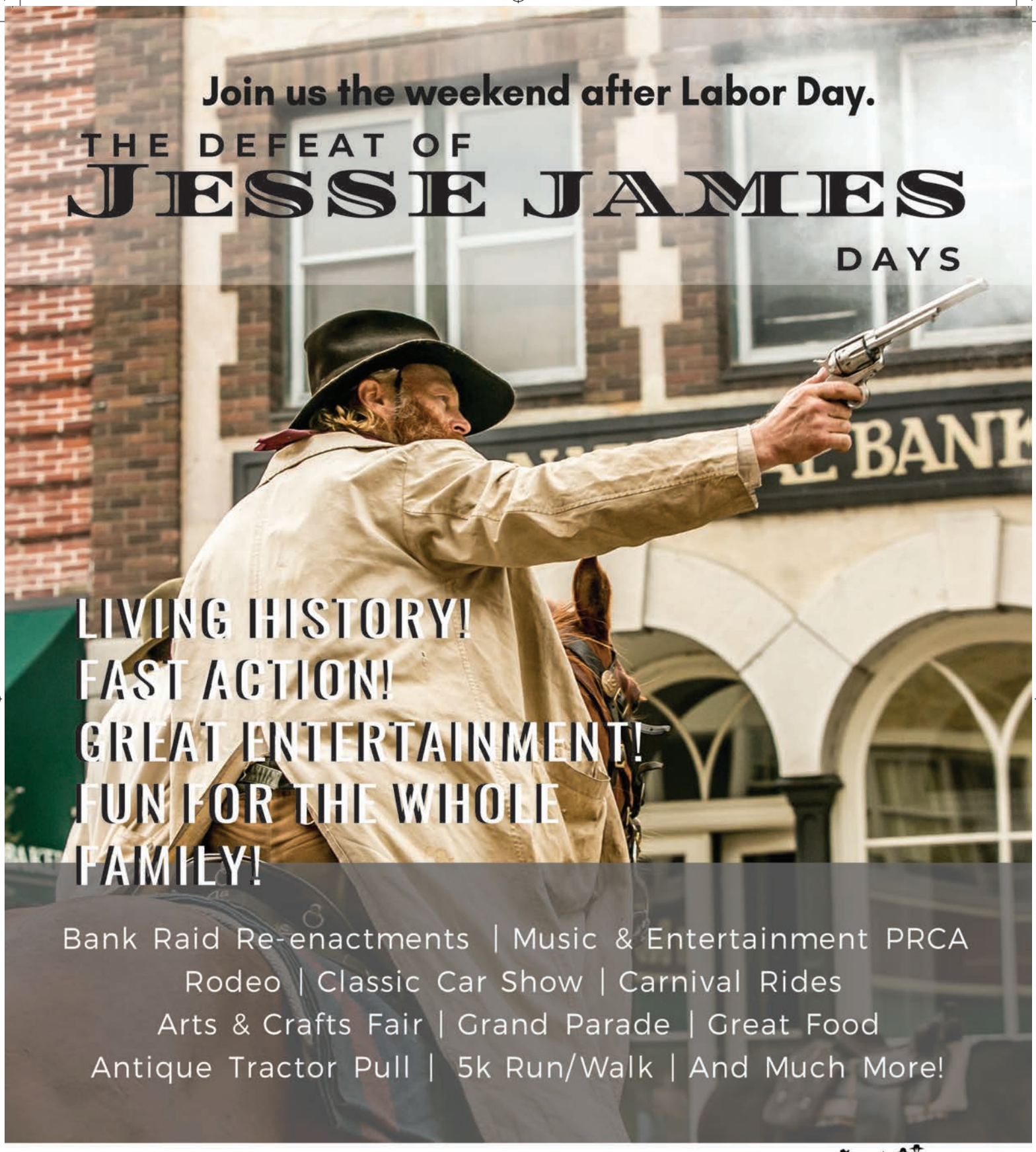

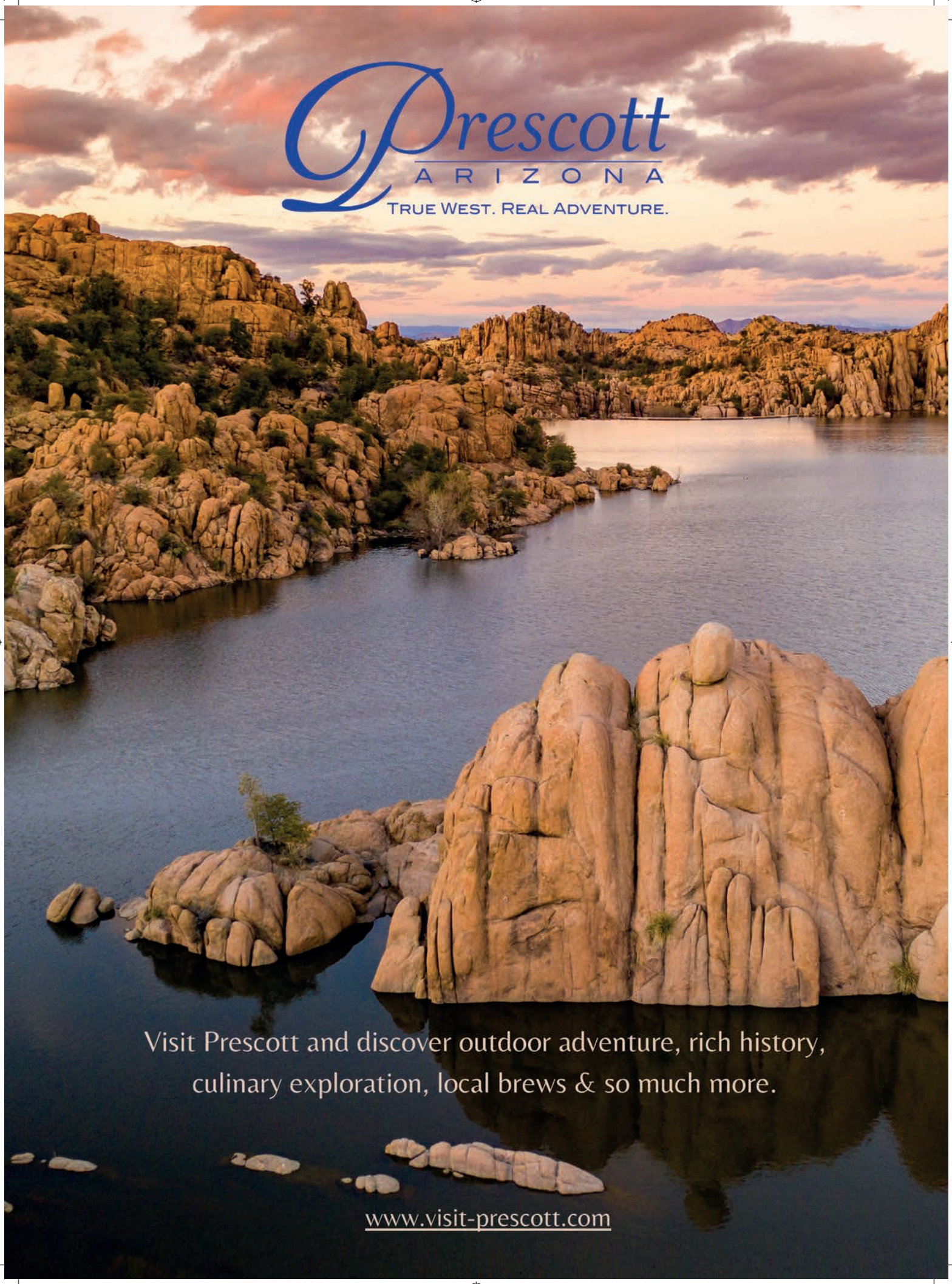

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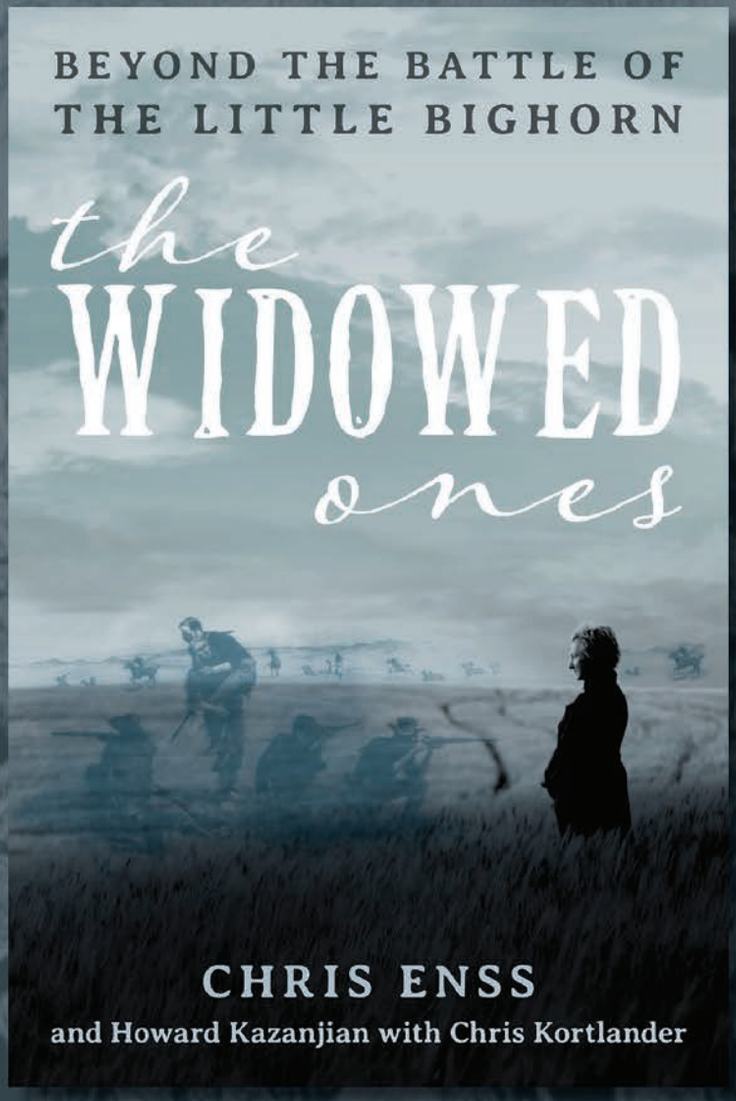

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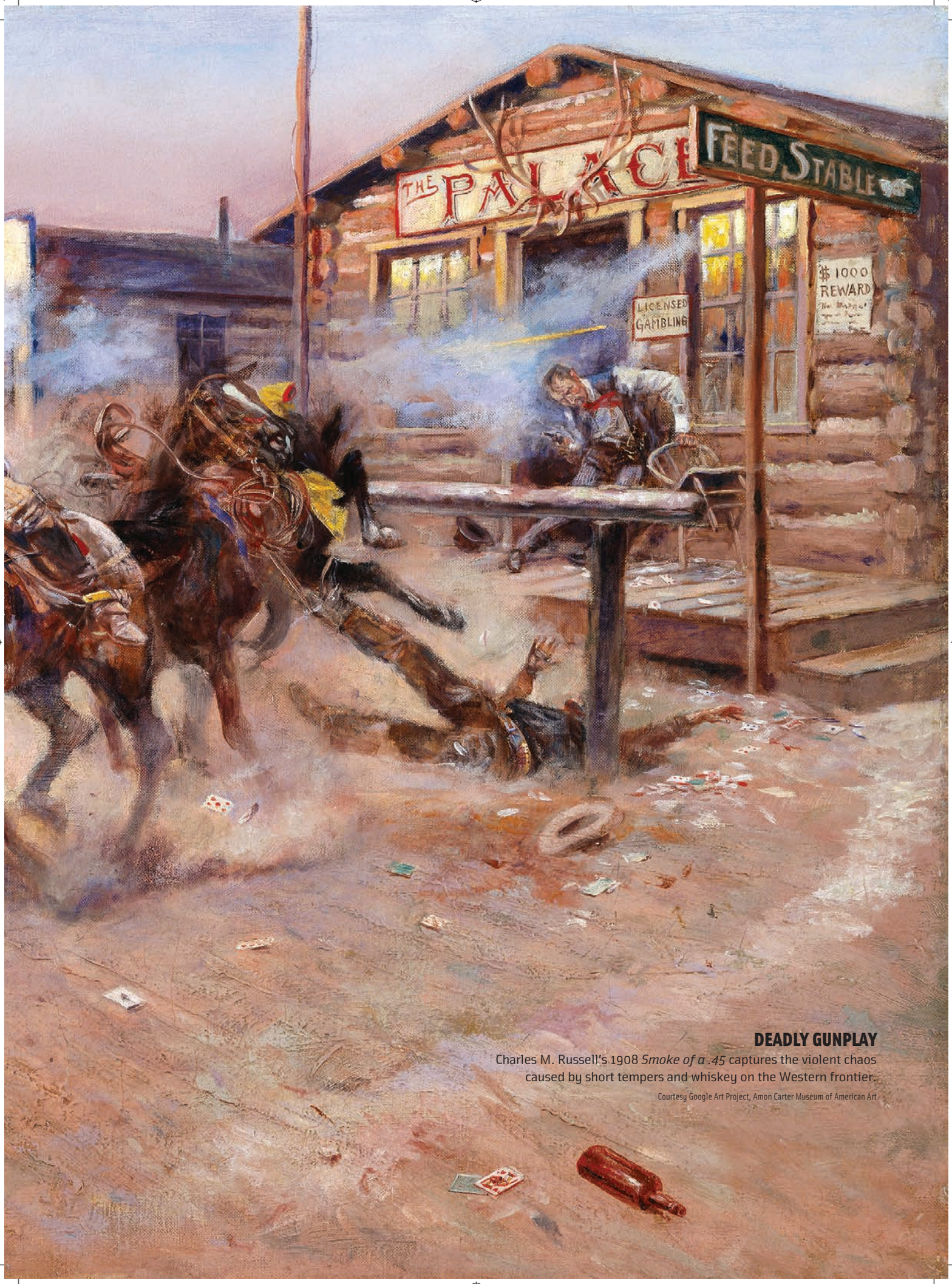

DEADLY GUNPLAY

Charles M. Russell's 1908 *Smoke of a .45* captures the violent chaos caused by short tempers and whiskey on the Western frontier.

Courtesy Google Art Project, Amon Carter Museum of American Art

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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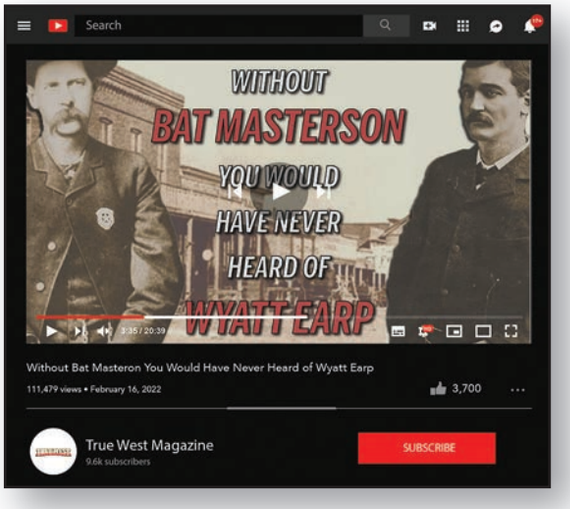

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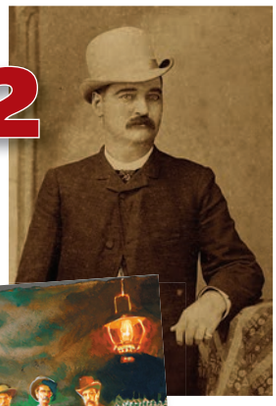
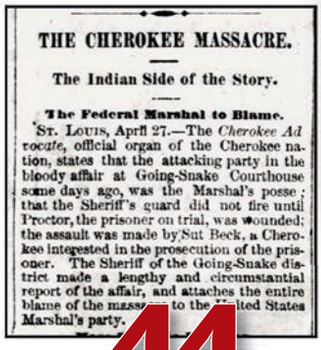



THE CHEROKEE MASSACRE.

The Indian Side of the Story.

The Federal Marshal to Blame.

ST. LOUIS, April 27.—The *Cherokee Advocate*, official organ of the Cherokee nation, states that the attacking party in the bloody affair at Going-Snake Courthouse some days ago, was the Marshal's posse; that the Sheriff's guard did not fire until Proctor, the prisoner on trial, was wounded; the assault was made by Sut Beck, a Cherokee interested in the prosecution of the prisoner. The Sheriff of the Going-Snake district made a lengthy and circumstantial report of the affair, and attaches the entire blame of the massacre to the United States Marshal's party.

Photo Illustration and
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

Images Courtesy True West Archives

TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

Old Vaquero Sayings

"If you sit around a campfire long enough, everyone becomes a storyteller."

Quotes

"It may be that them whose pleasure brings you into this world owes you a living, but it don't mean the world is responsible."

–Owen Wister

Owen Wister's *The Virginian* is considered the first Western novel.

True West Archives

"The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule."

–H. L. Mencken

"The only thing new in this world is the history you don't know."

–Harry S. Truman

"There is nobody more dangerous than one who has been humiliated."

–Nelson Mandela

"We're three-quarters grizzly bear and two-thirds car wreck and descended from a stock market crash on our mother's side. You take your Germany, France, and Spain, roll them together, and it wouldn't give us room to park our cars."

–P. J. O'Rourke (1947-2022), describing ordinary Americans

"Never insult seven men when all you're packing is a six-shooter."

–Zane Grey

While Owen Wister's *The Virginian* might have been the first Western novel, Zane Grey's prolific production of Western novels into movies, including *The Light of Western Stars* in 1930, quickly made him America's most popular and best known author.

Courtesy Paramount Pictures

"If you give yourself to your task at once, you won't have to do it twice."

–David Seabury

"Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye.""

–Dorothy Parker

"That violent outburst was the worst thing Will Smith has ever done. Wait, I forgot about *Wild, Wild West*."

–Stephen Colbert

CartoonStock.com

"We made all the wheels out of old coffee tables and chandeliers."

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Ditch the Derby

Bat Masterson has been trapped in a derby long enough.

One of the problems Bat Masterson has in terms of his Old West legend is he is typecast as a city slicker, always wearing a derby. But the real Bat was a scout and buffalo hunter before he donned his derby. The problem lies with the fact that there are no known photos of him with a broad-brimmed hat, which he must surely have worn on the Staked Plains of Texas in the early '70s. You know, like this (right).

He may not have been wearing buckskins at the Battle of Adobe Walls, but I think it's safe to say he had on a broad-brimmed hat. Instead, we are left with a whole bunch of photographs of him wearing derbies.

So Bat was very dapper in his town dress, and his ubiquitous derby pigeonholes him in the "Dandy Zone," rather than as a gunfighter, lawman and scout, all of which he actually was. Once again, the irony is that Bat had a more stellar career as a scout and buffalo hunter than Wyatt Earp, who was working in a cathouse in Peoria when Bat was at the second Battle of Adobe Walls. It's also interesting to me that another brother, Jim Masterson (a Logan County deputy sheriff), played a prominent role in the Ingalls, Oklahoma, gunfight, when deputy U.S. marshals went up against the Doolin-Dalton Gang. Those Masterson Boys were in the thick of things, to say the least.

Bat has been trapped in a derby long enough!

The moral is: Be careful what you wear in your photos because it just might pigeonhole you for the rest of your life.

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

Bat Masterson
The Buffalo Hunter & Scout

Trapped In A Derby for Eternity?
Masterson wears a wider brim in his later years, especially in New York, but the image persists of Bat as a derby wearer because in virtually all his photos from the early period of his life, he is wearing one.

Bat Masterson Photo Courtesy True West Archives; Illustration by Bob Boze Bell; Bantam Book cover courtesy Paul Andrew Hutton Collection

SHOOTING BACK

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

ALONG THE TRAIL WITH *1883*

Taylor Sheridan's *1883* television series recreated all the drama experienced by 19th-century overland trail wagon trains.

Courtesy Paramount+

I wanted you to know that I loved the article in the April 2022 issue, "The True History Behind *1883* / Wagons Ho!" by several fine writers including Bob Boze Bell. This is my favorite period in American history of the movement West. I could have been a plainsman in a previous life, leading the trail among them.

—Michael Dante
Rancho Mirage, California

Just finished the long journey from Texas to Montana via wagon train, by way of *True West*'s special *1883* issue. This handy dandy guide to the real West is the perfect complement for the hit *1883* series.

Along the way I met immigrants, cowboys, Indians, lawmen and outlaws. And all without getting out of my chair, breaking a sweat or uttering a single F bomb. Yeehaw!

—Paul Hoylen
Deming, New Mexico

Couldn't agree more with you on [swearing in *1883*]! Been a Western history buff the past 40 plus years and have watched, sadly, how Hollywood has denigrated this genre with its constant use of, not so much normal swearing but its not needed/overuse of four-letter obscenities! *Deadwood* was a good example of how far we have sunk with our televised language, so I just shut it off on the first episode. I am not a prude to say the least, but enough is enough. I spent three years in an Army barracks and never heard it used this much. I guess Hollywood will use anything for ratings shock value! No wonder a lot of kids talk the way they do today! Well, Pard, guess I've had my say…

—Ken Bock
Mansfield, Ohio
Maniac #697

PHOTOS, TOMBSTONE AND HOLLYWOOD

I continue to look carefully at the photos. I wish there were more.

Recently, I saw *Tombstone*; I felt the shootout was pretty well done. So many bullets were fired. It surprises me more people didn't die. Wyatt Earp probably should have been a great shot. Incidentally, the scene at the end involving Doc Holliday and Ringo was strange (homoerotic?) because Doc appeared to be smoking a joint (of pot?). There is no need to ask Marshall Trimble about this. We forget that the people who make these historical movies like *Tombstone* are modern Hollywood types.

—Michael Cajero
Tucson, Arizona

Not sure if we have noticed those details between Doc (Val Kilmer) and Ringo (Michael Biehn) before–or even Doc's choice in smoking products–but we promise to get some answers.

THE KID IN THE CRACK

Looking at the postmortem picture of the Dalton gang in Coffeyville, there is, as I'm sure you know, a small boy peeking through a hole in the wall just above Tom Evans's body. The boy has been identified as Ray H. Clark. Do you have any information of whatever became of Ray H. Clark? That little fact would make a great addition to the story of the demise of the Daltons!

—Steve Merrill
Fresno, California

Here is what Coffeyville historian Kris Cane tells us about the kid in the crack:

True West Archives

Ray H. "Champ" Clark was born in Chanute on April 29, 1879, and he was 13 years old at the time of the Dalton Raid. His father was W.H. Clark, the photographer who took the iconic image of the dead Daltons. In the *1900 Coffeyville Directory*, Ray is listed as living at 502 W. 11th Street. In the 1910 census, Ray is listed as living with his older brother William and his wife, Nellie. On September 12, 1918, Ray filled out a WWI registration card. He was 39 years old, and by this time he was living in Portland, Oregon, and employed by the NW Steel Co. as a shipfitter. He was married twice and died on September 22, 1949, in Portland of a heart attack. His body was sent to Coffeyville to be buried in Fairview Cemetery, where both his parents are buried.

CORRECTIONS:

On page 68 of the April 2022 issue, the caption referencing the Fort Leavenworth Museum should read Frontier Army Museum, and more information on COVID protocols and visiting the museum can be found at the official museum website at *History.Army.mil/Museums/TRADOC/Frontier-Army-Museum* versus the Friends of the Museum's website listed on page 69, *FFAM.us*. On page 74 of the April 2022 issue, the photo of the World's Oldest Rodeo should have been credited to Miller Photo. On page 68 of the May 2022 issue, the caption for The Fort Restaurant says it is in Madison, Colorado; it should read Morrison, Colorado.

BY MARK BOARDMAN

Ambush!

The courage of a lawman led to his untimely death.

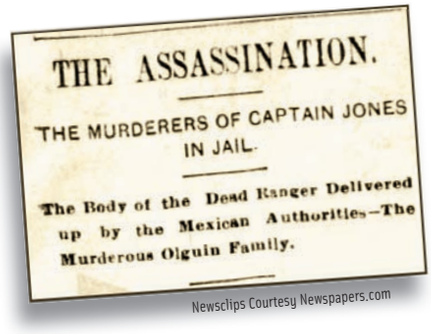
Captain Frank Jones (seated, third from left with Company D in Realitos, Texas, in 1887) led El Paso Deputy Robert Edwards "Ed" Bryant and four Texas Rangers of Company D into a deadly ambush in the Mexican village of Tres Jacales on June 30, 1893. Jones's death caused a border dispute between Mexico and the United States.

Courtesy Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Texas Ranger Captain Frank Jones had guts—nobody questioned that. He had fought outlaws for decades, bringing an untold number to justice (and a few to a bloody end). But that courage eventually led to his death on June 30, 1893.

Jones, 37 at the time, had been a Ranger for 20 years and was well respected by all. He and a detachment of four Rangers (accompanied by a young Tejano man) were looking for members of the Bosque Gang along the Mexican border. The outlaws had been raiding Texas cattle and horses, then driving the animals to Mexico. The situation was so bad that Jones requested additional forces to take on the rustlers. Ranger officials did not respond to his request.

On the morning of June 30, Jones and company were on the scout when they saw two Mexicans riding toward them. When the pair saw the lawmen, they wheeled around and raced away. Jones and his men gave chase until they reached the tiny village of Tres Jacales. At least four Mexicans were in one of the buildings and opened fire on the Americans. Jones took a bullet to the leg but kept shooting at the attackers. One of his men tried to rescue the captain—but Jones was hit in the chest and died on the spot.



THE ASSASSINATION.

THE MURDERERS OF CAPTAIN JONES IN JAIL.

The Body of the Dead Ranger Delivered up by the Mexican Authorities—The Murderous Olguin Family.

Newsclips Courtesy Newspapers.com

His men kept up the good fight for about an hour, wounding two of the Mexicans. But the Rangers were informed that they were actually in Mexico—and that federales were on the way to join the battle on the side of the outlaws. The lawmen decided that the better part of valor was to return to the U.S. They left Captain Jones's body behind, unable to retrieve it.

Texas officials requested that Jones be returned to his own country, but initially the Mexicans refused. Eventually, negotiations between the two sides resulted in the retrieval of the captain's remains.

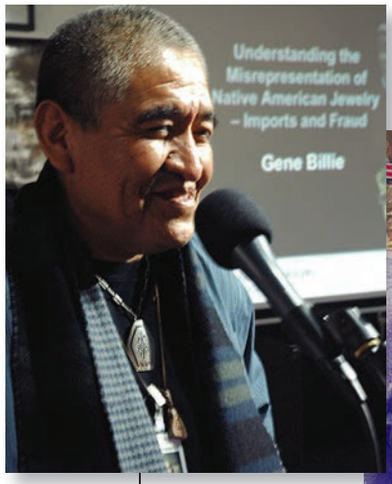
But the story was not over. In a rare sign of cooperation, Mexican soldiers joined with a Texas posse in tracking down members of the Bosque Gang. Several were arrested and jailed, but Mexican officials later released them. Some apparently didn't escape justice. Three of the gang leaders soon died under mysterious circumstances. It's believed that the Rangers got their revenge for the killing of Frank Jones.

The captain was initially buried in a plot at his father-in-law's ranch. But in 1936, the body was moved to a cemetery in Ysleta, where a state historical marker now stands to honor one of the greatest Texas Rangers of all time.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

A Flood of Fakes

Is that turquoise necklace you love so much real?



Council for Indigenous Arts and Crafts president Gene E. Billie (left), a member of the Navajo Nation, lobbies nationally for the legal protection of American Indian artists' creative rights.

Native advocates for protecting the integrity of American Indian art answer questions and educate the public at the annual Tesoro Art Market and Ceremonial Dance held at the Tesoro Cultural Center in Morrison, Colorado. It will be held again at the center on June 4–5, 2022.

Images Courtesy Council for Indigenous Arts and Crafts

The silverwork is perfect, the turquoise is spectacular, so is the price tag, but after all, this was made by a Native American and will be a family treasure forever.

But is it a fake?

Is it really machine-made in the Philippines or slave-labor-made in China?

Besides, it's a federal offense—has been for 87 years—to counterfeit Indian art in America. But that law has done little to stop the fraud.

That's why the Council for Indigenous Arts and Crafts is an important help in fighting back.

"Imported and mass-produced Indian-style art is putting Native American artists out of business," the Council warns on its website, noting that for thousands of Natives, their art is their livelihood.

Council president Gene E. Billie of Albuquerque, New Mexico, explains:

"The fake market is worth millions, while the average Native artist from the reservation makes from $12,000 to $18,000 a year. The fakes and frauds have affected every Native artist, from the most successful to the beginner. And it discourages the young from learning the art because they have to compete with the fakes that undercut prices. Our council gives them a little bit of hope."

The council was created in 1996 by Zuni artist Tony Eriacho and Pam Phillips, an Anglo woman long involved in helping Native artists. It became dormant for a time after Eriacho's death in 2014, but then was reactivated by Billie and other board members from the Native Jewelers Society.

Before the pandemic, council board members—on their own dime—traveled to various art shows around the country to demonstrate the difference between authentic pieces and fakes and frauds. They're gearing up again.

"We want to educate people on what to look for," Billie notes. "How to tell the difference between a one-of-a-kind piece versus a machine-made fake; how to read hallmarks, and books to look up artists to be sure you're dealing with a real Native American."

The last point cuts to the quick: Some phonies pass themselves off as Native, either stealing names or making up identities.

Help also comes from federal law. In 1935, counterfeit Native art became illegal. Violators face up to five years in prison and $250,000 in fines. (Natives note that's a "pittance" in the multimillion fake market.) The law's been amended since, but Natives say it needs more teeth.

National Geographic spelled out the most extensive federal investigation into the fake industry in a March 2018 article titled: "Biggest Fake Native American Art Conspiracy Revealed." It cited one criminal ring that imported $11.8 million in counterfeits from 2010 to 2015. In August 2018, the first dealer to be sentenced was Albuquerque dealer Nael Ali, who pled guilty to passing off Filipino fakes. He got six months and a fine of $9,048.78.

Will that deter a multimillion-dollar industry?

In the meantime, buyers need to protect themselves and help protect the Native artists they proudly collect, Billie says. That's why it's important to only buy Native art from juried shows or reputable dealers.

A list of upcoming juried shows can be found at *NativeJewelersSociety.com*.

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*.

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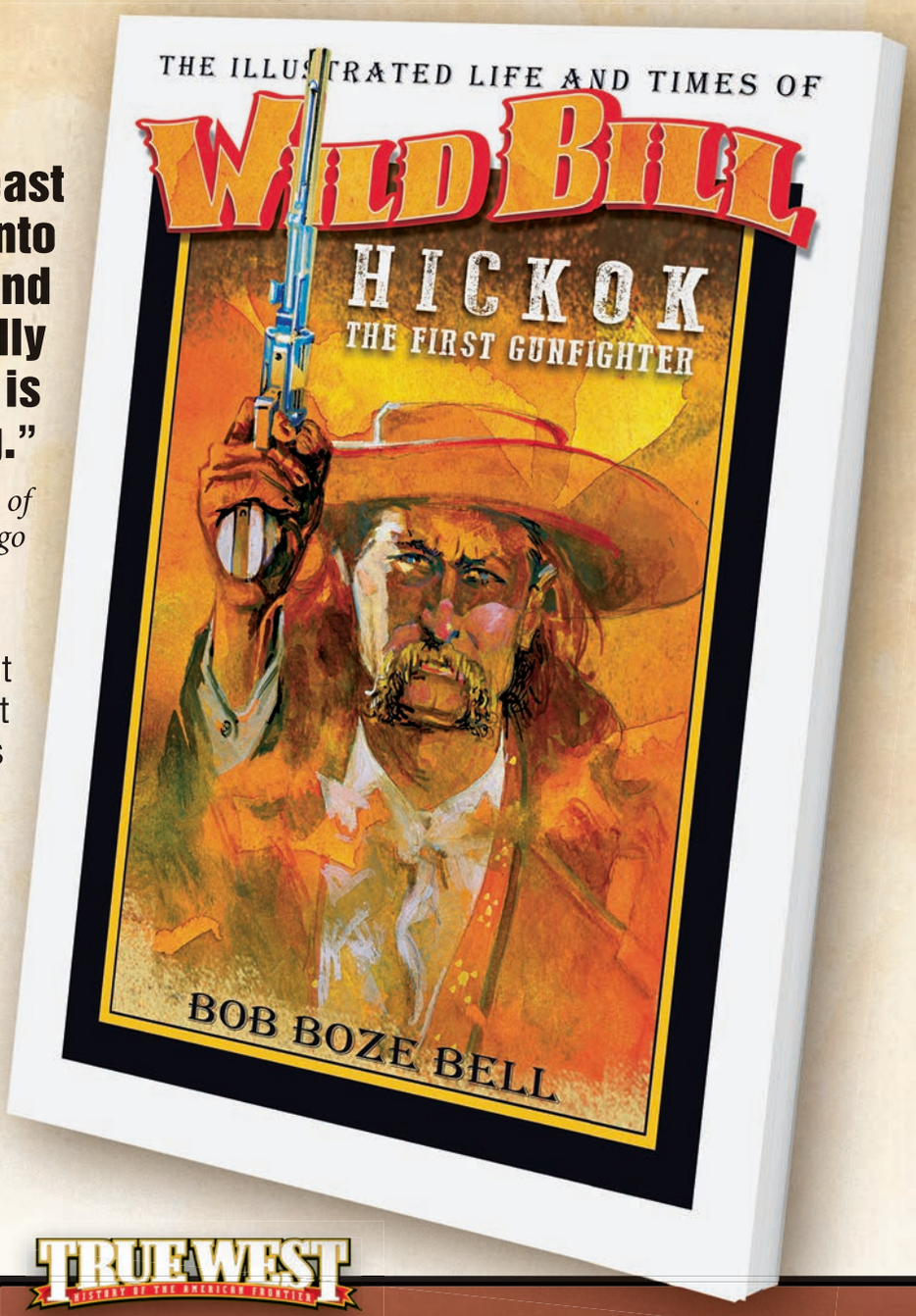

TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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BY STEVE FRIESEN

Making a Good Impression in the West

The annual Scottsdale Art Auction gaveled out classic American Western Impressionism to eager collectors.

Howard Terpning's *The Shaman and His Magic Feathers*, shows a shaman flinging feathers in the wind, observed by astonished adults and children. The 65-inch canvas enabled Terpning to fill it with astonishing detail as well. It took top dollar at the Scottsdale Art Auction, selling for $1,506,000.

With the rise of photography in the second half of the 19th century, art no longer needed to be a visual record. One result was the Impressionist movement, considered the most significant development in art after the Renaissance. What distinguished the Impressionists' work was not just their techniques but the impressions their paintings evoked. Their experimentation also influenced Western artists, who moved away from literal, almost photographic, depictions in their work. The impact of Impressionism could be seen in many of the works at this year's Scottsdale Art Auction on April 8 and 9.

Established in 1915, the Taos Society of Artists stimulated the development of Taos as a major center for Western art. Its members were also influenced by Impressionism, which can be seen in pieces by members of the society sold at the Scottsdale Art Auction. Joseph Henry Sharp's *Indian Couple in Interior* captured $220,000, and E. Irving Couse's painting *Moonlight—Pueblo de Taos* hammered out at $140,000. *Among the Adobes—Taos* and *Indian Riders*, works by fellow society founders Oscar Berninghouse and William Dunton, brought $45,000 and $35,000, respectively. The influence of Impressionism can be seen in works by non-society members Edgar Payne (*Arizona Indians*, which went for $438,750), and Frank Tenney Johnson (*The Rimrock Rambler*, which brought $585,000).

The Impressionists broke ground for Abstract Expressionism and other adventurous art movements in the century that followed. Those new approaches to art were reflected in many of the paintings at the auction, some of which sold for twice as much as estimated. Logan Maxwell Hagege's *All the Wild That Remains* brought $160,000, although originally expected to bring $80,000. Ed Mell's abstracted images of Western landscapes and flowers also did well, with *Night Bloom* greatly exceeding its high estimate of $25,000 by pulling in $50,000. Eric Bowman's impressionistic *A Beautiful Day*, at $65,000, more than doubled its high estimate of $30,000. Tony Abeyta's *Copper Valley, Chamise Blooms,* estimated to bring in $7,000, went for $17,000.

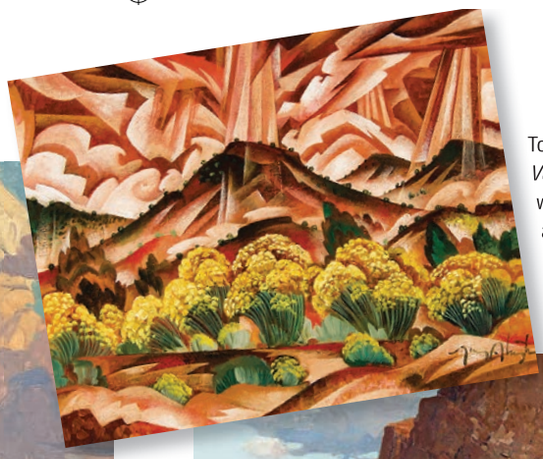
Impressionism has played its part in the American West, influencing many of its artists. And when the final gavel fell on April 9, traditional and contemporary Western art at the Scottsdale Art Auction had rounded up a total of over $14 million.

All Images Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction

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.

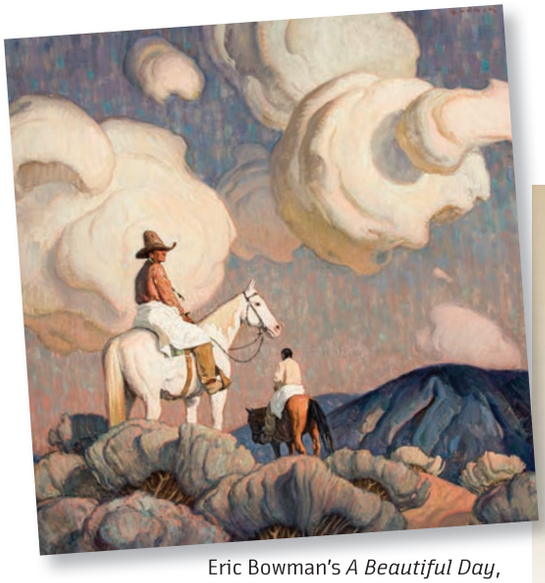
Bold colors and shapes help define *All the Wild That Remains* by Logan Maxwell Hagege. The painting, plus a colored pencil study he created while working on the piece, sold for twice the expected sale price.

Edgar Payne's innate talents and careful eye enabled him to capture moments in the West using broad brush strokes like the Impressionists'. The subjects of his *Arizona Indians* are perfectly comfortable in a roughly depicted, yet expansive landscape.



Tony Abeyta's *Copper Valley, Chamise Blooms*, with its abstracted sky and realistic floral array, was estimated to bring in $7,000 but went for $17,000.

Frank Tenney Johnson summered for five years in the Wapiti Valley near Yellowstone. His painting *The Rimrock Rambler* depicts a cowboy relaxing in that valley. The painting is set in 1936, but wait, is he checking his email?



Eric Bowman's *A Beautiful Day*, has whipped cream clouds floating above riders, who are crossing a landscape that appears surreal. The sky is a kaleidoscope of colors in this painting that brought $65,000.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

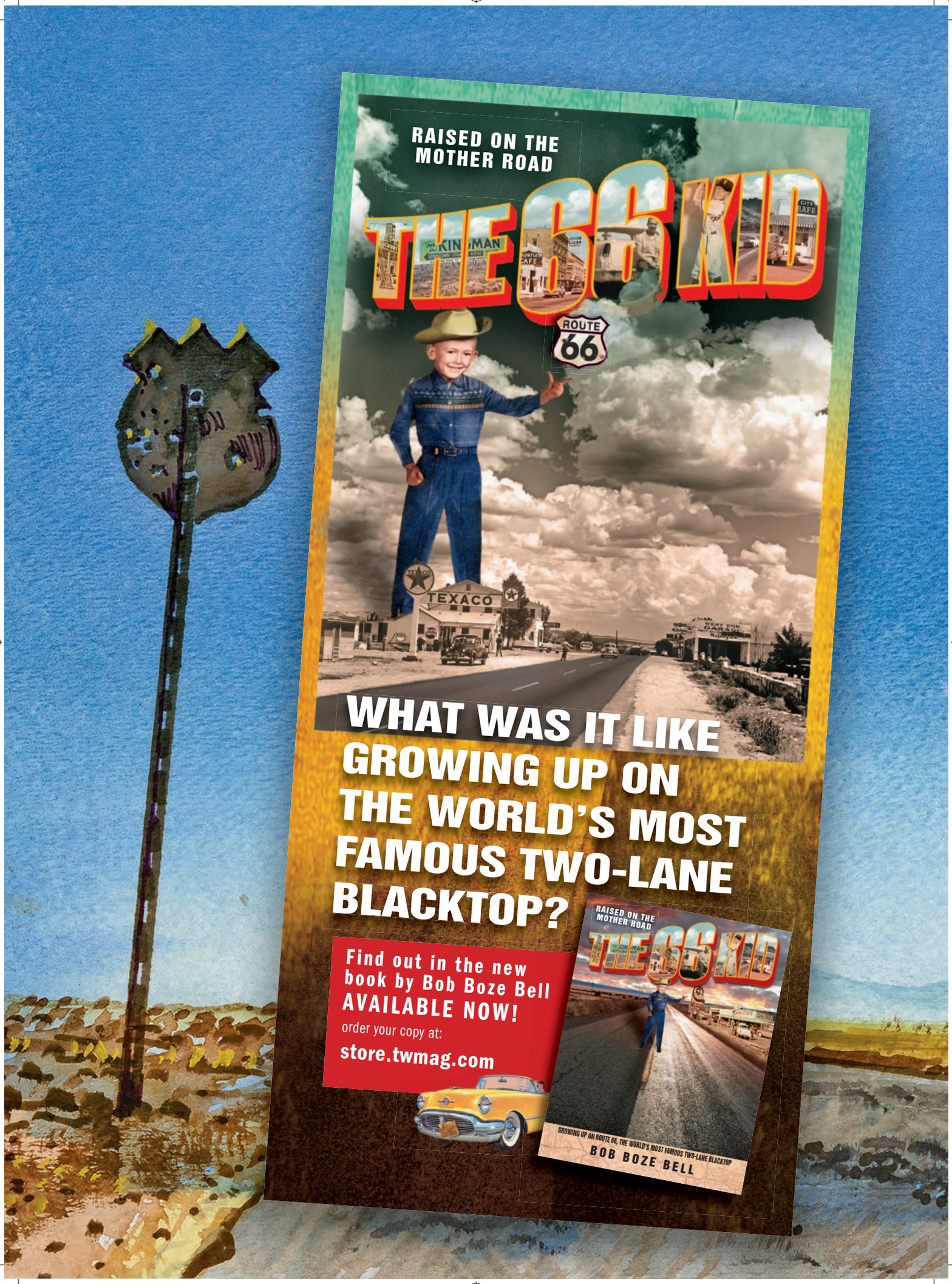
July 12-14, 2022
Collectible Firearms & Militaria
Morphy Auctions (Denver, PA)
MorphyAuctions.com • 877-968-8880

July 23, 2022
The 2022 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction
Grand Sierra Resort (Reno, NV)
CDAArtAuction.com • 208-772-9009

August 26, 2022
Premier Firearms Auction #86
Rock Island Auction Co. (Rock Island, IL)
RockIslandAuction.com • 800-238-8022

Joseph Henry Sharp's choice to depict a couple at home came from his desire to show Indians as human beings, not stereotypes. That desire was realized in his painting *Indian Couple in Interior*, which sold for $220,000.

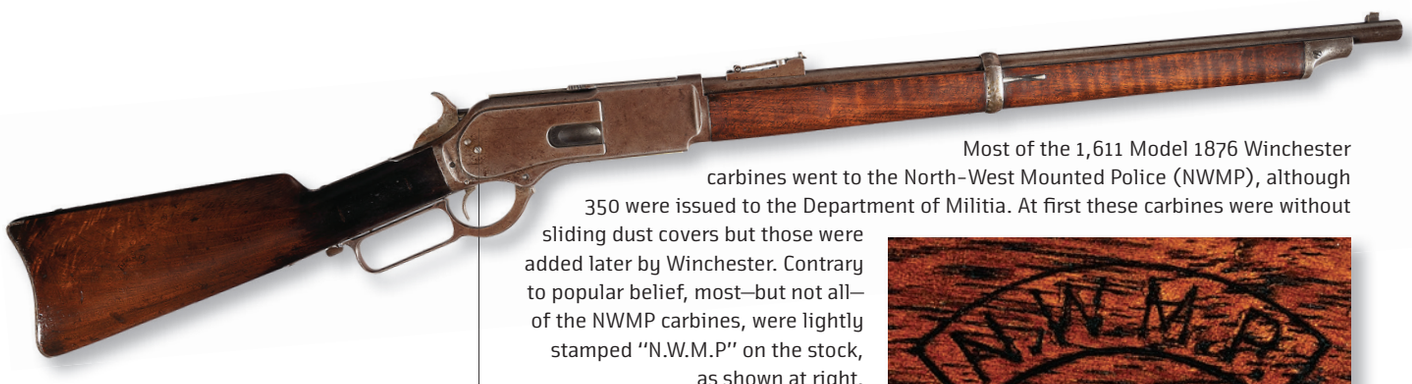
E. Irving Couse and Oscar Berninghouse, both members of the Taos Society of Artists, were attracted to the Taos Pueblo as a subject. Each has an Impressionistic approach to the subject, with Berninghouse's *Among the Adobes—Taos* depicting a daytime scene, while Couse's painting *Moonlight—Pueblo de Taos* uses firelights and moonlight to illuminate the night.



BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

Winchester's 1876 Mountie Carbine

The American rifle helped tame Canada's North-West Territories.



Most of the 1,611 Model 1876 Winchester carbines went to the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP), although 350 were issued to the Department of Militia. At first these carbines were without sliding dust covers but those were added later by Winchester. Contrary to popular belief, most—but not all—of the NWMP carbines, were lightly stamped "N.W.M.P" on the stock, as shown at right.

All Images Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company
Unless Otherwise Noted

When it was introduced at Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition of 1876, Winchester's Centennial Model was the largest and the most powerful repeater on the frontier. This scaled-up 1873 model, eventually called the Model 1876, was Winchester's answer to the demand for a repeater that packed more power than the 1873 rifle.

The 1876's, saddle ring carbine, larger than the previous model's, weighed 8½ pounds, with a unique, lengthy (18 inches) wood forearm with a metal fore-end, and a 22-inch round barrel. Its magazine held nine rounds. Thanks largely to its adoption by Canada's famed North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) and the American public's infatuation with the Mounties, packing the good old American Winchester, the '76 NWMP carbine did much in the late 19th century to solidify the New Haven firm's reputation for reliability and quality.

Officially formed on May 23, 1873, by the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada for the purpose of keeping the peace in the wilds of the North-West Territories (now much of western Canada), constables were issued single shot (British) Snider Enfield breechloader conversion carbines. The firearms were worn out and obsolete within a few years, so the officers needed something more modern, while the Native population and whiskey runners were often better armed with new Winchester repeaters.

To answer this technological deficiency, starting in 1877 with the purchase of 50 1876 Winchester carbines, likely from the I G Baker & Company in Fort Benton, Montana, the model went into Canadian service. Initially meeting with favor, the following year, Commissioner James F. McLeod reported "the fifty Winchester rifles were admirable weapons for our service." Eventually, 1,611 Model 1876 carbines, in .45-75 caliber, were purchased by the Canadian government between 1878 and 1885. Ironically, although the initial order of 50 carbines proved satisfactory, the model '76 eventually came under severe criticism for much of its service, suffering maladies brought about by the hard campaigning of the Mounties.

In fairness, this was a common critique of all lever-action repeaters heard from military ordnance boards. Broken stocks resulted from horse falls in the rugged terrain often patrolled. (One has to question which wood-stocked longarm would have been stronger under such conditions.) Too, barrels tended to separate from receivers too easily under rugged use

Still relying on the simple toggle-link action of earlier Winchesters, the '76 had a receiver that measured 1½ inches longer than the 1873 model, allowing it to be chambered for bigger, more powerful black powder cartridges, including the .45-75 (NWMP issue), .45-60, .50-95 and .40-60 and .45-90. After seeing much hard service, the '76 remained in service until 1905, with the last of them phased out in 1914.

Two of the 1876 Winchester's .45-75 cartridges flank a colorful display of the world famous Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) insignia, known as the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This NWMP officer displays the Mounties' full-dress uniform under arms, circa 1897, complete with the issue 1876 Winchester carbine in .45-.75 caliber.

True West Archives

Further fame was added to the NWMP when '76 Winchester-armed Mounties acted as Queen Victoria's public escorts during her 1897 Diamond Jubilee. These stalwart constables present an impressive appearance. Regardless of when or where it was used, the 1876 Winchester carbine, as issued to the NWMP, represents Old West history in a unique way.

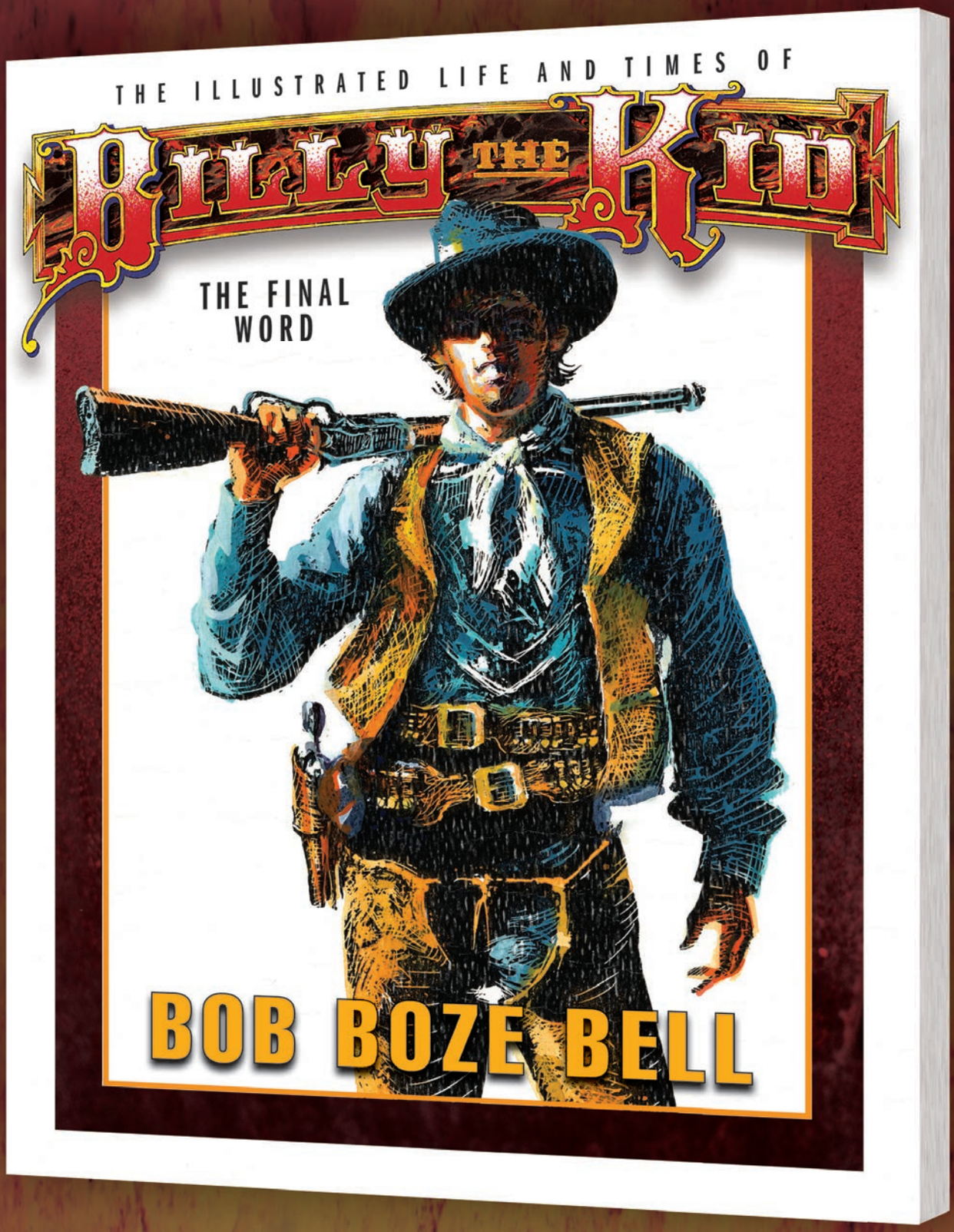
(which Winchester immediately rectified with a stronger breech portion of the barrel), and rear sights frequently got knocked out of place. Many of the ballistic and accuracy problems the Mounties' '76s faced were due to the inferior grade of ammunition supplied by the Dominion Cartridge Company. Considered "useless" by Canada's "pony soldiers," American ammunition had to be shipped north to allow for target practice.

The red-coated policemen performed undaunted service during a tumultuous period that marked the transition of western Canada from the raw North-West Territories to a region of law and order. The Mounties kept watch over the ever-warring Sioux, who had escaped the United States and fled to Canada, and eventually convinced them to surrender to U.S. authorities in 1881. The year 1885 saw the NWMP crushing a major uprising by the Cree tribe and the Métis led by Métis leader Louis Riel. During the North West Rebellion, several battles were fought in Saskatchewan. During the Yukon Gold Rush of 1898, just 20 NWMP officers maintained the law along the Canadian border, and again at the dawn of the 20th century, armed with the '76 Winchester, they kept the peace when the Alaska Boundary Dispute boiled over.

Nowadays any 1876 Winchester NWMP carbine is a coveted collectible, regardless of condition, and most surviving examples have seen hard service, however shooters and collectors alike can enjoy a top quality replica from Cimarron Firearms (*Cimarron-Firearms.com*). It's offered in .45-60, or an authentic 1876 NWMP carbine in .45-75, complete with the NWMP stamp in the stock. It's been said the "Mounties always got their man," and in the roughest years of their service, they got them with Winchester's 1876 carbine at their side.

Phil Spangenberger has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West's* Firearms Editor and the 2022 True Westerner of the Year.

THE TRILOGY IS COMPLETE.



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TWO ROADS WEST

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

BAT MASTERSON

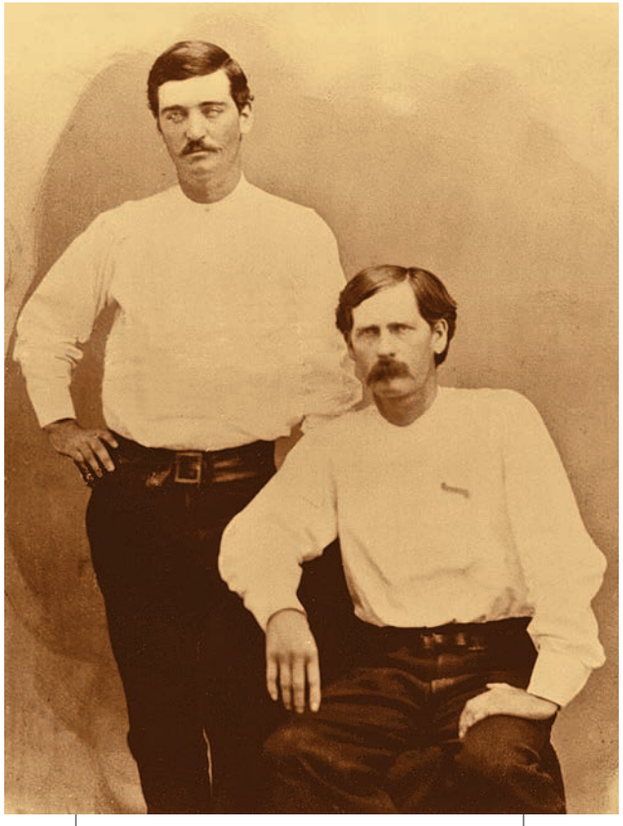
THE DEADLY AND DANGEROUS LIFE OF THE MAN WHO INVENTED WYATT EARP

Thanks to a 1960s television show starring Gene Barry, Bat Masterson was called a "legend in his own time," at least in the popular imagination. But the legend actually began long before that, in August 1881, in the boomtown of Gunnison, Colorado. A reporter for the *New York Sun* was in town looking for a colorful story about the Wild West for his eager readers in the big city. He was expecting to see hourly gunfights in the streets, and having seen none, was disappointed. He asked some of the locals if those wild and woolly escapades were just tall tales, pulling legs attached to tenderfeet. One of the men, Dr. W. S Cockerill, agreed and then said, "There is a man who has killed 26 men and he is only 27 years of age."

The writer could barely contain his eagerness to hear the rest of the story. With his pad and pencil in hand he anxiously waited for the doctor to say the name of this deadly gunfighter.

"He is W. B. Masterson, of Dodge City, Kansas." Dr. Cockrell then proceeded to regale the young man with lurid tales of the superhuman acts of the fearless lawman known as Bat Masterson. While the scribe wrote furiously, the doctor finished his tale with a spectacular finale.

The sensational story appeared in the *New York Sun* and the eastern folk swallowed it hook line and sinker. It might have had a short life except that it was picked up by several Western newspapers, including the *Ford County Globe*, published in Dodge City. A reporter for the *Kansas City Journal* just happened to be in Dodge and managed to get an interview with the man who had gunned down 26 men.



Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson's loyalty to their brothers was legendary. That kind of loyalty and friendship was built between them through their mutual careers in law-enforcement and sporting houses in Dodge City and Tombstone. Later, during his early days in journalism, Masterson was one of the first to write about Wyatt Earp and his extol his legendary actions as a gunfighter in Kansas and Arizona.

Bat was also a practical joker. He managed to answer his questions with the skill of a politician. He dodged, double-talked, evaded and spun his answers. The legend of Bat Masterson had begun, and like all legends, there was a whole lot of reality thrown in.

The real Bat Masterson was a less than perfect creature subject to the same temptations and vices as the other sporting men of his day. He only killed one man, Cpl. Melvin King, on January 24, 1876, in Sweetwater, Texas. Like many, he was a flawed character, but he lived by a code, and he was loyal to his friends.

Bat Out West

Bat's history in the Old West was every bit as illustrious as that of Wyatt Earp, and in the early 1900s, he was actually more famous than Wyatt. Bat had a bigger story to tell than Wyatt. For example, at the Second Battle of Adobe Walls on the morning of June 28, 1874, the 20-year-old lad was the youngest member of 28 buffalo hunters who held off hundreds of Comanche, Cheyenne and Kiowa warriors. This was the battle during which sharpshooter Billy Dixon, using a Sharps .50-90 caliber rifle, took aim at a party of war chiefs on a bluff about a mile away and fired. More than four seconds later, one of the warriors fell from his horse. Dixon's shot measured 1,535 yards and quickly became known as the "Shot of the Century."

Quanah Parker, one of the war chiefs on the bluff decided the white man's medicine was too strong to continue the fight, and the warriors rode away.

Bat also had been a scout for the Army during the 1874 Red River War and a Western sheriff of renown. He lived and worked in a rough-and-ready environment of gambling and law enforcement. His reputation, however, daunted most troublemakers. He was quiet in demeanor, tough but he was no bully, bluff or blowhard.

When Bat Masterson's parents, Thomas and Catherine, moved their family of four sons and two daughters to Sedgwick County, Kansas, in 1871, the boys, including Bat, helped their father build a sod house out on the prairie, most likely similar to this Sunflower State homestead.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

Bat was a gamer; in the lexicon of the West, he was "a good man to ride the river with."

However, in later years, when someone asked him about legends in the West, Bat preferred to talk about his friend Wyatt Earp, whom he greatly admired. When President Teddy Roosevelt suggested that Bat should write his story, he is supposed to have replied, "Mr. President, the real story of the Old West can never be told unless Wyatt Earp will tell what he knows, and Wyatt will not talk."

Roosevelt's press aide, the legend maker himself, Stuart Lake, heard this and was thus inspired to seek out Wyatt and write the highly fictionalized 1931 biography of Wyatt that turned him into a legend. Lake even allegedly borrowed many of Bat's first-person descriptions of lawing, gunfighting and buffalo hunting and attributed them to Wyatt.

Ironically, Bat might have become the legend, had he been inclined to self-promote himself to Lake.

Canadian Born, Western Raised

Bat Masterson was born on November 26, 1853, in Quebec, Canada, and baptized Bartholomiew, which the family shortened to Bart or Bat. He was the second of seven children in the Masterson family. Apparently, he didn't like the name, so as a young man he chose a new handle, William Barclay.

In 1871 the family moved to Sedgwick County, Kansas, a few miles from the cattle town of Wichita. A year later, after helping the family get settled in, Bat, almost 18 and his older brother, Ed, 19, headed for buffalo country.

The government estimated in 1870 there were 50 million buffalo on the plains and 10 million between Fort Dodge and Camp Supply in the Oklahoma panhandle. Men hunted for sport, buffalo robes and meat to sell to the railroad crews laying track for the Santa Fe and Kansas Pacific. Up until then buffalo were hunted only in the winter, but that changed in 1871, about the time Ed and Bat became hide hunters. The demand for hides was great for machine belting, and the industrial revolution was ramping up. The buffalo, or more correct, the bison, were doomed to near-extinction.

Near today's Caldwell, where the hunters got their provisions, the two boys found work as skinners and stock tenders and headed into buffalo country. When the hunters signaled for the wagons, the skinners came forward and began the bloody and dirty job of taking the hides. They worked seven days a week. During the hot summer months they had to deal with flies, and when cold weather arrived the flies were gone but carcasses froze quickly. It was during this time Bat and Ed met and became friends with sharpshooter Billy Dixon. In early 1872, Bat also met the man who would become his lifetime friend, Wyatt Earp.

In 1871, Bat and his brother, Ed Masterson, worked as skinners (such as these two unidentified men) and stock boys in the hide hunters' camps south of Fort Dodge. Their labor as skinners was arduous and dirty, hot in the summer and freezing in the winter.

Courtesy DeGolyer Library, SMU

Bat and Ed Masterson would have lived in a hide hunter's camp similar to this one south of Fort Dodge when they worked as hide hunters on Kansas's southwestern plains in 1871.

Courtesy DeGolyer Library, SMU

In the summer of 1872, the Masterson brothers hired out for a railroad grading crew contracted by Raymond Ritter. By July the rails had reached Buffalo City, where a townsite was laid out and the town given a new name, Dodge City. Ritter skipped out with their wages, and the boys went back to hide hunting. Soon they were joined by their younger brother Jim, and by fall all three were hunting buffalo.

After the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad in September 1872, the town of Dodge City quickly grew from a sutler post for hide hunters to a wild, boisterous, bibulous Babylon. The Alhambra Saloon, gambling hall and restaurant was run by Jim "Dog" Kelly and Peter Beatty. Tom Sherman's dance hall provided such charming specimens of Eve's flesh as Nell Pool, Nell St. Clair and Lil Thompson, who provided short-term romance for the love-starved hide hunters and soldiers from nearby Fort Dodge. The town had yet to have an organized government, and shootings were a daily occurrence. It was said that during the first year there were 25 killings and twice as many shootings.

Ed Masterson returned to Dodge in February 1873 and hired out at the Alhambra. Jim arrived a few months later. Bat and Jim took jobs hauling buffalo hides from the camps into Dodge.

Like in other raw frontier towns, when the lawlessness got out of hand, a vigilance committee was organized, and like other towns, the group was infiltrated by troublemakers who took control and used it for their own purposes.

Major Richard Dodge, commanding officer at Fort Dodge, upon learning his former cook, now running a restaurant in Dodge, was murdered in cold blood, wired Kansas governor Thomas Osborn and got permission to intervene. He surrounded the town with soldiers and began making arrests. This was a few years before Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act that forbade federal troops from enforcing domestic policies.

On June 5, 1873, Dodge City held a special election and selected Charlie Bassett as first sheriff of Ford County. The rule of law now prevailed. It didn't stop the lawlessness, but it was a start.

Being a witness to the mob rule caused Bat to have a strong abhorrence to vigilante violence during his career as a lawman.

About this time Bat learned that Raymond Ritter, his old boss from the railroad grading job, was coming through Dodge. Bat met the train, entered the car, gun in hand, and made Ritter pay the $300 owed him. A curious crowd had gathered to watch and was impressed with

his grim determination. Up until that time Bat was not well known, but the word spread quickly, and from then on folks knew he was not a man to trifle with.

That spring Bat went back to hunting buffalo, but the season of 1873 wasn't as good as the year before, and the hunt of 1874 was even worse. It seemed the extermination of the Kansas herds was imminent. There were still large herds in northwest Texas, but that was the land of the Comanches, Kiowas and Cheyennes, and they would fight to keep their hunting domain. The work would be dangerous, but the profits would be great if they survived. It was a gamble worth taking.

Dodge Rises from the Plains

In July 1874, Gen. Nelson Miles led the Indian Territory Military Expedition to suppress the Comanche, Cheyenne and Kiowa tribes operating in the Texas Panhandle and Indian Territory in what became known as the Red River War. A unit of scouts was hired to guide the main force. The company consisted of 17 frontiersmen and 20 Delaware Indians. In Miles's words, the frontiersmen were to be "expert riflemen, pioneers, plainsmen; men of courage and intelligence." Among those selected were Bat Masterson and Billy Dixon. They would be campaigning in the familiar vicinity of Adobe Walls. The campaign was brief but decisive.

By November Bat was back working as a teamster at Camp Supply. The following month the Army established a post on Sweetwater Creek. It was a bitter winter, and a large number of Indians returned to the reservation while others escaped into the Staked Plains, and by spring the campaign was over. Bat resumed hunting buffalo.

The post was named Camp Elliott, adobe buildings were erected nearby, and the small town of Sweetwater was born. Soon the saloons, gamblers and good-time girls began arriving.

Bat was only 21 and was now getting his taste of the "sporting life." In Sweetwater he would be engaged in his first gunfight.

Because there were no written accounts of the details, there were several versions of the story, but it appeared to be a love triangle between a pretty sporting girl named Mollie Brennan, Army Cpl. Melvin King and Bat Masterson. One version has it that on the night of January 24, 1876, at the Lady Gay Saloon, King opened the ball by firing at Bat but fatally wounding Mollie. The bullet passed through her and hit Bat in the groin. Bat pulled his pistol and put a bullet in King's heart. All three fell to the floor in a pool of blood. Bat, seriously wounded, was the lone survivor. He would never take the life of another man, but for better or worse, he would forever be branded as a mankiller.

By April, Bat had recovered from his gunshot wound enough to leave Sweetwater and head for Dodge City. The town had changed in the two years he'd been away. Stockyards were being built, and Dodge City's merchants were looking forward to the cattle drives that were now headed to Dodge on the Western Trail.

There was a lot of political haggling between factions as to whether to make stricter gun laws or run a wide-open town where anything goes. A compromise was reached deciding the north side of the Santa Fe tracks would have a gun ordinance and the south side would cater to the rowdy cowboys and buffalo hunters.

Bat partnered with Ben Springer and opened a large dance hall, saloon and casino on the south side of the tracks and named it the Lone Star. As the name implies it was meant to cater to the Texas drovers. It had everything the cowhands needed except a church. There was a fine bar, gambling room, show room and a dance hall with good-time girls. Upstairs were rooms where the girls slept and earned extra money taking care of the customers' sexual desires.

In 1876, Wyatt Earp acted as assistant city marshal, and things were relatively peaceful. Troublemakers were more apt to be "buffaloed," or given a whack on the head with the barrel of a pistol, rather than gunned down. Bat and Jim Masterson also became deputy

Bat Masterson was just 20 years old when he and 27 other buffalo hunters and one woman held off a war party of Comanches, Southern Cheyennes, Kiowas and Arapahos in June 1875 during the Second Battle of Adobe Walls. Historians estimate up to 700 Plains tribesmen laid siege to the beleaguered force, but with their superior rifles, especially the "Big Fifty" Sharps favored by the buffalo hunters, they only lost four men.

Illustration by Bob Boze Bell

The Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City was open from 1874 until 1885, when it burned down with most of the city's notorious Front Street saloons and sporting houses. Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp were both well known in the popular bar, as both lawmen and customers.

city marshals. When news of the gold strike reached Dodge in the summer of 1876, Bat resigned his job with the police and took the train to Cheyenne. By this time, the gold rush fever was on the wane, but Cheyenne was booming so he headed for the gambling halls. Bat was on a winning streak and remained there for five weeks before heading back to Dodge.

In July, Ford County Sheriff Charlie Bassett appointed Bat undersheriff. When Bassett's term expired at the end of 1877, Bat threw his hat in the ring for sheriff of Ford County. On November 6, 1877, he was elected and sworn in the following January. He appointed his former boss, Bassett, as undersheriff, and among his special deputies were Bill Tilghman, Jim Masterson and Wyatt Earp.

Soon after Bat took office, there was an attempted train robbery in the next county and two posses failed to run down the outlaws, led by the notorious Dave Rudabaugh. The Adams Express Company asked Bat for his assistance. He deputized three former buffalo hunters who were familiar with the area where the robbers were headed. Braving freezing temperatures and snow, they rode in hot pursuit. The unsuspecting outlaws were caught without firing a shot, and Bat was hailed in the newspapers for leading the relentless pursuit of the bandits.

Dave Rudabaugh has been mentioned most often in books on Billy the Kid. He was said to be the only man Billy ever feared. Wyatt Earp called him "the most notorious outlaw in the range country." In a case of "honor among thieves," Dave testified against his cohorts in the train robbery and was set free. A newspaper wrote, "Rudabaugh was promised immunity if he would 'squeal,' therefore he squole."

The Masterson Brothers

While Bat was getting praise for his deeds as sheriff, his older brother Ed had been appointed assistant marshal by Bat's nemesis, City Marshal Larry Deger. Mayor Jim Kelley and Deger were on opposite political sides in Dodge City. Fortunately, Ed Masterson was cool, calm, easygoing and genial. He kept a lid on the hot tempers, but sooner or later things were going to boil over.

On November 5, 1877, while trying to break up a fight in the Lone Star Dance Hall, Ed was wounded. He survived and was hailed in the papers for breaking up a gunfight that had no fatalities. As a result, the city council fired Deger and appointed Ed city marshal. Now, 25-year-old Ed was city marshal, and his 24-year-old brother Bat was county sheriff.

Late in the evening of April 9, 1878, at the Lady Gay, Ed and his deputy Nat Haywood spotted a small group of Texas cowboys drinking with their trail boss Alf Walker. One of them, Jack Wagner, roaring drunk and disorderly, was packing his pistol. Ed approached him and said he needed to check his weapon. Wagner quietly handed his pistol to the marshal who handed it to Walker and asked him to give it to the bartender. Ed and his deputy then left the bar and were standing in the street talking when suddenly the door opened, and Walker and Wagner were walking toward them. Ed noticed Wagner was packing a pistol. He walked up to Wagner and made a move to disable the cowboy, and the two started to grapple. The deputy rushed to help but found himself staring into the muzzle of Walker's pistol. Haywood reached for his pistol and Walker pulled the trigger, but it misfired.

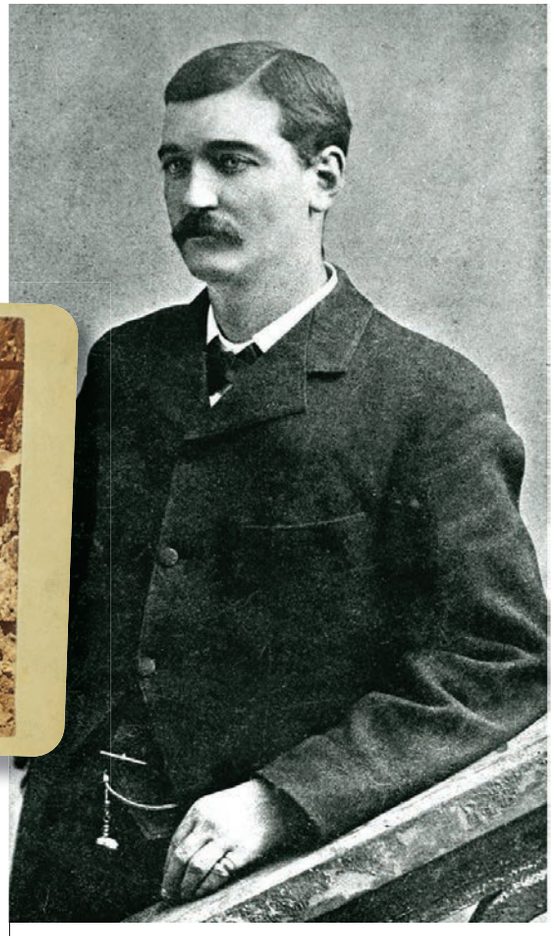
Meanwhile, Wagner managed to get off a shot, hitting Ed in the abdomen. As Masterson was going down, he fired a fatal bullet into Wagner. Walker turned his pistol toward Masterson, but the mortally wounded marshal got off three more rounds, all of them hitting Walker. One of them was in a lung. He did not die from his injuries, but Wyatt said he died of pneumonia later from the lung wound.

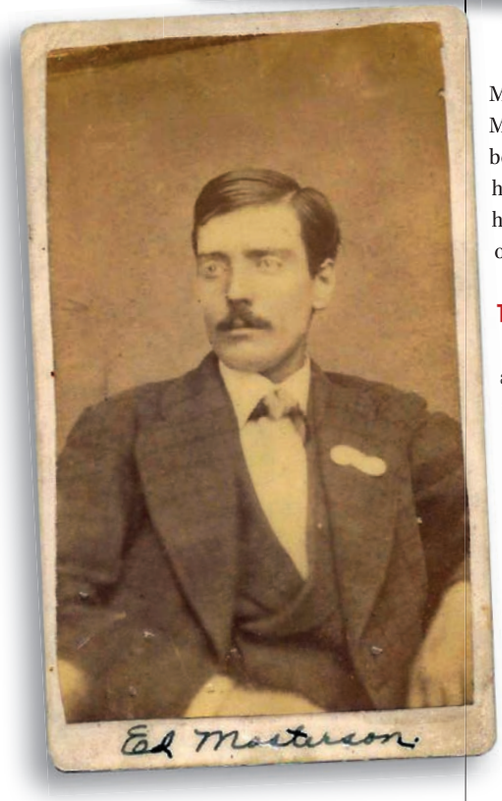
Ed had taken to his room but died 40 minutes later. Despite the stories told by newspapers and magazines for years afterwards, Bat did not go on a rampage and gun down seven men, or even two. There are no accounts of Bat at the fight, although afterwards he did arrest the other cowboys and haul them off to jail.

Bat Masterson was sheriff of Ford County in 1878, when 34-year-old dance hall entertainer Dora Hand, aka Fannie Keenen, was accidently shot and killed in Dodge City's Lady Gay Theater. Masterson led a posse that included Wyatt Earp and Bill Tilghman to track down and catch suspect Spike Kenedy. Kenedy was released, and no one was ever prosecuted for Hand's unfortunate death.

At 26 years old, Deputy U.S. Marshal Bat Masterson of Dodge City was recruited to lead a mob of mercenaries for the Santa Fe Railroad against their Denver & Rio Grande Railroad rival in the Royal Gorge War. A year later, President Ulysses S. Grant's presidential train (below) would be the first to travel on the victor's tracks, the D. & R.G.R.R., built through the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River.

Masterson Photo Courtesy True West Archives/Railroad Photo Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections





Bat Masterson never fully recovered from the killing of his brother City Marshal Ed Masterson, who died from wounds received defending the law in the Lady Gay Saloon in Dodge City, Kansas, on April 9, 1878.

A local newspaper said this about Ed Masterson: Everyone in the City knew Ed Masterson and liked him. They liked him as a boy, they liked him as a man, and they liked him as an officer. Never before was a greater honor bestowed in Dodge, either to the living or the dead.

The Dora Hand Affair

Beautiful and talented Dora Hand was quite a fascinating woman. She sang in the honky-tonks at night and in the church on Sundays. She was accepted by both upper crust society and the town rowdies. Dora, who sometimes went by the stage name of Fannie Keenan, was the featured performer at several Dodge City nightspots. Mayor James "Dog" Kelley served almost like a manager for Miss Hand. He allowed Dora and another entertainer, Fannie Garretson, to sleep in his cottage while he was getting medical treatment at Fort Dodge.

James "Spike" Kenedy was a Texas cowboy from Tascosa. His wealthy father, hoping it would help his reckless son grow up rich, gave him a ranch, fully stocked. Spike considered himself privileged and above the law in Kansas. After he was arrested in separate incidents by Wyatt Earp and Charlie Bassett, he went to the Alhambra and complained to Mayor Jim Kelley, who told him to behave or things would get worse for him. The kid lost his temper and attacked the mayor, who proceeded to give him a good whipping and threw him out in the street. Kenedy sulked about it for a few weeks, then decided to get even.

About 4:30 on the morning of October 4, 1878, Kenedy rode by the mayor's house and fired four shots through the walls. Unfortunately, one of the bullets struck Miss Hand, who died instantly. The entire town turned out for Dora Hand's funeral.

Kenedy headed for Texas but was run down, shot and captured by a posse that included Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and Bill Tilghman. He'd been shot in the arm with a Sharps .50 caliber buffalo gun that shattered it. He expressed remorse upon learning he'd killed Miss Hand.

Despite his confession to the officers, Kenedy was released for lack of sufficient incriminating evidence (although there is some evidence Spike's father may have bribed the judge). He went back to Tascosa. He never fully recovered from his wounds and lived only a year or two.

The capture of Jim Kenedy turned out to be the only time as sheriff of Ford County that Bat fired his weapon.

Following the capture of Kenedy, campfire tales of the "Shooting Sheriff of Ford County," and "The lawman who is filling up Boot Hill," spread far and wide. The stories grew larger with each telling.

Bat the Marshal

In January 1879, Bat was appointed a deputy U.S. marshal. This gave him authority to cross county and state lines in pursuit of perpetrators of federal crimes.

Meantime, a fabulous silver discovery at Leadville launched a rush to the area. Both the Santa Fe and the Denver & Rio Grande railroads had their eye on the Royal Gorge, a narrow steep-walled canyon that followed the Arkansas River up to Leadville. Hauling the ore down to Colorado Springs was slow and costly, and a railroad would be worth a fortune. Both lines were determined to get the right-of-way. Whichever company controlled the Royal Gorge would have the only path to the riches at Leadville. The leaders in what became known as the Royal Gorge War were General W. J. Palmer of the D&RG and W. B. Strong of the Santa Fe. Both lines began hiring enlisting men willing to take up arms.

The Santa Fe prevailed upon Deputy U.S. Marshal Bat Masterson to raise an army at Dodge City, and he had no trouble finding men in the rough-and-tumble town of Dodge City. Among the men who joined Bat's army were Texas gunman Ben Thompson and former dentist-turned-gambler Doc Holliday.

It would be a two-pronged war; on one side were the mercenaries hired by both railroads and the other side was in the courtroom. The Santa Fe legally had the rights to the gorge, but the case was pending in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court. The D&RG claimed the Santa Fe had violated the lease.

On April 21, the Supreme Court ruled the D&RG had a prior right but not an exclusive one. That seemed to settle the situation, so Bat took his army and returned to Dodge.

Two months later Bat got a letter to bring his 65 mercenaries back to the Royal Gorge and within an hour they were riding the rails to Colorado. Bat and his men were charged with guarding the roundhouse and the railroad station at Pueblo.

On the morning of June 11, General Palmer ordered the sheriffs in every county, backed by D&RG mercenaries on the line, to take the stations occupied by the Santa Fe Railway's hired guns. By noon they had taken them all, except Pueblo. The roundhouse was the Santa Fe's last bastion. Bat's army had fiercely resisted. Palmer's men decided to take the cannon from the armory, but Bat had beaten them to it and the gun was aimed right at them.

Raised in a large Canadian-Irish family, Bat Masterson was one of six children whose farming parents moved from Quebec to New York, Illinois and Missouri before finally settling in Sedgwick County, Kansas, in 1871. Masterson left home soon thereafter, and like his father, did not settle down in one place for many years.

All Images True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted

A parley was called, the roundhouse was surrounded, and Bat was convinced it was useless to continue. To continue the fight would only cause unnecessary casualties on both sides, and he surrendered the roundhouse.

In February 1880, a compromise was reached by both sides: The D&RG agreed not to build a line to El Paso, and the Santa Fe agreed not to build one to Denver or Leadville. Instead, the Santa Fe would lay tracks south through Raton Pass and on to Albuquerque.

Bat ran for reelection in the fall of 1879, and his exemplary record as sheriff should have guaranteed a victory, but his political opponents ran a nasty smear campaign, and

he wasn't politically savvy enough to thwart their lies and innuendo. He figured he would win on his record, but he was wrong. He also resigned his position as deputy U.S. marshal.

Bat's fallback plan was to become a gambler. He already had plenty of experience and success. He headed for Leadville. The boomtown was rich, the casinos were thriving, and he did very well. He remained there for a few months, then headed for Kansas City where he also prospered.

Tombstone

In early 1881, he received word from Wyatt Earp in Tombstone telling him that serious trouble was looming, and he needed help. Wyatt and Virgil were wearing badges, and Morgan was working as a shotgun messenger. Bat was always a man who stood by his friends, and on February 8, he headed for Tombstone.

Bat's stay in Tombstone was brief but not without some action. He took a job making good money as a faro dealer at the Oriental. On February 25, two of his old friends from Dodge, Luke Short and Charlie Storms, got into a scrap. Bat separated the two and escorted Storms to his room to sleep it off. Then he returned to find Luke standing on the sidewalk in front of the saloon. He was trying to calm him when Storms suddenly reapeared. He grabbed Short by the arm and pulled him out into the street, at the same time pulling his pistol.

Meantime, Short pulled his pistol and shot Storms in the heart. Storms was dead before he hit the ground.

Bat, chief witness for the defense, testified on Short's behalf and no charges were filed.

A few weeks later, on March 15, 1881, the Benson stage, carrying several thousand dollars in silver bullion was fired upon by four masked men. Riding shotgun that fateful night was Bob Paul. The driver Bud Philpot was shot and killed. Paul grabbed the reins and the stage sped away in a hail of bullets. Another shot entered the back of the stage, fatally wounding a passenger, Peter Roerig.

When word of the robbery reached Tombstone, a posse that included Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp, along with Bat Masterson, Bob Paul and Sheriff Johnny Behan was formed and went out to pick up the bandits' trail. They tracked one of the outlaws, Luther King, to a ranch where he was captured without incident. The frightened prisoner identified his accomplices as Bill Leonard, Jim Crane and Harry Head.

Most of the posse continued pursuing the stage robbers while Johnny Behan escorted the prisoner back to Tombstone. The posse kept up relentless pursuit for more than two weeks, covering hundreds of miles and enduring great hardship before finally giving up the chase. At one point, Behan was supposed to bring fresh horses for the posse but failed to show up with remounts. Bob Paul's horse died while Wyatt's and Bat's mounts played out. Bat and Wyatt wound up having to walk some 18 miles back to Tombstone.

Soon after Bat returned to Tombstone, a telegram from Dodge City arrived saying his brother Jim was in danger and needed Bat's help. The unsigned message said, "Updegraff and Peacock are going to kill Jim."

Back to Dodge

When Dog Kelley lost the mayoral election, Jim Masterson was dismissed as city marshal. Earlier, he'd gone into a partnership with A. J. Peacock of the Lady Gay Saloon. Al Updegraff, Peacock's brother-in-law, was a bartender in the establishment. Jim believed he was dishonest and tried to get him fired, but Peacock refused. The two argued openly. Soon their fighting became the talk of the town.

Bat set out immediately for Dodge.

At the time Bat and Jim were not in contact, as there had been a disagreement between the two, but Bat was duty bound to look out for his younger brother. Upon reaching the train station in Dodge around noon, he'd jumped off before it came to a stop, and it might have saved his life.

He saw Peacock and Updegraff walking toward him but then turned and ran. Thus began what would be called The Battle of the Plaza. Nobody knows who fired first, but bullets were flying. Then shots began coming from some of Bat's friends in a Front Street saloon. Updegraff went down with a bullet in his chest.

Bat was placed under arrest. He was charged with "unlawfully, feloniously, discharging a pistol on the streets of said city." He pleaded guilty and was fined eight dollars.

Updegraff survived and wrote a statement for the anti-Masterson *Ford County Globe* claiming the Masterson brothers made an unprovoked attack on him.

Bat and Jim didn't dignify the statement with a reply. That evening they left Dodge.

A New Career

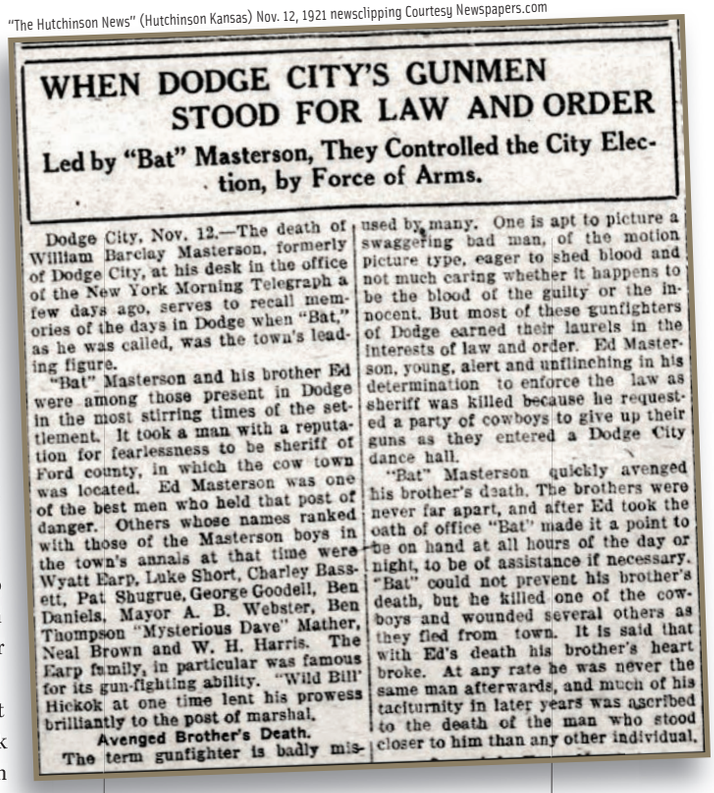
Bat's love for prizefighting began early. Although he wasn't a pugilist himself, he was a boxing fan. In February 1882, he was in Mississippi where he witnessed a fight between American heavyweight champion Paddy Ryan and a young upstart from Boston named John L. Sullivan. Among the other spectators at the fight were Frank and Jesse James.

In the ninth round John L. landed a right-hand punch that decked the champ. According to boxing legend it was the first knockout in boxing history and ushered in a new era in heavyweight boxing with Sullivan as the bare-knuckle heavyweight champion. Right up to his death, Bat was a witness to nearly every important heavyweight bout.

Bat's biographer, Bob DeArment, adds, "Bat did everything in the boxing business except box himself. He managed fighters, acted as referee and timekeeper in many bouts, and promoted. He did get involved in several unofficial fistfights. Bat was very, very knowledgeable when it came to boxing. Except for one thing--he never bet smart. He'd go for underdogs every time, and he'd lose money hand over fist. He knew better...he just didn't bet that way."

After the fight Bat headed west again, this time stopping in the new town of Trinidad, Colorado, near Raton Pass. The town was booming, and Bat met many of his sporting friends from Dodge. His brother Jim was working as a deputy sheriff. In April a new mayor was elected and at his first city council meeting Mayor John Conkie named Bat as city marshal. Trinidad was unusually peaceful his first month as marshal,. In early May his old friend Wyatt Earp showed up. He had left Arizona after leading his vengeance posse following the wounding of his brother Virgil and the murder of his brother Morgan in Tombstone. They had killed three of the suspected assassins, and now the Territory of Arizona had a murder warrant out on him and Doc Holliday. Doc had been

"The Hutchinson News" (Hutchinson Kansas) Nov. 12, 1921 newsclipping Courtesy Newspapers.com



WHEN DODGE CITY'S GUNMEN STOOD FOR LAW AND ORDER

Led by "Bat" Masterson, They Controlled the City Election, by Force of Arms.

Dodge City, Nov. 12.—The death of William Barclay Masterson, formerly of Dodge City, at his desk in the office of the New York Morning Telegraph a few days ago, serves to recall memories of the days in Dodge when "Bat," as he was called, was the town's leading figure.

"Bat" Masterson and his brother Ed were among those present in Dodge in the most stirring times of the settlement. It took a man with a reputation for fearlessness to be sheriff of Ford county, in which the cow town was located. Ed Masterson was one of the best men who held that post of danger. Others whose names ranked with those of the Masterson boys in the town's annals at that time were Wyatt Earp, Luke Short, Charley Bassett, Pat Shugrue, George Goodell, Ben Daniels, Mayor A. B. Webster, Ben Thompson "Mysterious Dave" Mather, Neal Brown and W. H. Harris. The Earp family, in particular was famous for its gun-fighting ability. "Wild Bill" Hickok at one time lent his prowess brilliantly to the post of marshal.

Avenged Brother's Death.

The term gunfighter is badly misused by many. One is apt to picture a swaggering bad man, of the motion picture type, eager to shed blood and not much caring whether it happens to be the blood of the guilty or the innocent. But most of these gunfighters of Dodge earned their laurels in the interests of law and order. Ed Masterson, young, alert and unflinching in his determination to enforce the law as sheriff was killed because he requested a party of cowboys to give up their guns as they entered a Dodge City dance hall.

"Bat" Masterson quickly avenged his brother's death. The brothers were never far apart, and after Ed took the oath of office "Bat" made it a point to be on hand at all hours of the day or night, to be of assistance if necessary. "Bat" could not prevent his brother's death, but he killed one of the cowboys and wounded several others as they fled from town. It is said that with Ed's death his brother's heart broke. At any rate he was never the same man afterwards, and much of his taciturnity in later years was ascribed to the death of the man who stood closer to him than any other individual.

arrested in Denver by a man named Perry Mallan, who claimed to be an officer from Arizona, and was waiting to be extradited to Arizona. Bat didn't particularly care for Doc, but he was a friend of Wyatt's. He knew that if Wyatt or Doc were extradited, there was no way they would live long enough to stand trial.

First, Bat needed to prove that Mallan was not telling the truth and to catch him in a lie. Further investigation found that Mallan was not an officer but a petty swindler and a con man.

The extradition failed after Bat met with Colorado Governor Frederick Pitkin and persuaded him to not sign the extradition papers. Earlier, Bat had asked Pueblo City Marshal Jamison to charge Doc with running a bunco game in that city and bilking a sucker out of one 150 dollars. The marshal arrived in Denver, picked up Bat and Doc and boarded the train for Pueblo. Bat continued on to Trinidad. Doc managed to stall his court date, and when he died at Glenwood Springs in 1887, he was still under bond for Bat's imaginative scheme five years earlier.

Bat's tenure as Trinidad's town marshal abruptly ended in April 1883, probably due to his running a successful faro bank at the same time. He and all the other candidates of the Citizens Party were trounced by the candidates on the Democratic side. However, his brother Jim was appointed a city policeman. By the time the new group was sworn in Bat had moved on. Although he didn't care if he ever saw Dodge City again, events occurred that called him back. Once again, a friend needed help.

Back to Dodge

What became known as the "Dodge City War" began when Luke Short returned in April 1881 and went to work at the Long Branch Saloon. Two years later he bought Chalk Beeson's share of the place. In March 1883, his partner, W. H. Harris, was nominated to run for mayor against the "law and order" candidate, Larry Deger, who was backed by the former mayor who also happened to own the Alamo Saloon, the main competitor of the Long Branch. Deger won and the new politicos immediately passed two ordinances aimed against prostitution and vagrancy. These laws were nothing new in the Kansas cowtowns except they were only enforced against the Long Branch and Luke Short.

Three of Short's prostitutes were arrested, and when he went down to try to straighten things out, he and a local policeman exchanged gunfire. Neither was hurt in the event, but Short and three other gamblers were arrested, taken to the train station and told to get the hell out of Dodge. Short went to Kansas City where he met with former Ford County Sheriff Charlie Bassett. He then wired Bat Masterson in Denver and asked for help. Bat headed for Silverton where he met with Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Thus marked the beginning of the bloodless conflict known as the Dodge City War.

Thanks to intervention on the part of the Kansas governor, Short was told he could return to Dodge and have 10 days to close out his business. Not trusting the law in Dodge City, he demanded an escort. A group of some of the West's most noted gunmen including Masterson, Earp, Bassett, Neil Brown, Bill Harris, Frank McClean, Bill Petillon, Rowdy Joe Lowe and "Shotgun" John Collins decided to get the hell into Dodge to help their old friend. Interestingly, the man whose name got more ink in the press as the deadliest of them all was none other than Doc Holliday.

It looked like a bloody gunfight was eminent, but the presence of such famous gunmen being intimidating was an understatement. The "Dodge City War" was more about telegrams, rumors and the press than about actual bloodletting.

In the end, economics prevailed. Mayor Deger's action would ruin the cattle business. Pressure came from the Santa Fe Railroad and Kansas Governor George Glick. The two sides met in a dance hall on June 9th and settled their differences. The dance halls and saloons were reopened. After the photo was taken, Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp boarded a westbound train and headed for Colorado.

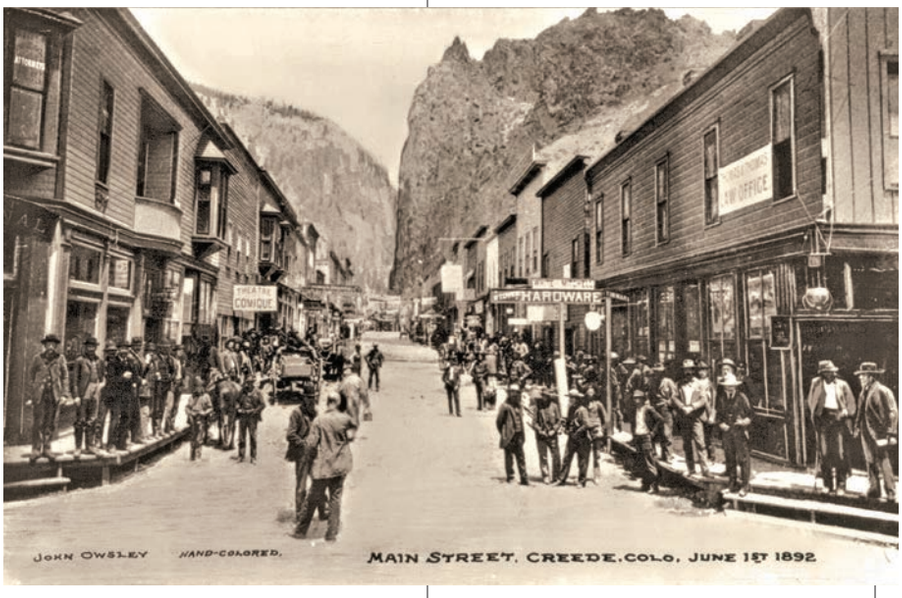
Apparently, Doc was already back in Colorado and therefore wasn't present for the famous photograph.

The Long Branch reopened, but Short sold out that November and moved to Texas.

The Gambler's Road

During the 1880s Bat was constantly on the move, following the gambling circuit and making good money on the green cloth. He did some police work at times, but all were short-term gigs. He was always involving in the boxing world, and in 1885 he refereed a match between the Colorado heavyweight champion John Clow, a challenger, and a prizefighter named Hands. Since boxing was illegal in Colorado the fight had to be moved across the border to Rawlings, Wyoming. Clow knocked his opponent out in the sixth round. Bat was now making connections in the sporting world that would help him later. During that time he met the future president Theodore Roosevelt. Although their backgrounds were quite different, the two instantly hit it off. Their paths would cross again in the near future.

Luke Short, the diminutive, but deadly gambler was challenged again, this time by the notorious Jim Courtright in Fort Worth. "Longhair Jim" was running a detective agency and providing a "protective racket" to local gambling houses. Short informed him he



In the 1880s, Bat Masterson expanded his work in law enforcement and gambling halls from Arizona and Kansas to Colorado. In 1892, he followed the rush from Denver to Creede, where he continued his acquaintance with criminal Jefferson "Soapy" Smith, who later found infamy in Skagway, Alaska (see page 29).

Courtesy Library of Congress

could provide his own service, and Courtright came gunning for him. They both drew their pistols at the same time, but Short was faster. By the time Courtright fell dead on the floor, Short had put five bullets in him. Luke Short proved again that he was no man to trifle with. Short was arrested and locked up to await a hearing,

Courtright's friends were organizing a lynch mob, so Bat requested that the sheriff let him spend the night in Short's cell. Bat arrived packing two pistols and two more for Luke. The mob wisely decided to let justice take its course.

That was Luke Short's next to last gunfight. While he was severly wounded in a gunfight in 1890, Short died in 1893, in bed, with his boots off.

There has been little written about Bat's love life. There's no doubt he had a string of short-term love affairs as he was quite handsome, fun-loving and intelligent. Most if not all the women he cavorted with were the good-time gals of the saloons and brothels. He never said or wrote about any particular one. He never seemed to spend time with one for long. The 1880 census reported him living with a 19-year-old concubine named Annie Ladue in Dodge City.

Bat did eventually marry. When he was 38 years old, he wed blonde song-and-dance performer Emma Moulton. His younger brother Tom later said they tied the knot on November 21, 1891, in Denver, however, there are no records to verify that. There are other reports that they had begun living together in the early 1880s. If that's the case, the relationship would have undergone a strain because in 1886 Bat had a scandalous affair in Denver with a married woman named Nellie McMahon. She and her husband, Lou Spenser, were both performers. While Mr. Spenser acted to an applauding audience, his spouse Nellie and Bat were publicly displaying their affections for each other in the wings of the theater. It's not clear how long this torrid affair had been going on, but Mr. Spenser saw them from the stage. Later, he told a reporter from the *Rocky Mountain News* that Nellie filed for divorce and she and Bat eloped to Dodge City. The affair did create a lot of attention in Denver.

Bat Masterson made his home in bustling urban Denver in 1886, operating the Palace Variety Theater and Gambling Parlor at Blake and 15th streets, and the Arcade Saloon on the city's notorious Larimer Street (above). While he did not remain a permanent resident of Denver, from 1886 to 1902, the Colorado capital city was Masterson's last Western home before he moved to New York City permanently in 1902.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

A Dodge newspaper noted his arrival but doesn't mention anything about a beautiful woman accompanying him.

Home in Colorado

Bat finally decided it was time to settle down. He'd accumulated quite a bit of money on the gambling circuit, and he purchased a landmark theater and gambling casino in Denver. The business thrived until a group of moral reformists decided that Denver needed to close down their casinos and brothels and the Palace was in their cross hairs. Bat decided it was time to sell out and move on. In 1891 a mining bonanza was underway in Creede.

Masterson moved to New York City with his wife, entertainer Emma Moulton, in 1902. He was hired the following year at the *New York Morning Telegraph,* where he covered boxing, sports, entertainment and politics in his popular column "Masterson's Views on Timely Topics." *The New York Age*, a Black-owned newspaper, wrote that Masterson was one of "the fairest" in writing about "Negro fighters."

Courtesy Library of Congress

In no time at all, Creede grew from a few shacks to 10,000 and at its peak population numbered an estimated 30,000 gold-seekers. Bat was hired to maintain order in the popular Denver Exchange. It was open 24 hours a day, and he was busy keeping things running smoothly. Among the notorious denizens of Creede was bunco artist, Jefferson "Soapy" Smith. He and Bat were old friends, so the Denver Exchange didn't have to worry about him causing any problems. Bat's straight, no-nonsense reputation preceded him to Creede, and that made his job much easier.

A Chicago reporter covering the boomtown wrote about Masterson: "He is quiet in demeanor and sober in habit. There is no blow or bluff or bullyism about him. He attends strictly to business." The reporter also credited Bat with being the chief force for peace in the camp.

Probably the most noteworthy incident in Creede occurred on the afternoon of July 8, 1892, when a rowdy named Ed O'Kelly entered the tent saloon owned by Bob Ford, the man who killed Jesse James. O'Kelly was packing a shotgun. "Hello Bob," he said and when Ford turned to face him, he cut loose with both barrels. O'Kelly earned for himself the dubious fame as "the man who killed the man who killed Jesse James."

Bat and Emma decided to return to Denver for one more round in the Mile High City's sporting world.

Over the next few years Bat worked in boxing circles from Denver. In the world of boxing, fortunes were won and lost in a day. Bat made the mistake of placing too much faith in friends who ended up betraying him. Bitterly, he decided it was time to get into a new line of work.

Inventing Wyatt Earp

In early 1903, Alfred Henry Lewis, managing editor of the *New York Morning Telegraph*, was familiar with Bat's career and asked if he'd come to work as a reporter. At the age of 50, Bat jumped at the chance to do something different. He turned out to be a perfect fit for the popular newspaper. In 1901, his old friend Teddy Roosevelt became President, and after being reelected in 1904, he appointed Bat deputy U.S. marshal for the southern district of New York. Bat often visited the White House as the president's guest.

Lewis was also editing the magazine *Human Life*, and in 1907 Bat was asked to write stories about the famous gunfighters he had known. He cranked out stories on Ben Thompson, Luke Short, Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, Bill Tilghman and even Buffalo Bill Cody. In all these stories he modestly played down his own role. Lewis took it upon himself to write one about Bat Masterson.

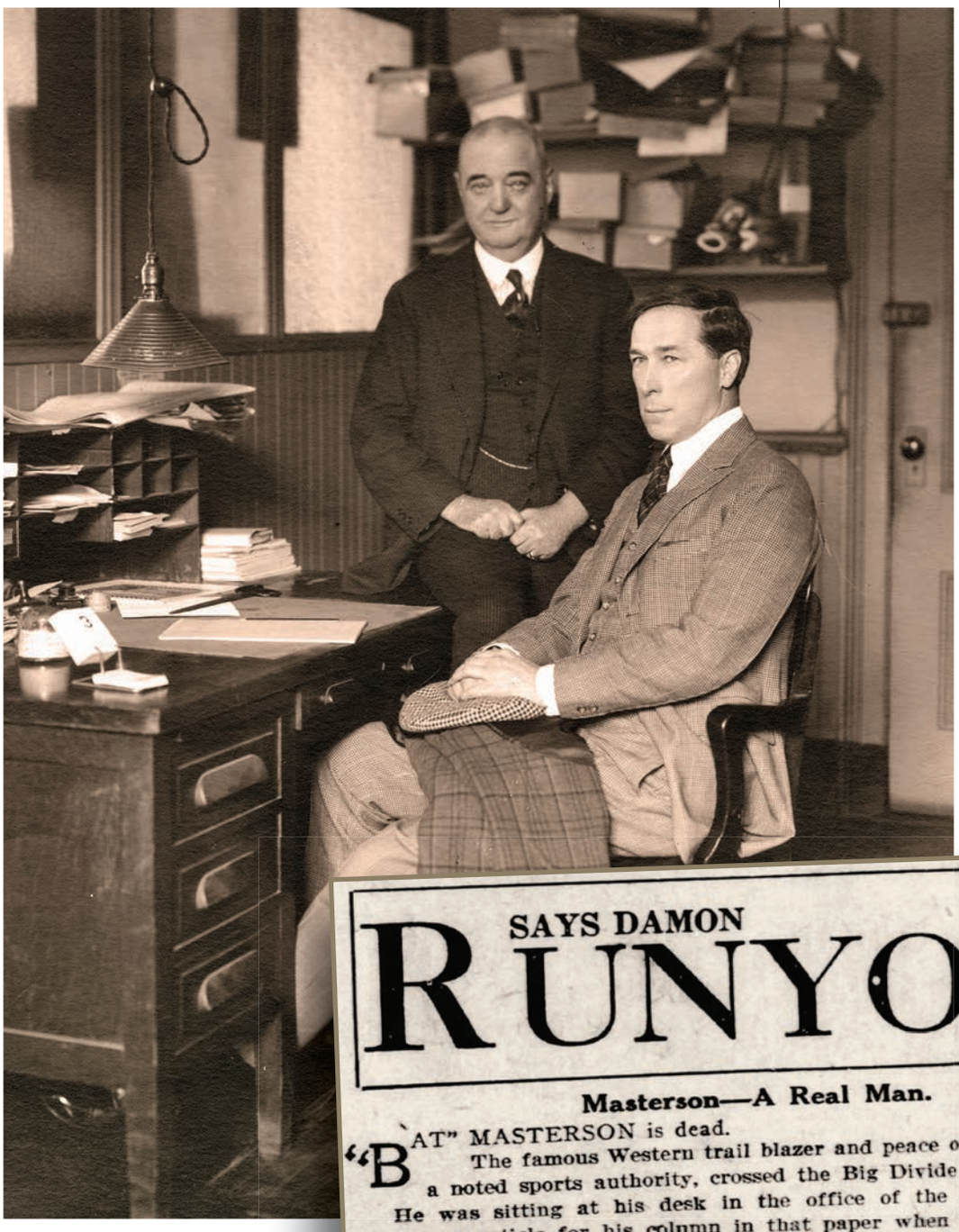
Bat's column appeared in the *Telegraph* three times a week. Oftentimes he lambasted the shady side of sports and included crooked boxers, promoters, fixed matches. He once wrote: "A sportswriter who is not willing to stand by his honest judgment…ought to chuck his job and try something else."

Bat made enemies, just like he did in Dodge and Denver, but he also made a lot of friends. He acquired a wide assortment of friends ranging from panhandlers on the streets of New York to presidents. Among his many friends and admirers was a young reporter named Damon Runyon.

A few years later, Runyon received national fame for his short stories of Broadway's colorful denizens. One was about a gunslinging, gambling man from Colorado named Sky Masterson. The stories later became *Guys and Dolls*, first a Broadway musical, then a movie. In the latter, Masterson was played by Marlon Brando. Bat would have liked that.

Bat became good friends with actor William S. Hart, who was a great admirer. Hart was asked to write a short essay on Bat. It was wonderfully written on stationary from the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Hart didn't know it, but just a few days later his essay served as the perfect eulogy for his hero.

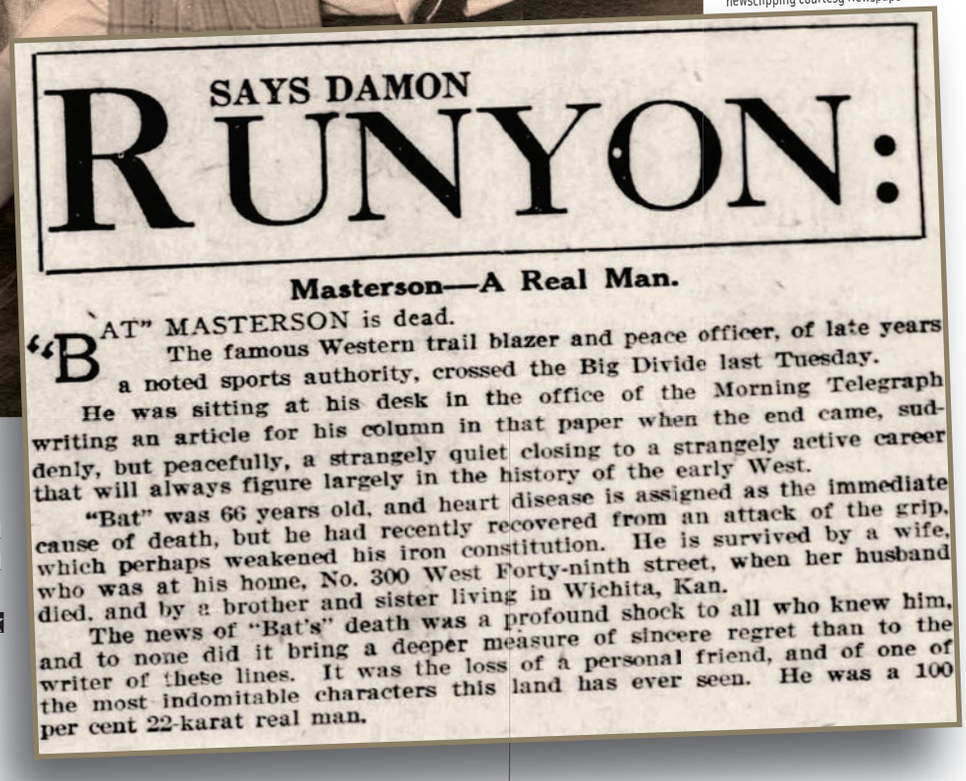
On October 25, 1921, a few days short of his 68th birthday, Bat was at his desk, working on his column. He'd been battling a cold, but he was scratching out the words, on paper with pen and ink. A member of the staff looked in



Hollywood Western star William S. Hart visited Bat Masterson at his *New York Morning Telegraph* office on October 7, 1921. Masterson died of a heart attack at his desk 18 days later.

True West Archives

his office to see how he was feeling and Bat was slumped in his chair. The old warrior was dead. It might even be said that he died with his boots on. Bat would have liked that too.



"San Francisco Examiner" Nov. 2, 1921 newsclipping courtesy Newspapers.com

SAYS DAMON

RUNYON:

Masterson—A Real Man.

"BAT" MASTERSON is dead.

The famous Western trail blazer and peace officer, of late years a noted sports authority, crossed the Big Divide last Tuesday.

He was sitting at his desk in the office of the Morning Telegraph writing an article for his column in that paper when the end came, suddenly, but peacefully, a strangely quiet closing to a strangely active career that will always figure largely in the history of the early West.

"Bat" was 66 years old, and heart disease is assigned as the immediate cause of death, but he had recently recovered from an attack of the grip, which perhaps weakened his iron constitution. He is survived by a wife, who was at his home, No. 300 West Forty-ninth street, when her husband died, and by a brother and sister living in Wichita, Kan.

The news of "Bat's" death was a profound shock to all who knew him, and to none did it bring a deeper measure of sincere regret than to the writer of these lines. It was the loss of a personal friend, and of one of the most indomitable characters this land has ever seen. He was a 100 per cent 22-karat real man.

Marshall Trimble is an award-winning author, historian, entertainer and retired professor of history. He has been *True West*'s "Ask the Marshall" columnist for over two decades.

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

BATTLE OF THE PLAZA

BAT MASTERSON VS PEACOCK & UPDEGRAFF

THINGS GO LICKETY-BANG!

BULLETS CAREEN INTO THE LONG BRANCH

Bat gets a warm reception at the Dodge City train station.

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

APRIL 16, 1881

Traveling mostly by rail, Bat Masterson has just covered 1,100 miles to come to the aid of his estranged brother Jim. Bat was just in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, with Wyatt Earp when he received word of threats against his brother's life.

As the Dodge City-bound train pulls into the Kansas depot from the west, Bat swings down off the train on the north side of the tracks. It is about noon. His intuition tells him his brother's enemies may attempt to round him up at the depot.

He scans the train platform and the busy streets looking for trouble. As the caboose passes, he notices two men on the opposite side of the tracks, walking toward the depot.

Bat immediately recognizes both men and shouts, "Hold up there a minute, you two. I want to talk to you."

Lady Gay Saloon owner A.J. Peacock and his brother-in-law, bartender Al Updegraff, take one look at the familiar stocky figure striding toward them and turn on their heels, ducking behind the corner of the jail. Jim is partners with Peacock at the saloon, and the two had disagreed over firing Updegraff, a dishonest drunk in Jim's eyes.

All parties pull weapons and begin to bang away at each other. (It's unclear which side fires first.) Bat retreats to the railroad track's three-foot berm and hides behind it.

Bullets snap over Bat's head and thud into Dr. McCarty's drugstore on the north side of Front Street. Bat returns fire, knocking huge splinters of wood from the corner of the hoosegow.

Soon, Bat is fired upon from several south-side saloons as "deadline partisans" join the fray. The compliment is returned from the north side of the tracks as friendly fire (probably from Jim and his friends) rips into the south-side buildings.

Bullets careen into the Long Branch Saloon, sending patrons scrambling out the back door. Owner Chalk Beeson seeks refuge behind the door of his safe. George Hoover's saloon loses a window, and a bullet tears a newspaper from an idler's hands.

Amidst the wild firing, Updegraff suddenly pitches forward as a bullet rips through his chest. Not long after, Bat and Peacock run out of bullets. Mayor A.B. Webster runs up and sticks a Fox shotgun barrel in Bat's face. Learning from the mayor that his brother is alive, Bat surrenders and hands over his empty six-guns.

JIM MASTERSON

DAPPER BAT

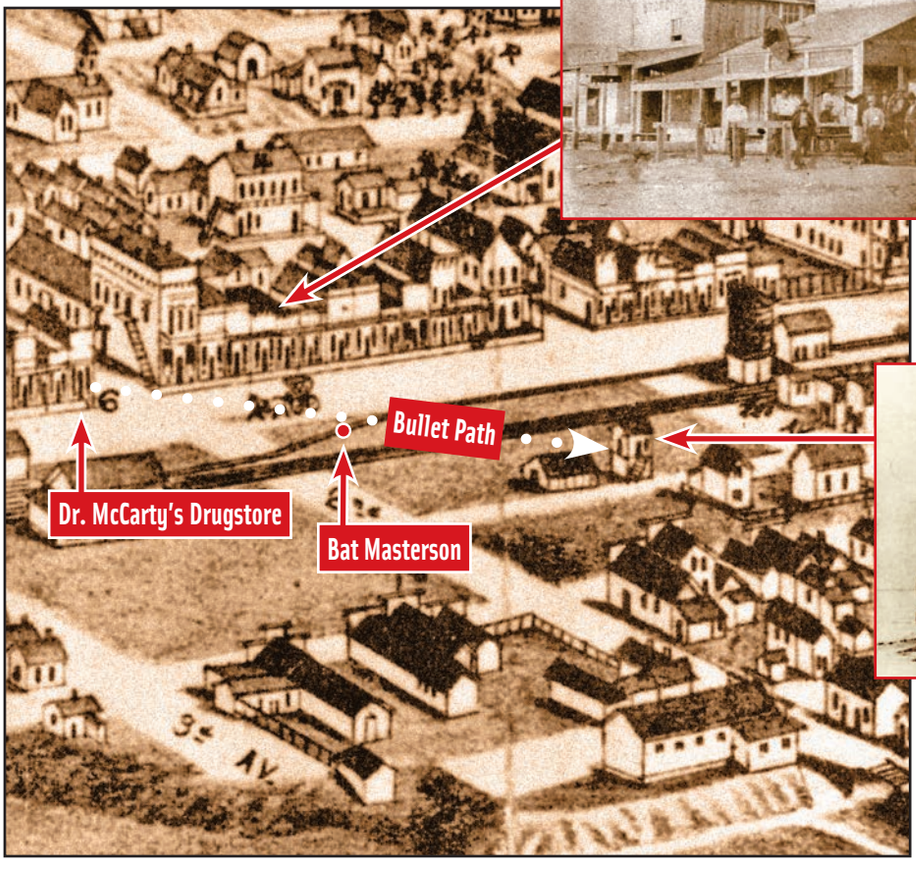
Even though he probably wore broad hats in the field, Bat Masterson had a preference for derbies, as shown in numerous photos. This dapper image of Bat is how he is most remembered.

Dodge City's Front Street, circa 1880, with a sign proclaiming, "The carrying of firearms strictly prohibited. Try Prickly Ash Bitters." The Long Branch Saloon is second to the right of the brick building, Wright, Beverley & Co. (The Alamo Saloon, owned by Dodge City Mayor A.B. Webster, is in between.)

Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

Street view of Luke Short's famous Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City, Kansas, circa 1875.

Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society



An artist's rendering of the first Dodge City jail. In 1876, a second-story addition was added, which housed the city clerk's office and police court.

True West Archives

HAM BELL'S VARIETIES, 1870s

The interior of Dodge City's premier dance hall on a slow day. Beyond the monte and faro tables, six couples prepare to "indulge in the giddy dance." At the far end of the building, a small, raised platform holds the band.

Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

THE TOMBSTONE KNIGHTS OF THE GREEN CLOTH

In the spring of 1881, Bat Masterson heeded the call from his friend Wyatt Earp and landed in the new boomtown of Tombstone. He joined the ranks of what was called "The Easterners," as opposed to "The Slopers," who were West Coast cardsharps from the west side of the Continental Divide or the West Slope of the Rockies. Wyatt convinced Masterson to come based on Earp's claim that faro dealers were making as much as $25 a week. (Cowboys earned on average $30 a month!) That's Wyatt Earp seated, and behind him are (from left) Doc Holliday, Luke Short, Morgan Earp and Bat Masterson.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

A hearing was held, and formal charges were brought against Bat Masterson. The complaint stated that "W.B. Masterson did...unlawfully, feloniously, discharge a pistol upon the streets of said city." Bat pleaded guilty and was fined $8 in costs. Jim Masterson dissolved his partnership with A.J. Peacock, and both brothers left town on the evening train. *Ford County Globe* claimed, "They were allowed to leave town, with the understanding that they were not to return."

Of course, Bat Masterson did return in April of 1883, to come to the aid of his friend Luke Short who had been harassed by the town fathers. The authorities arrested three "female singers" in Short's Long Branch Saloon. Other saloons were spared harassment. Short puts out the call to Bat Masterson, who in turn, summons Wyatt Earp and the rest of the Dodge City Gang, who converged on Dodge. Wyatt negotiated a satisfactory settlement for Short, and they all retired to a portrait studio to have their picture taken (see Dodge City Peace Commission, page 40).

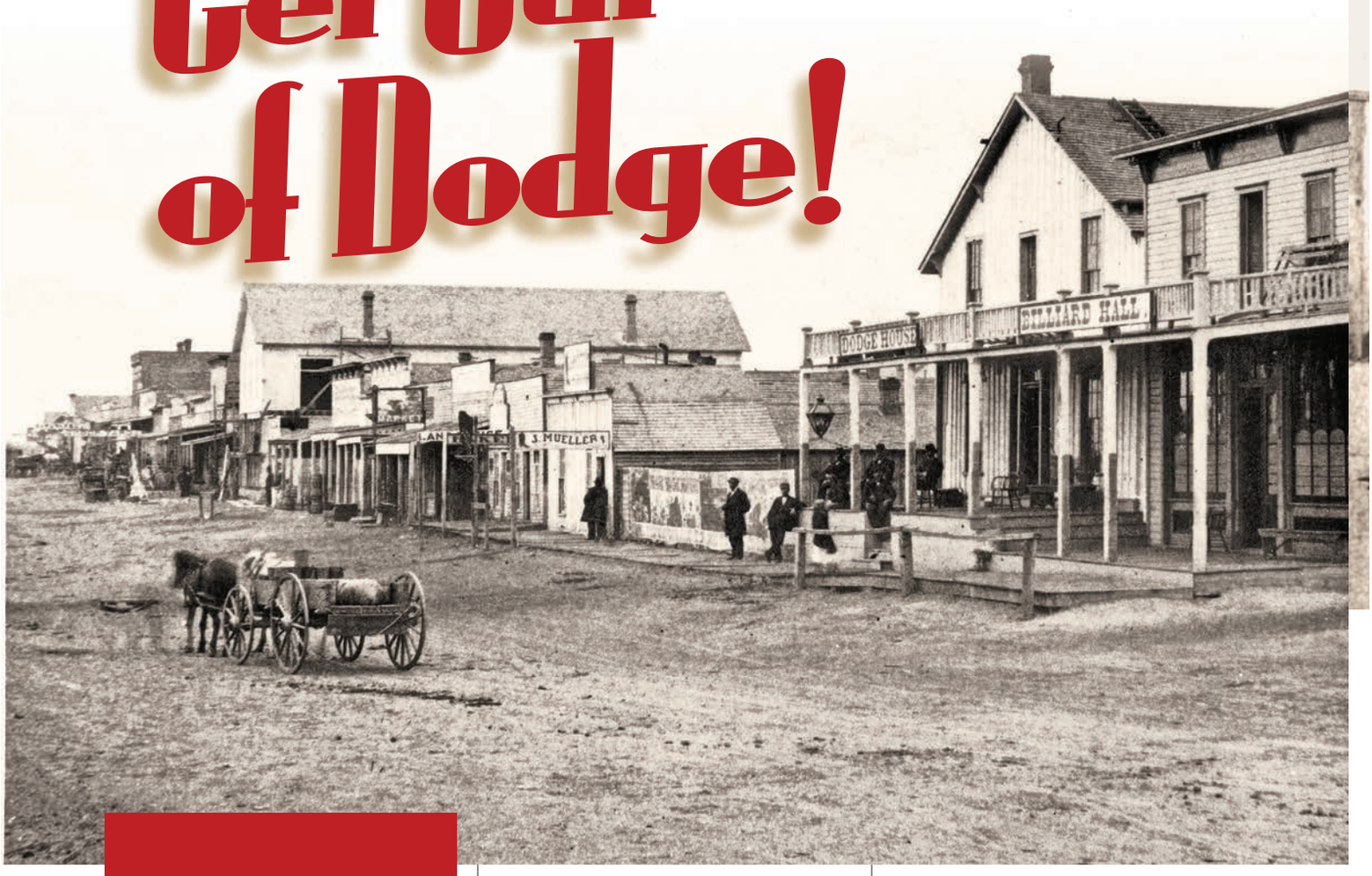
Al Updegraff insisted Bat hadn't shot him. Writing in his hometown paper, *Medicine Lodge Index* (later reprinted in *Ford County Globe*), Updegraff claimed, "We were then fired at by parties from the saloon doors on the north side of Front Street, from one of which I was shot through the right lung." Although he survived his chest wound, Updegraff died two years later, of smallpox.

After the Battle of the Plaza, Jim Masterson left Dodge City with his brother Bat. Jim worked in law enforcement in Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma until his death from tuberculosis at the age of 39 on March 31, 1895.

Recommended: *Bat Masterson: The Man and the Legend* by Robert K. DeArment, published by University of Oklahoma Press

BY PAUL ANDREW HUTTON

Get Out of Dodge!



SINCE DODGE CITY WAS FOUNDED 150 YEARS AGO, THE KANSAS COWTOWN IS STILL THE REIGNING QUEEN OF THE WEST.

"Queen of the Cowtowns" was the moniker historian Stanley Vestal bestowed on Dodge City, and the name stuck. The prairie town was certainly the most famous and longest lasting of the wild Kansas cattle towns that terminated the Chisholm and Western trails. Up from Texas came literally millions of long-horned cattle destined for the Kansas railheads and shipment east. They would feed a rapidly growing industrial nation.

Infamous in its own day as a frontier Gomorrah, Dodge City has lived on in popular culture as the toughest of all the Western boomtowns, thanks to books—by popular writers including Vestal, Stuart Lake, Odie Faulk and Tom Clavin—but especially because of film and television (even outshining its pop culture rivals Tombstone and Deadwood).

The town was founded in the summer of 1872 by Col. Richard Dodge, along with several Army

Far Left: Seven years after it was founded in 1872, Dodge City was a booming cattle and railroad town.

All Images Courtesy True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted.

When Col. Richard Dodge and associates founded Dodge City in 1872, the townsite was a rough-hewed buffalo hide village on the banks of the Arkansas River in southwestern Kansas.

After helping to found Dodge City, Bob Wright opened Wright, Beverley & Company, which quickly became the town's leading general store. "Ranch Supplies, Fine Groceries, and Family Provisions—Clothing in Suits Nobby and Modest, Stetson's Hats, in all the Latest Styles and Colors," declared a newspaper ad for the store. Wright died in 1915, two years after publishing his memoir *Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital*.

colleagues and post-sutler Robert Wright, on 87 acres of Ford County prairie near Fort Dodge in southwestern Kansas in hopes of capturing business traffic connected to the westward-building Santa Fe Railroad. With the arrival of the railroad the astute founders saw an opportunity to seize a portion of the lucrative Texas cattle trade.

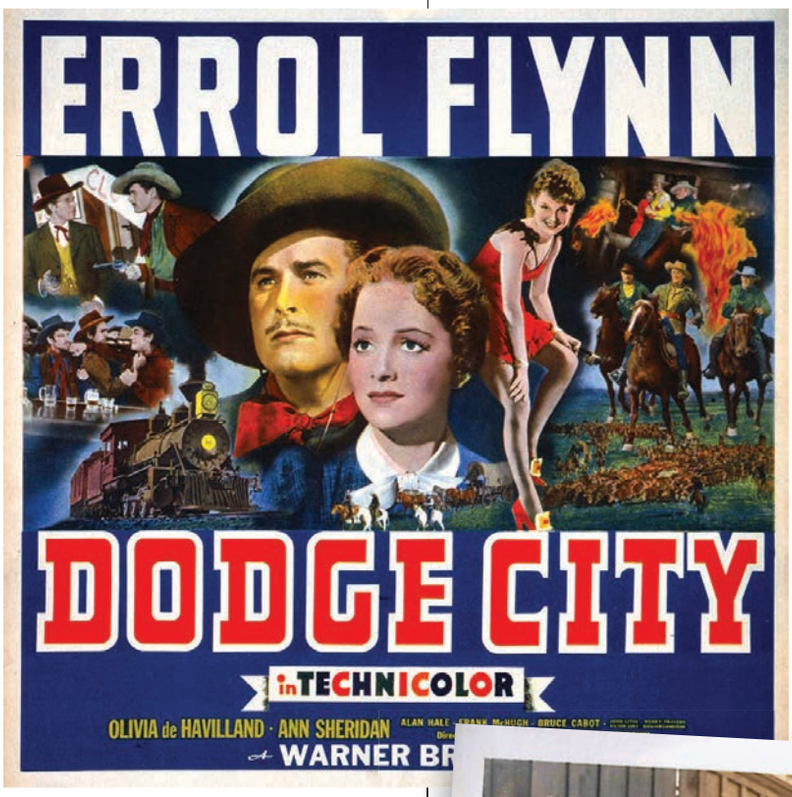
The rising political power of the grangers (organized farmers) had closed the eastern cattle towns—Abilene, Ellsworth, Wichita—to the Texas drovers. The farmers were outraged by the Texans trampling their fences and grazing their herds in their fields, and they were disgusted with the saloons, brothels, gambling houses and gunfights that marked the arrival of the herds at the end of the seasonal drives. They were especially nervous about Texas tick fever that was deadly to their cows, even though the sturdy longhorns were immune to it. Dodge and Wright, unconcerned by such trifles, sent riders south to urge the cattlemen to take a cutoff from the Chisholm Trail on the Cimarron River that led northwest to Dodge City.

It was the buffalo hide trade that first nourished the new town (200,000 hides shipped east in 1872 alone), but the spikes quickly played out. Wolf pelts, other furs and buffalo bones all sustained the local economy until the first herds arrived in 1876. The town was soon

In one of the most celebrated photographs in Western history, the "Dodge City Peace Commission" posed for Charles Conklin's camera on June 10, 1883. The men had all come to Dodge in answer to Luke Short's call for assistance when local authorities attempted to shut down his Long Branch Saloon. This show of firepower led to a quick, bloodless victory for Short and his partner William Harris in the so-called Dodge City War. An engraving of the image was reproduced in the *National Police Gazette* on July 21, 1883. Back (l. to r.): William Harris, Luke Short, Bat Masterson, William Petillon. Front (l. to r.): Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Frank McLean, Neil Brown.

booming with Wright operating its largest general store. Wright proved as able a politician as a businessman as he continually persuaded the state legislature to keep the tick quarantine line to the east of Dodge. During the cattle season the town overflowed with rowdy drovers, gamblers, prostitutes, con artists and a colorful cast of frontier characters including Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Doc Holliday, Luke Short and Ben Thompson. By the 1880s over half a million Texas cattle were annually being shipped eastward from the Dodge City stockyards. (Imagine the aroma.) Eventually the lure of the rich prairie soil (heavily fertilized by all those cows) brought in the inevitable farmers who demanded that the quarantine line be moved westward. When they finally succeeded in 1885, the golden days of Dodge City came to an end.

Dodge City was eventually rescued from sleepy obscurity by

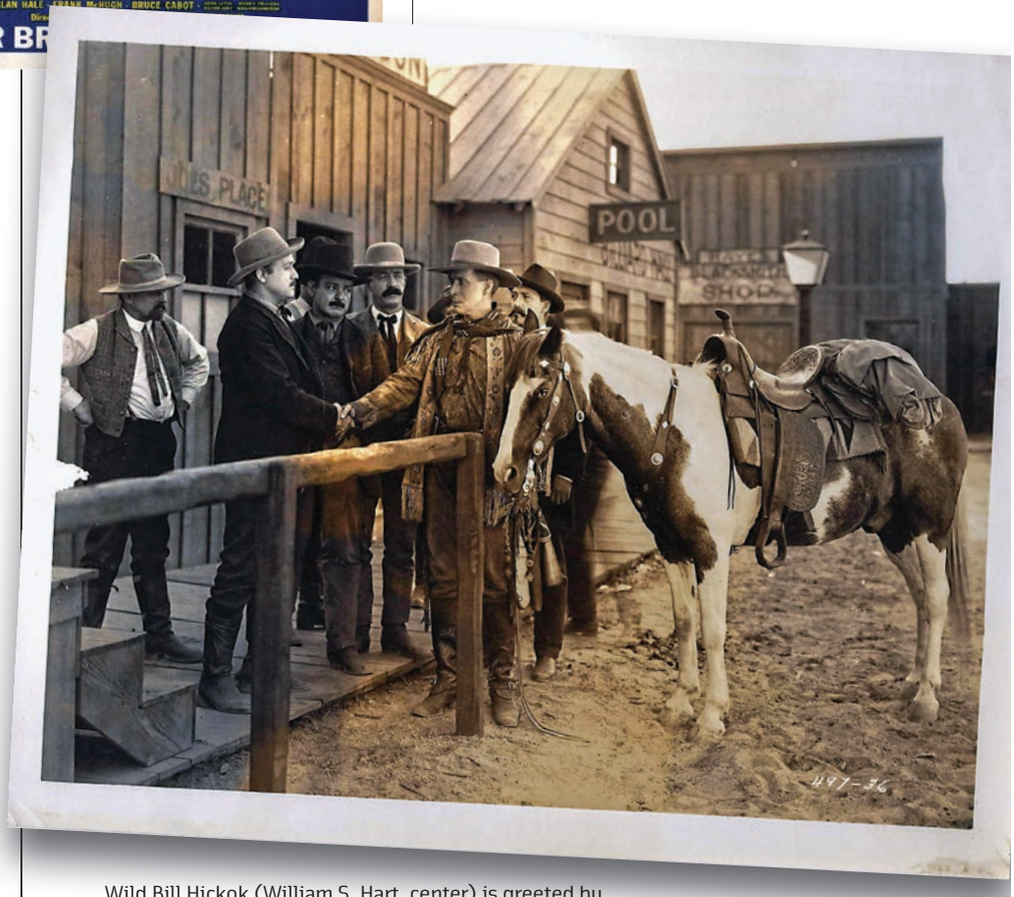


Dodge City was a big-budget Technicolor Western directed by Michael Curtiz. Errol Flynn, in his first Western film, must tame Dodge City as well as his costar, the beautiful Olivia de Havilland. The film was so successful they made two more Westerns for Warner Brothers—*Santa Fe Trail* and *They Died with Their Boots On*.

Courtesy Warner Brothers

some talented Western writers as well as a string of Western movies in which the likes of William S. Hart, Errol Flynn, Wild Bill Elliot, George Montgomery, Joel McCrea, James Stewart and Kevin Costner cleaned up the West's most lawless town. It was television, however, that firmly cemented Dodge City's place as the quintessential frontier town. On September 6, 1955, *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp* starring Hugh O'Brian premiered on ABC as television's first "adult" Western. Four nights later, *Gunsmoke*, starring James Arness as Marshal Matt Dillon, premiered on CBS.

Gunsmoke was based on a popular CBS radio program created by John Meston and Norman Macdonnell that aired from 1952 until 1961 (with William Conrad as Dillon). Dodge City, the most lawless town in the West, quickly had a surplus of stalwart TV lawmen to keep order (and they were joined in 1958 by Gene Barry in *Bat*

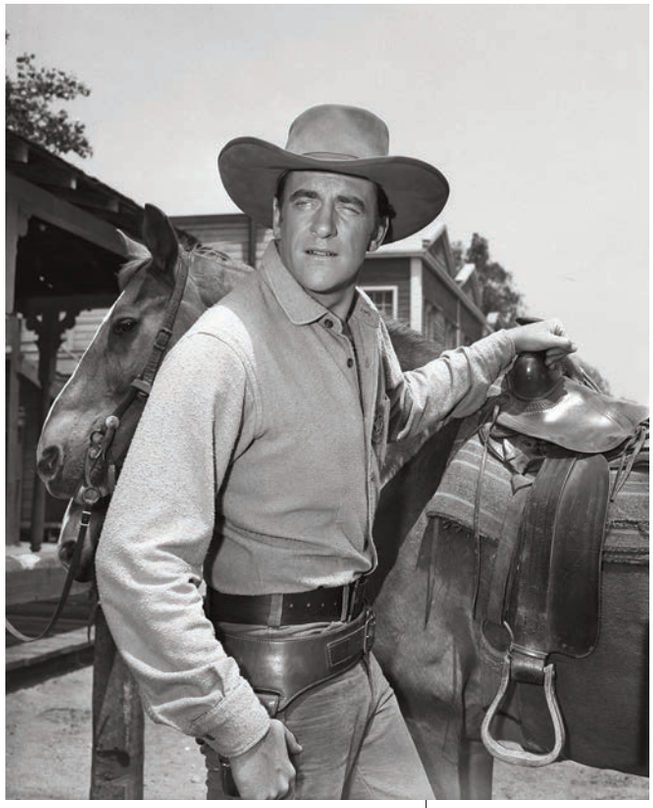


Wild Bill Hickok (William S. Hart, center) is greeted by Bat Masterson (Jack Gardner, shaking hands) and Wyatt Earp (Bert Lindley, fourth from left) upon his arrival in Dodge City in a scene from the 1923 Paramount silent film *Wild Bill Hickok*. This was the first film to depict Masterson and Earp. Hart knew both men.

Courtesy Paramount Pictures

Masterson on NBC, although the show was not set in Dodge). The shows were wildly popular and generated a host of toy guns, costumes, comics, children's books and play sets. The Wyatt Earp program, which aired until 1961, eventually left Dodge for Tombstone, but *Gunsmoke* ran for 20 seasons as Marshal Dillon continually told a host of unsavory characters to "get out of Dodge." That phrase eventually entered the American lexicon to mean to get away to avoid trouble. Thanks to *Gunsmoke*, which ended its 480-episode run in 1975, Dodge City's crown as the "Queen of the Cowtowns" rested firmly in place.

Paul Andrew Hutton is Distinguished Professor of history at the University of New Mexico. He is the author or editor of a dozen books, including the award-winning *Phil Sheridan and His Army* and *The Apache Wars*. He is currently writing a history of the American frontier movement, *The Undiscovered Country*, to be published by Dutton/Random House.



James Arness was recommended for the role of Matt Dillon by John Wayne, who also introduced the first episode of *Gunsmoke*. In the show Arness walked with a slight limp because of wounds suffered at Anzio in 1944. (He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.)

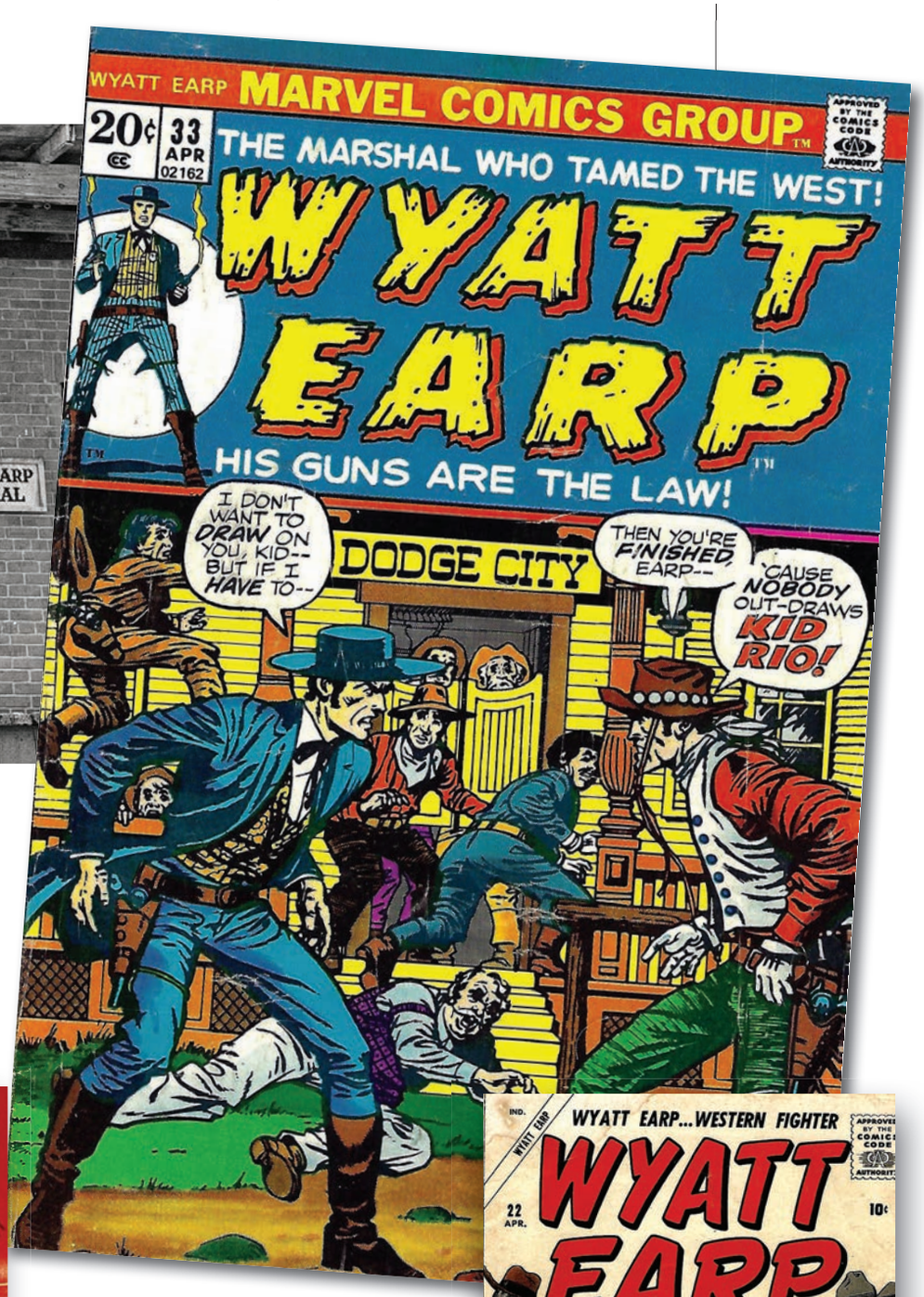
Courtesy CBS Television

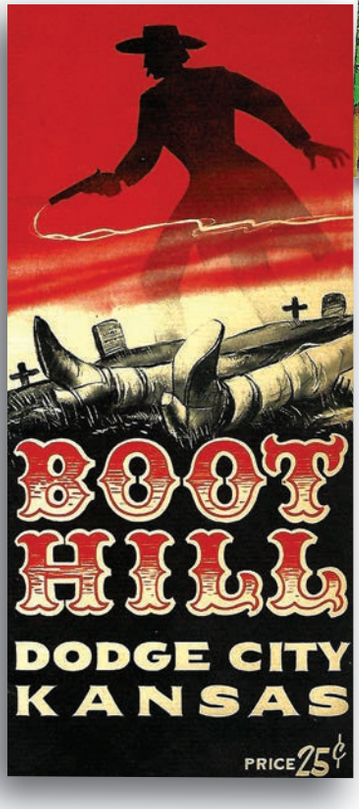
Dodge City was so clearly identified with lawlessness that it was often featured in the title of films that had little or nothing to do with the real town, such as these two Columbia Pictures Westerns: *Dodge City Trail* (1936) and *King of Dodge City* (1941).

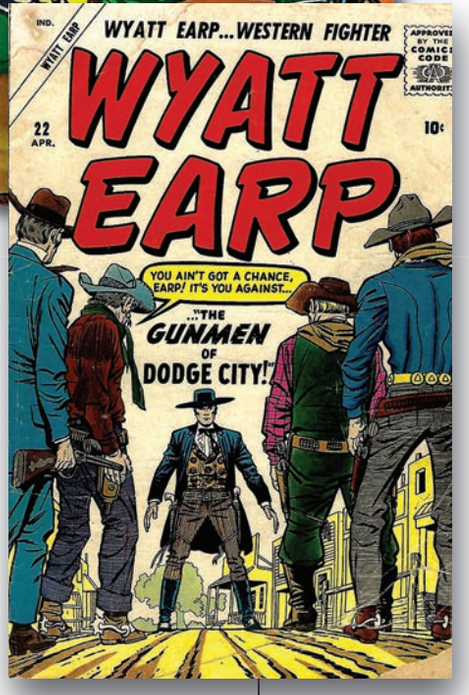
Posters Courtesy Columbia Pictures

Former marine drill instructor Hugh O'Brian (whose actual name was Hugh Charles Krampe) became an instant star in the role of Wyatt Earp upon the September 6, 1955, premiere of ABC's *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*.

Courtesy ABC Television







Baby boomer tots quickly fell under the spell of Hugh O'Brian and hurriedly replaced their Davy Crockett coonskin caps and flintlock rifle replicas with flat-topped Wyatt Earp cowboy hats and toy Buntline Specials. Comic book companies Marvel and Atlas, pictured here, rushed Wyatt Earp titles into print. Dell owned the rights to the official Hugh O'Brian comics, but the artwork in the other comic book series mimicked the square jaw and fancy duds of the TV hero.

Courtesy Paul Andrew Hutton Collection

This tourist brochure (left) from the 1950s touted the newly constructed replicas of old Front Street (with the cornerstone laid by Hugh O'Brian) and Boot Hill (featured in the opening sequence during the first seasons of *Gunsmoke*). The two TV shows led to a tourist boom for Dodge City.

Courtesy Paul Andrew Hutton Collection

BY MARK BOARDMAN AND DAVID KENNEDY

The West's Worst Shootout

The tragedy at Goingsnake left 11 men dead—and a lot of questions.

Ezekiel Proctor was a Cherokee and proud of it.

"Zeke" had walked the Trail of Tears from Georgia to the Indian Territory when he was a seven-year-old boy in 1838. He clung to the Cherokee language, culture and customs. He dealt with White folks, but he didn't have much use for them.

In 1872, the prosperous farmer and local lawman had a beef with one specific White man: his former brother-in-law, Jim Kesterson. Stories circulated of bad blood between them, a situation made worse when Kesterson abandoned Proctor's sister and kids for another woman.

Proctor confronted Kesterson at the Hildebrand Mill, just west of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He pulled a gun and opened up, but Kesterson's new woman, Polly Beck, got in the way and was killed.

The shooting would bring Proctor into another confrontation: with the U.S. Marshals Service.

Cherokee outlaw Ezekiel "Zeke" Proctor lived a traditional Cherokee life, which put him in direct opposition with his tribal kinsmen, the Becks.

Courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Waldon Collection

A Shocking Statistic

Formed in 1789 to enforce federal law, the U.S. Marshals Service suffered its first casualty five years later.

Between then and 1872, 11 other officers would die in the line of duty.

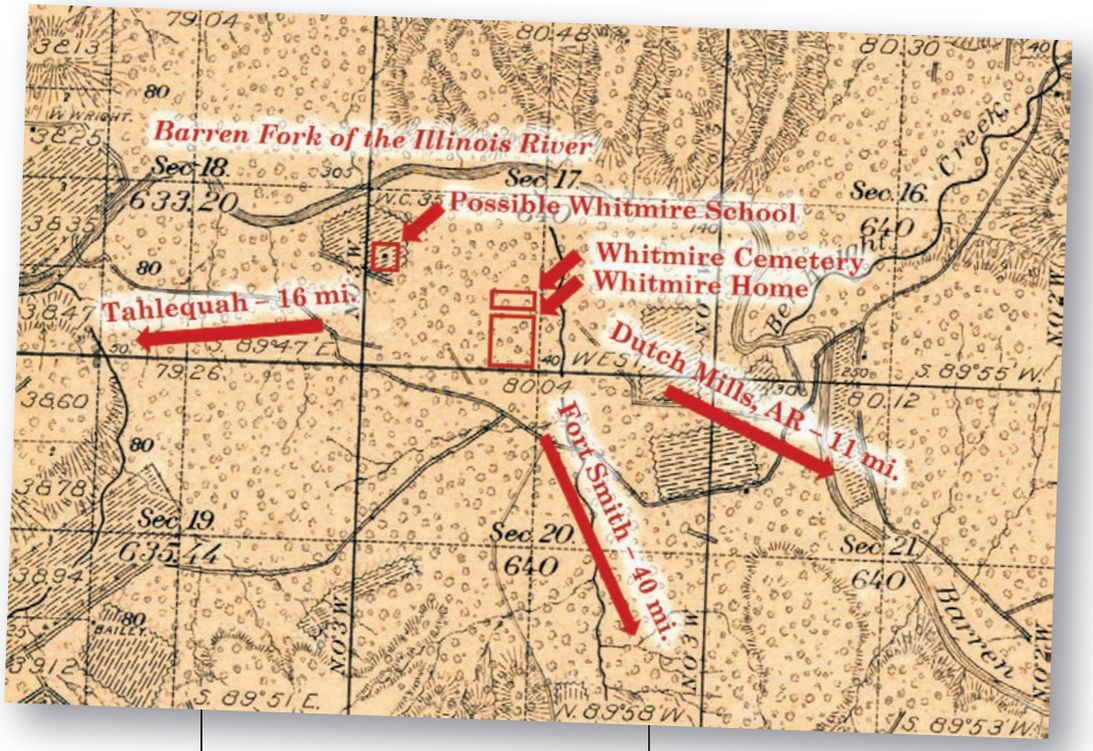
But the Indian Territory was bad ground for the U.S. marshals. Officially, between 1872 and Oklahoma statehood in 1907, a shocking 93 officers were killed there. Shocking because, to date, the U.S. Marshals Service has lost a total of 287 officers nationwide, meaning that nearly one-third of those killed lost their lives in the Indian Territory. The statistic is unmatched by any other place or any other period for line-of-duty deaths in American history.

The reasons for the disparity in the Indian Territory vary. Too few officers (200 or fewer) to patrol too large an area (more than 70,000 square miles). Many Indians didn't think highly of the authorities representing the White government. And hard cases of all races found the region fertile ground for illegal enterprises, which fostered an ongoing struggle to control land and power.

Serving as a deputy U.S. marshal in the Indian Territory proved to be a tough and dangerous job, as well as a thankless one. The pay was miserable; based on fees and expenses, a deputy could expect to make between $400 and $800 a year. The pay often arrived late, sometimes months after it was due. Many of the deputy U.S. marshals took on second jobs, in local law enforcement, with the Indian police or as railroad detectives. More than a few padded their expense and travel reports to get extra money. Some, including Bob, Grat and Emmett Dalton, turned to crime, either on the side or full-time.

Why would anybody take on such a job? U.S. Marshals Service historian David Turk says some men didn't want to be farmers or cowboys or merchants. "It was a job for the adventurous," he says.

But too often, the adventure turned tragic. That's what happened with Proctor and the Tragedy at Goingsnake.



A closeup view of the 1898 Survey Map illustrates the Goingsnake District of the Indian Territory. The Whitmire Home is where Zeke Proctor's murder trial was supposed to be held, but the legal proceeding was moved to the Whitmire School on the morning of the trial.

1898 Survey Map Courtesy David Kennedy

Who Decides if Proctor Dies?

A lot of folks wanted to make Proctor pay after he killed Polly. Her kinfolk wanted Proctor dead—in spite of the fact that he was related to the Becks. The Cherokees wanted to try him since Polly had been a member of the tribe. The U.S., pressured by the Becks, wanted him to pay with his life, since his intended victim, Jim Kesterson, was White. Those kinds of jurisdictional conflicts were common during the Indian Territory era. This particular conflict turned bad.

Proctor surrendered to the sheriff and asked for an immediate trial in the Cherokee courts. It was scheduled for April 15, 1872, in a house near present-day Christie, Oklahoma. But on the day of the trial, the proceedings were moved to a schoolhouse located in the Goingsnake District, which would give the upcoming incident its name.

Polly's kin were upset by the court arrangements. Too many of the locals were related to Proctor, including Cherokee Chief Lewis Downing. The Becks thought the only way to get justice, if they had to settle for that, was to have Proctor tried at the federal district court in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The U.S. authorities agreed. Deputy U.S. Marshals Jacob Owens and Joseph Peavey were assigned to retrieve Proctor.

But they made a bad decision. Knowing they might face some opposition, the officers put together a heavily armed posse of 15 men—featuring five members of the Beck clan who likely had blood, not arrest, on their minds.

The people attending Proctor's trial were also armed; some say that included the judge, the attorneys and the defendant.

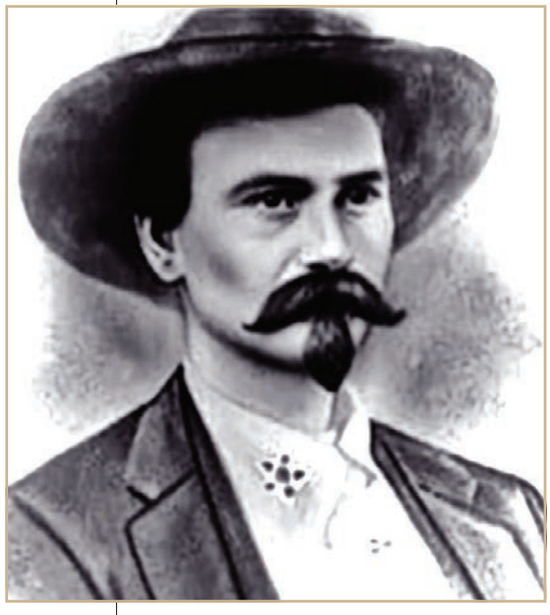
The two groups met when the posse approached the schoolhouse while the court was in session.

A Remarkable Force

The Indian Territory Marshals were remarkable for their time and place. Even before Isaac C. Parker took virtual control of justice in the region as federal judge for the Western District of Arkansas in 1875, people of color wore the badge.

Blacks, Indians, mixed races—color didn't matter that much when hiring the federal lawmen. Historian Art Burton, who has written extensively on Black and Indian territorial lawmen, estimates that upwards of 50 men of color served the U.S. Marshals Service in the region during the Old West period. Records aren't clear; race wasn't noted on enlistment or other employment documents.

During his 21 years on the bench, Judge Parker encouraged that hiring practice. Many of the Blacks and Indians had grown up in the territory. They knew the geography, the culture, the language and the people, giving them an on-the-job advantage, especially since the job was primarily "in the field." Most of the time, officers delivered legal notices and documents, investigated crimes, rounded up witnesses and transported them to court, and, of course,

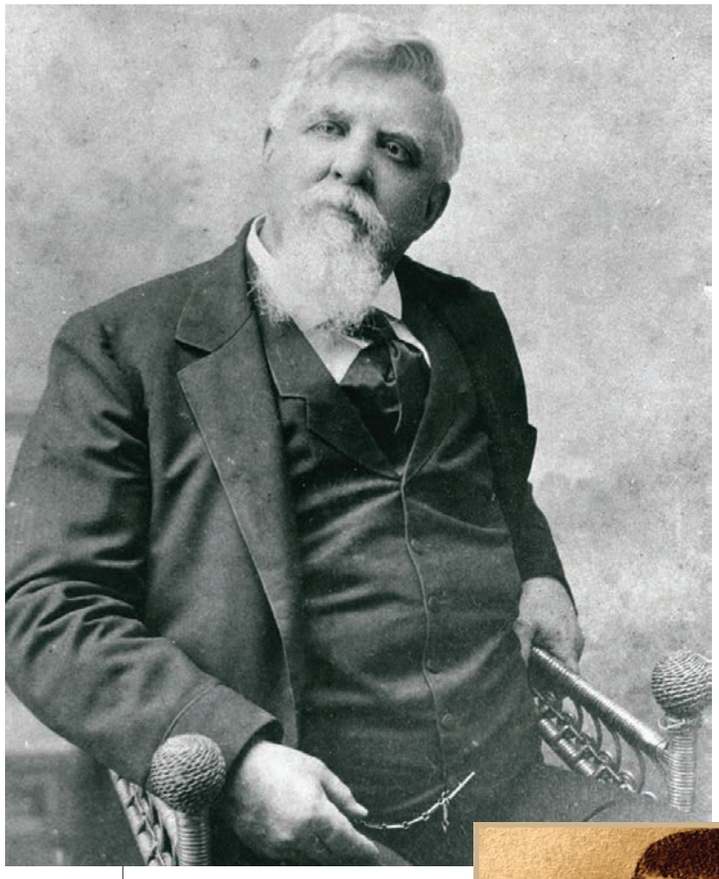


Surry Eaton "White Sut" Buck, nephew of Zeke Proctor's victim Polly Beck Kesterson, is supposed to be the Owens posse member who fired the first shots at the Goingsnake shootout at the Whitmire School. He was badly wounded in the shootout—but survived.

True West Archives

Judge Isaac C. Parker, the legendary judge who presided over the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas in Fort Smith, Arkansas, from 1875 to 1896, sentenced five murderers to death for killing federal marshals.

True West Archives



arrested suspects. They rarely had to deal with train or bank robbers.

Anecdotal evidence indicates the marshals frequently focused on the selling or manufacture of liquor (illegal in the territory), timber poaching, Whites settling on Indian lands, rustling and counterfeiting.

All of which makes the attempted arrest of Proctor a bit out of the ordinary. The result was even more strange.

An Arrest Gone Wrong

In many Old West gunfights, history is unclear on who fired the first shot, and little is known about the incident at the schoolhouse in Goingsnake.

When the posse rode up, court participants and attendees—about 15 people—heard them and gathered at the door and windows. Another 30 folks, mostly Proctor supporters, gathered outside. It's believed that posseman White Sut Beck tried to push inside the building to take a shot at the defendant. Proctor's brother Johnson pushed the barrel down just as the shotgun fired. Then the fight became general. Proctor reportedly fired away with a Spencer carbine. After a few minutes, when the smoke cleared, nine men were dead; two more died the next day.

The posse survivors made a hasty retreat eastward, followed closely by Proctor partisans.

Among those killed: eight members of the Marshals Service, including Deputy U.S. Marshal Owens, the largest single loss of life in the agency's history. Three on the other side ended up dead, among them Proctor's brother and his attorney.

Eleven more people were wounded, including Judge Blackhaw Sixkiller and Proctor.

Word of the disaster spread quickly.

The Marshals Service collected another posse to arrest the men who had killed their agents. The Cherokee court—attended by most of those wanted for taking part in the gunfight—reconvened the next day at a nearby house.

After a quick hearing and deliberation, the jury acquitted Proctor in the shooting of Polly.

Proctor headed to the hinterlands of the Indian Territory—reportedly accompanied by 50 heavily armed Cherokees.

Others from the erstwhile court also went into hiding until things had cooled off.

Federal authorities asked Chief Downing to turn over Proctor and the others for the marshals incident, but he refused, saying that the tribe would handle the matter. The tribe wanted to prosecute the surviving members of the posse, but federal officials were reluctant to hand them over. Finally, about 18 months after the tragedy, the two sides reached an agreement: charges against Proctor were dropped in exchange for the dropping of charges against the posse.

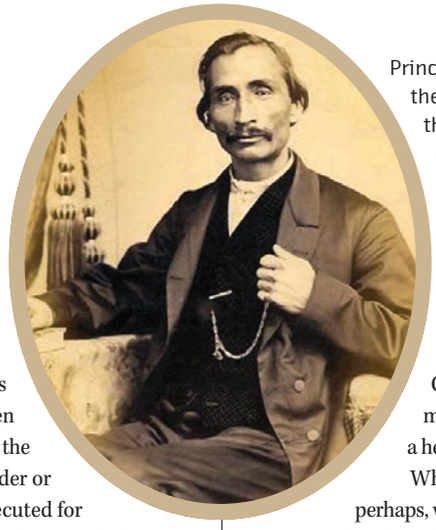
Nobody was tried for crimes committed during the Tragedy at Goingsnake.

Injustice Reigns Here

Many members of the Marshals Service died in the Indian Territory. For them, justice was hard to come by.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Jacob G. Owens led the posse of deputy U.S. marshals from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to arrest Proctor in Goingsnake and take him to be tried for murder in Judge Parker's federal court. A year earlier, Owens arrested Wyatt Earp for horse theft in the Indian Territory.

True West Archives



Principal Cherokee Chief Lewis Downing fought the federal government over jurisdiction in the Goingsnake shootout. He never saw the outcome of his legal challenges as he died of pneumonia seven months after the battle.

True West Archives

During Judge Parker's time on the bench, when 79 men were hanged for the capital offenses of murder or rape, only five were executed for killing marshals. A sixth, Crawford "Cherokee Bill" Goldsby, was convicted of killing a deputy U.S. marshal during an escape attempt, but he was hanged for another murder.

In case after case, killers went free—either they were never captured or juries acquitted them of their crimes. In other cases, assailants got off with light sentences. Notorious robber Henry Starr killed Deputy U.S. Marshal Floyd Wilson during an attempted arrest in December 1892. Starr finished the lawman off with a point-blank, coup de grace shot to the chest. After a number of appeals and reversals, the killer pled guilty to manslaughter and served five years in prison.

Of course, some of the killers were captured but never made it to Fort Smith alive.

Why the leniency?

Many jurors had little love for lawmen (they also disliked outlaws), and that may have played a part. In some cases, the killings occurred in such remote locations, with little evidence and no witnesses, that the jury could not be convinced to hand down a heavy penalty.

For the dead lawman, his loved ones would not receive a pension or insurance money. The government generally didn't pay for a funeral. And all too often, the family received no justice for the loss of a man who died while protecting the community at large.

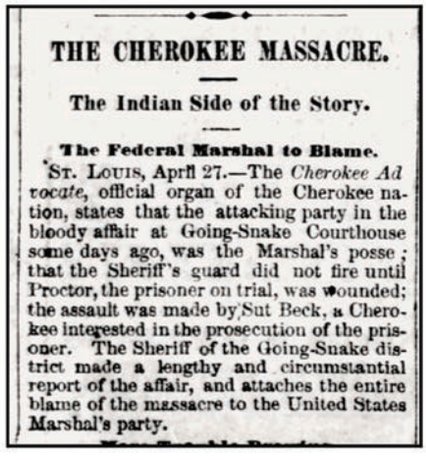
A Cherokee Hero

Proctor still had a mark left to make in the Indian Territory. He continued to serve as a local lawman. In 1877, his peers elected him to serve as Cherokee senator from the Goingsnake District. To many of his people, he was a hero.

What's most surprising, perhaps, was that in 1891, Proctor was hired as a deputy U.S. marshal, a post he held until around the turn of the 20th century.

He died of pneumonia in his own bed in February 1907; he was 76. His body was buried in a family plot, not far from where he had accidentally shot and killed Polly, and just a few miles away from the site of the Tragedy at Goingsnake.

Mark Boardman is the editor of *The Tombstone Epitaph* and Features Editor of *True West*. **David Kennedy** is curator of Collections and Exhibits at the U.S. Marshals Museum.



THE CHEROKEE MASSACRE.

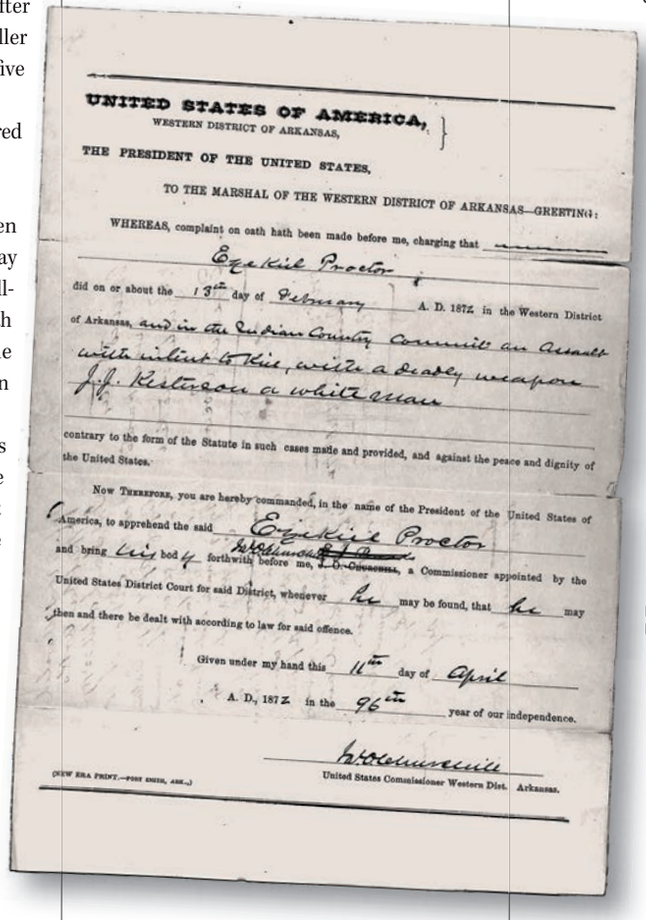
The Indian Side of the Story.

The Federal Marshal to Blame.

ST. LOUIS, April 27.—The *Cherokee Advocate*, official organ of the Cherokee nation, states that the attacking party in the bloody affair at Going-Snake Courthouse some days ago, was the Marshal's posse; that the Sheriff's guard did not fire until Proctor, the prisoner on trial, was wounded; the assault was made by Sut Beck, a Cherokee interested in the prosecution of the prisoner. The Sheriff of the Going-Snake district made a lengthy and circumstantial report of the affair, and attaches the entire blame of the massacre to the United States Marshal's party.

National reports on the Goingsnake massacre were not conclusive as to who was to blame for the killings, but it made coast-to-coast news in papers from California to New York.

"Nashville Union and American, April 18, 1872, News Clipping Courtesy Newspapers.com



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TO THE MARSHAL OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS—GREETING:

WHEREAS, complaint on oath hath been made before me, charging that Ezekiel Proctor

did on or about the 13th day of February A. D. 187Z in the Western District of Arkansas, and in the Indian Country, commit an Assault with intent to Kill, with a deadly weapon J.J. Ketterson a white man

contrary to the form of the Statute in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

Now THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded, in the name of the President of the United States of America, to apprehend the said Ezekiel Proctor and bring his body forthwith before me, [illegible], a Commissioner appointed by the United States District Court for said District, whenever he may be found, that he may then and there be dealt with according to law for said offence.

Given under my hand this 11th day of April A. D., 187Z in the 96th year of our independence.

United States Commissioner Western Dist. Arkansas.

(NEW ERA PRINT.—FORT SMITH, ARK.)

The U.S. federal warrant issued for Zeke Proctor in the killing of Polly Beck

Photo courtesy of Records of District Courts of the United States, 1685 - 2004, ARC ID:!201532; Record Group Number 21; The National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas

BY ART T. BURTON

THE WILDEST TOWN IN

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA'S EARLY YEARS AS A FRONTIER OUTPOST WERE VIOLENT, DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE.

Welcome to Muskogee, the rip-roaring and most dangerous locale west of the Mississippi River. Over the years I have read about Deadwood, Dodge City, El Paso, Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory and Tombstone, Arizona Territory. These towns were wild for four or five years; Muskogee of the Indian Territory was wild for over 40 years. There were over 130 deputy U.S. marshals killed in the Indian and Oklahoma territories during the frontier era, and most were killed within a 50-mile radius of Muskogee. There were also commissioned United States Indian policemen killed in the line of duty in the same locale. Muskogee and the surrounding counties saw more murders of federal lawmen than anywhere else on the Western frontier.

Indian Territory lawmen in Muskogee were ever vigilant to prisoners escaping and accompanied prisoners on their rail trips to federal prison. Circa 1890.

Muskogee was originally spelled Muscogee but was changed permanently as time went on. The town was situated near the locale known as "The Three Forks" of the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand rivers, near the borders of the Cherokee and Creek Indian nations. The original inhabitants were principally former enslaved Blacks of the Cherokee and Creek nations who lived near the river bottoms. The town itself took shape in 1872 with the arrival of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, called "The Katy" by locals along the rail line. Muskogee was a terminus or end-of-rail town, as they were called.

A Wicked Little Town

In January 1873, Edward King, a writer for *Scribner's Magazine* wrote an article on the frontier railroad. King interviewed George Reynolds, a Katy special agent in the Indian Territory. During the interview, Reynolds said: "Three men were shot about twenty feet from this same car in one night in Muskogee. Oh! This was a little hell, this was. The roughs took possession here in earnest.... There was no law here, and no means of getting any. As fast as the railroad moved on, the roughs pulled up stakes and moved with it.... It was next to impossible for a stranger to walk through one of these canvas towns without getting shot at. The graveyards were sometimes better populated than the towns next to them."

Indian Territory prisoners convicted of their crimes were processed at Muskogee and shipped to federal prison, possibly Leavenworth in Kansas. Circa 1890.

Writer King noted with curiosity Muskogee's cemetery, where 11 men were buried with their boots on. "Each grave," he wrote, "is a monument to murder."

One of the local outlaws present in Muskogee in 1872 was a mixed-blood Cherokee named Brad Collins. Collins was nearly white in appearance, a smuggler of whiskey, a desperado and a dead shot. It was said that he could throw a pistol in the air, causing it to make half a dozen turns, catch it as it fell and strike an apple at 30 paces. It was reported that other "shootists" in the Indian Territory were in awe of him.

In the spring of 1872, the athletic young Collins was under bond to appear at the May term of the federal court in Fort Smith, Arkansas, for shooting at a deputy United States marshal with intent to kill. Many excused him for a previous incident in which he had killed a deputy U.S. marshal because it was a private quarrel. Collins's gang included a dozen or more mix-blooded Cherokees.

At that time in the Indian Territory, crimes committed by Indians against Indian citizens were heard in the Cherokee or Creek Indian judicial courts. If a White man committed a crime or was the victim of a crime, the case was heard at the federal court at Fort Smith, which had jurisdiction over western Arkansas and all the Indian Territory. The court's jurisdiction covered 75,000 square miles and was the largest federal court in the U.S. at the time.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY

As a frontier town and a railroad terminus town, Muskogee was unique. Other terminuses quickly settled down to become quiet, respectable communities, or faded away altogether. Muskogee alone remained riproaring and lawless for 20 years or more.

Sam Sixkiller was the first captain of the United States Indian Police, Indian Territory.

Courtesy Old State House Museum

When the Katy Railroad reached The Three Forks in the fall of 1871, the United States agents for the Five Civilized Tribes were headquartered individually with their tribes. The Cherokee agent had his offices in Tahlequah; the Choctaw and Chickasaw agent was located at Boggy Depot; the Creek agent was located near Muskogee; and the Seminole agent was at Wewoka. On July 1, 1874, the government ordered the consolidation of these agencies, and thereafter the United States Agency for the Five Civilized Tribes was known as the Union Agency.

After two years of negotiations, the consolidated agency was finally located at Muskogee, and on or about January 1, 1876, the agent for the Five Civilized Tribes moved into a brand-new Union Agency building. The choice of Muskogee as headquarters for the land-wealthy Indian tribes was probably the decisive factor in Muskogee's survival.

The town of Muskogee was in the Muskogee District of the Creek Nation. Most of the Creek Lighthorse policemen for the Muskogee District were African Americans. The Blacks were former slaves or descended from former slaves of the Creek Indians, and they were known as Creek Freedmen or Indian Freedmen. There was bad blood between the Creek Freedmen and the Cherokee mixed-bloods. In Muskogee, on Christmas Day 1878, serious trouble broke out when some Black Creek Lighthorsemen disarmed John and Dick Vann, two young Cherokees from a prominent family. A lawless Texan passing through town attempted to put the Black officers in their place. He led the Cherokees in the gunfight that eventually cost the life of one of the Lighthorsemen and wounded three other Black officers.

In August 1879 another bloody gunfight took place in Muskogee: John Vann was killed and the Creek Lighthorse captain was wounded. Creek Chief Coachman decided to place a Lighthorse officer on guard in Muskogee proper. He ordered Richard Berryhill, the reliable and efficient captain of the Eufaula District, to undertake the work. But Berryhill protested that the assignment "Seems to me to be a severe one. If the town of Muscogee was really an Indian town I would not wait a moment, but as it is there are but few Indians there. I am more than willing to serve my people but the way things are I don't see how I am to risk my life for non-citizens."

Muskogee was principally a "cow town" during its early years. The town was part of the Shawnee Cattle Trail which went along the route that had been known as the Texas Road. Muskogee also had Katy Railroad cattle pens for shipping, which meant that cattle and cattlemen were big business in the community. Cattle theft was always a problem in the frontier Muskogee area for lawmen, both Indian and federal.

In February of 1880, Col. John Q. Tufts, United States agent for the Union Agency at Muskogee, I.T., organized a unit of Indian police to operate throughout the Five Civilized Nations. Agent Tuft's organization of Indian policemen consisted of 30 members, one-third of whom were Cherokees. Their duties were to preserve order, arrest thieves and violators of U.S. law, suppress the whiskey traffic and execute the orders of the Indian agent. They were stationed at different points within the jurisdiction of the Union Agency and were on duty wherever found.

Henry Sixkiller, United States Indian Policeman, Indian Territory

Deadly Streets of Muskogee

The first chief of the Union Agency police, and most famous Indian policeman in the history of the Indian Territory, was Capt. Sam Sixkiller. He was assisted by his brother Henry Sixkiller on the U.S.I.P. as it was known in the territory. Muskogee itself was the foremost responsibility of Captain Sixkiller since the Union Agency was headquartered there. Sixkiller also held a commission as a deputy U.S. marshal and a special agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, which had recently built a line through the territory. Sixkiller's problem centered around bootleggers, cattle thieves, murderers, rapists, timber thieves, White intruders, train robbers, card sharks and prostitutes following the railroad towns.

Sixkiller was outstanding in his law enforcement work but was killed while off duty in Muskogee on Christmas Eve of 1886. Two Cherokee desperados caught the unarmed Sixkiller on the streets of Muskogee and filled him with pistol and shotgun fire until he fell dead. Sixkiller's successor as captain of the Union Agency police, William Fields, lasted only three months before he was shot to death.

In 1888, Bud Kell, a Cherokee who was a well-known and noted deputy U.S. marshal for the Fort Smith federal court and a sergeant in the United States Indian Police at Union Agency, was made Muskogee's first city marshal. Kell was hired by the business community of Muskogee.

In 1889 the Fort Smith court's jurisdictional land area was broken up. Muskogee was selected as the first court in Indian Territory. They only had jurisdiction over minor crimes; major crimes were referred to Fort Smith. Most of the law enforcement for the Muskogee area was done by deputy U.S. marshals assigned to the Fort Smith federal court. In July of

The deputy U.S. marshals assigned to Muskogee from 1889 to 1907 and the Indian Police of the neighboring Indian Territory nations covered a vast territory in their attempts to enforce the overlapping laws of the federal government and the Indian Nations.

Courtesy Library of Congress

1893, a deputy U.S. marshal named Sherman Russell from the Fort Smith court was killed at Muskogee while trying to deliver an arrest warrant. The fugitive was never apprehended.

By 1897 the federal court at Muskogee had full coverage for the Northern Federal District for Indian Territory. The U.S. marshal for the court was Leo E. Bennett. One of the deputies assigned to the court that year was the legendary Black Fort Smith Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, who earlier had worked for the federal court at Paris, Texas. The town of Muskogee was incorporated in March of 1898, and at the same time its first municipal police department was formed.

In 1902, the two deputy U.S. marshals assigned to Muskogee were Bass Reeves and a White man named David Adams. For the most part Adams served as Reeves's posse. Although Muskogee had a municipal police department because it was part of the Indian Territory, most of the work fell on the U.S. marshals' office for criminal activity in and around Muskogee. In May 1902, Reeves and Adams went to the nearby town of Braggs in the Cherokee Nation and arrested 24 men for being involved in a race war. They arrested 15 White men and nine Black men without any resistance and brought the prisoners to the federal jail in Muskogee.

The biggest gunfight in Muskogee took place the same year as statehood in 1907. A group of Black anarchists called the United Socialist Club led by preacher William Wright took over a large two-story house in Muskogee and said they didn't have to pay rent. On March 26, 1907, two city policemen, John Colfield and Guy Fisher, were dispatched to serve eviction warrants. The policemen were attacked; Fisher was wounded in the shoulder and Colfield was shot in the chest. Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Bud Ledbetter, along with a large group of lawmen, both city and federal, arrived at the house. During the intense gunfight Ledbetter was identified as killing two of the anarchists, and Bass Reeves killed one and wounded another. Paul Smith, a Black city officer, killed one of the desperadoes and in doing so saved Bud Ledbetter's life during the gunfight. Another Black city officer involved was R.C. Cotton. Of the socialist group in the gunfight, five were killed and seven were arrested.

As a frontier town Muskogee was well integrated with no segregated housing between Blacks, Whites and Indians. Everyone shopped downtown at stores and businesses owned by various ethnic groups. There were two Black business districts in Muskogee that were popular with all the residents of the town. Muskogee became the federal headquarters for the Dawes Commission which broke up Indian lands held in common and parceled out allotments to Indians and Indian Freedmen before Oklahoma statehood in November of 1907.

Muskogee was a wild frontier town for many years with legendary lawmen like Bass Reeves, Bud Ledbetter, Bud Kell and Sam Sixkiller to keep the peace. We have heard about Tombstone, Deadwood, Dodge City and El Paso, but we have to add Muskogee of the Indian Territory to the list of Western frontier towns of note. Muskogee was the cow town, end-of-rail town, wild West town that was too tough to die.

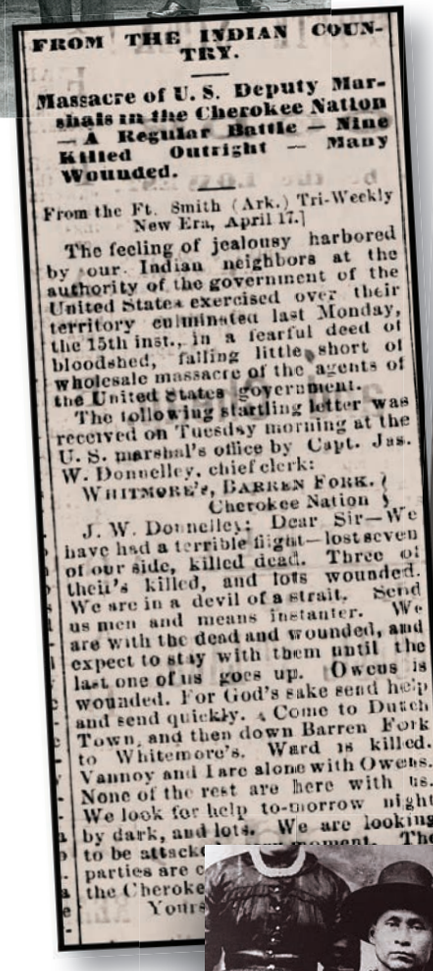
Indian Police Sgt. Bud Kell; John C. West, the last captain of the U.S. Indian Police and the last city marshal of Muskogee, Indian Territory; shown with an unknown officer, were legendary for their enforcement of the law in and around the Creek Nation city 122 years ago.

Art T. Burton, a retired college history professor, is the biographer of lawman Bass Reeves and outlaw Cherokee Bill. Burton's research has shed light on frontier individuals who have received little press. He has appeared in many television documentaries on the Western frontier and the Old West.

Editor's Note: *True West*'s Executive Editor **Bob Boze Bell** will be the keynote speaker for the 2022 Bass Reeves Western History Conference in Muskogee, Oklahoma, July 21, 22 and 23.

The federal law enforcement team in Muskogee, Oklahoma, was in attendance on the first day of statehood, November 16, 1907. Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves is at the far left, U.S. Marshal Leo E. Bennett, center rear, and Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Bud Ledbetter is in the front center.

An undated photo shows United States Indian Police Force Captain Charles LeFlore (right, with an unknow U.S.I.P. policeman), who was headquartered in Muskogee, and served as deputy U.S. marshal. He served in law enforcement from 1883 to 1905, overseeing the first federal hanging in Muskogee on July 1, 1898.



FROM THE INDIAN COUNTRY.

Massacre of U. S. Deputy Marshals in the Cherokee Nation —A Regular Battle — Nine Killed Outright — Many Wounded.

From the Ft. Smith (Ark.) Tri-Weekly New Era, April 17.]

The feeling of jealousy harbored by our Indian neighbors at the authority of the government of the United States exercised over their territory culminated last Monday, the 15th inst., in a fearful deed of bloodshed, falling little short of wholesale massacre of the agents of the United States government.

The following startling letter was received on Tuesday morning at the U. S. marshal's office by Capt. Jas. W. Donnelley, chief clerk:

WHITMORE'S, BARREN FORK, Cherokee Nation

J. W. Donnelley: Dear Sir—We have had a terrible fight—lost seven of our side, killed dead. Three of their's killed, and lots wounded. We are in a devil of a strait. Send us men and means instanter. We are with the dead and wounded, and expect to stay with them until the last one of us goes up. Owens is wounded. For God's sake send help and send quickly. Come to Dutch Town, and then down Barren Fork to Whitemore's. Ward is killed. Vannoy and I are alone with Owens. None of the rest are here with us. We look for help to-morrow night by dark, and lots. We are looking to be attack... parties are c... the Cheroke... Yours...

BLOODY WORK.

A Fight in the Cherokee Nation Between U. S. Marshals and Indians—Eleven Men Killed!

A desperate fight occurred in the Cherokee Nation, a short distance from Cincinnati in this county, on Monday last, between Deputy U. S. Marshals and some citizens of the Nation, the particulars of which are about as follows:

Some time since an Indian shot and killed a woman in attempting to kill her husband. He was arrested and Monday last was fixed for the trial. The friends of the murdered woman believing that the murderer would be acquitted, applied to the U. S. Marshal for a force to arrest and take him to Fort Smith for trial on a charge of attempting to kill the man. Deputy Marshals Peevey and Owen were ordered to take a possee of men and make the arrest. Arriving at the place of trial they found the case undergoing an examination. They dismounted from their horses and started to the house to await the result of the trial. When arriving at the door, the friends of the prisoner, who were in the house, commenced to cock their guns, immediately after which the firing commenced on both sides. The fight lasted but a few moments, yet was a horrible affair. Eleven men were killed, and thirteen wounded. Of the Marshals' possee eight were killed and three wounded, Deputy Marshal Owen being among the number wounded. Capt. Peevey's squad remained in the open field during the fight, while the Indians were in the house and fired through the cracks. Most of the Marshals' possee were half-breed Indians. The prisoner, his council and the Judge were all wounded. Capt. Peevey says that his men, knowing they had several friends in the house, were afraid to fire into the building. Capt. Peevey arrived in this city on Tuesday evening with one of his party, a half-breed, wounded in the shoulder, who had to be moved from the Nation, as the full-bloods had threatened to hang him.

This is the most desperate fight that has yet occurred in the Nation between ...d the citizens. Where this will end none can tell.

Timmie Jack,
Creek Lighthorse Policeman,
Creek Nation

BY MIKE COPPOCK

ALASKA'S WILD WEST

ADVENTURE AND HISTORY AWAIT DISCOVERY ACROSS THE LAST FRONTIER STATE.

During and after the height of the Alaskan, Yukon, Nome and Klondike gold rushes of the late 1890s and early 1900s, the Treadwell Mine on Douglas Island southeast of Juneau produced some of the greatest wealth in gold in the history of the Frontier State.

Courtesy Yale University

Several years ago, I was a long-term substitute teacher in the Yup'ik Alaska village of Akiak when the generator broke down. It was February and the village had no heat and no lights. I crawled into my sleeping bag wearing my coat, a little worried about hyperthermia. The forecast called for a low of minus 30.

I was drifting in and out when I heard barking. Wolves were coming in for the dogs. Lights usually kept the wolf pack from entering the village, but the easy meal the dogs made was too hard for the wolves to resist now that the village was pitch black. Suddenly a shotgun blasted, followed by another. Yup'iks were not about to lose part of their dog teams to wolves.

I got up around 6 a.m. trudging through snow to the school to get ready for my class. The air was crisp to the point of being painful. Moonlight was illuminating my breath. I heard a chopping sound. I could make out an elderly woman to my left wearing everything she could find to stay warm as she chopped firewood for heat and cooking.

My replacement flew in that afternoon, and I showed him around the village. He thought he saw a caribou skin stretched out across the side of a cabin. It looked odd to me until we got closer. It was a wolf pelt. There was a Native woman in the doorway braving the cold for a smoke. She said a hunter had brought it in from the tundra a few days earlier. Another woman had taken it into her cabin, thawed and skinned it, and then tacked it up to dry.

When we walked away, my replacement asked if I ever planned to come back to Alaska. I always come back, I said. It is as close as I can ever get to how the Old West really was.

The legendary criminal activity of Alaska's most famous outlaw and saloon proprietor Soapy Smith ended in a deadly shootout on the docks of Skagway, Alaska, on July 8, 1898.

Courtesy Library of Congress

THE YUKON BECKONS ADVENTURERS

People come to Alaska to experience a past that built their national character, constructed the American DNA.

Poet Robert Service described those who went to Alaska as a "race of men who don't fit in." A friend living in Denali said Alaskans are the wanted and the unwanted. They were men and women who only felt comfortable living on the edge of society, moving farther and farther out until they fell off the map.

Robert Service was one of these wanderers. In 1904, he was northbound for Yukon Territory when he got off at Juneau for a few days. He wandered into a watering hole called the Missouri, today's downtown Imperial Saloon, lingering long enough to witness a gunfight. It became the basis for his poem "The Shooting of Dan McGrew."

In 1897, Wyatt Earp got out of Wrangell, Alaska, after being marshal for only 10 days during the Klondike Gold Rush. The Soapy Smith gang had chased out the previous lawman, and while passing through en route to the Klondike, Earp agreed to take the job until the new marshal arrived. Once the lawman stepped off the boat, Wyatt and Josie were out of there, bound for Dawson City. The Earps would winter in Rampart, as the Yukon River was frozen over. They would make it to Nome in 1898.

By the docks and down the street from Juneau's Imperial Saloon, the Red Dog Saloon has the legendary "Wyatt Earp pistol" mounted on the wall. While the Smith & Wesson No. 3 has

In the fall of 1900, Wyatt Earp (center) was photographed with Norwegian frontiersman Ed Englestadt (at left) and former *Tombstone Epitaph* editor John Clum (at right), who was in Nome, Alaska Territory, to run the postal service. In the summer of 1900, Earp and Clum met up in Nome with their old Tombstone friend, George W. Parsons, who recorded their visits together in his diary.

True West Archives

This photograph by Alaska prospector George Max Esterly of Chilkoot Pass captures the climb of prospectors daring the dangerous and rugged trail north to the Yukon River and Klondike goldfields.

Courtesy Yale University

attracted notoriety for a century, Earp and Josie were a 1,000 miles away in Nome. Nearby, the Alaskan Hotel was opened during the gold rush. The owners tied the front door keys to a balloon, releasing it into the air declaring the Alaskan would never close. It never did, but locals believe it is haunted by those who failed to earn passage home.

Over the bridge to the town of Douglas, one can walk the ruins of the Treadwell Mines, once the richest gold mine in the world. Take the state ferry LeConte to the town of Tenakee Springs. The actual hot springs is next to the wharf. Gold rush miners wintered here for years with their "winter wives," prostitutes who cohabitated with miners in winter, keeping house for a cut of their gold.

Or take the ferry north to Glacier Bay. Besides lodges, there are campgrounds within the park. Here John Muir did studies in 1879 on glaciers while crying out for the preservation of Alaska. Army Lt. Charles Erskine Scott Wood discovered Glacier Bay in 1877 after being chased here by a rare Glacier bear. He had been guiding the Charles Taylor Expedition to the 18,008-foot Mount St. Elias, then believed to be the highest peak on the continent.

Taylor finally gave up returning to Sitka. His Tlingit porters scattered when they saw the Glacier bear, no relation to Canada's creamy white Kermode "ghost bear." Wood played medicine man for the Huna Tlingits before returning to Sitka with the chief's daughter. Two years later, he was in Montana standing next to Gen. O.O. Howard recording Chief Joseph's immortal words, "From where the Sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

During the early decades of Alaska's territorial years in the late 19th century, the system of roadhouses, such as Kennedy's Roadhouse along the New Governor Trail in Thomson Pass, were a key to the survival of weary travelers and prospectors. Today, historic and modern roadhouses still offer welcome respite to travelers.

Courtesy Library of Congress

In the late 1880s, tourists began to travel to Alaska, as seen here on deck of a steamship in the inland passage near Muir Glacier.

Courtesy Yale University

National Park Service employees spot the rare Glacier bears now and then around the famed bay. There is also one mounted in the lobby of the Sitka airport.

Continuing north, Haines is the home to the 4,000-acre Fort William Seward. The last of 11 forts built in Alaska during the Gold Rush, Fort William Seward, with its 85 wood frame structures, also served as a deterrent during the border dispute with Canada that was not resolved until 1903. Haines is also the starting point for the Dalton Trail. The trail served as a freighting route to the Klondike in 1899. Constructed by Jack Dalton, along with a series of trading posts, it was a toll road, enforced by Dalton's six-shooters.

JEWEL OF FRONTIER ALASKA

The gem of Western lore, though, is Skagway.

A young Jack London landed in Skagway in 1897. He found Skagway to be made up of muddy streets lined with tents and shacks. Gunfire filled the air. Prostitutes conducted business in public view. North West Mounted Police Superintendent Samuel Steel called Skagway "little better than a hell on earth."

London and others found refuge inside the Red Onion Saloon, still in operation today. It had been a brothel as well back then. A patron would choose one of 10 dolls behind the bar. When he went upstairs with one of girls, the bartender would lay the doll down to show that the girl it represented was occupied.

An epic land like Alaska needed an epic outlaw. Skagway's Jefferson "Soapy" Smith filled the bill. A con man from Colorado, Smith with his gunmen controlled a number of Skagway's saloons as well as in Wrangell. They robbed would-be millionaires along the Dead Horse Trail leading to the Klondike.

Smith made the con game an art form. He opened a visitor's bureau handing out free maps with campsites marked. His men then waited at the marked campsites to rob them.

His best scam was the Dominion Telegraph, which amounted to an office with a copper wire running from it to a tree a mile out of town. For five dollars, people arriving could send word home they had made it. There was always a reply: A fake message telling the sender things were bad back at home asking for money to be wired immediately to help out, which they usually did from the fake telegraph office.

Smith's stealing and killing caused returning prospectors to avoid Skagway, reducing business for others in town. A citizens' meeting was held, and engineer Frank Reid and Jesse Murphy agreed to do the deed. On July 8, 1898, at 9:15 p.m., Smith, Murphy and Reid shot it out on the Juneau Wharf. Reid wounded the con man Smith, and Murphy finished Smith off with a shot in the heart. Before he was killed, Smith got Reid in the groin. Soapy died instantly from Murphy's fatal shot, while Reid died days later in intense pain.

Both are buried in the Skagway cemetery along with prospectors and ladies of the evening.

Others who walked Skagway's wooden boardwalks include madams Honora Ornstein, known as Diamond Lil Davenport, and Mattie Silks; Sid Grauman, who later opened his Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles with Klondike gold; Wilson Mizner,

Ice was always a hazard to steamers, such as the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's *Queen*, circa 1891, which traversed Alaska's Glacier Bay in the summer, with ports of call for travelers and tourists at Wrangel, Juneau, Glacier Bay and Sitka.

Courtesy Yale University

who opened L.A.'s Brown Derby; Augustus Mack, who founded Mack Trucks; and Wild West showman/gunman Charlie Meadows.

Capt. Jack Crawford, the Poet Scout of the West, who rode with Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, went through Skagway to the Klondike Gold Rush sporting a white goatee, long hair and a buckskin shirt and ended up selling everything from ice cream to hay out of his store in Dawson called The Wigwam. The Klondike reminded him so much of the Old West he wrote his old friend Buffalo Bill about coming north to participate in all the fun.

Nearly all of Skagway's gold rush buildings are still standing, including the Red Onion and Soapy's saloon along with the impressive Arctic Brotherhood Hall constructed from 8,800 pieces of driftwood, all part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

The Earps made it to Juneau but turned around and returned to San Francisco after Josie had a miscarriage. But Wyatt decided to make another go for Alaska, this time on the derelict freighter

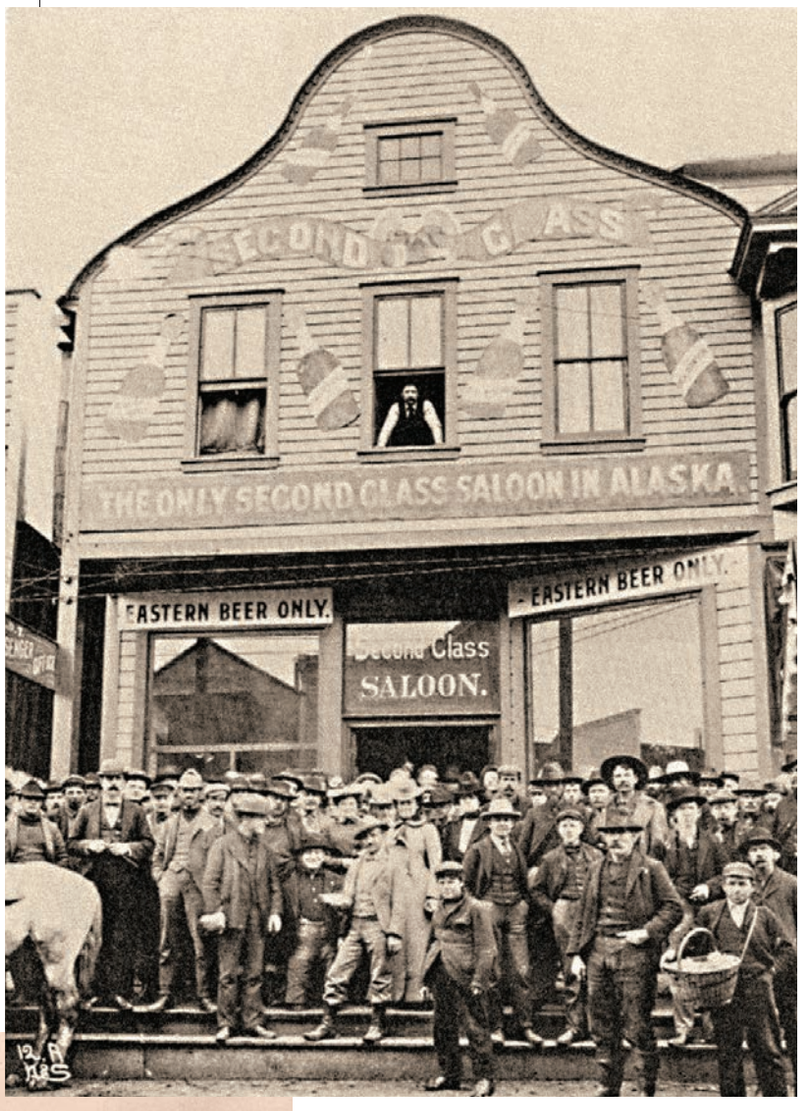
S.S. Brixom. Sadie boasted that Wyatt helped put down a mutiny before changing ships at Dutch Harbor. At Saint Michael, they took a riverboat bound for the Klondike, but became iced in until sourdough legend Al Mayo rescued them and had them stay over the winter. At Mayo's, they met Tex Rickard, future Madison Square Gardens owner; noted bootlegger Charlie Hoxie; and soon-to-be novelist Rex Beach.

Spring found the Earps back at Saint Michael with Wyatt managing a canteen selling cigars and beer until Hoxie's and Rickard's letters enticed them to the Nome Gold Rush. The Saint Michael cabin the Earps lived in is still in use as a residence today. In Nome, Wyatt partnered with Hoxie to open the only two-story Dexter Saloon in Alaska. Earp and Rickard staged boxing matches when the long winter hit, along with drinking contests and food drives. Earp was on the watch committee keeping an eye out for claim jumpers and was arrested once for interfering with a local law officer.

Legend has it the Earps left Nome (and Alaska) in 1900 with $85,000 when Earp sold out his piece of the Dexter. It was Wyatt's most successful venture—ever.

While Wyatt and Josephine Earp went north to Alaska in search of gold in 1897, they made more in partnership with Charles Hoxie and their Dexter Saloon business in Nome from 1899 to 1901 than any amount of gold sifted from their claims.

True West Archives



Wyatt and Josephine Earp spent the winter of 1898–99 in Rex Beach's cabin in Rampart, Alaska, after ice on the Yukon River blocked their travel farther north. In the spring, they traveled to Saint Michael in search of more profitable possibilities before they resettled in the gold rush town of Nome.

Panoramic photo courtesy Library of Congress/
Cabin photo courtesy NARA, no. 29712

Wrangell, Alaska, located 155 miles south of Juneau at the mouth of the Stikine River, thrived as a popular entry point into the Alaskan and Canadian interior during the late 1890s gold rush era.

George Max Esterly, Courtesy Yale University

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

Echoes of the Old West can be found along the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks, where low-roof log cabins dating back to its gold rush line the banks. Cordova, though, holds a real gem from the Old West. Besides the massive rosewood bar inside The Alaskan, there's the Red Dragon. On a hill overlooking downtown in ornate Edwardian style, the landmark was built as a place where alcoholics and drug addicts could dry out. Local historians claim mountain man Yellowstone Kelly was once a tenant. He had come north with the Harriman expedition in 1899. Today, the Red Dragon serves much the same purpose. You'd be advised to knock first before entering.

A chain of roadhouses where a traveler could get warm, have a meal and a night's sleep while his dogs and horses were tended to used to dot Alaska's arctic trails. Some are still standing. Rika's Roadhouse at Delta Junction is now a museum and restaurant. Admission is free. Built in 1904 and operated by Rika Wallen until her death in 1969, it is a prime example of what an Alaskan roadhouse was all about.

Other historical roadhouses still in operation are Copper Center Inn in Copper Center, Gakona Roadhouse in Gakona, Talkeetna Roadhouse in Takeetna, Sheep Mountain Roadhouse in Sutton and Eureka Roadhouse in Glennallen, known for its pies and 25-cent cup of coffee.

A thousand miles to the west on the raw, windswept Unalaska Island, prospectors going to Nome by ship attended dances held in the three-story North American Commercial Building. In 1890 these dances were hosted by one of the few women living in Unalaska, Mollie Stanley-Brown, the daughter of assassinated President James A. Garfield.

Mike Coppock was born and raised in Western Oklahoma, and after graduating from Phillips University in Enid, has lived off and on in Alaska since 1985. In Alaska he has taught history in an Alaska Bush community, worked as an editor of two Alaskan newspapers and was a flight specialist for the FAA. He is currently a historical interpreter at Denali National Park.

While prospectors flooded Alaska seeking their bonanza in gold in 1899, photographer Edward S. Curtis joined the highly ambitious Edward Harriman Alaska Expedition from Seattle to Alaska to Siberia. On July 26, Curtis photographed the extraordinary group of explorers, naturalists, scientists and chroniclers on the sandy shore of Alaska's Cape Fox, a deserted Tlingit village.

CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: The late Cheyenne, Wyoming, author, civic leader and museum director Shirley Flynn (1929-2013) was well-known for her writing and research on rodeo, especially the history of women in the American-born sport. If you'd like to read more articles about women in the West like Flynn's "Darlings of the Rodeo" from the May 2002 issue, please go to *TrueWestMagazine.com* and subscribe for full access to more than 67 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY SHIRLEY FLYNN

Darlings of the Rodeo

Naughty Or Nice.

Daringly dressed in voluminous bloomers or divided skirts, with boots and big hats, cowgirls first galloped into American arenas around 1890.

Buffalo Bill Cody first introduced women on horseback in his Wild West show. Lula Belle Parr was among the first of these show-stopping ladies. She rode broncos and had her picture on advertising posters but forgot to quit. Lula Belle performed in Wild West shows until the 1930s and died penniless.

The next step for the ladies was into rodeo, the cousin of the Wild West shows. Prize money and championship titles caught the fancy of these dashing heroines. Prizes ranged from $500 to $1,700, and the women rode hard for each dollar.

In 1901, Prairie Rose Henderson demanded to ride at Cheyenne Frontier Days. Because she proved that no rules barred women from the competition, the judges allowed her to compete. Always dressed in flamboyant costumes, Rose decorated the rodeo circuit for more than 20 years. Lost during a blizzard in 1933, she froze to death on the Wyoming prairie.

Fox Hastings followed on Rose's heels, and both competed as trick riders and bronc busters. Mike Hastings taught his wife to bulldog, and Fox amazed spectators with her ability to bring down steers. The 1920s were the heyday of rodeo, especially for the cowgirls, the sugar and spice of each performance.

Opal Reger posed atop "Bobby the Steer."

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, R.R. Doubleday Collection

As a specialty act, pretty Bonnie Gray would jump her horse, King Tut, over a convertible touring car filled with dignitaries. The crowd always gasped as she barely cleared the car's passengers.

Mabel Strickland, on the other hand, was the darling of the rodeo and could do it all and still be a lady. Steer roping was her specialty and in 1925 she roped and tied a steer in one minute, 20 seconds!

After Bonnie McCarroll was fatally injured while bronc riding at Pendelton, Oregon, in 1929, most of the ladies lost interest in rough stock competition. Rodeo committees found they could save money by eliminating such contests for women, and the era ended.

Shirley Flynn is acknowledged by many as one of America's foremost experts on rodeo history, competition and, most particularly, women rodeo performers. She served on the founding board of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum in 1978 and worked as one of its directors during 1987-1991. She also authored the award-winning *Let's Go! Let's Show! Let's Rodeo! The History of Cheyenne Frontier Days* and numerous historical articles about Cheyenne and Wyoming.

So popular was Lulu Belle Parr that her image regularly appeared on promotional posters and postcards to advertise America's greatest rodeos.

Dan Katz's Collection

R.R. Doubleday's hallmark as a longtime rodeo photographer was to line up pretty cowgirls. Here, from left to right, he caught Bea Kirnan, Prairie Rose Henderson, Mabel Strickland, Princess Monhawk, Ruth Roach, Kitty Canutt and Prairie Lillie. Although tough competitors in the arena, the ladies still could stand side by side and smile for the birdie.

Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum

Mabel Strickland (above), acknowledged by many as the prettiest and nicest of the cowgirls, was also a talented horsewoman.

R. R. Strickland, Courtesy Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum

Pretty Bonnie McCarroll (above) took many spills. Although badly shaken in this fall, she got up to ride again. She was thrown and killed in Pendleton in 1928. That catastrophe prompted rodeo committees to eliminate women's rough stock events.

Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum

Champion trick rider and bronc buster Prairie Rose Henderson [circa 1912] won the cheers of those who saw her perform, but shocked the matrons of her day with her roughneck behavior and "scandalous" costumes.

True West archives

Cowgirl Bonnie Gray could be as regal before a camera as she could be rowdy in a rodeo arena. The crowd would gasp whenever she jumped her great white King Tut over a touring car filled with dignitaries.

R.R. Strickland, Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Shirley Flynn's original, unabridged article as it appeared in the May 2002 issue. To learn more about how you can read Flynn's article and more features on women in the West and subscribe to *True West* Archives, go to *TrueWestMagazine.com*.

Our past awaits you!

BY CANDY MOULTON

The Grand Old Park

Yellowstone, America's first National Park, celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Trail riding and stagecoach rides are a great way to enjoy the Tower-Roosevelt Lodge area of Yellowstone National Park.

All Images Courtesy NPS.gov Unless Otherwise Noted

Ferdinand V. Hayden, head of the U.S. Geological and Geographic Survey of the Territories, led a scientific expedition to the northwest corner of Wyoming Territory in 1871. The artist and the photographer who accompanied him carried the tools of their trades and documented the trip with a series of photographic images and sketches—later to become incredible watercolor paintings.

Artist Thomas Moran sketched and later painted the ethereal beauty of the area: massive waterfalls, stunning multicolored canyon walls, geyser basins. At the same time, photographer William Henry Jackson captured images that also became iconic. And Moran kept a journal of their travels. The men in this scientific expedition successfully relayed their journey to a wider audience when they completed the expedition. They developed not only art and photographs but an improved map of the region.

Hayden himself said that when considered in terms of scientific value, "The geysers of Iceland…sink into insignificance in comparison with the hot springs of the Yellowstone and Fire-Hole Basins."

Their work set a tone for scientific research and exploration, and most importantly, it established the Yellowstone region as one of national significance, leading to the establishment of the ecosystem as the nation's first National Park on March 1, 1872. It was recognized by President Ulysses S. Grant, who signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act for the "benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Travelers to Yellowstone for the past century and a half have followed the footsteps of Hayden, Jackson and Moran and also documented the wonders of Yellowstone on sketchpads, with cameras (now with cell phones) and certainly in their writings.

Moran wrote: "The Mountains south east of our Camp & on the road to the lake looking toward the Yellowstone Country glorious, & I do not expect to see any finer general view of the Rocky Mountains."

The Magic of Yellowstone

I first drove the figure-eight road system of Yellowstone as a child with my family in the 1960s. I remember a few key things from the trip: the massive structure of Old Faithful where our family, an aunt and uncle and some cousins sat on the grass and ate bologna sandwiches; Old Faithful spouting high into the air, hissing and seeming to smoke as the steam rose; the yellow, red, orange colors of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the sound of the crashing water; and feeding the bears (which was a common practice in those days).

President Calvin Coolidge and Superintendent Horace M. Albright encountered black bears unafraid of humans at Roosevelt Lodge in August 1927. Today, the park's rangers and wildlife biologists have worked hard the past four decades to create a healthier and safer atmosphere for black bears and human interaction in Yellowstone.

We saw lots of black bears as they sat begging beside the road. We gave them the last piece of one of the bologna sandwiches and about 30 minutes later my cousin Curtis was rolling on

William Henry Jackson's photographs, such as his image of the Lower Falls of Yellowstone River made during the Hayden Survey, heavily influenced the federal government's creation of Yellowstone National Park 150 years ago and the protection of the spectacular river (far left).

Courtesy Library of Congress/Yellowstone River Photo Courtesy NPS.gov

Artist Thomas Moran's artwork, such as his painting *Yellowstone Canyon* made during the Hayden Survey, helped influence Congress and President Ulysses S. Grant to create Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

the backseat floor of our car whining that he was going to starve because we gave that last sandwich to a bear. (He didn't, and years later the practice of feeding the bears ended to the bears' good health and fortune.)

My next memorable trip to Yellowstone took place in 1990 when I had a chance to horse pack into the backcountry. We left from Buffalo Bill's old hangout at Pahaska Teepee, at the east entrance to Yellowstone, rode north, camped for a week exploring along the Lamar River before riding over Mist Creek Pass, through Pelican Valley and back to a trailhead.

Most people who visit Yellowstone spend time in the major visitor areas: Canyon, Old Faithful, Mammoth and Lake Yellowstone, and at the significant geyser basins, most particularly the active Norris Geyser Basin. Just a very small percentage get into the true backcountry, so as a result, much of that country is much the same as it was 150 years ago when the region first received national park status.

The People of Yellowstone

The human history of the area dates back thousands of years, and during the past couple of centuries dozens of tribes have spent time in Yellowstone. One of the most documented events is the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce, who spent weeks traversing the park, taking captive some Montana tourists (whom they eventually released). They traveled through Pelican Valley, over Mist Creek Pass and along the Lamar River as they outpaced the U.S. Army led by Gen. Oliver O. Howard who pursued them from western Idaho across Montana, Yellowstone and back into Montana where they were eventually surrounded by different troops, and most were forced to surrender. Nez Perce Creek is named for these travelers, and you'll find an interpretive area midway between Old Faithful and Madison Junction where the creek crosses through the park.

I spent my backcountry trip in Yellowstone reading the great mountain man book *Give Your Heart to the Hawks* by Win Blevins, but an equally great place to sit and read is on the outdoor veranda, or second-floor seating areas in the great lobby of Old Faithful Inn. This massive structure is an iconic national park lodge that was seriously threatened by wildfires in the park in 1988 (and saved in part due to installation of irrigation sprinklers).

Learn more of the history of the park, and see art and artifacts related to the Hayden Expedition at the park visitor center in Mammoth, where you can stay in the Mammoth Hotel, hang your hat in a small cabin, or even find a campsite nearby.

Family Time in Yellowstone

The summer of 2021, my most recent trip to Yellowstone, was a journey with granddaughters. The COVID-19 pandemic was still posing challenges to travelers, but it was one of the best vacations. We visited Old Faithful and the overlook to see the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the falls. We avoided the massive crowds in Norris Geyser Basin (cars were lined up for more than a mile *outside* the

Riding horseback on a pack train across Pelican Valley is one of the most enjoyable ways to discover Yellowstone National Park.

official parking areas) and instead walked the trail at Fountain Paint Pots and ended up in a buffalo traffic jam in the Hayden Valley.

We had a picnic off one of the one-way roads between Norris and Canyon where we shared a table with other travelers, saw families sitting on blankets they had thrown on the ground and watched an older couple play cards in the dappled sunlight of the pine forest. That is the kind of experience to have in Yellowstone.

To celebrate the sesquicentennial of Yellowstone National Park, the indigenous tribes who have connection to this land are developing programs and exhibits. The Wind River Inter-Tribal Gathering, June 1-3, will be an opportunity for tribal nations and others to discuss conservation and the history of the tribes in the region while celebrating the importance of the area to American Indians. This event is being organized by the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes, but all Native nations and others are invited to take part.

The "Conversations on Collecting Yellowstone" conference takes place in Bozeman on June 5-8 and includes speakers on a range of topics from the historic lodges of the park to details about the 1871 Hayden Expedition.

Candy Moulton is the author of *Roadside History of Wyoming.*

A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Roosevelt Lodge
Yellowstone National Park

The least visited area of Yellowstone is the Tower-Roosevelt area, which is midway between Mammoth and Tower on the park's figure-eight road system. Roosevelt has cabin accommodations and a main dining room and offers horseback and wagon rides that often include meals served under the vast expanse of sky. In this region, see the basalt columns that reflect the volcanic eruptions that formed Yellowstone, view petrified wood or hike on trails that are not over-traveled. Truly, Roosevelt is a place to enjoy some of the solitude of Yellowstone.

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

Old Faithful Inn and Snow Lodge are both suitable for families; and there are faster food options at Old Faithful Village as well. At Mammoth, a more upscale meal is available at the Mammoth Hotel, but the Mammoth Terrace Grill will get you in and out quickly. A quick meal is also the ticket at Canyon Lodge Eatery and Grant Village Dining Room. Without a doubt, the most serene dining experience in Yellowstone is at the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, which caters to an older clientele with fewer children. All of those facilities also have a variety of lodging options from a cabin or hotel room to more luxurious accommodations, including the suite at Lake Yellowstone that has often been used by U.S. Presidents when they visit the park. Bridge Bay Campground is the park's largest, but there are other smaller campgrounds throughout the park. Permits are required for backcountry camping.

GOOD GRUB: Old Faithful Inn Dining Room; Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Old Faithful Village; **Mammoth Hotel Dining Room; Terrace Grill,** Mammoth Village; **Canyon Lodge Eatery,** Canyon Village; **Grant Village Dining Room,** Grant Village; **Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room,** Lake Village

GOOD LODGING AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: Old Faithful Inn; Old Faithful Snow Lodge; Roosevelt Cabins; Lake Yellowstone Hotel; Mammoth Hotel and Cabins

GOOD LODGING NEAR THE PARK: Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa, Pray, MT; **Flagg Ranch,** Moran, WY; **Irma Hotel,** Cody, WY; **Three Bear Lodge,** West Yellowstone, MT

NOTE: *Due to COVID-19, not all facilities are fully operational.*

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Texas's Tangy Thirst Quencher

The origin story of the Lone Star State's Dr. Pepper is legendary.

The City Drug Store fountain in Aransas Pass, Texas, circa 1904–18 most likely served Dr. Pepper as well as its rival Coca-Cola.

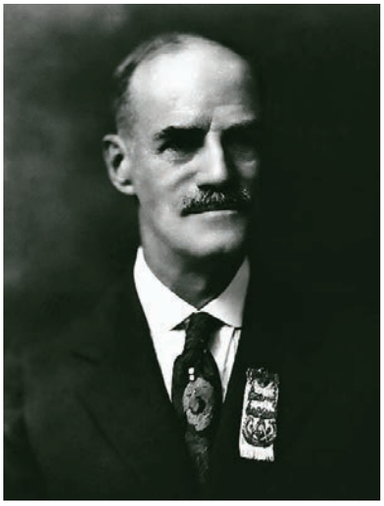
Courtesy DeGolyer Library, SMU

Texas and beef go together like chips and salsa. And while Texas is known for its beef, did you know that Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885? It's true. Brooklyn-born Charles C. Alderton worked as chemist at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store and is credited with creating Dr. Pepper. The drug store prided itself on quality products. The *Waco Daily Examiner* wrote this about it in 1885, "Messrs. Castles & Morrison, proprietors of the 'Old Corner Drug Store,' have now placed themselves in position to furnish their patrons with the finest soda water to be found in the state. They use in connection with it, ice chipped from the North Pole. Only the very purest juices are used in the flavoring. Messer's. Castles & Morrison defy the world on the 'ice cream soda.'" It was into this environment that the popular tonic was invented. Various stories speculate on how and why it was called Dr. Pepper.

In 1885 Castles & Morrison advertised Dr. King's New Discovery, the newest popular "cure" for consumption.. Since there is no definitive proof to show how Dr. Pepper got its name, one has to wonder about the timing of its creation and the success of "Dr. King's" tonic. Just like its name, even the ingredients are a mystery! Various old newspaper ads mentioned ingredients in Dr. Pepper including a blend of aromatic fruit syrups, pure white granulated sugar, pure distilled water and carbon dioxide. A 1913 ad noted, "Certain fruits, nuts and sugar cane represent these substances with distilled water. The name we give our combination is Dr. Pepper." Another stated, "Dr. Pepper's Phos-Ferrate is a palate-pleasing drink. Contains the health-giving properties of Wheat and Iron and Pepsin" and another touted, "Iron Brew."

In 1891, Morrison and a young chemist named Robert Lazenby, formed a new firm called the Artesian Mfg. & Bottling Company, which later became the Dr. Pepper Company. They were able to produce enough to fulfill the increased demand by doing this. According to the Dr. Pepper Museum, "Alderton, the inventor, was primarily interested in pharmacy work and had no designs on the drink. He suggested that Morrison and Lazenby develop it further." Alderton moved to Behrens Drugs for several years and then on to another in Waco.

His beverage quickly became popular, and drug stores around Texas were buying the



Brooklyn, New York, born chemist Charles C. Alderton invented Dr. Pepper in 1885 while working at Morrison's Old Pharmacy in Waco, Texas.

syrup from Morrison's and serving it at their locations. In 1893 an Abilene merchant advertised "Coca Cola and Dr. Pepper's Phos. Ferrates,' the great drinks for headache and exhaustion will be drawn from Will Arnold's soda fountain; the nicest in town." In 1898 C.G. Parsons of Bryan published, "Pure fountain and bottle soda, Dr. Pepper, and all the latest iced drinks, candies, fruits, nuts, etc."

Dr. Pepper was popular in Texas, and it was introduced to everyone at the 1904 World's Fair. The manufacturers called it "The King of Beverages." A few years later Dr. Pepper was being advertised as being free of caffeine and cocaine! Another ad appeared in Wichita Falls that appealed to women. It included, "The summer girl enjoys satisfying 'tang' of a glass of Dr. Pepper on a hot day. It will quench your thirst—drink it! Vim, Vigor, Vitality, Satisfaction in every glass, 5c at fountains."

DR. PEPPER PUNCH

Crushed ice
½ cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
1 cup fresh orange juice
½ cup simple syrup
6 bottles Dr. Pepper, chilled

Place ice in a punch bowl and add the juices and syrup. Add Dr. Pepper and garnish with orange slices.

Recipe from the *Corsicana Daily Sun*, April 19, 1939

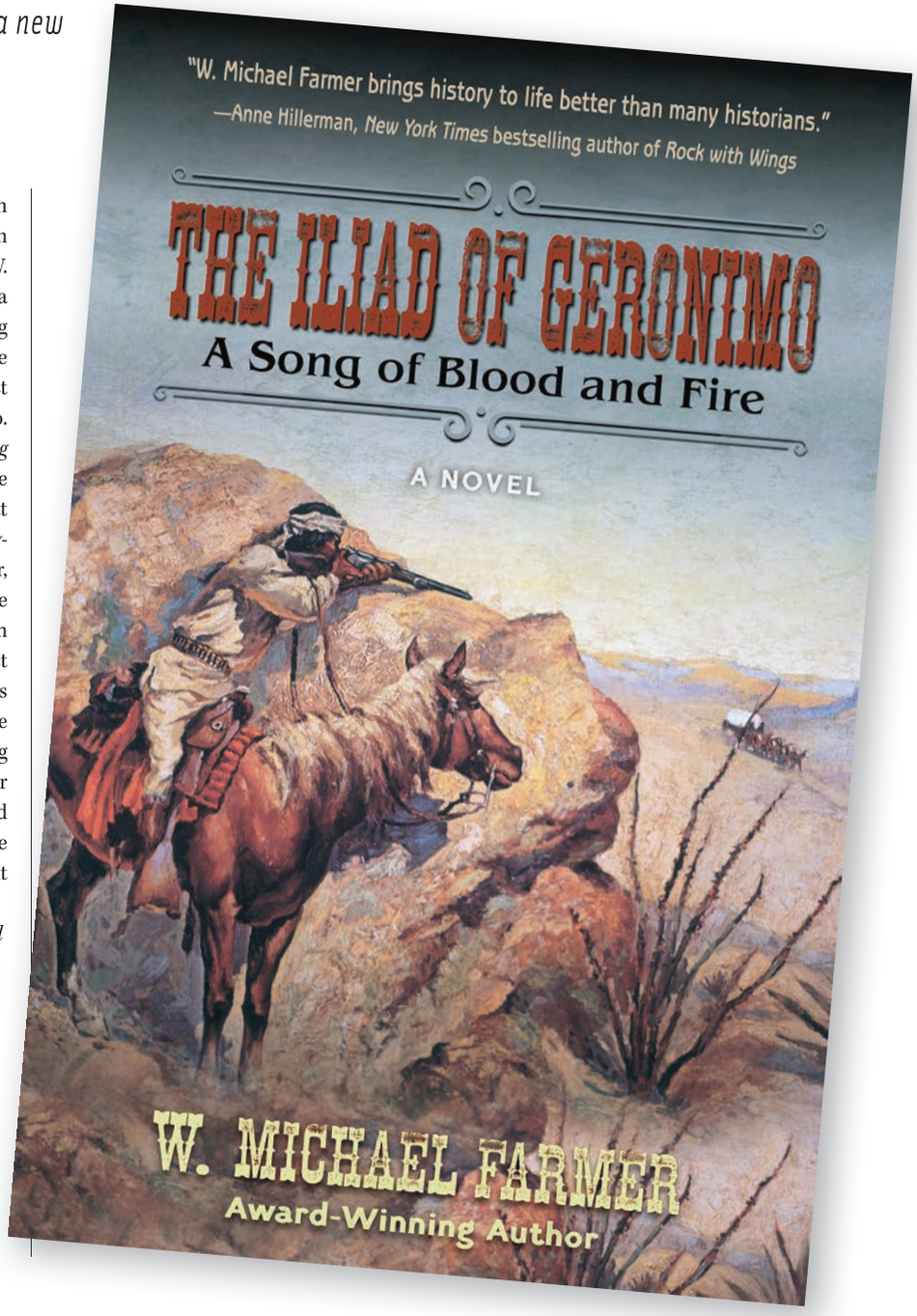
Sherry Monahan kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit *SherryMonahan.com* to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK

An Epic Tale of Life and Death

A great novel about the legendary Geronimo, a new history of U.S.-Mexico's La Frontiera, two classic Western novels and a new history of Silver State shootists.



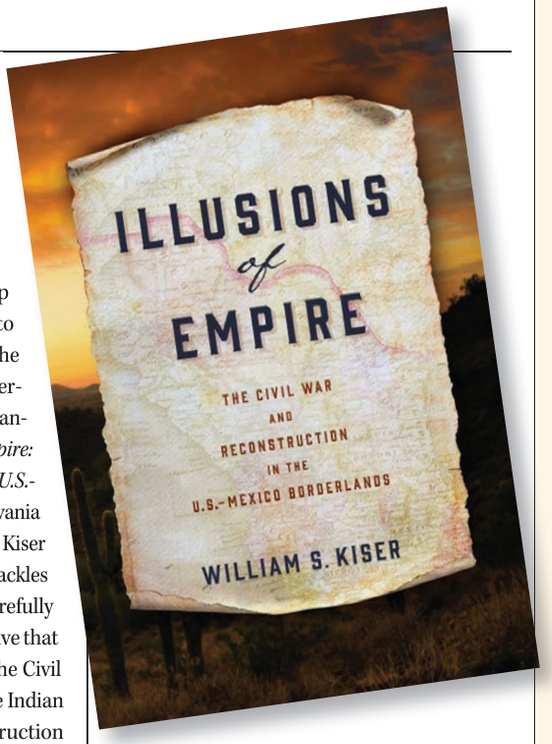
Rarely do you come across an author as adept at writing both Western history and novels as W. Michael Farmer. The Virginia author has spent over a decade researching and writing about his subject matter, the Chiricahua Apaches of the American Southwest and their infamous shaman leader, Geronimo. In his latest novel, *The Iliad of Geronimo: A Song of Blood and Fire, A Novel* (Five Star, $25.95), he has completed his own Homeric journey that began with *The Odyssey of Geronimo: Twenty-Three Years a Prisoner of War, A Novel* (Five Star, 2020). Few authors in recent years have attempted to bring voice to American Indian subjects with as much compassion and respect as Farmer, and he should be applauded for his extraordinary efforts. Farmer says that "to give the reader some sense of Apache life during these ten years of war, I've used their terms for hours, days, seasons, and years, how they lived their lifeways as the tsunami of White Eye settlers roared over them, and why they fought their battles as they did."

Also extraordinary about Farmer's *The Iliad of Geronimo* is the book's front matter, which is unusual in a novel: a map of "The Geronimo Iliad Places of War"; a detailed list of historical characters; glossary of words and phrases; a clear explanation of Apache reckoning of time and seasons; an explanatory list of Chiricahua Apache bands; and a preface that provides an insightful and personal window into the author's own *Odyssey* and *Iliad* writing about Geronimo and the

Chiricahua Apache people. Much credit for such expansive glossaries, as well as a list of additional reading after the novel's conclusion, must be given to Farmer's personal editor, Melissa Watkins Starr, and to Tiffany Schofield, Five Star's editor, whose dedication to her authors is nearly unsurpassed in the Western fiction business.

With *The Iliad of Geronimo*, Farmer has reached the pinnacle of his own literary odyssey with Geronimo, the Chiricahua and their Iliadic struggle for freedom and peace. Readers would benefit from going back and reading or rereading *Odyssey* and Farmer's earlier works on Geronimo and the Apaches: *Geronimo, Prisoner of Lies: Twenty-Three Years as a Prisoner of War, 1886-1909* (Two Dot, 2019), *Apacheria: True Stories of Apache Culture 1860-1920* (Two Dot, 2018), *Blood of the Devil: The Life and Times of Yellow Boy, Mescalero Apache* (Five Star, 2017) and *Killer of Witches: The Life and Times of Yellow Boy, Mescalero Apache* (Five Star, 2015). And if that's not enough, the intrepid Farmer has a new Western being released by Five Star this November title *Trini! Come!: Geronimo's Captivity of Trinidad Verdín, A Novel*. You can count on me to be at the front of the line to read it first!

—Stuart Rosebrook



Border Empire

An increasing amount of scholarship has emerged in the last decade relating to the development and critical functions the Southwest borderlands played in the territories along its boundary and the expansion of the United States. *Illusions of Empire: The Civil War and Reconstruction in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (University of Pennsylvania Press, $55) by history professor William S. Kiser adds to this important discussion. Kiser tackles an immense geopolitical maze and carefully constructs a readable and timely narrative that covers antebellum U.S. foreign policy, the Civil War, French intervention in Mexico, the Indian campaigns in the Southwest, Reconstruction and borderlands outlawry in one volume. Not since Katherine Benton-Cohen's *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands* (2011) has a book offered unique and practical contextual history on the borderlands frontier.

—Erik Wright, assistant editor of The Tombstone Epitaph

On the Hoot Owl Trail

Brett Cogburn's *Too Proud To Run* (Five Star Publishing $25.95) centers around the actions of Deputy U.S. Marshal Morgan Clyde. *Too Proud To Run* seems to be patterned after the real life of Brett's great-grandfather, Rooster Cogburn, and stories from his family history as Marshal Clyde pursues kidnappers who took J.J. McAlester's wife and son in the Indian Territory in the 1870s. I found the tale filled with activities

ROUGH DRAFTS

Photo by Johnny D. Boggs

IRENE BENNETT BROWN TO RECEIVE THE WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA'S OWEN WISTER AWARD

Kansas native **Irene Bennett Brown**, known for her historical and juvenile novels, will receive the Western Writers of America 2022 Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature during WWA's convention June 22-25 in Great Falls, Montana.

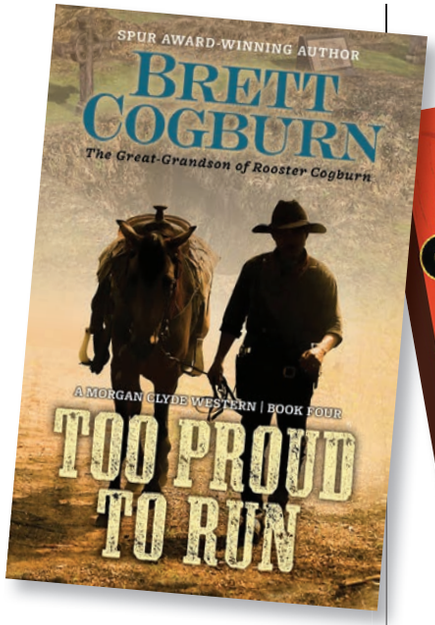
"Irene Bennett Brown's contribution to the Western genre is significant," WWA President Chris Enss said. "She pulls readers into the stories of the Old West by means of true emotion and vivid detail. Her plots feature strong characters, such as Larnie in the book *Skitterbrain* and Jocelyn Royal in *Miss Royal's Mules*. Like Irene, those Western heroes show stubborn determination and fierce integrity. WWA is honored to have her in its community and pleased to name her as the latest Wister Award winner."

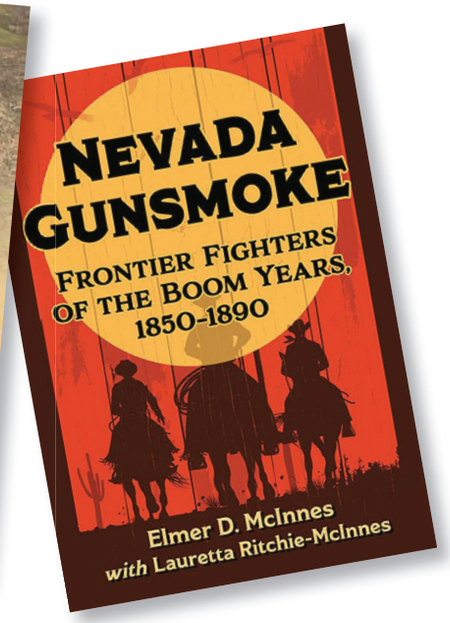
Brown, 90, also will be inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame, housed outside the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming.

"Never once did I imagine I'd be honored with the renowned Owen Wister Award," Brown said from her Jefferson, Oregon, home, where she lives with her husband, Bob, a retired research chemist. "I'm dumbfounded, delighted and deeply grateful."

Brown has authored more than 20 books. Her first novel, *To Rainbow Valley*, was published in 1969. Other titles include *Willow Whip* (1979), *Morning Glory Afternoon* (1981), *The Plainswoman* (1994) and *Where Danger Danced* (2012). She has enjoyed using her home state as background for her historical novels. Her novel *Before the Lark* won WWA's Spur Award for Best Western Juvenile Book in 1982.

—Stuart Rosebrook





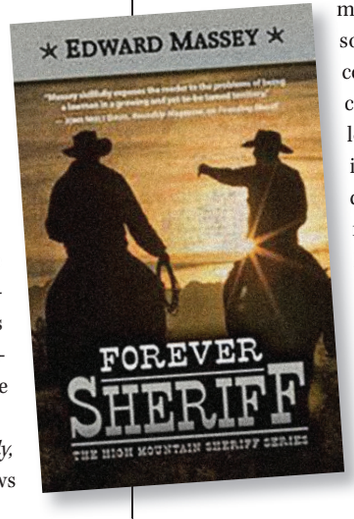
that will keep your interest. In addition, there are problems with a family dispute between Marshal Clyde's ex-wife and son that interfere with the search that adds to the drama. It is fascinating to read and follow as Marshal Clyde and his posse go after the outlaws, including several cliches mentioned as the classic Western progresses. I found the book to be a good fictional read and recommend it.

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

High Country Western

Themes of family loyalty, integrity and determination to uphold the law span three generations of the Willford Simms family from the early 1850s and into the 20th century. *Forever Sheriff* (Five Star, $25.95) is the concluding book in "The High Mountain" series by Edward Massey. This Western novel is told from the perspective of third-generation Mark Willford Simms, who wears the coveted sheriff's star and strives to take care of his people in Coalville, Utah. Massey is adept at keeping the storytelling authentic and well-paced. Readers are immersed into the turbulent lawless times of cattle rustlers and meat-packing monopolies. The Spanish Flu challenges the sheriff's leadership as he navigates the health crisis to ensure the townspeople's safety.

—Sue Ready, EverReady Book Reviews

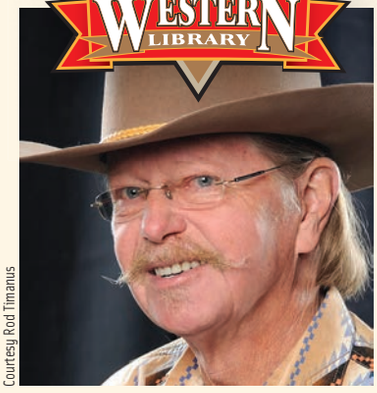


Silver State Shootists

For aficionados of Western outlaws and gunmen, credible material on Nevada history is relatively hard to find. Most researchers turn their attention to places like Texas, Arizona and California. However, Nevada was a breeding ground for violence, and some of the most dangerous fighting men of the frontier appeared from that region. *Nevada Gunsmoke: Frontier Fighters of the Book Years, 1850-1890* by Elmer D. McInnes with Lauretta Ritchie McInnes (McFarland Books, $39.95) looks to fill this void, and it does so admirably. The authors explore in fascinating detail the lives and misdeeds of these gunmen, including the gunfighting miner Dick Prentice, lawmen Leslie Blackburn and William McKee, killer Hank Parrish and outlaw John Burke. The book carefully weaves the tales of these men and more by analyzing the social and economic conditions of the mining camps that bred the violence, thus elevating itself to a higher standard of scholarship reminiscent of Roger McGrath's *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* (1984).

—Erik Wright, assistant editor of The Tombstone Epitaph

BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY



Courtesy Rod Timanus

ARIZONA AUTHOR SHARES HIS FAVORITES

Rod Timanus has written and illustrated several history books about the Old West. His topics have included Lewis and Clark, David Crockett's journey to the Alamo, George Custer's last campaign, the ancient Puebloan people in Arizona and periods of Texas history. His maps, illustrations and cover designs have appeared in the works of several other authors. He regularly writes book reviews and yearly convention articles for the Western Writers of America *Roundup* magazine. He recommends these titles:

❶ ***The Journals of Lewis and Clark*** edited by Bernard DeVoto (Houghton Mifflin Co.): When the Corps of Discovery set off into the uncharted territory west of the Mississippi River, the history of the Old West began. Their own words about what they experienced while traversing an unknown wilderness are truly awe-inspiring.

❷ ***The Settlement of America Encyclopedia of Western Expansion*** edited by James Crutchfield (M.E. Sharpe, Inc.): Written by many authors, this two-volume set chronicles the westward expansion across the North American continent from the eastern seaboard states to the Pacific coast. The trials, tribulations and conflicts encountered make for fascinating reading.

❸ ***The Old West*** book series by various editors (Time-Life Books, Inc.): This 26-volume set by many authors is an excellent source of information to whet the appetite for more detailed accounts and inspire further research into events and personalities.

❹ ***Story of the Great American West*** 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.

❺ ***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.

WESTERN MOVIES DVD & TV SERIES

By Henry C. Parke

Katy Haber

Sam Peckinpah's Girl Friday, and Saturday, and Sunday, and...

When director Sam Peckinpah (center) had Katy Haber (right) fly into Phoenix, Arizona, from England in June 1971 to join him on the production of *Junior Bonner*, Katy did not know her second gig with Peckinpah would lead to a life and career in Hollywood.

Courtesy ABC Pictures

Film is the most collaborative of arts: no one makes a movie alone. So, how important might an assistant be to an auteur like Sam Peckinpah? A woman who was constantly by his side for eight movies in seven years? According to Mark Kermode, film critic for the BBC, "It wouldn't be completely fanciful to say she was the co-director. She was allowing the director to direct."

Sam made *Straw Dogs, Junior Bonner, The Getaway, Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia, The Killer Elite, Cross of Iron*, and began *Convoy* with Katherine "Katy" Haber, MBE, by his side, and as his "demons"—alcohol and drugs and paranoia—became more pronounced, her job of holding things together became ever more demanding.

It was certainly an unexpected life for the daughter of Czechoslovakian Jews who had fled to England when Hitler's troops marched into Prague in 1939. It was always planned that Katy would follow her dermatologist father into medicine. But when his depression led him to suicide, she says, "I decided that I would not have my mother pay an inordinate amount of money to get me through university. I decided to go into the film business."

In the late '60s she'd worked as assistant producer to Ronald J. Kahn on theater and film productions, including *Prudence and the Pill* and *Girly*. Peckinpah was in England in 1971 to make *Straw Dogs*. Producer Sir James Swann called her. "'Sam's been through three or four different assistants, and all of them wanted to have lunch breaks and have their hair done. They couldn't take his odd curriculum.' So I went to see him, and he said, 'Can you type?' I said, yes. He threw me the script, and I started typing." Of course, it was the rape scene. "Nothing prepared me for working with Sam Peckinpah—nothing."

She began on *Straw Dogs* as a secretary, and by the end of the shoot, she was dialogue director, and so much more. That wasn't the only way their relationship changed. "There was no romanticism about it; it wasn't idyllic. But if romance means intimately involved, yes." And then, the film was in the can, and it was over. "He said, 'Thank you so much for everything that you did. Next time I come to England, we will work together.'" Then he was rushing off to Prescott, Arizona, to direct leading man Steve McQueen in the rodeo film *Junior Bonner*. They had to shoot key scenes during the actual World's Oldest Rodeo and Frontier Days Parade in June and July 1971. "Two days after he left, I got a call, saying, 'Get your fucking ass over here! We've got another movie to make! I can't do it without you.'"

"Wherever Sam went, I was next to him, earphones on, script in front of me. Sam wasn't

Katy Haber never shied from the challenges of working on a Sam Peckinpah film, which were all filmed for months on location. *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973) was no different. Haber and co-star James Coburn as Garrett worked closely together in Durango, Mexico, under some of the most challenging conditions ever encountered on a Peckinpah movie.

Images Courtesy MGM

concentrating on the actual prose of the film. I was able to tell him when they missed a line. He was not one for ad-libbing."

She would run interference to protect the crew. "Sam would work all day, work all night, and then sleep at funny times. And if he had a thought, he would say, 'Call the crew!' And I would say, 'I can't find them,' so that they could get a good night's sleep."

Toward the end of the shooting of *The Getaway* (1972) in El Paso, Texas, Sam crossed the border into Juarez and got married to his girlfriend Joie, so Katy was summarily fired and she returned home. She was immediately hired to work with Sam Fuller. When that project collapsed, as did Peckinpah's marriage, he called Katy back, this time to Durango, Mexico, where he was two weeks into production on *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*.

Often, she was protecting Sam from his producers. While he was editing *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973), "[Producer] Jim Aubrey was cutting it in another editing room, taking out all the lyrical, prophetic and emotional sides to it. He just wanted it to be a bam-bam-thank-you-ma'am action film. When Sam finished editing, I would hide the film in the fridge." Decades

After *Convoy* (1978), Katy Haber (right) worked on numerous productions, including Michael Cimino's *Deer Hunter*, and as a producer of Sir Ridley Scott's (far right) sci-fi classic, *Blade Runner* (1982).

Photo by Steve Vaughan, Unit Stills Photographer, Courtesy Warner Bros.

later, when they decided to release the director's cut, Katy was able to provide it.

Sadly, when Peckinpah made the transition from liquor to cocaine, his paranoia increased to an intolerable degree. "He was very, very emphatic about knowing where I was at every second of the day, down to even bugging my room on *Convoy*." That was the end: she quit. They never spoke again.

Katy went on to a long career in cinema in Hollywood, including as a producer of the sci-fi classic *Blade Runner*. Her dedication and service to underprivileged and underserved communities in Los Angeles, including the creation of the Compton Cricket team in 1995, was recognized by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, who awarded Katy the MBE in 2012. She also helped start and served on the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Los Angeles, for 23 years.

Courtesy Universal Pictures

And she still has a couple of film projects in the works. She's planning a miniseries about her family and the Holocaust. And there's a novel she wants to film. "It's called *My Pardner*. It's Max Evans's coming-of-age story about a kid who goes cross-country with a cattle rustler. I made a promise that I would get that movie made. Hopefully I can fulfill that promise."

Sam Peckinpah died over 35 years ago. "He loved me, but loved to hate me, and hated to love me. I loved him and hated it. It was one of the most compatible-incompatible relationships, but it lasted seven years and eight films. So something must have worked."

BLU-RAY REVIEW

SHENANDOAH

(KINO LORBER—Blu-Ray $24.95) In June 1965, 11 months into the Vietnam War, former Army Air Corps Col. James Stewart starred in *Shenandoah* as a father determined to keep his seven sons out of the Civil War. The least-strident of the antiwar tragedy-Westerns, it was written by James Lee Barrett and directed by Andrew McLaglen with enough humanity and humor to make the story-cheats forgivable. A fine showcase for Doug McClure, Glenn Corbett and Patrick Wayne, it introduces Katharine Ross and Rosemary Forsyth. It's among cinematographer William Clothier's finest work. In 1966, his stepson, Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Ron McLean, having died in Vietnam, Air Force reservist Stewart, during his active duty, flew a bombing run against Vietcong targets.

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.

BY PETER CORBETT

Red Lodge, Montana

Discover the Old West in the gateway town to America's most beautiful highway.

Heading southwest across the high plains of south-central Montana brings travelers to a dramatic rising curtain of mountains in the Absaroka Range with eight summits above 12,000 feet.

This is the backdrop for Red Lodge, Montana, elevation 5,553 feet, a town that got its start mining coal in 1884. Tourists have replaced miners, with travelers drawn to these mountains and the astonishing Beartooth Highway that runs 65 miles from Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

"We're the first mountains you hit," said Sherry Weamer, Red Lodge chamber director. "It's flat, flat, flat and then—BAM!—there's Red Lodge Mountain and the Absarokas."

A unique activity to enjoy each summer in the vicinity of Red Lodge is just east of town in Bear Creek, where the Bear Creek Saloon holds pig races Thursday through Sunday, May 26 to Labor Day. (Yes, you can bet on the pigs!)

Red Lodge's annual Home of Champions Rodeo is one of the Montana town's biggest events. In 2022, the rodeo will be held July 1–4, and the parade will be held July 2–4, starting at noon, each day.

All Images Courtesy Montana Office of Tourism Unless Otherwise Noted

Red Lodge is the eastern terminus of the Beartooth Highway, which Charles Kuralt called the most beautiful drive in America. But by no means should travelers leave Red Lodge without sampling the town's many attributes.

There's unusual fare including pig racing at the nearby Bear Creek Saloon and Steakhouse, plus the Beartooth Rally and Iron Horse Rodeo for motorcyclists.

More traditional attractions include the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary.

The elegant Pollard Hotel, dating back to 1893, has hosted copper barons, Buffalo Bill Cody and Calamity Jane.

The Carbon County Arts Guild and Depot Gallery is more than a whistle stop for art lovers at the restored 1889 Burlington Northern station.

Red Lodge's former miners' hall from 1909 is home to the Carbon County Historical Society & Museum. Coal mining built Red Lodge into a boomtown in the 1890s, but mining tailed off 30 years later.

Tragedy struck in 1943 when an explosion in the Smith Mine trapped and killed 74 miners, some of whom wrote death notes to loved ones before they perished.

Other footnotes of Red Lodge history include reports that Harry Longabaugh—the Sundance Kid—and the Wild Bunch Gang planned to rob the Red Lodge Bank in 1897 but called it off after marshals got wind of their plot.

More recently, Ernest Hemingway was said to frequent Red Lodge in the 1930s when he spent five summers writing at a cabin near Yellowstone and fly-fishing on the Clarks Fork River.

Of course fishing, hiking, mountain biking, camping and snow skiing are popular pursuits in Red Lodge, which is "surrounded by over a million acres for outdoor exploring," Weamer said.

The Beartooth Highway—U.S. 212—is a gateway to those pursuits when it's open for travel from Memorial Day to mid-October.

Montana travel writer Becky Lomax described the road out of Red Lodge as it climbs through a narrow valley and up switchbacks to the Rock Creek overlook at 9,000 feet: "The views are absolutely spectacular."

The alpine tundra of 10,940-foot Beartooth Pass is stark with few trees and the air is thin. But the landscape is sprinkled with bright colors when wildflowers bloom in late July into early August.

It's worth stopping at several alpine lakes, the Top of the World store and the Clay Butte fire tower, with views of Pilot and Index peaks, said Lomax, whose latest book is *U.S. and Canadian Rocky Mountain Road Trips.*

Red Lodge is the eastern terminus of one of America's most beautiful scenic byways: the Beartooth Highway. Travelers should be advised to keep a close eye on the weather when driving the alpine highway's 65 miles to Yellowstone National Park.

She prefers the views traveling east to west on the Beartooth Highway from Red Lodge to Yellowstone rather than the opposite direction. There's also a side trip to Cody, Wyoming, on the Chief Joseph Highway to visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Back in Red Lodge after a day trip, travelers can browse shops, restaurants and bars in the town's historic buildings.

"Bar-hopping in Red Lodge is kind of a big deal," Lomax noted. "They have some of those really fun, old funky bars."

A local brewery—Red Lodge Ales—is on the north edge of town.

Red Lodge's summer tourist season is highlighted by the Rodeo of Champions and parades July 2-4.

In the winter, visitors hit the slopes at Red Lodge Mountain and compete in ski-joring races, a Scandinavian tradition in which equestrians pull skiers.

And did I mention pig racing—that you can bet on?

Peter Corbett moved West to Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1974 and earned a degree at Northern Arizona University in English, with an American Studies minor. He's been exploring the West since then after a career in Arizona journalism.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

The cabin of legendary mountain man and Red Lodge constable Jeremiah Johnson greets visitors to the Red Lodge Visitor Center.

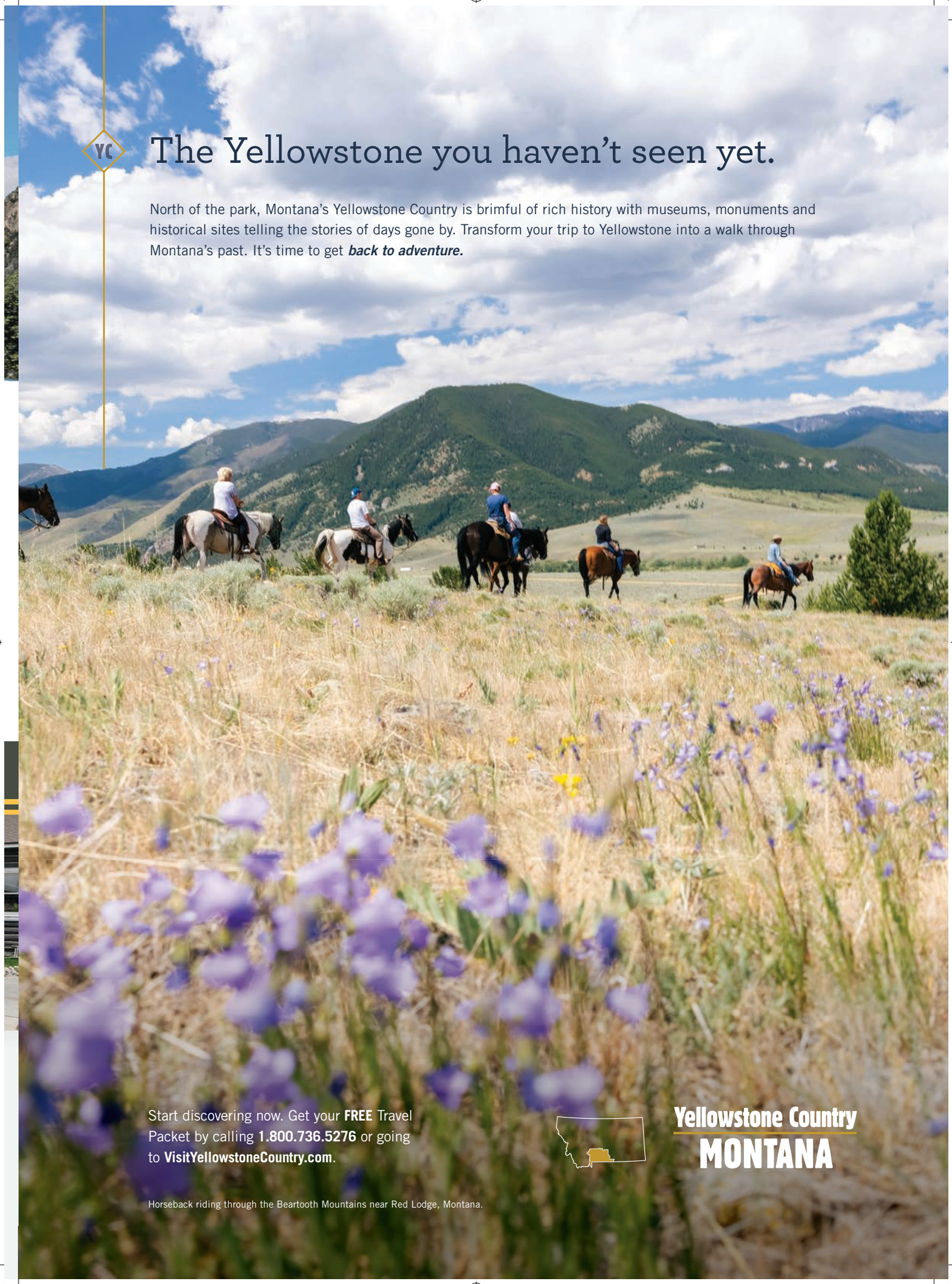
FIRST STOP
Red Lodge Visitors Center, 701 N. Broadway Road.
RedLodgeChamber.org

IRON HORSE MOTORCYCLE RALLY
The 28th annual Beartooth Rally and Iron Horse Rodeo rumbles into Red Lodge July 11-17 at the Home of Champions Rodeo Grounds.
BearToothRally.com

REST UP IN RED LODGE
The Pollard Hotel building opened in 1893. Its guests have included copper barons, Buffalo Bill Cody and Calamity Jane.
ThePollardHotel.com

PIGS FLY AROUND TRACK
Bear Creek Saloon & Steakhouse in Bearcreek, seven miles east of Red Lodge, features live pig racing.
RedLodge.com

ART ENLIVENS TRAIN DEPOT
The Carbon County Arts Guild and Depot Gallery operates in the restored 1889 Burlington Northern Railroad depot.
CarbonCountyDepotGallery.org


YC
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Yellowstone Country
MONTANA
Horseback riding through the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge, Montana.

GUNPOWDER

The West was immense, and frontier law enforcement sparse.

Wise individuals carried firearms and knew how to use them. Some men and women became notorious for their real or perceived gun-handling abilities: Wild Bill Hickok, Bat Masterson and Calamity Jane, to name a few.

Each state and territory was assigned a U.S. marshal who hired deputies to undertake federal matters. Occasionally the Army helped to maintain order. Some states established statewide law enforcement agencies such as the Texas Rangers. Each county elected a sheriff. Marshals were elected or appointed to maintain order within town and city limits. Cattlemen's associations hired stock detectives; individuals and businesses hired detective agencies such as the Pinkertons, and citizens formed vigilance committees to handle undesirable characters.

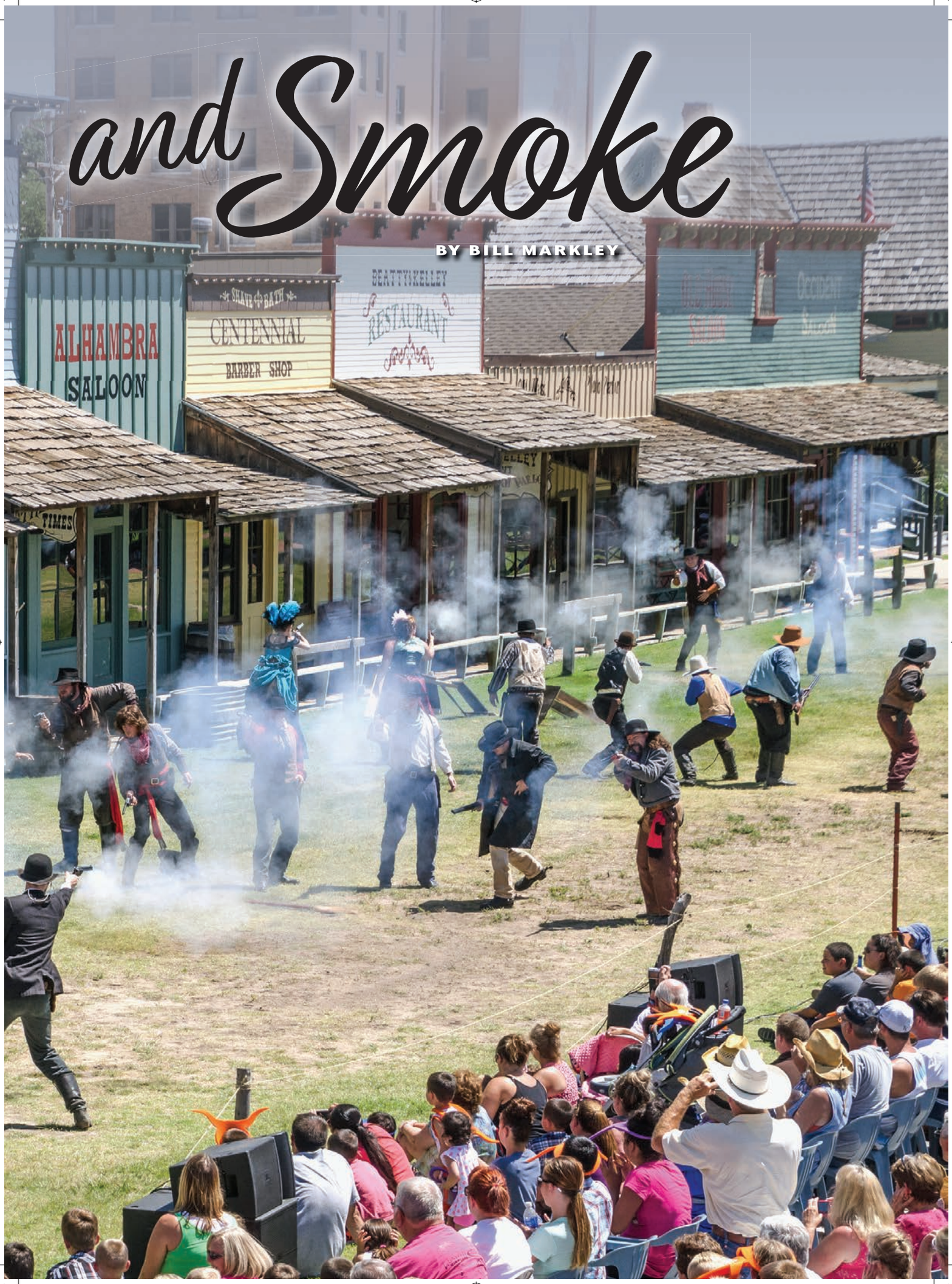
Let's visit 10 localities associated with gunfighters, where you might catch a whiff of gun smoke and get a feel for what it might have been like in a Wild West gunfighter town.

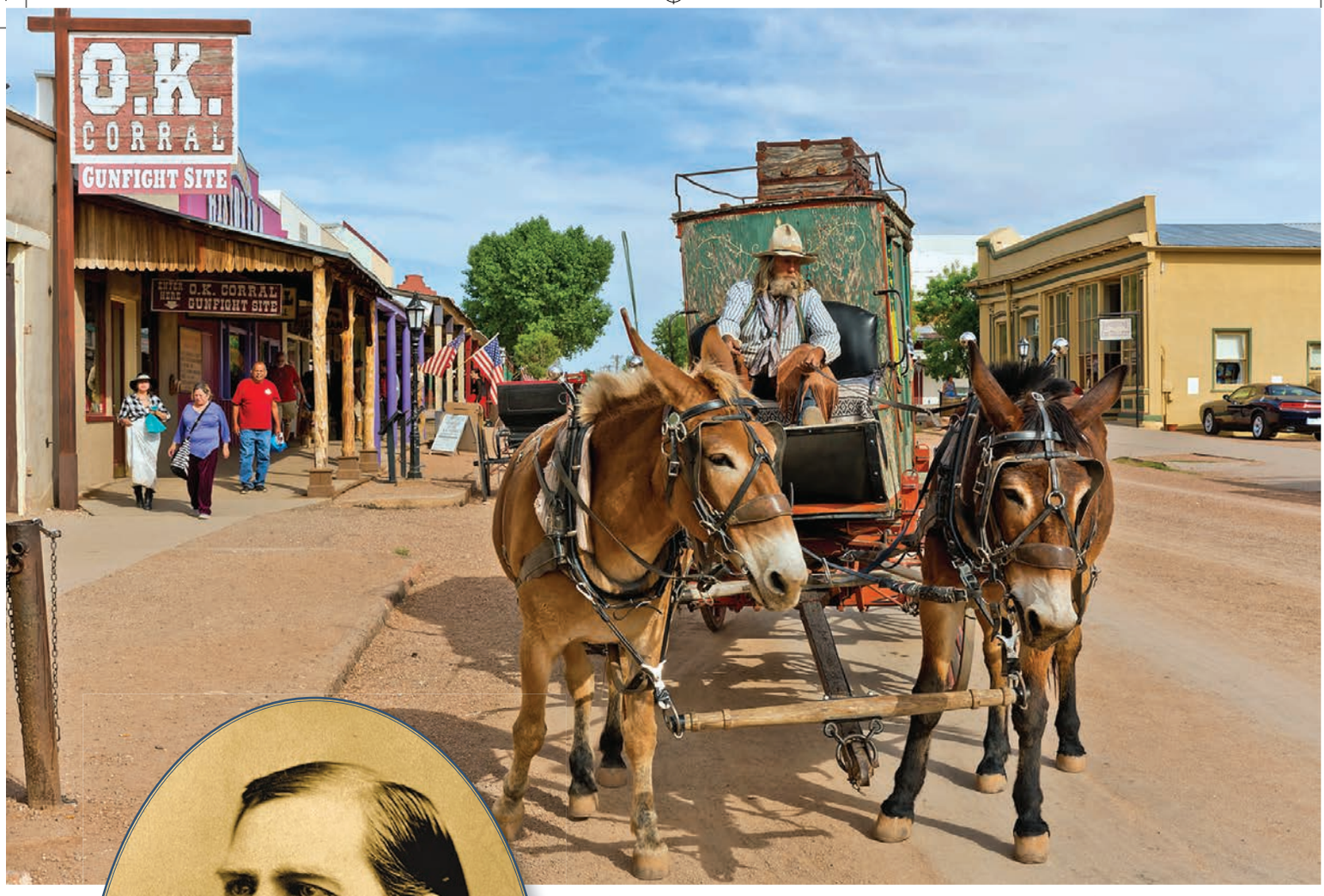
Visitors to Dodge City, Kansas, in the summertime should not miss a tour of the city's Boot Hill Museum, which hosts the World Famous Gunfights daily at noon and 6:30 p.m. along the museum's Front Street.

Courtesy Boot Hill Museum

and Smoke

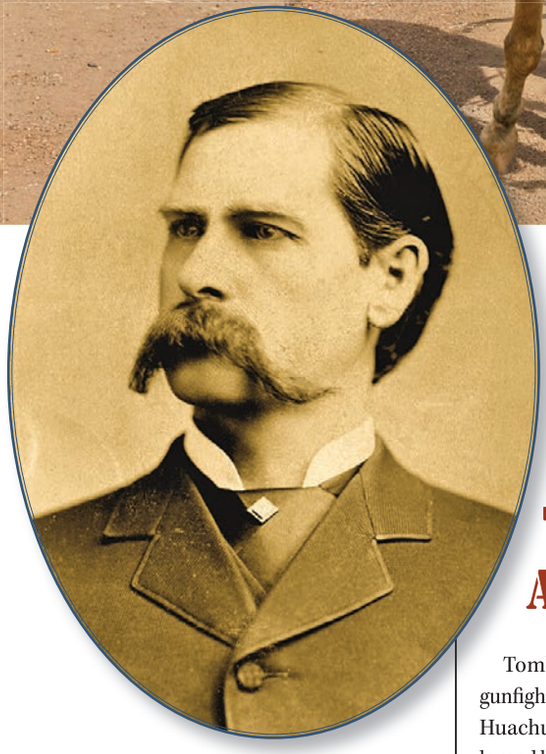
BY BILL MARKLEY





A fun way to learn about Tombstone's legendary past and all of its historic sites is to take a stagecoach tour of the city.

Courtesy Cochise County Tourism



Wyatt Earp went to Tombstone, Arizona Territory, in 1879 seeking his fortune in gold and silver, but what he found was infamy on the city's streets in a street fight behind the O.K. Corral.

True West Archives

TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

Tombstone has to be one of the top gunfighter towns. When Ed Schieffelin left Fort Huachuca searching for precious minerals, legend has it that soldiers (or friends and fellow miners) said the only thing he would find was his tombstone. In 1877, Ed discovered silver ore east of the San Pedro River and named one claim The Tombstone, and the resulting boomtown became Tombstone.

The West's most famous gunbattle erupted here, the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral (actually behind the corral). On October 26, 1881, a feud came to a head between lawmen Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp along with deputized Doc Holliday and cowboys Ike and Billy Clanton and Frank and Tom McLaury. The Earps and Holliday confronted the Clantons and McLaurys. Who shot first—that's disputed—but after multiple shots, both McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton were dead, and all on the Earp side were wounded except Wyatt.

Tombstone will not bore you. Walk where the Earps and Holliday walked to confront the cowboys. Take in a reenactment of their gunfight. Grab a bite to eat or quench your thirst at one of the many watering holes. Ride a stagecoach. Visit the Tombstone Courthouse, now functioning as a museum; pay your respects at the Boothill Graveyard; or visit the Bird Cage Theater Museum, where you might catch a glimpse of alleged ghosts. Enter the Goodenough Silver Mine and learn what it took to mine in the 1800s. Schedule a visit during one of Tombstone's festivities including Showdown in Tombstone every September and Helldorado Days in October.

TombstoneChamber.com

Prescott was known as a law-and-order town in Arizona's territorial years, and Sheriff Buckey O'Neill (third from left) and his lawmen (l.-r.) Carl Holton, Ed. St. Clair, O'Neill and Jim Black, were as much feared as they were respected. O'Neill's service in the Rough Riders is memorialized in the Rough Riders Monument on the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza.

Historic Image Courtesy True West Archives/Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza Courtesy Prescott CVB

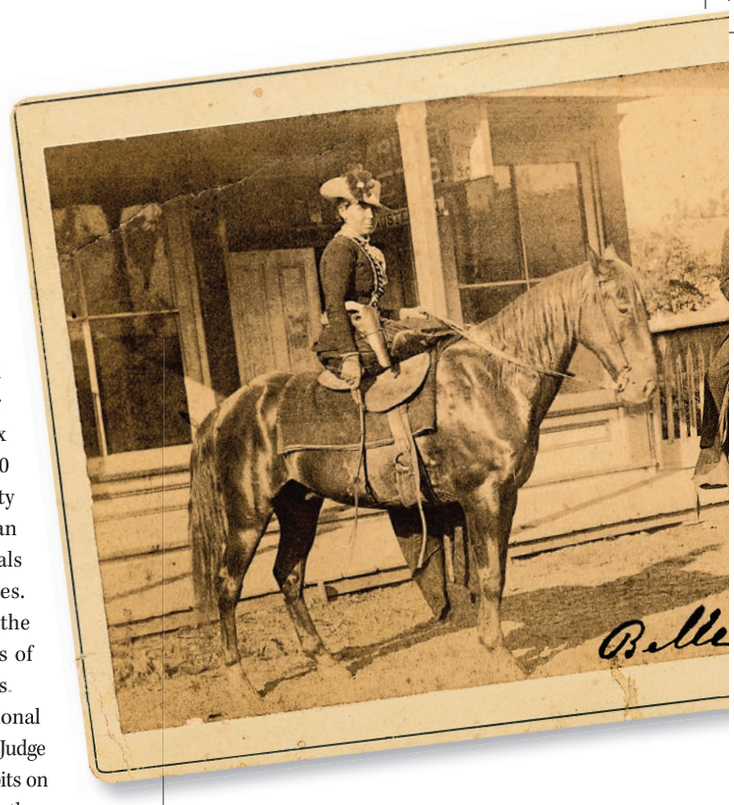
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

Gold was discovered in 1863 near present-day Prescott. The following year, Prescott was founded and declared Arizona's territorial capital. Many well-known characters called Prescott home or passed through. Virgil Earp lived there from 1877 to 1879. On October 16, 1877, U.S. Marshal Wiley Standefer and Sheriff Ed Bowers deputized Virgil to help arrest George Wilson, aka George Vaughn, wanted for murder in Texas. Wilson was spotted in Prescott with a friend John Tallos taking potshots at a stray dog. In the ensuing gunbattle, Virgil's skill with his Winchester was credited with inflicting the most damage to the desperados who died of their wounds. Virgil served as Prescott's nightwatchman, and he was later elected as one of the city's two constables. Another famous Prescott peace officer, William "Buckey" O'Neill, served as Yavapai County sheriff from 1890 until 1894. At the outbreak of the Spanish American War, O'Neill joined the Rough Riders, only to be killed by a sniper before the Battle of San Juan Hill.

Experience Prescott's Western charm. Stroll along Whiskey Row, which at one time boasted over 40 saloons. Visit the Palace Restaurant and Saloon, where most likely Doc Holliday, Wyatt and Virgil Earp imbibed at its predecessor, the Cabinet Saloon. Stay at a dude ranch, go horseback riding or enjoy a cowboy cookout in the surrounding area. Immerse yourself in the Sharlot Hall Museum, tour its historic buildings and experience Arizona life during the late 19th century through its living history program. Over the Fourth of July, attend Prescott's Frontier Days rodeo, held since 1888. ***Visit-Prescott.com***

In 1901, Prescott's Palace Saloon reopened its doors on Montezuma Street when the infamous block was rebuilt after the previous year's fire. Today, the Palace Restaurant and Saloon is the state's oldest operating bar and restaurant, where patrons can imagine the days when Doc Holliday (below, right) and Virgil Earp (below, far right) gambled and drank in the saloons on Whiskey Row.

True West Archives



"The Bandit Queen" Belle Starr (near right) was a notorious outlaw of the Indian Territory. She was captured and brought to Fort Smith's federal court for trial by Deputy U.S. Marshal Benjamin Tyner Hughes (far right) in May 1886. Starr was tried and convicted as a horse thief in Judge Parker's court, and sent to federal prison in Detroit, Michigan, for nine months.

True West Archives

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

In 1817, the Army established Fort Smith on the Arkansas River at the western border of Arkansas where a town with the same name flourished around the fort. The region to the west became known as Indian Territory as the federal government evicted eastern tribes and relocated them there. Indians had their own legal systems but had no jurisdiction over Whites, so Indian Territory became a natural attractant to outlaws. By 1871 the federal district judge and marshal responsible for Arkansas and Indian Territory relocated their offices to Fort Smith, and in 1875, President Ulysses Grant appointed Isaac Charles Parker as the district judge. Parker strictly interpreted the federal law for capital offenses and was nicknamed "the hanging judge" after simultaneously hanging six men before a throng of 5,000 witnesses. Two hundred deputy U.S. marshals scoured Indian Territory bringing in criminals they didn't kill in gun battles. During Parker's 21 years on the bench, he tried 13,490 cases of which 9,454 were convictions.

Visit the Fort Smith National Historic Site—enter the jails and Judge Parker's courtroom, view exhibits on deputy U.S. marshals and the outlaws they combated, and contemplate the reconstructed gallows. Fort Smith is also the location of the U.S. Marshals Museum. Don't miss the 25-foot-tall monument commemorating Bass Reeves, the first Black deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi. Reeves made over 3,000 arrests and killed 14 outlaws. Fort Smith has plenty of festivals including June's Old Fort Days Rodeo and October's Fort Smith Fall Festival featuring outlaw and lawman reenactments.

FortSmith.org

The Fort Smith National Historic Site is the centerpiece of the Fort Smith, Arkansas, historic district and informs visitors of the importance of the city's history to America's 19th-century Western expansion.

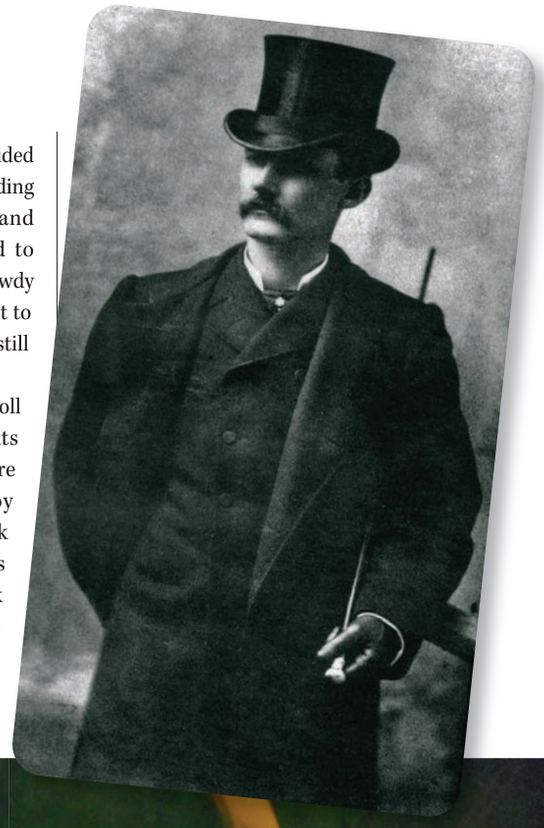
Courtesy NPS.gov

DODGE CITY, KANSAS

Several miles west of Fort Dodge on the Santa Fe Trail, a small collection of tent saloons and soddies, where soldiers drank and buffalo hunters sold hides, boomed when the railroad arrived and became known as Dodge City in 1872. Dodge City had plenty of nicknames including "The Wickedest Town in America." Within its first year, 15 men were killed and buried in Boot Hill. In 1875, Texas cattlemen began arriving with herds to ship east. Cowboys were ready to cut loose. One enjoyment was hurrahing the town—racing their horses and running in the streets while whooping and firing their six-shooters. Take young men who had not seen a woman for weeks, add alcohol and guns, and there is bound to be trouble. More than one law enforcement officer decided to get the hell out of Dodge. Lawmen including Ford County Sheriff Bat Masterson and Assistant Marshal Wyatt Earp worked to establish order. The goal was not to kill rowdy cowboys—that was bad for business—but to tamp down their exuberance. There were still many gunfights and shootings in town.

A must-see is the Boot Hill Museum. Stroll along recreated Front Street and into its buildings where Old West artifacts are displayed. During the summer, enjoy dancehall music and acts as well as mock gun battles in the street. Dodge City has plenty of fun places to enjoy a good steak such as Casey's Cowtown Club. Don't miss the Western excitement of Dodge City Days held at the end of July.

VisitDodgeCity.org



Dodge City's Boot Hill Museum has some of the West's top exhibits on frontier firearms, gambling and gamblers, including Luke Short (above), a known gunman and gambler along the city's once notorious Front Street.

Courtesy Boot Hill Museum / Luke Short Photo Courtesy True West Archives

The Annual Defeat of Jesse James Days in Northfield, Minnesota, recreates the failure of the gang of brothers Jesse James (left), Frank James (center) and Cole Younger (right) to rob Northfield's First National Bank on September 7, 1876. The popular festival will be held September 8–11.

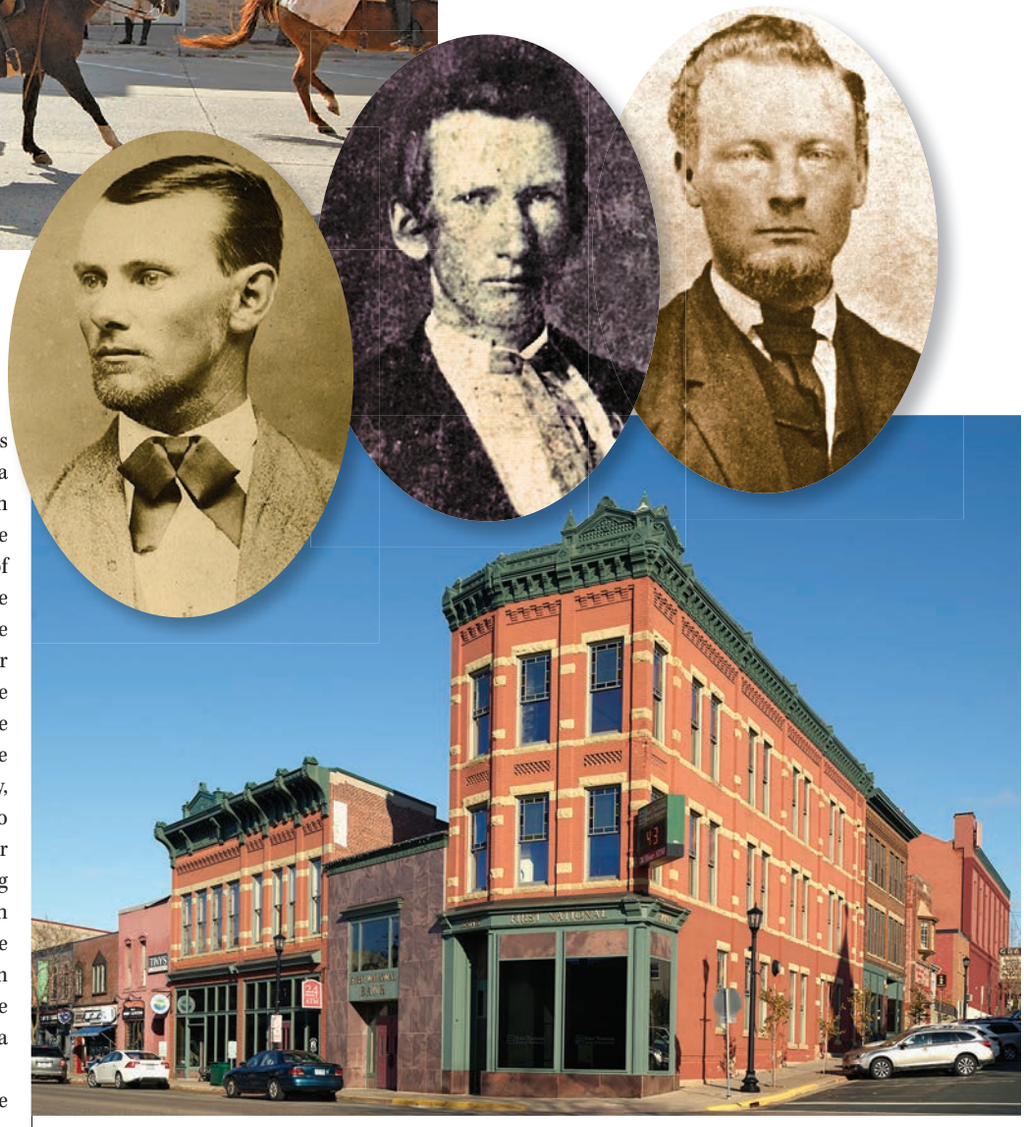
Historic Photos Courtesy True West Archives/Reenactment Photo Courtesy Northfield Days

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Northfield, a small prosperous town 40 miles south of Saint Paul, Minnesota, didn't have a gunfighter reputation. That changed on September 7, 1876, when eight strangers rode into town. They were members of one of America's most successful band of robbers, the James Younger Gang. Although Frank and Jesse James denied involvement and the Younger Brothers never ratted on them, most everyone believes the James Boys were involved in the robbery. At 2:00 p.m., three bandits entered the First National Bank and botched the robbery, stealing only $26.60, wounding teller Alonzo Bunker and shooting in the head bookkeeper and acting cashier Joseph Heywood. Learning of the robbery in progress, citizens began shooting at the outlaws in the street. When the James Younger Gang rode away and the gun smoke cleared, two outlaws lay dead in the street and one citizen would soon die of a head wound.

You can still visit the scene of the crime. The Northfield Historical Society has restored the First National Bank to the way it looked the day the robbers entered. Next door in the same building, an exhibit details the robbery, shootout and manhunt for the criminals. The exhibit displays firearms used in the gun battle, an outlaw's saddle and the bank's ledger book. Northfield holds its annual Defeat of Jesse James Days over the weekend closest to September 7, celebrating the townspeople's victory over the James Younger Gang. Each day of the festivities, reenactments of the bank robbery and street battle are performed.

VisitNorthfield.org



The James-Younger Gang crossed the Fourth Street Bridge into Northfield, Minnesota, before attempting to rob the town's First National Bank. Today, visitors will enjoy exploring Northfield's historic district's (above) shops, restaurants and museums.

Courtesy Library of Congress

LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's Lincoln County was the setting for a series of murders and gun battles known as the Lincoln County War. One faction, started with merchants Lawrence Murphy and Jimmy Dolan, was known as the House because of the large two-story building that housed their business. Later, a third partner, John H. Riley, joined Murphy and Dolan. The other faction, headed by John Tunstall and Alexander McSween, were called the Regulators. A series of events led to Tunstall's murder by House members on February 18, 1878. Tunstall employee Billy the Kid vowed vengeance,

Billy the Kid Pageant and Old Lincoln Days reenactors entertain crowds of visitors every year with gun battles and melodrama in historic Lincoln, New Mexico. The popular event will be held this year on August 5–7.

Photo Courtesy Old Lincoln Days

resulting in the Kid ambushing and shooting House supporter Sheriff William Brady on Lincoln's main street. Later, House members besieged and set fire to McSween's home in Lincoln. McSween and several Regulators were killed as they fled the burning house. The Kid escaped to fight again. Eventually, Sheriff Pat Garrett captured the Kid, and he was sentenced to be hanged. However, the Kid killed two of Garrett's deputies and escaped from the Lincoln County jail, the former House building.

The town of Lincoln is now a historic site. Seven of its 17 preserved structures are open. Visit the building that belonged to the House and was later the Lincoln County Courthouse. Enter the room where Billy the Kid was jailed. Ten miles west is Fort Stanton, which figured significantly in the Lincoln County War. Although only one building used as the museum is open, you can walk around the fort's 88 buildings. Plan to attend Old Lincoln Days and The Last Escape of Billy the Kid held every August.

LincolnCountyNM.gov

Billy the Kid (right) was awaiting his death sentence by hanging for the murder of Sheriff William Brady in the Lincoln County Courthouse jail when he made his famous escape on April 28, 1881. The Old Lincoln County Courthouse is a State of New Mexico Historic Site and museum.

Courtesy New Mexico Office of Tourism

Calamity Jane Canary, aka Mrs. M.E. Burke (right), is buried next to her friend Wild Bill Hickok in Deadwood's Mt. Moriah Cemetery. The historic graveyard, which sits above the city, has an entry fee and a self-guided walking tour.

Calamity Jane Photo Courtesy True West Archives/Gravesite Courtesy South Dakota Tourism

DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

Deadwood began as an outlaw town. It wasn't supposed to exist. Located in South Dakota's Black Hills, Deadwood mushroomed into existence along Whitewood Creek with the discovery of gold in December 1875. The Black Hills were located within the Great Sioux Reservation. No Whites were allowed, but after Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's 1874 Black Hills Expedition discovered gold, the Army couldn't hold back the hordes of prospectors.

Deadwood had no government—no law enforcement. Prudent people armed themselves. Legendary gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok rode into Deadwood only to be assassinated, shot in the back of the head by Jack McCall on August 2, 1876. Citizens organized a miners' court that released McCall after he lied, saying Hickok had killed his brother. Days later, Saloon No. 10 bartender Harry Young shot and killed Bummer Dan Baum. Another miners' court released Young who claimed self-defense because he believed Bummer Dan was another man he was feuding with. Gamblers Johnny Varnes and Charlie Storms shot at each other in the street until they were out of bullets. Friends convinced them to stop, and all went to a saloon for a drink.

The Wild Bill Bar (left) in downtown Deadwood claims to be the original site of the No. 10 Saloon where James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok (above) was shot in the back of the head on August 2, 1876. A recreation of the original No. 10's bar in the building's basement can be toured with a paid admission.

Hickok Photo Courtesy True West Archives/
Bar Photo Courtesy South Dakota Tourism

Take a walking tour or ride the stagecoach down Deadwood's streets and imagine what it was like during Deadwood's wild days. Witness gunfight reenactments and Jack McCall's trial. Visit the Adams Museum, which may have one of Hickok's guns, and examine the Days of 76 Museum's collection of artifacts. Deadwood holds Wild Bill Days in June, and in July, the Days of '76 Parade and Rodeo.
Deadwood.com

JA Ranch cowboys break camp outside of Amarillo, Texas, at the turn of the century. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon has exhibits on local ranching history and its growth in the Texas Panhandle in the late 1870s after the end of the Indian wars and the arrival of the railhead in Amarillo.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Visitors to Amarillo will undoubtedly realize that the vast plains of the Texas Panhandle would not have been settled without good horses, and the city's American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum celebrates the historic development and breed that helped build the West.

Courtesy Amarillo CVB

AMARILLO, TEXAS

In the late 1880s, developers established Amarillo along the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad in the Texas Panhandle's cattle country. Although Amarillo was a latecomer, plenty of gun battles happened in the region. Whites and Indians fought two battles at Adobe Walls, 87 miles to the northeast. The first was on November 25, 1864, when Kit Carson led troops and Indian allies against an overwhelming number of Kiowa and Comanche warriors. Carson wisely withdrew. The second battle began on June 27, 1874, when 700 Comanche, Kiowa, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors attacked a band of buffalo hunters that included Bat Masterson, Billy Dixon and Bill Tilghman, who were able to repel their attackers. Mobeetie, which was known as Sweetwater at the time, 110 miles northeast of Amarillo, was the scene of a January 24, 1876, gunfight between Corporal Melvin King and Bat Masterson. King considered Mollie Brennan his girl, and when he learned Bat and Mollie were together at a nearby bar, he burst in, guns blazing, seriously wounding Bat and killing Mollie before Bat could fire into King's chest the bullet that killed him. Tascosa, 40 miles northwest, was Billy the Kid's hangout after the Lincoln County War and the scene of the Big Fight at Jenkins Saloon, where on March 21, 1886, a feud between two ranches left four people dead.

While in Amarillo visit the American Quarter Horse Museum or the Panhandle-Plains Museum. Feeling hungry? Try to beat the 72-ounce Steak Challenge at Big Texan Steak Ranch. Attend one of Amarillo's many rodeos or the Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association event in October.

VisitAmarillo.com

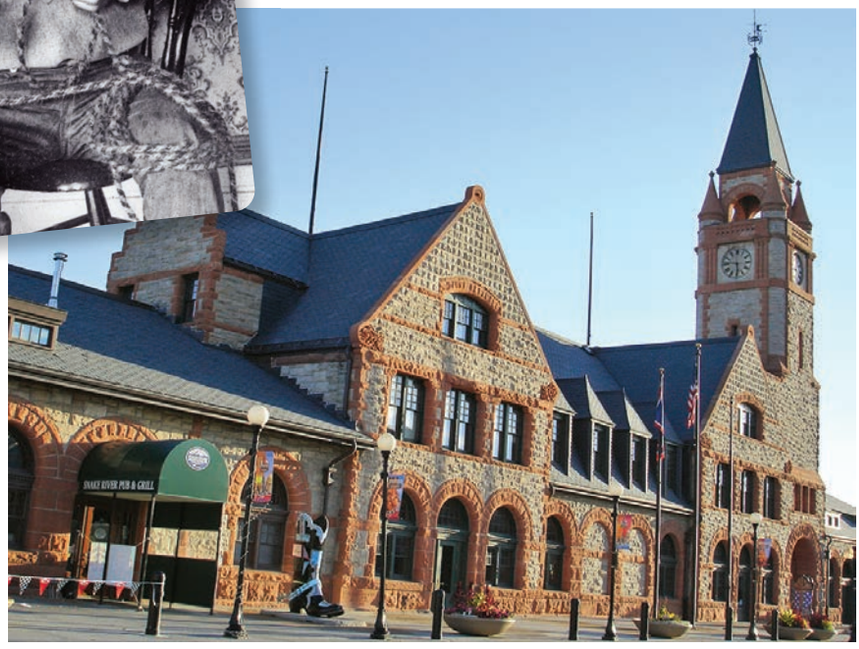
Experience the Lone Star State's unique cowboy restaurant with a meal of a 72-ounce steak at the Big Texan in Amarillo.

Courtesy Texas Tourism

Legendary Westerner and Army scout Tom Horn (left) would have been able to hear the arrivals and departures of the trains at Cheyenne's Union Pacific Railroad Depot while he awaited his execution by hanging for the murder of 14-year-old Willie Nickell on November 20, 1903. Today, the historic 1886 train station is home to the Cheyenne Depot Museum and Plaza, including a visitors' center.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Cheyenne got its start in 1867 as an end-of-the-tracks Union Pacific Railroad town—a Hell on Wheels town, a movable rough-and-tumble collection of tents and shanties catering to railroad workers by providing gambling, liquor and female companionship. Francis E. Warren, Wyoming's first governor and one of its first U.S. senators, said, "Every man slept with from one to a half-dozen revolvers under his pillow, for depradations [sic] of every character could be expected at any hour, day or night." Cheyenne attracted Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok. On October 24, 1902, stock detective Tom Horn was convicted of first-degree murder in the shooting death of 14-year-old Willie Nickell.



The annual Cheyenne Frontier Days, billed as the "World's Largest Outdoor Rodeo and Western Celebration" celebrates the Cowboy State's history and heritage on July 22–July 31.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Sentenced to be hanged, Horn was housed in Cheyenne's Laramie County jail. On August 9, 1903, Horn and fellow inmate Jim McCloud overpowered a guard, armed themselves and escaped. A crowd soon caught McCloud. Horn could not figure out how to release the safety on his pistol to fire it. His pursuers shot at him, one bullet creasing the top of his head. Horn was captured, returned to jail, and on November 20, 1903, he was hanged in Cheyenne.

To learn about Cheyenne's interesting sites and historic buildings, ride the Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley, and to learn more history, tour the Cheyenne Depot Museum and the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. During the summer, enjoy the Western Gunslingers show of gunfights and skits. Visit Cheyenne during its 10-day Frontier Days celebration in July with its parades, shows and rodeos.

Cheyenne.org

Before Laramie was known as the home of the University of Wyoming, it was a railroad town. The Union Pacific Railroad Station in Laramie opened in 1868 and included a roundhouse, machine shop, cashier's office, hotel and restaurant.

Courtesy Yale University

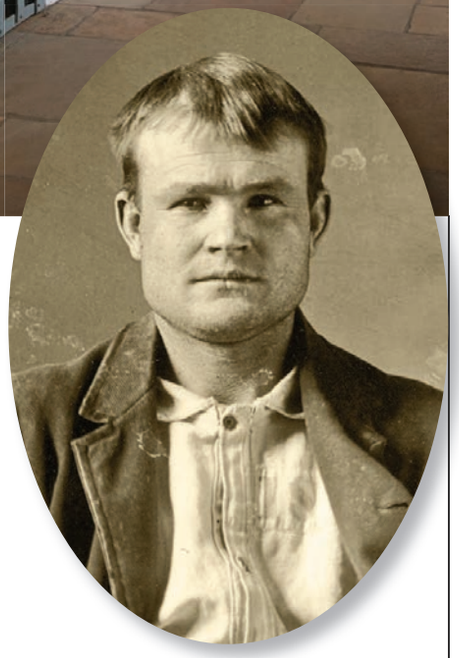
LARAMIE, WYOMING

Laramie, established in July 1867, was another end-of-the-tracks Union Pacific Railroad town. One of its first lawmen was Deputy City Marshal "Big Steve" Long. On October 22, 1867, a fistfight broke out between four cowboys and four Illinois newcomers. Big Steve was unsuccessful in breaking up the fight until he pulled two six-shooters and fired into the brawlers, killing five. That December, two prospectors were arguing over whose turn it was to buy the next round of drinks in the Baby Doll Saloon. Big Steve ordered them to settle down. When they didn't listen, he shot and killed them both as well as a bystander. Lawman Big Steve moonlighted as an outlaw. On October 18, 1868, he attempted to rob a prospector, "Hard Luck" Harrigan, who shot back, wounding Big Steve. He asked his fiancée to treat the wound. When she learned what happened, she told the vigilance committee which promptly hanged Big Steve from a telegraph pole. In 1872, the federal government built the Wyoming Territorial Prison, which later was turned over to the State of Wyoming. In June 1894, outlaw Butch Cassidy entered the prison after he was convicted of being in possession of a stolen horse valued at $5. Butch was a model prisoner, and the governor pardoned him in January 1896.

There's plenty for the history lover—the Laramie Plains Museum, Laramie Historic Train Depot, Wyoming Territorial Prison and University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center, among the largest archives in the nation. Attend Laramie's Jubilee Days held in July with rodeos, parades and a carnival.

VisitLaramie.org

Bill Markley's latest book with dueling coauthor Kellen Cutsforth is *Standoff at High Noon: Another Battle over the Truth in the Mythic Wild West.*



Outlaw Butch Cassidy's (above) tenure in the Wyoming Territorial Prison, now a state historic site in Laramie, is told in the popular museum's exhibits on its famous and not-so-famous prisoners.

Prison Photo Courtesy Wyoming Tourism/Butch Cassidy Photo Courtesy True West Archives

TRADING POST

Western Roundup

FOR JUNE 2022

ART SHOWS

AMERICAN PLAINS ARTISTS SPECIAL SHOW
San Angelo, TX, June 23-August 7: An 1867 fort along the Concho River showcases nearly 100 Western paintings and a dozen sculptures.
325-481-2646 • *FortConcho.com*

COWGIRL ROUNDUP
Loveland, CO, June 12-17: Discover your inner cowgirl at Sylvan Dale's Cowgirl Roundup. Attend alone or with a friend. Making friendships with other "cowgirls" and bonding with your Sylvan Dale horse makes this adventure a top-of-the-bucket-list experience.
970-667-3915 • *SylvanDale.com*

FILM FESTIVALS

LONE PINE FILM HISTORY MUSEUM CONCERT IN THE ROCKS
Lone Pine, CA, June 4: Every June, magnificent Lone Ranger Canyon in the Alabama Hills is transformed into an "under the stars" venue for hosting the annual Lone Pine Concert in the Rocks, which this year features a tribute to Frank Sinatra.
760-876-9909 • *MuseumOfWesternFilmHistory.org*

FOOD FESTIVALS

HOPS & HOPS FEST
The Dalles, OR, June 19: Choose from more than 50 beers from 25-plus breweries from Oregon and beyond in a taproom experience.
541.296.2231 • *BeerFestTheDalles.com*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

HISTORIC LECOMPTON TERRITORIAL DAYS
Lecompton, KS, June 10-11: Kansas's former territorial capital celebrates with weekend activities for the entire family.
785-887-6285 • *LeComptonTerritorialDays.com*

NEBRASKALAND DAYS
North Platte, NE, June 15-25: Tim McGraw will be among the performers at Nebraska's premier music festival and rodeo featuring a rodeo, parades and concerts.
308-532-7939 • *NebraskalandDays.com*

DODGE CITY FOUNDERS WEEKEND
Dodge City, KS, June 17-19: This signature event will celebrate George Hoover and the establishment of the first business, as well as the city's rough and rowdy early years. The 150th anniversary represents the chance to showcase not only the best of its past but celebrate the community that makes Dodge City great today.
800-OLD-WEST • *DodgeCity150.com*

JIM BOWIE DAYS
Bowie, TX, June 18-25: Texas Revolution hero and frontiersman Jim Bowie is honored with a rodeo, parades and an art and Indian artifact show.
940-366-1887 • *JimBowieDays.org*

GOLD RUSH DAYS
Sidney, NE, June 10-12: Experience the Black Hills gold rush of 1876 through skits, re-enactments and cowboy lore about the town's freighting days.
866-545-4030 • *SidneyGoldRush.com*

Courtesy Gold Rush Days, Sidney, NE

MUSIC

TEXAS! OUTDOOR MUSICAL DRAMA
Palo Duro Canyon, TX, June 2-August 13: This outdoor musical re-creates the stories of Texas Panhandle settlers.
806-655-2181 • *Texas-Show.com*

POWWOWS

RED EARTH FESTIVAL
Oklahoma City, OK, June 30-July 2: Experience the traditions of American Indian arts and cultures through dance, an art market and a powwow.
405-427-5228 • *RedEarth.org*

RODEOS

SISTERS RODEO
Sisters, OR, June 8-12: Rodeo stars head to Sisters to show off their goods in this self-proclaimed "Biggest Little Show in the World!"
800-827-7522 • *SistersRodeo.com*

WEST OF THE PECOS RODEO
Pecos, TX, June 18-25: Gather in Pecos for this historic PRCA rodeo, a top 40 prize money rodeo that originated in 1883.
432-445-2406 • *PecosRodeo.com*

GREELEY STAMPEDE
Greeley, CO, June 23-July 4: Get bull riding and steer wrestling rodeo action, plus take in Western art and an Independence Day parade.
970-356-7787 • *GreeleyStampede.org*

CROOKED RIVER ROUNDUP
Prineville, OR, June 25-27: This PRCA rodeo includes steer wrestling, roping, bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding and more.
541-447-4479 • *CrookedRiverRoundup.com*

RENO RODEO
Reno, NV, June 16-25: The "Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West," the Reno Rodeo is celebrating 100 years of Wild West family fun.
778-329-3877 • *RenoRodeo.com*

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS' WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO
Prescott, AZ, June 28-July 4: The 135th annual rodeo celebrates the 50th anniversary of the release of the classic Western *Junior Bonner*, which was filmed entirely on location locally, including during the rodeo and parade. Rodeo action kicks off on Tuesday the 28th and concludes on the Fourth of July. Don't miss one of the nation's greatest rodeo parades on Saturday, July 2.
928-445-4320 • *WorldsOldestRodeo.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.

Wild Bill, Bearded Indians and Banks

Can you tell me why Wild Bill Hickok wore his guns backwards?

Bob Hite
Kinship Productions
Pine Island Sound, Florida

Many successful shootists preferred the cross draw. For example, if you're sitting at a faro table or in the saddle, it's much easier to reach across and pull your gun than it is to reach back to your right hip to pull your pistol. From a standing position the holster needs to be more towards the front of your left leg. As you draw, you swivel your hip to the right. The cross draw was popular with men who spent a lot of time sitting at a poker table or on horseback.

The strong side-carry with the butt to the rear was and is faster and more accurate. If you are standing, the cross draw is the slowest, the twist-draw next, and the standard butt to the rear is the fastest. All this predates *buscadero* rigs and tied-down holsters that show up in the movies and TV.

James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok was famous for wearing his pistols backwards in a cross-draw style.

True West Archives

When a stage was robbed, were the depositors compensated or did they simply lose their money?

Jim Grazulis
Elizabeth, Colorado

Banks were not federally insured to cover losses until 1933. Until then, depositors were just out of luck. That's why there were so many runs on banks. John Boessenecker, author of *Shotguns and Messengers: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West*, writes, "It depended on the express company, but I think most repaid losses, or no one would trust them. Passengers who were robbed had no recourse; they were out of luck."

Did Indians have facial hair?

Donald V. Mink
Farwell, Michigan

American Indians do have facial hair but it's sparse and can be easily plucked. Some Indigenous tribes of America did wear moustaches and beards, but they were in the minority.

Did any wagon trains ever simply disappear without a trace?

Jim Light
Portland, Oregon

There is no record of that. There is usually some evidence left behind. But it was courting danger to go solo with a wagon, as there were all kinds of human predators lurking on those trails—as experienced by the Oatman party in 1851 on the Gila Trail in Arizona. All were brutally murdered except a son who was injured but survived and two daughters who were taken captive.

In the 19th century, bank customers had a better chance of having their money returned after a bank robbery than if they suffered a personal loss from a stage robber along the highway.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Navajo Chief Manuelito was famous for sporting a moustache, a facial hair style that was less common among Indigenous American people.

Courtesy Library of Congress, circa 1864–1868

Was the term "steer" used in the Old West for bulls? And were cows also driven in those cattle drives?

Jim Verner
Pearce, Arizona

The herds were made up of both cows and steers. As you know, a steer is a castrated bull, and they are used primarily for beef. Heifers are young female cattle that have not yet borne calves. They can be used for breeding, and they can also be raised for beef. Sometimes a calf would be born on the drive and was too young to keep up with the herd, so the cook might butcher it, or he might give it to a farmer.

In early cowboy movies, I notice that often the shootists have the web of their hand between their thumb and first finger over the hammer. Also, they "flick" the gun forward to shoot. What's going on?

Roger Gary
Longview, Washington

It's a good thing they're following a script. In a real gunfight, "flicking the gun forward" is a sure way to miss what you're aiming at. First, to properly pull your pistol from the holster, your thumb cocks the hammer; second, at the same time, your index finger goes to the front of the trigger guard, so the gun doesn't fire prematurely. Third, when you point your weapon, the index finger goes inside the trigger guard and on the trigger. That way you won't accidentally put a bullet in your foot or kneecap.

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

AUTHOR, GRAPHIC NOVELIST

Jeffrey J. Mariotte is the award-winning author of dozens of books, including the historical Western epic *Blood and Gold: The Legend of Joaquin Murrieta* (with Peter Murrieta), the *Cody Cavanaugh* Western series, the *Major Crimes Squad: Phoenix* series, *Tarzan and the Forest of Stone* and many more in various genres. He's also known for his comics and graphic novel work, especially the long-running Weird Western series *Desperadoes*. He lives in the desert with his wife, Marsheila Rockwell.

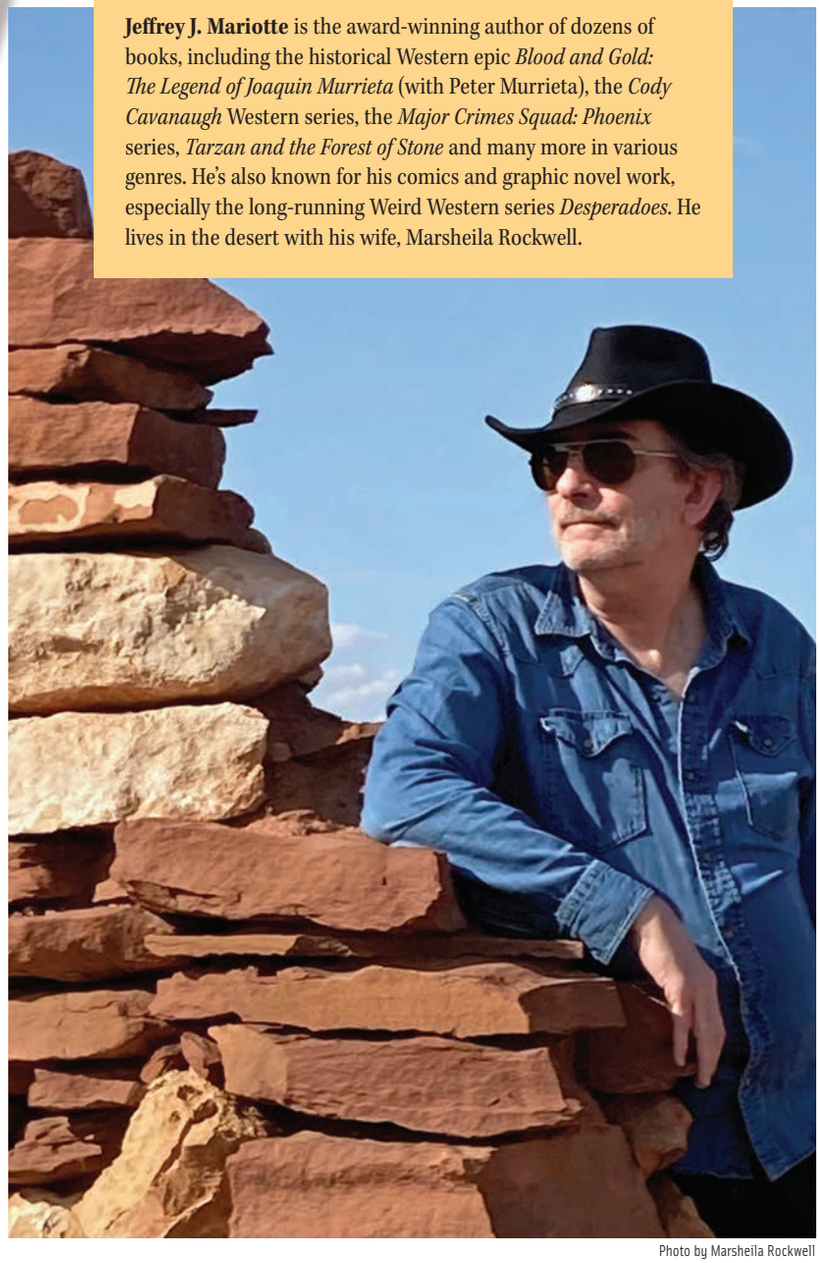


Photo by Marsheila Rockwell

My parents taught me to seek beauty and peace, which is why I traded Southern California for 40 acres in Arizona's Sulphur Springs Valley, where I could see only bits of five other structures but could see mountains in every direction. Every inch of ground there was living history.

As a kid in Europe, I went to an elementary school in France run by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). Kids from every NATO country attended the school, which was taught primarily in French but with one period a day dedicated to the student's home country and language. There, I learned how to get along with people from diverse backgrounds, which has served me well over the decades. I also learned how to make and play "Knockers" with chestnuts and string, which has had less relevance as I've aged.

My first comic book was a Roy Rogers comic I found in a Russian barber's shop inside a building run by the U.S. Department of Defense. Having loved Roy on TV back in the States, I grabbed it up and read it cover to cover. That started a lifelong love of Western comics and fiction that has never ebbed.

Writing comics is always a collaboration because I don't draw. When an artist and I really mesh, the result turns out a million times better than I pictured.

An author I'd like to have dinner with is Loren D. Estleman. I met him once, very briefly, at a WWA convention. Like me, he writes in different genres, but he does it so well and he makes it look so easy, though I know it's not.

Western novels have formed a big part of my reading ever since I read Gordon D. Shirreff's *Mystery of the Haunted Mine* in fifth grade. Set around mountains he called the Espectros but were clearly the Superstitions, it had an early-50s Western vibe along with aspects of the mystery and hints of the supernatural. Everything I love to write came out of that book. And now I can see the Superstitions from my bedroom window.

Tarzan was a boyhood favorite from early days, watching Johnny Weissmuller movies on the family TV. Later, I became interested in the era of the pulp magazine heroes, and I got reacquainted with the Lord of the Jungle and other Burroughs characters, powering through dozens of his novels. Getting to write a Tarzan book and to set Tarzan loose in Arizona was truly a dream come true.

Being married to another writer is the best of all possible worlds. Marsheila (Marcy) Rockwell and I are one another's first readers and copy editors, but more important than that, we both understand and respect the process—the occasional need to just sit and think, or to spend hours on end at the keyboard, or to travel to visit a location that will appear on a single page of a book.

What history has taught me is to do things right the first time, so they'll last. When I lived in Germany in my teens, a wall built by the Romans ran through the city—still standing after many hundreds of years. In southeastern Arizona I lived about midway between Tombstone and Skeleton Canyon, the site of Geronimo's ultimate surrender—two places that are still talked about and likely always will be. I don't know if any of my writings will survive the ages, but I figure if I try to write like it will, I have a better chance than if I just knocked it out.

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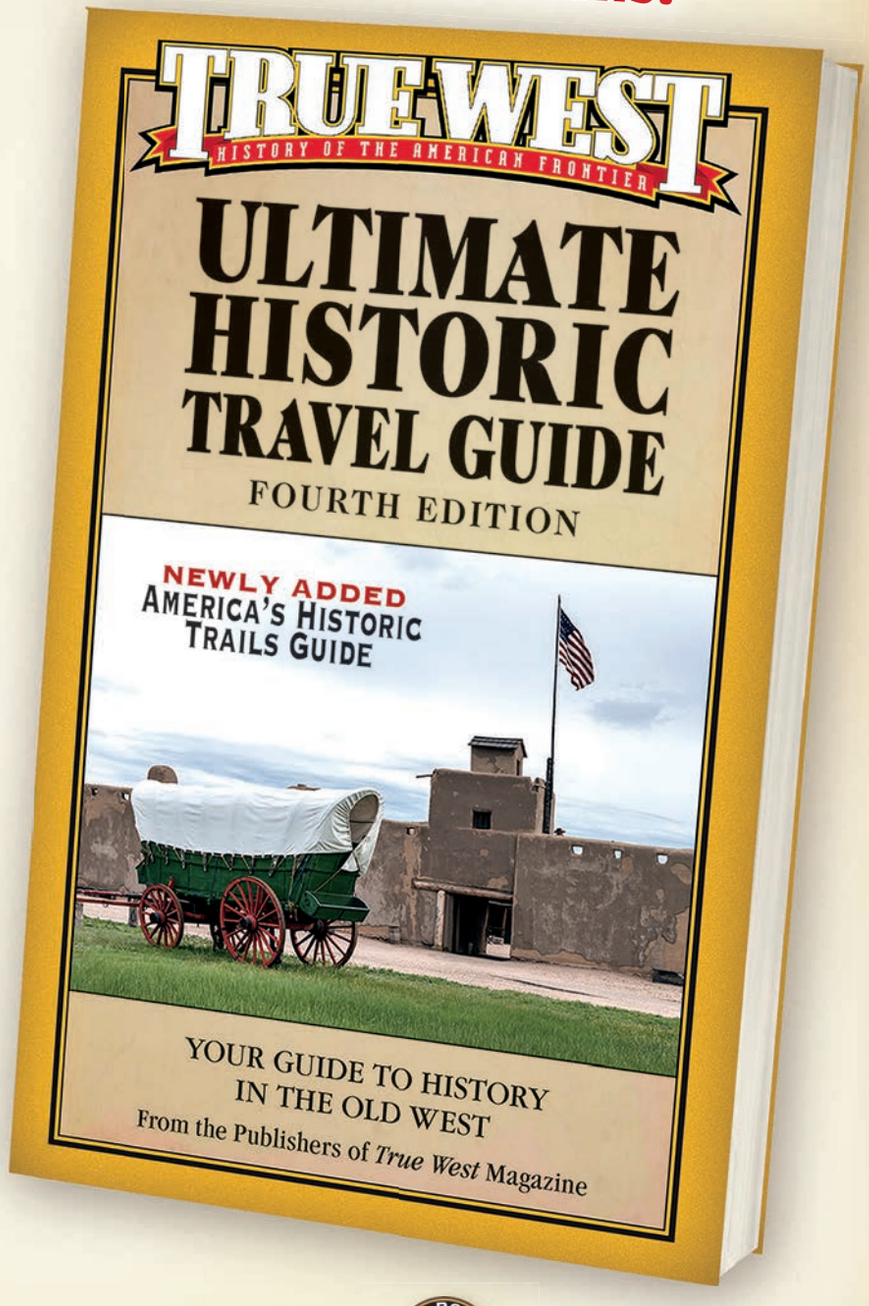

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