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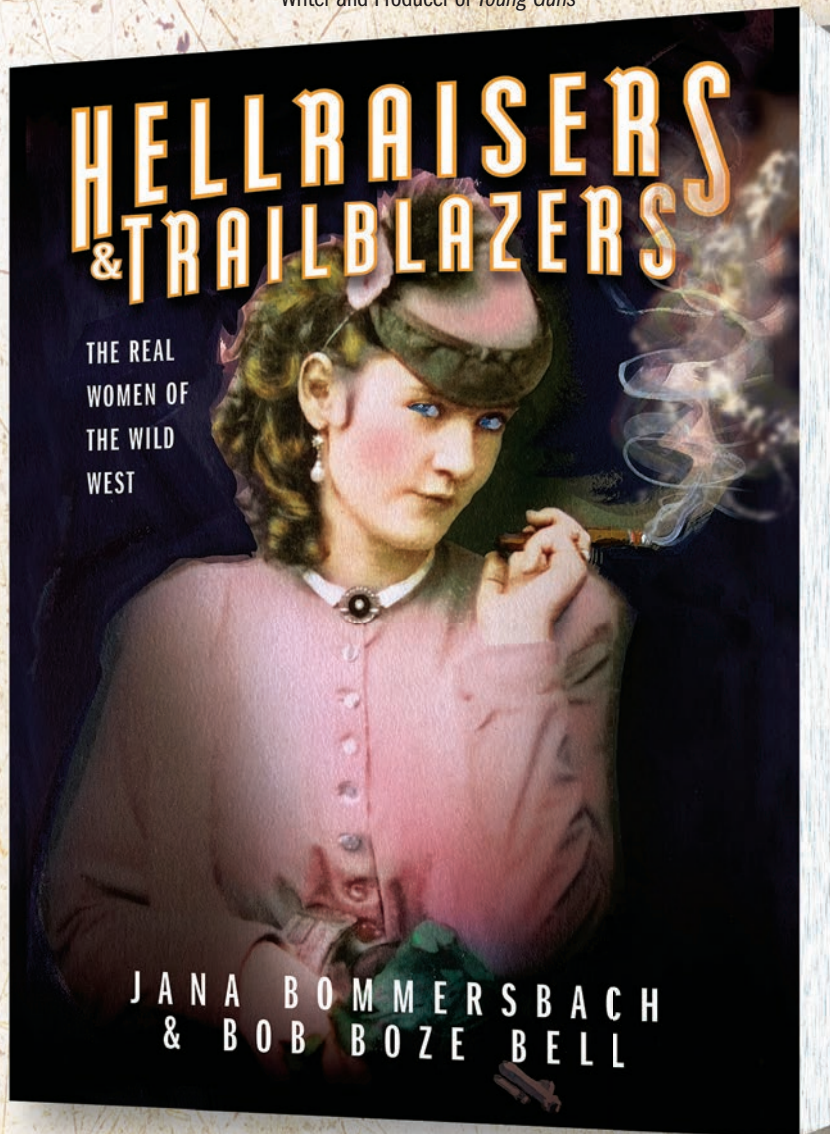


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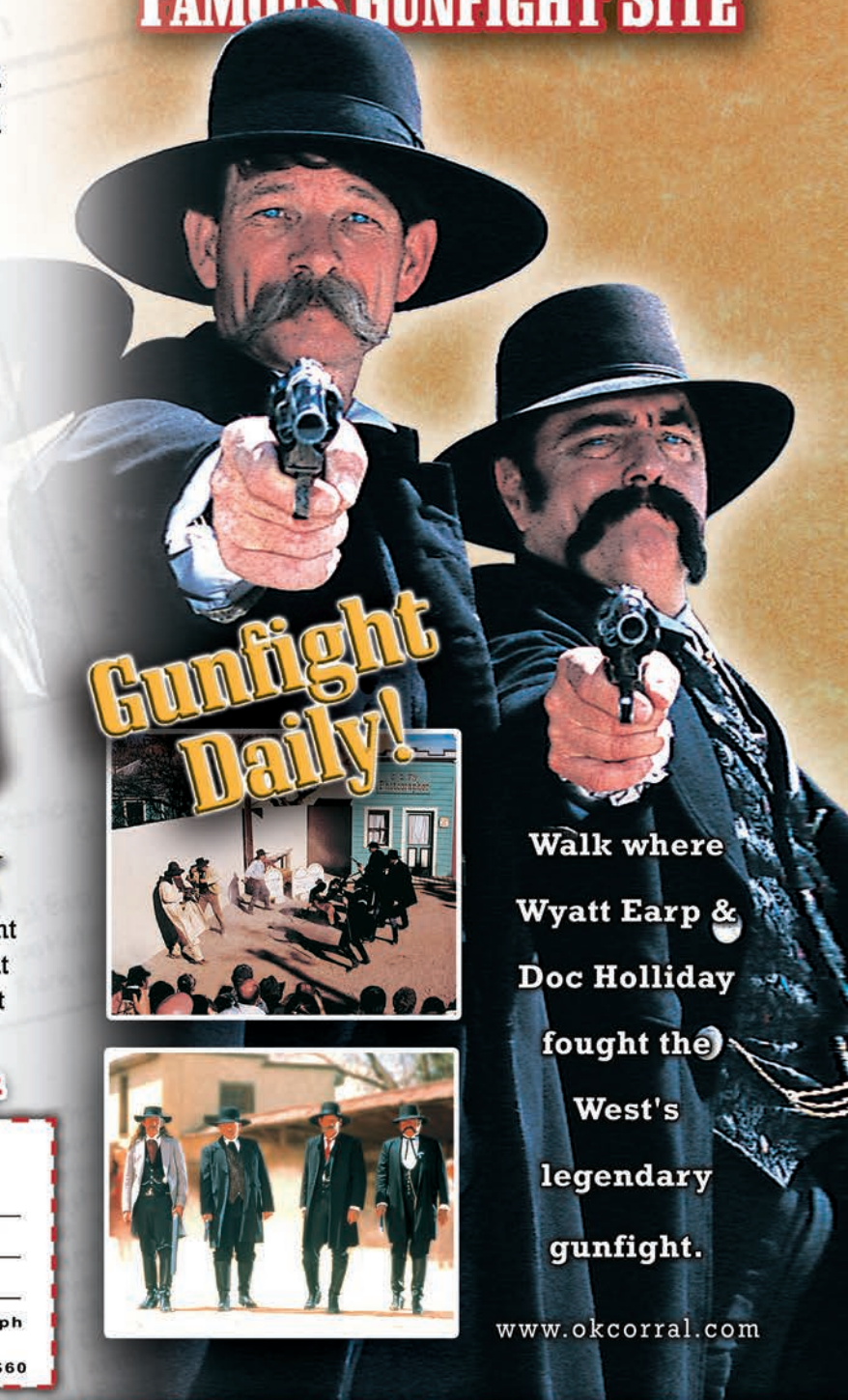
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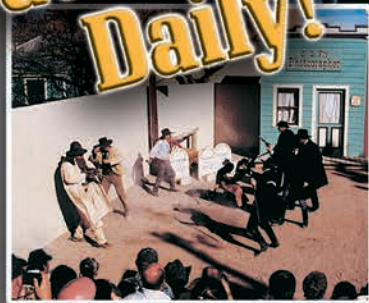
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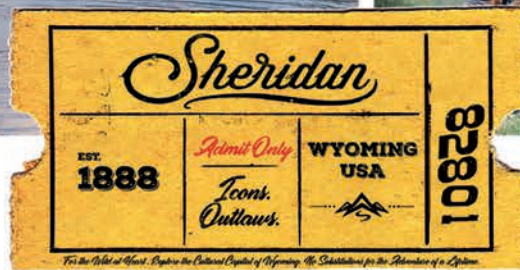
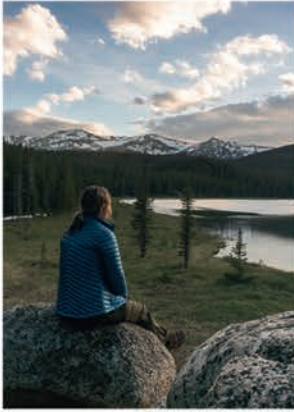


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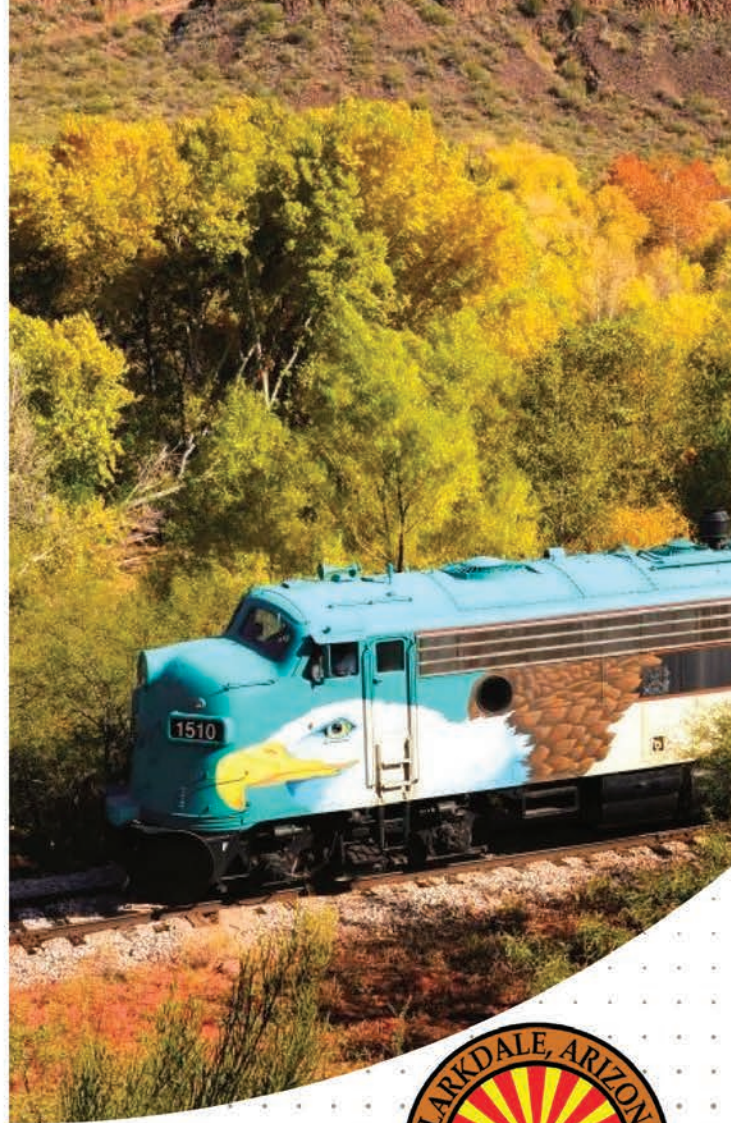




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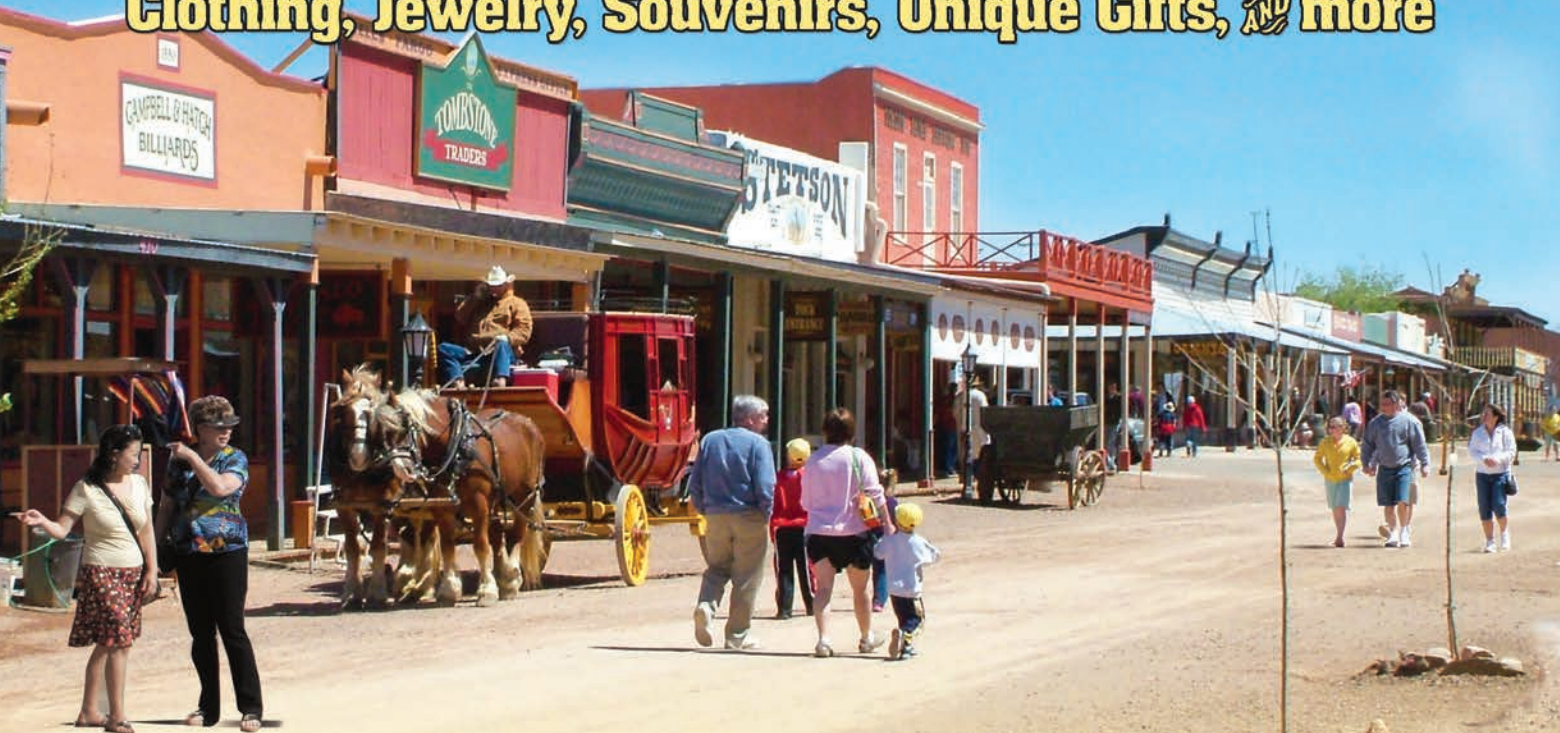
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# Real Women of



## THE STUNNING CASCADING COLLAGE

Accompanying the Hellraisers & Trailblazers art show and book at the Phippen Art Museum in Prescott, Arizona is the above collage with its spellbinding and authentic take on the real women who made this country what it is today. The wild ones, the crazy ones and all the women in between are depicted in this massive work of art. Curated and created by Bob Boze Bell, Mark McDowell and Brent Bond, this impressive artwork is a thing to behold.

“Groundbreaking and absolutely enthralling!”

—John Fusco, writer and producer of “Young Guns”

# THE Wild West



Excerpts from the new book, *Hellraisers & Trailblazers: The Real Women of The Wild West*, by Jana Bommersbach and Bob Doze Bell

Be sure to visit the *Phippen Art Museum* in Prescott, Arizona, to see over 60 of the paintings and illustrations (including the ones on these pages) from the new book.

**The show will be up from now to January 22, 2023.**



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# OPENING SHOT

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## **WESTERN CAVALRY TRAINING**

*True West's* Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg was asked to share with us 10 significant photos of the Old West. His nine other photos and descriptions can be seen and read on pages 20-39. Here is what he wrote about this historic image from the National

Archives: "This 1885 action photo shows the white clouds of smoke from the fired black powder Springfield Trapdoor .45-70 carbines of the 6th U.S. Cavalry. They are undergoing training for their mounts under fire at Fort Wingate, New Mexico Territory. This exceptional image reveals the true professionalism of the 1880s frontier military, along with how well cavalry horses were trained. Ironically, the prone animals provided protection for the troopers, while making themselves much smaller targets."

Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration



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

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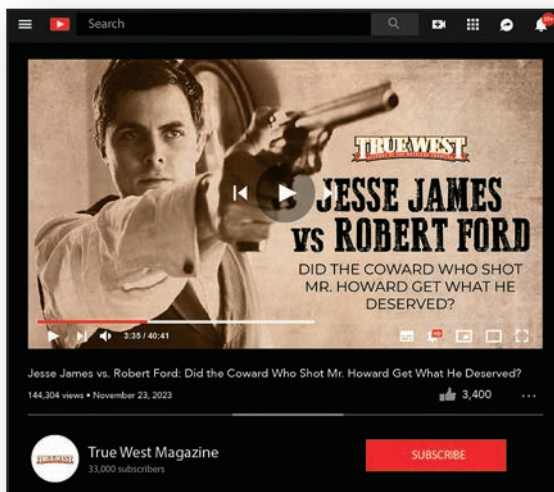
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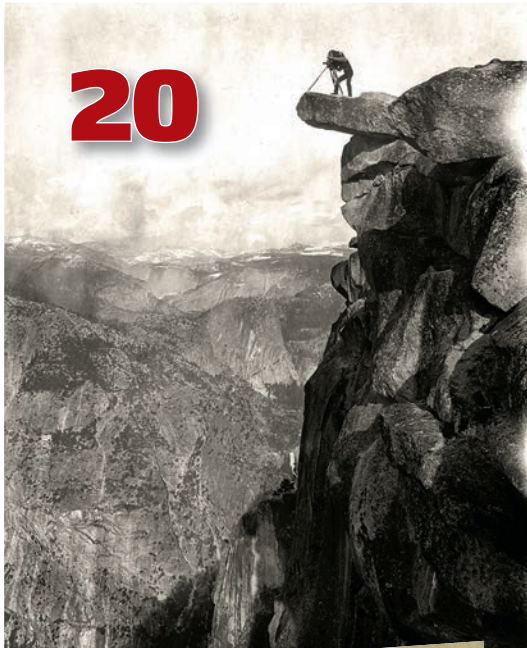
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The very best photographs from our treasured vaults define our idea of the West.

—By *The Editors of True West*

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—By *The Editors of True West*

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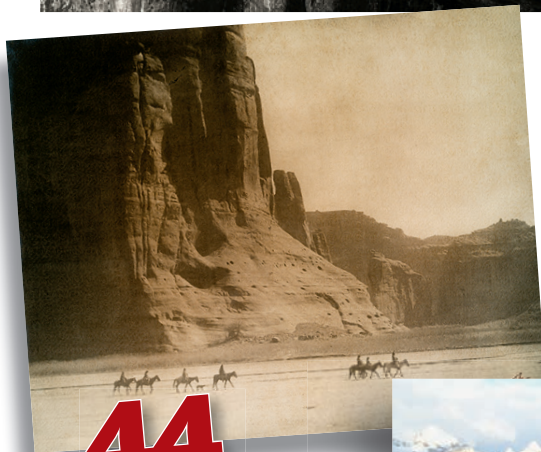
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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

All Images Courtesy True West Archives except for Texas Ranger, lower right, courtesy Chuck Parsons

# 86



Old Vaquero Sayings

“Put your future in good hands—your own.”



Quotes

“Without hope we live in desire.”

– Dante

“Truth is so rare that it is delightful to tell it.”

– Emily Dickinson

“Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above it.”

– Washington Irving

“You can see what man made from the seat of an automobile, but the best way to see what God made is from the back of a horse.”

– Charles Marion Russell



Charles Marion Russell is considered the original cowboy artist.

True West Archives

“Fall seven times and stand up eight.”

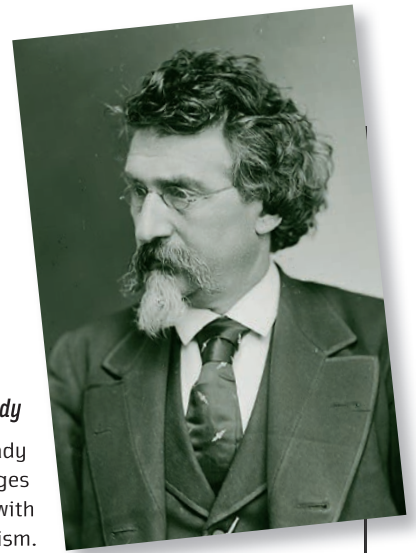
– Japanese proverb

“From the first, I regarded myself as under obligation to my country to preserve the faces of its historic men and mothers.”

– Mathew Brady

American photographer Mathew Brady and his team produced 10,000 images during the Civil War and he is credited with the creation of the craft of photojournalism.

Courtesy Library of Congress



“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”

– C.S. Lewis

“Myth is much more important and true than history. History is just journalism and you know how reliable that is.”

– Joseph Campbell

“To be present during the waning hours of a past not quite dead; to sit at its bedside, hold its palsied hand, attend to its mumbled secrets and its recollections; to seal in the end the sightless eyes, draw up the sheet and say a prayer!”

–Glendon Swarthout, Cadillac Cowboys, a satire on moving to Scottsdale and Paradise Valley, Arizona, circa 1964

“It is not so much as our friends’ help that helps us, as the confidence of their help.”

– Epicurus

“I sustain myself with the love of family.”

– Maya Angelou



# A Photographic Memory, or Two

*The treasured photos we love, and why.*

**W**e have done a feature on the most important historical photos of the Old West (see January 2018) and we have done the most iconic photos, so this year, on our 70th anniversary, we decided to ask our friends and collaborators to give us their most treasured photos and tell us why they still reverberate and resonate.

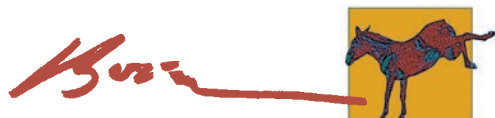
Don't expect to see every mile-marker-iconic photo, because this time out we are featuring the eccentric and sometimes odd little images that still capture our imaginations and our hearts.

Sometimes it doesn't even make sense in a historic way. For example, I bought what turned out to be a fake photo of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett on old Route 66 when I was just a lad and it led almost directly to my love of old photos (and, by extension, to co-owning this magazine). So, even though it's a fake, it is a treasure to me.

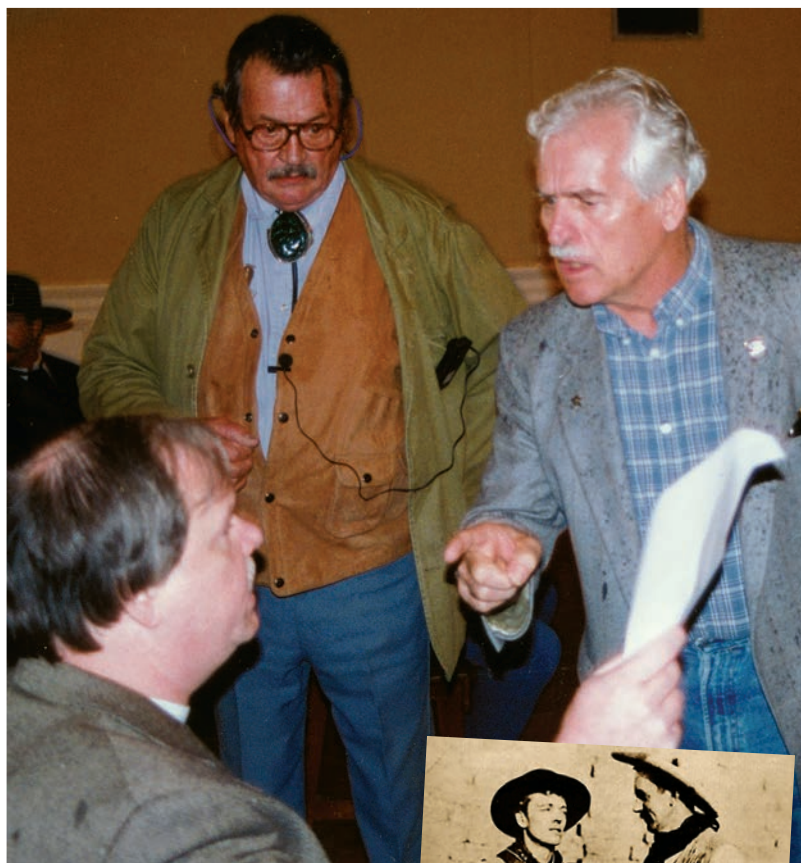
Go figure.

Also, some of our younger researchers and writers responded to newer photos (see at right). What stands out to me is this love affair is all a moving target. When I bought that fake photo at the Longhorn Museum, 43 miles east of Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1958, the Old West was 50-some years in the past. When I took the photo of Glenn Boyer and his allies confronting Allen Barra at Schieffelin Hall, that was 23 years ago. In another couple decades, could that photo be historic (at least to Eric) as any of the photos featured in this benchmark issue? I say, keep 'em coming!

And, so it goes.



*For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com)*



## Late But Future Great?

Glenn Boyer and Ron Fischer Confront Allen Barra, November 4, 2000.

"In the *True West* Wyatt Earp issue (2001) there is the 'OKII Shoutout at Schieffelin Hall' article. There is an image of Ron Fischer standing over Allen Barra, and I think this photo, perhaps above all others, demonstrates the huge shift in the field I saw from the Glenn Boyer years to the modern era."

—ERIK J. WRIGHT,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, TOMBSTONE EPITAPH



## Fake But Great

Here is the alleged photo of Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid I bought at the Longhorn Museum in 1958. Even though it was taken in 1931 in Santa Fe for a melodrama, it is a treasure to me.

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

## TRUE WEST AT 70

The very first issue of *True West* magazine appeared during April 1953 when this writer was eight years old (I would turn nine three months later). Whatever I knew about the Wild West at that stage of my life was provided courtesy of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry’s TV shows.

My very first published article (on any subject) appeared in the February 1976 issue of *True West*. At the time it was published this writer was 31 years old (I would turn 32 five months later). That *True West* article was called “The President and the Gunfighter” and reproduced the 19 surviving letters between Theodore Roosevelt and Bat Masterson.

I had the very good fortune to have my article given the top spot on the cover of the magazine, just to the right of the *True West* logo. The cover price on that February 1976 issue of *TW* was 75 cents. When you compare that to the \$6.99 price on the most recent issue of *TW* your reaction might be “Wow, the price of *TW* has really gone up!” That really isn’t true once you factor in decades of inflation. The fact is that today’s *TW* is as much of a bargain in 2023 dollars as the 70-year-old version was in 1953.

Added to this is the fact that the interior pages of the 1953 version of *TW* were on newsprint, similar to what newspapers still use. Compare that to the most recent 2023 version of *TW*, in which every page of the magazine is printed on high-quality, glossy stock, with numerous color illustrations contained in every issue.

I remember thinking after my very first article appeared in the February 1976 issue of *TW* that its success was a “one-shot” deal. After all, I wasn’t a professional writer or historian. What was I supposed to follow that article with? Yet somehow, over the years, I kept getting ideas for numerous other articles along with several books—and I owe that result to that initial article published by *TW* back in February 1976.

On this 70th anniversary of *True West*, I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Bob Boze Bell, Ken Amorosano, Stuart Rosebrook, Beth Deveny and Mark Boardman for playing their part in *True West* reaching this milestone. There are numerous other people who deserve to be thanked as well, and their names appear at the beginning of the copy of *True West* that you’re holding to the left of Table of Contents. Each and every one of those people deserve our thanks for making *True West* the invaluable publication that it is. Thank you, one and all.

—Jack DeMattos  
North Attleboro, Massachusetts



## BLOWBACK ON BILLY BOOK

“I’m reading the Billy issue of *TW* featuring the new book by Mills and your latest “Classic Gunfight” version of the night of Billy’s death, which are very different. In fact, I went back to my earliest *Illustrated Billy*, and it differs from *The Final Word* version too. Most of all, in your “Classic Gunfight” counterpunch to Mills’s version, you boldly claim. “In my opinion the Kid was unarmed.” (What?)

But in *The Final Word* and “Classic Gunfight,” you tell how he “slipped into her bedroom and when he heard a noise he dropped to the floor...and like a cat slipped across the hall into Pete’s bedroom to investigate.” Do you really believe that Billy the Kid would sneak into Pete’s room to investigate the strangers outside the house without taking a gun or knife with him? I just can’t see the logic in your claim of “unarmed.” You owe your readers an explanation of your thinking.

—Allen Fossenkemper  
Fountain Hills, Arizona

*Short answer: I did the accepted-official version of the Kid’s death in my first AND second book on Billy the Kid, but on the third and final version, I had to tell the unpleasant truth, that the Kid was shot down like a dog, unarmed. His worst fear had come true. —BBB*

## WAY OUT WEST IN IOWA

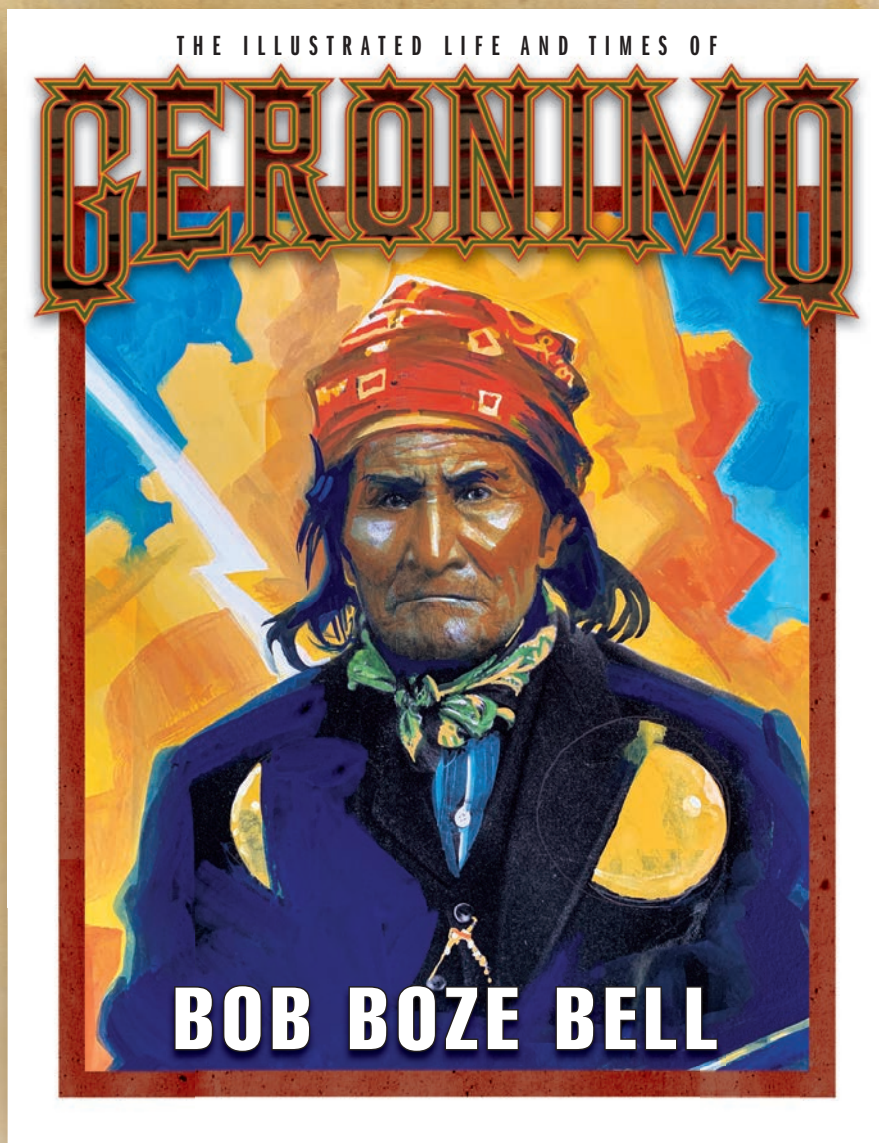
I am writing concerning the *True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide*. I grew up in Iowa, but never realized the true and interesting history of Iowa until I read the travel guide. It was thrilling to read that Buffalo Bill Cody was born in Iowa, as were John Wayne, Wyatt Earp and many other notable Western personalities. When I go back to Iowa, I will be sure and visit these sites. Thank you again for your beautiful book. I especially enjoy; the photos. It is a book you can look at over and over and enjoy; each time you will find a new adventure.

—Sherrie Walton, Cave Creek, Arizona  
*Thanks, Sherrie! I lived in Iowa City, Iowa, for nine years and loved living so close to the Mississippi River and so much Western history in the Hawkeye State.—SR*

*“Fasten your seat belt for this one!*

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—Paul Andrew Hutton



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BY MARK BOARDMAN

# Shooting Photographs and Bullets

*C.S. Fly's brief career as a lawman makes a sorry tale.*

**I**n 1894, C.S. “Buck” Fly decided to take on a new challenge. The famed Tombstone photographer ran for Cochise County sheriff—and won. Just why he sought the office isn’t known. Maybe he craved the excitement. Perhaps it offered him more money than taking pictures did.

But the job wasn’t what he thought.

He got an inkling of that in early 1895, when he led an unsuccessful effort to capture the robbers who stuck up a train outside Willcox. After that, things were quiet for a few months—and then came the events that ended Fly’s law enforcement career.

On August 6, 1895, the High Fives—an outlaw gang led by “Black Jack” Will Christian—hit the bank in Nogales. They actually dropped the money on the way out, but the outfit had pulled a number of successful jobs in Arizona. Lawmen headed after them.

Originally, three posses sought the High Fives; one of them was led by Sheriff Buck Fly. Another was headed by Pima County Sheriff Robert Leatherwood. The two (and later the third) merged on August 11, but not until after Fly and company had arrested and jailed an innocent man.



Outlaw William “Black Jack” Christian, also known as 202 and Ed Williams, was notorious for his violent, short temper.

True West Archives

The outlaws split up, and the Leatherwood-Fly posse followed three of the wanted men. On August 11, the lawmen approached the entrance to Skeleton Canyon, about 30 miles north-east of Douglas, Arizona Territory. The manhunters were careless and rode into an ambush. Posseman Frank Robson was fatally shot; another man was wounded, and two of their horses were killed. The

outlaws kept the lawmen pinned down until dark, when they looted Robson’s body of guns and ammunition and then rode off.

Hours later, when they were sure the coast was clear, the posse followed suit.

Over the next six weeks, members of the High Fives were spotted in various locales of New Mexico and Arizona territories (as well as Mexico). C.S. Fly kept raising posses to go after the miscreants, but they never spotted their quarry. By late September, Fly had gone back to Tombstone and resumed the daily grind of a local lawman: mostly collecting taxes and maintaining some sort of order.

If Fly had dreams of glory, they were shot down by his inability to arrest Christian and company—and by leading his men into an ambush. It should be noted that by this time, Fly had a significant drinking problem that was well-known in the community. Just what role his alcoholism played in his decision is unclear, but by November 1896, Fly decided not to seek reelection. When he left office the next January, he went back to photography. But perhaps out of embarrassment, he moved the business to Bisbee.





## Rare Second Opportunity!

Historic and important lots from the original Roy Rogers & Dale Evans Museum auctions, plus new-to-market Roy & Dale items will cross the block.

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Roy's famous gold plated "101" Colt Single Actions (pictured left) will also be offered. Estimate (pair): \$30,000-40,000

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BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

# The Power of Pictures

THE VERY BEST HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR TREASURED VAULTS DEFINE OUR IDEA OF THE WEST.

In honor of our 70th year, the editors of *True West* have invited our contributors to offer their choices for the most emblematic photographs taken in the West. The portfolio reflects the authors' interests in Western history and offers a window into their individual perspectives. The photo essay also is an introduction to a year-long commemoration of *True West's* 70th anniversary and the very best photography of the West from the 1840s to the 1940s. We look forward to your perspective as we look back together at the images and image makers that spark our imaginations, trigger our emotions, elicit our empathy and drive our desires to learn more about our Western past.



Contributor Johnny D. Boggs is a great admirer of the 19th-century Western photographers. Boggs chose William Henry Jackson's photo of himself with his equipment on Yosemite's Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park to underscore the nearly miraculous effort it took Jackson and his peers to get a heavy camera through that country.

All Images Courtesy True West Archives Unless Otherwise Noted





### Apache Scouts

We always see the Apache Scouts in the 1886 mode, but these men, who tracked and scouted for Gen. Black Jack Pershing during the Pershing (Mexican) Expedition in 1916, represent the transitioning of a frontier army with its scouts to the modern U.S. Army/Cavalry. Their “Last Hurrah” was during this 1916 counteroffensive against Pancho Villa after his attack on tiny Columbus, New Mexico.

—Lynda Sánchez

Courtesy National Archives



### Galen Clark, Mariposa Grove, Yosemite, circa 1860s

I picked up this CDV at the Las Vegas Antique Arms Show years ago, and no one knew who this grizzled-looking mountain man was. Later, I found out it is a photo of Galen Clark, the man who contributed to the writing and passage of federal legislation to protect Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias. Here, circa 1860s, he stands next to one of his beloved big trees, and holds his trusty half-stock muzzle loading rifle, with his “possibles” hunting bag and powder horn across his shoulder.

—Phil Spangenberg

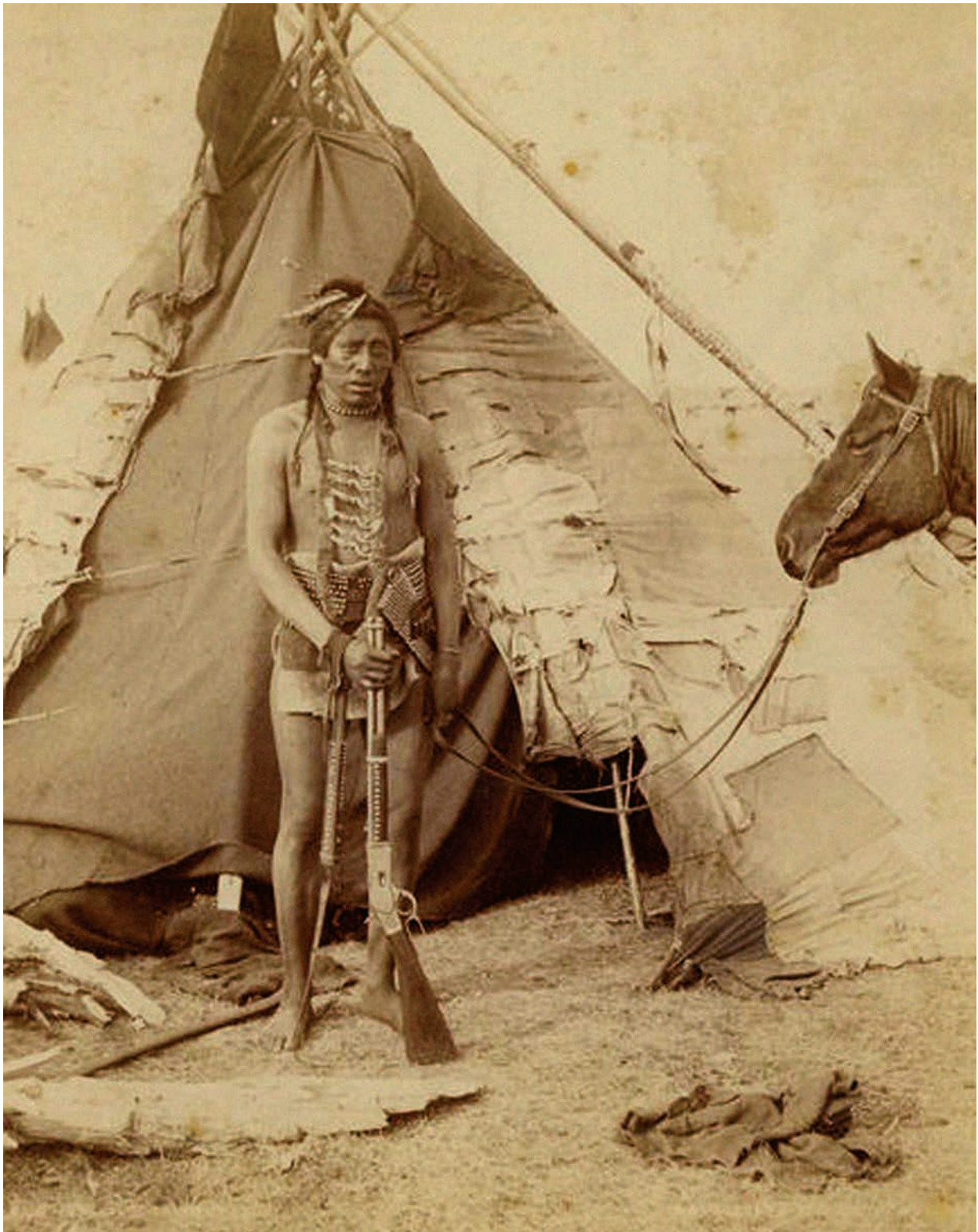
Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection



### Utah Frontiersmen, circa 1860s

Photos of Westerners with muzzle loading plains rifles, like the Hawken, Gemmer, Lehman, Dimick or other front-loading guns, are seldom encountered. This image, reportedly photographed in Utah, probably dates to around the 1860s, and offers a good look at how many frontiersmen of that era looked and reveals how heavily packed out their horses were—including their saddle mounts. It’s quite a different look than what is shown in the movies—a small blanket rolled behind the cantle and a pair of flat saddlebags.

—Phil Spangenberg



### **Canadian Blackfoot Brave**

I've always considered this photo of a late-19th-century Canadian Blackfoot brave one of the prime examples of a northern Plains Indian ready for the hunt or for battle. All studded out with his brass-tacked 1873 Winchester carbine and belt full of cartridges, he's also equipped with a heavily tacked knife scabbard, riding quirt, a necklace and bracelet, and a unique breastplate, made up of northwest trade gun brass serpentine sideplates. Even his pony's U.S. Cavalry headstall has had brass tacks added for a more personal look.

*—Phil Spangenberg*



### The Original Three Amigos

Wild Bill Hickok, Texas Jack Omohundro and Buffalo Bill Cody posed for posterity on their 1873-74 theatrical tour. They look like they're already pissed off at each other.

—Johnny D. Boggs

Hickok, Omuhundro and Cody seated at the little table—The Holy Western Trinity. Only one of them will live long enough to see the 20th century...and then he lives long enough to see his memories dissolve in the mud of the trenches in Europe.

—Thom Ross



### James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok

This photo of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok dispels the popular notion that the "Prince of Pistoleers" always packed a pair of .36 caliber, 1851

Navy Colts tucked in a sash. While he certainly seemed prone to use the '51 Navy model, Hickok was known to have carried a variety of revolvers—and was undoubtedly very good with them all. This image, reportedly taken in Springfield, Missouri, around 1864, shows him wearing an eagle plate belt with a brace of holsters carrying 1860 Army Colt .44s, identified as such by the grip style.

—Phil Spangenberg

Love the leggins, the fancy shirt and the cocky stance. If you look up gunfighter in the dictionary, this photo should be there.

—Bob Boze Bell



### Denver Accordion Player, circa 1890 cabinet card

The highly ornamented accordion belonging to this musician sports 16 "trumpets" in the key cover and 12 in the instrument's molding. Note the musician's watch chain, the fob of which is a bear claw. He's unidentified, but quite the dandy nonetheless.

—Mark Lee Gardner

Courtesy Mark Lee Gardner



### **Dangerous Pass**

I found this fascinating photograph in Randsburg, California, many years ago, and always wondered what the story behind it was. Who are these people and what are they carrying that required two armed guards—at least one with a Model 1897 Winchester pump shotgun? Looking at the crude mountain road where they've stopped to water the horses (possibly the Sierra Nevada's Tioga Pass that originally served the nearby mining district and named around 1878 for the Tioga mine) causes one to wonder about the dangers of road construction in these rugged mountains.

—*Phil Spangenberg*

Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection



### **Cowgirl, date and location unknown**

Although this pretty lady looks like a proper Easterner in her finely tailored riding habit, the adobe-wall in the background, the Western-style sidesaddle, braided horse tack and cowgirl gauntlets all boldly say Old West! We'd bet she's likely the daughter or wife of a wealthy cattleman, and standing with that well-bred caballo, she shows that she knows her way around horses.

—*Phil Spangenberg*



### **Arizona Pioneers, circa 1887**

Settlers endured harsh conditions and scant home-building materials across much of the West. This Mexican-American family built their *jacal* of adobe, wood, cactus and stone along the Colorado River.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

Courtesy Huntington Digital Library



**Jack Stilwell, Army Scout**

The curly-headed Jack Stilwell was the youngest member of Forsyth's scouts and hero of Beecher Island. What Kansas boy grows up to become a friend of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, "Wild Bill" Hickok, Billy Dixon, "Texas Jack" Omohundro, and dozens more frontier scouts, plainsmen, lawmen and soldiers? His brother, Frank, turns outlaw in Arizona, and Jack meets Ike Clanton, Pete Spence, John Behan and the Cowboy clan as they try to chase and bring to justice the Earp Vendetta Posse. "Comanche Jack," scout, deputy U.S. marshal, judge, United States commissioner...you died way too young!

—Roy B. Young



**Wyatt Earp**

Wyatt Earp sitting in his rocking chair. "Where did the time go," he asks. "I sure miss seeing Doc and Bat." "Sadie, bring me another biscuit with strawberry jam." "If I could do it all over again, I sure wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_!"

—Roy B. Young



**Cole Younger**

How many times did this tough beat-up outlaw get shot again before this photo was taken?

—James B. Mills



**William Wallace Hall (1833-1911), photographed in Atchison, Kansas, August 12, 1867**

I love everything about this carte de visite photo: favorite bird dog napping on the floor, the hat positioned just so in his left hand and, of course, the ZZ Top beard. Hall's obit tells us he "was one of the best-known farmers in Atchison County. He was a good husband, a good father and a good neighbor."

—Mark Lee Gardner

Courtesy Mark Lee Gardner



### **Jesse Woodson James**

I was born and raised in Missouri, so Jesse James is part of my heritage. Probably my favorite “Old West” photograph, then, has to be this damaged ambrotype of young Jesse, taken when he was about 15 years old, before he’d joined the bushwhackers and well before he became a notorious outlaw. The innocence of youth is so obvious in this photo, and I can’t help but feel sadness knowing that a savage civil war (brought about by an evil institution) will twist and warp the baby-faced youth in this photo until he is numb to violence and morality. A note on the photograph: As stated, this is an ambrotype (an image on glass). It was likely made by itinerant photographer Thomas B. Best, who announced his “Ambrotype Room” to the people of Liberty and Clay County in the *Liberty Tribune* of November 28, 1862. Best was again in Liberty making ambrotypes in March 1863.

—*Mark Lee Gardner*

Courtesy of the Jesse James Birthplace Museum, Kearney, Missouri



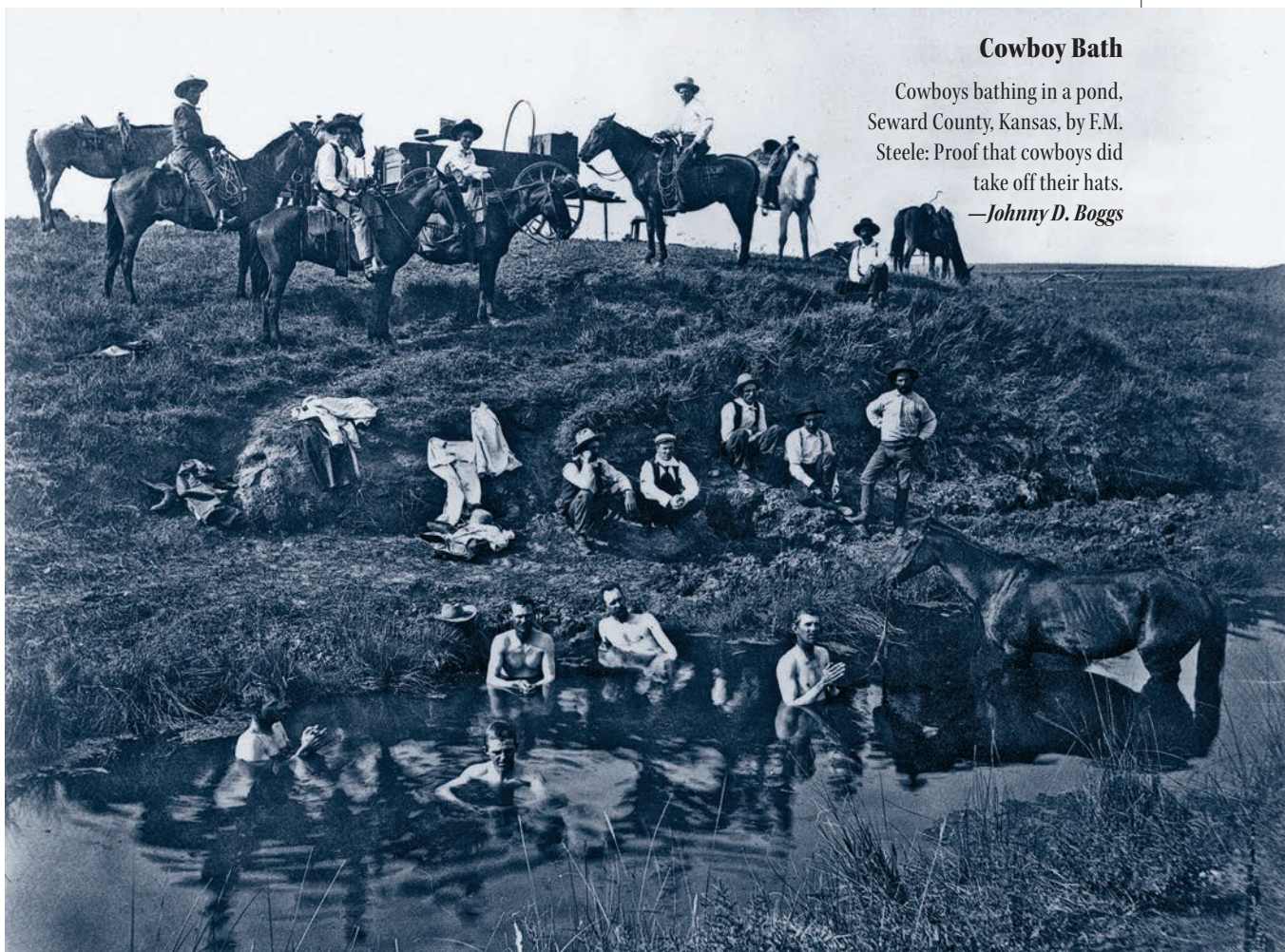
### Cowboy Musicians

For several decades now, I have collected vintage photographs of musicians, primarily string instrument players (banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, etc.). The favorite of my musician photos that can be considered “Old West” is this 1890s cabinet card from Abilene, Texas.

Unfortunately, the musicians are unidentified, but the image is so striking that I can almost hear “Soldier’s Joy,” “Dan Tucker” and other old-time tunes coming out of that card. And, man, check out those striped britches. Yeehaw!

—*Mark Lee Gardner*

Photo by Gurney E. Ward, Courtesy of Mark Lee Gardner



### Cowboy Bath

Cowboys bathing in a pond, Seward County, Kansas, by F.M. Steele: Proof that cowboys did take off their hats.

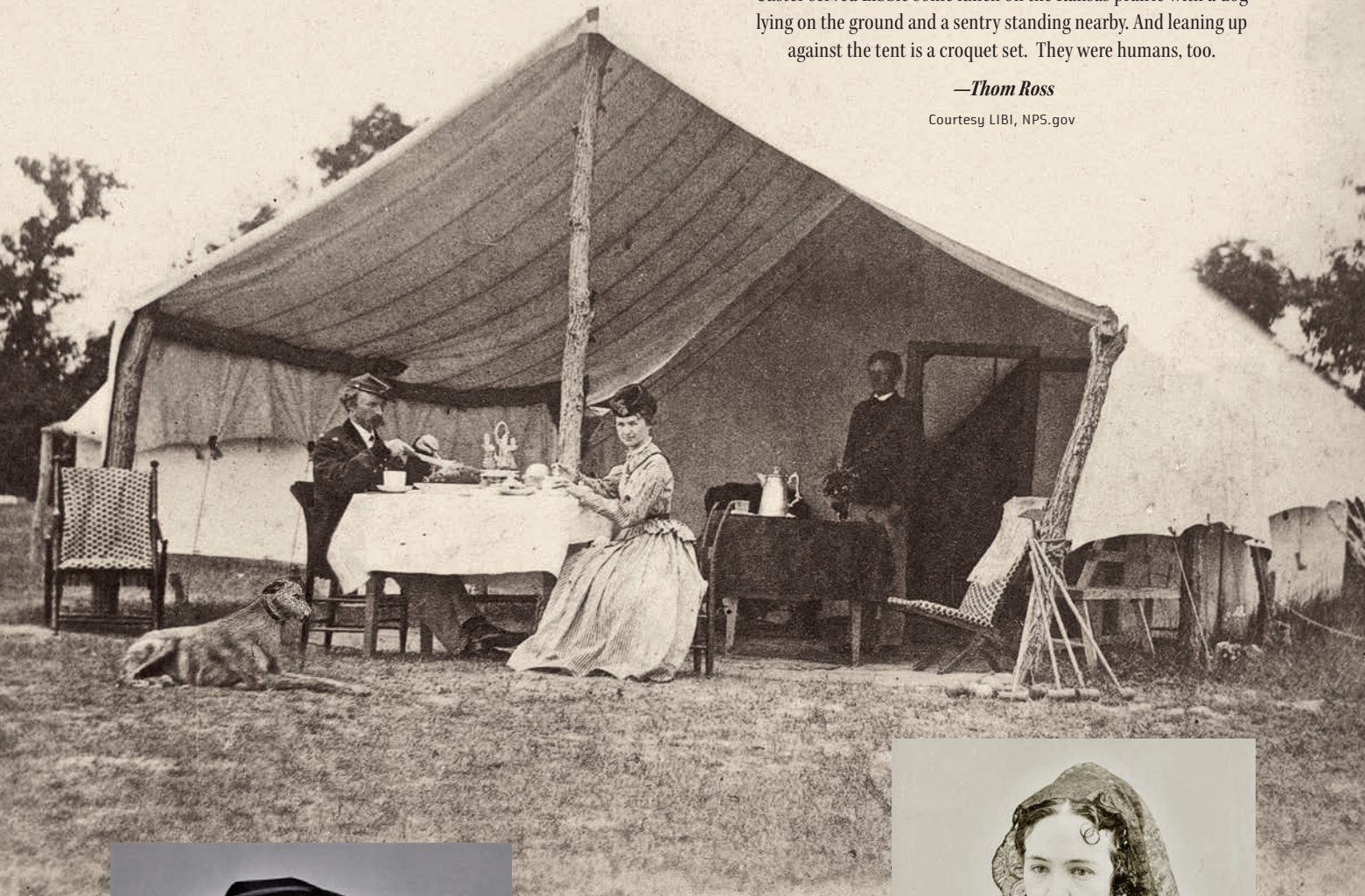
—*Johnny D. Boggs*

## The Custers on the Prairie

Custer served Libbie some lunch on the Kansas prairie with a dog lying on the ground and a sentry standing nearby. And leaning up against the tent is a croquet set. They were humans, too.

—*Thom Ross*

Courtesy LIBI, NPS.gov



### George Armstrong Custer

For me it has to be the Civil War photo of George Armstrong Custer standing, almost in profile, his arms crossed across his chest, his face looking at you with all that long hair and mustache... And he is what, 22 years old? The camera captures that feeling that no matter what happens, this kid is destined for Valhalla; and he made it!

—*Thom Ross*

Courtesy Library of Congress

So damn cocksure, it adds to the pathos. To me it's like Babe Ruth pointing to the bleachers before the pitch. It isn't bragging if you can pull it off.

—*Bob Boze Bell*



### The Long Black Veil

There are many photographs of Elizabeth Bacon Custer in mourning dress after the death of her beloved Armstrong at the Battle of Little Bighorn, but an 1864 wartime image of a younger, newly wedded Libbie veiled in black while her husband fights in the bloody campaigns of Virginia is prophetic of a life of widowhood she is yet to fully understand.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

Courtesy LIBI, NPS.gov

shown actual size



### **The Kid**

Billy the Kid in front of Beaver Smith's saloon. For a person of such ever-lasting mythic power THIS is all we have? Stupid hat, the blank expression, the awkwardness of the photographer's stand..... THIS is Billy the Kid?? It sure the Hell is!

—*Thom Ross*

The ONE image of the Old West that still resonates with me...was there ever any doubt? Can you imagine if we DIDNT have this one verified photo of the little scamp?

—*James B. Mills*

The most iconic, universally recognized photo in the entire Old West. How did this boy become the man that virtually everyone in the civilized world recognizes? What were his real joys? Heartaches? Ambitions? What girl did he really love? Will we ever have another photo of him, with provenance? What might he have become had he not been killed by Pat Garrett? Would he leave New Mexico, go straight or just go on being Billy? So many questions, so few answers.

—*Roy B. Young*

Billy the Kid: Love: the only documented photo of a favorite outlaw. Hate: a \$2-plus million sale price that led to myriad...ahem..."Billy" photo discoveries.

—*Johnny D. Boggs*

I have spent way too much time looking at this crappy photograph. One of my historian friends quipped that studying the image is like looking at enraged mud turtles. So much noise, so little clarity. And, besides, the hat is totally wrong, his jaw is unhinged (a bend in the tin at that point doesn't help) and his sweater is two sizes too big. How could such a bad photo be so good? Beats me, but I do love it in spite of all the flaws. Here's looking at you, Kid.

—*Bob Boze Bell*

The most famous Old West shot of them all. Billy the Kid at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1880, the only known photo of the desperado. A tintype, the image is reversed but still gives us a good idea of what the Kid looked like.

—*Mark Boardman*



### Death on Display

Along with the dead Daltons after the failed Coffeyville Raid there is that kid peering at the camera from the hole in the fence; this is NOT child abuse! This is a fabulous photo of grim death being watched over by a child.

—Thom Ross



### The Wild Bunch in Fort Worth, Texas

The grin on Butch's face (sitting, far right) says a lot about who he may have been...a kind of happy-go-lucky, free-as-a-bird character; and then all the smiles end in grim death; not even their fancy suits could save any of them.

—Thom Ross

### The Last Hurrah

A rare photo shows (l-r) the Sundance Kid, Etta Place and Butch Cassidy at their Argentinian ranch, ca 1903. For a time, they lived a peaceful life—until the Pinkertons came looking in 1905 and the outlaws moved out.

—Mark Boardman





### **Bloodstained**

Billy the Kid pal Charlie Bowdre and his wife, Manuela, sat for their portrait in Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1878. Bowdre carried this copy when he was gunned down by Pat Garrett and posse in December 1880; those are believed to be his bloodstains.

—*Mark Boardman*



### **Lincoln, New Mexico, circa 1880s**

In many respects, the town that Billy the Kid knew is still there, a living history for visitors from around the world.

—*Mark Boardman*

### **Silver and Gold**

The Tough Nut Mine, just outside of Tombstone, is shown in an 1880 photo taken by Carleton Watkins. At about that time, the three investors—Ed and Al Schieffelin and Dick Gird—sold their interests for a million dollars each.

—*Mark Boardman*

Courtesy Library of Congress





## John Clum

The classic portrait of John Clum was taken by Dudley P. Flanders just after Clum arrived at the San Carlos Reservation in August 1874. Clum was the Forest Gump of his era, appearing first as an Apache agent at San Carlos (peacefully capturing Geronimo with his Apache police in 1877), and as publisher of the *Tombstone Epitaph* and mayor of Tombstone in the early 1880s. Clum left Arizona for Washington D.C. then in 1890 went to Alaska as a postal inspector and eventually Postmaster. Clum left Alaska in 1909 and traveled for the Southern Pacific Railroad lecturing on the West. This is one of my favorite images of John Clum for the importance of both the subject, and the photographer.

—*Jeremy Rowe*

Courtesy the Jeremy Rowe Collection

## Navajo Woman with Child Bosque Redondo, 1864-1868

The harrowing expression on her face is a testament to the suffering her people were enduring there.

—*James B. Mills*



Sitting Bull...defiance...wisdom...  
leadership...in one photo.

—*James B. Mills*

Photo by D.F. Barry, True West Archives





*Col. Poston & outfit 2nd St. and Washington*

### The Father of Arizona

Charles Debrille Poston (aka Colonel Poston), 1895-1902, was called the “Father of Arizona.” Poston was an explorer, miner and the first delegate to the United States Congress from Arizona Territory in 1863. This portrait, circa 1898, shows the dramatic change as he went from wealthy miner and powerful politician to his final years as a pauper. Poston had become a fixture in Phoenix with his heavily decorated mule when the Arizona Legislature awarded him a \$25 per month pension.

Images of Western pioneers in their heyday have become iconic, but few document the other side of many of their lives.

—Jeremy Rowe

Courtesy the Jeremy Rowe Collection



*Geronimo.  
War chief Chisicahua Ahoche.*

### Geronimo Cabinet card

By A. Frank Randall, San Carlos Reservation, Arizona Territory, 1884

This is the earliest known photo of Geronimo, which C.L. Sonnichsen captioned “the face that launched a hundred articles, stories, and novels.” Within the last couple years it has come out that Chato, one of Geronimo’s mortal enemies is seen posing with the same rifle, the same scarf in the same location, begging the question, what exactly was the real Geronimo and what were studio props?

—Bob Boze Bell



### **Belle Starr and Friend**

This is a new find and it's got historians excited because some think the woman on the left could be the notorious Belle Starr. The face looks good, the hat is her style. What do you think?

—*Bob Boze Bell*

Courtesy the Dain Calvin Collection



### **Calamity Jane**

This is one of the finest photos of Calamity Jane, taken before she was debauched. She cuts a fine figure, and you can see how attractive she was in the beginning. Love it.

—*Bob Boze Bell*



### **Pearl Hart with Rifle**

Such a great image and to think it was taken at the Yuma Territorial Prison makes it even sweeter.

—*Bob Boze Bell*

I love the rifle-toting pic of Pearl Hart in the “bandit” outfit she wore when she robbed the stage to Globe in 1889. She needed suspenders to hold up the pants; her boots were way too big, and if she hadn’t cocked her dirty white hat, it would have covered her eyes. This is the “tough” photo of her that captured the nation. I also like the “sweet” picture of her that ran in newspapers back East. She’s seated with her hands demurely holding a small hankie, wearing a hat with flowers, a patterned blouse and an embroidered skirt. She looks just like the headlines: “A Beauty but a Bandit” and “Petite and Pretty, but Full of Nerve.”

—*Jana Bommersbach*



**New Mexico Rustlers cabinet card, photographer and place unknown,  
circa 1880**

Several historians think the standing man is John Kinney, leader of a large gang of rustlers in Southern New Mexico. I love this image because the guys look so hard and devious. One of my favorite shots of New Mexican bad boys.

*—Bob Boze Bell*



### **Loaded for Bear**

Emblematic of the men who have served in the Texas Rangers the past 200 years, James B. "Jim" Hawkins was an original member of the Rangers' Company D.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

Courtesy Chuck Parsons



### **Kit Carson**

The beaver hat (an ironic touch since it was that poor critter being made into headgear that first made Carson famous—sort of like Crockett's coonskin cap) may well be from an incident in June 1854 when Carson was scouting for Major James Carleton against the Jicarilla Apaches. Carson was on a hot trail and assured Carleton that they would locate the Jicarilla camp by two o'clock the next day. Carleton, who at the time felt Carson's reputation to be highly exaggerated, sniffed that if that indeed happened he would purchase Carson a fine beaver hat from New York. Precisely at two o'clock the next day the Indian village was located. Carleton became a believer and in his report of the action praised Carson as "justly celebrated as being the best tracker among white men in the world."

Several weeks later a hat box arrived from New York at Carson's Taos home. The inside band of the fine beaver hat was inscribed "At 2 o'clock—Kit Carson—from Major Carleton."

—*Paul Andrew Hutton*

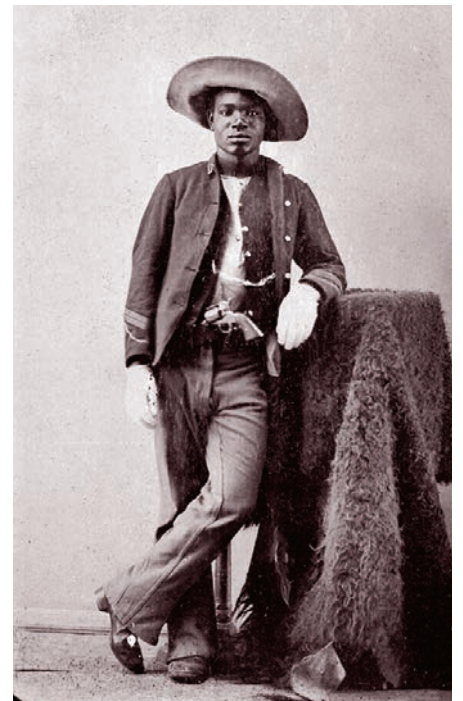
From "The Jayhawkers of '49," John Colton Collection,  
Courtesy Huntington Digital Library



### **Mickey Free**

The enigmatic, one-eyed captive cuts a fine figure in this early photo of Mickey Free. I still think there is a movie to be made about him.

—*Bob Boze Bell*



### **Buffalo Soldier**

After the Civil War, thousands of free Blacks and former slaves such as this unknown man, enlisted in the U.S. Army and were sent West as part of six newly formed all-Black regiments, where they earned the nickname Buffalo Soldiers.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University



### **Ghost Dance, 1891**

This has always been one of my very favorite photographs because of its age and because of what it represents. Here is a culture at its wit's end, dancing to make White people disappear.

—*Robert Ray*



TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## LITTLE BY LIDDIL

(JESSE GOES DOWN)

### WOOD HITE VS DICK LIDDIL

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of  
Dr. Sam Palmer and Dan Thrapp



Real name: James Andrew Liddil. ("Dick" is a nickname.) A man who meets the outlaw describes him as a "rather effeminate, undersized man with a squeaky voice...dressed in black," adding that, "the little outlaw was 'clean straw game and not afraid of the devil!'"

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell, images courtesy True West Archives

DECEMBER 4, 1881

**J**ames Gang member, Dick Liddil, comes down for breakfast at the Bolton home, east of Richmond, Missouri. He is soon joined by Robert Ford. Widow Martha Bolton (Ford's sister) makes breakfast in the small kitchen.

Jesse James' cousin, Wood Hite, has been staying at the Bolton farm for several days. He arrived from Kentucky, where the James brothers have been dodging the law and planning their next robbery. Or, at least, Jesse has been.

When Hite enters the kitchen, he says something to Liddil, who is in such a sour mood that he tells his fellow train robber, "I do not want you to speak to me." When Hite asks why, Liddil confronts him about an accusation he made of Liddil "stealing \$100 at the divide in the Blue Cut robbery."

Although Jesse James himself supposedly divvied up the loot (some \$1,000) between the six robbers, Hite keeps harping on the \$100. (Some theorize that he may have been rude to Hite because they were both vying for the affection of Mrs. Bolton.)

They argue back and forth: Hite claims he can "prove it by Mrs. Bolton." Liddil challenges him to "prove it."

Strangely, Hite then denies ever saying anything about Liddil stealing \$100. When Liddil claims he did—after all, wasn't Hite just saying he could prove it?—both hotheads pull pistols. Liddil later claims they both "fired about the same time."

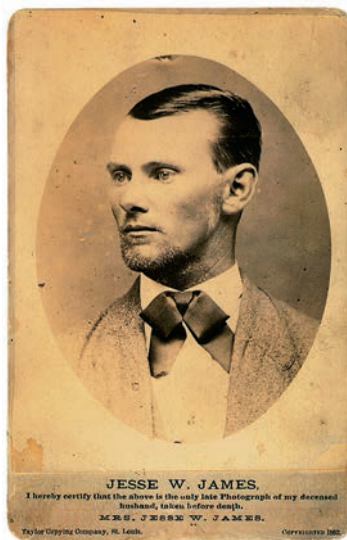
Hite fires and hits Liddil in the thigh of his right leg. One of Liddil's bullets hits Hite in the right arm. Hite fires four more times. Liddil empties his piece. In the confusion, Ford fires one shot. While Liddil pulls his other pistol, Hite falls to the floor.

The lethal shot struck Hite about two inches above the right eye and came out in front and a little above the left ear. Hite lives about 20 minutes but does not speak.

Liddil later confesses that they carried his body upstairs that night. Bob and his brother "Cap" then "...dug a grave in the woods about a half mile from the house and buried him. My leg was too sore to help. Did not use a coffin."

Liddil also claims that Ford fires the deadly shot.

The fight is over, but now the die is cast for the fate of Wood Hite's cousin.



Jesse Woodson James (at left) barely escapes with his life after the gang raids Northfield, Minnesota. He tries to go straight but can't resist the easy money. He eventually recruits a new gang that includes Dick Liddil and Jesse's cousin Robert Woodson Hite. Those who know them comment on Hite's resemblance to Jesse's brother Frank (at right).

## Liddil's Defection

After the killing of Wood Hite, Dick Liddil nurses his leg wound at Martha Bolton's house and frets about his situation. After all, he has just killed Jesse James' cousin!

About three weeks later, on December 29, Jesse and Charley Ford arrive at the Bolton cabin. Jesse asks Dick to "go with them," but Liddil demurs. "I mistrusted [him, and believed] Jesse wanted to kill me."

Liddil's suspicions are probably correct. Jesse writes to his cousin Clarence (Wood's brother) in January, 1882, stating he suspects Liddil is going to betray him. Jesse doesn't realize the extent of betrayal spreading among his minions.

On January 13, 1882, Robert Ford meets secretly with the governor of Missouri about assisting local officers in capturing the outlaws (and collecting \$5,000 apiece for Jesse and Frank, see poster below). Ford also requests a pardon for Liddil.

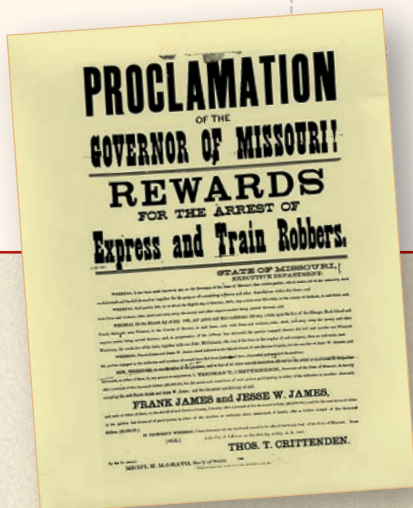
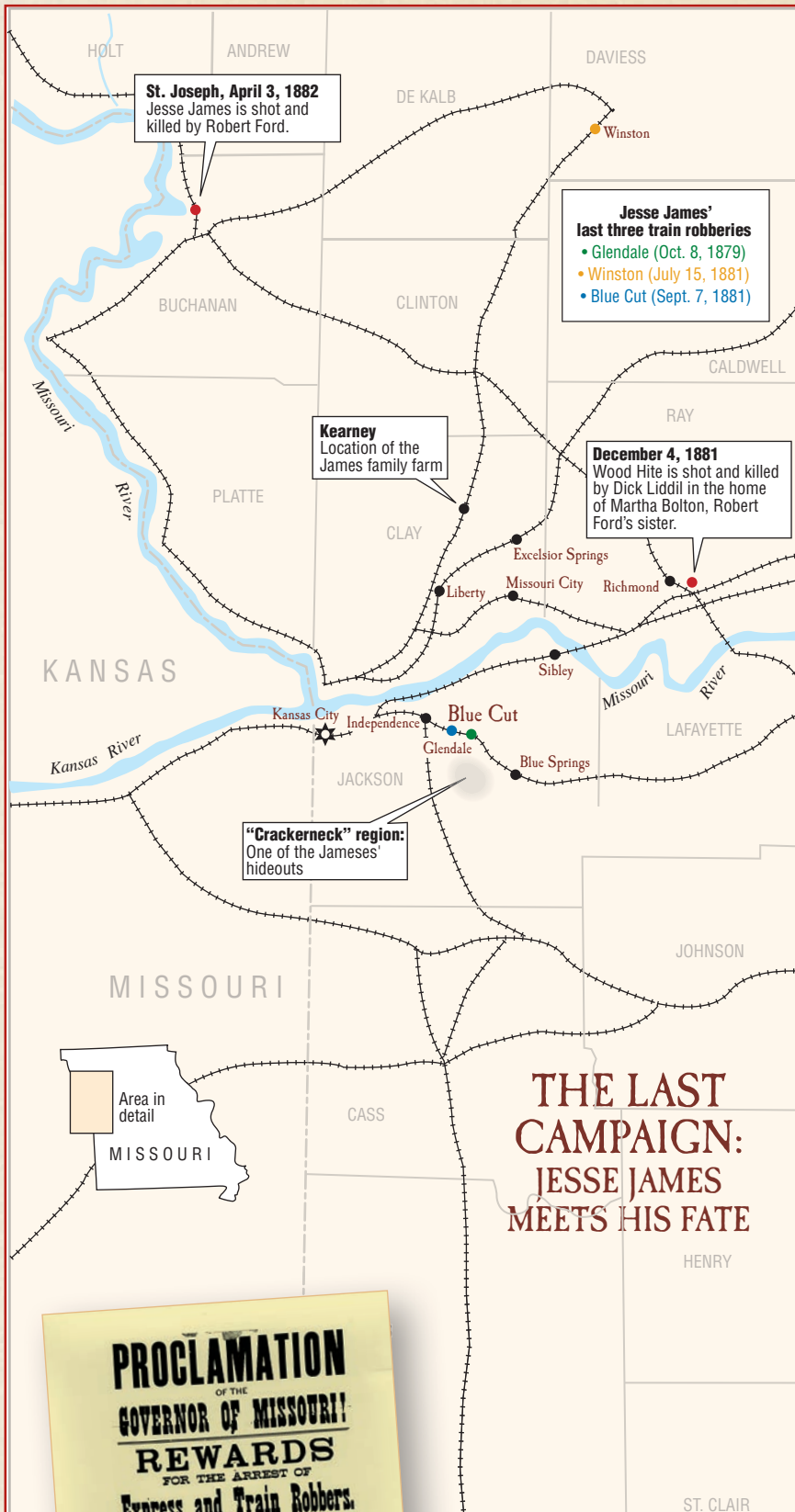
Liddil surrenders to authorities on January 24 and begins spilling the beans on all of the gang members.

Bob's older brother Charley is in on the conspiracy, yet Jesse trusts him implicitly. In fact, while all of this is going on, the two go scouting around Missouri and northeast Kansas looking for targets to rob.

On the way back from one of these forays, Jesse asks Charley if he knows of anybody who can help them. Charley recommends his younger brother Bob. After they pick up Bob from the Bolton home, the three ride to St. Joseph (after they steal a horse for Bob to ride) and arrive at Jesse's rented house on Lafayette Street.

Liddil's surrender doesn't leak to the press until the end of March. On the morning of April 3, Jesse gets his newspaper and sits down to breakfast with his family and his two houseguests, Charley and Bob Ford.

It's safe to say what he sees in the newspaper does not amuse him.



Jesse James and his new gang pull off three daring train robberies that provoke the governor of Missouri to issue a substantial reward for their capture. It works. By mid-1882, the gang is history.

**April 3, 1882**

When Jesse sees the headline in the paper, he reportedly says, "Hello, here. The surrender of Dick Liddil."

At the kitchen table of the rented house (\$14 a month) that he and his family just moved into in St. Joseph, Missouri, Jesse turns to his houseguest Robert Ford.

"Young man, I thought you told me you didn't know that Dick Liddil had surrendered," he says, adding, "it's very strange. He surrendered three weeks ago and you was right there in the neighborhood. It looks fishy.... By the way, where is Dick Liddil?"

"I don't know," Ford replies.

At this moment, Charley and Bob know they are dead meat—Jesse is going to kill them. Bob speculates: "I think Jesse would have killed me, then and there, but he did not want to in front of his family."

After Jesse's wife Zee serves breakfast, Charley and Jesse go to the stable to feed and curry the horses. Bob plays with the kids in the kitchen.

Returning from the stable, Jesse walks through the kitchen to the front room, saying, "It's awfully hot today," as he takes off his coat and vest, tossing them on the cot in the sparsely decorated room. He opens the front door, then starts to mount a chair so he can dust the pictures.

Jesse, afraid the neighbors would see him armed, unstraps his holster in which he carries two .45-caliber revolvers (one a Colt; the other a Smith & Wesson) and puts it on the bed. He returns to mount the chair and raises both hands above his head to take hold of a framed picture of a racehorse named Skyrocket.

Bob slips into the front room, carrying the revolver Jesse gave him. He extends his arm and thumbs the hammer.

Jesse hears the triple click and starts to turn, but it is too late. The bullet catches him behind the left ear, ranging upwards and lodging in the skull over the left eye.

When the coroner asks Zee her name, she replies, "Howard." Then, "Who killed him?"

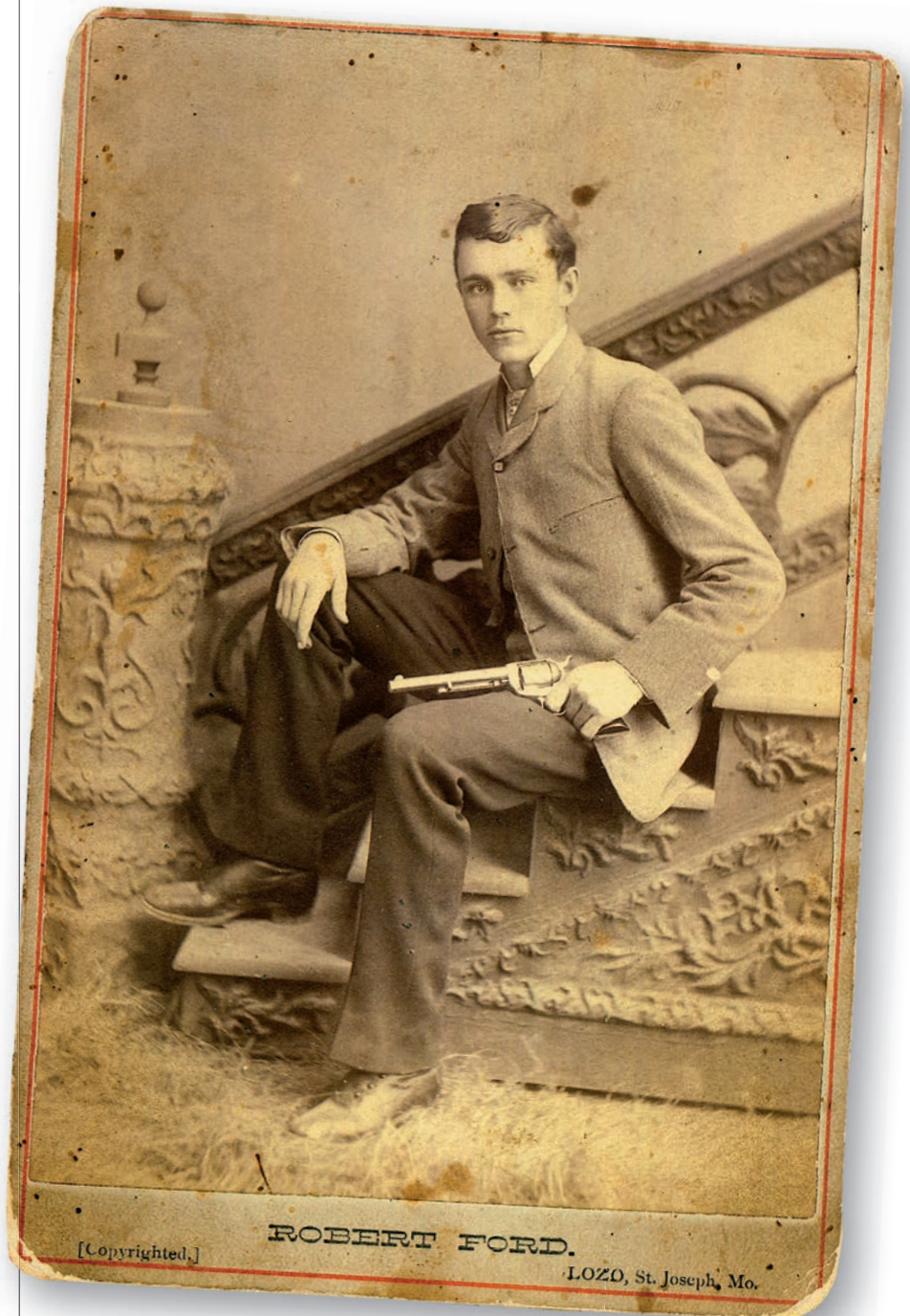
"Two boys named Johnson."

"Where are they?"

"They jumped over the fence and ran away."

**"There never was a more cowardly and unnecessary murder committed in all America than this murder of Jesse James. It was done for money."**

—John Newman Edwards, *Sedalia Daily Democrat*, Thursday, April 13, 1882



"The Dirty Little Coward Who Shot Mr. Howard" poses with the Colt revolver he used to shoot Jesse James. Or, is it? Robert Ford allegedly gives a Smith & Wesson to his jailer as a gift for favors he did for Ford during his brief incarceration after the shooting. Ford assures the jailer it is the pistol he used to dispatch Jesse. He later sues to get back the Colt he holds above, claiming it is the murder weapon.



JESSE JAMES.

[Copyright applied for.]

R. UHLMAN, St. Joseph, Miss

### Jesse Doesn't Cash Out

When Jesse James is killed (see death photo above), he leaves his wife Zee and their family destitute. He and the Ford brothers were discussing a bank robbery planned for the next day, so that Jesse could get some much-needed moolah. With him gone, and no money to her name, Mrs. James auctions off their belongings—even the dog!—for a measly amount of \$117.65. Meanwhile, the woman who owns the house that the James family rented will go on to sell tickets for people to tour the murder site; she makes thousands of dollars. People still pay to see it today.

**“Dick Liddil's motive was that of revenge, superinduced by cowardice. He killed Wood Hite, feared Jesse and betrayed the band. He agreed to swear them into prison or to the scaffold, and he is merely fulfilling that agreement.”**

—W.M. Rush, Frank James' attorney

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

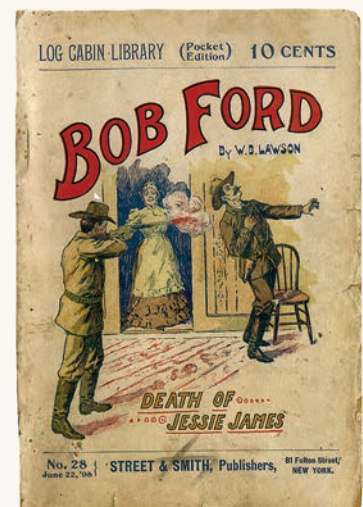
In August 1883, Frank James went on trial for murdering a stonemason during the Winston train robbery in the summer of 1881. The key witness against him was Dick Liddil. After a four-hour deliberation, the jury acquitted Frank. The next year, he also stood trial but was acquitted in Alabama for the 1881 Muscle Shoals stagecoach robbery. Multiple extradition requests from the governor of Minnesota were denied, and Frank walked away a free man. He lived out his life as a celebrity and died in 1915.



Dick Liddil went west. He and Bob Ford opened the Bank Saloon on Bridge Street in west Las Vegas, New Mexico. Quickly going bust, Liddil leased the billiard room at the new Plaza Hotel. Ford became a city policeman. Liddil later found his true calling and ran a string of horses for J.W. Lynch of Las Vegas. Together, they raced horses on the east coast racetrack circuit. Liddil died of a heart attack, at a racetrack, in 1901. He was not quite 50.



**Recommended:** *Frank and Jesse James: The Story Behind Their Legend* by Ted P. Yeatman, published by Cumberland House



This pulp cover shows Bob Ford shooting Jesse James with a RIFLE! That is ridiculous, of course. Then again, historians still can't seem to agree on whether Ford used a Colt or a Smith & Wesson as his murder weapon.

**TRUE WEST**  
70 YEARS  
CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

**BEST of the WEST**  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE



**BY STUART ROSEBROOK**

Edward S. Curtis's photograph of Navajo horseman in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, is one of the most iconic of images of the West.

# At 70 years old, we pause, reflect and celebrate the grand milestone.

In 1953, Austin, Texas, publisher Joe A. Small launched *True West* magazine as a quarterly. While he was editor and publisher of *Western Sportsman*, Small's readership loved his features on outlaws and lawmen. This inspired him to publish the Old West history pulp, as the popularity of Western fiction, film and television was on the rise.

Small grew *True West*, eventually reaching a circulation of 185,000. He added extra publications, including *Frontier Times*, *Gold* and *Old West*. In 1979, Small sold *True West* and two decades later Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell put an ownership group together, including the late Robert G. McCubbin, to

buy the aging pulp and bring it to Cave Creek, Arizona. Today, over 22 years later, *True West* is one of the last of its genre in the publishing world. Very few titles from the pulp era have survived, let alone made the transition to full color with a digital platform and a digitized archives. Subscribers of *True West* can now enjoy all 70 years of the magazine online and watch Bob Boze Bell spin his tales of the Old West on YouTube.

To honor our first seven decades, the editorial staff at *True West* kicks off our 70th year by honoring the Best of the West in this issue. Look for some big surprises as we dig deep to commemorate our platinum anniversary with great columns, original research and classic stories from our archives.

We are proud to give our longtime contributor Candy Moulton the 2023 True Westerner Award. For over four decades, the Wyoming native has dedicated herself to preserving, promoting and writing about our Western heritage. Moulton first began contributing to *True West* in the early 1990s. Since 2002, Moulton has shared the "Renegade Roads" column with fellow contributor Johnny D. Boggs. An award-winning journalist, historian and documentary filmmaker, Moulton most recently retired as executive director of Western Writers of America, a post she held for 11 years.

We are glad you are riding (and reading) alongside as we celebrate our 70 years in 2023 with an eye to many more years of publishing the best writing, research and entertaining history of the Old West. We are grateful for your support and look forward to you riding with us for many years to come.



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

**BEST of the WEST**  
**TRUE WESTERNER**  
 OF THE YEAR  
 WYOMING'S BEST  
**CANDY MOULTON**

I first met Candy Moulton in person at the Tucson Festival of Books in March 2014. As senior editor at *True West*, I had been working with Candy for a year. I supervised her “Renegade Roads” column she shares with her friend and fellow *True West* contributing writer Johnny D. Boggs. We talked a great deal about writing, travel stories for the magazine and her home state of Wyoming. That same weekend we all attended the True Westerner 2014 ceremony at the Arizona Inn honoring the late Forrest Fenn, who received the annual award from Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and Publisher Ken Amorosano. Ironically, nine years later we will all return to Tucson for the Festival of Books and fete Moulton with her own True Westerner Award.

A professional writer since the age of 16 when she earned her first byline at the *Saratoga Sun* in Saratoga, Wyoming, Candy was destined to write about the people and places she loves in her beloved West. A cowgirl from an early age, she grew up with her parents and sister and brother on her grandparents’ homestead on Beaver Creek outside



Candy and Steve Moulton visited the T.A. Moulton Barn in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Candy and Steve’s families settled in the Cowboy State over 125 years ago, and the couple remain active in working to preserve the state’s Western heritage.

Courtesy Candy Moulton

Encampment. Everyone pitched in no matter the age and she quickly learned the value of hard work and what it took to earn a living from the land. She fondly remembers: “The ranch gave me my values: work hard, don’t quit until the job is done, help your neighbors, be there for your friends and family.”

She left the Encampment area for a short time to earn an AA in journalism from Northwest Wyoming Community College and her Bachelor of Science in journalism at the University of Wyoming, but after marrying rancher Steve

Moulton, she returned to a place of their own near her hometown and has been writing and working ever since. They raised two children while Steve managed a nearby ranch and all the while Candy kept writing. Her first book was

*Steamboat: Legendary Bucking Horse and the Cowboys Who Rode Him*, co-written with her mother-in-law, Flossie Moulton. Since 1992, she has published 14 more books, including *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People*, which won the 2006 WWA Spur Award for Best Biography.

Moulton has not limited her creativity just to the printed word. While she has been a contributor to *True West* (as well as many other publications) for three decades, she has also been an award-winning producer of documentary films. Beginning in 1999 with *Footsteps to the West* for the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, she became a sought-after producer and writer of films for museums and interpretive centers. Most recently, she produced another title for the NHTIC exhibit “The Battle of Red Buttes.” That production was very satisfying personally for her because she “had an opportunity to work



For three decades Candy Moulton has participated in Overland wagon train reenactments. In 2016 she was part of a trail reenactment with many of her friends, including Bruce Berst (left). Candy says, “What’s not to love about going three miles an hour down a trail in the West looking at the back end of a team of mules?”

Photo by Quackgrass Sally



Candy Moulton has found many ways to combine her career with her passion for Western history and participating in wagon train reenactments. In 2008, she was all smiles at the end of production on *In Pursuit of a Dream* for the Oregon California Trails Association.

Photo by Lincoln Morrison

closely with Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal elders who had personal connections to the story line from the Sand Creek Massacre on November 29, 1864, to the Battle of Red Buttes on July 25, 1865. Their accounts, blended with the voices of military and trails historians, provide a sober, well-rounded story line.”

Today, after 11 years as the executive director of Western Writers of America, Candy is enjoying “retirement 2.0,” as she calls it. She lives with her husband Steve on the homeplace in Encampment and enjoys spending time with her two children and grandchildren—when she’s not working! In 2022, she was very active with the WWA, co-writing and finishing production of eight episodes of the *Packing the West* educational series, which will be prepared with curricula for schools in 2023. She also has a new book coming out from South Dakota Historical Society Press in June 2023:



Family has always remained at the center of Candy’s life. In 2021, four generations of the Moulton family gathered at Grandma’s Cabin near Encampment: (clockwise from back row, l.-r.) daughter Erin, son Shawn, Candy, granddaughter Macy, mother Betty Vyvey, and granddaughter Aspen (holding her doll).

Courtesy Candy Moulton

*Sacajawea: Mystery, Myth & Legend*. Asked if she will ever retire, Moulton says, “Writers can never retire, because if nothing else they will spend their days reading...which leads to ideas for more writing. Oh, and then there’s the fact that I am also now the executive director of the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame...which brings me right back to my ranching roots.”

What does it mean to Candy to be named the True Westerner of 2023?

“Honestly, I’m still amazed by this award,” she says. “Not only does it come from people I admire who have made a tremendous impact in telling the stories of the American West, but it puts me in company with former awardees including Larry McMurtry, Forrest Fenn, Paul Andrew Hutton and Phil Spangenberg. I’m truly honored to join them.”





BY STEVE FRIESEN AND  
THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

# ART AND COLLECTIBLES



## Best of the True and Mythical West at Auctions in 2022

*Collectors proved they have the dollars to keep auction houses  
hammering out record prices.*

People often remark that America has a short history compared to Europe. It doesn't matter; the American West excites the imagination like no other period in world history. Whether called the old West, the wild West or the true West, people the world over are captivated by it. It is no wonder that art and artifacts associated with both true and mythical tales of the West's past continued to draw attention at auctions in 2022.

The year began in January with a sale of memorabilia from the West's myth-makers at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in Mesa, Arizona. There were cowboy hats from Tom Mix, John Wayne and Charles Russell. Italian actress Claudia Cardinale, whose hat was also sold at the Lebel Auction, starred in *Once Upon a Time in the West*, a movie that unabashedly borrowed its title from fairy tales and inspired other movies with similar titles.

In May, the Rock Island Premier Firearms Auction sold a pair of Remington revolvers presented to Ulysses S. Grant, who oversaw the handling of the Indian War on the Great Plains, and a Colt Navy revolver that belonged to Wild Bill Hickok. The gaming set that belonged to "Poker Alice," who became famous as a female

gambler, was sold at the Morphy Extraordinary Firearms Auction. Grant, Hickok and "Poker Alice" all walked out of the real West into the cinema of the imaginary West. Later in the year a purely fictional firearm, used by Han Solo in a Wild West long ago and far away, sold at a Rock Island Auction for over a million dollars.

Art that captured both the reality and the myth of the West loomed large throughout the year. The Scottsdale Art Auction featured impressions of the West created by members of the Taos Society of Artists, as well as by contemporary artists. Among the new works of art depicting a West of the imagination, were Howard Terpning's *The Shaman and His Magic Feathers* and Logan Maxwell Hagege's *All the Wild that Remains*. The National Cowboy and Western Museum's Prix de West addressed a reality too often left out of the mythical West by awarding its Great American Cowboy Award to *Two Americans of the Old West*. Created by Thomas Blackshear II, it portrays two African American cowboys.

Depictions of the old West by Russell, Remington and Alfred Jacob Miller, all of whom experienced it, appeared on the block at the Coeur d'Alene Art

Auction, commanding hefty prices. As might be expected, the top earners at the C.M. Russell Museum's annual auction were by Charles Russell. They included his *High, Wide and Handsome*, which illustrated a bronco rider at an early 20th-century Western show.

The buffalo once dominated the country and has become a symbol of the American West. Images of the buffalo dominated fall's Rendezvous Royale auction in Cody. Top earner at that auction was Tucker Smith's *Wyoming Buffalo*. At the Jackson Hole Art Auction, Frederic Remington's *Register Rock, Idaho* effectively captured the intersection of landscape, pioneers and American Indians. Western imagery, as reflected by examples of Western-style furniture by Thomas Molesworth and others, also commanded high prices at the Jackson auction.

In 2022 collectors had plenty of opportunities to purchase a piece of the Western story, whether real or imaginary, and they did indeed. These sales represented the broad reach of the West as well as its mythic qualities. There is no question, the American West looms large in the world's imagination.





Howard Terpning made a mystical scene realistic in *The Shaman and His Magic Feathers*. The painting sold for \$1,506,000 at the Scottsdale Art Auction.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction

At \$626,875, Wild Bill Hickok's Colt Navy revolver hammered down at twice the estimated price at the Rock Island Auction.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Co.



*Two Americans of the Old West* by Thomas Blackshear II, sold at The National Cowboy and Western Museum's Prix de West for \$38,000. The portrait shows two African American cowboys out of the past, or perhaps the present.

Courtesy Prix de West



At the Scottsdale Art Auction, \$160,000 captured the vibrantly colored *All the Wild that Remains*, an image of the contemporary Southwest by Logan Maxwell Hagege.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



### Best Western Art Collection

CM Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT

The museum that houses Charles M. Russell's home and studio has always been true to Russell's vision. Russell would have been moved by The Sundance Series, Gary Schildt's 42 paintings of the Blackfeet Medicine Lodge Ceremony in an exhibit that ran from November 12, 2022 to May 22, 2022. "Russell, Modest Yet Masterful: Small Scale Masterworks by Charles M. Russell" runs through September and reveals that he didn't need a large canvas to touch viewers. And the permanent exhibits are among the best you'll find anywhere.

[CMRussell.org](http://CMRussell.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Museum of Western Art, Kerrville, TX

### Best American Indian Collection

Eddie Basha Collection Museum, Chandler, AZ

Developed by the late Arizona grocer and philanthropist Eddie Basha, the Eddie Basha Collection Museum is home to more than 3,500 pieces of American Indian and contemporary Western American art housed in the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery.

[EddieBashaCollection.com](http://EddieBashaCollection.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** First Americans Museum, Oklahoma City, OK

# ART AND COLLECTIBLES



Bronco riding was introduced to the world by Buffalo Bill's Wild West. It became a popular event in rodeos and Western shows, as demonstrated by Charles Russell's *High, Wide and Handsome*. The watercolor sold at the C.M. Russell Museum's annual art auction for \$468,000.

Courtesy C.M. Russell Museum



### Best Western Art Collector

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

Renowned and highly respected Western art collector Tim Peterson developed a passion for the West and Western art during his childhood in the Midwest. Today, Peterson's Family Collection is on loan at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, showcased in the second-floor "Courage and Crossroads: A Visual Journey through the Early American West" exhibition. Peterson also recently collaborated with the museum to exhibit his Paul Calle collection in "Life of Exploration: From the Mountains to the Moon," his Maynard Dixon collection in "Maynard Dixon's American West" and his Edward Curtis collection in "Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward Curtis."

[ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org](http://ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Johnny Morris, Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, Ridgeway, MO

### Best Western History Collector

Richard E. Fike, Montrose, CO (Museum of the Mountain West)

Founded in 1997, the Colorado museum was created by founder Richard E. Fike, a Western historian, archaeologist and lifelong collector of Western memorabilia. Fike dreamed for decades of a center dedicated to the preservation of frontier heritage. In addition to the museum's exhibits, the grounds of the Museum of the Mountain West have 28 historic buildings that were donated by neighboring community members.

[MuseumOfTheMountainWest.com](http://MuseumOfTheMountainWest.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Johnny Morris, Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, Ridgeway, MO

### Best Pioneer History Collection

Cowtown, Wichita, KS

Old Cowtown Museum has 54 historic and recreated buildings, 27 of which are original. Built along the Arkansas River in Wichita, the museum is a popular living history center with an outstanding 1860s-70s frontier collection. Visitors will step back in time when they enter each building furnished with historic pieces and materials that provide a window into life for Kansas pioneers.

[OldCowtown.org](http://OldCowtown.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX



Edward S. Curtis's *The River Path, Taos* is a classic example of the artist's photography. His photographic and ethnographic project, *The North American Indian*, is one of the most important records of the continent's Indigenous people.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

**Best Old West Collectibles Auction**

Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA

Internationally recognized for its annual collectible auctions, Morphy has five collectible divisions: Advertising & General Store, Automobilia & Petroliana, Coin-Op & Gambling, Fine & Decorative Arts and Toy & Doll. The company is also well known for its Edged Weapons, Armor & Militaria and Firearms auctions. Collectors can find hundreds of items from the Old West in the annual auctions. One of their largest and most successful was the peerless Bobby Knudsen Jr. Collection of Petroliana & Soda Pop Signs in 2022.

*MorphyAuctions.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Brian Lebel's Old West Show & Auction, NM & AZ

**Best Western Collectibles Gallery**

Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

Over 100 nationally known artists are represented by Legacy Gallery, which has been in business since 1988. Legacy Gallery offers the finest in representational and impressionistic art. The popular gallery's ownership is highly regarded for the diversity of art and artists—and variety of subject matter and mediums including Western, wild-life, figurative, landscape and still-life—they represent for their customers.

*LegacyGallery.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT

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# ART AND COLLECTIBLES



Ulysses S. Grant's Remington revolvers, presented to him after the battle of Vicksburg in 1863, sold for \$5,710,000 at Rock Island Auction.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Co.



## Best Old West Art Auction

Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale AZ

The annual Scottsdale Art Auction, held online on April 9 and 10, offered an outstanding selection of over 400 oil paintings, watercolors, sketches and sculptures depicting Western landscapes, peoples and action. It included a broad range of styles, from traditional scenes of the West to adventurous works by later 20th and early 21st-century artists. And, with a range of prices from a John Clymer charcoal at \$936 to Charles Schreyvogel's *A Close Call* at \$819,000, there were Western images to meet nearly every budget. The Scottsdale Art Auction is currently accepting consignments and will hold its next auction on April 14-15, 2023.

[ScottsdaleArtAuction.com](http://ScottsdaleArtAuction.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

## Best Old West Firearms Auction

Rock Island Auctions, Rock Island, IL

Rock Island Auction Company is known worldwide as the top auction house for antique and collector firearms. Rock Island prides itself on its integrity and the quality and rarity of the antique firearms, collectors' firearms, rare guns, modern guns and other firearms-related items auctioned since 2003. Annual events include Premier Firearms Auction, Sporting & Collector Firearms and nine regularly scheduled online firearms auctions.

[RockIslandAuction.com](http://RockIslandAuction.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Amoskeag Auction Company, Manchester, NH

## Best Treasure Hunting Device

Garrett Metal Detectors, TX

Founded in 1964, the family-owned company remains a leader in the metal detector marketplace. The company's philosophy is to make the best metal detectors, sell them at a fair and reasonable price, and place customer service and satisfaction at the top of their priorities. For the everyday consumer, its Sport Division offers amateur and professional detectorists one of the most highly regarded product lines manufactured today.

[Garrett.com](http://Garrett.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Electroscopes by Thomas, South Williamsport, PA



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American Indian artisans and their crafts became a favorite subject of photographers. Charles C. Pierce, who moved to Los Angeles from Chicago in 1886, made this portrait of a Yokut basketmaker and her son on the Tule Indian Reservation during a career focused on recording the people and places of his adopted home state.

Courtesy The Huntington Digital Library

**Best Western Painter**

Maynard Dixon

*True West's* editors believe that you might make a case that there are better painters, but in the end, Maynard Dixon is the West's greatest artist. He made the transition from early 20th-century illustration to modern, contemporary Western art with integrity and authenticity.

**READERS' CHOICE:** Charles M. Russell

**Best Western Painter (Living)**

Logan Maxwell Hagege

Born and raised in Southern California, Logan Maxwell Hagege (pronounced Ah-jejj) has quickly become one of the most respected young Western artists. He splits his time between Los Angeles and a rural isolated studio-cabin in Arizona. Hagege, a contemporary artist recently featured at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, is well-known for his contemporary Western art that features Southwestern American Indians, cowboys and bucking broncs and landscapes. Art critics have compared the award-winning artist to Maynard Dixon and Ed Mell.

[LoganMaxwellHagege.com](http://LoganMaxwellHagege.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Sherry Blanchard Stuart/John Hampton

**TAOS ART MUSEUM at FECHIN HOUSE**



Visit the Fechin House, home of the Taos Art Museum, for a genuinely authentic Taos experience. Delight in soft adobe walls, exquisite hand-carved furniture and woodwork, and some of the finest artworks ever created in Taos. Stroll the gardens, take in the expansive view from the Studio - feel the mystery and power of artistic mastery surround you. Lovingly built by renowned painter Nicolai Fechin, the Fechin House breathes living history and vibrant, creative energy. A gem right in the heart of the historic district of Taos, New Mexico.

[www.taosartmuseum.org](http://www.taosartmuseum.org) / 575.758.2690



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# ART AND COLLECTIBLES



William E. Irwin was an active photographer of American Indians of the Southwest from the 1890s to the 1930s. Following in the footsteps of his photography peers, Irwin used a large-format camera to take portraits of Indian artisans, such as a Papago mother and her two daughters with her pottery jars near Bisbee, Arizona, circa 1925.

Courtesy Huntington Digital Library

## Best Western Art Museum Gallery

Olaf Wieghorst Museum & Heritage Center, El Cajon, CA

After visiting the transplanted Denmark artist's home, David Kohanyi wrote in the *San Diego Reader* (January 26) that he "felt in touch with the lost Old West." The house, which was the artist's home from 1947 until 1958, is just part of the museum that features the art of Wieghorst (1899-1988), whose paintings were used in the opening credits of John Wayne's *El Dorado* (1967). Wieghorst also played the Swedish gunsmith in the film.

[WieghorstMuseum.org](http://WieghorstMuseum.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Taos Art Museum, Taos, NM

## Best Western Art Gallery

Big Horn Galleries, Cody, WY

World famous for an extraordinary gallery of Western and wildlife art and landscapes of the West, Big Horn Galleries was founded in 1982 in downtown Cody across from the historic Irma Hotel. The Big Horn represents local and Western artists, two- and three-dimensional art, as well as jewelry and original graphics. It also has a gallery in Tubac, Arizona.

[BigHornGalleries.com](http://BigHornGalleries.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Medicine Man Gallery, Tucson, AZ

## Best Western Bronze Foundry

Art Castings of Colorado, Loveland, CO

Founded in 1972, Art Castings is a major part of Loveland's thriving art community. The casting foundry is located in a 25,000-square-foot building and the extraordinarily large space allows artists crafting oversized monument bronzes and the Art Castings team to work inside year-round. Public tours are available by reservation only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

[ArtCastings.com](http://ArtCastings.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Bronzsmith Fine Art Foundry & Gallery

## Best Western Bronze Artist

Dustin Payne

The native New Mexican is known for his portrayal of Western history in bronze sculpture. With his traditional style, Payne encapsulates the feeling and detail of the Western way of life. Dustin was born into a rodeo and ranching family in southern New Mexico in 1981. Growing up as a third-generation sculptor in his family, he began learning the trade at an early age. Endless inspiration came from studying the great works of Remington and Russell, and he was influenced by the books and drawings of Will James.

[DustinPayne.com](http://DustinPayne.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Herb Mignery

## Best Classic Western Bronze Artist

George Phippen

Born in 1915 in Charles City, Iowa, George Phippen grew up cowboying in Kansas before he moved to Arizona. As one of the founders of Cowboy Artists of America, Phippen is well-known for both his paintings and his bronze sculptures of Western cowboy life. The Phippen Art Museum in Prescott, Arizona, is home to the greatest collection of the cowboy's artwork.

[PhippenArtMuseum.org](http://PhippenArtMuseum.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Arthur Putnam

## Best Western Museum

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK

"Colter's Hell: Yellowstone Park at 150" is a special exhibit at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum this year. It features art from the Cowboy Museum collection as well as items borrowed from other institutions, including the Gilcrease Museum. On National Root Beer Float Day (August 6), kids took over the museum for their own exploration of Yellowstone, looking for animals in the artwork during a scavenger hunt and seeing a geyser in action. Among the exhibits opening late this year and on into 2023 are "Looking into the Windows of the West," "Art of the Northwest Coast" and "Sombreros Texas Bosses of the Plains: Cowboy Hats from the Permanent Collection."

[NationalCowboyMuseum.org](http://NationalCowboyMuseum.org)

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



Nebraska photographer Solomon Butcher's images of homesteaders on their homestead farms in Custer County, such as George Copsey and his family near Westerville, are considered some of the finest records—both historically and artistically—of American pioneer farm families.

Courtesy Library of Congress

## FIND YOURSELF IN THE WEST

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West educates, engages, informs, and inspires guests.

It illuminates the past to shape our future.

*True West* magazine notes Western Spirit is one of the "Best Western Museums" in the nation, and Yelp and Trip Advisor highly rate the experience of this Smithsonian Affiliate.

Western Spirit celebrates the West!



**Western Spirit**  
SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST



Smithsonian  
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480-686-9539, [ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org](http://ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org)



Long Soldier, 1989, David McGary (1958-2013)  
Collection of Molly McGary



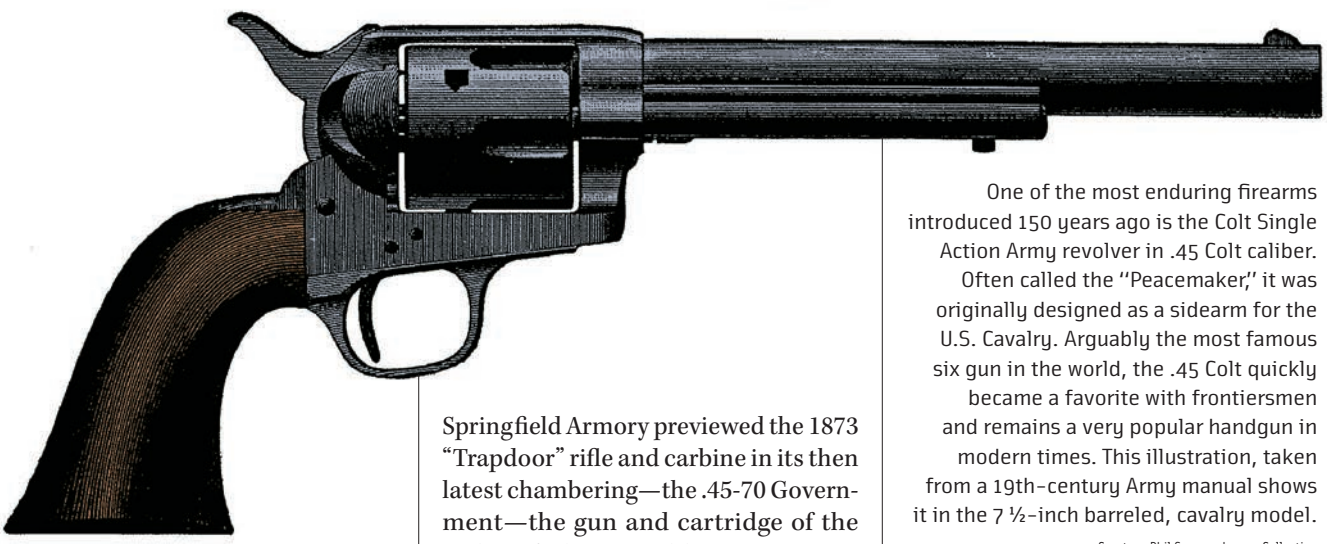
BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER  
AND THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

# FIREARMS



## 1873—Year of the Gun

*2023 is a special year for several iconic Old West guns, as well as True West magazine, and Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg.*



One of the most enduring firearms introduced 150 years ago is the Colt Single Action Army revolver in .45 Colt caliber. Often called the "Peacemaker," it was originally designed as a sidearm for the U.S. Cavalry. Arguably the most famous six gun in the world, the .45 Colt quickly became a favorite with frontiersmen and remains a very popular handgun in modern times. This illustration, taken from a 19th-century Army manual shows it in the 7 1/2-inch barreled, cavalry model.

*Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection*

The year 1873 could easily be called "The Year of the Gun," since 150 years ago this year saw the introduction of several of the Old West's most iconic firearms and their ammunition. Now, in 2023, a century and a half later, this armament still holds great appeal to scores of firearms enthusiasts.

As most *True West* readers are undoubtedly aware, 1873 saw the debut of the famed Colt Single Action Army revolver, along with its most popular cartridge, the .45 Colt. Also during this year, production of Colt's entire series of percussion revolvers ended, and Winchester brought out their first centerfire, iron-framed 1873 lever action rifle. Chambered in .44Winchester Central Fire caliber (.44 WCF), better known as the .44-40, both firearms became symbols of the Wild West. Not to be outdone, the U.S. government's

Springfield Armory previewed the 1873 "Trapdoor" rifle and carbine in its then latest chambering—the .45-70 Government—the gun and cartridge of the Indian-fighting soldier. Too, it is believed that the popular Merwin, Hulbert & Co. revolvers also began production around this time. As famous as these firearms were and still are, in the past 150 years, each arm's ammo has become sporting favorites, earning solid reputations in their own right.

The .45 Colt, the most powerful commercial handgun cartridge until the .357 Magnum was introduced in 1935, became one of the most popular revolver rounds of the era. Today it's a popular handgun cartridge with big-bore revolver enthusiasts, due to its accuracy, knockdown and stopping power, and the diversity it offers in reloading for custom handguns.

The .44-40 cartridge quickly gained popularity in the Wild West when companies like Colt, Remington, Smith & Wesson and others began chambering their six guns in that round. This move

gave frontiersmen the ability to fire the same cartridge in their rifle and handgun. In modern times, many replica lever guns are chambered with this frontier favorite.

The saying "Old soldiers never die" certainly rings true with the .45-70 Govt. cartridge. Used as the standard load for the U.S. military from 1873 to 1892, this powerful cartridge was also popular with sporting single-shot and repeating rifles of the Wild West, including the 1874 Sharps, Winchester Model 1886, Marlin's 1881, Remington's rolling block rifles and more. The .45-70, in its various beefed-up smokeless powder loadings has become a favorite short-range hunting round, boasting the power to take everything

*(Continued on page 59)*

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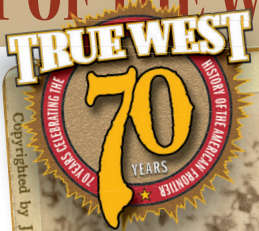
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# FIREARMS



One of the guns that truly won the West was the 1873 “Trapdoor” Springfield, and its subsequent variations. It was chambered for the powerful .45-70 Govt. black powder round, and from 1873-1892, it was the standard-issue shoulder arm for the U.S. military during the Indian Wars. The carbine (1879 version shown here) was issued to the cavalry (left), along with the Colt Single Action revolver, while the “Long Tom” rifle version went to the infantry.

Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection

*(Continued from page 56)*

from deer to grizzly bears in North America and many species in Africa—including Cape buffalo.

The year 2023 also holds special meaning in other ways to *True West*’s staff and our readers. This year marks our 70th anniversary of publishing—without interruption—articles about the Old West, the current West, and its history, people, places, celebrations and unique culture known and often emulated around the world. For nearly three quarters of a century and spanning two of them—1953-2023—*True West* has brought the flavor and undeniable facts

about the American West’s colorful past and present to our readers.

Like these iconic guns and their famous cartridges, *True West* has been woven into the fabric of the living legacy of the American frontier. It’s the magazine most turned to when Wild West enthusiasts (or should I say *True West* maniacs) want to know what happened in the “wild and woolly days,” and what is happening in today’s West.

On a more personal note, yours truly is celebrating 20 years as the Firearms editor for *True West*, a record I’m very proud of. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed offering my writings since 2003, and have



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# FIREARMS



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Although dropped by the military in the 1890s, the .45-70 cartridge has continued to live a long life as a sporting and hunting round. Favored as a short-range cartridge for big game, this cartridge has been beefed up in a variety of smokeless powder loads, boasting the power to take everything from deer to grizzly bears in North America and many species in Africa—including Cape buffalo! Here, during a safari in Botswana, Spangenberg took this Cape buffalo using a Kodiak MK IV sidehammer double rifle, loaded with Garrett's Super Hard Cast "Hammerhead" .45-70 ammo (inquiries@garrettctridges.com).

Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection

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made many new friends through my association with *True West*. Ironically, it is also my 50th anniversary as a professional gun writer, having started with *Guns & Ammo Magazine* in 1973, serving as their "Black Powder" and "Gunsmoke" editor during my tenure there.

It's been an interesting and fun ride, and we plan on keeping our cinch tight for the coming Western adventures and *True West* moments. Saddle up and let's keep hitting the trail together!



## SHARPS FIREARMS, VOLUME III

Like Volumes I and II, Volume III is superb work, the latest edition of Sharps' excellent four-volume set. *Sharps Firearms Volume III, Model 1874, 1875, & 1877, Target Rifles and Model Variations* offers informative text and a multitude of beautiful firearms photographs and period illustrations. Authors Roy Marcot, Ron Paxton and Edward W. Marron, Jr., have provided a comprehensive treatise of these Sharps, covering the hunting and commercial Sharps rifles and the Long-Range and Creedmoor models. Its 425 pages also feature chapters on ammunition, cartridge boxes, gunsmiths like Freund who modified the Sharps, loading tools and more, including discussions of the 19th-century shooting competitions and their famous riflemen. This handsome 10 3/8-inch by 12 3/8-inch hardcover book sells for \$100 for the standard edition, and \$175 for a deluxe leather bound and encased book, personally signed by all three authors. This volume, coffee table-book quality with scholarly content, is a must-have for Sharps enthusiasts. For more information contact: roymarcot@msn.com.





**Best Gunleather Artisan**

Old West Reproductions, Florence, MT

For the second year in a row, *True West* honors Rick Bachman and Old West Reproductions for his world-class leather craftsmanship. He has been handcrafting authentic museum-quality, Western-styled gunleather and other cowboy gear, like cuffs, spur leathers, saddle pockets, saddle scabbards and more for over 32 years. In our opinion, Bachman's work is among the finest reproductions ever offered anywhere.

*OldWestReproductions.com*

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

**Best Firearm Engraver/Firearm Restoration**

Turnbull Restoration, Bloomfield, NY

For over 37 years, Turnbull Restoration Co., Inc., has been the nation's leader in restoration and custom upgrades on vintage handguns, rifles and shotguns. *True West's* editors and industry leaders recognize Turnbull as the go-to company for restoration, period-correct metal finishes and custom reproductions.

*TurnbullRestoration.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** E.M.F. Company,  
Santa Ana, CA

**Best Cowboy Action Pistol**

Colt Single Action .45 Army Revolver

In commemoration of the iconic Colt SAA revolver's 150th anniversary, *True West's* editors honor it as the best—and most famous—handgun in the history of the United States. Historians to working cowboys, Old West firearm fans to Western stars think the Colt .45 is still the most essential Old West firearm to own and carry. The Colt Single Action .45 Army Revolver is truly one of the greatest and most recognized American icons known worldwide.

*Colt.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Taylor's & Company  
1860 Army Black Powder Revolver

**CIMARRON F&A CO**



**LONESOME DOVE WALKERS** .44, 9"

"Yesterday's gone, and we can't get it back." Words of wisdom from Augustus McCrac, former Texas Ranger and one of Larry McMurtry's famous characters' from his Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "Lonesome Dove". Cimarron Firearms' new pair of Lonesome Dove Walker .44 revolvers take inspiration from that beloved saga. The Walker .44 was the authentic standard-issue Texas Ranger pistol. Cimarron Firearms has designed and embellished the Lonesome Dove replicas with great attention to detail. The guns are authentically marked, one with "Capt. Augustus McCrac, Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion" down the backstrap and his Texas Ranger Division "E Company No. 120" on the left side of the frame and barrel, and the other with "Capt. Woodrow F. Call, Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion" and "E Company No. 119." Tell your dealer, "I want a Cimarron!"

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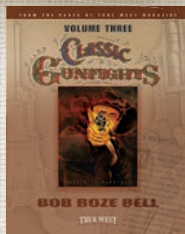
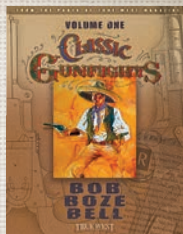
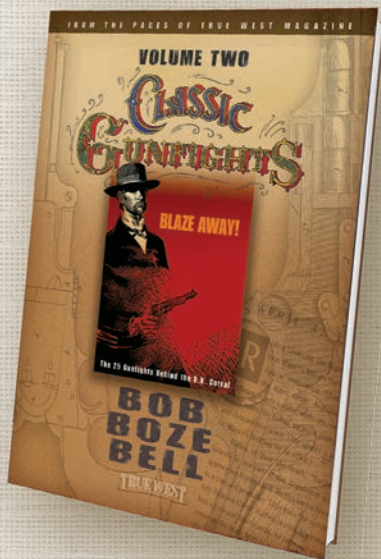
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### Best Cowboy Action Rifle

Cimarron Firearms 1860 Iron Framed Henry .44 WCF

Cimarron's replica is truly remarkable. The richly colored, case-hardened steel-framed Henry is fitted with the standard 24-inch octagon barrel, in either .44-40 or .45 Colt caliber. The iron framed model with a walnut stock also sports a blued butt plate and a color case hardened trigger, hammer and lever. Cimarron's Iron Frame Henry replica is authentic in every detail and is recognized as one of the straightest shooting repeaters available on the market today.

[Cimarron-Firearms.com](http://Cimarron-Firearms.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Uberti 1873 Limited Edition Rifle Deluxe

### Best Action Shotgun

EMF Company Hartford SxS Shotgun

EMF has manufactured a classic with its popular, 12-gauge Hartford SxS Shotgun. The side-by-side shotgun with its 20-inch barrels can be easily opened with one hand, allowing for very fast loading and extraction of shells. The walnut pistol grip stock is checkered. Both hunters and performers in Cowboy Action Shooting events enjoy using the Hartford SxS Shotgun.

[EMF-Company.com](http://EMF-Company.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Cimarron Firearms 1878 Coach Gun

### Best Single Shot Rifle

Shiloh Sharps 1874 Quigley, Big Timber, MT

The Sharps was the first choice of the frontier buffalo hunter, and Shiloh Sharps continues that tradition of top-quality arms. The 34-inch, octagon-barreled, .45-70 or .45-110 1874 Quigley is a modern-day favorite with hunters, target shooters and collectors. The 1874 comes with a military buttstock, patch box, standard grade wood, a pewter tip, Hartford collar, double set triggers, semi-buckhorn rear sight, midrange Vernier tang sight and a #111 globe aperture front sight. Additional custom features are available.

[ShilohRifle.com](http://ShilohRifle.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Uberti 1885 High Wall Rifle .45-70

### Best Firearm Kit Gun

The Hawken Shop Hawken Rifle Kit

For the second year in a row, *True West's* editors honor The Hawken Shop's Hawken Rifle Kit as the Best in the West. The most famous of Plains rifles, the Hawken was the favorite of mountain men Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and others. Craft your own rifle from the Hawken Shop's Hawken Kit. It's 95 percent finished and requires minimal hand tools and patience for the final fitting.

[TheHawkenShop.com](http://TheHawkenShop.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Dixie Gun Works Dixie Pietta 1858 Remington Texas Revolver Kit

### Best Commemorative Rifle

Golden Boy "Silver Anniversary" Edition .22 S/L/LR

To celebrate 25 years of Guns For Great Causes, Henry Repeating Arms is proud to present the Golden Boy "Silver Anniversary" Edition. This rifle is all about giving back to the foundations and organizations that Henry proudly supports, and 100 percent of the proceeds are being donated for a total of \$1 million. These 1-of-1,000 rifles feature a blued steel octagon barrel, hardware nickel-plated receiver cover, barrel band, buttplate and inlaid medalion. Each rifle has the words "Silver Anniversary 1-of-1,000" engraved and silver-filled on the upper tang and a unique serial number range. The Golden Boy "Silver Anniversary" Edition can only be purchased directly from Henry Repeating Arms.

[HenryUSA.com](http://HenryUSA.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** 1876 Centennial "Tom Horn" Signature Rifle (Cimarron Firearms, Fredericksburg, TX)



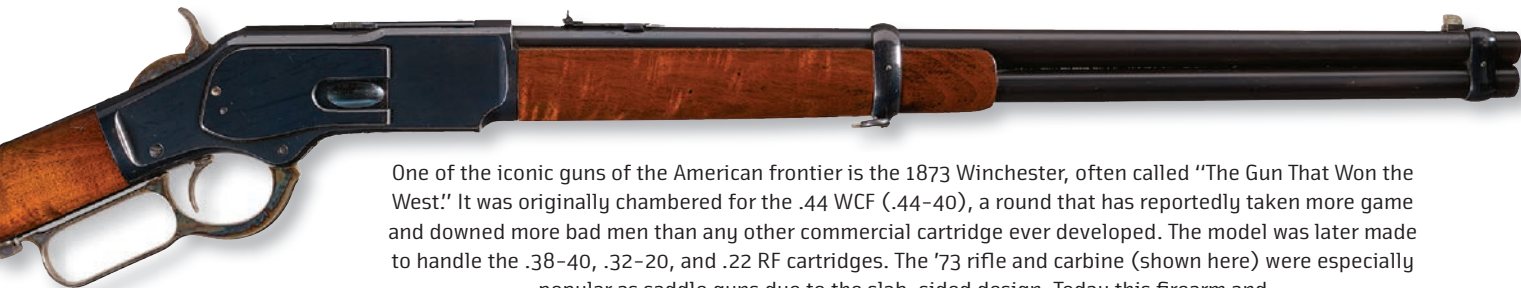


# FIREARMS



Attesting to the popularity of the 1873 Winchester in both rifle and carbine configurations, all but one of these Texas Rangers have opted for the slab-sided '73 model, and it appears that they all are packing the 1873 Colt Peacemaker as well.

Courtesy True West Archives



One of the iconic guns of the American frontier is the 1873 Winchester, often called "The Gun That Won the West." It was originally chambered for the .44 WCF (.44-40), a round that has reportedly taken more game and downed more bad men than any other commercial cartridge ever developed. The model was later made to handle the .38-40, .32-20, and .22 RF cartridges. The '73 rifle and carbine (shown here) were especially popular as saddle guns due to the slab-sided design. Today this firearm and the .44-40 cartridge enjoy new life with Cowboy Action Shooters.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company



BY SHERRY MONAHAN AND  
THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

# WESTERN FARE



## An Accidental Planting

*The origin of Washington's famous apple orchards  
is a delicious surprise.*



Apple trees in bloom signal the coming of spring across the state of Washington, as seen here in 1910 with Mt. Rainier in the background.



From the San Juan Islands to the Yakima Valley of the Columbia River, homesteaders discovered apples thrived in the climate of the northwestern state. Today, the Yakima region is considered one of the most productive apple-growing regions in the world.

All Images Courtesy the University of Washington Digital Collections

According to various newspaper accounts, the first apple tree planted in the state of Washington was at Fort Vancouver, which was built for the fur trappers in the area. The story begins at an 1824 dinner party in London to honor Sir George Simpson, who was embarking on a journey to Fort Vancouver. A young woman at that party served him an apple for dessert and asked him to take the seeds with him and plant them for her so he'd remember her. He obliged and tucked them into his vest pocket, made his journey, but forgot about the seeds. According to accounts, he donned the same vest three years later to attend another party at the fort. He found the seeds still there and recalled the young woman's request. He planted them, and much to his surprise, several trees

sprouted and this began Washington's apple crop.

Another story comes from a Hudson Bay sailor on a ship rounding Cape Horn in 1826. The newspaper account claims the sailor loved the apple so much that he tucked the seeds into his vest pocket to plant at his new home in the wilderness. The sailor turned his clothes in for mending by a tailor, who found the seeds. The tailor then turned them over to the gardener at Fort Vancouver, who planted them. Regardless of how they made their way to Washington, apple trees did well but remained mostly for private use in the mid to late 1800s.

By the 1880s reports of wholesale farming operations began to appear. In

1883 the first orchard was planted in the Upper Wenatchee Valley near Cashmere. James Tullock of Orcas Island planted 700 apple trees that bore fruit in January 1884. At the time, his was the largest orchard in San Juan County, and the local paper noted his perfectly lined trees were disease-free. They reported, "[T]his fine orchard will be a regular and unfailing source of income to its enterprising proprietor." Seven years later, the San Juan Straits were considered "nature's garden spot" with 28,000 acres of rich land where the apple and prune orchards yielded \$500 to an acre of fruit.

In September 1890 W.F. Hickman had a ranch near Almota, where he harvested 50 tons of apples. Varieties included Red



Ever since the widespread development of the orchard industry in Washington in the late 19th and early-20th centuries, the Evergreen State has been universally known for its apples.

Astrachan, Williams' Early Favorite, Golden, Gravenstein, King, Blue Pearmain, Canada Reinette, Blenheim, Fallwater, Paradise Winter Sweet, Ben Davis, Jersey Black, Rhode Island Greening, Gilpin, Gloria Mundi, Fall Pippin, Yellow Belleflower, Landinsburg, Peck's Pleasant, Monmouth, English Russet, Golden Russet, Ortley, Belmont, Cole's Quince, American Golden, Grimes' Golden, Baldwin and more. In 1891 the McIntosh Red, Romanite, Autumn Strawberry and Northern Spy were "being tried."

Apples became an everyday part of life in Washington by the 1890s, and they were featured in a variety of events. One event was an apple-picking contest on Hood River in the rural northwest part of Oregon. While it was fun and a \$10-prize was awarded, the intent was to show the importance of packing different varieties. Apple-eating contests were wildly popular at parties; the ladies of the Norwegian Lutheran church in Spokane held a lemon and apple pie festival; and the Presbyterian church held an apple-guessing competition in which participants made a donation to guess the number in the barrel. Apple recipes filled the "Household Hints" section of the Washington papers. They included apple snow, apple pudding, baked apples and even apple champagne.



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



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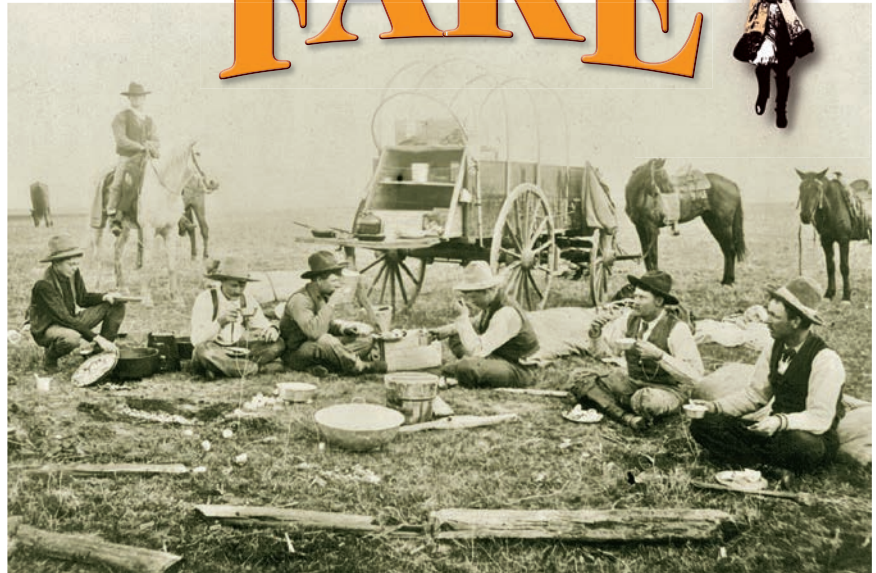
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# WESTERN FARE



If the ground was dry, cowboys sat on the ground and ate their breakfasts and suppers near the cattle company's chuckwagon and the cook's readily available coffee pot.

Courtesy Library of Congress



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## FARM HOUSE APPLE PIE

6-8 green apple variety  
1 cup sugar  
¼ teaspoon nutmeg  
1 double pie crust

Place a single crust into a pie pan.  
Peel, core and thinly slice the apples.  
Combine sugar and nutmeg. Set aside.  
Layer the apples, sprinkling layers with  
sugar, until filled. Place top crust and seal  
tight. Poke air holes in the top crust for  
steam to escape.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes  
or until the apples are tender.

Recipe adapted from *Olympia's Washington Standard*, August 24, 1883.

Palace is Arizona's oldest operating  
saloon. In 1996, the Palace permanently  
added a restaurant, which is well-  
known for its cowboy cuisine, Old West  
dining atmosphere and 19th-century  
frontier reenactors. The Palace also has  
a great display of historical artifacts  
from the Old West and a mural  
dedicated to the Western film *Junior  
Bonner*, which was filmed in the bar  
and just celebrated its 50th anniversary.  
[WhiskeyRowPalace.com](http://WhiskeyRowPalace.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Miners &  
Stockmen's Steakhouse & Spirits,  
Hartville, WY

## Best Historic Restaurant

The Fort Restaurant and Tesoro Cultural  
Center, Morrison, CO

The Fort, built by visionary proprietors  
Samuel and Elizabeth Arnold, is just two  
miles from Morrison in the red rock  
country southwest of Denver. Famous  
for its bison dishes, game meats, seafood  
and homemade desserts, the pictur-  
esque restaurant is part of an adobe  
complex that the founders modeled on  
historic Bent's Fort [TheFort.com](http://TheFort.com)

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



### Best Chuckwagon Cook-Off

Wild, Wild West Fest, Andrews, TX

Celebrating the diverse culture and heritage of the wild, wild West is the motto of this popular festival in Andrews. The two-day, family-friendly event will be held Friday and Saturday April 21-22, and includes a bbq cookoff, live music, carnival rides, food, arts and crafts and Old West vendors. [WildWildWestFest.com](http://WildWildWestFest.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, Ruidoso Downs, NM

### Best Chuckwagon Show & Supper

National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Lubbock, TX

Western heritage is celebrated annually at the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, with several living history events, including the ever-popular Chuck Wagon Cookoff. Attendees to one of *True West's* perennial favorite cowboy events will be entertained by cowboy poetry and storytelling, Western writers and authors, panels, film and movie seminars, horse handling demonstrations, a horse-themed parade, American Indian activities and presentations, exhibits of Western artworks and merchandise and a Youth Wild West Day. [Cowboy.org](http://Cowboy.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show, Rapid City, SD

Pioneer entrepreneurs with a gusto to go West followed the gold rush north to Alaska and Canada in the 1890s. They built hotels, restaurants, general stores and saloons such as the Magnet House near Dawson, Yukon Territory, to serve the voracious needs of the Klondikers and sourdoughs.

Courtesy Yale University



Western settlers, travelers and tourists were no strangers to improvising shelter when eating outside. The RBS family [as annotated on the photo] built a lean-to tent to dine under on the slope of Mt. Baldy near San Bernardino, California, circa 1890.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections



BY JANA BOMMERSBACH  
AND THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

# WESTERN PRESERVATION



## You Can Never Take the Dakota Out of this Girl

*My Old West Savior columns  
keep me grounded.*

I'm a North Dakota girl who now lives in Arizona, but when it comes down to my favorite things—like the favorite “Old West Savior” columns I wrote last year—I didn't stray far from home.

I went to both the Badlands of North Dakota and the fields of Nebraska.

One, because I'm so proud that the Teddy Roosevelt Presidential Library is being built in Medora; and, two, because I've always dreamed that if I lived in the 1800s, I'd have been one of the thousands of female homesteaders.

Let's start with the library. I was sitting with my sister, Judy, in the “handicapped

section” of the amphitheater outside Medora during the summer of 2021—a new hip was pending, and I needed a walker—reading the program for the Country-Western variety show. And there was a fundraising pitch for a presidential library for Teddy that would be built across the street from where I sat. I had never heard of this effort, even though it had been started in 2019 by the governor—news out of North Dakota doesn't go far. But I was instantly proud and happy.

I'd find in researching the column that Teddy had been a favorite of both

Republicans and Democrats—he himself was originally a Republican who became an Independent. Well, he's always been one of my heroes, too.

We owe to good ol' Teddy the Forest Service, a greatly expanded Park System, 150 national forests and five national parks encompassing 230 million acres preserved forever for all Americans, and, by Presidential Decree, the Grand Canyon. That's such a big “thanks” that



A national monument since 1936, the Homestead National Historical Park was created in 2021. The park's centerpiece living exhibit is 100 acres of prairie grass, which includes some of the first acres ever homesteaded under the rules of the 1862 Homestead Act. Women played a major role in American homesteading, which led to 270 million acres being claimed in the public-to-private land program.

All Images Courtesy NPS.gov Unless Otherwise Noted



The legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt's life in the West and his conservation policies while leading the nation are evident to visitors to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, adjacent to Medora, North Dakota, the future home of the 26th president's library.

you have to make reservations these days for admission to national parks; that's how much Americans love them.

I remember touring a Medora museum dedicated to him when I was in college, and finding a man who inspired people to be "the hero of their own lives."

It rubbed off on me, which is why the Homestead National Historical Park near Beatrice, Nebraska, so speaks to me.

Homesteaders risked everything—took their lives in their hands—to have their own piece of land and build a life for themselves. Many women—single and married—were among that group, and I've always hoped I'd have been strong enough to be one of them.

Maybe that's why my backyard in downtown Phoenix is splendid with trees and shrubs and plants. I actually have a homestead claim on this city plot, taken out even before I realized what it actually meant in history.

And I got a bonus when I interviewed the Homestead National Historical Park's historian, John Fairchild. He's found a correlation between homesteading women and suffrage—I hope I'd have been front and center for that, too.

Who said, "there's no place like home?" My, it was a girl next door in Kansas!



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# WESTERN PRESERVATION



## Best Preservation of a Historic Western Building

The Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

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

[IrmaHotel.com](http://IrmaHotel.com)

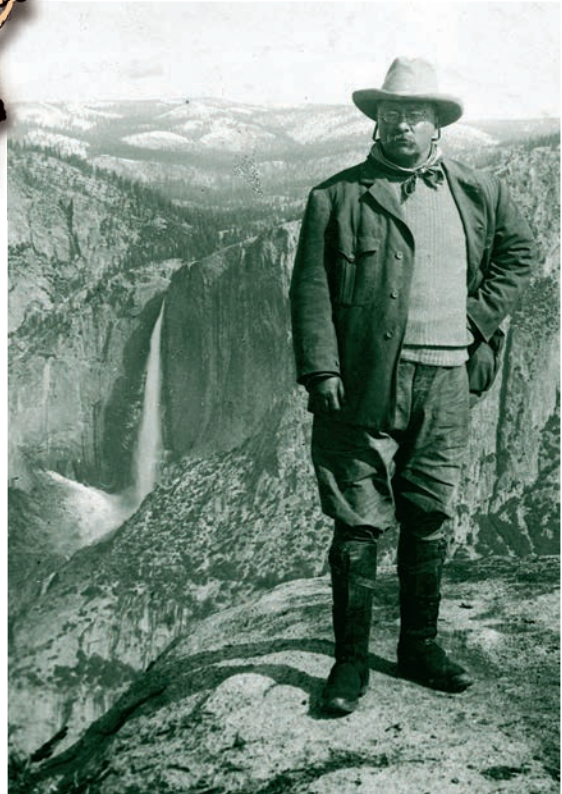
**READERS' CHOICE:** Fort Smith National Historic Site (Hanging Judge Parker's Courthouse)

## Best Preserved Historic Trail

National Historic Santa Fe Trail

In 2021, the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail was celebrated from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The famous trade route was first used in 1821 when Missouri trader William Becknell seized the opportunity to open trade with Mexico, which had just won its independence from Spain. Prior to Becknell, American traders who attempted to open trade with the Spanish state of Nuevo Mexico were arrested and taken to Mexico City. Within a few short years, the Santa Fe Trail became one of the continent's most important routes of commerce, connecting world trade routes from Mexico City to New York City and New Orleans. [NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Oregon Trail/Pony Express



A little more than a century after Theodore Roosevelt Jr. died prematurely in 1919, the former president is still considered America's greatest conservation leader. A great believer in the preservation and multi-use of open space and the wild, natural lands of the country, the native New Yorker toured Yosemite National Park in 1903.

Courtesy Library of Congress

## Best Preservation Effort of the West

John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, Winterset, IA

Located in picturesque Madison County (home to the famous covered bridges), the museum has recently expanded from 6,100 to 10,100 square feet of exhibit space. The museum has had over a million visitors since it opened in the Duke's childhood home in 1982. Today, the museum has a theater and unique John Wayne exhibits that can only be seen at the Winterset museum, including his station wagon with a custom roof so the Duke could wear his cowboy hat while driving. The



Adam Clark Vroman's well-documented trip across the Arizona Territory from Holbrook to Hopi in 1895 included a tour of the painted desert and petrified forest. The photographer made six additional trips across the Southwest, and his photos were influential in the preservation movement to protect the natural wonders of the region, which included the creation of Petrified National Monument in 1906. Today, the popular site in northern Arizona is a national park.

Courtesy Huntington Digital Library

annual John Wayne Birthday Celebration is held every Memorial Day weekend and is a fan-favorite.

*JohnWayneBirthplace.museum*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Jesse James Farm & Museum, Kearney, MO

### Best Preserved Pioneer Town Recreated

Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS

Old Cowtown Museum has 54 historic and recreated buildings, 27 of which are original. Built along the Arkansas River in Wichita, the museum is a popular living history center with an outstanding 1860s-1870s frontier collection. Visitors will step back in time when they enter each building furnished with historic pieces and materials that provide a window into life in the eastern Kansas city.

*OldCowtown.org*

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

### Best Architecturally Preserved Western Town

Deadwood, SD

The epicenter of the Gold Rush of 1874-1876 that transformed the Black Hills, Deadwood was founded to supply the rush of miners everything they needed to survive: supplies, saloons and soiled doves. Visitors who walk the streets of Deadwood, a National Historic Site since 1961, should start at the visitors center for a map of the city's historic structures, local museums, daily events and the Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

*Deadwood.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Sheridan, WY

### Best Historic Cemetery of the West

Tombstone Boot Hill Graveyard, Tombstone, AZ

The boomtown's first cemetery was started in 1879. A new city cemetery began in 1884. While many of the original residents buried at Boot Hill have been lost to time, the graves of Tom

and Frank McLaury are located where the two brothers were buried after they were killed at the O.K. Corral.

*TombstoneChamber.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

### Best Preserved Historic Fort of the West

Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX

Built in 1867 as a strategic U.S. Army outpost during the post-Civil War conflict with the Southern Plains tribes, Fort Concho served its purpose effectively until it was closed in 1889. The city of San Angelo handles staffing and the preservation of the historic landmark, museum and 23 fort buildings. Walk in the footsteps of soldiers and their families who lived at the fort and tour Officers Row and Quarters, the Enlisted Men's Barracks, Post Headquarters, Hospital, School House and Chapel. Fort Concho hosts annual living history events, including Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day in February and Fort Concho Frontier Day in April.

*FortConcho.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Fort Laramie, WY/Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, CO



Edward S. Curtis's North American Indian project is considered the greatest photographic project of the continent's Indigenous people. His image of British Columbia, Canada's Kwakiutl people dancing, taken on November 13, 1914, is an example of his ability to establish trust with his subjects and photograph their annual dances and celebrations.

Courtesy Library of Congress



In post-Civil War America, photographers such as William Henry Jackson were assigned to chronicle the national surveys of the Western lands. Little did Jackson know that his 1871 photographs of Yellowstone's natural wonders, including the Hot Spring and Castle Geyser, would help influence the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

Courtesy Yale University



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# WESTERN BOOKS

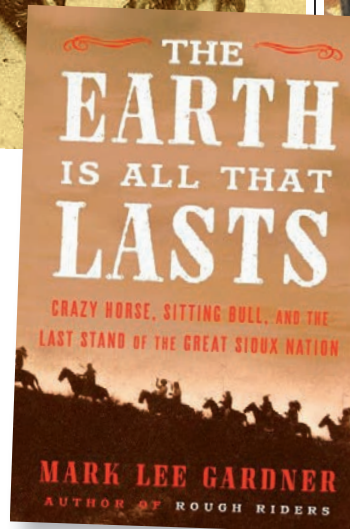
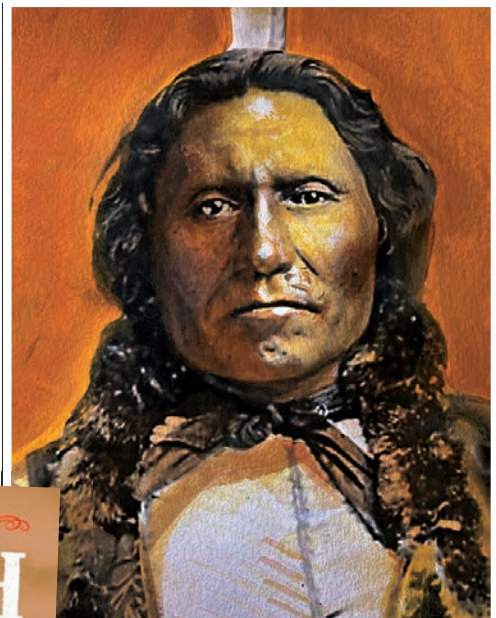
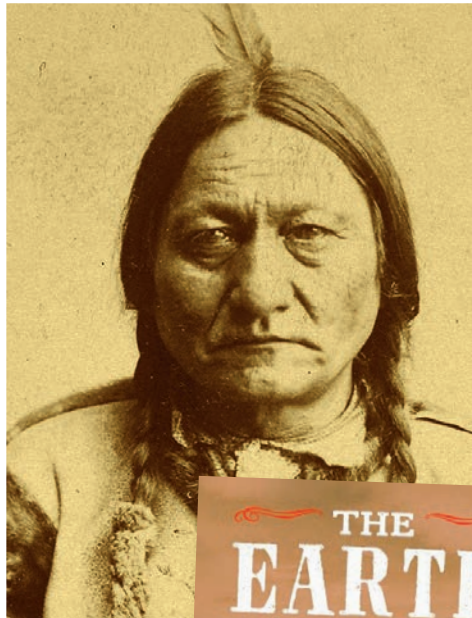


## The Hero's Journey

*The heroic efforts of the men and women who write and publish about the West must be celebrated.*

This year will mark the 10th year I have been reporting on Western writing and publishing for *True West*. The Western nonfiction and fiction genres, including biography, have endured a lot of challenges from the marketplace, demographics and publishers. In the past decade, readership of Westerns has declined, publishers have redirected or shuttered their Western divisions, and bookstores have diminished their Old West history and fiction sections. Yet, across the country and the world, 20th- and 21st-century Western regional mysteries and crime fiction continue to grow and thrive as does the e-book marketplace for traditional Western fiction. We have seen a major shift in the publishing industry generationally, and fewer and fewer readers are in the pool for the Western history and fiction marketplace. So, what is the solution? And what does the future hold?

First, the heroic efforts of the men and women who get up every day and ply their craft—researching, writing and rewriting—their Western novels and nonfiction must be honored and commended. Riding side-by-side with the authors are the Western publishers who still believe in the



Mark Lee Gardner's dual biography *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation* is not only the best Western history book of the year, but one of the best overall history books published in 2022.

Cover Courtesy HarperCollins/Photo of Sitting Bull and Artwork of Crazy Horse Courtesy True West Archives



Photo by Robert Reay

"Never kick a cow chip on a hot day."—Will Rogers

I had the honor of being the keynote speaker for the Will Rogers Medallion Award opening night in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 28, 2022. The title of my address was based on my father Jeb Rosebrook's motto "Writing is Rewriting." I was glad to know my remarks resonated with the group of writers and their families who had gathered to celebrate the craft of writing and the well-deserved accolades for their hard work. I loved the opportunity to speak to such a lauded audience about writing and was very impressed with the body of work of the 2022 Will Rogers Medallion Award nominees.

A highlight of the weekend was being present at the Saturday night banquet and award ceremony when Robert Vaughan received the Will Rogers Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award. Vaughan is still actively publishing with Wolfpack and is *True West's* Best Western fiction author of the year.

Congratulations to the following gold medal winners in Western history and fiction:

**Western Biographies and Memoirs:** *The Lady and the Mountain Man* by Chris Enss (TwoDot)

**Western Nonfiction:** *Confederates and Comancheros: Skullduggery and Double-Dealing in the Texas-New Mexico Borderlands* by James Bailey Blackshear and Glen Sample Ely (University of Oklahoma Press)

**Western Fiction, Traditional:** *Never Let Go: Survival of the Lake Shetek Women* by Pamela Nowak (Five Star)

**Western Short Stories:** "The Book Mama" by Charlotte Hinger from *Librarians of the West: A Quartet* (Five Star)

**Western Maverick:** *Lakota Cowboy* by John Hafnor (Speaking Volumes)

**Western Cookbook:** *Keep 'Em Full and Keep 'Em Rollin': The All-American Chuck Wagon Cookbook* by Natalie Bright (TwoDot)

For more information on the Will Rogers Medallion Award organization, the complete list of 2022 nominees and winners and how to nominate a book for the 2023 awards, visit the nonprofit's website at [WillRogersMedallionAward.net](http://WillRogersMedallionAward.net).

—Stuart Rosebrook

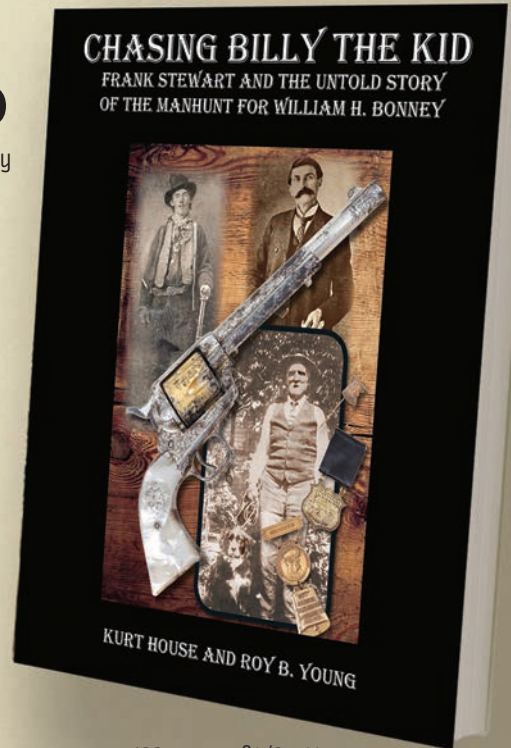
## New Book! CHASING BILLY THE KID

This fully-documented book, by historians Kurt House and Roy B. Young, relates for the first time the story of Frank Stewart and the chase-and-capture of Billy the Kid, culminating at Stinking Spring, and much, much more.

- \$79.95 hard covers
- \$300.00 limited edition of 100 signed and numbered copies in slipcase
- Plus \$6.00 S&H per copy

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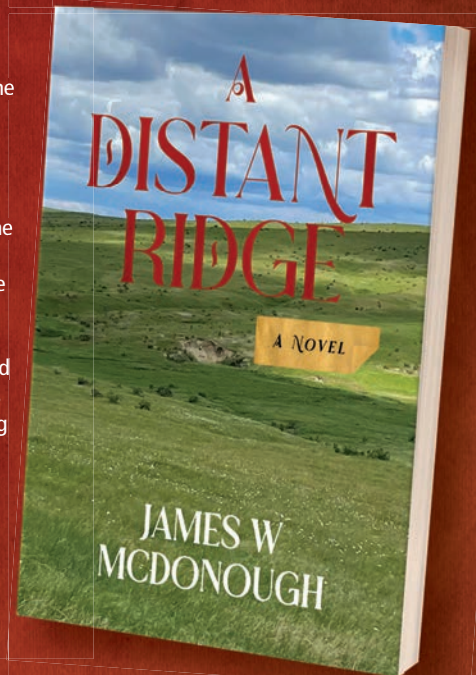
432 pages • 8 1/2 x 11  
120+ illustrations and documents

## A Distant Ridge by James W. McDonough

A sprawling saga set in the Post-Civil American West. The decade of the 1870s was a time of expansion and transition. The land west of the Missouri River belonged to the Native tribes, but was coveted by the Railroads. These lands were also the last refuge of the Buffalo herds. The US Army established a string of forts along the Missouri to keep an eye on the powerful Lakota Sioux and their Northern Cheyenne allies. Custer's discovery of gold in the Black Hills serves to ignite the region. Corruption in the Grant administration and its disregard for the existing treaties helps to fan the flames. This is a story of a young soldier in the 7th Cavalry who watches the events evolve around him and is eventually there to witness his mercurial commander as he rides into legend along a small meandering stream in Montana.



**AUTHOR:** JAMES W. MCDONOUGH



Available until March 1st on  
Amazon Prime reading program.  
**Amazon.com**



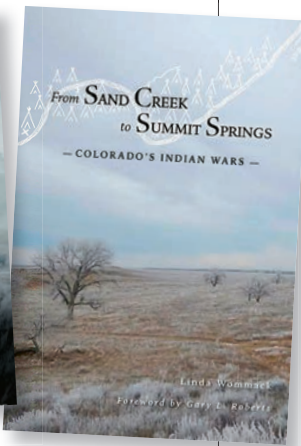
# WESTERN BOOKS

genre and are greenlighting new volumes of history, biography and fiction. And, when handing out laurels, we cannot forget the readers, the ultimate bellwether of the genre, who steadfastly stand by and support the Western, the most original of American publishing genres.

I am an optimist, but we must face the realities of the publishing industry. With New York and university houses limiting their acquisition of 19th-century Western genre manuscripts, let alone the closing of major publishers of Old West/Frontier fiction, including Five Star, the Old West publishing industry is facing its greatest challenges since its international rise in popularity a century ago.

Where do we go from here? Writers and publishers who believe in Western fiction and history, must remain both competitive and cooperative. Additionally, our community must ask the question, when does the Old West begin and end? Maybe it is time to push the timeline forward to 1950, a distinct beginning of a new decade of post-World War II growth across the American West. For many of us, that is the decade the New West began and the modern West of the last seven decades is the one we are all living in today. The West we know is the West of Taylor Sheridan, Craig Johnson, C.J. Box and Tony Hillerman; it is also why their West is the most popular with their respective audiences. As I emphasized in my recent keynote speech to the Will Rogers Medallion Award nominees and their families in Fort Worth, writing is rewriting. And it is time we rewrite and take ownership of our genre's boundaries to ensure its future.

As the great Will Rogers said, "If you wait until you are ready, you will wait forever."  
—Stuart Rosebrook



## Western History

### Best Author and Historical Nonfiction Book of the Year

*The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation* by Mark Lee Gardner (Mariner Books)

In a year crowded with excellent Western history and biography, Mark Lee Gardner's *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation* stands above the rest as the most ambitious history/biography in both the Western genre and general American biography. His use of primary resources, especially those of Native peoples, is exemplary. I believe it is the finest dual biography of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull ever written.

What is next for Gardner? I am certain, as I wrote in my July/August 2022 review of *The Earth Is All That Lasts* that the intrepid historian's next volume will provide a new perspective and fresh conclusions gleaned from primary sources previously untapped. I, for one, will be at the front of the line waiting for it, whether it be a presidential biography, a law-and-order opus or another dual biography. Whatever it is, I will be eager to be enlightened and entertained.

HarperCollins.com

**READERS' CHOICE: TIE:** *The Widowed Ones: Beyond the Battle of the Little*

*Bighorn* by Chris Enss and Howard Kanzanjian with Chris Kortlander (TwoDot) / *From Sand Creek to Summit Springs: Colorado's Indian Wars* by Linda Wommack (Caxton Press)

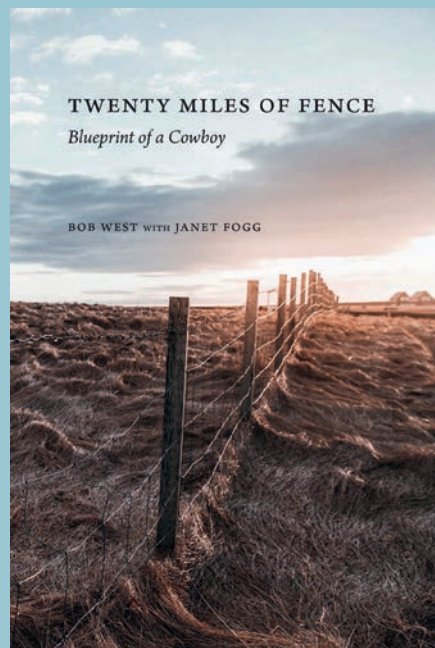
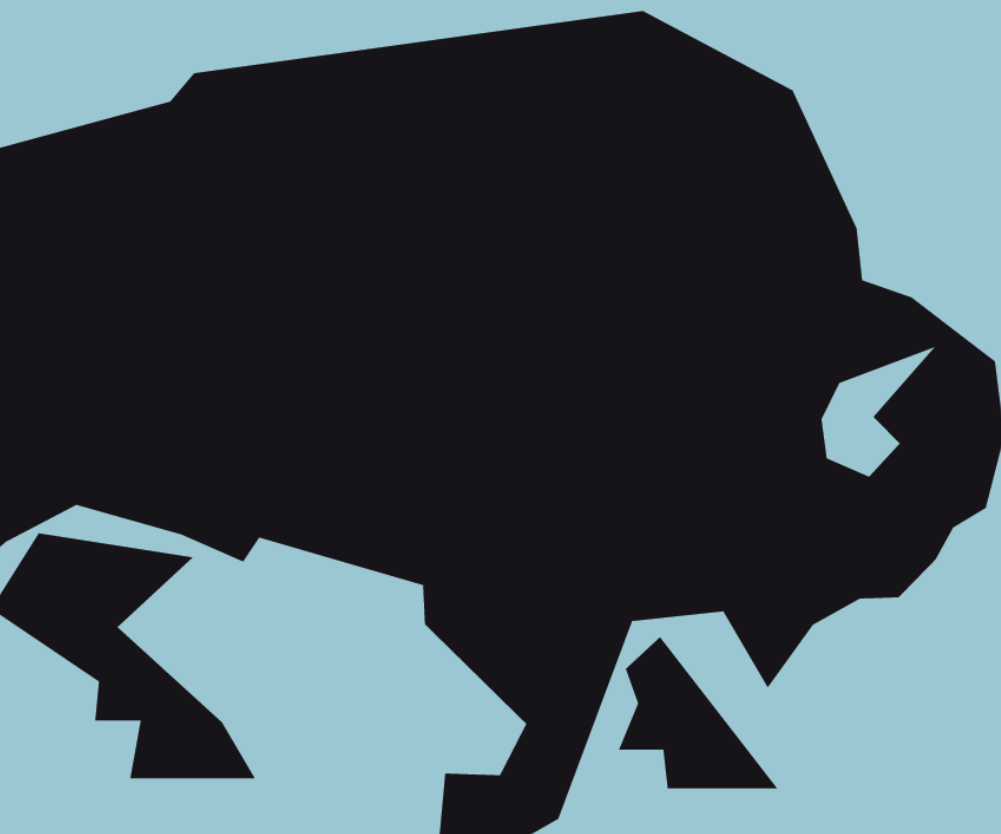
### Best First-Time Author

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

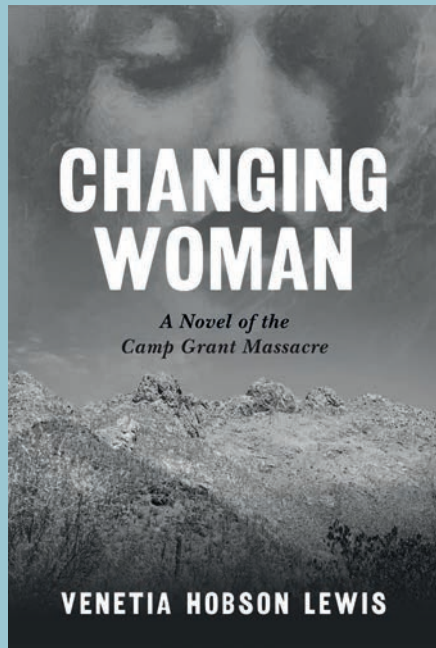
Few authors of the Old West genre have attempted to enter the marketplace so ambitiously as Australian writer James B. Mills did with his first book, *Billy the Kid: El Bandido Simpático*. Mills' research is outstanding, and his conclusions on the importance of the Hispano community to Billy set a new standard for William Bonney scholarship.

As I wrote in my October 22 review of *Billy the Kid*, I am eager to read Mills' next work, *In the Days of Billy the Kid: The Frontier Lives of José Chávez y Chávez, Juan Patrón, Martín Chávez, and Yginio Salazar*, which I am sure will be written with the same vigor and style as *El Bandido Simpático*. And if you didn't already know it, there is a new Kid on the block! [UNTPress.UNT.edu](http://UNTPress.UNT.edu)

# COMING SOON FROM BISON BOOKS



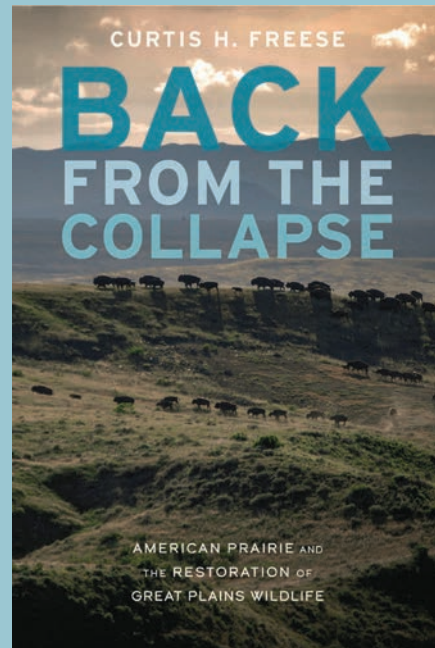
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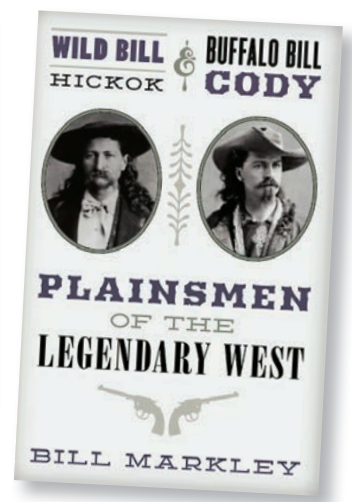
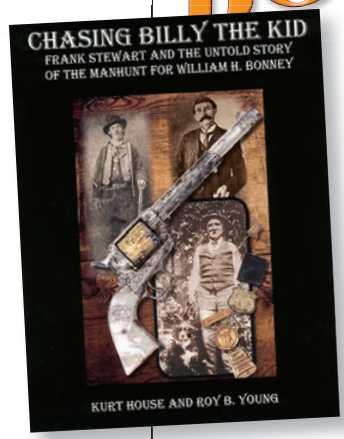
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# WESTERN BOOKS



### Self-Published

*Chasing Billy the Kid: Frank Stewart and the Untold Story of the Manhunt for Billy the Kid* by Roy B. Young and Kurt House (Three Rivers Publishing) and *Texas Gold Rushes: 450 Years of Prospecting and Mining for Gold and Silver in the Texas Hill Country* by Raymond V. Carter (Self-published)

In today's Western publishing climate, historians across the country are more and more turning to self-publishing to see their life's work and passion in print. Three historians who chose this route last year are Raymond V. Carter and the writing and publishing partnership of Roy B. Young and Kurt House. Carter, a well-known Texas Hill Country historian and public speaker on Texas history has been working for many years on his coffee-table size, highly illustrated Texas gold rush history. For collectors of Texas history, Carter's masterwork *Texas Gold Rushes* is a must for any collection.

Young and House, veteran authors and award-winning members of the Wild

West History Association, teamed up to produce one of the strongest entries of scholarship on the Lincoln County Cattle War and the manhunt for Billy the Kid. If you are a devoted scholar of the Kid and his violent life in the New Mexico Territory, then *Chasing Billy the Kid* must be part of your library. The duo's book is also a coffee-table size book with hundreds of illustrations.

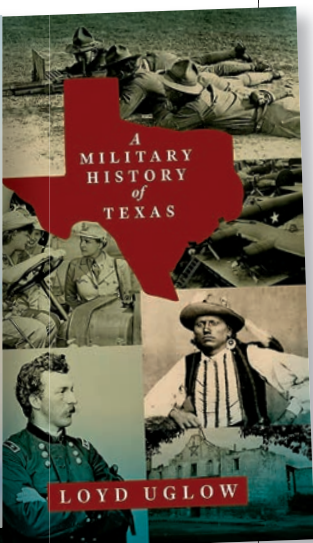
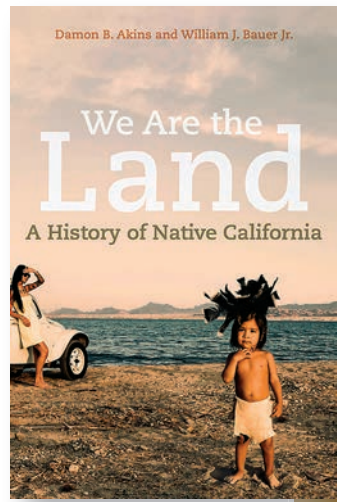
Without the dedication of grassroots historians such as Carter, Young and House, Western history would have long become a genre of the few rather than a genre for the masses. Thanks to these men for digging deep in the archives in pursuit of their scholarship—no matter the odds and personal investment. We are all beneficiaries of their timeless work.

### Western History Publishing

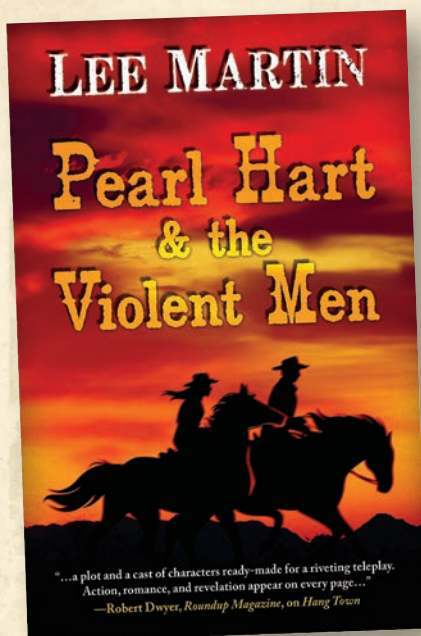
Publishers are currently resetting the genres of Western history and biography and Western authors must adjust or the two fields will continue to wane in volumes and sales. I have been and always will be an advocate for Old West history, and I don't want to see it diminish any further in the marketplace. But it is an uphill battle, and we at *True West*, like every other publishing staff must be cognizant of the changes. Now, more than ever, our readers must support the industry of Old West history publishing, but the genre must adapt or fade even further. Look no further than your most recent university book catalogs to notice a greater emphasis on the 20th century versus the 19th century.

### Best Western History Book Publisher

University of North Texas Press, Denton, TX  
For the past decade, the University of North Texas Press has been a bright and shining star in 19th-century Western history publishing. Small compared to its neighboring competitors at the



# LEE MARTIN



## **NEW!** Martin's latest novel, **Pearl Hart & The Violent Men**,

which is well researched and also written as a screenplay:

*"Chance Donovan, a U.S. Deputy Marshal and former Texas Ranger, having to deal with his own secret past as well as the vengeful and deadly Boxer gang among others, has a yen for Pearl Hart, a feisty suffragette with an abusive husband. When it all comes together, only a few will survive the deadly climax."*

Two new western films, written by Lee Martin and based on Martin's novels, were produced and directed by Michael Feifer and have been released to select theaters, online streaming and movies on demand, as well as DVD.

**THE DESPERATE RIDERS**, Lee Martin's latest novel, is now a motion picture and stars Drew Waters, Vanessa Evigan, Sam Ashby, Cowboy Troy, Victoria Pratt, Rob Mayes, and with Trace Adkins and Tom Berenger.

Kansas Red, a mysterious gunfighter-preacher, leads a small party of rescuers, including a teen-age boy, a rancher, and a young Texas woman with a deadly aim, on a wild ride through high mountains to save kidnapped women from escaped convicts and their unstoppable leader, moving to a violent climax with secrets revealed.

**LAST SHOOT OUT**, written by Lee Martin and based on Martin's novel *The Siege at Rhyker's Station*, was produced and directed by Michael Feifer. *Variety* and others gave fine reviews. Martin's screenplay has won the coveted **SPUR AWARD** for best western drama script as given by *Western Writers of America*. Stars include Brock Harris, Skylar Witte, Peter Sherayko, Jay Pickett, David Deluise, Michael Welch, Brock Burnett, Caia Coley, Keikilani Grune, Cam Gigandet, Jerry Bestpitch and the legendary Bruce Dern.

*"A powerful clan has a vast cattle empire and runs rough shod over New Mexico Territory, but when one's terrified, runaway bride is rescued and taken to a relay station by an old trader and a mysterious young saddle tramp with a fast draw, the clan surrounds it with a deadly siege."*

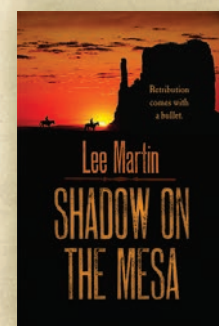
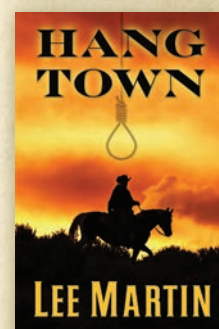
**HANG TOWN** is also a screenplay, now under option. *"Joey, a boy of 12, drowns in the swollen South Platte River after being thrown out of house and home by his father, strong man and shootist, Harry Lassiter. On the other side of that river emerges a new man, Ben Cross, determined to make something of himself, to learn a trade, to fear no man."*

*"Hang Town follows Ben's journey in discovering his true origins and in righting the wrongs of the past, of his parents' generation - stolen birthrights, false imprisonments, infidelities and a chain of retributive violence. Lee Martin gives the reader a plot and a cast of characters ready-made for a riveting teleplay. Action, romance, and revelation appear on every page."*

*— Robert Dwyer, Author Hugh Glass, The Revenant*

**SHADOW ON THE MESA:** While a hired gun for the cattlemen, Wes learns his Arapaho mother was murdered. He also learns that his long lost white father is still alive, rich with a family, and may have hired the killer. Wes starts out on a trail for vengeance against his own father.

Martin also wrote the script for the movie, starring Kevin Sorbo, which won the **WRANGLER AWARD** given by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.



Look for all of Lee Martin's 30 Westerns at **AMAZON** or wherever books are sold.  
Many are on audio with **BOOKS IN MOTION**.



# WESTERN BOOKS



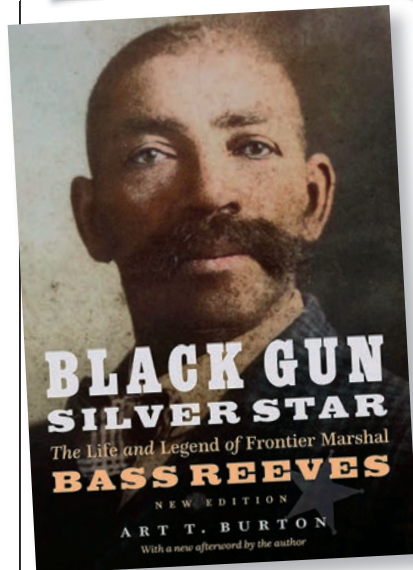
universities of Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska, UNT Press has for many years demonstrated for the determination to be an important

publishing house of Western history. In 2022, their number one book was James B. Mills' *Billy the Kid: El Bandido Simpático*. Mills, an Australian writer, has established himself as one of the top up-and-coming Western authors, and we all benefit from UNT Press having taken a chance on an author who lives 8,300 miles away but whose passion is centered in the Old West. [UNTPress.UNT.edu](http://UNTPress.UNT.edu)

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Two Dot, Lanham, MD / University of New Mexico Press

## Best University Press

University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE  
The University of Nebraska Press and its imprint Bison Books have been leaders in 19th-century Western history for over eight decades. Like its peers, Nebraska has major divisions outside of the Old West and is respected across the board for 20th- and 21st-century Western history, including one of the best scholarly catalogs on baseball. Bison Books, launched two decades after the press was founded in 1941, is the gold standard for Western history imprints and is why *True West's* editors depend on Bison to be a cornerstone of Western history scholarship. Nebraska has strong competition from the University of Oklahoma, University of North Texas,

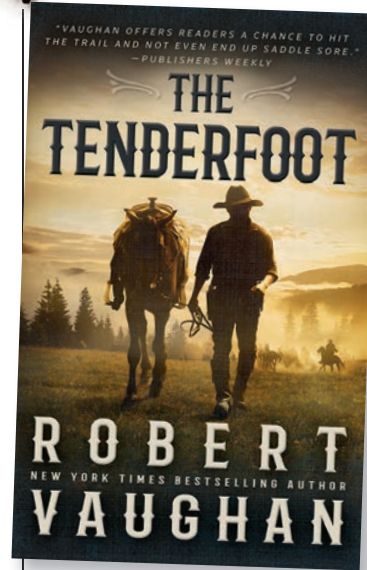


Texas A&M Press, New Mexico, California and Nevada, but currently they are the standard bearer for the genre. We look forward to many more years of Bison and the University of Nebraska's 19th-century Western scholarship.

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: The University of Oklahoma Press / The University of California Press

## Western Fiction

The past year has been tumultuous for Western fiction. Fortunately for readers, Wolfpack Publishing is setting records in sales, and Kensington's Pinnacle Westerns has a strong string of veteran Western writers. The entire industry mourns the loss of Five Star's Western and Frontier book division. We will watch closely to see where the Five Star writers land and are hopeful they all will secure new contracts to continue their work. Fans of



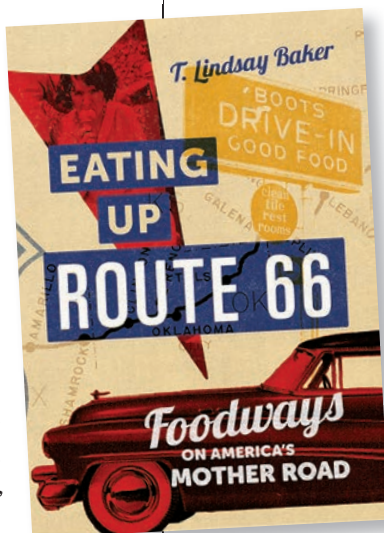
Western fiction should keep a close eye on Old West fiction offerings from university and regional publishers, but the reality is that 20th- and 21st-century Western mysteries rule the marketplace.

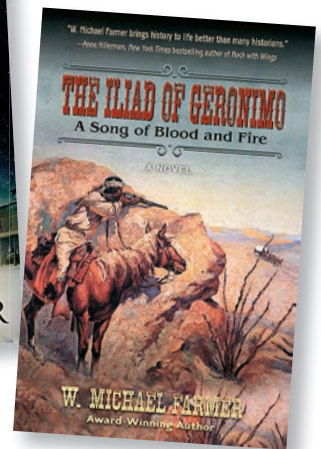
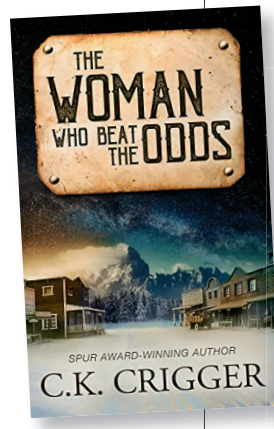
## Best Historical Western Novelist and Novel

Robert Vaughan and *The Tenderfoot* (Wolfpack Publishing)

Author Robert Vaughan began building a fan base nearly 60 years ago when he published his first novel while on active duty in the U.S. Army in South Vietnam in 1967. Nearly 500 books later, Vaughan is still entertaining his fans with his highly readable prose and great storytelling. On October 29, 2022, the Will Rogers Medallion Award organization honored the *New York Times*

bestselling author for his dedication to his craft with the Lifetime Achievement Award. In the tradition of the works of Zane Grey, Max Brand





and Louis L'Amour, Vaughan's *The Tenderfoot* is an instant Western classic, and I know readers will be eager to read more volumes in his new series. [WolfpackPublishing.com](http://WolfpackPublishing.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Lee Martin, *Pearl Hart and the Violent Men* (Vaca Mountain Press)

### Best Western Fiction Press

Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV  
Wolfpack is one of the greatest success stories in Western fiction publishing in the last 30 years. Owner and director Mike Bray has taken a small start-up fueled by the concept of delivering classic Westerns to eager readers while paying writers a generous royalty. With a great understanding of the analytics of selling books on Amazon, Bray's Wolfpack is the

strongest Western e-book publishing house in 2023. [WolfpackPublishing.com](http://WolfpackPublishing.com)  
**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Pinnacle Books, New York, NY / Five Star Books, Watertown, Maine

### Bookselling

Everyone who loves Western books and travels the West knows that a region's heartbeat is in the bookstores of small towns. *True West's* editors have always been great supporters of independent booksellers of new and used books. We applaud the work the owners and their staffs do every day to provide the most essential services for local customers and writers. Remember, support your local bookstores and authors, and when on vacation make sure to seek out the local bookstore and thank them for their service to their community.

### Best Western History Bookstore

Collected Works, Santa Fe, NM  
A favorite of *True West's* editors for over four decades, Collected Works Bookstore in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been the place to find the best Western titles in fiction and nonfiction. Under the ownership of Dorothy Massey, Collected Works has thrived and is the city's oldest independent bookstore, a favorite of the internationally acclaimed literary and arts community. Stop in and browse, ask the friendly staff for advice on current books and authors and relax with a gourmet coffee or tea at the in-store cafe, Iconik Coffee Roasters. [CollectedWorksBookstore.com](http://CollectedWorksBookstore.com)  
**READERS' CHOICE:** Tie: Cactus Book Store, San Angelo, TX / Hooked on Books, Colorado Springs, CO



Collected Works Bookstore, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Courtesy Collected Works Bookstore



# BY HENRY C. PARKE WESTERN MOVIES DVDs & TV SHOWS



## 2022 was the Year of 1883

From Taylor Sheridan's popular series to director Walter Hill's latest film, the past year was one of the decade's most creative for Westerns.



Isabel May (right) as Mae Dutton and Sam Elliott (left) as Shea Brennan costarred with Tim McGraw as James Dutton and Faith Hill as Margaret Dutton in Taylor Sheridan's blockbuster Paramount+ series *1883*.

All "1883" Images Courtesy Paramount+

When it comes to television, *1883* was so much more than the best new Western of the year: it's the best Western made for television since 1989's *Lonesome Dove*. With Sam Elliot along for gravitas, the story of a pre-Yellowstone generation of the Dutton family, traveling west by wagon train, enthralled American viewers and made a star of Isabel May as the wonderfully original character and story narrator Elsa Dutton, the pride and tribulation of her parents, Margaret (Faith Hill) and James (Tim McGraw). Creator/writer/producer/director Taylor Sheridan has managed to take the familiar pioneer, wagon-train story and enrich it with

scenes that are not merely variations, but that are entirely new. And although Sheridan said that there would be no more episodes of *1883*, there will be a spin-off: six episodes of *1883: The Bass Reeves Story*, will soon be filmed in and around Fort Worth, Texas, starring David Oyelowo as the legendary lawman. Also coming from Sheridan is another series looking at the Duttons during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, *1923*, starring Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren.

Maybe it was coincidence, or maybe it was a direct result of *1883*'s success, but now *Walker*, the reboot of *Walker—Texas Ranger*, has spawned *Walker—*

*Independence*. Set in the 1800s, it opens with anachronistic music and helicopter shots of a wagon train—with Walker ancestors having left Boston, and traveling west for a lawman's job. But the Walkers are so occupied with each other—if this Conestoga's rockin', don't come knockin'!—that they lose the wagon train! Moments later he's killed; she's eventually rescued, and determined to find the culprits. Maybe it will improve.

From EPIX came *Billy the Kid*, an eight-part limited series from writer-producer Michael Hirst, who brought us *The Vikings* and *The Tudors*. Englishman Hirst approached it as an immigrant



*1883* creator Taylor Sheridan has created two spin-offs for Paramount+ from the Yellowstone prequel: *1923*, which will star Harrison Ford as Jacob Dutton and Helen Mirren as Cara Dutton, and *1883: The Bass Reeves Story*, which will star David Oyelowo in the title role.

Courtesy Paramount+

story, focusing on Billy's (Englishman Tom Blyth) early years—there were no late ones—as the son of Irish newcomers making their way in an often-unwelcoming America. It's well worth seeing.

*That Dirty Black Bag* was also an eight-parter, from AMC+, the title referring to a bag of decapitated heads. Elegantly shot in Sergio Leone's Spanish locations, with fine production design, it was a matter of high style over slim substance: the characters and situations in the freely seen first episode were so unbelievable and uninvolved, that the viewer was unmotivated to subscribe to yet another streaming service to see the rest.

Among contemporary TV Westerns, in 1986, Robert Redford bought the rights to the novels of Tony Hillerman, whose Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee novels created the Rez Mystery genre. Four movies and TV movies later, they're back. Now Zahn McClarnon is Leaphorn, and Kiowa Gordon is Chee, and despite the title, *Dark Winds* is not a remake of the 1991 Fred Ward and Lou Diamond Phillips film, but a six-part AMC limited series based on Hillerman's *Listening Woman*. Beginning with a bloody unsolved armored car robbery, and quickly moving to the desert and the rez, it's a solid mystery and character study, and the photography in Arizona, New Mexico and Navajo Nation lands is

*Walker-Independence*, like its counterpart *1883*, was a popular CW Network prequel to *Walker*, the remake of *Walker-Texas Ranger*.

Courtesy The CW Network



Gina Carano is the leading lady of *Terror on the Prairie*, considered by many critics to be one of the top Westerns of the year.

Courtesy Daily Wire+

spectacular. Happily, season two is in the works, and McLarnon and Gordon are returning.

On Amazon Prime, *Outer Range* is a sci-fi series pretending to be a Western, albeit an entertaining one. Josh Brolin and Lili Taylor star as the anti-Duttons, actually the Abbotts, land-rich, cash-poor Wyoming ranchers, fighting to protect their property. Their sons accidentally kill the son of a rival landowner, and when Brolin needs a spot to dispose of the body, he's fortunate to find an entrance to another dimension on his property.

The INSP Channel continues to produce more Western and Western-

Tom Blyth starred as the Western outlaw *Billy the Kid* in the EPIX series that retold his life's story from his childhood in New York to his ignoble end in New Mexico.

Courtesy EPIX



New and old fans of Tony Hillerman's popular Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee mystery novels have revelled in the outstanding production of AMC's limited series *Dark Winds*.

Courtesy AMC/AMC+

adjacent programming than anyone else. They had a second season of the docudrama *Wild West Chronicles*, wherein lawman-turned-journalist Bat Masterson tells historically accurate tales of both great and less familiar figures of the Old West. Trace Adkins hosted his third season of the cowboy competition, *Ultimate Cowboy Showdown*, and they have a Western feature in the can, *Warrant: Breaker's Law*, starring Neal McDonough, Dermot Mulroney and Bruce Boxleitner.

When it comes to budgets for non-comic book movies, 2021's prominent Western features had money to burn: *News of the World* had a budget of \$38 million. Netflix's *The Harder They Fall* cost \$90 million. In 2022, Walter Hill directed one of the best Westerns of the year, and his first Western since 2006's *Broken Trail* miniseries, the feature *Dead for a Dollar*. It's the story of bounty hunter Max Borland (Christoph Waltz), hired to rescue a kidnapped wife (Rachel Brosnahan), but soon learning he has been misled. Hill says, "We're, in a sense, kind of a scavenger movie. We can't even build any sets. These are all standing towns, and sets that have been built for other movies. We could alter the sets to



Film star Josh Brolin starred in the modern sci-fi Western *Outer Range*, an Amazon Prime original series filmed on location in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Courtesy Amazon Prime Video

our needs—we had enough capital for that—but we couldn't build anything.”

In fact, all of the best Westerns of the year tell stories that are not sweeping epics but focused tales about small groups of people in isolated locations, and made with limited budgets. Among the best is *The Last Manhunt*, a Shakespearean tragedy based on the same real events as *Tell Them Willie Boy is Here*, but told from the oral tradition of the Chemehuevi. Willie Boy (Martin Sensmeier) loves Carlotta (Mainei Kinimaka), but her father (Zahn

McLarnon) forbids their marriage because they are cousins. The father dies in the struggle for a gun, and the manhunt is on, with the posse's less-experienced Whites wanting to bring Willie Boy to trial, and the more experienced Indians, friends of the murdered man, wanting him dead.

In *The Redeemer*, frequent movie villain Chris Mulkey gets one of his biggest and best roles as a family patriarch whose Civil War experiences made him both a hero and a drunkard. When one son is murdered, and Mulkey's

wife (Irene Bedard) and daughter-in-law (Baylee Toney) are kidnapped to be sold, he and his estranged other son must work together to track them down. Here again, the beauty of far-away locations adds much to this dark tale.

Perhaps the most contained, but very effective, Western of the year is *Terror on the Prairie*, which stars former Mixed Martial Arts champ and former *Mandalorian* star Gina Carano. She plays a prairie wife who spends most of the film defending her snow-bound cabin from very bad men.

Another remarkable small-budget Western, *Shooting Star* is probably the first black-and-white Western in nearly 30 years, and the look is perfect for the traditional family Western that it is. When young Blaze (Lyana Ferrino) falls

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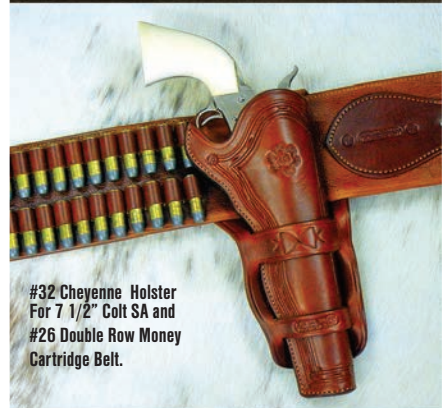
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# WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS



from her horse and is paralyzed, her sharp-shooting sister Star (Brooklin Michelle) is determined to raise the money for an operation by winning a mounted shooting competition, which sets her against some very desperate men. Currently the combination of a monochrome image and a young girl shooting guns has scared away distributors; you can rent it at Vimeo.

The end of 2022 sadly saw the end of the Columbia Ranch, the once 90-acre Burbank movie lot where countless Westerns, serials, jungle pictures and TV shows were filmed. Later absorbed into Warner Brothers, and sold off acre by acre to developers, the last of the sets were bulldozed in October. In the plus column, however, an elaborate Western town, Jupiter's

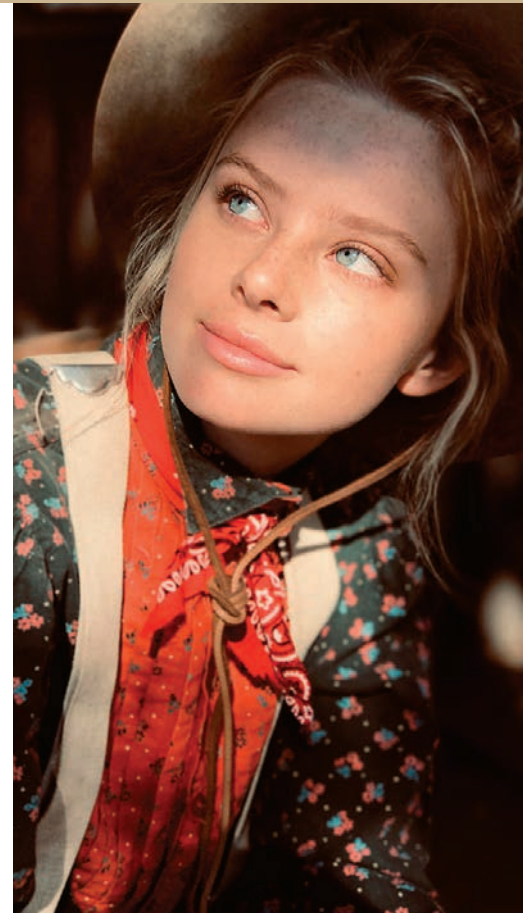
Claim, which was constructed at Firestone Ranch in Santa Clarita, for Jordan Peele's sci-fi thriller *Nope*, has been reconstructed at Universal City for the tour, and will doubtless again become a movie set.



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

Brooklin Michelle starred as Star in *Shooting Star*, a family Western shot in black and white. This film can be watched for a fee on Vimeo.

Courtesy Feifer Worldwide



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Photo: Anthony D'Amato



# WESTERN MOVIES

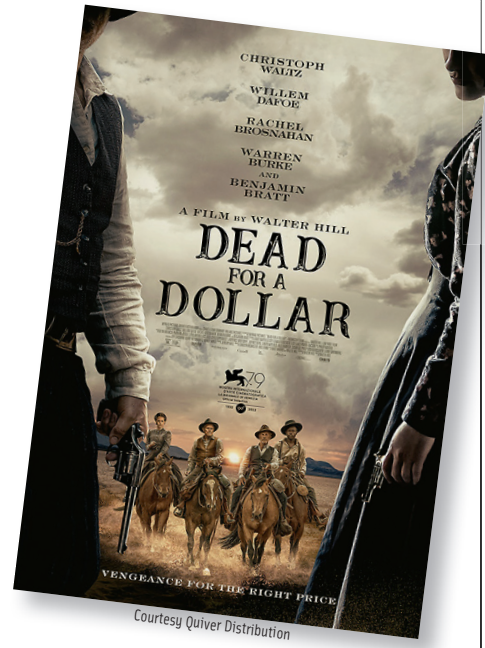
DVDs & TV SHOWS



### Best Western Movie

*Dead for a Dollar* (Quiver Distribution)  
Bounty-hunter Max Borland (Christoph Waltz) is in deep trouble, heading south of the border to rescue a woman (Rachel Brosnahan) who isn't really kidnapped. Now he has to deal with a Mexican warlord (Benjamin Bratt), a non-kidnapper (Brandon Scott) and a recently freed outlaw (Willem Dafoe) who's sworn to kill him.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *The Last Manhunt* (Saban Films)



Courtesy Virgil Films

### Best Western Documentary

*The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses* (Virgil Films)

The fight to protect and preserve these symbols of American freedom, currently overrunning public lands, is fascinating and full of hope.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Jews of the Wild West* (Electric Yolk Media)

### Best TV Western

*1883* (Paramount+)

The dangers and joys of a cross-country wagon trek are seen through the eyes of pioneers, recent immigrants, former soldiers, the ancestors of Yellowstone's Dutton family and the indigenous people who are already there.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Dark Winds* (AMC)



Courtesy Paramount+

### Best TV Reality Western

*Ultimate Cowboy Showdown* (INSP)

Host Trace Adkins puts top cowboys of varied backgrounds and both sexes through tough competitions to see which will earn a belt buckle and a valuable herd of cattle.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *How to Be a Cowboy* (Netflix)



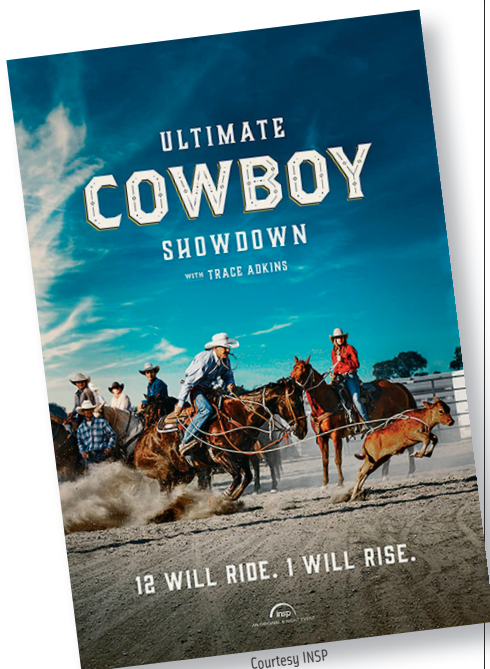
Courtesy Samuel Goldwyn Films

**Best Foreign Western**

*The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson* (Australia, Samuel Goldwyn Films)

An Outback mother's problems grow as she waits for her overdue husband's return, only to be visited by an escaped convict with the secret of her past.

**READER'S CHOICE:** *The Price of Death* (Spain, Chip Baker Films)



Courtesy INSP

**Best Western Movie Blu-Ray**

*Buck and the Preacher* (Criterion)

Buffalo Soldier-turned-wagonmaster Buck (Sidney Poitier) struggles to lead a wagon train of former slaves, getting unexpected help from an unlikely source: a con man known as The Preacher (Harry Belafonte).

**READERS' CHOICE:** *The Frisco Kid* (Warner Archive)



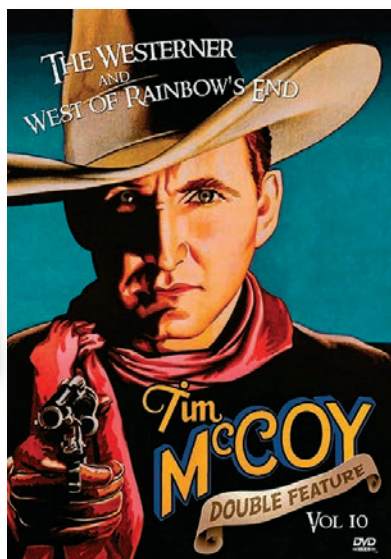
Courtesy Columbia Pictures

**Best Western Movie Collection**

*Tim McCoy Double Features* (VCI Entertainment)

VCI has released 10 volumes of double features starring Col. Tim McCoy, who was not only a real cowboy, he'd been the adjutant general of Wyoming! With a class and dignity rare in B Westerns, as well as a hammy side, his films are well worth a look.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Cowboy Heroes* (VCI)



Courtesy VCI Entertainment



Courtesy Paramount+

**Best TV DVD**

*1883* (Paramount+)

If you loved watching the Best Western Television series of 2022 the first time, you will love owning the DVD set, which includes two hours of bonus material.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Dark Winds* (AMC)



Courtesy Warner Bros.

**Best Silent Western Release**

*Clash of the Wolves* (Alpha Home Video)

In this, one of the Rin Tin Tin movies that kept Warner Brothers in business, he plays Lobo, leader of a wolf pack. He befriends Dave (Charles Farrell), a borax prospector, and protects him and girlfriend, May, from a conniving claim-jumper.

**READERS' CHOICE:** *Six Feet Four* (Grapevine Video)

BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

# HERITAGE TRAVEL


 A small illustration of a cowboy on a horse, positioned to the right of the word 'TRAVEL' in the title. The cowboy is wearing a hat and a long coat, and the horse is in a dynamic, galloping pose.

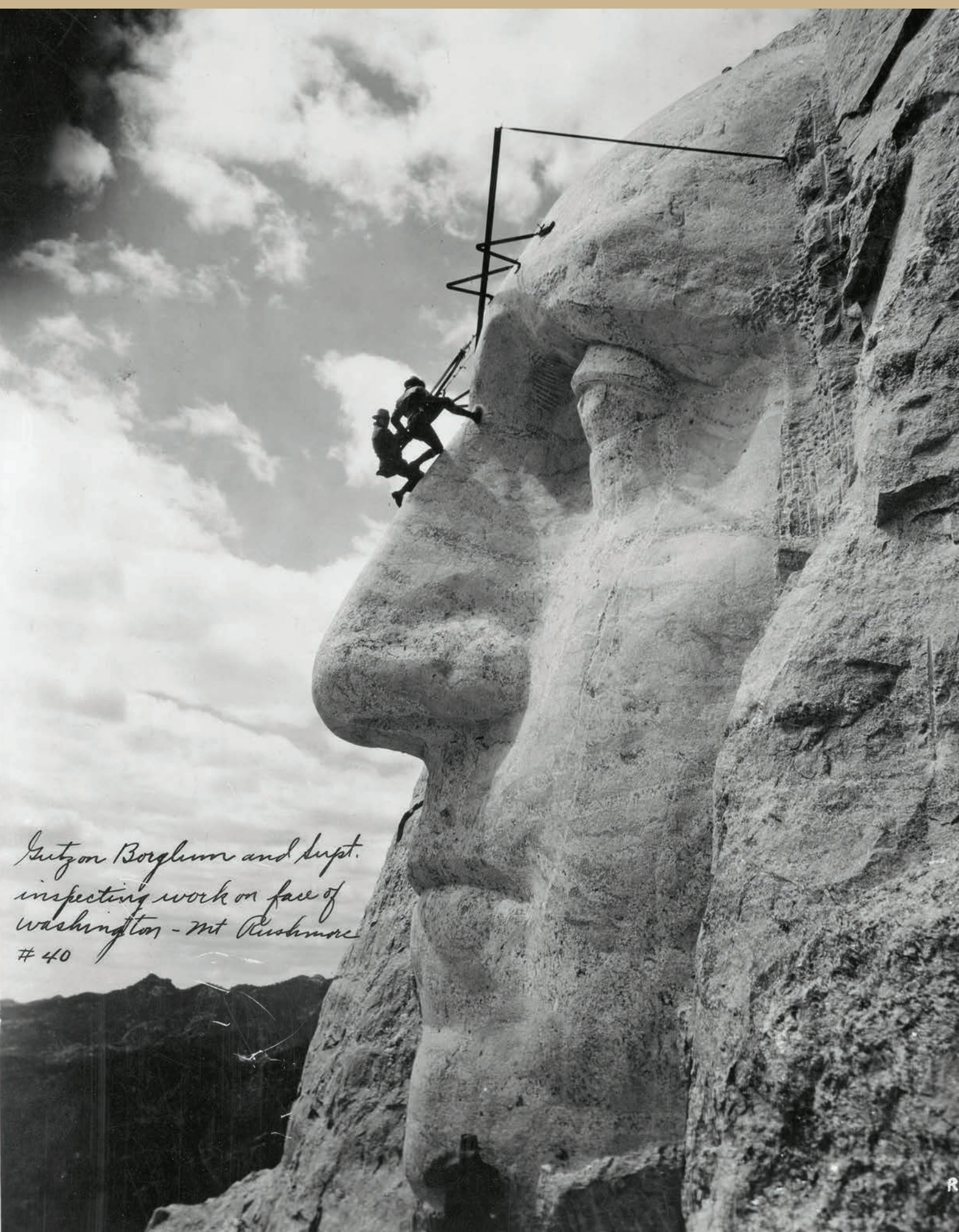
## Take the Highways You Love the Best

*There has never been a better time in our history to plan a heritage road trip to the Western United States.*

For seven decades, the editors of *True West* magazine have encouraged our readers to pack their bags and go West to discover where history happened. Walk, hike, ride, drive and fly the magnificent country we call the Western United States. Spend time walking the grounds of national parks, monuments and sites, visit the local museums, spend time relaxing at a guest ranch or enjoy the refinements of a historic hotel. Embrace the beauty of the West's natural wonders, immerse yourself in a small Western town and relish the new friends you make along the way. From winter to summer, spring to fall, our writers have traveled the length and breadth of the West to share with you the best of the West, including out-of-the-way, little-known local spots that shouldn't be missed. We encourage you to make your plans this winter to travel to the American West, visit our editors' and readers' favorite places and make memories of a lifetime. And don't forget to take the highways you love the best.

Visionary sculptor Gutzon Borglum and a superintendent climbed on George Washington's nose to inspect the progress of the massive public art project in the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1932. The popular national memorial was not deemed complete until October 31, 1941.

Courtesy Library of Congress



Gutzon Borglum and Supt.  
inspecting work on face of  
Washington - Mt Rushmore  
# 40



# HERITAGE TRAVEL



Following in the footsteps of photographers William Henry Jackson and F.J. Haynes, Truman Ward Ingersoll was one of the most successful and comprehensive chroniclers of Yellowstone National Park in the 1880s. His backcountry photos of the park, including Yellowstone Falls, were widely reproduced as individual images and stereographs.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

## Best Place to Live Like an Old West Cowboy (Winter)

Prescott, AZ

The original Territorial capital of Arizona, Prescott celebrates its heritage throughout the year at local museums, hotels and restaurants. The mile-high city has mild winters with plenty of

indoor and outdoor activities, including the popular Historic Downtown Prescott Walking Tours, the Annual Prescott Chamber Christmas Parade titled “A Hometown Christmas,” the Annual Courthouse Christmas Lighting and Sharlot Hall’s Annual Frontier Christmas,

“The Spirit of Christmas Past Visits Prescott.” If you stay for the summer, don’t miss Frontier Days, the Frontier Days Rodeo Parade and the World’s Oldest Rodeo every Fourth of July.

[Visit-Prescott.com](http://Visit-Prescott.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** San Angelo, TX

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Photo: © Craig W. Cutler Fine Art



# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## Best Place to Live Like an Old West Cowboy (Summer)

Cody, WY

From the great outdoors to museums, Cody is one of the West's most Western towns in which one can live like an Old West cowboy. Start at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, then head downtown to tour, shop, eat and drink. Don't miss the Cody Nite Rodeo, Irma Hotel Gunfights, Old Trail Town and trail-riding

at one of the local stables. Hang your hat at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel downtown or contact the Cody Chamber of Commerce for information on booking a once-in-a-lifetime cowboy experience at a local historic guest ranch.

[CodyChamber.org](http://CodyChamber.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Pendleton, OR

## Best Old West Gunfighter Town

Tombstone, AZ

Discover legendary Tombstone, known internationally for its stormy and storied past, where walking the streets of Wyatt Earp and "Doc" Holliday and the infamous Gunfight Near the O.K. Corral is a unique step back into the Old West—a true encounter with history in "The Town Too Tough to Die."

[TombstoneChamber.com](http://TombstoneChamber.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Dodge City, KS

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Eighteen years after Yellowstone was made the first national park, Congress and President Benjamin Harrison created Yosemite National Park on October 1, 1890. Long before the backpacking craze, tourists enjoyed trail riding into the park's backcountry to camp and enjoy its natural wonders.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## Best Old West Art Town

Santa Fe, NM

Over the decades, the oldest state capital in the United States has become both a haven for writers and artists as well as an international tourist destination known for its historic ambiance, gourmet restaurants, elegant lodging, top-rated museums and world-class art galleries. Art events that should be on everyone's bucket list include the Santa Fe Society of Artists' Outdoor Fine Arts Shows, Santa Fe Studio Tour, Santa Fe Opera, International Folk Art Market, Traditional Spanish Market, Indian Market and the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. [SantaFe.org](http://SantaFe.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Durango, CO

## Best Town for Historic Entertainment

Tombstone, AZ

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

**READERS' CHOICE:** Medora, ND

## Best Living History Farm Museum

Grand Encampment Museum, Encampment, WY

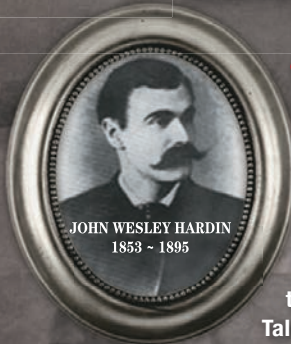
A perennial favorite of *True West*, the hands-on living history experience tells the story of early town-building in Nebraska. For 40-plus years, the world-class educational center and outdoor living history museum, called a "crossroads in time," has given visitors from around the world an authentic glimpse of frontier Nebraska prairie town life, while preserving and portraying the pioneers' inspiring stories of life on the Great Plains.

[GEMuseum.com](http://GEMuseum.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** New Mexico Farm and Ranch, Las Cruces, NM

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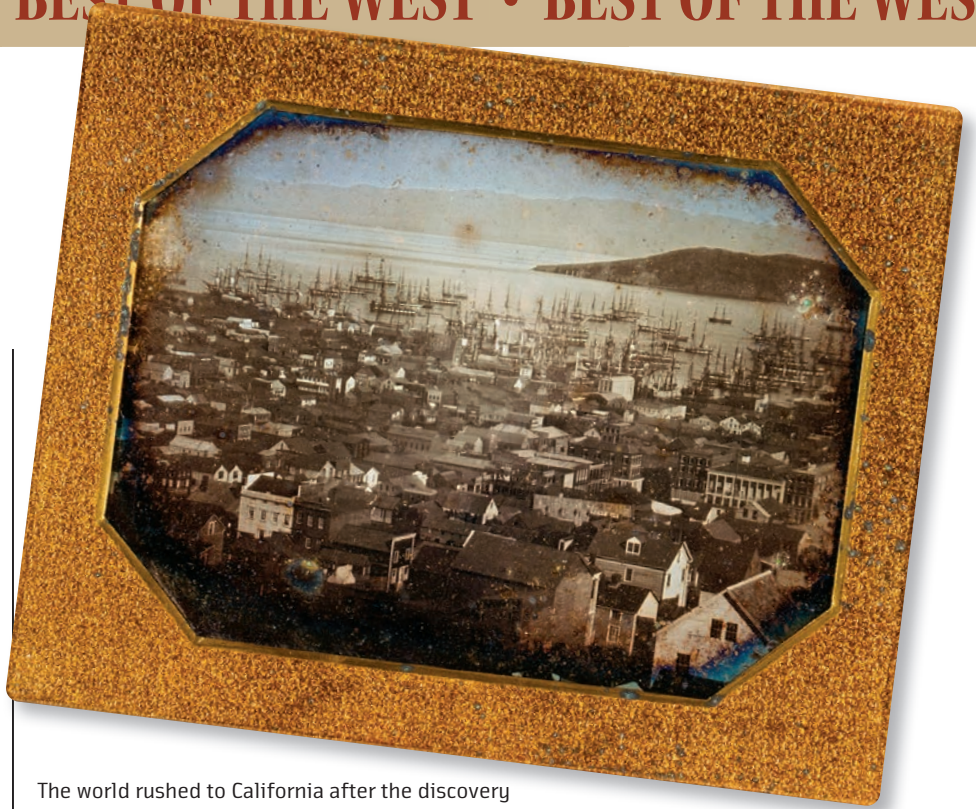
**Best Historic Town Tour**

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*VisitTrinidadColorado.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Bisbee, AZ



The world rushed to California after the discovery of gold near Sutter's Fort was announced in 1849. Three years after the rush, tens of thousands of bonanza seekers were still arriving by hundreds of ships through the Golden Gate to San Francisco Harbor. Many of the ships would be abandoned where they anchored.

Library of Congress

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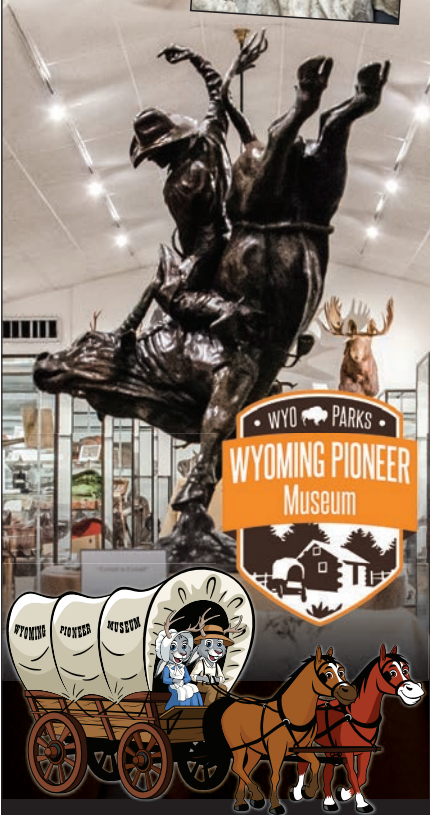
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Located on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas, the Wyoming Pioneer Museum is a must see for western history enthusiasts.

Among the collections you'll find stories of area cowboy Wild Horse Robbins and his adventures gathering wild mustangs and an outstanding collection of American Indian artifacts. Rodeo contractor Charlie Irwin's larger than life bib-overalls are always a favorite among children visiting the museum. Equally popular is the jackalope, created right here in Douglas, Wyoming!

The museum is also home to a tepee used in the movie *Dances with Wolves*. If you think tepee architecture is simple, be sure to read the information on what went into building a tepee to ensure its stability and the escape of smoke from the apex.



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HERITAGE  
**TRAVEL**



No. 3572 - "Giant Bluff"  
Elk Canyon Black Hills & Ft. P.  
R.R.  
Photo and Copyright by Grabill, Co  
Deadwood and Lead City, S. D.

President Abraham Lincoln's vision of a transcontinental national railroad system began in 1862 with the Pacific Railroad Act. By the 1890s, the Black Hills & Fort Pierre Railroad and other small railroad lines were extending into the far corners of the West to carry freight, settlers, tourists and raw goods in and out of the smallest settlements.

Courtesy Library of Congress



Originally built in 1692, the current San Xavier del Bac Mission was constructed between 1783 and 1797. Carlos Gentile's 1870 image is one of the earliest photographs of the Franciscan mission south of Tucson. Today, the Roman Catholic church still operates as an active parish to its community.

Courtesy Library of Congress

**Best Promotion of a Historic Place**  
Prescott, AZ

The Prescott Chamber of Commerce and City Tourism Office work hand-in-hand to plan and promote one of the busiest public event schedules in the state of Arizona. Nearly every weekend from May to September, the chamber has events planned for the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza in the center of the city's historic district. Prescott is known as "Everyone's Hometown," which is apparent throughout the year, culminating in the World's Oldest Rodeo and Prescott Frontier Days in June and July as well as the most popular holiday celebration calendar in Arizona, earning the mile-high town the moniker of "Christmas City." Don't miss the lighting of the Courthouse, the Frontier Christmas at Sharlot Hall Museum, the Christmas Parade and the German Christmas marketplace.

Visit [Prescott.com](http://Prescott.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Abilene, KS

**I'm Your Huckleberry!**

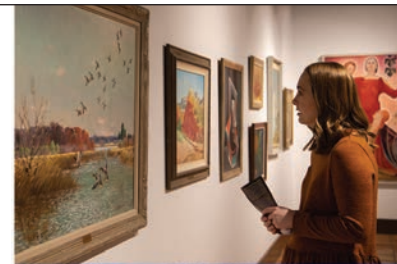


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Robert Farrington Elwell, *Untitled (Prairie Fire)*, c. 1930, 22 x 30 in., oil on canvas

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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



1919.



*Around the Camp Fire - (Flash Light 10.2M.)*

A traditional evening campfire when camping out West is still a popular way to share stories, song and friendship. Adam C. Vroman's photograph of his traveling party to Northern Arizona, including the Hopi communities, is a rare, extraordinary nighttime image of the tradition.

Courtesy Huntington Library

### Best Old West Town to Live In Virginia City/Nevada City, MT

In 1863, gold was discovered along Alder Creek. The rush into the hills led to numerous claims and the founding

of Virginia City, Montana. Once the territorial capital of Montana, the historic, living-history village invites visitors to stay and immerse themselves in the heritage community with its Old West

entertainment, lodging, restaurants and activities, including stagecoach and train rides.

*VirginiaCity.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tombstone, AZ

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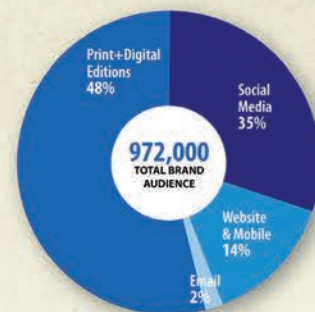
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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## Best Historic Railroad of the West

Georgetown Loop Railroad, CO

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[GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, CO/  
Nevada Northern Railroad, Ely, NV

## Best "Who Slept Here" Hotel

The Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

The Strater Hotel in the historic district of Durango is the perfect place to stay when vacationing in the Animas River Valley city made internationally famous by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Opened in 1887, the Strater is a landmark hotel, luxuriously maintained and preserved with antiques throughout the historic inn and its well-appointed rooms. Don't miss an evening in the Diamond Belle Saloon and dinner in the Mahogany Grill.

[Strater.com](http://Strater.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Occidental Hotel,  
Buffalo, WY

## Best Heritage Hotel

The Historic Bullock Hotel, Deadwood, SD

Known as the "Jewel of Downtown Deadwood," the Bullock Hotel has its roots in the grandest years of Deadwood's frontier era. Rumored to be haunted by its founder Sheriff Seth Bullock, the meticulously restored property is located right in the middle of the city's historic entertainment district. Whether in town for Wild Bill Days, '76 Days or Oktoberfest, the Bullock is the perfect headquarters for a weekend of fun.

[HistoricBullock.com](http://HistoricBullock.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Hotel Wolf,  
Saratoga, WY/Hotel Colorado, Glenwood  
Springs, CO

*Dalton Defender Museum*  
*Coffeyville, Kansas*

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[visitcoffeyville.com](http://visitcoffeyville.com)

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Decades before Alaska was a state, tourists were visiting its natural wonders. A popular stop for the earliest tourist boats that plied the inland passage was Muir Glacier, which John Muir had visited during an 1878 exploration of the territory.

Courtesy Yale University



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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## Best Dude Ranch of the West

Rancho Cortez Dude Ranch, Bandera, TX

When staying at Rancho Cortez, guests can choose between overnight stays and weekly dude ranch packages. Horseback riding is a centerpiece activity at the guest ranch and many guests return annually to enjoy the hospitality, friendship, dining and wellness activities of the Bandera institution. Don't miss the great evening campfires, which are

beloved by all generations. Rancho Cortez also offers two summer camps for kids, a Girls Horse Camp and a Boys Cowboy Camp, and two fitness programs for adults: the Two-Week Fitness Program and the 60-Day Fitness Work Program.

*RanchoCortez.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Company, Tombstone, AZ



Former President Theodore Roosevelt was a great promoter of public lands and parks in the United States and was always up for an adventure in a saddle, as seen here leading a mule train down the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail.

Courtesy Library of Congress



### Best Heritage Bed & Breakfast

Tucker Inn, Deadwood, SD

Located in the heart of historic Deadwood, this oasis from gambling in downtown has a homelike atmosphere for couples and families alike. Relax in the historic home within walking distance of the town's famous sites and Main Street, or wait for the trolley which will take you to all the great museums, restaurants and bars in what was once one of the most notorious towns in the Old West.

[DeadwoodTuckerInn.com](http://DeadwoodTuckerInn.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Old Central Firehouse Bed & Brew, San Angelo, TX

### Best Heritage Guest Ranch

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch, Winston, NM

Looking for a great Old West escape from the day-to-day grind? Want to relax in one of the most scenic and historic regions of New Mexico? Then take the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway to the Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch, south of Beaverhead in southwest New Mexico. Located in the heart of the mountains of the Gila National Forest, the unique guest ranch offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in a relaxing Western experience with first-class accommodations. Guided trail rides take guests into the canyons and mountains to explore the Mimbres cultural sites adjacent to the ranch.

[GeronimoRanch.com](http://GeronimoRanch.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera, TX

### Best Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango, CO

This popular poetry gathering the first weekend of October includes a traditional trail ride, chuckwagon breakfast, cowboy poet train, parade and, of course, the world-class cowboy poets entertaining crowds day and night.

[DurangoCowboyPoetryGathering.org](http://DurangoCowboyPoetryGathering.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, Prescott, AZ

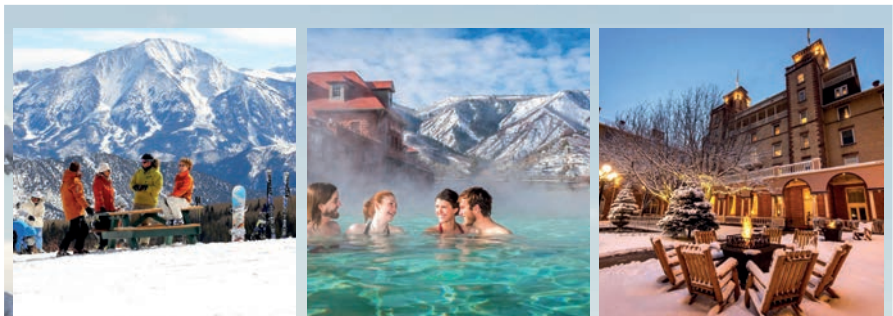
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Almost every town in our area has a museum with fascinating history waiting to be discovered by you! Turn off at Exit 59 on I-80 at Sidney/ Cheyenne County, Nebraska and start exploring the past at the beginning of the Sidney-Deadwood Trail. Plus, our area is bursting with restaurants, gas stations, hotels and motels. EXIT 59 - **We're Travel With You In Mind.**



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Timothy O'Sullivan's service as a survey photographer took him on lengthy trips through the West, including along the Snake River in Idaho. His large-format image of Shoshone Falls is one of the finest and most artistic photographs ever made of a natural wonder in the Western United States.

Courtesy Yale University

**HERITAGE TRAVEL**

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**Best Cowboy Music Gathering**

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival, Fort Worth, TX

The gathering, celebrating 25 years, features a weekend of great events, including a wagon train and trail ride from Jacksboro, trappings show, cowboy poetry, cowboy music, a youth poetry contest, youth fiddle competition, youth chuck wagon cook-off, Texas Trail of Fame, Cowboy Church, cowboy gospel concert and Western swing dances.

[RedsteagallCowboyGathering.com](http://RedsteagallCowboyGathering.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Heber Valley Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Heber Valley, UT

**Best Old West Mounted Reenactment**

Defeat of Jesse James, Northfield, MN

Held the first weekend after Labor Day every September in Northfield, Minnesota, the Defeat of Jesse James Days offer a thrill-a-minute mounted reenactment of the failed James-Younger Gang robbery of Northfield's First National Bank on September 7, 1876. The three-day event includes programming for all ages, but the highlights every day are the Raid Reenactments—two on Friday, four on Saturday and two on Sunday—with enough action in every 30-minute show to ensure you leave believing you were there on that fateful day in 1876.

[DJJD.org](http://DJJD.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Little Big Horn Battlefield, Crow Agency, MT

### Best Old West Renactment Group

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the “Official Old West Ambassadors” of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on Whiskey Row, participate in reenactment events and parades throughout Arizona, donating all profits to locally based charities.

[PrescottRegulators.org](http://PrescottRegulators.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:** Concho Cowboy Company, San Angelo, TX

### Best Wild West Show

Deadwood Alive, Deadwood, SD

During the summertime, Deadwood is one of the busiest, fun-filled cities in the West. With gunfights and the *Trial of Jack McCall* six days a week, plus entertaining living history programs in Outlaw Square, visitors are guaranteed to catch some Old West action most days. Every summer the city also hosts Wild Bill Days and '76 Days, including two parades and its award-winning rodeo in the historic Days of '76 Arena. In the fall, ticketed stagecoach rides, weather permitting, are offered on the half-hour from the Celebrity Hotel from noon to 5 p.m.

[Deadwood.com](http://Deadwood.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** OK Corral, Tombstone, AZ

### Best Historic Western Rodeo

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY

Since 1897, Wyoming's world-famous annual Cheyenne Frontier Days has been considered “the daddy of them all.” This year's rodeo, scheduled for July 22-30, 2023, also includes two parades, a carnival midway, nightly entertainment and an American Indian Village. Don't miss the famous pancake breakfast and a four-day Chuckwagon Cook Off that celebrates the heritage of chuckwagon cooking on the open range during cattle drives that brought cattle from Texas to the Cowboy State.

[CFRodeo.com](http://CFRodeo.com)

**READERS' CHOICE:** The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ



True West Magazine's

## Best Promotion of a Historic Town

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Visit Northfield anytime - the charming town lies along the banks of the Cannon River. Located just 40 miles south of the Twin Cities, Northfield offers something for everyone, *all season long*.



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[VisitNorthfield.com](http://VisitNorthfield.com) | Hours: M-F 8:00-4:30



BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

# WESTERN WEAR



## Cowboy Up!

*From Austin, Texas, to Sydney, Australia, cowboy hats and boots are all the rage.*

For over 150 years, the American cowboy hat and Western boot have been icons of the West. Currently there is a resurgence in the popularity of hats, boots and Western wear worldwide.

Why is Western gear so popular? Between social media, pop culture, professional rodeo, country music and down-and-out practicality—plus Taylor Sheridan’s blockbuster series *Yellowstone* and *1881*—fans can’t get enough Western gear. And we’ll tip our hat to that!



In the 1910s, these rodeo cowgirls sported their best hats, boots and Western wear in and out of the arena.

True West Archives



General George Armstrong Custer wore a fur hat and fringed buckskin jacket during his Washita Campaign in 1868.

Courtesy LIBI, NPS.gov

Here are *True West's* top boot, hat and clothing makers for 2023:

**Best Western Bootmaker**

Tecovas, Austin, TX

For the second year in a row, *True West* recognizes Tecovas' hand-crafted men's and women's boots as the best in the West. Paul Hedrick founded the innovative Western brand in 2015 in Austin, Texas. The company makes all its boots by hand in its León, Guanajuato, Mexico, factory, and ships them to customers worldwide. In addition to nine Texas stores, Tecovas also operates retail shops (boots, clothing and accessories) in 11 states across the West and Southeast.

*Tecovas.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** Tony Lama Boots (Justin Brands, Fort Worth, TX)

**Best Western Hatmaker**

Stetson (Hatco), Garland, TX

For the second year in a row, Hatco, the parent company of Stetson, is *True West's* best Western hatmaker. Stetson, the most storied cowboy hat company in the world, is also the international distributor for Resistol, Charlie 1 Horse, Wrangler and Dobbs hats to fine retail establishments worldwide.

*Hat-Co.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:** TIE: Knudsen Hat Company/Golden Gate Western Wear, Richmond, CA / Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX

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**Best Western Clothing Maker**

Recollections, Hawks, MI

A perennial favorite of *True West*, Recollections is a clothing company specializing in Victorian, Edwardian, Civil War, pioneer and Old West frontier lines. Recollections also has a wide variety of styles from the Revolutionary War/Georgian and Regency eras, the Roaring 20s and 1950s. The unique purveyor of historic costumes also has period costumes from movies and television productions, and a full selection of hats and other accessories to help customers complete their historic fashion goals.

*Recollections.biz*  
**READERS' CHOICE:** Miller International (Cinch & Miller Ranch Brands), Denver, CO

**Best Period Western Clothing Maker**

Michael J. Guli Designs, Bellvue, CO

An editors' and readers' favorite at *True West* for many years, Michael J. Guli Designs has been creating leather goods for customers worldwide for four decades. Guli specializes in making buffalo coats, deerskin, buckskin dresses and rawhide coats, many of which have appeared in film and television.

*MichaelJGuliDesigns.com*  
**READERS' CHOICE:** Scully/Wahmaker, Oxnard, CA





# WESTERN WEAR



American cowboys wore their finest Western gear in the procession at the Great International Congress of the Salvation Army, London, June 13, 1914.

Courtesy Library of Congress

# TRADING POST

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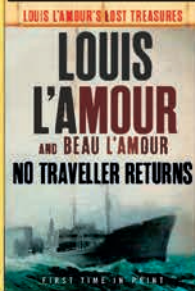
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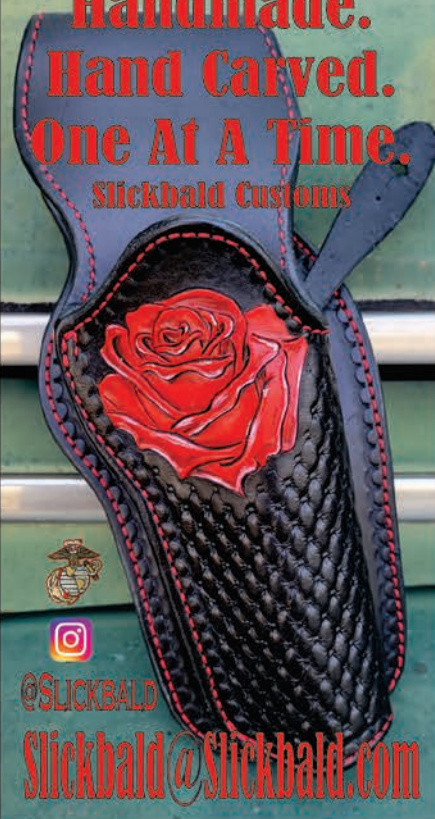


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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JANUARY 2023



Kickoff Parade, National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado

Courtesy Gates Frontiers Fund Colorado Collection within the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

## NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 6-27: Since 1906, this show has hosted livestock and horse sales and seminars, plus rodeo events, at National Western Complex. 303-296-6977 • [NationalWestern.com](http://NationalWestern.com)

## AUCTIONS

### BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION & SALE

Mesa, AZ, January 20-22: This dealers' show and sale, along with an exciting, live Saturday night auction, showcases the best authentic cowboy, Indian and Western art, antiques and artifacts available for sale. The event is known worldwide as the premiere show and auction in the Western Americana collecting industry.

480-779-9378 • [OldWestEvents.com](http://OldWestEvents.com)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### MONTANA WINTER FAIR

Lewistown, MT, January 26-29: The Montana Winter Fair celebrates 77 years of promoting Montana agriculture and an enviable Western way of life.

406-538-2200 • [MontanaWinterFair.com](http://MontanaWinterFair.com)

### LIVING HISTORY FAIR

Watertown, SD, January 27-28: See live demonstrations and actors recreating how our ancestors lived, worked and played.

605-753-0138 • [VisitWatertownSD.com](http://VisitWatertownSD.com)

## HOLIDAY TRAINS

### RESOLUTIONS AND ROSÉ ENCORE TRAIN

Georgetown, CO, January 6-8: We know the holidays are stressful, so plan some time to unwind at Resolutions & Rosé, an adults-only wine-and-cheese pairing experience on board the Georgetown Loop Railroad's Encore Train. This event will be limited to the Waldorf Presidential Car only, which will be strictly ages 21+ for this event. All other cars are for all ages including the saver prices.

888-456-6777 • [GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com)

### THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

Durango, CO, November 18-January 1, 2023: All ages can experience the warmth and fun of the Christmas season on a special steam train trip to the North Pole.

888-827-4607 • [DurangoTrain.com](http://DurangoTrain.com)

## POETRY GATHERINGS

### 38TH ANNUAL NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Elko, NV, January 30-February 4: This gathering takes a look at life in the West across the generations and will have something for everyone. The traditions celebrated have lives of their own—on the range to the page, the stage to the screen.

775-738-7508 • [NationalCowboyPoetryGathering.org](http://NationalCowboyPoetryGathering.org)

## RODEOS

### COWBOYS OF COLOR RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 16: Held since 1995, this rodeo brings together cowboys from diverse cultures to celebrate their Western heritage.

817-922-9999 • [CowboysOfColor.org](http://CowboysOfColor.org)

### AMERICAN FINALS RODEO

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

918-456-9814 • [ACRARodeo.com](http://ACRARodeo.com)

## STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

### FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, January 13-February 4: Held since 1896, Fort Worth's exposition livestock show and rodeo attracts cowboys to its auctions, livestock and horse shows, rodeos and concerts.

817-877-2400 • [FWSSR.com](http://FWSSR.com)

**TWMag.com:**

View Western events on our website.



# Fast Draws, Red Cloud and Wild Rags

**Did Chief Red Cloud have anything to do with the death of Crazy Horse?**

*Joe Manriquez  
Whittier, California*

Red Cloud was among the Indian leaders who unwittingly contributed to Crazy Horse's death. They were manipulated by U.S. government agents and military leaders to destroy the man who was among the greatest Indian leaders of all time. Older chiefs like Red Cloud and Spotted Tail had earned their powerful positions through leadership in war and statesmanship in peace, and they were accustomed to the honor accorded them. But that power and authority brought pride and jealousy, especially when the circumstances of confinement to a reservation, and dependency on the enemy government for their people's subsistence, eroded that power and the ability to serve them as expected of a chief.

This is what the government agents and the military leaders played on as a means to destroy all those chiefs, for that was the first step to destroying the tribes themselves. With his courageous resistance and his refusal to accept confinement to a reservation, Crazy Horse had become famous worldwide, and a continuing inspiration to Indian people of all tribes. He had to be imprisoned or destroyed, according to the makers of Indian policy and the Army generals. And who better to do it than his own people?



Lakota Chief Red Cloud led the only successful war against the United States Army.

*Courtesy Library of Congress*



John Wade Hampton's 1881 *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral—the First Six Seconds* captures the chaos of a fast-draw shootout.

*Courtesy Booth Western Art Museum*



**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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

**I read that Wyatt Earp said that Doc Holliday was the fastest gun he'd ever seen. But he also said Buckskin Frank Leslie was as fast as Doc. Was he right?**

*Michael Clark  
St. Louis, Missouri*

I ran this by author Roy Young, and he replied. "On questions like this it's basically 'who do you trust,' or 'what writer do you trust?' Unless Doc and Leslie were in a shooting contest, how could Wyatt possibly know? Just by watching them individually draw on the occasion of a gunfight? Well, what gunfight? Or target practice? No, Wyatt's opinion was all over the place all of the time."

**I ran across your article, "The Babocomari Ranch." You wrote, "In 1827 Don Ignacio Elias Gonzalez and his wife, Dona Eulalia Elias Gonzalez, requested a grant of eight sitios (a sitio was one square league or 4,338,464 acres)..." Who had the authority to issue such a grant?**

*David Fain  
Prescott, Arizona*

From 1821 until the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, the Mexican government sold and awarded granted land under Mexico's 1824 Law of Colonization, which called for a three-year abandonment clause, and the new owners were expected to mark the boundaries with monuments. The abandonment clause meant if the grantee abandoned the land for three years, he could lose it.



Colonel Ranald S. "Badhand" McKenzie was well-known for his fearless leadership in battle, both in the Civil War and the Indian Wars of the West.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Dona Ulalia Elias de Gonzales and her brother, Don Ignacio Elias, purchased the land in 1832 at auction for \$380 for some 54 square miles. The land was some of the best grazing land in Arizona.

### Did Col. Ranald McKenzie really carry out secret raids into Mexico?

Bob Powers  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Colonel Ranald Makenzie was one of the finest field officers in the Frontier Army during the post-Civil War years. He only made one perfectly planned (but extra-legal) raid into Mexico in 1873, to track down Indians who had been raiding in the U.S. It was a success.

### How did cowboys keep their hats on in a strong wind?

Walt Serafin  
Shawnee, Kansas

It helped to have a hat slightly larger than your size so that you could pull it down to your ears. They then kept their heads tilted downward when riding into the wind. If the wind was really blowing, a stampede string did the trick. Or they took their all-purpose wild rag and tied the hat on.



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Photo Courtesy Irene Bennett Brown



**I was raised** in Topeka, Kansas, until I was nine years old, then in Oregon where our family resettled.

**My childhood was** carefree—playing on the swings, slides and swimming in the park in Topeka. In Oregon my siblings and I swam in the creek next to our house, and later when we moved to another property, I enjoyed roaming the Cascade Mountain foothills.

**My parents insisted** on good behavior from me and my siblings. My father, beyond his day job, was an artist. He painted beautiful outdoor scenes, animals and people. I'm sure I inherited his creative genes, making me a writer.

**A teacher,** Mrs. Mona Moore, was my favorite. She taught 15 students in our one-room country school. I was a class of one in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Mrs. Moore ordered books for me from the State Library, took me home with her to spend the night and go to a play her two sons were in. She favored me, almost as if I was her daughter.

**Oregon** is a truly beautiful state, with mountains and desert in the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The green Willamette Valley, where we live, is in between.

**I knew I wanted to be an author** when entering high school. I wrote "author" on a questionnaire asking what I wanted to be in a future career. That seemed presumptuous and I marked it out. To be an author didn't remain on paper but stayed in my mind.

**I studied** the usual offerings in grade school and high school. History and language arts were favorite subjects. I loved anything that required reading and writing—didn't like math at all.

**A mentor** was something I didn't have. I did take a home study course in writing and belonged to a writers' group. I read aloud to the club my YA manuscript titled *Willow Whip*. A member reminded me that young people "don't care for farm stories and won't read them." I couldn't agree. The book was published and made the Child Study List, Junior Literary Guild and was a Kansas Reading Circle Choice. A best seller.

**If I could write** a screenplay from one of my novels and it was made into a successful movie, I'd be thrilled beyond measure.

**Being married** happily is the greatest thing and applies to Bob and me for 71 years. A retired chemist, he's the best help ever with my writing—printing, research, especially computer problems.

## AUTHOR

Award-winning author **Irene Bennett Brown** likes Kansas settings for her historical novels. Her young adult novel, *Before the Lark*, won a Western Writers of America Spur Award and nomination for a Mark Twain Award. *Miss Royal's Mules* and *Tangled Times*, Books One and Two in her Nickel Hill Series, are Will Rogers Medallion Winners and adult continuations of *Before the Lark*. To Brown's delight, two more books for the series are readying for publication.

**My first novel,** *To Rainbow Valley*, is a YA, patterned after my own family's move from the Kansas dustbowl to "fresh air Oregon". First published in 1969, it's still in print and is accompanied by a 48-page workbook from Perfection Learning. My first adult novel was *The Plainswoman*, published by Ballantine and was a finalist for Western Writers of America's Spur Award for Best Original Paperback.

**Summertime** doesn't last long enough. Spring and summer are my favorite seasons. Although I do get my best writing done in the long, cold fall and winter.

**My favorite pie** is pumpkin in the fall, cherry in summer.

**Every fall** I should clean drawers and closets, but I'm dealing with writing projects. And watching football with Bob in free time.

**Writing my memoir** will have to wait, although memories that I constantly post on Facebook would be a good beginning.

**The Owen Wister Award** was an enormous surprise. I never for a second thought I'd win the Owen Wister or be inducted into the Western Writers of America Hall of Fame. But here I am, and I'm beyond thankful.

**What history has taught me** is to do what one loves. If they can't "not write," they should persist and never give up.



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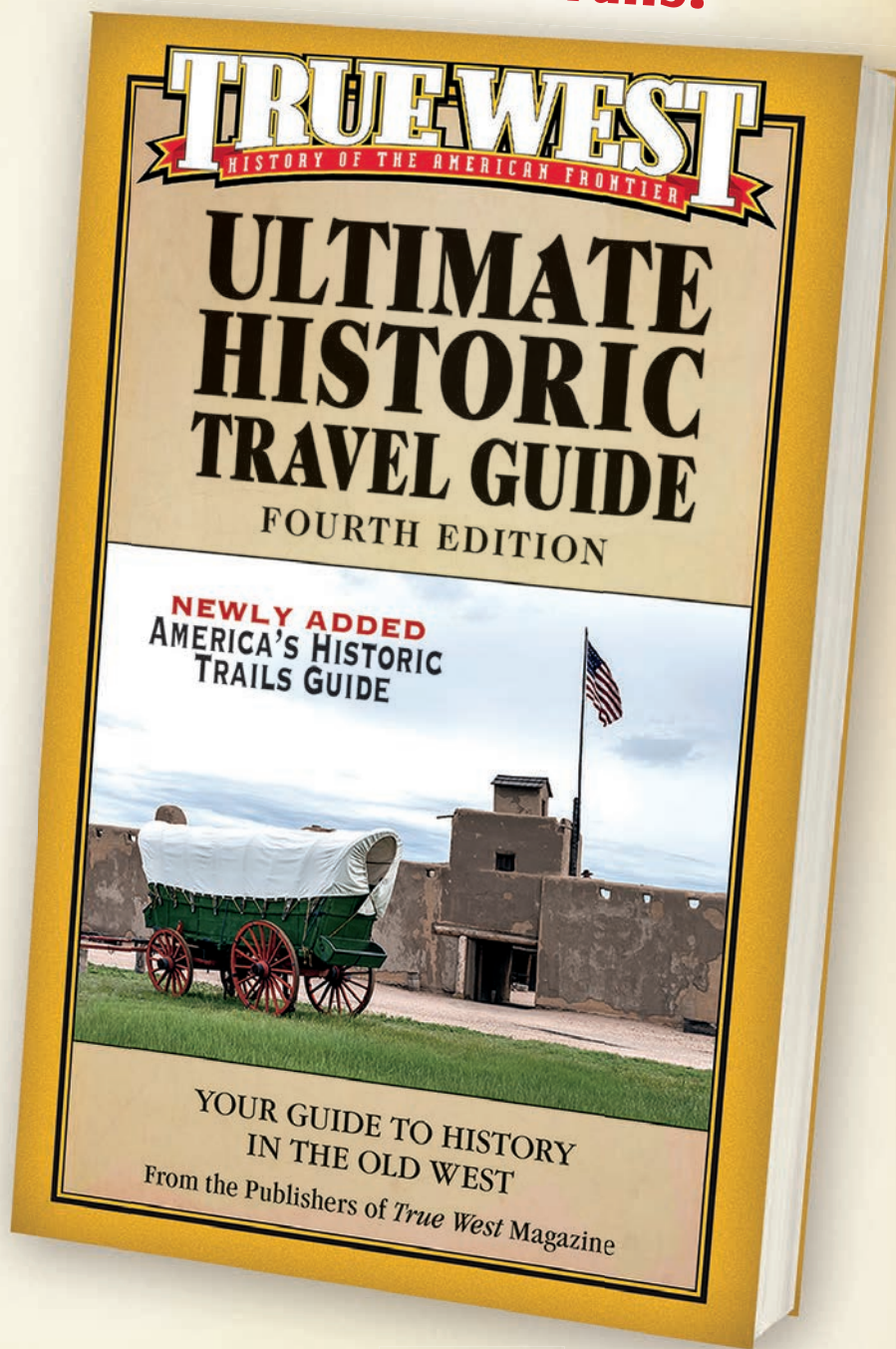
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