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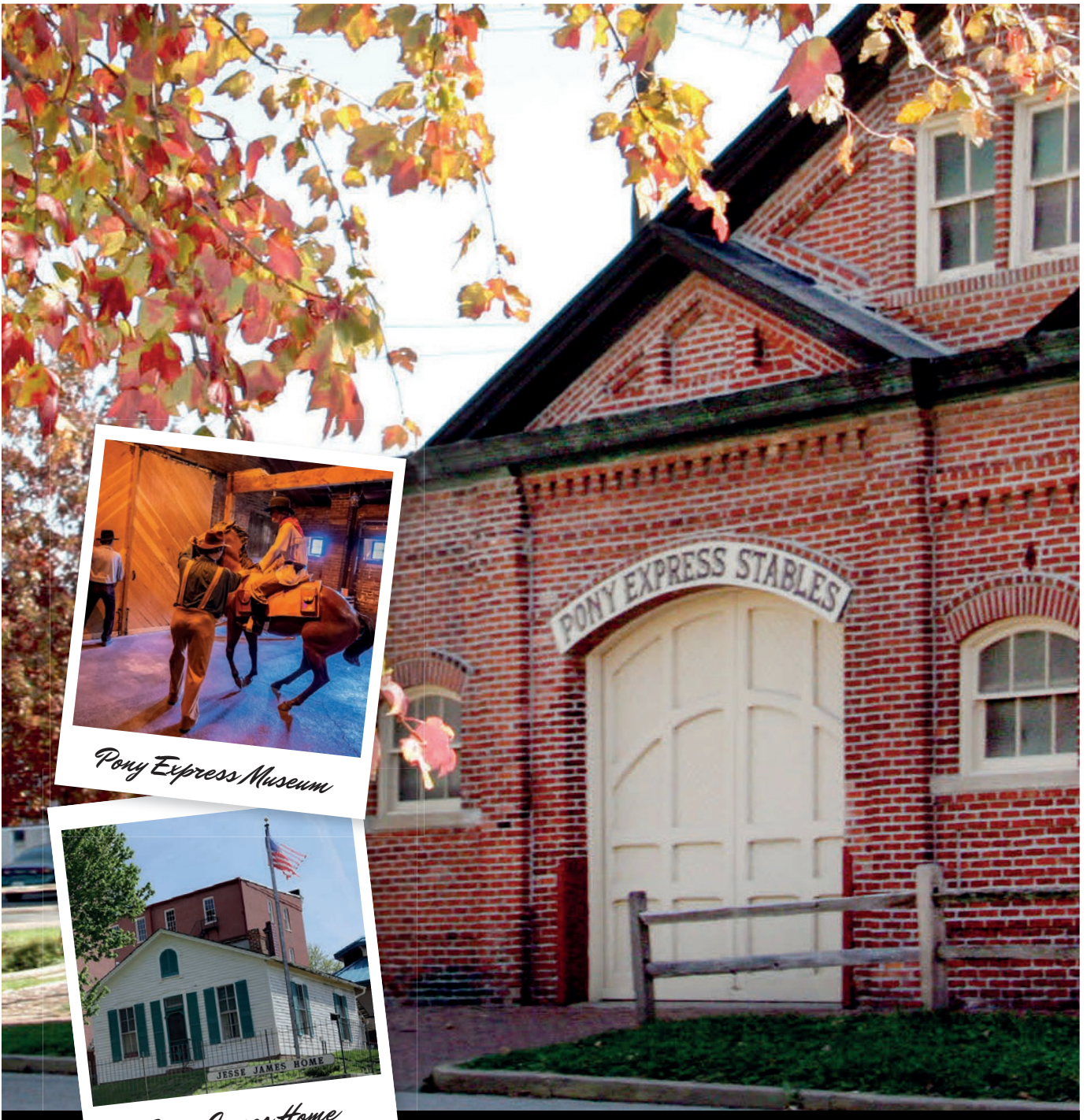
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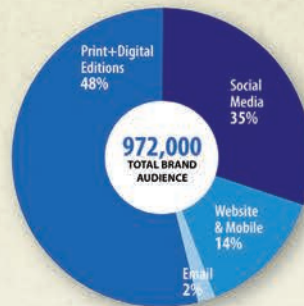
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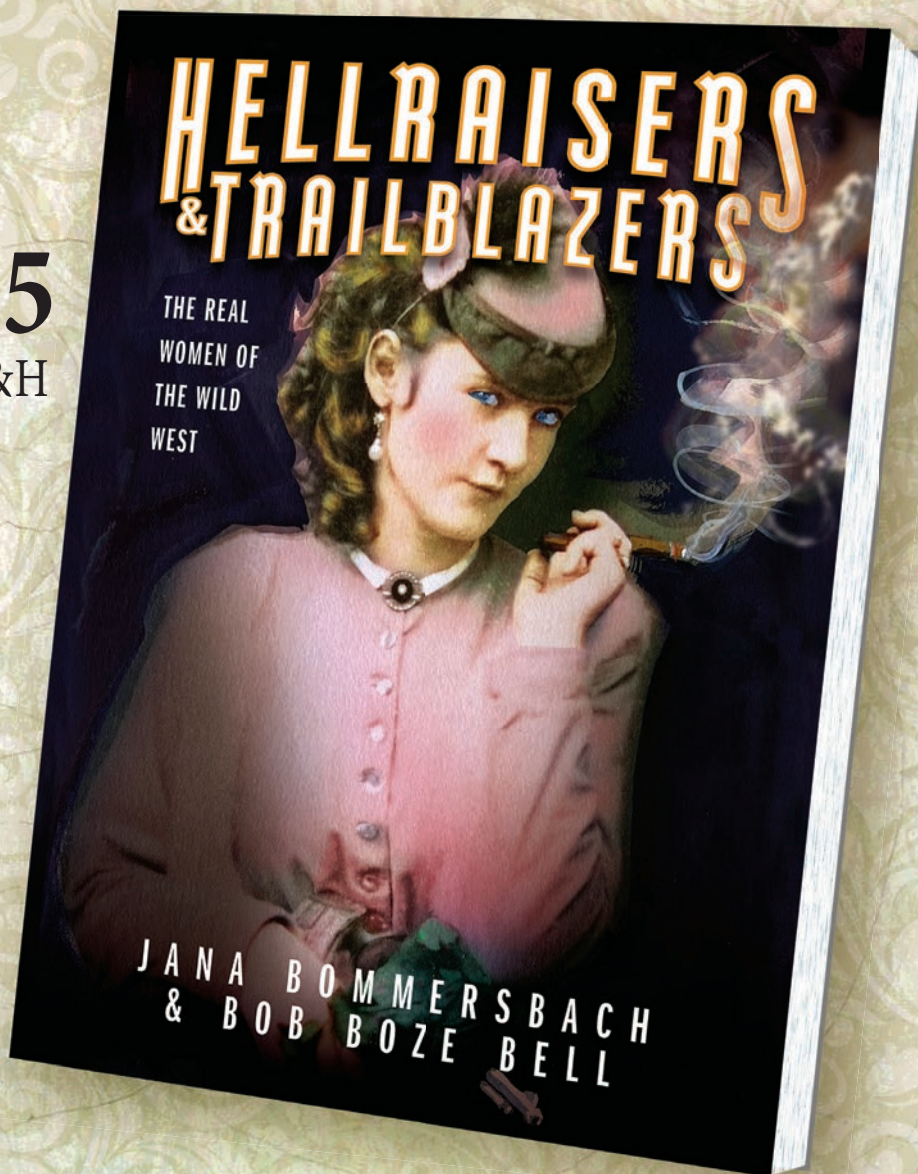
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OPENING SHOT

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WANTON WOMEN OF MONTANA

In the 1890s, prostitution and red-light district brothels were common across the Big Sky State. In this unknown Montana sporting house, two of the women wear the formal, socially accepted corseted dress of women of the Victorian era, but the bartender and the five women on the right model "Mother Hubbard" dresses—worn without corsets—that working girls wore for ease of use while entertaining their customers. To learn more about prostitutes in the West, turn to page 26 to read "Don't Bet Against a Sporting Girl" by Jan MacKell Collins.



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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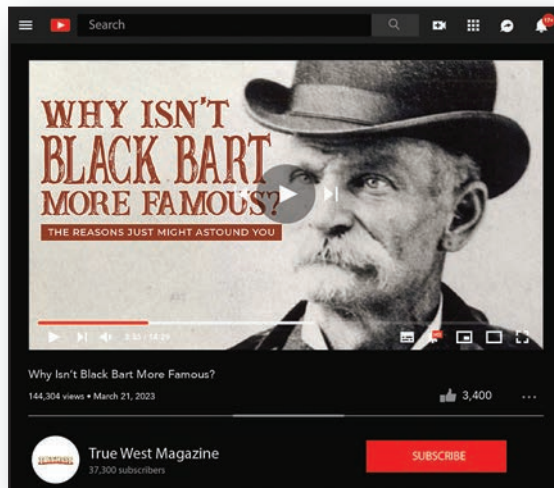
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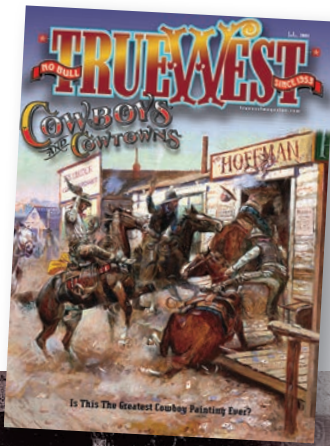


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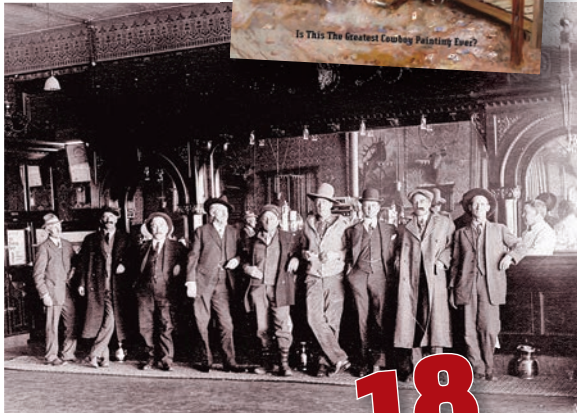
The career of English-born Civil War veteran Black Bart, America's most prolific poet-stagecoach robber, began on the backroads of California's Gold Country.

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62 PACK YOUR BAGS, TIME TO GET WESTERN

Historic saloons, hotels and ranches are ready to serve you up a slice of the Old West.

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The highwayman who stopped the C. & O. stage and Alturas stage, a couple of weeks ago, is believed to be the well known scoundrel, who signs his name "Black Bart, the PoB," and is given to the habit of writing doggerel, or burlesque rhyme. He is a shrewd and desperate customer to deal with, and so completely covered his trail from the places of robbery that no trace on the Sacramento river or Alturas roads, or the country in the vicinity. He has evidently escaped through the stunted oak forests at the head of the Sacramento valley, north of Shasta, towards Honey Lake valley. A man has been sent to Susanville, to hunt for him, and endeavor to get a discription, so that he may be captured, a standing reward of \$1,300 for his arrest and conviction. *True West Journal*

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Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

Photo Courtesy True West Archives

Old Vaquero Sayings



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

Quotes

“Think you’re escaping and run into yourself. Longest way round is the shortest way home.”

—James Joyce, *Ulysses*

“Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough.”

—Mark Twain

“I like whiskey. I always did, and that is why I never drink it.”

—Robert E. Lee

“The spaces between stars are where the work of the universe is done.”

—Ivan Doig, *This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind*

“When you play, play hard; when you work, don’t play at all.”

—Theodore Roosevelt



President Theodore Roosevelt found relaxation hunting in the West, as he did outside Glenwood Springs, Colorado, in 1905.

Courtesy Library of Congress

“I like bars just after they open for the evening. When the air inside is still cool and clean and everything is shiny and the barkeep is giving himself that last look in the mirror to see if his tie is straight and his hair is smooth.”

—Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*

“If I had to live my life over, I’d live over a saloon.”

—W.C. Fields



Lola Montez
True West Archives

“Exercise, not philosophically and with religious gravity undertaken, but with the wild and romping activities of a spirited girl who runs up and down as if her veins were full of wine.”

—Lola Montez

“I have fallen in love with American names, The sharp names that never get fat, The snakeskin-titles of mining-claims, The plumed war-bonnet of Medicine Hat, Tucson and Deadwood and Lost Mule Flat.”

—Stephen Vincent Benet

“He that would govern others first should be master of himself.”

—Philip Massinger

“Always laugh when you can, it is cheap medicine.”

—Lord Byron



“You’re right—this town is big enough for both of us.”

walsh

CartoonStock.com

Bar None

The long-gone bars, honky-tonks and saloons I grew up in are more than memories.

When I was on the women's panel at the Tucson Festival of Books last March, I went off on a tangent about all the bars and honky-tonks I played in Tucson when I attended the University of Arizona. The list, off the top of my head, included The Doll House, The Embers, The Cedars, The Hi Ho Club, The Dunes and the Poco Loco. And these are just the bars on Speedway Boulevard that I played in. I also played quite a bit in the VFW at Speedway near Alvernon, but that is another story and venue. The main point is, most of these legendary bars are gone. History.

Same for The Stumble Inn, The Oxbow, The Maverick, The Longhorn, The Hayloft, The Red Rooster and the Moose Lodge on Wilmot Road. Most are gone and paved over.

In my old stomping grounds up in Mohave County, I played in The Smokehouse, The Sportsman Lounge, The Kingman Club, The Elks, The American Legion and even behind the bait shop at Katherine's Landing. With perhaps the exception of The Smokehouse and The Sportsman Lounge, all of these stalwart watering holes are still standing.

In Phoenix, I played at the Fifth National Bank, JD's In The River Bottom, The Library (a clever name for a bar near ASU), Dooley's and perhaps the most famous of all, Mr. Lucky's.

What this long list of has-been and dried-up watering holes from my misspent youth shows is just how special the ones that have survived are—and many were conceived even earlier—and are still standing. Just in my neck of the woods, that would include The Palace Bar in Prescott, The Museum Club in Flagstaff and The Crystal Palace in Tombstone. Of course, there are many more throughout the West and we have produced for you a list of our favorites—bar none!—on page 20.



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



Drummer In Darkness

From 1963 to 1993 I spent most nights playing drums in both Rock and Country groups in bars all across Arizona. I learned a couple of valuable lessons which I have passed on to my kids: always give the musicians a hand, and—at the end of the night—a tip. Even the bad ones deserve it.

Mr. Lucky's in Phoenix, Arizona (left), featured country upstairs and rock 'n' roll downstairs.

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY MARK BOARDMAN

Barbarians at the Quartz Rock

A crowd celebrated the first shot poured on Prescott's Whiskey Row.

Then and now, Prescott, Arizona's, great calling card has been Whiskey Row. For nearly 160 years, it has been a center for entertainment, libation and even a bit of history. And it all started in 1864.

Entrepreneur William Hardy was the man with a vision. He saw a town that was recently named the territorial capital; it also had an Army post, Fort Whipple, nearby. A lot of people with a lot of thirst would be coming to Prescott, and Hardy wanted to profit in that.

And so he opened the Quartz Rock on November 14, 1864. The event drew a large crowd—in part because the saloon was offering a sampling of liquors on the house. It also featured the best billiard table in town. The opening was a huge success.

There to enjoy the festivities was a group self-proclaimed as “The Barbarians.” Contrary to their name, the members were some of the leading lights in Arizona Territory: Judge William Berry, Governor John Goodwin, Secretary of the Territory Richard McCormick and several officers from Fort Whipple.

The debut of the Quartz Rock coincided with another glorious event in the annals of The Barbarians. The night before, Arizona's first speaker of the house, William C. Jones, entered into wedded bliss with Caroline Stephens. It had been a whirlwind courting, as Stephens and her family had been in Prescott for around six weeks. It also got local tongues wagging, since Jones was 55 years old, and his blushing bride was just 15.

The Barbarians celebrated by mocking the pair—even breaking into the home where they were enjoying their nuptial privacy. The kidding apparently had an impact. Mr. and Mrs.



Jones left for Tucson the next day, only to return the next April. They stayed in Prescott for another month before Jones ran off, leaving his teen wife behind.

But back to The Barbarians' favorite watering hole...

The Quartz Rock quickly became “the” social place in town, attracting the best and worst clientele. Founder Hardy, who never really lived in Prescott, turned to John “J.P.” Bourke to run the place. Already a popular figure, Bourke later became a lawman, founder of the Prescott Hotel, county recorder and the father-in-law of future Cochise County Sheriff John Behan. Bourke was ably assisted in the Quartz Rock operation by bartenders Doc and Joe, again familiar and popular figures who helped create a genial atmosphere in the place.

But it wasn't always peaceful. What's believed to have been the town's first murder occurred there in 1867, when a card game turned deadly. Local pioneer



William Hardy (left) opened the Quartz Rock Saloon in Prescott, Arizona Territory, on November 14, 1864. The first saloon in the territorial capital attracted a crowd, including Territorial Governor John N. Goodwin (above).

Courtesy Brad Courtney

William Murray was shot down by young hard-case George Crafts. That same year, William Hardy sold the Quartz Rock to one of his bartenders for \$6,600.

Meantime, other purveyors followed in the footsteps of Hardy. Numerous other saloons opened, most of them within a block or so of the Quartz Rock. It was the beginning of Whiskey Row. But it suffered from issues that would plague the area for decades.

Like no fire department. Or available water supply. In 1871, a fire started in the saloon. Several kegs of whiskey exploded, adding to the conflagration. A determined effort by locals managed to limit the damage, but the Quartz Rock was nothing but rubble. And for whatever the reason, the current ownership decided not to rebuild.

Thanks to Whiskey Row historian Bradley Courtney for his help with this column. His book Prescott's Original Whiskey Row has more tales of the noted block.





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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

A Proud Heritage Saved, Texas Style

Nobody's surprised it's so big and so bold.

It started during a visit to a Norway museum in the 1960s, when Texas Tech University President Grover Murray wondered why he couldn't have a similar display back home, focusing on the planet's semi-arid regions: Africa, Asia, Australia, America's West.

He found that Texas ranchers thought this was the best idea since sliced bread, and it was the American West piece that took off.

Today, Texas Tech University in Lubbock houses the National Ranching Heritage Center that tells the story of ranching in the American West over the past 200 years.

In 1977, the center hired the first staff, and got a two-fer: historian and archaeologist William Curry Holden became the first director, while his wife, Frances, was the chief fundraiser in the early days.

Christine DeVitt, an heiress to the Mallett Ranch, loved the center so much she gave the first \$200,000 to get things rolling. Her sister, Helen, was also a main supporter, as was the late Ann Marion. "This probably wouldn't exist without these three women," says executive director Jim Bret Campbell. "This has been a labor of love for the ranching industry. It shows their true love for their heritage, their culture and their values."

The center today is massive: On 27 acres it includes a 44,000-square-foot main museum, seven main galleries and a mile-and-a-half of hard-surface walkways through 55 historic buildings that have been restored and outfitted as they would have been in their day.

Campbell brags that ranchers not only donated structures—log cabins to barns



to horse sheds to windmills to a schoolhouse to a 1909 Victorian mansion to a corral building from the 1700s—but also donated the funds to move the buildings to the campus.

Along the way they created the Ranching Heritage Association that today has 1,500 members in 38 states.

"This became like a mission of the ranching community," Campbell notes, and it already has solidified its legacy: "Our current members are descendants of the original founders. Our current president, Mark Kirkpatrick, is the grandson of John Lott, who was actively involved from the start." (Kirkpatrick is also related to C.C. Slaughter, who once owned over a million acres in these parts.)

And they're rarin' to grow again, thanks to a \$3.5-million gift from the Johnny Cash Foundation, which will help finance an \$8.2-million Cash Ranch Life Learning Center. There are 20 other supporters for this indoor-outdoor interactive center that will teach the

Texas Tech University's National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, Texas, is managed as a living history center (inset), museum and archive. The 27-acre campus has 55 historic buildings, including an original 6666 Ranch barn (above).

Photos Courtesy NRH

public about modern ranching through the eyes of "Hank the Cowdog"—a special series by author John Erickson.

Campbell says the center currently attract 65,000 visitors a year—and hosts 6,000 to 8,000 school children on tours—and they think the new Cash Center will double those numbers.

The center is open seven days a week. More information is available from RanchingHeritage.org.



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



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BY STEVE FRIESEN

Print the Legend

Mass media dominates Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in Mesa, Arizona.

“When the legend becomes fact, print the legend,” a newspaperman famously said in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. The most critical word in that sentence is “print.” It was mass media that made legends into facts and facts into legends in the Old West. The settlement of the American West coincided with a publishing explosion. Newspapers, weeklies and dime novels sprang up everywhere, and their readers loved stories of the West. Improvements in lithography also ushered in a golden age of advertising posters, usually plastered on any flat surface in a community. By the time the U.S. Census Bureau declared the frontier was over in 1890, the West was already well-embedded in the American consciousness, thanks to the promotion of Wild West shows and other things Western by the media.

Brian Lebel's Old West auctions consistently provide the artifacts associated with this rise of the mass media West. His first auctions were held in Cody, Wyoming, home of Buffalo Bill Cody, so it is not surprising that he “cut his teeth” selling artifacts from Buffalo Bill and other Wild West show entrepreneurs. Lebel's Old West Show and Auction held in Mesa, Arizona, from January 20 to 21 did not disappoint in that regard. There were numerous photographs and programs from Buffalo Bill's *Wild West* as well as from shows staged by the 101 Ranch, Pawnee Bill, Tim McCoy, Tom Mix and others.

The popularity of Wild West shows contributed to the rise of movie Westerns. Memorabilia from stars like Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and Gene Autrey

An Edward H. Bohlin parade saddle, highly decorated with silver Texas longhorns, buffalo and other Western animals, was the highest seller at Brian Lebel's Mesa auction. Used by Eleanor, the wife of Western star Montie Montana, it fetched \$82,600.

sold well at the Mesa auction, as did cowboy hats from James Coburn, Audie Murphy and William S. Hart.

No 19th-century cowboy would have ridden on a highly decorated saddle, used silver inlaid Crockett spurs or worn decorative tasseled shirts on the range. Those were only adopted by cowboys in Wild West shows, parades and the movies. Like the hats worn by Western movie stars, they were influenced by the popular mass media vision of the West. All attract collectors today.



It was the media that popularized the West and its stories. From a lithograph advertising Buffalo Bill's *Wild West* to Bohlin saddles to a painting used as a prop on the set of the television series *Yellowstone*, artifacts from that popular West were featured at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in Mesa this past January.



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



Hats from Western celebrities appear regularly at Brian Lebel's auctions. In Mesa, a Stetson made for James Coburn sold for \$2,299, well over twice its estimated price.

Four highly decorated and tasseled shirts worn by performers in the Tom Mix Circus sold for \$2,600 at the Lebel auction.



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

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Vogt, The Texas Auction (San Antonio, TX)
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June 19, 2023

Arms & Armor, Civil War and Militaria
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HA.com • 877-437-4824

July 15, 2023

The 2023 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction
(Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV)
CDAArtAuction.com • 208-772-9009



Lithographed posters from Buffalo Bill's *Wild West* are among the highest valued from the golden age of posters. This example sold for \$10,890, despite some damage.



Roy Rogers' pair of gold-plated Colt revolvers were originally ordered by the *101 Ranch Real Wild West* and later given to Roy. That additional *Wild West* show provenance probably helped drive the sale price of the revolvers to \$24,200. He wore the guns in movies, on television and even on comic book covers.



The *101 Ranch Real Wild West* carried on the *Wild West* show tradition after the demise of Buffalo Bill's show. This action-filled poster from the *101 Ranch* sold for \$5,310.

All Images Courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction



A pair of silver inlaid Crockett spurs, worn in parades and dating to the 1930s-40s, sold for \$5,015.

SWINGING DOORS, DANCE HALL GIRLS and WHISKEY

For seven decades, *True West* has celebrated the historic saloon in fact and fiction.

When *True West's* founder Joe Small published his first issue of the magazine in Austin, Texas, in the summer of 1953, the Western United States was at the beginning of its decade of greatest growth.

New suburbs, jobs and a low cost-of-living fueled the growth. And so did the automobile, air-conditioning and television. Americans were mobile, and the vast Western states and their national parks, beaches and wide open spaces beckoned the auto-crazy nation to travel West.

At the same time, Western movies, TV shows, paperbacks, comics and magazines such as *True West* were feeding interest in the Old West. And at the center in almost every Western—in every category—was a saloon with dance hall girls!

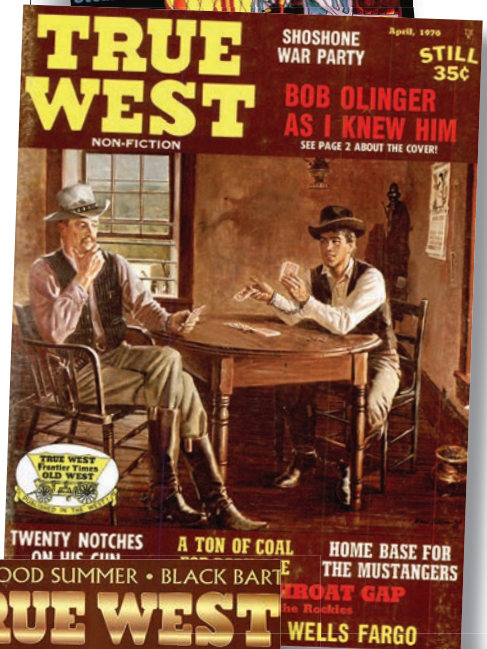
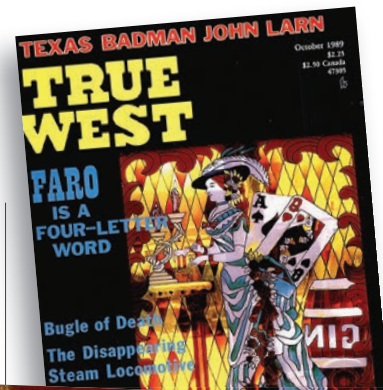
Now, flash forward seven decades. As tourists crisscross the West today—from small towns to ghost towns, big cities to living history centers—historic saloons are among the most popular Old West attractions.

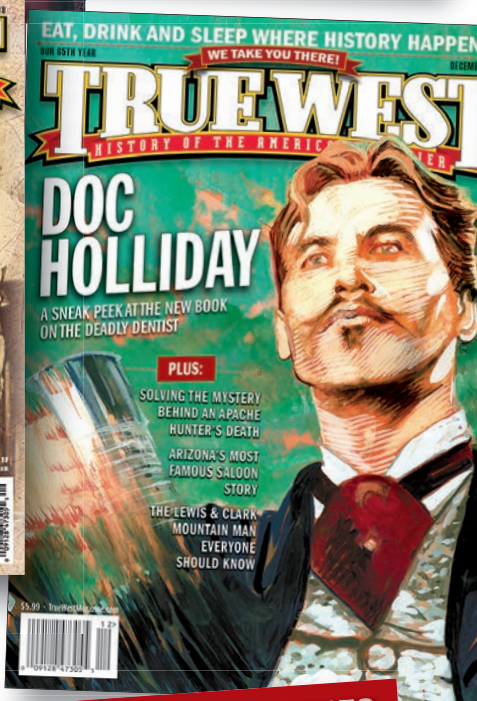
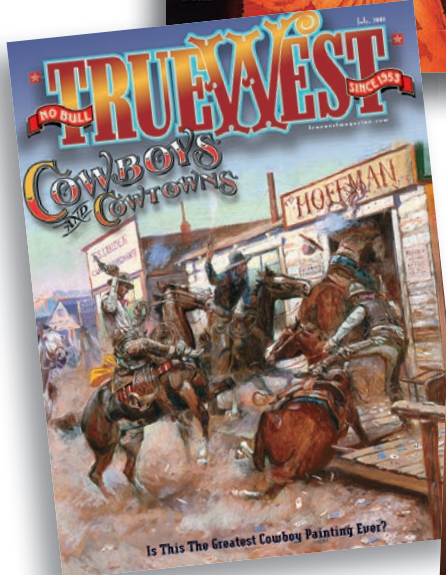
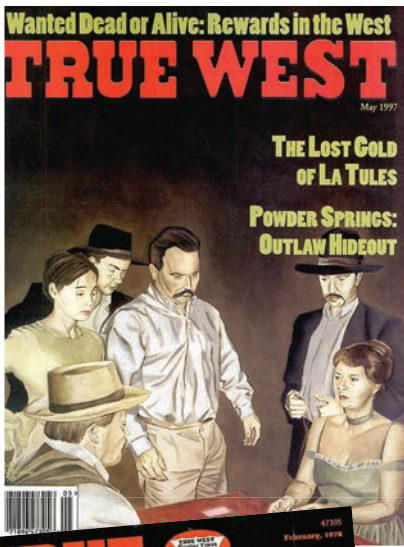
The first saloon story in Small's new magazine was in the first issue: "The Man Who Beat Hardin" by Raymond Schuessler with a Frank Smart illustration of a gunfight—in a saloon, of course!

The first saloon cover was in August 1955—and it was actually an illustration of a cowboy bar in a then-long-abandoned ghost town (near right). In the mid-1950s ghost towns across the West were becoming popular destinations for visitors. The second saloon cover of *True West*, in December 1957 (above, near right), was also an illustration, this time of a saloon dance floor filled with colorful cowboys and dance hall girls drinking and

celebrating the season. Sixty-six years later, the cover featuring Brummett Echohawk's *Cowboys' Christmas Ball* is still the only one to feature dancers in 70 years of *True West* issues.

In honor of the historic saloon and its popularity in the West, past and present, we looked back at the watering holes, gamblers and dance hall girls featured on *True West's* covers and have compiled our first ever bucket-list of the oldest and best historic Western bars still operating, that you need to visit before you die!





TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

If you would like to read all of these past issues and hundreds more like them from the past 70 years, go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe today!

Our past awaits you!

BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

HEY, BARTENDER!

SET'EM UP AND PASS'EM DOWN!

216 authentic Old West Saloons and Bars you need to visit before they are gone.

With swinging doors and wooden floors, ice cold beer and friendly cheer, the Old West saloon is as legendary as the Irish pub and Mexican cantina. Whether English or French, Spanish or Scottish, the earliest settlers of the Americas opened taverns along their trails, at their outposts and even their forts. North, south, east and west, a traveler's thirst needed to be satiated, and saloons were the first businesses to open in new Western settlements—even if they were temporary.

As the West grew in the 19th century, so did the myths and legends of the vast and violent, rugged and daunting lands between the Mississippi and the Pacific. Somewhere between the truth and tall tales, the "Old West Saloon" became an icon—as proverbial as the cowboy, six-guns and Stetsons. Despite a little thing called Prohibition from 1920 to 1933, the Western saloon has not only survived but continued to thrive in towns of all sizes across the West.

So, 251 years after a barkeep at Jean Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, New Orleans, Louisiana, opened the doors for service, the oldest and best Western saloons are still popular bucket-list destinations for travelers to the American West.

In honor of those Western entrepreneurs, urban boosters, friendly bartenders, honky-tonk bands and legendary mythmakers—including our founder Joe Small—we present *True West's* first ever Western saloon bucket list.

Editor's Note:

We know this list will immediately set off a great debate, and we hope you will offer up your favorite Western watering holes we have overlooked. Share them with us at stuart@twmag.com.



The Pacific Coast

California

Almost Historical River City Saloon

916 2nd St, Old Sacramento, CA 95814
916-443-6852 • TheRiverCitySaloon.com

The Buena Vista

2765 Hyde St, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-474-5044 • TheBuenaVista.net

Columbia City Hotel & What Cheer Saloon

22768 Main St, Columbia, CA 95310
209-532-5341 • CityHotel.com

Comstock Saloon

155 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, CA 94133
415-617-0071 • ComstockSaloon.com

Cosmopolitan Hotel

2660 Calhoun St, San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-1869 • OldTownCosmopolitan.com

The Cowboy Palace Saloon

21635 Devonshire St, Chatsworth, CA 91311
844-426-9725 • CowboyPalace.com

Elixir

3200 16th St, San Francisco, CA 94103
415-552-1633 • ElixirSF.com

The Historical Iron Door Saloon

18761 Main St, Groveland, CA 95321
209-962-8904 • IronDoorSaloon.com

The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1852.





The Palace Restaurant & Saloon was rebuilt after a fire burned much of downtown Prescott, Arizona, in 1900. Since 1874, when the Cabinet Saloon opened for business, a bar has operated at approximately the same location on a section of South Montezuma Street that is known as Whiskey Row.

Historic Photo Courtesy True West Archives/Modern Photo of the Whiskey Row Social Club & Historical Society by Blue Cactus Photography

The Holbrooke Hotel & Golden Gate Saloon

212 W Main St, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-460-1945 • Holbrooke.com

Jack's Bar and Grill

1743 California St, Redding, CA 96001
530-246-2190 • JacksGrillRedding.com

Long Branch Saloon

907 N Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661-829-5832 • No website

The Murphys Historic Hotel & Saloon

457 Main St, Murphys, CA 95247
209-728-3444 • MurphysHotel.com

The National Exchange Hotel & Bar

211 Broad St, Nevada City, CA 95959
530-362-7605
TheNationalExchangeHotel.com

The No Name Bar

2102, 757 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965
415-332-1392 • TheNoNameBar.com

Old Western Saloon

11201 CA-1, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
415-663-1661 • No website

Rusty's Saloon & Grill

113 N Main St, Bishop, CA 93514
760-873-9066
Rustys-Inc-Bishop.edan.io

The Saloon

1232 Grant Ave, San Francisco, CA 94133
415-989-7666 • SFBlues.net

Smiley's Schooner Saloon

41 Wharf Rd, Bolinas, CA 94924
415-881-1851 • SmileysSaloon.com

Idaho

Ace Saloon

103 Illinois Ave, Council, ID 83612
208-253-4469
Ace-Saloon.Business.site

The Cowboy's Pastime

32524 Belle, Bruneau, ID 83604
208-845-2116 • No website

The Gold Mine Grill & Saloon

3867 Highway 21, Idaho City, ID 83631
208-392-4787 • TheGoldMineHotel.com

Historic Smoke House & Saloon

424 Sixth St, Wallace, ID 83873
208-659-7539
SmokeHouseBBQSaloon.com

Pengilly's Saloon

513 W Main St, Boise, ID 83702
208-345-6344 • No website

Pioneer Saloon

320 N Main St, Ketchum, ID 83340
208-726-3139 • PioneerSaloon.com

The Snake Pit

1480 Coeur d'Alene River Rd
Enaville, ID 83839
208-682-3453 • SnakePitIdaho.com

White Horse Saloon, Hotel and Café

6248 W Maine St, Spirit Lake, ID 83869
208-623-2353
TheWhiteHorseSaloon.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1907.

Nevada

Bucket of Blood Saloon

1 S C St, Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-0322
BucketOfBloodSaloonVC.com

Cowboy Bar and Café

443 Front St, Montello, NV 89830
775-776-2466 • No website

Genoa Bar and Saloon

2282 Main St, Genoa, NV 89411
775-782-3870 • GenoaBarAndSaloon.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1853.

Lucky Spur Saloon

306 Kingston Canyon Rd, Austin, NV 89310
775-964-2000 • LuckySpurSaloon.com
Check the website for directions.

The Martin Hotel, Restaurant and Bar

94 W Railroad St, Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-3197 • TheMartinHotel.com

Paradise Valley Saloon Bar & Grill

95 Main St, Paradise Valley, NV 89426
775-578-3090 • No website

Pioneer Saloon

310 W Spring St, Goodsprings, NV 89019
702-874-9362 • PioneerSaloon.com

Ponderosa Saloon

106 S C St, Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-7210 • No website

Red Dog Saloon

76 N C St, Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-7474 • RedDogVC.rocks

Silver Dollar Club

400 Commercial St, Elko, NV 89801
775-738-4834 • No website

The Star Hotel & Bar

245 W Silver St, Elko, NV 89801
775-738-9925 • ElkoStarHotel.com

Oregon

Dan and Louis Oyster Bar

208 SW Ankeny St
Portland, OR 97204
503-227-5906 • DanAndLouis.com

Hamley's Steakhouse & Saloon

8 E Court Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801
541-278-1100
HamleySteakHouse.com

Huber's

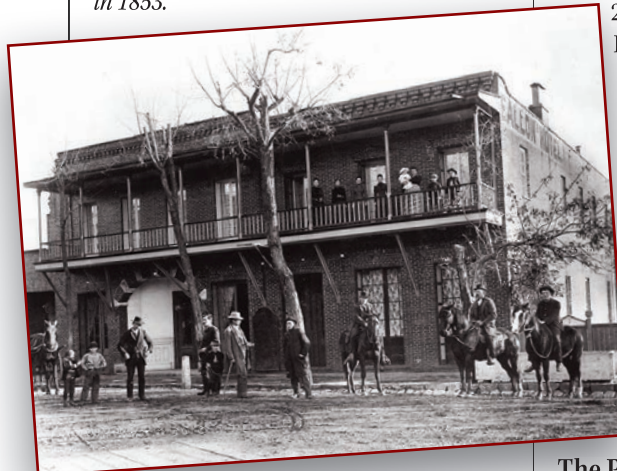
411 Southwest 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204
503-228-5686 • Hubers.com
The oldest restaurant and saloon in the state was founded in 1879.

The Pioneer Saloon and Restaurant

327 Main St, Paisley, OR 97636
541-943-3289 • No website

Shamrock Cardroom Bar

17 SW Emigrant Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801
800-226-6398
PendletonUndergroundTours.org



Columbia City Hotel & What Cheer Saloon
Columbia, California
True West Archives

International Café & Bar

59 Main St, Austin, NV 89310
775-964-1225 • No website

Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill

190 E Cascade Ave, Sisters, OR 97759
541-549-7427 • SistersSaloon.net

Terminal Gravity Brewery & Pub

803 School St, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3000
TerminalGravityBrewing.com

Washington

Bluebird Inn

121 Goldendale, Bickleton, WA 99322
509-896-2273 • Bickleton.org/Bluebird-inn

The Brick Saloon

100 W Pennsylvania Ave
Roslyn, WA 98941
509-649-2643 • BrickSaloon.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1889.

Frontier Tavern

111 W 4th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-9229 • No website

Olympic Club

112 N Tower Ave, Centralia, WA 98531
866-736-5164 • McMenamins.com

Rhein Haus Seattle

912 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122
206-325-5409 • RheinHausSeattle.com

The Desert Southwest

Arizona

Antlers Café & Bar

46788 AZ-288, Young, AZ 85554
928-462-3265 • No website

Big Nose Kate's Saloon

417 E Allen St, Tombstone, AZ 85638
520-457-3107 • BigNoseKate.com

Black Cat Bar

114 Chino St, Seligman, AZ 86337
928-442-3451 • BlackCatBarSeligman.com

The Crown King Saloon and Café

7219 Main St, Crown King, AZ 86343
928-632-7053 • CrownKingSaloon.com
Only accessible by unpaved roads; go to CrownKing.com for directions.

Crystal Palace Saloon

436 E Allen St, Tombstone, AZ 85638
520-457-3611 • CrystalPalaceSaloon.com

Handlebar J BBQ Restaurant & Bar

7116 E Becker Ln, Scottsdale, AZ 85254
480-948-0110 • HandlebarJ.com

Longhorn Grill and Saloon

28851 S Nogales Hwy, Amado, AZ 85645
520-398-0700
LonghornGrillAndSaloon.com

Matt's Saloon

112 S Montezuma St, Prescott, AZ 86303
928-776-2974 • MattsSaloon.com

The Maverick King of Clubs

6622 E Tanque Verde Rd
Tucson, AZ 85715
520-298-0430 • TucsonMaverick.com

The Museum Club

3404 E Rt 66, Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-440-4331 • MuseumClub.net

1902 The Spirit Room at the Copper Queen Hotel

11 Howell Ave, Bisbee, AZ 85603
520-433-2216
CopperQueenHotel.com

Palace Restaurant & Saloon

120 S Montezuma St
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-541-1996 • HistoricPalace.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded as the Cabinet Saloon in 1874.

The Rusty Spur

7245 E Main St, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-425-7787 • RustySpurSaloon.com

Saddle and Spur Tavern at the Gadsden Hotel

1046 G Ave, Douglas, AZ 85607
520-364-4481 • TheGadsdenHotel.com

Saddlehorn Saloon

6300 E Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715
520-722-9253 • No website

Spirit Room

166 Main St # 155, Jerome, AZ 86331
928-634-8809 • SpiritRoom.com

Sultana Bar

301 Historic Rt 66, Williams, AZ 86046
928-635-2021 • No website

XA Bar & Grill

18 W Main St, Springerville, AZ 85938
928-333-0333 • No website

New Mexico

The Alley Cantina

121 Teresina Ln, Taos, NM 87571
575-758-2121 • AlleyCantina.com

Annex Bar and Grill

101 US-54, Logan, NM 88426
575-487-4745 • AnnexBarAndGrill.com

Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House

32 Main St, Pinos Alto, NM 88053
575-538-9911
BuckhornSaloonAndOperaHouse.com

Caballo Tavern

NM-187, Arrey, NM 87930
575-267-5535 • No website

Capitol Bar & Brewery

110 Plaza St, Socorro, NM 87801
575-835-1193
CapitolBarAndBrewery.com

The Eklund Hotel and Restaurant

15 Main St, Clayton, NM 88415
575-374-2551 • HotelEklund.com



The Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, New Mexico
Myke Groves

El Farol

808 Canyon Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-983-9912 • ElFarolSantaFe.com
The oldest restaurant and saloon in the state was founded in 1835.

El Patio Bar

2171 Calle de Parian, Mesilla, NM 88046
575-526-9943 • No website

The 49ER Lounge, El Rancho Hotel

1000 E Hwy 66, Gallup, NM 87301
505-722-2285 • ElRanchoHotelGallup.com

Golden Spur Saloon

US Hwy-60, Magdalena, NM 87825
575-854-2554 • GoldenSpurSaloon.com

La Posta de Mesilla

2410 Calle De San Albino
Mesilla, NM 88046
575-524-3524 • Laposta-De-Mesilla.com

No Scum Allowed Saloon

933 White Oaks Rd
White Oaks, NM 88301
575-648-5583 • NoScumSaloon.com

Silva's Saloon

955 S Camino Del Pueblo
Bernalillo, NM 87004
505-867-9976 • No website

Tinnie Silver Dollar

28842 US-70, Tinnie, NM 88351
575-653-4425 • TinnieSilverDollar.com

TJs Bar, St. James Hotel

617 S Collison Ave, Cimarron, NM 87714
575-376-2664 • EXStJames.com

Western Bar & Café

304 Burro St, Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2445 • WesternBarAndCafe.com

Oklahoma

Blue Belle Pizza Parlor & Saloon

224 W Harrison Ave, Guthrie, OK 73044
405-877-3205 • No website

Bob's Cowboy Bar & Rodeo Room

132 N Ellison St, Guymon, OK 73942
580-468-3110 • No website

Cattlemen's Steakhouse

1309 S Agnew, Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-236-0416
CattlemensRestaurant.com

Dry Hollow Bar

517 Kihekah Ave, Pawhuska, OK 74056
918-604-8775 • No website

Eischen's Bar

109 S 2nd, Okarche, OK 73762
405-263-9939 • Eischensbar.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1896.

Ironhorse Saloon

13573 US-169, Oologah, OK 74053
918-443-2622 • No website

McClintock Saloon & Chop House

2227 Exchange Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-825-1359 • McClintockSaloon.com

Texas

Albert Ice House

5435 Ranch Rd 1623, Stonewall, TX 78671
830-644-2042 • AlbertTexas.com

Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar

308 Main St, Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-8826 • No website

The Big Texan Steak Ranch & Brewery

7701 I-40, Amarillo, TX 79118
806-372-6000 • BigTexan.com

Billy Bob's Texas

2520 Rodeo Plaza, Fort Worth, TX 76164
817-624-7117 • BillyBobsTexas.com

Broken Spoke

3201 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704
512-442-6189 • BrokenSpokeAustinTX.net

Cattleman's Club & Café

3803 E Amarillo Blvd, Amarillo, TX 79107
806-383-1707 • No website

11th Street Cowboy Bar

307 11th St, Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-4849 • 11thStCowboyBar.com

The Esquire Tavern

155 E Commerce St, San Antonio, TX 78205
210-222-2521 • EsquireTavern-SA.com

Gruene Hall

1281 Gruene Rd, New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-606-1281 • GrueneHall.com

The Little Longhorn Saloon

5434 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78756
512-524-1291
TheLittleLonghornSaloon.com

Lou's Landmark Saloon

5101 Leopard St, Corpus Christi, TX 78408
361-882-9300 • No website



Starlight Theatre Restaurant & Bar
Terlingua, Texas
Photo by Chris Mullen

Luckenbach Texas

413 Luckenbach Town Loop
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-997-3224 • LuckenbachTexas.com

Menger Hotel

204 Alamo Plz, San Antonio, TX 78205
210-223-4361 • MengerHotel.com

Neon Cowboy

10420 C F Hawn Fwy, Dallas, TX 75217
972-557-5102 • Neon-Cowboy.business.site

Ole Crystal Bar

410 E Holland Ave, Alpine, TX 79830
432-837-4800 • No website

Papa Joe's Texas Saloon

1505 N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd
Lorena TX 76655 • 254-857-4717
PapaJoesTexasSaloon.com

Ricky D's

10780 Pebble Hills Blvd D, El Paso, TX 79935
915-222-8407 • RickyDs.com

Riley's Tavern

8894 FM1102, New Braunfels, TX 78132
512-392-3132 • RileysTavern.com

Rosa's Cantina

3454 Doniphan Dr, El Paso, TX 79922
915-833-0402 • No website

Scholz Garten

1607 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78701
512-474-1958 • ScholzGarten.net
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1866.

Starlight Theatre Restaurant & Bar

631 Ivey Rd, Terlingua, TX 79852
432-371-3400 • TheStarlightTheatre.com

Texas Café & Bar: "The Spoon"

3604 50th St, Lubbock, TX 79413
806-792-8544
TexasCafeAndBarTheSpoon.com

White Elephant Saloon

106 E Exchange Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76164
817-624-8273 • WhiteElephantSaloon.com

The Great Basin and Rocky Mountains

Colorado

The Buckhorn Exchange

1000 Osage, Denver, CO 80204
303-534-9505 • Buckhorn.com

Buffalo Rose Saloon

1119 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401
303-278-6800 • BuffaloRose.net
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1859.



The Bar at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel
Cody, Wyoming
Image Courtesy BBCW, P.6.286

**The Diamond Belle at
The Strater Hotel**

699 Main St, Durango, CO 81301
970-375-7123 • Strater.com

Gold Pan Saloon

103 N Main St, Breckinridge, CO 80424
970-453-5499
TheGoldPanSaloon.com

Grand Imperial Hotel Bar

1219 Greene St, Silverton, CO 81433
970-387-5527 • GrandImperialHotel.com

Gray's Coors Tavern

515 W 4th St, Pueblo, CO 81003
719-544-0455 • No website

Historic Bar in the New Sheridan Hotel

231 W Colorado Ave, Telluride, CO 81435
970-728-4351 • NewSheridan.com

Historic Western Hotel Bar

206 & 210 7th Ave, Ouray, CO 81427
888-624-8403 • HistoricWesternHotel.com

J-Bar in the Hotel Jerome

330 E Main St, Aspen, CO 81611
970-429-7674 • AubergeResorts.com

Kochevar's Saloon

127 Elk Ave, Crested Butte, CO 81224
970-349-7117 • No website

The Legendary Silver Dollar Saloon

315 Harrison Ave, Leadville, CO 80461
719-486-9914
LegendarySilverDollarSaloon.com

The Historic Mint

347 Blue River Pkwy, Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-468-5247 • MintSteakhouse.com

My Brothers Bar

2376 15th St, Denver, CO 80204
303-455-9991 • MyBrothersBar.com

New Sheridan Historic Bar

231 W Colorado Ave, Telluride, CO 81320
970-728-4351 • NewSheridan.com

740 Front

740 Front St, Louisville, CO 80027
720-519-1972 • 740Front.com

Town Pump

124 N College Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80524
970-493-4404 • No website

The Whiskey Bar at

The Stanley Hotel

333 Wonderview Ave
Estes Park, CO 80517
800-976-1377 • StanleyHotel.com

Montana

Bale of Hay Saloon

344 W. Wallace St, Virginia City, MT 59755
406-843-5700 • BaleOfHaySaloon.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1863.*

The Blue Moon Saloon

3793 US-287, Cameron, MT 59720
406-682-4555 • BlueMoonSaloonMt.com

Cowboys Bar and Museum

311 3rd St NW, Great Falls, MT 59404
406-453-0651 • CowboysBarsMCA.com

Gold Bar and Western Bar

400 North Last Chance Gulch Street
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-2250 • No website

The Historic Montana Bar

612 Main St, Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-5809 • TheMontanaBar.com

Long Branch Saloon

124 Main St, Ennis, MT 59729
406-682-7370 • No website

The Mint Bar and Grill

102 N Main St, Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-4759 • TheMintBarAndGrill.com

The New Atlas Bar

528 E Pike Ave, Columbus, MT 59019
406-322-9818 • No website

The Old Saloon

210 Railroad Ln, Emigrant, MT 59027
406-333-4482 • OldSaloonMt.com

The Oxford Saloon & Café

337 N Higgins Ave, Missoula, MT 59802
406-549-0117 • The-Oxford.com

The Silver Dollar Saloon

133 S Main St, Butte, MT 59701
406-782-7367 • ButteAmerica.com

Stacey's Old Faithful Bar & Steakhouse

300 Mill St, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
406-763-4425 • StaceysBar.com

Utah

Bit & Spur Restaurant & Saloon

1212 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale, UT 84767
435-772-3498 • BitAndSpur.com

Gateway Saloon & Café

733 E Main St, Vernal, UT 84078
435-789-9842 • No website

The Outlaw Saloon

1254 W 2100 S St, West Haven, UT 84401
801-334-9260 • OutlawSaloon.com

Ray's Tavern

25 S Broadway, Green River, UT 84525
435-564-3511 • No website

**The Swingin' Steaks at
Mexican Hat Lodge**

100 Main Hwy 163, Mexican Hat, UT 84531
435-683-2222 • MexicanHat.net

Shooting Star Saloon

7350 East 200 S, Huntsville, UT 84317
801-745-2002 • ShootingStarSaloon.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1879.*

Thunderbird Restaurant

4530 State St, Mt Carmel, UT 84755
435-648-2262 • ThunderbirdUtah.com

Wyoming

The Albany Bar and Restaurant

1506 Capital Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-638-3507 • AlbanyCheyenne.com

The Bar at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel

1192 Sheridan Ave, Cody, WY 82414
307-587-4221 • IrmaHotel.com

The Bunkhouse Bar & Grill

1064 Happy Jack Rd, Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-632-6184 • BunkHouseBar.com

Buffalo Bill Bar, Sheridan Inn

856 Broadway St, Sheridan, WY 82801
307-655-7861 • SheridanInn.com

Cowboy Bar

104 W Pine St, Pinedale, WY 82941
307-367-4520 • No website

Cowboy Bar and Café

1936 State St, Meeteetse, WY 82433
307-868-2233 • No website

Cowboy Saloon

108 S 2nd St, Laramie, WY 82072
307-200-8343 • TheCowboySaloon.com

Invasion Bar & Restaurant
343 Nolan Ave, Kaycee, WY 82639
307-738-2211 • InvasionBar.com

Lander Bar and Grill
126 Main St, Lander, WY 85250
307-332-8228 • LanderBar.com

Million Dollar Cowboy Bar
25 N Cache St, Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-2207
MillionDollarCowboyBar.com

**Miner's & Stockmen's
Steakhouse**
608 Main St, Hartville, WY 82215
307-836-2008 • WyomingsOldestBar.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1862.*

**Shiloh Saloon at The Historic
Virginian Hotel**
404 Lincoln Hwy, Medicine Bow, WY 82329
307-379-2377
TheHistoricVirginianHotel.vpweb.com

Stagecoach Bar
5755 W WY 22, Wilson, WY 83014
307-733-4407 • StagecoachBar.net

The Northern Plains

Iowa

Breitbach's Country Dining
563 Balltown Rd, Balltown, IA 52703
563-552-2220
BreitbachsCountryDining.com
*Iowa's oldest bar & restaurant, since
1852. Six generations of Breitbachs have
managed the tavern.*

Dave's Fox Head Tavern
402 E Market St, Iowa City, IA 52245
319-351-9824
IowaCitysOldestBars-Blog.tumblr.com

Deadwood Tavern
6 S Dubuque St, Iowa City, IA 52240
319-351-9417 • No website

General Store Pub
12612 Stone City Rd

Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-4399 • GeneralStorePub.com

Frick's Tap
1402 W 3rd St, Davenport, IA 52802
563-594-8657 • FricksTapIA.com

The Twisted Tail Steakhouse & Saloon
2940 335th St, Logan, IA 51546
712-644-3942 • TwistedTailBBTown.com

Minnesota

Cowboys Saloon
3801 Restwood Rd, Lexington, MN 55014
763-784-6560 • CowboysSaloon.co

The Midway Saloon
1567 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55104
651-645-8472 • MidwaySaloon.com

Neumann's Bar & Grill
2531 E 7th Avenue, North St Paul, MN 55109
651-770-6020 • NeumannsBar.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1887.*

New Ulm Turner Hall
102 S State St, New Ulm, MN 56703
507-354-4916 • NewUlmTurnerHall.org

Red Wing Barrel House
223 Main St, Red Wing 55066
651-327-2300 • RedWingBarrelHouse.com

Spot Bar
859 Randolph St, St Paul, MN 55102
651-224-7433 • No website

North Dakota

Hanson's Bar
123 Main St, Robinson, ND 58478
701-390-9896 • Hansons-Bar.business.site

**Lonesome Dove Saloon &
Dance Hall**
3929 Memorial Hwy, Mandan, ND 58554
701-663-2793 • No website

Old 10 Saloon
407 Main St, Buffalo, ND 58011
701-633-5317 • No website

Peacock Alley
422 E Main Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501
701-221-2333 • Peacock-Alley.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1933.*

The Round Up Saloon
4501 Urban Plains Dr S, Fargo, ND 58104
701-499-1397
RoundUpSaloonFargo.com

South Dakota

Badlands Saloon & Grille
509 Main St, Wall, SD 57790
605-279-2210 • VisitBadlandsSaloon.com

Brass Rail Lounge
624 St Joseph St, Rapid City, SD 57701
605-341-1768 • BrassRailRapidCity.com

**Buffalo Bodega Restaurant
& Saloon**
658 Main St, Deadwood, SD 57732
605-578-9993 • BuffaloBodega.com
*The oldest saloon in the state was founded
in 1877.*

Bullwacker's Saloon
1010 Meade St, Whitewood, SD 57793
605-717-1888
Bullwackers1888Saloon.com

The Knuckle Saloon
931 1st St, Sturgis, SD 57885
605-347-0106 • TheKnuckle.com

R Bar
116 Main Ave, Lemmon, SD 57638
605-374-7227 • No website



Saloon No. 10, Deadwood, South Dakota
Chad Coppess, Courtesy South Dakota Tourism

The Mint Bar
151 N Main St, Sheridan, WY 82801
307-674-9696 • MintBarWyo.com

Outlaw Saloon
312 S Greeley Hwy, Cheyenne, WY 82007
307-635-7552
CheyenneOutlawSaloon.com

Rustic Pine Tavern
119 E Rams Horn, Dubois, WY 82513
307-455-2430 • RusticPineTavern.com

The Saloon at the Occidental Hotel
10 N. Main St, Buffalo, WY 62834
307-684-0451 • OccidentalWyoming.com

Senator's Steakhouse & Saloon
Terry Bison Ranch
51 I-25 Frontage Rd, Cheyenne, WY 82007
307-634-4171 • TerryBisonRanch.com

Shelly's Cowboy Bar
486 Washington St, Afton, WY 83110
307-885-9890 • No website



Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar
Courtesy Lobberich, Creative Commons 2.0

Red Garter Saloon

124 Winter St, Keystone, SD 57751
605-666-4274 • RedGarterSaloon.com

Saloon No. 10

637 Main St, Deadwood, SD 57732
800-952-9398 • Saloon10.com

Wagon Wheel Bar & Grill

115 Main St, Interior, SD 57750
605-433-5331 • No website

The Southern Plains

Arkansas

The Ohio Club

336 Central Ave, Hot Springs, AR 71901
501-627-0702 • TheOhioClub.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1905.

Kansas

Bourbon Cowboy

605 Commercial St, Emporia, KS 66801
620-481-9404
BourbonCowboyBar.com

Buffalo Bill's Bar and Grill

207 Center Ave, Oakley, KS 67748
785-671-1287 • No website

Central Station Bar & Grill

207 E Wyatt Earp Blvd
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-1176 • CentralStationDC.net

Cowboy Inn

642 N St Paul St, Wichita, KS 67203
316-201-6447 • No Website

Hays House Restaurant & Tavern

112 W Main St, Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5911 • HaysHouse.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1857.

Last Chance Bar & Grill

2 E 1st Ave, Caldwell, KS 67022
620-845-3434 • No website

Outlaws

1676 State St, Salina, KS 67401
785-827-3290 • No website

Western Kansas Saloon and Grill

121 N Main St, WaKeeney, KS 67672
785-743-2050 • No website

Louisiana

Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar

941 Bourbon St, New Orleans, LA 70116
504-593-9761
LafittesBlacksmithShop.com
Oldest bar west of the Mississippi, opened in 1772!

Missouri

Concert Hall and Barrel Tavern

206 E 1st St, Hermann, MO 65041
573-486-5065
ConcertHallAndBarrel.com

The Honky Tonk STL

756 S 4th St, St. Louis, MO 63102
314-925-8868 • TheHonkyTonkStL.com

J Huston Tavern

304 Main St, Arrow Rock, MO 65320
660-837-3200 • No website

Kelly's Westport Inn

500 Westport Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111
816-561-5800
KellysWestportInn.com

Lindberg's Tavern

318 W Commercial St
Springfield, MO 65083
417-868-8900 • LindbergsBar.com

O'Malley's Pub

540 Welt St, Weston, MO 64098
816-640-5235 • WestonIrish.com
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1842.

Paddy Malone's Pub

700 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-761-5900 • PaddyMalonesPub.com

Nebraska

Buck's Bar and Grill

27849 W Center Rd, Venice, NE 68069
402-515-6212 • BucksBarAndGrill.com

Bunkhouse Restaurant & Saloon

109 US-20, Valentine, NE 69201
402-376-1609 • No website

Dude's Steakhouse & Brandin' Iron Bar

2126 Illinois St, Sidney, NE 69162
308-254-9080 • No website

Glur's Tavern

2301 11th St, Columbus, NE 68601
402-564-8615 • No website
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1876.

Joe's Honky Tonk

2023 1st Ave, Kearney, NE 68847
308-455-1194 • No website

L Bow Room

102 Main St, Johnstown, NE 69214
402-722-4481 • No website

Murphy's Wagon Wheel

107 N Lincoln Ave, Hastings, NE 68901
402-463-3011 • MurphysWagonWheel.com

77 Longbranch Saloon

115 Main St, Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-3380 • No website

Alaska and Hawaii

Alaska

B&B Bar

326 Shelikof St, Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-3575 • No website
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1908.

The Red Onion

201 Broadway, Skagway, AK 99840
907-983-2222 • RedOnion1898.com

Salty Dawg Saloon

4380 Homer Spit Rd, Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6718 • SaltyDawgSaloon.com

Hawaii

Smith's Union Bar

19 N Hotel St, Honolulu, HI 96817
808-538-9145 • No website
The oldest saloon in the state was founded in 1935.

Wranglers Steakhouse & The Saddle Room

9852 Waimea, HI 96796
808-338-1218
WranglersSaddleRoom.com



BY JAN MACKELL COLLINS

Don't Bet Against a Sporting

HOW SOILED DOVES TRIED TO BEAT THE ODDS AGAINST HYPOCRISY AND POLITICIANS



For several decades, Hollywood has had a fine time portraying shady ladies of the past. From the illustrious Miss Kitty of CBS's *Gunsmoke*, to the disreputable wenches on HBO's *Deadwood*, viewers have been given a taste of how prostitutes lived and what they went through. Unfortunately, neither of these shows, nor others like them, portray the prostitution business as it really was: a vicious cycle wherein women with no other way to make money broke the law to sell their bodies for sex, paid off numerous government officials in order to remain in business and died unrecognized for their unseen, unappreciated good deeds. In reality, such women were

viewed as debaucherous troublemakers, home wreckers and fallen women who lured young men into their lairs and did unspeakable things with them for cash. Rarely did someone happen to point out that the law's habit of collecting money from business establishments that were illegal was in itself, a crime.

The politics of prostitution were very real during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Brothels were outlawed, and the women working in them paid for fines, fees, business and liquor licenses. Many also paid higher property taxes than other legitimate businesses. Talk was constant about closing down bawdy

In Cripple Creek, Colorado, prostitutes and dance hall girls were required to wear aprons over their short dresses, lest anyone be offended at seeing their ankles.

These gals and their cohorts are having a fine time at Crapper Jack's. The famed madam Laura Bell McDaniel of Colorado City is said to be among them.

Courtesy Jan MacKell Collins

houses, but most cities were hesitant to try surviving without the monthly income generated from the demimonde. The money was mighty handy for supporting schools, hospitals and churches—the latter which soiled doves

Girl



were sometimes forbidden from attending. Throw in a healthy dose of city governments who took the women's money, failed to assist them when they were in need, publicly insulted and laughed at them, and forgot them when they died, and here was hypocrisy at its finest. It was, after all, easier to reap profits from prostitutes than it was to actually treat them as equals and help them become first-class citizens.

Prostitution in America goes back a long way, even before city governments found a way to prey on fallen women and profit by it. Back in 1805, when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark came west, they found that Native women appeared more equal in status to their male counterparts. And although Native leaders sometimes offered their

wives or daughters as gifts or trade to Anglo men, doing so was considered an honor among the tribe. There was no disgrace, no backlash. Not until settlement of the West by White pioneers began was the buying and selling of sex considered naughty. In 1863, Montana's first newspaper editor, Thomas Dimsdale, was in Virginia City where he observed the numerous "women of easy virtue" who were "promenading through the camp." A captivated Dimsdale described them in great detail, as well as the dance halls where they worked, and their customers. From all appearances, the ladies received



A Jerome, Arizona, harlot shows off her finery in this photograph that was probably taken in the red-light district on Hull Avenue. Some have speculated she may have been intoxicated, given that she is leaning on a wall and appears to have been held steady by the woman behind her.

Courtesy Jan MacKell Collins

baby while the child's destitute mother contacted relatives for assistance. One newspaper also interviewed Mollie, who angrily reminded the general public of all the charities she donated to on a regular basis.

Some women donated property as well, or at least tried to. Beginning in 1891, longtime madam Anna Wilson of Omaha, Nebraska, tried to lease her posh, 37-bedroom parlor house to the city to use as a much-needed hospital. City officials mulled the offer for several weeks before ultimately declining the offer. Anna did not give up; over the next two decades she gave an elaborate fountain from her private home to a local park, donated \$300 to the "Child Saving Institute," and, in 1911, offered her

parlor house for lease once again—this time with the stipulation that the building would bequeath to the city after her death. Omaha officials finally accepted her offer, and the wealthy madam died soon afterwards.

Many ladies of the red-light occupation willingly shared their wealth, sometimes by law, sometimes by unwritten law, and sometimes on their own. In Tombstone, Arizona, funding for the Episcopal church was contributed by local gamblers, saloons keepers and the bawdy women of the town. That did not stop respectable women from soliciting for additional donations from prostitutes. One of them,

"fabulous sums for their purchased favors," according to Dimsdale. But what many women actually did with their money has often been buried under objections to their presence.

The Whore with a Heart of Gold

Hundreds of harlots deserve long past-due credit for their contributions to schools, churches, the poor, the homeless, needy children, injured and sick laborers, and countless others. Stories about such deeds are numerous. During the 1880s, for instance, when it was finally decided that a church should be erected in Kingston, New Mexico, Madam Sadie Orchard and her friends passed a hat among the saloons and brothels for its construction. The ladies received gold nuggets, jewelry and cash amounting to \$1,500. At Leadville, Colorado, in 1881, newspapers questioned Madam Mollie May's motives after she took in a



Soiled doves in Western camps and towns would double as hurdy-gurdy dancers when not turning tricks with their eager customers.

Courtesy True West Archives



Many of the high-class Western madams outfitted their brothels with musicians to entertain their working girls and the customers. These soiled doves are all attired in the popular "Mother Hubbard" dresses, which made it easier for the women to ply their trade.

Photos thought to be by Robert Morrison, Courtesy Chicago Review Press / "Wanton West"

an employee of the infamous Bird Cage Theater, exacted her own revenge. "Them women always looked down their noses at us—excepting when they needed some money for a charity," she recalled. "Then they'd come down and ask us girls. Well, I always donated, but I got my licks in doing it. I had found out from a [sic] old lady that if you used a certain size coin and placed it just right—then you wouldn't get pregnant. Well, when I used them coins, I laid them on the table in my room. Then, when the society ladies come down for a donation, I give them the coins on my table."

The Ladies Contributed More Than Money

As much as wanton women were a soft touch for the down-and-out, they did have a motive. Simply put, if their hometowns did not do well, the ladies themselves did not do well. Many madams simply took charitable matters into their own hands on behalf of their cities, but also their clients, friends and even local children. Colorado City, Colorado, madam Laura Bell McDaniel gave her blind friend, Dusty McCarty, a job bartending. During the early 1900s, Madam Lea Perry of Silver City, New Mexico, was remembered as a kindhearted woman who purchased coats for poor children and grubstaked local miners. In Jerome, Arizona, Madam Lil Douglas and her girls bought presents for the local children at Christmas. And let's not forget Silver Heels, the legendary dance hall

harlot of Colorado who risked her own life and became permanently pock-marked while helping during a small-pox epidemic.

Perhaps one of the best benefactors in the West was Laura Evens of Colorado, who was the reigning madam of Salida by the early 20th century. Because of her, during the Great Depression, food baskets were found on the doorsteps of families with children. Coal was mysteriously delivered to those in need, free of charge. A church in town received a new roof. Railroad men who were hurt on the job would receive less strenuous employment offers while they recuperated. One man recalled recovering from an injury, and being offered a job selling newspapers at unusually high pay. "I didn't learn until long after Laura died that she paid the storekeeper for my salary for more than a year while I got over my pain and learned to use what was left of my hand," the man later recalled. Others remembered how Laura paid young boys to run her errands, and instructed them to tell their mothers they "earned the money in honest work for a stranger." Abused housewives were sometimes sheltered by Laura, who refused to let them work for her. "I doubt if anybody

will ever know how many people Laura helped," said one Salida politician in later years. "She was an entire Department of Social Services, long before there was such a thing."

The Hypocrisies Against Harlots

Prostitutes and madams were only publicly recognized for their good deeds now and then. At Helena, Montana, in 1865, a local alderman, R.H. Howrey, blatantly lectured that "all sin and fault is laid at the doors of the women; no



Despite California's Red Light Abatement Act in 1913 and the Prohibition Act of 1920, illegal prostitution and alcohol consumption became a great source of income for the underworld of San Francisco's Barbary Coast.

Courtesy NPS.com



Alice Abbott (right) kept a photo album of her days as a madam in El Paso, Texas. The photo of Bessie Colvin on p. 40 appeared in it, as did the one of the girls (left) whom she labeled “Lovers All,” next to a heart with the letter “A.” That symbol, which appears on several pages in the album, possibly denoted customers and girls who were extra special to her.



Courtesy True West Archives

charity is expressed for them.” Howrey also recognized that the prostitution “is an evil arising from the vile passions of men that made [the women] what they are.” Yet his truth fell on deaf ears, no doubt because the city government was already scheming to make the demimonde their own cash cow in the way of exorbitant fines and property taxes.

By the 1890s, nearly all cities had instituted systems that allowed them to collect money from the red-light ladies. Policemen whose beats included the “restricted district” quickly figured out how to extract more cash by extorting “protection money” from the women. In some cases, the madams also supplied complimentary liquor and girls to law enforcement and city officials. Other times, police willingly aided the ladies in exchange for pay. Such was the case at Maggie and George Woods’s Red Light Saloon in Caldwell, Kansas. In 1880 the couple hired police officer George Reed to perform various odd jobs that likely included serving as a bouncer. Ten years later, the *McCook Tribune* revealed that certain “high license” brothels in far-off Lincoln, Nebraska, were allowed to sell liquor without being required to purchase a license or contribute to the local school fund.

It was no secret that women of the demimonde were fully expected to contribute money to the local nonprofits. In 1893, Sheriff Hi Wilson told the women working above the Bennett Avenue saloons in Cripple Creek, Colorado, that they must relocate one block south to Myers Avenue. There, he promised the ladies, they could run their businesses freely as long as they paid their fines and donated to the local charities. Although some cities did establish rescue missions for wayward girls, they relied solely on the women to volunteer to be reformed. When Florence Roberts approached a policeman in San Francisco about helping a teenager who was being forced by her own father to sell sexual favors, the officer responded, “I can’t interfere. The man has a license, his daughter isn’t of age, he’s her legal guardian.” The girl’s father was not the only one making money off women; in Arizona, California, Montana, Oregon and other states, prominent businessmen, including clergymen, were sometimes identified as the actual owners of brothel properties.

The best example of hypocrisy in government was the “Stockade” in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1907, city officials approached Ogden madam Dora Topham, aka Belle London. Dora had

long been known as a most charitable woman who frequently reached out to women and children in need. The city, under Mayor John Bransford, offered Dora an amazing business deal: the madam could pick out a sizeable piece of property in Salt Lake City on which to construct a large, legal red-light district with parlor houses, cribs and a saloon—enough to house several hundred prostitutes. Dora accepted.

Despite protests by newspapers and citizens, the Stockade was constructed within about a year, and a large wall was built around its perimeter. But the operation was immediately besieged with problems, including busting secret holes in the wall and the presence of an underage girl. Accusations were made, lawsuits were filed, and Dora was served to appear in court—by the very city who had hired her for the job. The genteel lady suffered myriad illnesses at the mere thought of being jailed as newspapers and the general public blamed and shamed her. Among those to defend Dora was Reverend Noble Strong Elderkin, who urged “the repeal of the laws against vice and lawbreaking to save citizens from hypocrisy,” and “denounced Salt Lake for its discourteous treatment of Belle London.”

Six months later, after having her say in an interview with the *Salt Lake Herald*, the charges against Dora were dropped. There was another attempt to reopen the Stockade as Dora tried to ingratiate herself to the good women of Salt Lake City and Ogden, but it was no good. The Stockade closed permanently in 1911 as *Goodwin’s Weekly* newspaper declared that Dora had obviously been railroaded. Even her

T H E F A C E S O F P R O S



Unknown Soiled Dove



Molly Welch, aka
Chicago Joe



Bessie Colvin



Big Minnie



Lover Boy
Mable Adams



Missouri Whacker aka
Missouri Griffin

hometown of Ogden turned on her, and in 1917 she moved to her daughter's home in California and changed her name. *The Ogden Standard Examiner* brought forth her shameful past by calling her Belle London when she died in 1924. Thankfully, Dora's friend, D.W. Brown, wrote a letter to the editor pointing out the woman's many kindnesses and how well her daughters turned out. "If you wish to ask any questions concerning this account, drop me a card and I will call at your office," Brown wrote.

The Red Light Abatement Act

Frontier prostitution, as it was known, was drawing to a close by 1913, when the state of California introduced the Red Light Abatement Act which, it was hoped, would put an end to the prostitution industry once and for all. Similar acts would be filed in other states over time, but the problem was that nobody had anything to offer in the way of rehabilitation or finding respectable jobs for prostitutes. While male brothel owners might certainly find other business endeavors and remain successful, prostitutes would be relegated to menial, low-paying jobs. Many of them would remain unemployed, or they were fired, if their prospective employers became aware of their shady pasts. Single and widowed women, and mothers especially, would suffer under impoverished conditions—which was the biggest reason most of them became prostitutes in the first place.

Most of the 138 women who were brought into court after San Diego's

bawdy Stingaree District was closed that November, did not believe the local Purity League's promise to help them. The ladies had heard it before, and many of them refused to even give their birth names. One 28-year-old prostitute told officials that she "would be glad to quit the sporting life if you could find a job which would enable me to earn enough to meet my expenses. I have a crippled mother and a young sister to support." The woman went on to explain that she had worked legitimate jobs, "but the wages were not enough to keep me alone." The officials had nothing to offer in response.

Death in the Demimonde

Today, only a handful of graves for wayward women can be found across the West. More often than not, their relatives, if they were found, were shocked to discover what the women had really done for a living. Many relatives refused to have anything to do with the disposal of the girls' bodies. This is what happened to Madam Pearl DeVere when she died in Cripple Creek in 1897. Pearl's sister duly came from Indiana to claim the body, found out that Pearl was not the hat or dressmaker she said she was, and immediately boarded the next train out of town.

Redemption for prostitutes and the lives they led was sometimes granted after they died. When Mollie May died in 1887, a respectable woman, Mindy Lamb, insisted on attending her funeral. Some years before, Mollie had stopped Mindy on the street and offered her condolences for the murder of Mindy's

husband, Lewis. The two formed a friendship which was apparently kept quiet until Mindy announced she was going to Mollie's services. Also, Mollie's obituary noted that "she was a woman who, with all her bad qualities, was much given to charity and was always willing to help the poor and unfortunate."

Even madam Anna Wilson was praised for her efforts to encourage prostitutes to "leave the life of the red light," as well as leaving many donations to Omaha's churches, child services and hospitals when she died. The madam's will also decreed that she be buried under nine feet of concrete, lest anyone change their mind about where her final resting place should be. In the case of Sammie Dean, a red-light lady from Jerome, Arizona, who was murdered in 1931, her family did claim her body, and took it back to Texas to be interred in the family plot.

Other women from the demimonde were not treated so kindly upon their deaths. When Tessie Wall, the scrappy Irish madam of San Francisco died in 1932, some of her money and property was willed to the ten relatives who survived her. Most of it, however, went to the executor of her estate: Police Capt. John J. O'Meara, whom Tessie had known for nearly forty years. There was little interest in the madam's furnishings, which were considered rather "bizarre" and garish. When her jewelry, fine art, bedroom sets, furnishings and a China set formerly owned by William Rockefeller were put up for auction, few appeared to bid. Most items sold at amazingly low prices. "Most interesting, I found," noted a reporter from

T I T U T I O N



Frankie Adams



Two Unknown Soiled Doves aka Bitches of the Road



Dutch Annie



Madam Rogan Wallace
Courtesy Idaho Library
Special Collections



Eleanor Dumont, aka
Madame Moustache



Mattie Silks



Madam Connie Foss
Courtesy Idaho Library
Special Collections



Nosey Kate



Irene Love

All Images Courtesy
True West Archives
Unless Otherwise Noted

the *Oakland Tribune*, “were the men present who watched the sale and said nothing.”

Likewise, Dell Burke of Lusk, Wyoming, was well known for her “Yellow House,” the brothel she ran for many years. Dell died in 1980, long after Lusk’s other shady ladies had moved on. But even at that late date, few wanted to have anything to do with Dell, including her family. A call to a relative for the writing of Dell’s obituary was not returned. When her descendants were finally located, they declined to come to Lusk and simply ordered Dell’s body to be cremated, even though her estate was worth over a million dollars. And in 2005, after a long search for the burial records of the generous madam Rachel Urban in Park City, Utah, historian Gary Kimball finally located what many historians had not: the records for Rachel were well hidden, and certain others had been “erased or half entered.” If not for Kimball’s research, Rachel, who died clear back in 1933, might have been forgotten. But she is certainly remembered now.



Jan MacKell Collins has been writing about the West for 30 years. Her most recent book is *Behind Brothel Doors: The Business of Prostitution in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma (1860-1940)*. To read a review, turn to page 50.

The Terrible Cost of Living for Prostitutes

25¢: Cost for the services of a Chinese, Black or American Indian girl in Tombstone, Arizona, circa 1880-1900

25¢ to 50¢: The price of a drink in Virginia, City, Montana, in 1860

50¢ to \$10: The average price for a “trick” during the 1880s

50¢: Cost for time with a Mexican prostitute in Tombstone between 1880 and 1900

75¢: Cost for time with a French girl in Tombstone in 1880-90

\$1: Amount soldiers at Arizona’s Fort Whipple paid for sex in 1880

\$1: The cost of a four-ounce glass of beer in Denver in 1891

\$5, plus half their earnings: The monthly rent paid by Mattie Silks’ girls in Denver during the 1880s

\$5: The fine prostitute Ranche Belle paid at Virginia City, Montana, in 1865 for using bad language

\$7: The monthly fine paid by Laramie, Wyoming, prostitutes between 1878 and 1880

\$15: The weekly rate of a two-room crib in Denver in 1882

\$18: The monthly fine for running a brothel in Wichita in 1873

\$10: Cost of a visit to a plush parlor house in Tombstone in 1880-92

\$20: The fine Frankie Bell paid at Dodge City in 1877 for cussing at Wyatt Earp (Earp paid a \$1 fine for slapping her)

\$25: The monthly fine paid by Phoenix, Arizona, prostitutes in 1940

\$30: Cost to spend the entire night in a Tombstone bordello during the 1880s-90s

\$50: The fee paid to city physicians who examined prostitutes in Columbus, New Mexico, in 1916

70: Number of customers some women saw in an average payday at the mines

\$150: Weekly salary a prostitute could make in Tombstone during the 19th century

\$175: The monthly rent for a parlor house at Salt Lake City’s “Stockade” in 1908

\$3,000: The cost to purchase a Chinese prostitute in San Francisco in 1898

\$100,000 to \$150,000: The value of the estate of Madam Cora Phillips of Los Angeles when she died in 1891

Cities Whose Business Owners Paid Little or No Business Taxes Due to Income from the Demimonde

Salt Lake City, Utah

Silverton, Colorado

Wichita, Kansas

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

The Bandit Bard

HOW THE ENGLISH-BORN, CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S CAREER AS AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC POET-STAGECOACH ROBBER BEGAN ON THE BACKROADS OF CALIFORNIA'S GOLD COUNTRY

In San Francisco, Charley Boles became a new man. No longer was he a farmer in hobnailed boots, a rifleman in a muddy uniform or a gold hunter in a shabby miner's frock. He suddenly began dressing in the height of fashion, sporting a salt-and-pepper wool suit with double-breasted coat, a silk tie with gold stickpin and a diamond ring on one finger, all topped off with a stylish bowler hat. He stepped briskly across the city's cobblestone streets with a gold-headed walking stick swinging jauntily from his right fist. Though he was a loner, his gentlemanly manners and quick sense of humor soon attracted a small circle of friends and acquaintances. They ranged from the owner of his favorite restaurant, Jacob M. Pike, to the colorful and hugely popular fire chief of San Francisco, David Scannell.

To San Franciscans he was Charles E. Bolton, but at various times he claimed to be C. E. Benton, Harry Barton and Charley Barlow. Boles told people that he was a prosperous stock speculator and mine owner with claims in the Sierra gold country and in Nevada's Comstock Lode. He spent much of his time in what was called Pauper Alley—a section of narrow Leidesdorff Street, between California and Pine. It was situated just off Montgomery Street, which later became known as "Wall Street of the West." Montgomery Street



was—and still is—the center of San Francisco's financial district. It featured the headquarters of major banks, mining companies, stock brokerages, real estate agencies and shipping corporations. Pauper Alley, so named after the silver market crash known as the Panic of 1873, connected San Francisco's two stock exchanges.

Charley found it an exciting place, rife with the wild hope of quick riches. As Henry Brooks wrote in *A Catastrophe in Bohemia* a few years later, "Pauper Alley used to be an exhilarating sight. It was literally thronged—densely packed with noisy, excited, but good-humored operators; messenger boys tearing through the crowd, breathless, as though on errands of life and death...half the windows of the alley open, lined with spectators to see the fun; the saloons all thronged; a dense stream of thirsty humanity endeavoring to enter, and an

The life of legendary Charles "Black Bart" Boles was one of wanderlust and heartache, banditry and solitude. His life before becoming a highwayman, including his service in the Civil War, is overshadowed by the mythology created around his eight-year run as America's greatest stage robber.

True West Archives



When Charles “Black Bart” Boles moved to San Francisco in 1874 he lived in a variety of boardinghouses and hotels. He posed as a well-heeled mining investor and hobnobbed in the neighborhood of “Pauper Alley” aka Leidesdorff Street and the financial district of Montgomery Street (left and below).

Montgomery Street Images
 Courtesy California Historical Society



equally dense stream seeking to make their exit; the bootblacks all scrubbing for their lives; their patrons enthroned, sleek, close-shaved, red-faced and jolly, for in Pauper Alley, prosperity patronizes the barber, bar, and bootblack... Groups of men studied [ore] specimens over their drinks, carried them in their pockets, and buttonholed their friends in order to exhibit them. There were samples of silver and gold bearing rock everywhere: in cabinets, in the exchanges and saloons, on the counters, in banks, and used as paperweights in the offices of mining secretaries.” He concluded by offering a description of its cash-hungry denizens, one that could have applied to Charley Boles: “If the truth must be told, they are a pretty hard lot in Pauper Alley.”

Several of Charley’s San Francisco comrades later told a newspaperman, “He was a man of prepossessing manners, fluent and extremely entertaining in conversation. He claimed to have been a captain in the late civil war, and loved to recount to listeners, some of whom were old soldiers, the events of his

Gentleman military career.” Given that Charley was a brevet first lieutenant and a combat veteran, there was no need for him to exaggerate. Yet his apparent need to achieve success at any cost seems to have taken over all aspects of his life, including the retelling of his Civil War service.

Charley roomed at various city hotels and boardinghouses and frequently took trips out of town. He would leave his belongings behind in a trunk and tell his comrades that he had to make a visit to one of his mines. He would be gone for a week or a month, then return to his haunts in the financial district. Boles did not drink, frequent saloons and gambling houses, or patronize bordellos, of which San Francisco had scores. To all outward appearances, he was simply one of thousands of respectable businessmen in the bustling young city by the bay.

Charley Boles looked every inch the man he pretended to be—a prosperous mining investor in San Francisco.



The reason for Charley’s sudden financial success would not become evident for years. But it began in the spring of 1875. In that era, San Francisco’s newspapers, ever engaged in bitter circulation wars, gave extensive coverage to crime reports. Sensational stories of murders, shootings, brawls and robberies filled their columns. Charley was a voracious reader of the San Francisco and Sacramento papers, and he followed the many accounts of stagecoach holdups. In November 1874 the dailies reported a double robbery on the stage road from Sonora to Milton. A gang of

Black Bart would boldly arm himself with a hidden shotgun and take a ferry and train from San Francisco to Sacramento (right) or other railheads like Oroville and Redding.

He would then make a 50-mile hike into the gold country, where he robbed stages laden with Wells Fargo express boxes and U.S. mail pouches.

True West Archives

six masked highwaymen stopped the coach of John Shine, but he was not carrying an express box. They let him drive on, and when the next stage came along, they stopped it and looted the Wells Fargo shipment. It later developed that the gang was led by Ramon Ruiz, a notorious bandito. Several months later, in March 1875, Ruiz and two of his gang stopped a coach on Funk Hill, not far from Reynolds Ferry in Calaveras County. This time they escaped with more than \$6,000 from Wells Fargo. That was a small fortune, worth more than \$150,000 today.

Boles must have studied the news reports of the Funk Hill robbery. He knew the area well, because more than 20 years earlier, he had prospected for gold in Calaveras County. Charley then planned his first holdup carefully. He likely took a steamer across San Francisco Bay and up the San Joaquin River to Stockton, then walked 50 miles to Funk Hill. Mimicking the Quaker guns he had seen in the Civil War, he whittled tree branches into mock rifle barrels and cleverly placed them amid the roadside rocks and brush.

On July 26, 1875, he stopped John Shine's coach and stole Wells Fargo's treasure, then hiked out of the mountains and back to San Francisco. Years later, Boles recalled that he first headed south, forded the San Joaquin River near Grayson, then crossed the Coast Range through Pacheco Pass. With his Henry rifle slung over his



back, he looked like a common traveler or hunter. In rural California in that era, sheriffs and constables were few and far between, and many men carried firearms for self-protection. On the way, he stopped at a house to eat and rest. There, as he later told a newspaperman, "a woman wanted to buy his gun." Charley responded that he "would not sell it, but would give it to her."

She replied, "No, I will buy it." The woman offered \$10 and handed him a \$20 gold piece. Charley gave her in change a \$10 bill he had stolen from the express box. Then he continued on foot to San Jose and up the San Francisco Peninsula to his boardinghouse in the city. His 250-mile walk, while impressive, was nothing compared to the marches he had made in the Civil War. Boles had wisely chosen to avoid riding horseback. In that era, everyone knew horseflesh, and witnesses often paid more attention to a saddle animal than to the man riding it. Therefore, a mounted fugitive was easier to identify. And Charley's

ability to walk great distances made it possible for him to avoid well-traveled roads and trails and helped him evade capture for years to come.

Boles started out slowly as a road agent. During the next two years, he held up only three more stagecoaches: Mike Hogan's stage from North San Juan in December 1875; A. C. Adams's coach on the Oregon-California line in June 1876; and Ash Wilkinson's rig on the Sonoma Coast in August 1877. By that time, he had found a clever moniker for his newfound identity as a lone highwayman. One of his favorite short stories was "The Case of Summerfield," written by a San Francisco lawyer named William H. Rhodes, who used the pseudonym "Caxton." "The Case of Summerfield" was an early work of science fiction, about a man who discovered a way to set water on fire, and anyone obtaining his secret could destroy the world. It was first serialized in the *Sacramento Union* in 1871 and then widely reprinted by newspapers throughout the U.S. and even in Australia.



49. Healdsburg. "All aboard for the Geysers."

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1864 by LAWRENCE & ... District Court of the United

In 1876, "The Case of Summerfield" was released by a San Francisco publisher as part of an anthology of Rhodes's works. One of several villains in the story was a stage robber named Bartholomew Graham, alias Black Bart.

In Charley's first four robberies, he took only about \$600 from Wells Fargo. That was hardly enough money to support his gentleman's lifestyle over a period of two years. However, in all of the holdups, he also stole the U.S. mail. As Wells Fargo detective Jim Hume later said, "Black Bart told me that in his first 27 robberies he realized more from the mails than from the express." Given Boles's comfortable situation in San Francisco, he must have taken a few thousand dollars from the mailbags. With this money, he lived in quiet prosperity in the city. Charley also made numerous visits by train to Sacramento, which he apparently used as a base for some of his stage-robbing expeditions. As a Sacramento journalist later reported, "His face is well known at the depot dining rooms, for he traveled back and forth from San Francisco frequently."

In July 1878, Boles made one of his customary trips out of San Francisco. He

crossed the bay by ferry and then boarded an eastbound railroad train in Oakland. In his bedroll, he concealed a double-barreled sawed-off shotgun, which he broke down into two pieces, barrel and stock, for ease of carrying. At the depot in Sacramento, he changed trains and headed to Oroville, 70 miles north. Oroville, the seat of Butte County, was a bustling Sierra foothills town of 1,500 people that served as a major shipping point for gold from the Northern Mines. Charley remembered Butte County well, for it was there that he had first dug for gold after arriving in California in 1850. From the train depot in Oroville, he walked northeast 20 miles into the mountains and made camp in the brush a mile east of Berry Creek. He knew that rich shipments of gold were regularly sent to Oroville by stage from the mining town of Quincy, high in the Sierra Nevada.

Early in the morning of July 25, 1878, the Oroville-bound coach rolled out of Quincy with Charles Seavy at the reins. His three passengers settled in for a long ride. The remote, winding wagon road from Quincy to Oroville, now Highway 162, was a one-day, 65-mile trip. At three o'clock that afternoon, as Seavy carefully descended a hill a mile outside of Berry

Creek, Boles suddenly jumped in front of his team.

Courtesy California Historical Society

Creek, Boles suddenly jumped in front of his team.

"Throw out the box!" Charley demanded as he covered the jehu with his shotgun.

Seavy was so startled, and so busy reaching for the Wells Fargo box, that he did not get a clear view of the highwayman. Later, when his fright wore off, he amusingly recalled that the gun barrels looked three inches wide and that he had "a vivid remembrance of the appearance of the 19 buckshot at the bottom of the shotgun." The passengers, however, got a good look at the road agent. They later said that he was "a tall, slim man, with iron gray hair and whiskers, probably full beard, vest and shirt, Kentucky jean pants and long-legged boots. He was armed with a shotgun and had a revolver in his belt. His face was concealed with a white cloth." Although in prior holdups Boles had worn a flour sack over his head, this time he only covered his face.

The highwayman who stopped the C. & O. stage and Alturas stage, a couple of weeks ago, is believed to be the well known scoundrel, who signs his name "Black Bart, the Po8," and is given to the habit of writing doggerel, or burlesque rhyme. He is a shrewd and desperate customer to deal with, and so completely covered his trail from the places of robbery that no trace on the Sacramento river or Alturas roads, or the country in the vicinity. He has evidently escaped through the stunted oak forests at the head of the Sacramento, north of Shasta, towards Marysville, to hunt for him, and to get a description, so that he captured, a standing reward of being offered for his arrest and n.—[Yreka Journal.

STAGE ROBBERIES.

Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Company has prepared a statement of the stage robberies perpetrated during the year of 1875, in which their express was robbed. The stages on different routes were stopped thirty-four times—and \$37,000 appropriated by the robbers from express packages. Only nine arrests and convictions were had. The Company offered during the same period cash rewards aggregating \$75,000. The above showing, it should be borne in mind, does not include the large sum stolen from passengers on these stage lines, nor the sums robbed from travelers by private conveyances by highwaymen. These facts constitute a strong and we think an unanswerable argument in support of the measure recently introduced into the Senate by Senator Beazle, creating a State Detective Force, which was reported adversely on by the Judiciary Committee on the score of economy. It seems probable that the Committee did not thoroughly study the situation and the necessity, in the fact that the originator of the bill—notoriously one of the best and most experienced officers in the State—happened, unfortunately, to be a prominent Republican. Perhaps that fact would be enough to condemn any bill in the eyes of such a Legislature as the present—especially, if it seemed probable that its passage might give office to a Republican. The bill limited the proposed force to a chief and ten detectives. The expense of running it to its full capacity would not exceed \$30,000 a year to the State; and doubtless could have been run with five detectives at an expense of only \$15,000 or \$20,000, including office rent and traveling expenses. The absurdity of rejecting the bill on the score of economy is apparent on considering the above statement of a single express company—nearly \$90,000 loss per year. The Legislature ought to reconsider its action on this matter, before the close of its session.

Robbery of Stages.

The stage of Charley Sherman, running between here and Quincy was robbed, on Thursday of last week, near Berry Creek, while on the way to Oroville, by a highwayman. The robber, a tall man, with his face in disguise, stepped out in the center of the road, in front of the horses, and demanded the express box. He held a shot gun leveled and cocked in his hands, so as to be in readiness to fire in case of refusal to obey his requests, and the driver Charley Seavy, seeing there was no possibility of getting around it, handed the robber the express box of Wells, Fargo & Co. The box contained some five or six hundred dollars in checks, which, we apprehend, would be of much use to the highwayman, for he would undertake to have them cashed and would lay himself liable to arrest. The driver, however, several passages on board the stage, and after the stage reached Berry Creek, a gun was procured, and the men were sent back to look for the thief, but they could find no traces of him. On Wednesday last the stage between Marysville and Quincy, was stopped between the Diamond Spring House and the American House, about five miles this side of LaPorte, and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s box taken. The man who robbed this stage bears the description of the one who stopped the stage between here and Quincy, and it is believed that he is the same individual. Mrs. Sam Wheeler, the wife of the agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., at LaPorte, was sitting on the seat beside the driver, and when the robber asked for the treasure box, she picked it up and, throwing it at him said, "take it, you scoundrel, if it will do you any good." It is said that there was but little money in this box. More work for Hume, the sagacious (?) detective of Wells, Fargo & Co.

Black Bart—Shasta County's Clever and Successful Road Agent.

[Chico Record.]

Black Bart, Shasta county's notorious highwayman, asks all the people he stops to contribute to an orphan asylum, and there is something so forbidding in his appearance that all the travelers shell out without asking where the asylum is, or how much it needs. The rascal is described as being very "gentlemanly," never forgetting to raise his hat to ladies, and seldom asking them for donations. But he is unmerciful on men, and they are never out of range of his deadly gun. Some of these days, though, Black Bart, "the P O 8 of the Sierras," as he styles himself, will be shot all full of holes, just like a pepper-box lid, and he won't have any daisies planted over his little mound, either. J. B. Hume, the express company's detective, has gone to Redding to give chase to the highwayman. Black Bart despises Hume, but never fails to send that gentleman his regards after committing a robbery. The up-country papers are of the opinion that Black Bart is some man living in the neighborhood of Bas Hill, where nearly all his robberies are committed, and they think that if he is ever captured, he will turn out to be some well-known man. He is a smart fellow and has written some clever verses, forwarding them through the mails to different papers up north. After committing a highwayman's act, he never leaves any traces whereby he can be identified. He very politely asks that the treasure-box be thrown from the stage, and then urges the necessity, at the muzzle of his gun, of the stage-driver's moving on, "very quietly, sir, if you please." A few weeks ago a ranch-hand became hard-up and undertook to personate the notorious Bart. He stopped a stage, had the box tossed out and then went through it. He went into Redding, got drunk, and while talking gave himself completely away. A constable overheard his remarks, followed him to his hiding-place, and found his mask and other traps, and arrested him. He is now serving his State at San Quentin. Black Bart is still at large, with little possibility of ever being brought to justice.

Black Bart's exploits and robberies of stages carrying Wells Fargo's express boxes were headlines that built up the legend of Charles Boles over his career of banditry from 1875 to 1883.

Newsclippings clockwise from far left: "Oakland Tribune" (Oakland, California), March 4, 1876; "Daily People's Cause" (Red Bluff, California), November 15, 1879; "The Sacramento Bee" (Sacramento, California) September 22, 1882; "The Weekly Mercury" (Oroville, California), August 2, 1878, Courtesy Newspapers.com



Seavy quickly tossed down the Wells Fargo strongbox, which held \$400 and a \$200 diamond ring. Then Charley called to the jehu, "Drive on."

As the coach rattled off, Boles broke open the box, removed its contents, and left inside a scrap of brown paper with a bit of doggerel, each line written in a disguised hand. He had apparently composed it in his camp the night before.

At the bottom he signed it,
"Black Bart, the Po8."



Excerpted from *Gentleman Bandit: The True Story of Black Bart, the Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber* by **John Boessenecker** © 2023 by John Boessenecker, used with permission from Hanover Square Press.

*Here I lay me down to sleep
To wait the coming morrow.
Perhaps success, perhaps defeat,
And everlasting sorrow.
Let come what will, I'll try it on,
My condition can't be worse.
And if there's money in that box,
Tis munny in my purse.*

Charles "Black Bart" Boles was a nemesis of the Northern California stage lines and the Wells Fargo Express Company from his first robbery in 1875 to his last in 1883.

Courtesy The Huntington Library, San Marino, California

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE TUNNEL SALOON FIGHT

PETE GABRIEL
VS
FORMER DEPUTY
JOE PHY

A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY



Pete Gabriel loses a lung and takes a shot in the gut, but he doesn't go down.

All Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of John Boessenecker and Stuart Rosebrook

MAY 31, 1888



SHOOTING AT GHOSTS IN THE TUNNEL SALOON

When Pete Gabriel and Joe Phy face off in the Tunnel Saloon, the first exchange of gunfire snuffs out the lights (some reports state a lone light). As Pete moves down the bar to confront his adversary, he keeps firing through the smoke and darkness.

Pete Gabriel, accompanied by his friend Mike Rice, leaves in a buggy from his Riverside gold mines, headed for Florence, Arizona Territory.

"As was usual with Gabriel on such trips he had a quart of devil water along and imbibed freely of its contents. When we arrived in Florence, Gabriel was practically all in," Rice comments.

After arriving in town, Pete is warned that Joe Phy, his former deputy, is looking to pick a fight.

Pete pays no heed to the threat. The former Pinal County sheriff retires to the Tunnel Saloon for drinks with owner John Keating.

When Sidney Bartleston sees Pete enter the saloon, he rushes to tell his friend Phy that the ex-sheriff is in town. Phy buckles on his gun rig, grabs a bowie knife and heads for the Tunnel Saloon.

Pete spots Phy peering in the window. He reaches for his gun, but Phy disappears. As patrons enter the saloon, Pete drops his hand to his six-shooter, which is tucked into his waistband.

At 8 p.m., Phy returns, coming through the doors with his pistol drawn

(one witness claims Phy didn't have his gun out).

Pete yells out "Joe!"—perhaps both as a taunt and a greeting—and both men open fire.

One shot snuffs a lamp. The former lawman partners exchange 11 shots as Pete works his way down the bar to the door.

Phy lunges forward, a six-shooter in his right hand and bowie knife in his left, and fires point-blank into Pete's chest. The bullet tears into Pete's right lung.

Another slug from Phy's gun pierces Pete's intestines. Incredibly, Pete stays on his feet as he backs out the door, returning fire. One of Pete's bullets hits Phy in the left thigh, shattering the bone; another slams into his belly. As Phy buckles over in pain on the sidewalk, Pete fires point blank, hitting Phy in the right shoulder and piercing through both lungs.

"Oh, my God, I'm down!" comes Phy's gasping response.

When a local gambler named Gibson tries to help Phy—who is now lying in his death throes in a ditch north of the saloon—the dying man swings his Bowie knife, slashing at the gambler's leg and gasping out, "You murdering son of a bitch!"



Prelude to the Tunnel Fight

John Peter Gabriel is born on November 17, 1838, in Kruft, Germany, the fourth of six children. When Pete is nine, his parents emigrate to the United States. After Pete's 62-year-old father dies, Anna can not support her family, so the 12-year-old boy is taken in by a prominent lawyer who soon joins the California Gold Rush.

There, 16 miles north of Marysville in the Yuba River region, Pete grows up among the rough gold miners and gamblers. In his early 20s, he becomes, by turns, a gold miner, a muleskinner and a guide.

The only knock against Pete is that he suffers from severe mood swings, which are exacerbated by his drinking, which he tends to do a lot (his two ex-wives confirm).

Pete soon gravitates to being a lawman in Arizona Territory. Several times he will be elected sheriff. (During one election, the vote ties, and the two candidates roll dice to determine who will serve; Pete loses, taking it all with grace and humor.)

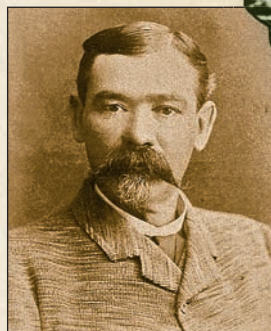
In November 1884, Pete is elected by a 130-vote majority to his third and last two-year term as Pinal County sheriff. He appoints 39-year-old Josephus Phy as his deputy.

A miner and freighter, Phy is born in Platte County, Missouri, on May 22, 1844. At age 15, he runs away from home, eventually landing in Arizona Territory, where he is taken in by attorney Granville Oury and his wife.

Phy unsuccessfully runs for Phoenix sheriff, in 1872. He later serves as a

Pete Gabriel (below) and his former deputy Joe Phy (right).

All photos Courtesy Pinal County Historical Museum



Owner John Keating stands in the doorway of the Tunnel Saloon, site of the gunfight. The name of the saloon came from the tunnel-like cellar where patrons could escape the extreme summer heat.

Maricopa County deputy sheriff. In 1878, he is appointed a deputy U.S. marshal.

Phy neither drinks or smokes, but he has one trait he shares with Pete: he too has a bad temper.

In 1886, Pete plans to retire from lawing, so he throws his support behind his deputy. But then, in Casa Grande, Phy pistol-whips a teamster who claimed Pete had disparaged his opponent in the sheriff race; Phy also swings at a woman who tries to intercede. Pete is forced to arrest his deputy and then fire him. That starts the bad blood between the two former friends.

By the spring of 1888, Pete is working his Monitor Mine at the head of Mineral Creek in the Dripping Springs Mountains, northeast of Florence.

When Pete arrives in Florence on May 31, he hears that Phy is gunning for him. Against all odds, Pete survives his serious wounds from the gunfight against Phy. Within a month, he is up and running. But the fight haunts him.

"...the killing of Phy preyed on [Pete] as long as he lived," Mike Rice recalls. "He expressed his regrets to me on many occasions. It worried him in his waking and sleeping hours to the extent that he was often irrational on the subject. Once on the desert, while we were occupying the same blankets, he dreamt of his encounter with Phy and in a somnambulistic condition fired off every shot in his gun, at the same time exclaiming, 'Joe, Joe, Joe!'"

Pete is still shooting at ghosts in the Tunnel Saloon.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After the shoot-out, bystanders carried Joe Phy to the stage company corral. A doctor removed one of the bullets, but couldn't do much more. Phy died from internal bleeding at 12:30 a.m.

Friends carried Pete Gabriel to an adobe house next to the Pinal County sheriff's office. Hearing the news that the doctor would first treat Phy, Pete allegedly screamed, "What! My family physician treating my enemy before coming here? Tell him I won't have his services. I don't want him here."

Another doctor, Thomas Sabin, was summoned from his residence 18 miles away. After traveling four-and-a-half hours, the doctor reached Pete's bedside and told the ex-sheriff the bad news: "You are shot through the intestines and right lung, and your condition is hopeless."

Pete supposedly replied, "Well, I had one lung shot away in Los Angeles years ago, but, by God, I will beat you to it and be without lungs, and still be a better man than any of my enemies."

A tough old bird and true to his word, Pete was back on his feet within a month. Six months later, he was in the saddle as a deputy sheriff, hunting Southwestern stage robber Ham White.

A year later, Pete took part in the manhunt for the Apache Kid, who, with three companions, had killed a sheriff and a guard on the way to being locked up at the prison in Yuma.

Pete retired from the law, once again, to pursue mining.

On July 30, 1898, the former lawman died after drinking poisonous water, probably cyanide, at his mine in the Dripping Springs Mountains.

Recommended: "Pete Gabriel: Gun-fighting Lawman of the Southwestern Frontier" by John Boessenecker, *The Journal of Arizona History*, Spring 2012. Look for his book, *Shotguns and Stage-coaches: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West*.



CLASSIC TRUE WEST FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: Emmy award-winning historian, Arizona Women's Hall of Fame inductee and *True West*'s "Old West Savors" columnist Jana Bommersbach is well-known for her writing and research on Western women, including her profile of Vera McGinnis in the March 2004 issue and her recent book written with Bob Boze Bell, *Hellraisers and Trailblazers*. To read more of her columns and articles, go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to 70 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH



VERA'S LIFE IN THE CIRCUS WAS A ZOO

HER \$10 GREENHORN MISTAKE DIDN'T HELP.

The first time Vera McGinnis entered the Big Top at Madison Square Garden in New York City, she looked like a giant Dresden doll.

She was atop a black horse, wearing a gigantic hoopskirt that hung from her waist, its flounces reaching the ground. Her head held a giant picture hat with ostrich plumes.

"The huge backstage seemed a fairyland to me," she'd later write. "The costumes were all crisp, new and beautiful. Everyone went in 'Speck'—the spectacular parade that opened the show—dressed in fancy costumes. The six of us from the wild-west division had the most beautiful costumes a designer ever dreamed up—also the most uncomfortable."

This was "The Greatest Show on Earth" and the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus paid a lot of attention to the flash and dash of showmanship.

The 1923 run at the Garden was easy and fun. There was enough space for everyone to be camped right by the big tent, and it was a cinch to do several costume changes in one day, either to show off or to perform. So Vera wasn't prepared for how different things would be on the road.



Vera looked like a Dresden doll when she was all dolled up in this outrageous getup for the "Speck"—the spectacular parade that opened the circus.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF VERA'S GRANDNIECE PHYLIS GENDREAU

She soon found that her Wild West dressing room, known as the "Hooligan," was at the bottom of the pecking order. The big dressing rooms of the circus stars were, naturally, adjacent to the back door of the Big Top. Then came the "band top" for musicians and their instruments, the circus doctor's office, the wardrobe tents and the pad room

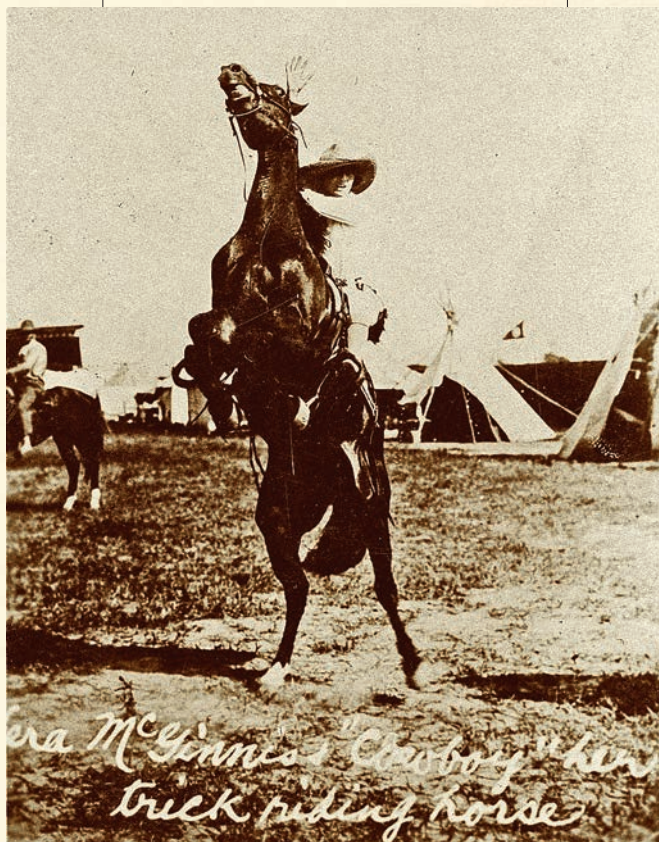
for the performing horses. After all that came space for the Hooligan, and finally, the cages for the performing animals.

Vera found all this worked fine "as long as we were pitched on a lot big enough to carry out the pattern, but when there wasn't room for all the tents, the first to be ousted was the Hooligan. Sometimes it was blocks away."

So Vera did a lot of walking. "We walked back and forth for horses, for wardrobe, for food, for everything—no matter how hot or miserable the weather," she wrote in her autobiography, *Rodeo Road: My Life as a Pioneer Cowgirl*.

"Had I not been a 'first of May' (as the old circus hands called the brand-new ones), I'd never have let myself in for a lot of the work I had to do that summer," she wrote. "My official job was to trick-ride in the concert. That meant that first I'd have to ride 'Speck' as everyone did, then go back into the big top for the wild-west lineup about halfway through the regular show. Then I'd be through until concert time. That is, I would have been, had I not of my own free will made different arrangements. I signed up to work with the background group for Mrs. Bradna's 'Act Beautiful'.

Vera was a consummate performer. Compared to the hazards of rodeo life, trick riding for the circus was a snap.



She did a bareback routine and we stood on the ring curb with baskets of pigeons we released at the end which settled on Mrs. Bradna and her pure white horse. Though it added ten dollars per week to my check, I realized it was just another greenhorn mistake.”

After displaying her Dresden doll costume, Vera had to run back and change into her Western duds, then run back again to change into the Act Beautiful costume, then dash one more time to get back into her Western outfit to perform.

“I really earned that extra ten bucks, especially through the Midwest in hot weather,” she wrote.

Vera settled into the hectic routine, but saw it as just that—a routine “without the challenge and hazards of rodeo life.” That is, until Friday the 13th of June, in South Bend, Indiana, when her friend Gordon Jones teased her into agreeing to do his Pony Express act.

“I vaulted to Gordon’s saddle and left in high, made a flying change onto the second horse and raced down the back side of the track,” she wrote. As she tried to dismount for yet a third horse, her mount shied, his head hitting her in the mouth. “I literally saw stars and hung onto the saddle horn to keep from falling, one hand cupped over my mouth.” Another rider took over



The circus helped Vera buy some of the finer things in life.

the scene, while Vera went looking for the circus doctor. He was startled as she took her hand away from her mouth. “Blood, a couple of teeth and a little horsehair were mixed up inside. He cleansed the wound and gave me a hasty examination.” Her upper jawbone was crushed, and

the doctor was relieved that the next stop was Chicago, where the specialists Vera needed would help put her back together.

After months in remote parts of the country, living in a tent and bathing in a bucket, Vera had been looking forward to the excitement of Chicago, with a clean hotel room and the promise of a real hot bath.

“The ‘fun’ I had in Chicago was in a dentist’s chair getting bone

splinters removed and submitting to all sorts of treatment.” She got a temporary plate with three teeth and kept performing, keeping her mouth shut unless one of the girls prodded her into a toothless grin. She later got a permanent bridge.

“I simply pushed the episode behind me to drag along with the inevitable physical burdens all rodeo performers have,” she wrote, nonchalantly.

When the circus closed, Vera went “straight back to Madison Square Garden—for a rodeo. It seemed nothing could cure me.”



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

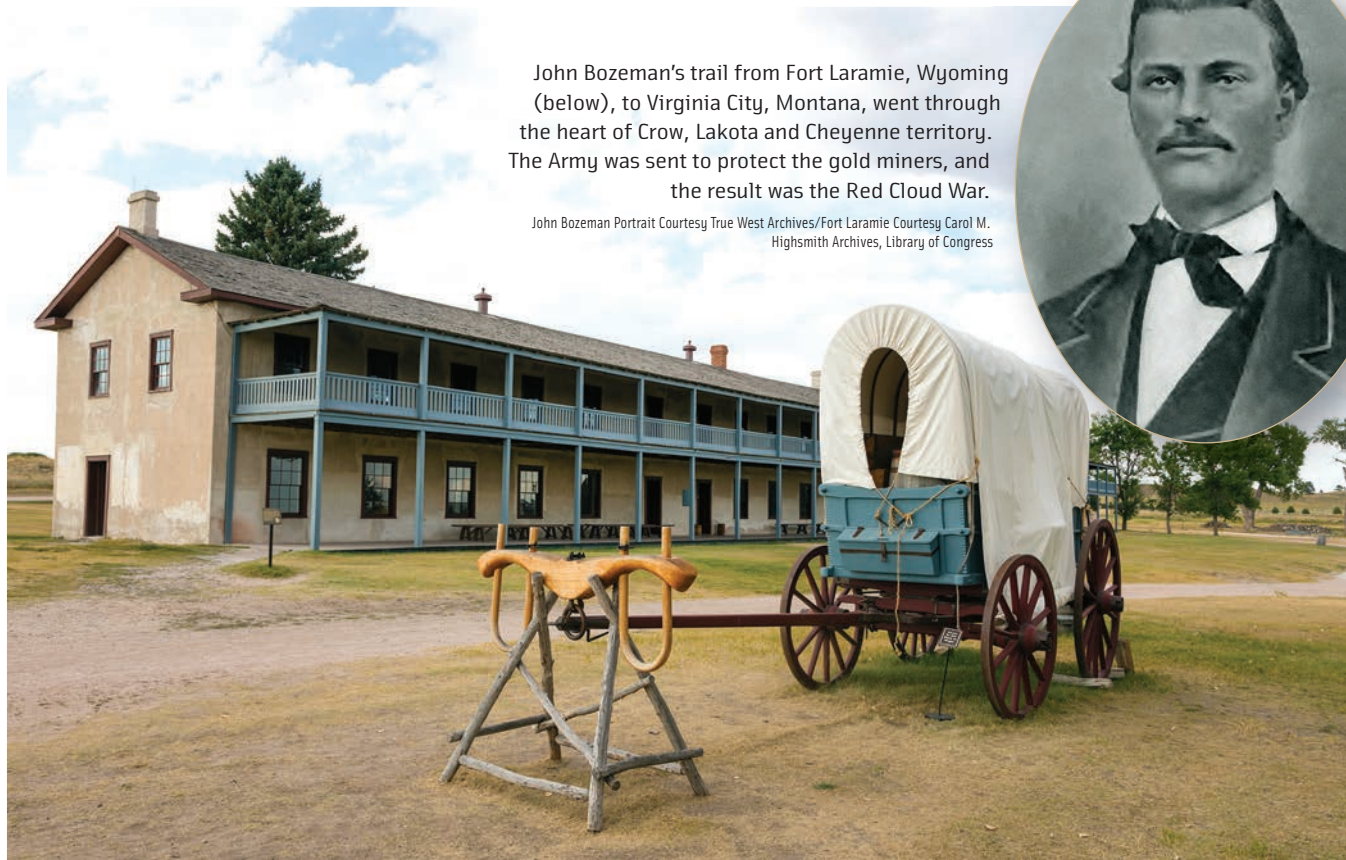
TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Jana Bommersbach’s original, unabridged article as it appeared in the March 2004 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Bommersbach’s articles and subscribe to *True West Archives*, go to TrueWestMagazine.com.
Our past awaits you!

BY CANDY MOULTON

The Bozeman Trail

A journey on the historic route goes through the heart of traditional Lakota and Cheyenne hunting areas.



John Bozeman's trail from Fort Laramie, Wyoming (below), to Virginia City, Montana, went through the heart of Crow, Lakota and Cheyenne territory. The Army was sent to protect the gold miners, and the result was the Red Cloud War.

John Bozeman Portrait Courtesy True West Archives/Fort Laramie Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archives, Library of Congress

Long before John Jacobs and John Bozeman rode across what is now Wyoming's Powder River Basin toward Fort Laramie in 1863—finding a route that brought gold seekers to western Montana—native people lived in the area.

Bozeman and Jacobs traveled from western Montana, where gold had been discovered in Alder Gulch giving rise to Virginia City. After crossing the pass later named for him, Bozeman followed the Yellowstone River through Crow lands, and then turned to the southeast, skirting the flank of the Bighorn Mountains and across the Powder River

Basin. Familiar with Fort Laramie, the major military post in the area, he knew people would want to get to the new gold strike in Virginia City as quickly as they could. By leading those seekers over his route, he could gain wealth for himself and give the new miners a better shot at riches for themselves.

Hunting Grounds

The challenge of the new route lay not with the terrain, but rather with those people who already lived there, especially in the first couple of hundred miles from Fort Laramie to the north end of the Bighorn Mountains. Among

the residents of the region were northern groups of the Lakota tribes, including Miniconjou, Oglala and Hunkpapa Lakota, as well as many Cheyennes.

Jacobs and Bozeman went right across the heart of the prime hunting lands for these tribes. The route the gold hunters would follow along the eastern Bighorn Mountains was a well-known Indian trail known as the Trail Going South.

In addition to their longtime use of the area, the Lakota and Cheyenne people understood they had a right to live and hunt in the region, codified by the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty that was signed by some tribal headmen. Lakota



The latest exhibit at the National Historical Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, details the history of warfare along the Bozeman Trail, including the Battle of Red Buttes.

Courtesy Candy Moulton

and Cheyenne tribe winter counts, according to the tribal historic record and the oral storytelling tradition, show that the people camped and lived in the area from the Black Hills to the Bighorns. They often spent summers closer to the Bighorn Mountains and were routinely engaged in raids and warfare involving the Crow or Apsaalooke.

Donovin Sprague is a Lakota historian whose family was one of those significantly involved with events in the region during the 1860s. His great-great grandfather was the Lakota headman Hump, and he was related to Crazy Horse and to the Cheyenne leader Morning Star, also known as Dull Knife.

Before Bozeman and Jacobs attempted leading their first wagon train along what became the Bozeman Trail, the families of Hump, Crazy Horse and Morning Star had moved to camps along the Tongue and Powder rivers. Their initial purpose was to keep the Crows farther north. But with the influx of gold seekers, the focus turned to the Bozeman Trail. Sprague says from their camps at Devil's Tower and along the Powder and Tongue rivers, everything converged on the trail. The Lakotas and Cheyennes moved south along the trail, establishing camps in areas west of Kaycee and in the Crazy Woman Creek area. The intent of the tribes was to target travelers on the Bozeman Trail and "wreak havoc any way [they] could," Sprague says.

Danger on the Trail

Other outside influences on the northern tribes also affected Bozeman Trail travel. In November 1864, Col. John Chivington and Colorado Volunteer troops attacked Black Kettle's camp at Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado.

In the massacre, Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed, many of them elderly, women and children.

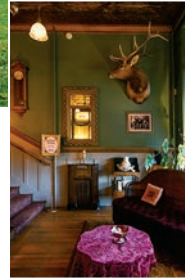
Retaliation attacks began almost immediately. In January 1865, tribal fighters attacked Julesburg, Colorado, and began raids along the South Platte River. As spring and summer advanced, gold seekers set out again on Bozeman's Road to Virginia City. Simultaneously, the tribes in the area began planning a major revenge raid, which they carried out in two separate events, both on July 25, 1865. Early that morning they lured soldiers from the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry and Lt. Caspar Collins of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry from the post at Platte Bridge, ambushing the soldiers, killing some, including Collins, and forcing the others to retreat to the post.

Later in the morning a supply wagon train led by Sgt. Amos Custard, traveling east from the Sweetwater Station, topped a hill just west of the Platte Bridge post, and the soldiers were immediately overrun by tribal fighters. Within a couple of hours, Custard and 20 men with him were dead.

Hump and the Cheyenne war leader Little Wolf planned and executed the attack with Crazy Horse, Young Man Afraid of His Horses, Cloud and other prominent fighting men involved in the actual attacks as decoys or fighters. The two battles that day were significant victories for the tribal fighters.

Fort Laramie to Sheridan

The route Bozeman's wagon trail covered left Fort Laramie on the main



When retracing the Bozeman Trail from Fort Laramie, Wyoming, to Virginia City, Montana, a stopover in the town of Buffalo, Wyoming, should include a tour of the Jim Gatchell Museum and an overnight at the historic Occidental Hotel (inset).

Courtesy Wyoming Office of Tourism

Oregon Trail path, and split to the north at Fort Fetterman, northwest of Douglas. To protect the trail, the U.S. Army established three forts in that Lakota and Cheyenne country: Fort Reno in the heart of Powder River Basin, Fort Philip Kearny north of Buffalo Creek, in Buffalo, Wyoming, and Fort C.F. Smith, beside the Yellowstone River at the edge of Crow territory.

To follow the trail route today, take U.S. 20/26 from Fort Laramie to I-25 and continue to Douglas and Casper. In Casper visit Fort Caspar, where troops involved with the Battle of Platte Bridge and Battle of Red Buttes were stationed. The fort buildings are recreated, and volunteer historians give periodic programs. A new exhibit and film at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper provide detail about the Battle of Red Buttes.

From Casper travel north on I-25. Hoofprints to the Past Museum in Kaycee has information about the Dull Knife Battle, an attack late in the frontier Indian war period in the region. Buffalo's Jim Gatchell Museum has displays of American Indian accoutrements. North of Buffalo, divert from I-25 to Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site, a recreation of the fort built to protect the Bozeman Trail, and then follow state highways and county roads to locations where important



After visiting Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site near Buffalo, Wyoming, ask for directions at the park and drive north on Piney Creek Road for a poignant stop at the Fetterman Fight Monument.

Fort Phil Kearny Photo Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archives, Library of Congress/Fetterman Monument Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

fighting took place, including the site of the August 2, 1867, Wagon Box Fight and the battleground where the Lakota and Cheyenne warriors surrounded and killed Lt. William J. Fetterman and 80

troops on December 21, 1866. Historians have often referred to this as the Fetterman Massacre, but it was a well-orchestrated battle planned by Hump and others that resulted in the deaths

of the soldiers. The Lakotas call it the Battle of the Hundred in Hand.

Big Horn to Bozeman

The Brinton Museum near Big Horn, Wyoming, holds a significant collection of Lakota items from clothing to war weapons, as well as other rare American Indian objects.

After following I-90 from Sheridan north into Montana, cross the Crow Reservation on Highway 91 to Chief Plenty Coup State Park, and then return to I-90 near Laurel

and drive west across Bozeman Pass to Bozeman before continuing southwest to Virginia City. Some 1,500 travelers followed the Bozeman Trail in 1864, with more following until 1868, when forts Reno, Phil Kearny and C.F. Smith were abandoned, and a new treaty was negotiated with Oglala leader Red Cloud and others.

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A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

The Bozeman Trail had provided a route to Montana's gold at Alder Gulch, but at a high price with soldiers and civilians killed along the trail, and definite impact to the Indian camps and families. Because the forts were abandoned, and the Bozeman Trail closed, the tribes claimed a victory when the forts were vacated and soon burned.

There are divergent views on the end of the fighting along the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming. Donovin Sprague explains it this way: "I think what the paperwork says is that the military said it's no longer feasible to maintain these three Forts: Reno, Fort Phil Kearny, Fort C.F. Smith. But what we say is that the Lakota and Cheyenne defeated the United States of America. And so, with that, it's back like it was. There's no wagons, there's no non-Indians."

The tribes had successfully closed the Bozeman route to Montana's gold.



Candy Moulton recommends reading *Hundred in the Hand: A Novel* by Joseph Marshall III, a Lakota story set near Fort Phil Kearny during the Bozeman Trail era.

FORT C.F. SMITH AND CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

The Bozeman Trail crossed Crow lands north of the Bighorn River, and travelers today can do the same by visiting Fort C.F. Smith and Chief Plenty Coups State Park. During the height of tension along the Bozeman Trail, Lakota and Cheyenne warriors orchestrated regular and sometimes coordinated attacks on sites along the trail. On August 1, 1867, they engaged with soldiers from Fort C.F. Smith in the Hayfield Fight. The Crow Indians did not battle with the soldiers. As traditional enemies of the Lakota people, they became more allied to the soldiers, even though the Bozeman Trail also cut through their lands. Plenty Coups became a chief of the Crow tribe by the time he was 28 years old, and he was recognized for his bravery and leadership, fighting in many ways for his family and tribe.

In 1884 he settled on a farm, which was deeded to him through the Indian Allotment Act. That farm, where he lived until his death at age 84, is now Chief Plenty Coups State Park, located on the Crow Reservation south of



Chief Plenty Coups State Park
Crow Reservation, Pryor, MT

Courtesy SoutheastMontana.com

Billings. In addition to original farm buildings, remnants of an old apple orchard, and trails across the property, a visitor center has displays of Crow heritage items.

To reach these sites, take I-90 north from Ranchester, Wyoming, and then head west on Highway 91 to St. Xavier, Montana. At St. Xavier, follow Montana 313 to Fort C.F. Smith, and then to Chief Plenty Coups State Park.

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: **Js Bar and Grill**, Casper, WY; **Montana Brewing Company**, Billings, MT; **The Coffee Pot**, Bozeman, MT; **Wells Fargo Steakhouse**, Virginia City, MT

GOOD LODGING: **Occidental Hotel**, Buffalo, WY; **Fairweather Inn**, Virginia City, MT; **Nevada City Hotel and Cabins**, Nevada City, MT; **C'mon Inn**, Bozeman, MT; **Hotel Bozeman**, Bozeman, MT; **Just an Experience**, Nevada City, MT

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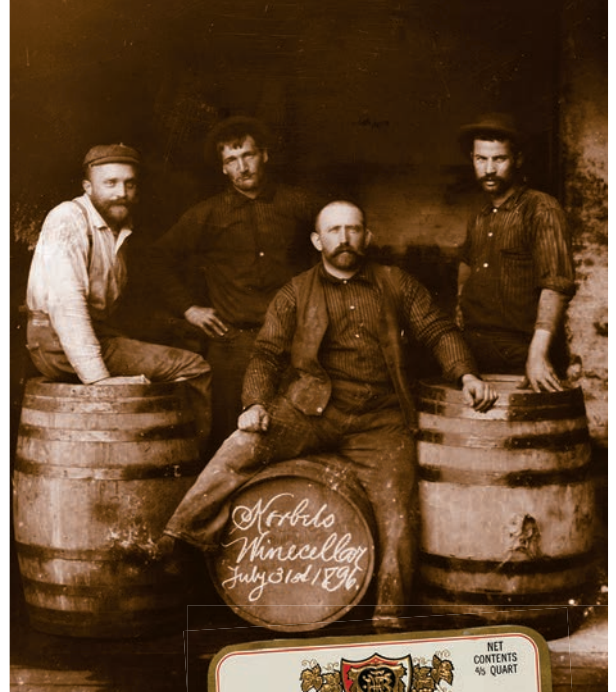
BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Alchemists of the Vine

California's grape growers discovered a gold mine in distilling aged brandy.

Beginning in the 1880s, Bohemian brothers Joseph and Francis Korbel made their greatest fortune in California growing grapes for wine, sparkling wine and brandy.

Courtesy Korbel Champagne Cellars



Until the mid-1800s mission grapes were the primary wine-making grape in California. As time progressed, mission grapes were used for brandy, table wine and Angelica, which was a fortified wine. A few 19th-century wine makers experimented with brandy.

Jacob Beringer left his home in Mainz, Germany, in 1868 to start a new life in the U.S. He was enticed by his brother, Frederick, who had sailed to New York five years earlier and constantly wrote home about the grand opportunities in the vast new world. Jacob had enjoyed working in wine cellars in Germany when he was younger and had heard the warm, sunny climate of California was ideal for growing wine grapes. So, in 1870 he traveled West by train, first to San Francisco and then on to Napa Valley. Upon his arrival he discovered rocky, well-drained soils similar to those in his native Rhine Valley. In 1875, the brothers bought 215 acres that had a 28-acre vineyard already planted with white Riesling, Chappellet and grapes to blend Cabernet Sauvignon. In 1876 they founded the Beringer Brothers Winery and crushed 40,000 gallons of wine.

In 1883, Frederick permanently moved to the Napa Valley and began construction of a 17-room mansion that was to be his home, which was a recreation of

the Beringer family home on the Rhine River in Germany. The "Rhine House" is the center of Beringer's reserve and library tastings. An 1888 *Napa Journal* article stated, "Beringer Bros. have withdrawn 250 barrels of grape brandy from the bonded warehouse for export to Bremen, to be shipped from San Francisco by the Clipper ship *Deutschland*. They have also withdrawn from the Santa Rosa warehouse the same amount for the same place."

In 1854 Gen. William "Tecumseh" Sherman and Gen. "Fightin' Joe" Hooker ventured into the wine-making business and planted grapes on their land. They only kept the Madrone Ranch a few years. In 1863, Virginia-born George Washington Whitman purchased it. By 1876 Whitman's vineyard was producing 50,000 gallons of brandy. In 1883 Eli

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T. Sheppard bought the winery and named it Madrone. Because of poor health, Sheppard sold Madrone to U.S. Senator George Hearst and father of publisher William Randolph Hearst in 1888. The sale included 400 acres, including a winery, distillery, wine cellar and 80,000 gallons of wine and brandy.

Christian Brothers brandy was started by The Christians Brothers, the largest religious community of men devoted entirely to education worldwide. The Brothers were priests and laymen who were dedicated to living and working in a teaching congregation. They began in 1882 in San Joaquin Valley when The Order purchased vineyards to make sacramental wine for their community. Their reputation for creating excellent wine grew, and they began producing and selling it to benefit their schools.

Francis and Joseph Korbel were natives of Bohemia, now part of Czechoslovakia, and landed in New York. They arrived in San Francisco in the early 1860s, and by the late 1860s they opened the Korbel Cigar Box Factory. During the 1870s, the Korbels grew prunes, beets, wheat and corn and ran a commercial dairy in the Russian River Valley. They entered the wine business in the early 1880s and experimented with several grape varieties, including Pinot Noir. Despite Pinot Noir being unusual for California's vineyards, the Korbels chose to work with them. As their wine business grew throughout the 1880s, they sent for Prague winemaker Frank Hasek. After the debut of his champagne-like sparkling wine, Francis Korbel began producing his premium Korbel California brandy in 1889.

On February 25, 1900, Joseph Korbel died after a brief illness. Francis Korbel ran the business in 1901 and saw an opportunity to utilize the many prunes growing on his land. He experimented for more than a year trying to turn them into brandy. The *San Jose Evening News* concluded, "He made a brandy which was fairly good, but which had neither cheapness of production nor any special quality..." Thanks to a long legacy, you can still enjoy their brandy...just not the prune kind!

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

COMMON GROUND IN SIDNEY, NE

The Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1886 and was the original church of Fort Sidney. Parishioners gather today in the same place where Native Americans and soldiers once worshipped together.

The church was used by the 21st Infantry including Company I which was comprised of Native American soldiers stationed at Fort Sidney from 1892 to 1894.

During this time, the Reverend George Beecher gave his sermons here in this church in both English and Lakota, the language of the Sioux tribe.

Many of the original furnishings of the church are still in use today, including the altar, lectern and many of the original pews.

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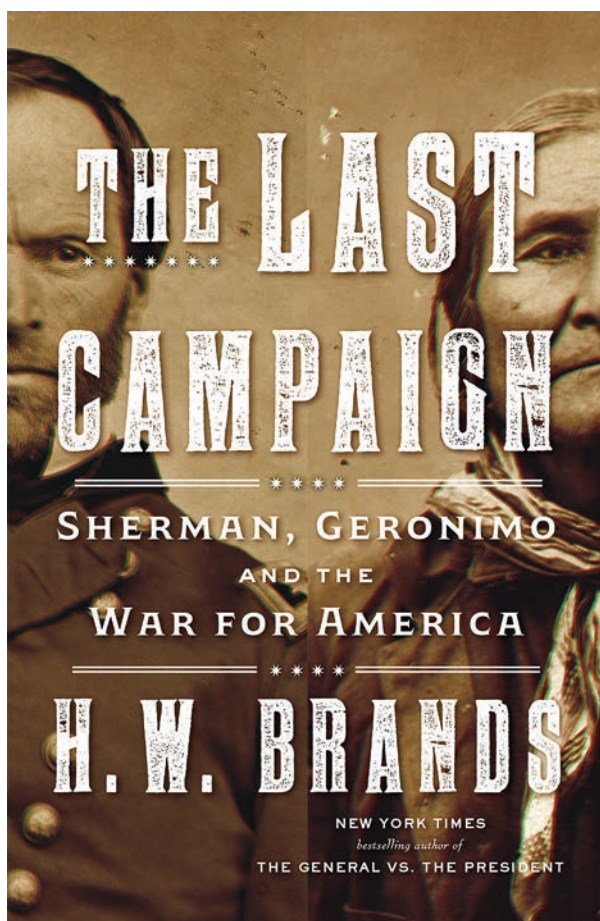
East versus West

H.W. Brands's major new dual biography of Geronimo and Sherman, plus a new history of Western prostitution, a pair of classic Westerns and a new volume of Old West short stories.

If you are a dedicated follower of historian H.W. Brands' work, *The Last Campaign: Sherman, Geronimo and the War for America* (Doubleday, \$32.50) is a much welcomed volume. Since 2018, the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History at the University of Texas has refocused his scholarship on American history from its beginnings as a revolutionary republic to its emergence as an industrial world power. Over his 35-year career of publishing, Brands' research focus has swung back and forth between early U.S. and modern history, but during the past six years, his scholarship has been squarely on the growth of America—and the leaders who fought and struggled to build it—from the Revolution to the Progressive Era.

While on the surface, based on the cover and the title of *The Last Campaign*, readers might view Brands' latest book as simply a dual biography of Geronimo and Sherman. But, as they say, "don't judge a book by its cover." In fact, scholars, students and researchers should consider *The Last Campaign* as one of the finest syntheses of the Age of Jackson to the Progressive Era that has been published in the past decade.

The Texas historian—as he has in past multi-subject biographies—brilliantly uses the lives of two seemingly disparate



men—Geronimo and William Tecumseh Sherman—to tell the history of the United States during what might be considered its most tumultuous and violent era. He brilliantly weaves the life stories of two boys—born and raised in different cultures on opposite sides of the continent—from childhood to manhood. Through the interweaving of their two life stories—from birth to death—the reader gains an insightful perspective on

the uncontrollable forces of American continental expansion that brought these two men and their respective nations into conflict.

Quietly and without fanfare, Brands has become one of America's most important historians. Since he first published *Cold Warriors: Eisenhower's Generation and American Foreign Policy* (Columbia University Press, 1988), he has written 30 books and coauthored or edited five more. His body of work demonstrates a deep understanding of America's transformation from a nascent 18th-century frontier republic to a 21st-century global superpower. *The Last Campaign* reflects the professor's academic mastery of United States history in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He knows how to tell a good story and does so with a literary style that I would compare to William Manchester's, David McCullough's and Stephen Ambrose's.

What will Brands' next big book be? Those who have followed his career and read his published works since the late 1980s know that he is just as comfortable writing 20th-century history as he is with 19th-century history. So, as we await Brands' next book, savor *The Last Campaign* while you add some new shelves to your library to make room for more of his outstanding scholarship.

—Stuart Rosebrook



Micki Fuhrman

Candy Moulton

True Westerner of the Year 2023

On Friday night, March 3, 2023, *True West* magazine hosted the 2023 True Westerner Award reception at the White Stallion Ranch in Tucson, Arizona. Executive Editor **Bob Boze Bell** led the evening's festivities in honor of this year's award-winner, **Candy Moulton**, noting that she was now in the great company of prior recipients of the honor, including **Larry McMurtry**, **Paul Andrew Hutton** and fellow *True West* columnists **Marshall Trimble** and **Phil Spangenberg**.

I was asked to speak about Moulton's dedication to her craft, her community and her family. Noting that we had first met in Tucson at the annual Book Festival in 2014, I reminded the audience of the Wyoming author's work ethic. "She learned from an early age the veracity of work and a job well done and it is reflected in her writing, filmmaking and leadership, which included 11 years as the executive director of **Western Writers of America**."

In accepting the award, Moulton reiterated where she earned her work ethic, "I have worked as long as I can remember, beginning at the age of five or six. The ranch gave me my values: work hard and don't quit until the job is done." Moulton also thanked her husband Steve, a retired cattle rancher, who she said, "has never questioned her work, writing, travel or projects."

—Stuart Rosebrook

One man went in search of Billy's motives ...

...What he got was a glimpse of the Kid's soul.



"Warren's exceptional gift of creative writing has gotten inside this legendary outlaw."

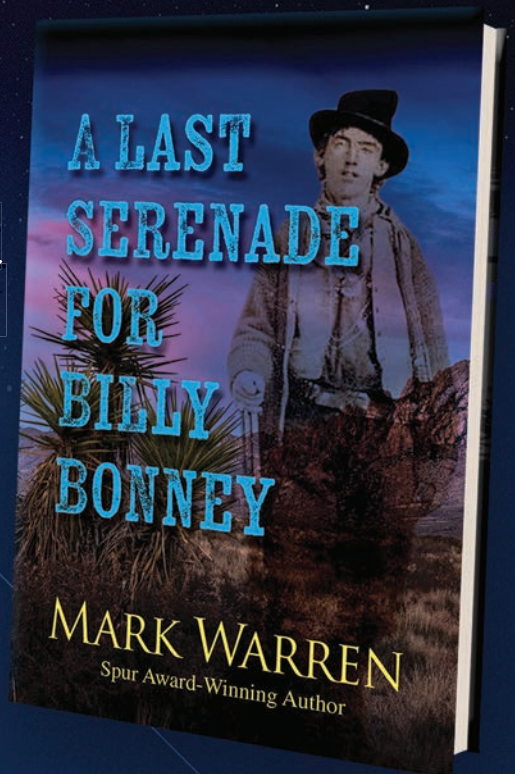
~Denise F. McAllister,
Wild Cow Ranch

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Billy the Kid, El Bandido Simpatico



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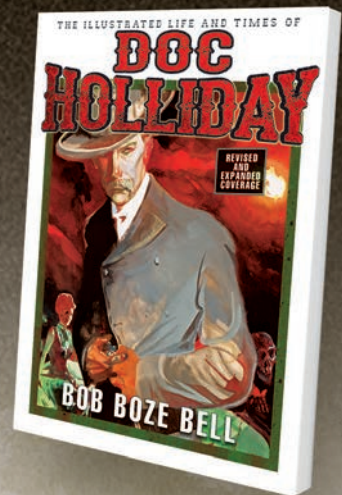


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Photo by Jackson Mullen

TEXAS AUTHOR SHARES FIVE FAVORITES

Chris Mullen, the author of the award-winning young adult series, *Rowdy*, is an award-winning teacher and a native Texan. When not saddled behind his computer writing for Wise Wolf Books, he piles the miles on the road to promote his books. He recommends these five Western novels:

- 1 ***Down the Long Hills*** by Louis L'Amour (Bantam): My first L'Amour book fascinated me as I discovered the dangers and beauty of the Old West through the eyes of children fighting to survive the savage wilderness.
- 2 ***All Things Left Wild*** by James Wade (Blackstone Publishing): This Spur Award-winner tells of an epic pursuit by a murdered boy's father and the twisting paths of two killers. It paints a vivid perspective on how transformative life can be when pitted against a setting void of civilized society.
- 3 ***The Cold Dish*** by Craig Johnson (Penguin Books): This contemporary Western captures the rugged life and ongoing inner turmoil of Sheriff Walt Longmire while a local murder seeks to disrupt the landscape of Absaroka County.
- 4 ***Dissolution*** by W. Michael Gear (Wolfpack Publishing): The United States experiences the worst of itself when foreign governments cripple its infrastructure. Elaborate plots and memorable characters lead the charge as citizens seek to endure in a country that has become anything but united.
- 5 ***The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger*** by Stephen King (Donald M. Grant Publisher, Inc.): Its Western grit and crossover themes paint vivid pictures, immersing readers in scenes that seem incomprehensible but are so captivating that suspension of disbelief becomes second nature.

Soiled Doves

Old West prostitution was big business, and one of the most important factors in development of the West. Brothel owners, madams and “fallen angels,” all paid fines for their profession. Without their money, towns would have been hard-pressed to survive. And hypocrisy knew no bounds. Often, the lawmen and town officials who chastised the industry most and imposed large fines, were the brothels’ best customers. In most cow towns, prostitution was seasonal—women came to town when the trail hands did—then moved on. And, if a madam was run out of town, she’d simply locate to the next town and set up shop, often taking her girls with her. Jan MacKell Collins’ fascinating book, *Behind Brothel Doors: The Business of Prostitution in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. (1860-1940)* (TwoDot, \$22.95), gives depth to a business often overlooked as invaluable in shaping the West.

—Melody Groves, author of *Before Billy the Kid: The Boy Behind the Legendary Outlaw*



successful enterprises operating restaurants, boardinghouses and mining operations. Nellie’s faith, church and her family were her anchors. Through her dedicated fundraising efforts, donations built churches and hospitals.

—Sue Ready, *EverReady Book Reviews*

Old West Saga

Andrew McBride’s *Cimarrón* (Five Star, \$25.95) is gripping Western action of the best kind from beginning to end. It will be surprising if this isn’t the beginning of a saga in which the protagonist descends by steps to the very depths of hell and somehow against all odds works his way back. Choctaw, a highly skilled Army scout trained among the Chiricahua Apaches, is a man of integrity and moral standards who finds his values are in a conflict that takes him down the road to becoming a cold-blooded killer. His love for an Apache maid makes him an outsider. His skill makes him dangerous. McBride does not disappoint.

—Doug Hocking, author of *Tom Jeffords: Friend of Cochise*

Lathering on the Suspense

With three Spur Awards and a Western Heritage Wrangler Award, Matthew P. Mayo can’t be considered a rising star in Western fiction anymore. The question is just how high can that star rise. If you’re unfamiliar with Mayo, *Half a Pig and Other Frontier Stories* (Five Star Publishing, \$25.95) is an excellent introduction. If you know his work,

this collection is well worth a read, even if all but one of the 18 stories are reprints of pieces published between 2007 and 2021. “Trouble at Tall Pine,” the one new story, is a solid traditional tale, but the collection’s centerpiece is “Bloodline,” a tense, often terrifying story of a half-American Indian trying to escape his brutal grandfather.

—Johnny D. Boggs, author of *Killstraight Returns*

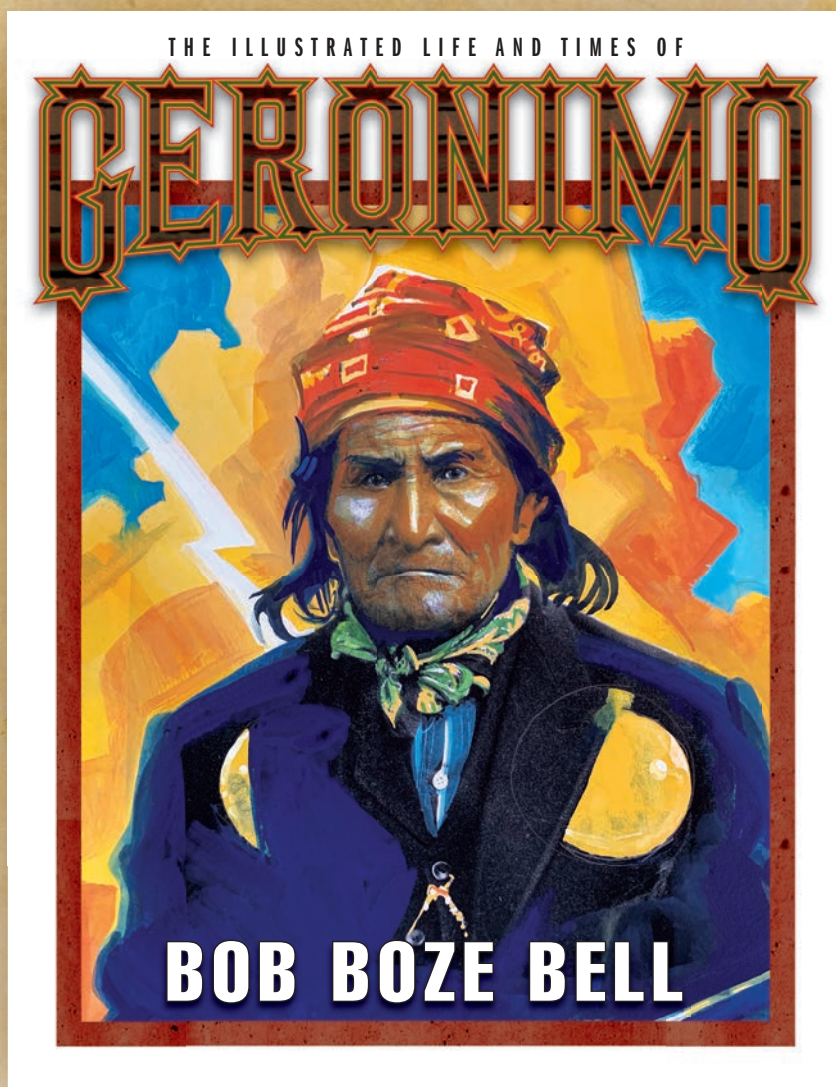
Western Heroine

Kathleen Morris has struck gold. With her gift of storytelling, meticulous attention to historical details and well-developed characters, she brings to life the legendary, and indomitable, spirited Nellie Cashman in *Golddigger: The Legendary Nellie Cashman* (Dunraven Press, \$25.95). Morris’s newest book shines. The story is narrated in the first person as Nellie sweeps the reader into an era of the Old West. It’s here on the Western frontier living on her own terms that Nellie finds the freedom she always yearned for plus opportunities to explore new places. Her obsession with gold and silver mining moves her adventures from the Southwest to California into Yukon and Alaska. Nellie is a forward-thinking woman with a business model that ultimately leads to



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—Paul Andrew Hutton



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The Unsinkable Raquel Welch

The groundbreaking star left a legacy of courage in Western films.

I'm glad you're writing about Raquel Welch because she shouldn't be forgotten. She was an icon in American—and in world—cinema. She had a tremendous impact." It was Nick Mancuso on the phone, Raquel's leading man from her fourth and final Western, *The Legend of Walks Far Woman*, calling from a Paris movie set. "She was a marvelous person, a straight shooter. More than just an actress; she was an event in American cinema."

The event that was Raquel Welch began life as Jo Raquel Tejada, the daughter of a Bolivian-born aerospace engineer and his Irish-American wife, who met in college, and raised their three children in San Diego. In her book, *Raquel—Beyond the Cleavage*, Welch wrote, "I was at the mercy of my turbulent family life," retreating into a world of her imagination. "It seemed as if I had always wanted to be an actress." She credited ballet study for her magnificent figure, and after success in beauty pageants, a stint as a TV weather presenter, and a too-young marriage and divorce, she found herself, and her son and daughter, in Hollywood.

Her first Western was a 1964 episode of *The Virginian*. She's a saloon girl, and she asks Clu Gulager, "How about another drink, mister?"

"Later."

"How about buying one for me?"

"Some other time." That's it, but she was filmed like a star, the camera starting on her legs, then doing a lovingly slow tilt up her figure to her face: perfunctory characters just don't get that treatment.



From 1964 to 1969, Raquel Welch rocketed to international fame in cinema, television and Bob Hope's USO tours. In the groundbreaking *100 Rifles*, she shared top billing with costars Burt Reynolds (center) and Jim Brown (right).

All images Courtesy Twentieth Century Fox unless otherwise noted

Two years later, she became a superstar, as a fur-bikinied cavewoman in *One Million Years B.C.*, and in *Fantastic Voyage* as a gorgeous scientist who is shrunk to microscopic size and injected into a man's bloodstream. Indeed, it felt at times like Raquel Welch had been injected into the bloodstream of the American male.

Feminine, yes, but not weak, either in herself or her characters; she kicked a male in the



In *100 Rifles*, Raquel Welch—whose nickname was "Rocky"—played strong, feisty and independent Sarita, an archetypal character the Bolivian-Irish American actress sought to portray across all genres during her 55-year career.

Raquel Welch's career in cinema began to take off in 1965, but it wasn't until 1968 that she was cast in a Western—*Bandolero!*



groin in 15 of her movies. “She was a complete actor; disciplined physically, mentally prepared, and she would stand up for herself,” Mancuso explains, “in the vein of old movie stars like Katharine Hepburn.”

Her first starring Western was 1968's *Bandolero!* in which she and rancher husband Jock Mahoney walk into a bank as Dean Martin and his gang are holding it up, and her husband is killed. Many men desire the widow, from sheriff George Kennedy to banker Denver Pyle, but they also underestimate her. When Pyle says she couldn't possibly manage the ranch herself, she replies, “I was a whore at 13, and my family of 12 never went hungry.” And of course, she becomes a hostage of the outlaws. It's a fine Western, tough and humorous, and with heart.

In 1969, Raquel went to Spain for *100 Rifles*. The daughter of a Mexican revolutionary, when he's executed, she assumes his position. Top-billed Jim Brown is an American cop looking for third-billed Burt Reynolds, a ne'er-do-well half-breed who's robbed a bank to buy Raquel's revolutionaries those rifles. Welch clashed with Brown, making filming their love-scene difficult, and she clashed with Reynolds as well.

Back in Spain in 1971, Raquel starred in *Hannie Caulder*, which she co-produced. Once again, her husband is

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Burt Kennedy directed *Hattie Fetterman*, which was filmed in Spain with Raquel Welch in the title role and a major cast behind her, including Robert Culp (far left), Ernest Borgnine, Christopher Lee, Strother Martin and Jack Elam.

Courtesy Tigon Pictures

As director Burt Kennedy told C. Courtney Joyner in his book, *The Westerners*, “She shows up for work late, or at least the first assistant says she was, and as soon as he said, ‘You’re late,’ she hit him. Right on the jaw, just like John Wayne, and down he went.”

Nearly a decade later, Raquel produced her final Western, a TV movie, *The Legend of Walks Far Woman*. While all of her Westerns were good, this last may be her best, and certainly her most unusual: aside from Bradford Dillman’s mixed-race Singer, there are no non-Indian characters. Raquel plays the title character, mixed herself—Blackfoot and Sioux—who has killed the two Blackfeet who murdered her husband, and has been driven from her home. She settles in a Sioux village, and marries again. “I play her husband,” Mancuso says, “Horses Ghost. [We filmed] out in Billings, Montana, not far from the Battle of Little Big Horn. We reenacted many of the battle

murdered by three fleeing bank-robbers—Ernest Borgnine, Jack Elam and Strother Martin—who gang-rape Raquel, torch her house and leave her to die. Escaping, she happens upon bounty hunter Robert Culp, who reluctantly teaches her to shoot, and she stalks and kills her attackers. Welch and Culp are wonderful together, as is Christopher Lee, in his only Western, as a gunsmith. The film’s biggest weakness is that the trio plays all their scenes together for comedy: it’s rather like seeing her assaulted by The Three Stooges. Raquel was still no pushover.



Raquel Welch’s production company was a partner in her final Western, *The Legend of Walks Far Woman*. The biopic of the courageous Blackfoot woman was a passion project for the leading lady, who also influenced the casting of the movie with American Indian and Hispanic actors and actresses.

Courtesy EMI Television

scenes.” In fact, their idyllic life falls apart when a concussion he receives during the battle leads to increasingly erratic, violent behavior.

Welch was as resilient as her characters. A year later, when she was fired from *Cannery Row* for unprofessional behavior on-set, she became unemployable in film. Instead, she got rave notices starring on Broadway in *Woman of the Year*. And she sued MGM, claiming, “What they did was use me to get financing for the movie, then they dumped me for Debra [Winger], which they’d been planning all along.” She was awarded \$10 million, more money than *Cannery Row’s* entire box office.

BLU-RAY REVIEW

GUNFIGHT AT RIO BRAVO

(Shout! Factory—\$19.98) Moscow-born, three-time Mr. Universe Alexander Nevsky stars in this action-Western suggested by the life of Cossack-turned-Union Gen. John Basil Turchin. A marshal is transporting Hellhound-gang leader Ethan Crawley (Matthias Hues) to Rio Bravo, to hang. When they stop in sleepy Blind Chapel, awaiting Pinkerton reinforcements, Crawley’s gang attacks, and storekeeper Turchin must single-handedly defend the town. Director Joe Cornet’s fourth Western, although shot in Texas, recalls the international casts of 1960s Euro-Westerns: Russian, German, Italian and French accents are heard from the martial arts-heavy cast, plus one English accent that switches to a Southern drawl halfway through. The elegant cinematography outside of town, and the earnest enthusiasm of the cast, helps one to forgive the plot lapses and the often-glaring grooming and wardrobe errors.



Courtesy Shout! Studios



Henry C. Parke, Western Film and TV Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs for the INSP Channel, and at HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com. A book based on his *True West* columns, *The Greatest Westerns Ever Made*, will be published by TwoDot in spring 2024.

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BY PETER CORBETT

Cody, Wyoming

The town is expecting an economic boost from Yellowstone National Park mania.



In Cody, Wyoming, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's five museums exhibit the region's most comprehensive history.

Courtesy BBCW

As a gateway town 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park, Cody is a lively place each summer, and 2023 is shaping up to be a banner year for visitation.

Yellowstone mania, driven by the hit Western TV series starring Kevin Costner, is likely to boost tourism in Cody, according to Ken Straniere, Buffalo Bill Center of the West marketing manager.

"I am thankful for the *Yellowstone* TV show," he said. "I know that sales will go up. Yes, cowboy hats and boots."

Cody is well positioned to accommodate visitors with its many Western attractions—a nightly rodeo, guest ranches, Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel and

the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, with five museums and 100,000 items in its collections.

"Most people are blown away by the size of our institution," said Straniere, noting that it can take multiple days to take it all in.

The Center of the West is affiliated with the Smithsonian. Its five museums focus on Plains Indians, firearms, natural history, Western art, and of course, Wild West showman Buffalo Bill.

A popular program is the Raptor Experience in the Draper Natural History Museum. It features a casual question-and-answer session with live birds of prey and their handlers. That

includes eagles, peregrine falcons, hawks and great horned owls.

The Whitney Western Art Museum is hosting an exhibit by California photographer Gabrielle Saveri. Her work focuses on the culture of Italy's cowboys—the *butteri*—working the range of the Maremma region near Florence and Rome. It runs through August 6.

Two related shows open May 20 at the Whitney with paintings of Wyoming's Green River:

■ An Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-74) exhibit titled "Revisiting the Rendezvous" includes his depictions of the Green River

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CodyYellowstone.Org



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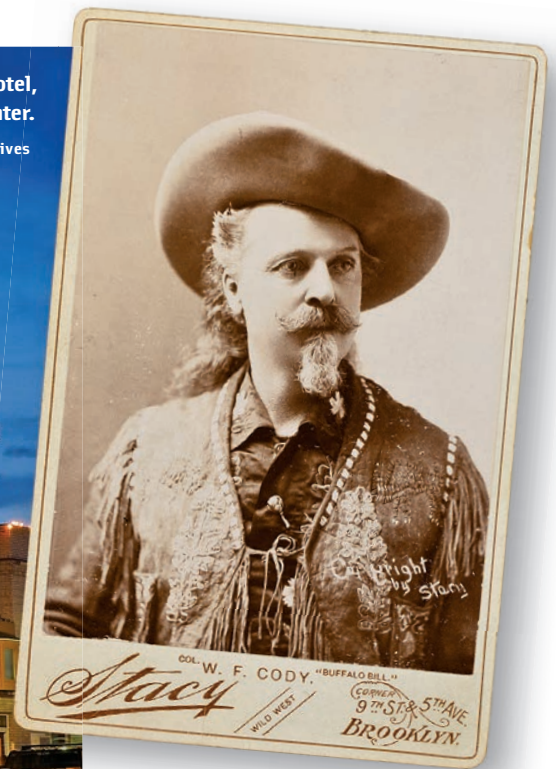
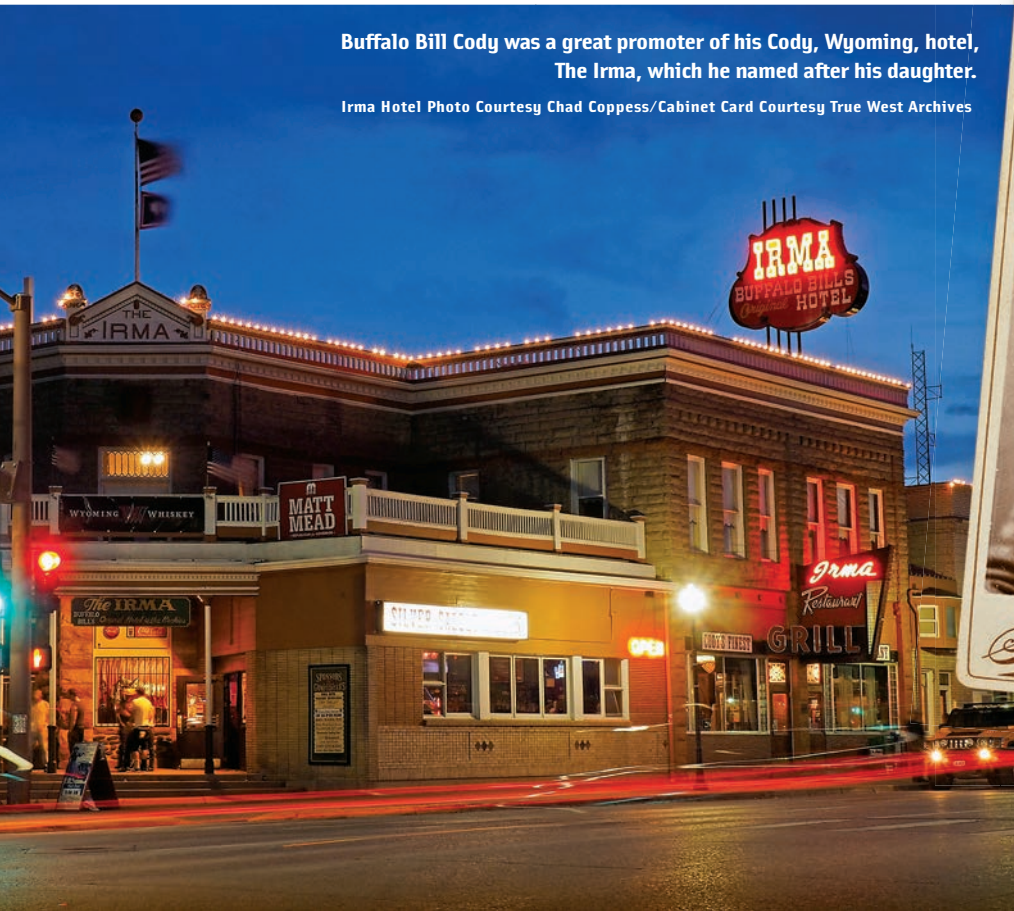


[/CodyYellowstone](https://www.instagram.com/CodyYellowstone)

EST | 1896

Buffalo Bill Cody was a great promoter of his Cody, Wyoming, hotel, The Irma, which he named after his daughter.

Irma Hotel Photo Courtesy Chad Coppess/Cabinet Card Courtesy True West Archives



Valley and fur traders he encountered in the 1830s.

■ "Tony Foster: Watercolour Diaries from the Green River" features 16 works he painted on site from the



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In 1896, the founders of Cody, Wyoming, including Buffalo Bill and George Beck, envisioned the new town as a gateway to Yellowstone National Park.

True West Archives



headwaters in Wyoming to the confluence with the Colorado River in Utah.

Both exhibits run through October 22. Center of the West guests may also

want to try an authentic chuckwagon dinner served outdoors most Tuesdays and Saturdays from June to August. It includes steak, beans, biscuits, salad

and a Dutch-oven cobbler dessert. Book it early, since only 24 diners are served.

Another option is the dining room at the 1902 Irma Hotel, named for Buffalo

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The 1892 Shell Store, relocated from Shell, Wyoming, exhibits artifacts from the frontier general store at Old Trail Town in Cody, Wyoming.

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

Bill's daughter. The restaurant is known for its prime rib, filet mignon and Rocky Mountain oysters. Be sure to stop in the Silver Saddle Lounge to see the cherrywood bar that Queen Victoria gifted to Buffalo Bill.

Time your visit to catch the mock gunfight at 6 p.m. outside the hotel.

An evening in Cody is highlighted by the Cody Night Rodeo from 8 to 10 p.m. at the rodeo grounds. Summer nights are pleasant in Cody, which sits at an elevation of just under 5,000 feet.

In addition to the Irma Hotel, another lodging option is the historic Chamberlin Inn. Aggie Chamberlin,

who worked at Buffalo Bill's *Cody Enterprise* newspaper, started a boardinghouse in 1903 that expanded and evolved into a boutique hotel. Ernest Hemingway stayed in the Chamberlin, and the decor in that room pays homage to him.

Visitors looking for more rustic lodging can choose from area guest ranches:

- The Bill Cody Ranch was formerly owned and operated by Buffalo Bill's grandson, Bill Cody.

- The Double Diamond X Ranch has 10 rustic guest cabins and guided fly-fishing outings.

■ The K3 Guest Ranch Bed & Breakfast is on a 33-acre property less than 10 minutes from downtown Cody.

The Wyoming Dude Ranchers' Association lists other properties at Wyomingdra.com.



Peter Corbett knows True Western Towns. He's lived in eight of them and traveled widely through every Western state but Alaska. Arizona has been his home for 49 years.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



The Cody Stampede Rodeo

Courtesy Cody, Wyoming CVB

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Cody Country Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Center
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CodyChamber.org

COUNT 'EM: FIVE MUSEUMS IN ONE

Buffalo Bill Center of the West features museums on Buffalo Bill, Plains Indians, firearms, natural history and Western art.
CenterOfTheWest.org

BUFFALO BILL SLEPT HERE

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IrmaHotel.com

CODY AFTER DARK

Cody Nite Rodeo is every night at the rodeo grounds.
CodyStampedeRodeo.com

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OldTrailTown.org

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From June 25 to August 12, 2023, near Gardiner, Wyoming, just over 10 miles from the north gates of Yellowstone National Park, guests will be able to ride and stay at the Historic Yellowstone O.T.O. Ranch. The exclusive pop-up dude ranch stays will raise funds to help shape the ranch's future.

Scott Baxter, O.T.O Ranch, Courtesy TrueRanchCollection.com


PACK YOUR BAGS, TIME



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TO GET WESTERN!

HISTORIC SALOONS, HOTELS AND RANCHES ARE READY TO SERVE YOU UP A SLICE OF THE OLD WEST.



If you're like me, tendrils of the Old West wrap around your heart and tug. Everywhere you look, remnants of times past are still evident. Go ahead, put your elbow on a saloon's bar where Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday did, or stay in a room where Clark Gable once slept.

Seeking Old West venues, I've stayed at Durango's Strater Hotel, where I met astronaut Harrison "Jack" Schmitt. And I've sipped and dined at Tombstone's Big Nose Kate's. But nothing beats hearing saddle leather creak beneath me as my horse trots across pristine desert or mountain trails while Nature smiles back.

Whether you're looking for "me time," family fun or unique experiences of the Old West, look no further than this guide to hotels,

saloons and guest ranches. Many of the featured places have historic beginnings but include modern accommodations. For over 100 years visitors have been drawn to the area with its blue skies, unyielding views and majestic soul.

The West of yesterday is alive and well in many towns throughout the Western states. If you're hankering to ride horses, lounge around a campfire, eat s'mores over mesquite flames, hoist a cold one over a beautiful Brunswick bar, breathe in insanely clean air or simply stay still and listen to eagles soar through turquoise skies, these places are for you.

A deep love of the Southwest grounds Melody Groves. She has explored ghost towns, ridden horses and traipsed through the desert. Melody recently won the coveted Spur Award for her book *Before Billy the Kid*. She lives in Albuquerque.



Big Nose Kate's Saloon
Tombstone, Arizona
Myke Groves

ARIZONA

Big Nose Kate's Saloon

417 E Allen St
Tombstone, AZ 85638
520-457-3107
BigNoseKatesTombstone.com

Kate Cummings, Doc Holliday's girlfriend, did not have a big nose. She got the moniker because she was nosey. Mystery solved. Stepping into the saloon-restaurant is like reliving the 1800s. The authentic 1880s bar and wood floors harken back to days when miners, prospectors, cowboys and drifters came through, each seeking food, alcohol and a relaxing time. Today, this family-friendly saloon offers a variety of food and drinks and an intriguing underground shopping shaft. The saloon's long bar, one of two 1882 Great Fire survivors, served the Earps, Doc Holliday, the Clantons, possibly Kate herself, and continues to serve thirsty patrons today.



Hassayampa Inn
Prescott, Arizona
Courtesy Hassayampa Inn

Hassayampa Inn

122 E Gurley St
Prescott, AZ 86301-3899
928-778-9434
HassayampaInn.com

Sleep where Will Rogers, Greta Garbo, Clark Gable and Steve McQueen did. This beautifully restored 1927 boutique hotel sits in the heart of historic downtown Prescott, Arizona's Territorial capital in 1864-67. The town's history of frontier gold and silver mining is evident throughout this hotel with the Art Deco-inspired Peacock Room restaurant and the Glass Bar, providing live music nightly. Charming antique furniture, a quirky vintage elevator and etched glass and embossed copper panels set off Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and Italianate features. Hassayampa Inn offers full-service banquet facilities and a variety of meeting spaces.

Palace Restaurant & Saloon

120 S Montezuma St
Prescott, AZ 86303
928-541-1996
WhiskeyRowPalace.com

With its origins stretching back to 1874, The Palace, originally known as Cabinet Saloon, has been the gathering place where locals could seek employment, hear news of the territory or hoist a cold one with friends. Legend has it that patrons have included three of the Earp Brothers and Doc Holliday, along with actors and movie crews filming *Junior Bonner*, *Wish Man* and *Wanda Nevada*. The exquisite back and front bars, 1890s Brunswick, survived two Whiskey Row fires by being hefted and

carted across the street to the courthouse lawn. Story goes the bar's protectors and movers then sat and toasted the flames with saved whiskey bottles. That spirit remains alive with a saloon that wouldn't die.

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520-339-1086
RanchoDeLaOsa.com

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Ranchos de los Caballeros

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Wickenburg, AZ 85390-2118
928-684-5484
RanchoDeLosCaballeros.com

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Rancho de los Caballeros
Wickenburg, Arizona

Courtesy Rancho de los Caballeros



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children's playground. The 38 cabins are warm and spacious. Guests gather indoors or out for cocktails and appetizers while the chef prepares a healthy ranch dinner.

Diamond Belle Saloon

699 Main St
Durango, CO 81301
800-247-4431
Strater.com

Located inside the Strater Hotel, the Diamond Belle Saloon is the real deal. Once home to the Strater-Thorpe Drugstore, the Diamond Belle took form in 1957 and has grown into a world-and locally famous watering hole. Locals and visitors gather once a week to swap stories, poems and songs, and tap along with the talented Ragtime Pianists of the Belle. Cowboys no longer ride their horses into the saloon as they did not so long ago; a bullet hole in the back bar drawer speaks of more riotous times. Directly above the Belle is the room in which Western writer Louis L'Amour penned many of his novels. In addition to brews, the Belle serves creative appetizers, salads, burgers and entrees.

Hotel Colorado

526 Pine St
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-945-6511
HotelColorado.com

Located in the heart of downtown, Hotel Colorado has been delighting guests since 1893. Steps from the Glenwood Hot Springs, guests appreciate the close proximity to the White River National Forest. After a full day of activities, enjoy a family-friendly meal at the Restaurant & Bar or relax at the Coppertop Bar. Next day, fuel up with pancakes at the Restaurant & Bar, or later, enjoy an entrée in the courtyard. Hotel Colorado has played host to Teddy Roosevelt, William Taft and the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown. Today, Hotel Colorado, a dog-friendly hotel, is an enchanting step back in time, inviting visitors to take in the cool mountain air, healing hot springs and exceptional service.



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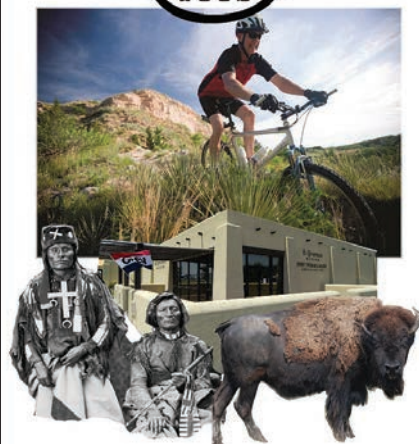
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Strater Hotel

699 Main St
Durango, CO 81301
970-247-4431
Strater.com

Step into the Strater Hotel and history wraps its arms around you. Opened in 1887, today the hotel is a living museum and prominent landmark close to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. In the lobby, shadow boxes depict stories of the mining days. Well-crafted, handcrafted woodwork, period wallpaper, authentic and historic drapes and a large collection of American Victorian walnut antiques decorate the hotel lobby and the 88 guestrooms. Each room has Wi-Fi, air conditioning and private bathrooms. Complimentary coffee is in the lobby. Close to the Animas River and smaller silver mining boomtowns, the Strater offers a comfortable home base when exploring Durango or any of the nearby attractions.

True Grit Café

123 N Lena St
Ridgway, CO 81432
970-626-5739
TrueGritCafe.com

The True Grit Café, on the Western Slope of Colorado, offers hand-cut, all nature sirloins and ribeye steaks. True Grit Café also offers chicken fried steaks. In fact, they've served over 5,300 annually. Built to honor the 1968 filming of John Wayne's *True Grit* movie, the café opened on New Year's Eve 1985. Guests enjoy learning about the history within the café, along with John Wayne memorabilia. Specializing in "cowboy cuisine," they serve burgers, chicken fried steaks, steaks and locally sourced pork. Their "Ranch to Fork" experience will surely fill empty stomachs. Sit on the deck and enjoy the mountainous background seen throughout the movie.

IDAHO

The Snake Pit

1480 Coeur d'Alene River Rd
Enaville, ID 83839
208-682-3453
SnakePitIdaho.com

A local landmark for over 140 years, the Snake Pit, located at the fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, has served as a boomtown bar, railroad layover, hotel, house of ill-repute and a starting point for loggers and miners. Today, this log cabin-style building is a wonderful combination of old and new. Stories about how the Snake Pit got its name are varied but colorful. Be sure to ask your server. The restaurant offers a full menu from Saturday prime rib specials to daily sirloin steak

to barbecue to pancakes. A good selection of brews, ciders and spirits round out the experience. Local acoustic musicians liven up the area with banjos and guitars on Friday nights.



True Grit Café, Ridgway, Colorado

Courtesy True Grit Café

Historic Hotels

Staying at a hotel with great history is truly one of life's joys. These are some *True West* favorites, but many more are waiting for your own personal getaway. Be sure to check with the hotel for availability before traveling.

Hotel St. Michael
Prescott, AZ
StMichaelHotel.com

The Crescent Hotel
Eureka Springs, AR
Crescent-Hotel.com

The Beaumont Hotel
Ouray, CO
BeaumontHotel.com

**The White Horse Saloon,
Hotel and Cafe**
Spirit Lake, ID
TheWhiteHorseSaloon.com

Midland Railroad Hotel
Wilson, KS
MidlandRailRoadHotel.com

Murray Hotel
Livingston, MT
MurrayBlock.com

Hotel Avron
Great Falls, MT
HotelAvron.com

Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon
Gold Hill, NV
GoldHillHotel.net

Mizpah Hotel
Tonopah, NV
TheMizpahHotel.com

Geiser Grand Hotel
Baker City, OR
GeiserGrand.com

Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX
MengerHotel.com

Moore's Old Pine Inn
Marysville, UT
OldPineInn.com

The Tokeland Hotel
Tokeland, WA
TokelandHotel.com

The Shelburne Hotel
Seaview, WA
ShelburneHotelWA.com

Historic Sheridan Hotel
Sheridan, WY
SheridanInn.com

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MURRAY HOTEL

200 W. BROADWAY ST.
SILVER CITY, NM 88061
(575) 956-9400
MURRAY-HOTEL.COM

MONTANA

The Bale of Hay Saloon

344 W Wallace St
Virginia City, MT 59755
406-843-5700
TheBaleOfHaySaloon.com

Hoist a cold one at the rustic Bale of Hay Saloon from mid-May to late September. Step into the character of the West in Montana's oldest established bar in Virginia City, a historic mining town. Known for handmade hamburgers, brats and a decent beer selection, many from local Montana breweries, The Bale offers free pool tables and shuffleboard. Inside is unique antique entertainment equipment, original cupboards behind the bar, old pictures and memorabilia on the walls and a big potbelly stove. About 99 percent of the bar is original. An outside area is a pleasant place to sit and sip.

The Grand Union Hotel

1 Grand Union Sq
Fort Benton, MT 59442
406-622-1882
GrandUnionHotel.com

Over 100 years of history are displayed in the hotel and at historic Fort Benton. Built in 1882 during the steam-boat era, the Grand Union Hotel, on the upper Missouri River, was once proclaimed the finest hotel between St. Louis and Seattle. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Grand Union is Montana's oldest operating hotel. Despite 140 years of ups and downs, today the Grand Union shines with modernity. The hotel's 26 guest rooms are equipped with air conditioning and flat-screen televisions. Many offer a view of the Missouri River. The Grand Union and Union Grille are proud to continue the tradition of providing one of the state's grandest lodging and dining experiences.

NEBRASKA

Rowse's 1+1 Ranch

46849 833 Rd
Burwell, NE 68823
308-346-5530
lplus1Ranch.com



Rowse's 1+1 Ranch
Burwell, Nebraska
Courtesy Rowse's 1+1 Ranch

This Nebraska Sandhills working cattle ranch, 90 miles from Kearney, gives guests the opportunity to truly be a cowboy. Run by the Rowse family, the ranch offers guests a chance to learn to work cattle, ride, rope, brand, drive the herd and sort cattle. Known for wide open spaces, genuine hospitality, phenomenal quarter horses and unparalleled riding opportunities, the 1+1 Ranch provides lifelong memories. Accommodating a small number of guests in six updated Western log bunkhouses, the ranch guarantees personalized instruction. Meals are shared with family and friends at the Main Ranch Lodge. Rowse's 1+1 Ranch was recognized as a Top Cattle Drive ranch by *DudeRanch.com*.

NEW MEXICO

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

1 Wall Lake Rd
Winston, NM 87943
575-772-5157
GeronimoRanch.com

It's all about horses and relaxation at the Geronimo Trail Ranch. Horses are available for riding, grooming, feeding or simply watching. Trails take riders through canyons, atop mesas and

Historic Saloons & Restaurants

Across the West, small towns as well as big cities are home to historic restaurants and saloons. We recommend you consult the *True West Historic Travel Guide*. We also suggest you confirm hours and days of operation in advance and then enjoy your meal.

The Red Onion
Skagway, AK
RedOnion1898.com

Crystal Palace
Tombstone, AZ
CrystalPalaceSaloon.com

Almost Historical River City Saloon
Old Sacramento, CA
TheRiverCitySaloon.com

Smiley's Schooner Saloon
Bolinas, CA
SmileysSaloon.com

The Buckhorn Exchange
Denver, CO
Buckhorn.com

Meeker Hotel & Cafe
Meeker, CO
MeekerHotel.com

The Fort Restaurant
Morrison, CO
TheFort.com

Mint Steaks and Seafood
Silverthorne, CO
MintSteakhouse.com

Hays House Restaurant and Tavern
Council Grove, KS
HaysHouse.com

Historic Montana Bar
Miles City, MT
TheMontanaBar.com

The Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House
Pinos Altos, NM
BuckhornSaloonAndOperahouse.com

Genoa Bar
Genoa, NV
GenoaBarAndSaloon.com

Saloon No. 10
Deadwood, SD
Saloon10.com

Buffalo Bodega Bar
Deadwood, SD
BuffaloBodega.com

Shooting Star Saloon
Huntsville, UT
No website



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www.kayelbar.com



RANCHO DE LA OSA
SASABE, ARIZONA
www.ranchodelaosa.com



TOMBSTONE MONUMENT RANCH
TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA
www.tombstonemonumentranch.com



WHITE STALLION RANCH
TUCSON, ARIZONA
www.whitestallion.com



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www.hassayampainn.com
122 E Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301
1-800-322-1927 ❖ 928-778-9434



through the Gila National Forest where Black Range views are breathtaking. At the only ranch of its kind in New Mexico, guests can ride as much or as little as they want. And with only four cabins accommodating up to 16 guests, the small numbers allow schedule flexibility. The only distractions are Nature—herds of elk, deer, eagles and 1,000-year-old cliff dwellings. After a relaxing day, savor ranch-style cooking in the dining hall or at outdoor barbecues. Open March through mid-November.



The Murray Hotel
Silver City, New Mexico
Courtesy The Murray Hotel

Murray Hotel

200 W Broadway St
Silver City, NM 88061
575-956-9400
Murray-Hotel.com

Take a step back into 1938 when you sail through the doors of the Murray Hotel in downtown Silver City, New Mexico. Upon opening, the Murray soon became known for its Art Deco luxury and elegance. Today, restorations have

returned the hotel to its original Streamline Moderne majesty and

now include many green, energy-efficient systems. Reopened in 2012, the 53 guest rooms and suites are spacious and comfortable with a complimentary breakfast included. Wall artwork tells the historic hotel's history. Locally produced artwork is on sale in the lobby. Many shops, restaurants, art galleries and museums are within close walking proximity to the Murray.

Plaza Hotel

230 Plaza St
Las Vegas, NM 87701
505-425-3591
PlazaHotel-NM.com

Opening in 1882 as an upmarket hotel for the booming town of Las Vegas, New Mexico Territory, the Palace Hotel, a three-story brick building with

an Italianate façade, sits on the north side of the town plaza. Originally advertised as the “Belle of the Southwest,” the Plaza lost favor when Fred Harvey opened the luxurious La Castañeda Inn as part of the Harvey House chain. Now remodeled, the Plaza Hotel is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tom Mix movies and television series have been shot here; the most recent was Longmire. A restaurant and bar are on the premises.

St. James Hotel

617 S Collison Ave
Cimarron, NM 87714
575-376-2664
EXSTJames.com

Built in 1872 on the historic Santa Fe Trail, the St. James Hotel has been a gathering place for over 140 years. Frenchman Henri Lambert built a saloon which became a hotel, frequented over the years by such characters as Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Jesse James, Davy Crockett II and many others.

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Thirteen historic rooms have been updated, appointed with antique furnishings, and named for the famous people who have walked through the doors. A two-story annex with 10 extra rooms is adjacent. Hungry? Lambert's restaurant serves lunch and supper in a tin-stamped ceiling dining room. Or enjoy a cold one at the historic TJ's bar.

OREGON

Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon

8 SE Court Ave
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-278-1100
Hamley.com

Located in the heart of Pendleton, the Hamley Saloon & Steakhouse, open Tuesday to Saturday, has the region's most authentic Old West 100-year-old mahogany bar which features oak woodwork and is watched over by "Tex," a massive longhorn steer. Stained-glass chandeliers complete the decor. Happy hour drinks and food set a tone for relaxation and conviviality. Looking for a bite? Hamley Café, open Monday to Saturday, offers a quiet relaxing breakfast and lunch. Hamley Steakhouse offers takeout as well as dine-in. The restaurant specializes in prime rib and traditional ranch cooking.



Hamley Steakhouse and Saloon
Pendleton, Oregon
Courtesy Hamley Steakhouse and Saloon

Stunning on the inside, Hamley Steakhouse and Saloon occupies a building dating from the Oregon Trail days and is filled with nostalgic Old West decor.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Bullock Hotel

633 Main St
Deadwood, SD 57732
605-578-1745
HistoricBullock.com

Step back in time as you walk through the same rooms and hallways that Deadwood's first sheriff, Seth Bullock, still proudly "haunts." Treat yourself to 19th-century historical elegance combined with 21st-century amenities. Within walking distance of downtown Deadwood, the hotel, built in 1895, offers 28 luxury rooms, a breakfast restaurant, Bully's, a full liquor bar, ghost tours and a casino, open 24/7. The beautifully appointed rooms feature Wi-Fi and period furniture. Bully's, named after

SETH BULLOCK

Deadwood's First Sheriff opened Deadwood's *best hotel* in 1895.



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Teddy Roosevelt, is open for breakfast. The Bullock Hotel is definitely the “Jewel of Downtown Deadwood” and is the most photographed building in town.

TEXAS

Rancho Cortez Dude Ranch

872 Hay Hollar Rd
Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-9339
RanchoCortez.com

This ranch, located in the Texas Hill Country and near San Antonio, offers cowboy experiences for everyone. Escape urban life for a half or full day, or much longer. The ranch offers meals, horseback riding, swimming, hayrides, barrel racing and fitness programs. Or stay overnight in Western theme-appointed lodging. Large porches, a refreshing outdoor pool, indoor pool, children’s play area and deck and hot tub complement a large dining and lodge room. A girls’ horse summer camp for riders 8-16 teaches good horsemanship. A boys’ cowboy camp for ages 8-18 teaches riding and roping skills, caring for livestock and camping,

WYOMING

Buffalo Bill’s Irma Hotel

1192 Sheridan Ave
Cody, WY 82414
307-587-4221
IrmaHotel.com

Built in 1902 by Buffalo Bill Cody, the Irma Hotel, which he called “a gem,” sits just outside Yellowstone National Park. Named for Cody’s youngest daughter, Irma, the hotel has seen its share of celebrities—princes, Indian chiefs and movie stars. The rooms are named after influential Wyoming residents. Be sure to see the amazing cherrywood backbar in the restaurant—a 1900 present from Queen Victoria of England to Cody for his performances in the Wild West Shows.

Enjoy a full menu at the restaurant which serves steaks, seafood and prime rib. Guests can sit on the porch and order a snack and drink while

watching the gunfighters perform in the courtyard next door.

Miners and Stockmen’s Steakhouse & Spirits

608 Main St
Hartville, WY 82215
307-836-2008
WyomingsOldestBar.com

Wyoming’s oldest bar at the Miners and Stockmen’s Steakhouse & Spirits, offer steaks and an extensive wine list, plus 35 different types of whiskey. Housed in the last remaining remnants of the old Fort Laramie trading post, the Steakhouse in Hartville, population 64, is adjacent to Guernsey State Park. Hartville, founded as a mining town, was rich in gold, silver, copper and iron ore.

The Steakhouse has a reputation for serving mouthwatering beef. The bar guests see today was carved in 1862 in Germany, shipped to New York, trained to Cheyenne and then to Fort Laramie for the officers’ club. In the 1880s, it was brought by wagon to Hartville. Open Thursday through Sunday.

Occidental Hotel

10 N. Main St
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-0451
OccidentalWyoming.com

Since 1880, the Occidental Hotel has established a reputation for hospitality and fine food. Old West characters Buffalo Billy Cody, Teddy Roosevelt, Butch Cassidy and Tom Horn spent time at the Occidental. Following a restoration in the early 2000s, this hotel is like truly stepping back in time. Embossed tin ceilings are original as is the 25-foot back bar and wooden chairs. The saloon bullet holes are original, too.

All rooms are furnished with different antiques and décor. Enjoy saloon beverages and a selection of dishes or take your food out back to the Beer Garden. Or dine in a nationally registered historic building at the Virginian Restaurant in the hotel (reservations recommended).



Historic Guest Ranches & Lodges

Almost every Western state has a historic dude ranch, guest ranch or lodge. Here is a short list of our favorites. Contact the Dude Ranchers Association at DudeRanch.org for others.

Circle Z

Patagonia, AZ
Circlez.com

Monument Ranch

Tombstone, AZ
TombstoneMonumentRanch.com

White Stallion Ranch

Tucson, AZ
WhiteStallion.com

Tanque Verde

Tucson, AZ
TanqueVerdeRanch.com

Kay El Bar Guest Ranch

Wickenburg, AZ
KayElBar.com

Red Horse Mountain Ranch

Harrison, ID
RedHorseMountain.com

Lone Mountain Ranch

Big Sky, MT
LoneMountainRanch.com

The Ranch at Rock Creek

Phillipsburg, MT
TheRanchAtRockCreek.com

Sweet Grass Ranch

Big Timber, MT
SweetGrassRanch.com

Mayan Dude Ranch

Bandera, TX
MayanRanch.com

Y.O. Ranch & Resort

Kerrville, TX
YORanchHotel.com

Cibolo Creek Ranch

Marfa, TX
Cibolocreekranch.com

Paradise Guest Ranch

Buffalo, WY
Paradiseranch.com

Willow Creek Ranch at the

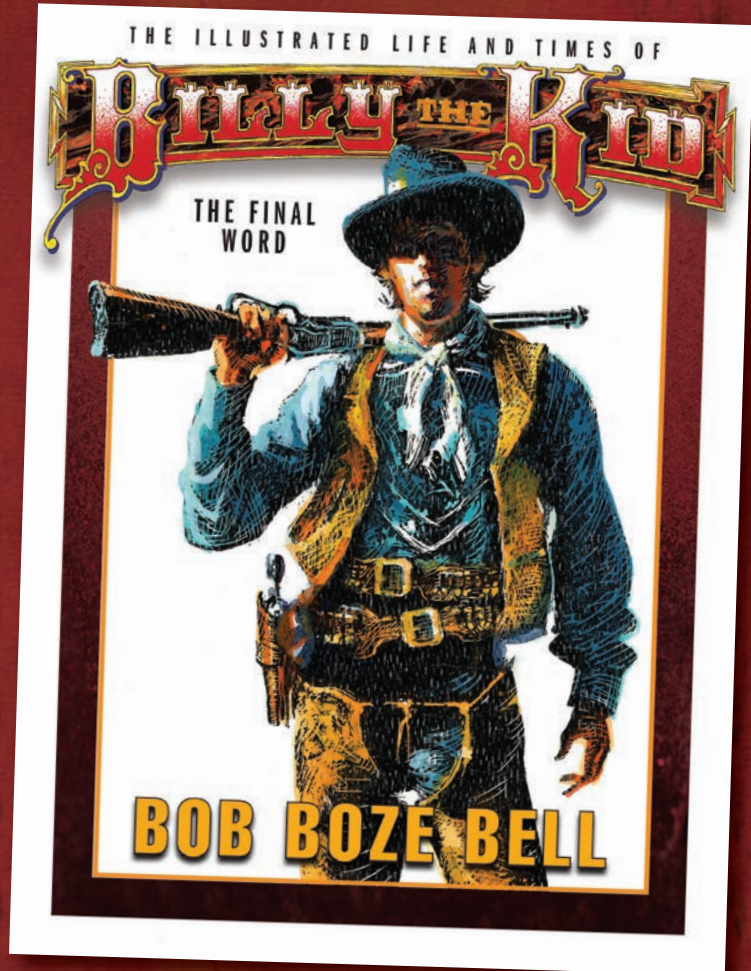
Hole-in-the-Wall

Kaycee, WY
Willowcreekranch.com

Yellowstone O.T.O. Ranch

Gardiner, WY
OTODudeRanch.com

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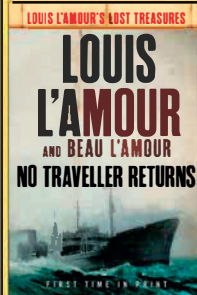
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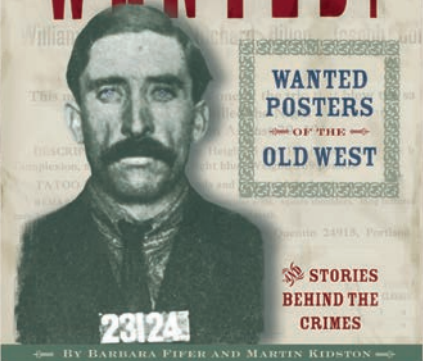


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WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR MAY 2023



Photo Courtesy Bishop Mule Days

BISHOP MULE DAYS

Bishop, CA, May 23-28: Now in its 53rd year, there is no way to actually describe Mule Days. It is part mule show, part test of skills, and part Wild West show. It is an event the likes of which are held nowhere else in the world. Over the six days of the event, 14 shows feature over 700 mules with their trainers, riders and packers. In excess of 30,000 fans converge on the Tri-County Fairgrounds and the Mike Boothe Memorial Arena to watch the events and visit the exhibitors.
760-872-4263 • MuleDays.org

ART SHOWS

PHIPPEN MUSEUM'S MINIATURE MASTERPIECE ART SHOW & SALE

Prescott, AZ, May 2-June 4: This will be the 19th annual presentation of the museum's much-anticipated Miniature Masterpiece Art Show & Sale. Over 60 successful and established artists are invited to submit small-scale works of art to be sold at fixed prices to benefit the museum.
928-778-1385 • PhippenArtMuseum.org

FILM FESTIVALS

JOHN WAYNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Winterset, IA, May 26-27: Come celebrate the 40th year of the John Wayne Birthplace, this year featuring a salute to the armed forces. If John Wayne is best known for his Westerns, his war movies are a close second. More significant than any screen performance, though, was Wayne's real-life commitment to the brave men and women of America's armed forces. Visit the website for up-to-date info on all the festivities.
877-462-1044 • JohnWayneBirthplace.museum

GUN SHOWS

COLORADO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GUN SHOW

Denver, CO, May 20-21: The show offers more than 1,500 tables of antique and modern firearms and cowboy artifacts.
720-482-0167 • CGCA.com

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

22ND ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY DAYS

Pinedale, WY, May 9-11: American Mountain Men show the day-to-day life of the Rendezvous era trappers. Stations include demonstrations on black powder firearms, Native American sign language, beaver skinning, constructing tipis and shelters, trade goods and much more.
877-686-6266 • MuseumoftheMountainMan.com

KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL

Kerrville, TX, May 25-June 11: Singers and songwriters perform at one of the largest folk music festivals in North America.
830-257-3600 • KerrvilleFolkFestival.org

WYATT EARP DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, May 27-28: In honor of famed Tombstone lawman Wyatt Earp, activities include gunfights, a chili cook-off and an 1880s fashion show.
520-457-3511 • DiscoverTombstone.com

RAILWAY FESTIVALS

NARROW GAUGE DAY

Durango, CO, May 5: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad celebrates

continuous operation between Durango and Silverton since 1882.
888-872-4607 • DurangoTrain.com

STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

EARN YOUR SPURS

Douglas, AZ, April 28-30: The annual ranchin', ridin' and ropin' event raises money for ranch and rodeo youth in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. Events include youth and collegiate team rodeo, bull riding, goat roping, ranch rodeo and ranch horse races, vendor trade show, live music and a Sunday church service.
520-508-5208 • EarnYourSpursInc.org

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC

Abilene, TX, May 11-14: The classic includes a bit and spur show, a chuckwagon cook-off, matched horse races, children's stickhorse rodeo, cowboy poets and Western artisans, ranch horse clinics, Western trade show, a Western gala, the Rhinestone Round-Up, a ranch horse sale, the World Finals RHAA Competition and a Western parade.
325-677-4376 • WesternHeritageClassic.com

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND STAMPEDE

Bandera, TX, May 26-28: This rodeo features PRCA-sanctioned bareback riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and bull riding.
830-522-0054 • BanderaProRodeo.org

TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



Bards, Bison and Bowlers

What kind of reception did traveling entertainment groups receive in the West?

*Gloria Mata
Phoenix, Arizona*

They were very popular in the entertainment-starved West, and the good ones made a lot of money. They ranged from Shakespearean troupes to minstrel shows to circus and equestrian acts.

Pretty women were the most popular because of a dearth of females on the frontier, and many became very rich.

Caroline Chapman was one of the first real actresses to head West. Following her first performance in San Francisco, the audience carpeted the stage with poke sacks filled with gold.

Maria Eliza Rosanna Gilbert from Limerick, Ireland, took the stage as the exotic Lola Montez and became quite rich doing her “Spider Dance.” And there were many more.

What is known about Billy the Kid's early years?

*Richard Klingenberg
Buda, Texas*

For the most part, they are a mystery. The Kid's birth name was William Henry McCarty Jr. His birthplace is not certain, maybe New York City. His family apparently lived in Indianapolis for a time, but little is known about that period. Billy had a brother—or maybe a half-brother—named Joseph, who was a gambler.

The Kid began calling himself William H. Bonney, but where he got the alias is unknown. Hopefully, more research will find more info on Billy.



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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



Irish actress Lola Montez was a sensation on stage on both American coasts between 1851–53. After an infamous trip to Australia, she returned to the U.S., but she never achieved the fame she enjoyed in her earlier years.

True West Archives

How did the transcontinental railroad affect the bison?

*Robert Grace
Brooklyn, New York*

The bison were the commissary for the Plains Indians. Since there were so few resources on the Plains, the Indians developed skills to use as much of the great beasts as possible. The land grants that the railroad companies were given took away land from the Plains Indians. The grants also greatly disrupted buffalo hunting, as fences around new White settlers' lands and the railroad blocked the buffalo migrations. Now, the White hide hunters could travel by rail to hunt, many just for sport. Others sought the fur for coats and other clothing. And the hides were used to make machine belts for the burgeoning Industrial Revolution. By 1900, naturalists estimated that fewer than 1,000 bison remained in the West.

In a graphic cover story of June 3, 1871, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* reported on how the new railroads dealt with the bison of the West.

Courtesy Library of Congress





In late 19th-century America, bowling became a sensation from cities to frontier towns. In 1882, George Majéau operated a bowling alley at his Sazerac Saloon in Tombstone.

Courtesy Library of Congress

When did bowling appear in Arizona?

Tom Barker
Kansas City, Missouri

The earliest bowling alley I found in Arizona was Vogan's in Tombstone in 1879. The town also boasted four churches, an icehouse, a school, two banks, three newspapers and an ice cream parlor. That's alongside 110 saloons, 14 gambling halls and numerous dance halls and brothels.

What do you know about Clay Beauford, the noted Arizona pioneer?

James Collins
Tucson, Arizona

Clay Beauford was not his real name. He was born Wilford C. Bridwell but changed his name to Clay Beauford when he ran away from home at the age of 14 to enlist in the Confederate Army. He then had a distinguished career during the Apache Wars in the early 1870s.

Afterward, in 1874, John Clum hired him as chief of Indian police at San Carlos, where he played a role in the dramatic capture of Geronimo and Victorio at Ojo Caliente. For that, Beauford received a Medal of Honor.

He followed that up by becoming a successful rancher and miner. In 1879, he formally changed his name back to Bridwell, then served in the 1885 session of the Arizona Territorial Legislature.

Beauford/Bridwell died in Los Angeles in 1905.



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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

I grew up on a small farm near Auxvasse, Missouri, and graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. I'm the oldest of five children.

My parents were hard working and loving individuals. My dad was born near Cascade, Montana, and my grandfather often worked with the artist Charles M. Russell. My mother was an avid reader of Zane Grey's novels.

The teacher who influenced my life most, was one I met in seventh grade. I was really a quiet kid, so her encouraging me to write allowed me to express myself.

A writer I enjoyed reading was Mark Twain. Growing up in Missouri, the town of Hannibal and the Mississippi River weren't that far away. I could relate to the stories about Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

The first story that stands out for me I wrote in high school. I wrote a book report about a book that didn't exist, never did exist and still doesn't exist. I made it up. The teacher gave me an A.

A Western movie I enjoy most is *The Big Country*. Best fun movie is *Along Came Jones*.

Working as an editor can be both a challenge and a blessing. Having been a newspaper editor and magazine editor has helped me become a better writer. However, I've learned I can't edit my own work.

Short story writing means making every word count. It's also enjoyable because you can get right to the point and then tie everything up.

Bandit the Cow Dog is my most recent children's book and addresses the importance of accepting responsibility for your actions, no matter how uncomfortable. I put some type of teaching or learning element in all my children's books.

Moving to Texas from Georgia has been good. But it has meant leaving both of my daughters and their families including my four grandchildren in Georgia. However, my wife, Sonja, was living in Texas when I met her. Her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, along with her son, all live close by, so that's been a positive.

My favorite pie is an easy one. Make it pecan. However, if we are talking cobbles, then it's gotta be either blackberry or peach.

Missouri (or Georgia) BBQ versus Texas brisket? That's a tough one. I grew up thinking there's nothing better than Kansas City barbecue. But, Texas brisket is amazing!

The West and what defines the West are great questions. Most people tend to say everything west of the Mississippi River. However, ask somebody living west of the Cumberland Gap or the Smoky or Blue Ridge Mountains, and they may differ with you.



Photo by Tim Haier

PHIL MILLS, JR., WRITER

Award-winning Texas author Phil Mills, Jr. serves as president of the Western Writers of America (WWA). His first novel, *Where a Good Wind Blows*, was followed by *Where the Wildflowers Dance*. His short story "Cold the Bitter Heart" appeared in the anthology *Perilous Frontier*. Mills has written three children's books: *Scooter the Cow Dog*, *Mud Between My Toes* and *Bandit the Cow Dog*, which received a 2021 WWA Spur Finalist Award and a Will Rogers Gold Medallion.

The Western novel has created an image where the good guys always seem to overcome evil by standing up for what's right. These stories have created and perpetuated a belief that good will eventually win out.

Rodeo announcing came to me in 2016 when I attended the late Chad Nicholson's Rodeo Announcer's Training Seminar in Fort Worth, Texas. After announcing barrel races in Alabama and Georgia, I started announcing rodeos at the Twin Elm Guest Ranch in Bandera, Texas.

As president of the Western Writers of America, I have the pleasure of representing more than 700 talented author/writers in the promotion of literature about the American West.

Marriage is great, especially when your wife supports your crazy writing habit unconditionally, even when she realized a writer putting words on paper won't pay many bills.

What history has taught me is that mistakes and disappointment are inevitable. How we react and rebound from those mistakes is what defines us. Quitting is easy. Turning your face into the wind of adversity may be the most difficult thing we ever do, but with God's help, it may also be the most rewarding.



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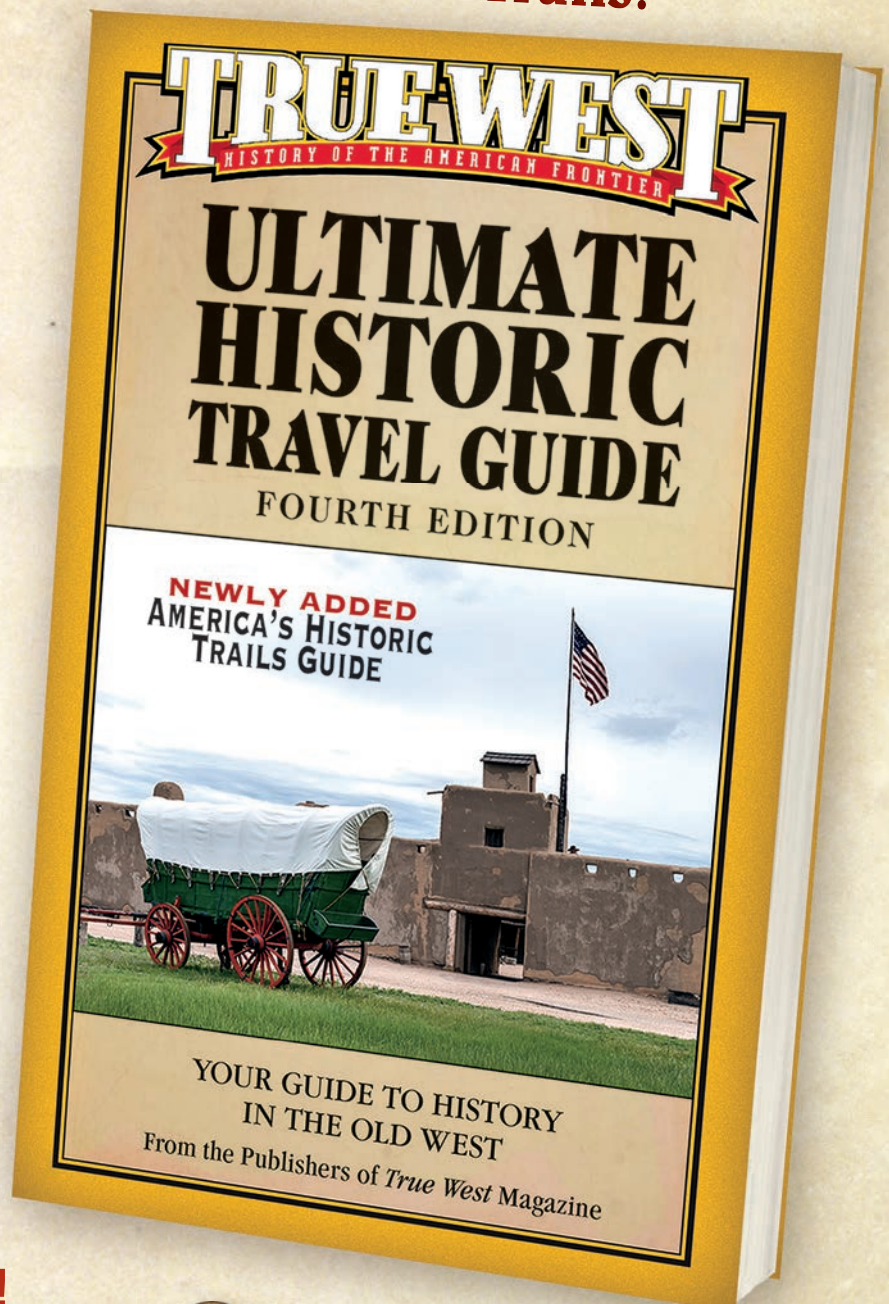
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