

BEST OF THE WEST

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

THE COWBOY

AMERICA'S ICON

PLUS:

How to Spot a Dude

The Real McCoy
How a Wyoming Cowboy Became an American Hero

The Reel Cowboys

OUR 71ST YEAR
JAN/FEB 2024

\$6.99 · TrueWestMagazine.com
DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 12

READ THIS ISSUE
IN THE APP NOW!



OUR TOP TEN TOWNS FOR 2024

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE *JEROME, ARIZONA*

A National Historic Landmark



EXPLORE OUR HISTORY

A billion dollar copper camp turned ghost town turned tourist destination.



**RESTAURANTS • LODGING • WINE TASTING ROOMS
SHOPS • STUDIOS • GALLERIES**



Jerome Historical Society



www.JeromeChamber.com

THE PONIES HAVE CHANGED,
The Spirit is the Same



Get off the road to experience the stables of the original Pony Express, stand in the room where Jesse James was shot and killed, or walk the halls of the Patee House hotel that was commandeered by Union troops during the Civil War in St. Joseph, Missouri. For more attractions, festivals, and events, visit StJoMo.com!

PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

Sweat, grit, and determination drove the riders of the Pony Express across thousands of miles and into history. Learn their stories at the Pony Express National Museum and see what it took to be one of the fastest riders in the West.

JESSE JAMES HOME

The legend of one of America's most notorious outlaws lives on at the Jesse James Home Museum. Peruse artifacts, explore his house, and see the infamous bullet hole from the shot that claimed his life.



SHERIDAN
WYO



PRESENTED BY LEE HEATING, COOLING & REFRIGERATION
SKIJORING FEBRUARY 10, 2024
WYOWINTERRODEO.ORG

FOR A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD WEST

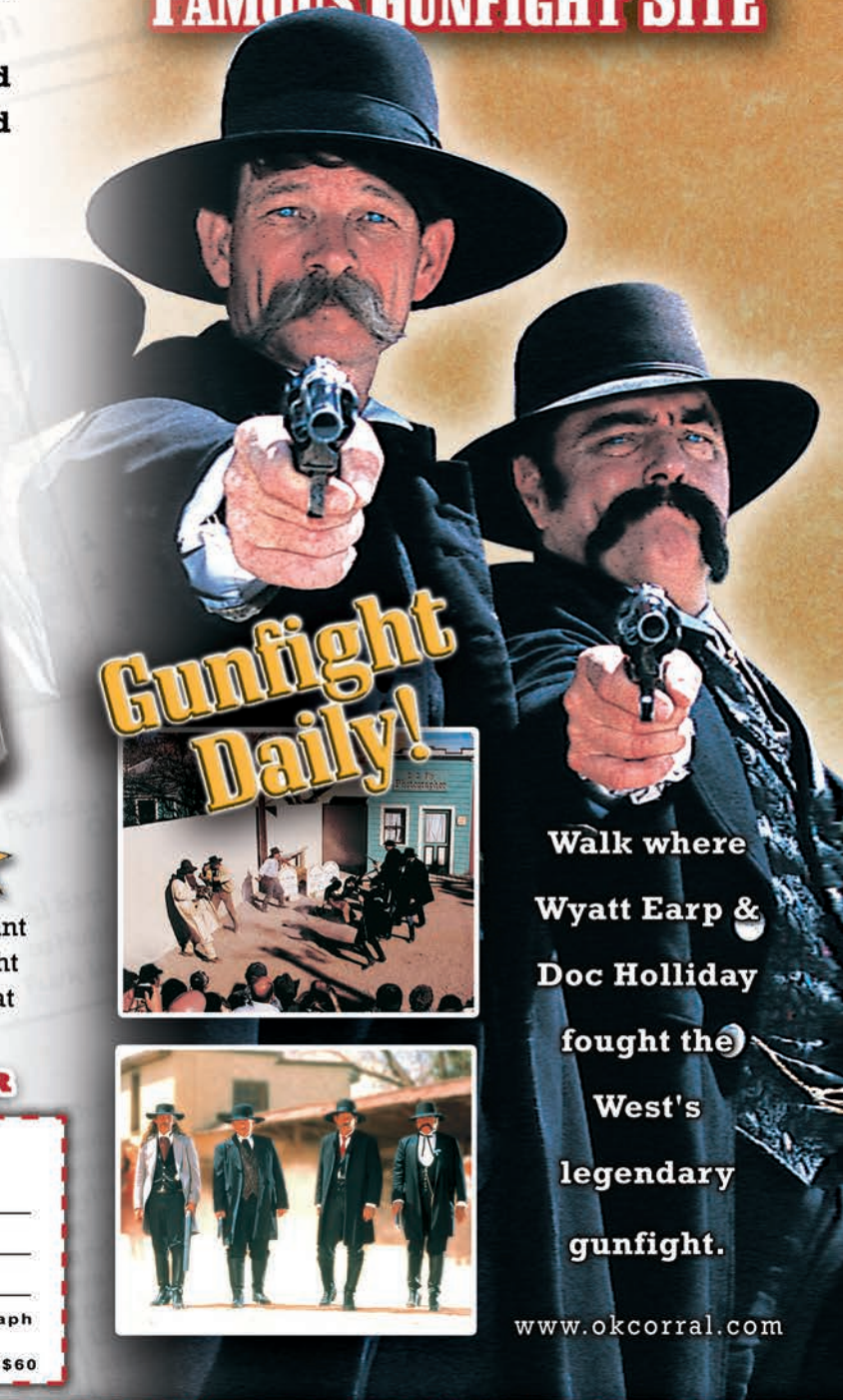
In 1881 *The Tombstone Epitaph* reported the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Today, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday live on in *The Tombstone Epitaph*, now an historical monthly journal of the Old West still published in Tombstone, AZ.

Twenty pages of newly researched articles on the winning of the Old West every month:

- HISTORIC EVENTS
- FRONTIERSMAN & GUNSLINGERS
- THE FAMOUS & THE INFAMOUS
- COWBOYS & INDIANS
- PIONEER WOMEN & FAMILIES
- RARE PHOTOGRAPHS



FAMOUS GUNFIGHT SITE



**Gunfight
Daily!**



Walk where
Wyatt Earp &
Doc Holliday
fought the
West's
legendary
gunfight.

www.okcorral.com



SUBSCRIBE NOW

Send this coupon with your subscription to get a FREE reprint of the 1881 Epitaph reporting the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral®. Or subscribe online at www.tombstoneepitaph.com

ONLY \$25 PER YEAR

The Tombstone Epitaph.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send check or money order to: The Tombstone Epitaph
P.O. Box 1880, Tombstone, AZ 85638.

Rates U.S.: 1-Year \$25 2-Year \$45 3-Year \$60

TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

Sixty-five Miles S.E. of Tucson

DISCOVER SAN ANGELO

Get ready to lasso in the adventure!

San Angelo is the perfect destination to experience a fusion between vibrant art and Old West spirit. Our city's roots run deep in the Western heritage that shaped the Lone Star State. So saddle up, art aficionados and Western enthusiasts alike...

your wild, artsy, and Western adventure awaits.



Follow us!

f i p in y
@DiscoverSanAngelo



Plan

your trip today at DiscoverSanAngelo.com

THE 34TH ANNUAL BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

JANUARY 26 & 27, 2024

Gordon Snidow



IN AN EXCITING NEW LOCATION:

WESTGATE RESORT & CASINO

3000 PARADISE RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89109

WWW.OLDWESTEVENTS.COM

The 2024 Vegas Old West Show will feature hundreds of national dealers of Western art, antiques, apparel, décor, jewelry, collectibles, antique firearms, Native American arts and artifacts, spurs, saddles, photography, textiles, boots, books, and other fine western merchandise in all price ranges.



"The Wild Bunch / The Fort Worth Five" Photograph

Show Hours:

Friday, January 26th: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm PST

Saturday, January 27th: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm PST

Auction Preview:

Thursday, January 25th: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm PST

(Light refreshments will be served.)

Friday, January 26th: 9:00 am PST

Auction Hours:

Friday, January 26th: 4:00 pm PST

LAS VEGAS
ANTIQUE ARMS
SHOW

IN CONJUNCTION WITH: LAS VEGAS ANTIQUE ARMS SHOW

Shop one big, top-quality show that brings together the very best dealers from two closely aligned categories, antique firearms and genuine Old West art and relics.

WWW.ANTIQUEARMSSHOW.COM



OPENING SHOT

WE TAKE YOU THERE



COWBOYS DELUXE

At one time the Miller & Lux Ranch in California was the largest combined ranching, farming and meat-packing operation in the country. Founded in 1858 by emigrant butchers-turned-entrepreneurs, Golden State cattle kings Henry Miller and Charles Lux, the ranch covered close to 1.3 million acres of land in California, Oregon and Nevada. Miller & Lux cowboys (l.-r.) Charley Gallagher, Ace Mitchell, Buster Jack O'Donnell, George Welsh and Jim Welsh paused from their chores on the home ranch four miles north of Yerington, Nevada, to be photographed by O.S. Dowe, circa 1885-1895.

Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno, Special Collections





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

EDITORIAL

- EXECUTIVE EDITOR:** Bob Boze Bell
- EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:** Ken Amorosano
- EDITOR:** Stuart Rosebrook
- COPY EDITOR:** Beth Deveny
- FEATURES EDITOR:** Mark Boardman
- EDITORIAL TEAM**
- Firearms Editor: Phil Spangenberg
- Western Film & TV Editor: Henry C. Parke
- Military History Editor: Col. Alan C. Huffines, U.S. Army
- Preservation Editor: Jana Bommersbach
- PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Robert Ray
- ART DIRECTOR:** Daniel Harshberger
- DIGITAL MARKETING MANAGER:** Mariah George
- MAPINATOR EMERITUS:** Gus Walker
- MAP EDITOR:** Tom Jonas
- HISTORICAL CONSULTANT:** Paul Hutton
- CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:**
- Bob Alexander, Allen Barra, Leo W. Banks, Art Burton, John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Peter Corbett, Steve Friesen, Drew Gomer, Dr. Jim Kornberg, John Langelier, Sherry Monahan, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts, Mary Doria Russell, Lynda Sánchez, Marshall Trimble, Larry Winget, Linda Wommack, Erik J. Wright
- ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER EMERITUS:** Ron Frieling
- PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** Robert G. McCubbin (1937-2020)
- ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** Dave Daiss
- TRUE WEST FOUNDER:** Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

- PUBLISHER & CEO:** Ken Amorosano
- PRESIDENT:** Bob Boze Bell
- BUSINESS MANAGER:** Lucinda Amorosano
- SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR:** Ken Amorosano
- REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS:**
- Sheri Jensen** (sheri@twmag.com)
- Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming
- Greg Carroll** (greg@twmag.com)
- Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

January-February 2024 Vol. 71, #1, Whole #640. True West (ISSN 0041-3615) is published six times per year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December) by True West Publishing, Inc., 6403 East Willow Springs Lane, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. 480-575-1881.

Periodical postage paid at Cave Creek, AZ 85327, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian GST Registration Number R132182866.

Single copies: \$6.99. U.S. subscription rate is \$29.95 per year (6 issues); \$39.95 for two years (12 issues).

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to: True West, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. Printed in the United States of America. Copyright 2024 by True West Publishing, Inc.

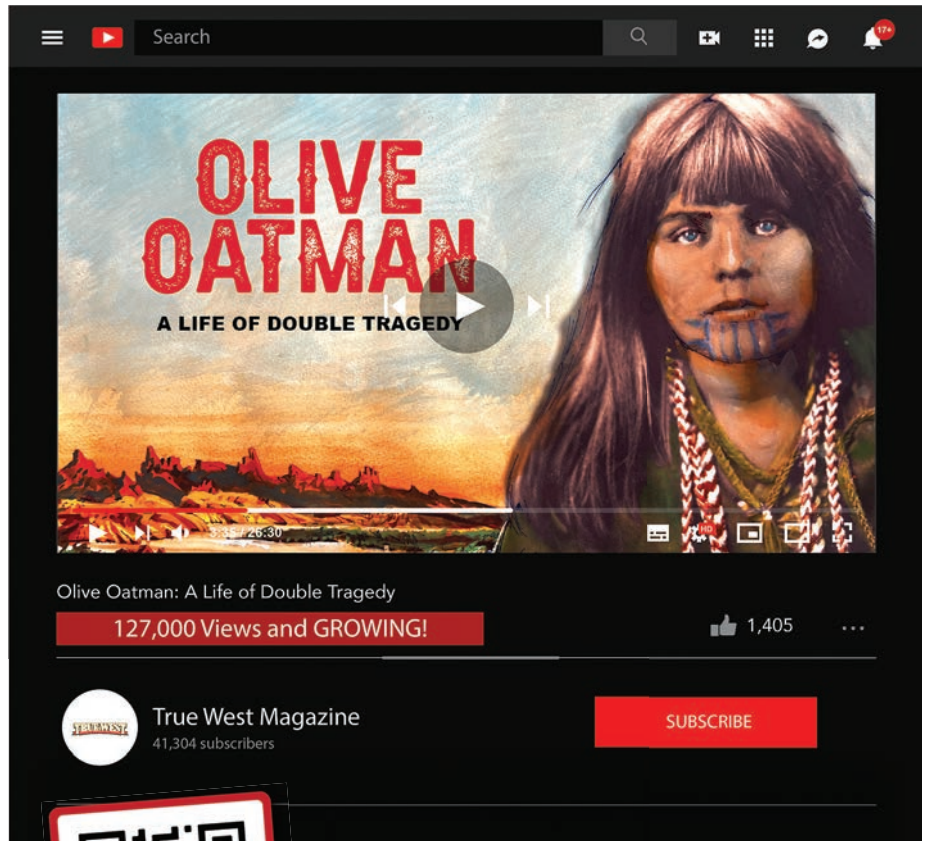
Information provided is for educational or entertainment purposes only. True West Publishing, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

Any unsolicited manuscripts, proposals, query letters, research, images or other documents that we receive will not be returned, and True West Publishing is not responsible for any materials submitted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES

855-592-9943

Follow us on:



Did Olive suffer a "fate worse than death" during her years of captivity among the Yavapai and Mojave people? Bob Boze Bell's latest YouTube video takes a closer look at the historical evidence.

Check it out now and **SUBSCRIBE** so you don't miss an upload.



Martin Anseth, with Jiggs and Patches, at EZ Ranch in St. Xavier, Montana by Robb Kendrick

34

- 6** OPENING SHOT
- 13** A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER
- 10** TRUTH BE KNOWN
- 32** CLASSIC GUNFIGHT
- 11** TO THE POINT
- 34** CLASSIC TRUE WEST
- 12** SHOOTING BACK
- 126** ASK THE MARSHALL
- 128** WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

14



14 THE COWBOY

America's icon still rides tall in the saddle.

—By Stuart Rosebrook



22

22 DUDE OR NOT A DUDE?

Can you spot the real cowboy? Only the photographer knew for sure.

—By Stuart Rosebrook



24 THE REAL McCOY

Wyoming cowboy and Army cavalry and artillery veteran Tim McCoy brought realism to the Silver Screen.

—By John P. Langellier



28

24

28 SILVER SCREEN BUCKAROOS

Since 1894, films and television shows featuring real cowboys have made the American cowboy famous worldwide

—By The Editors of True West

42 TRUE WEST'S BEST OF THE WEST 2024

—By Stuart Rosebrook and The Editors of True West



42

44 TRUE WESTERNER 2024

46 ART & COLLECTIBLES

54 FIREARMS

62 WESTERN PRESERVATION

66 WESTERN FARE

70 WESTERN BOOKS

78 WESTERN MOVIES

84 WESTERN TRAVEL

102 WESTERN WEAR

106



106 TIME TO MOTOR WEST

Enjoy welcoming Western hospitality when you stay and explore the region's best towns.

—By Stuart Rosebrook and The Editors of True West



Photo Courtesy True West Archives
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger



Old Vaquero Sayings

“He who does not expect to win is already defeated.”

Quotes

“An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it makes a better soup.”

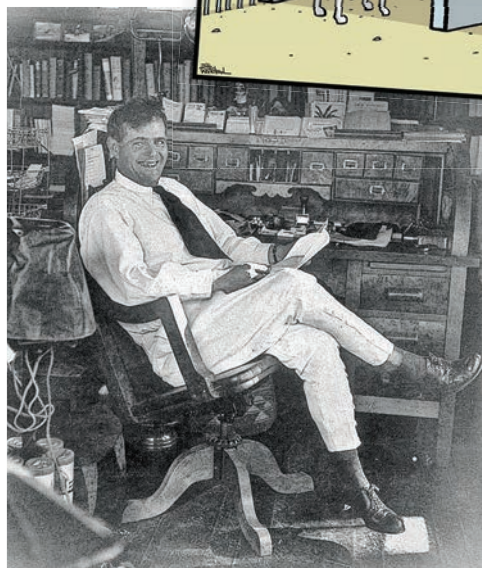
—H.L. Mencken, *A Book of Burlesques*

“Fear urged him to go back, but growth drove him on.”

—Jack London, *White Fang*

Jack London died at 40 years old in 1916 not too long after this photo was taken of him in his office at Wolf House. He is buried on his ranch in Glen Ellen, California.

True West Archives



“We live in a culture that has lost its memory.”

—Greta Ehrlich

“Part of the secret of a success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.”

—Mark Twain

“There is no spectacle on earth more appealing than that of a beautiful woman in the act of cooking dinner for someone she loves.”

—Thomas Wolfe

“The greatest thrill is not to kill but to let live.”

—James Oliver Curwood,
The Grizzly King: A Romance of the Wild

“I long to be out in the sun with no work to be done.”

—Irving Berlin



“California was almost entirely a dream, a dream vague but deep in the minds of a westering people.”

—Bernard DeVoto,
The Year of Decision 1846

“I knew as I was growing up something was wrong. I didn't know what...I knew something was over and it was not coming back.”

—Larry McMurtry

“You can fail at what you don't want. So you might as well take a chance on doing what you love.”

—Jim Carrey

“There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.”

—Ansel Adams

Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, by Ansel Adams, 1941

Courtesy Library of Congress



Dude Spotting

It's harder to spot real cowboys than you might think.

In my experience, nobody looks at a photograph of a welder and says, “That’s not a real welder.” So why do so many of us feel compelled to pass judgment on photographs of cowboys—old and new—and dismiss them as not being real cowboys?

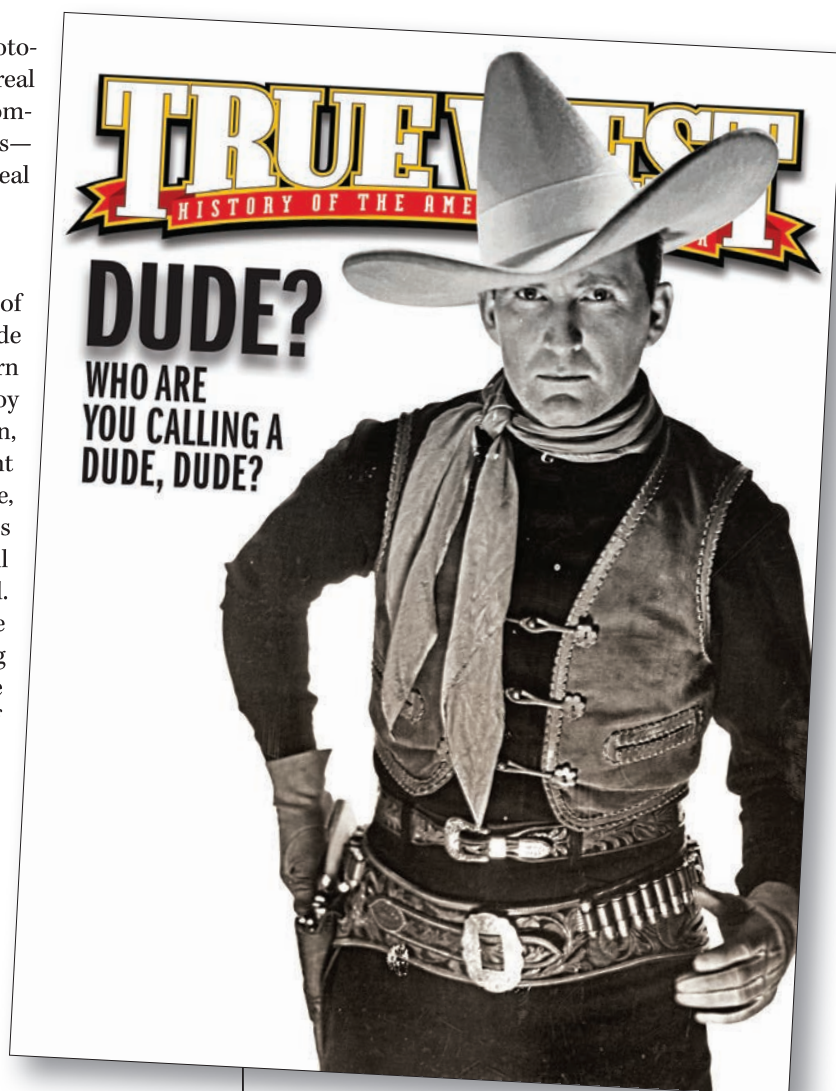
The real reason may surprise you.

What Is Judgmental Dude-ism?

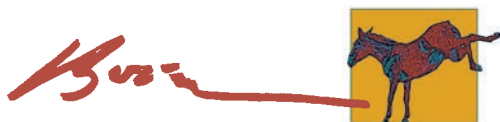
Here’s how we got to the current epidemic of Judgmental Dude-ism: After WWII so-called dude ranches proliferated in the West, catering to Eastern city slickers to come out West and live the cowboy lifestyle for a week or longer. Before their stay began, most of these tourists went into town and bought cowboy clothes to complete the fantasy experience, and as this phenomenon spread, the ranch hands who worked on these dude ranches began to pull away from the clothing styles the tourists preferred. (This is where the term “drugstore cowboy” came from.) One of the first casualties in this clothing aversion was the tucking of the pants legs into the boot tops. Never mind that literally thousands of photos exist of real cowboys in the actual Old West wearing their pants tucked into their boots, by the mid-1950s no “real” cowboy would do it. Thus, the pull to distance themselves from the dudes.

Add to that the fact that many real cowboys don’t match, or wear, the styles of the day. My Kingman cowboy cousin (and world champion steer roper in 1964), Billy Hamilton, told me the best cowboy he ever worked with wore farmer overalls and a gimme cap. So, not only is it next to impossible to judge a cowboy by what he’s wearing, it’s foolish to think we can spot them in photographs.

Not long ago, during the Prescott Frontier Days, I asked an authentic-looking cowboy on Whiskey Row if he worked at one of the neighboring ranches, and he told me he wasn’t a cowboy. When I asked him what he did for a living he said, “I’m a welder.”



If you think Tim McCoy, above, looks like a dude, or worse—a Hollywood wannabe cowboy—you will probably be amazed to see his real backstory (page 22) and the stories of all the other real cowboys who look like dudes (see page 24).



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

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

A MOVING TARGET

Reading the November 2023 To the Point article—“A Moving Target”—was when we realized the magazine may start deviating from its original format.

Django Unchained was not a movie we would watch since we don't like Quentin Tarantino's movies. Too much trash language and trash content. Sometimes the best movies indicate, but don't demonstrate, the actual trash surrounding the story. That's why we watch the old Western movies and television shows.

I'm glad your *True West* cover did not include the alternative cover designs. If you wanted to highlight the movie *Django*, it should have been done as you did *Tombstone*. The October 2023 *Tombstone* cover fit in with *True West*'s past cover designs. Don't deviate from the formula that y'all have managed to preserve.

—Suzan A. Chapman
Corpus Christi, Texas

James B. Mills seems to opine for believable and authentic storylines at the beginning of his ode to *Django Unchained* in the November 2023 issue as he laments the sissyfication (my word) of Western films of the past 25 years. Likening *Unforgiven* to *The Breakfast Club* is a bit of a stretch.

While Mills's main point (I think I found it) was that retribution and killing were realistic and unapologetic in older Westerns which only the aged are apparently watching anymore, *Django*'s premise should cause the old-time purists to shake their proverbial heads in disgust. Yes, we need modern Westerns with modern actors. But there should be no sacrificing of authenticity in the name of star power and profitability. Who cares that *Django* was the highest-grossing Western of all time if it compromises on plausibility?

We lovers of the genre run the risk of watering down the respect as an art form if we embrace such notions. Next thing you know, Mills and others like him will be hollering that Seth McFarland's abysmal *A Million Ways to Die in the West* should be enshrined in our pantheon. Give me reruns of *Gunsmoke* or *Bonanza* all year if that's what we downgrade to.

—Allan Hubbard
Paris, Texas

I applaud Bob Boze Bell's decision to extend the West in his November 2023 To the Point column, “A Moving Target.” My grandfather, Roy Mathews, was born in 1895. I lived with him growing up. He was a deaf World War One veteran. He told me when he was young, “All the men carried pistols if they were out in public.” He told me many still had gunfights. He was a grand man, never learned to read but fought the Huns (that's what he called the Germans) and romanced the French women!

—Coy Prather
Montalba, Texas

We wish we could have met your grandfather. We would have learned a lot from him. I would love to have known his opinion on the modern state of Westerns, including Tombstone and Django Unchained. —SR

GOOD READING



The November 2023 issue of *True West* may be the best all-around edition of your 70-year-old magazine I've yet enjoyed. From the historical coverage of U.S. marshals and the still shocking Osage murders, to the informative and interesting look at still compelling Western cinema

and weaponry, including even my favorite Lone Pine film location, it made for hard-to-put-down reading. Again, I commend you, your writers, and artists, who may be too little appreciated.

—Dr. Jim Vickrey
Montgomery, Alabama

Thanks for the support! Your good words keep us inspired to pursue the best stories of the West for our readers.—SR

CORRECTION

In the November 2023 issue of *True West*, Bob Boze Bell's Classic Gunfight did not include Jeff Broome's updated scholarship on Wild Bill Hickok's fight with members of the 7th Cavalry in Hays City, Kansas, in 1870. Look for more on Broome's detailed investigation of the fight in the upcoming March-April issue. Broome's conclusion is that the fight did not take place in Paddy Welch's saloon but in Tommy Drum's saloon and that there were no other soldiers in the saloon other than Lonergan and Kile, so Hickok never pointed his pistol at other soldiers in the saloon. We also recommend Broome's 2022 July-August article “Hickok's Twist of Fate.”



True West Charts a New Course

Changes in 2024 Include a Bimonthly Schedule, Lower Subscription Prices and Digital Expansion.

T rue West magazine, a publication with a rich history dating back to 1953, has navigated decades of change, continuously adapting to serve its readers through both traditional newsstands and direct mail distribution. Our dedicated team of editors, writers and contributors has consistently brought fresh perspectives to the history of America's Old West.

In the face of ongoing transformations in the magazine industry, influenced by electronic devices and the Internet, external pressures have impacted our ability to maintain the distribution consistency our readers have come to expect. The national newsstand, once a stronghold, has diminished in functionality and demand, evident in the reduction of prominent positions at airports and supermarkets across America. These industry shifts have not left *True West* untouched.

Compounded by the relentless rise in printing, manufacturing, distribution and postage costs, our commitment to delivering a robust schedule has faced challenges. Nevertheless, we have persevered through the need to adapt, a testament to the resilience of our publication.

Looking ahead to 2024, *True West's* business team has proactively modified the production and frequency schedule to six times per year. This adjustment is driven by the need to balance production and distribution costs, ensuring the sustained health of *True West* amidst changing economic landscapes.

To reduce the impact on our valued readers, we have implemented a reduction in subscription prices and established a bimonthly distribution



Publisher Ken Amorosano astride his Spanish mustang Chato

Ken Amorosano

schedule, covering the January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December issues. Despite these changes, our commitment to delivering fresh, well-researched editorial content remains unwavering.

We have also removed the paywall for regular content on truwestmagazine.com and are actively expanding our digital offerings, including our new *True West* Mobile App. This ensures that you can enjoy *True West* from anywhere at any time and on any device.

For our subscribers, rest assured that there will be no interruption to your subscription. You will receive the full number of issues you paid for in your last renewal or newly paid subscription.



We express our gratitude to our loyal readers for their ongoing support of *True West*. As we embark on this new phase, we remain dedicated to a lasting and prosperous future, adapting to the changing tides while upholding the spirit of *True West*. We hope you continue this journey with us!

—Ken Amorosano,
Publisher, True West

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

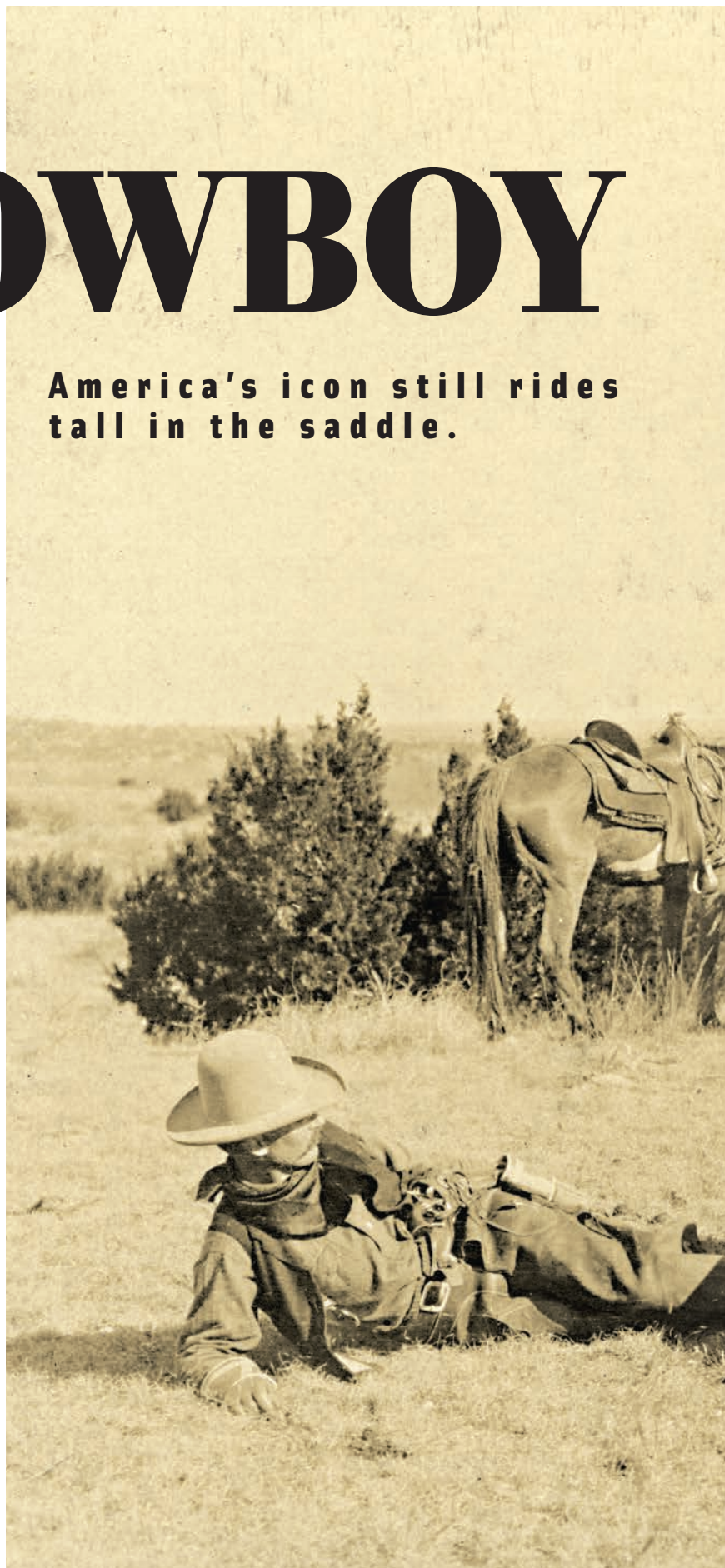
THE COWBOY

They call him cowboy, vaquero, buckaroo, waddy, paniolo, saddletramp, wrangler and drover. He is a loner and an owner. He's a father and a mother. He's a son and a daughter. He's a rancher and a farmer. He's a singer and an entertainer, a fence builder and a horseshoer. He's a maverick and a rebel. He is the legendary, mythic, icon of America. He is the cowboy.

In honor of the American cowboy, the editors of *True West* present the following portfolio of classic 19th- and early-20th-century photographs as a testament to his—and her—status as the icon of America.



America's icon still rides tall in the saddle.



A Mumble-Peg Game

Turkey Track Ranch, Texas, 1906

Erwin E. Smith, Courtesy Library of Congress



Bill Pickett

Location and Date Unknown
Courtesy North Fort Worth Historical Society



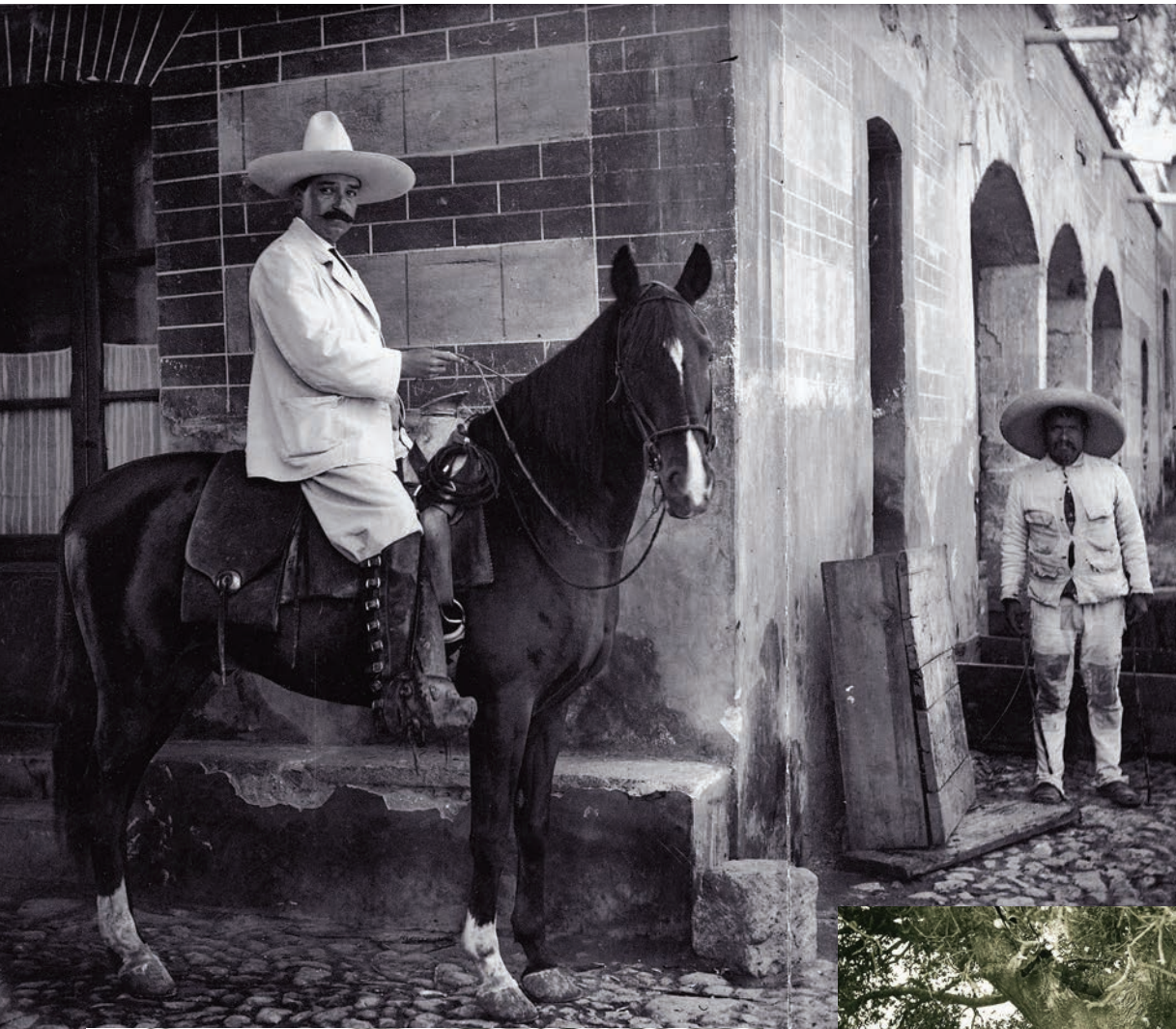
Tillie Baldwin, Riding Stampede

New York, New York, 1916
Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University

A Shoe Bar Wrangler

Shoe Bar Ranch,
Texas, 1912
Erwin E. Smith, Courtesy Erwin E. Smith Collection of the Library of Congress on Deposit at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas





**Hacienda Owner
Arcadio Lara**
Mexico City, Mexico



Santa Anita Cowboys Under a Tree

Rancho Santa Anita, California, 1890

Courtesy USC Libraries, California State
Historical Society



Ladies in Chaps

Unknown cowgirl and
Maude Beardsley (right)
Alberta, Canada, 1920

Courtesy Provincial Archives



**Stephen Peters, Majordomo
of the Santa Margarita**

California, 1917

Courtesy UC Irvine, Orange County,
California, Regional History Collection





Cowboys Branding Cattle in a Corral

California, circa 1900

Courtesy USC Libraries, Special Collections, CHS-3483

Roping in Corral

Rancho Santa Anita, California, 1890

Courtesy USC Libraries, California State Historical Society



Idaho Cowboy

Location and Date Unknown

Courtesy UC Riverside, California Museum of Photography



Rodeo Champion Kitty Canutt on Winnemucca

Rawlins, Wyoming, 1919

Courtesy Library of Congress





Nat Love, Cowboy

Location Unknown, 1907



"Fur-Out" Cowboy

Caldwell, Kansas, circa 1880s



James Stott

Northern Arizona, 1888



Border Cowboy

Location and Date Unknown

Miss Sadie Austin, A Typical Nebraska Cowgirl

Simeon, Cherry County, Nebraska

Solomon Butcher, Courtesy Library of Congress



**Cow Girl,
Tex-Mex Border**

Cameron County,
Texas, circa 1910-12

T. J. Barrett, Courtesy
DeGolyer Library, SMU



**Cowboys in Vests at
Roundup**

Angus W Ranch,
Ruidoso, New Mexico,
circa 1885





Buckskin Cowboy

Location and Date Unknown



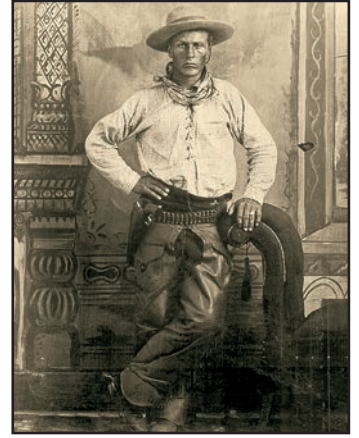
Unarmed Cowboy

Location and Date Unknown



"Cottonwood Charlie" Nebo and Nicholas Janis

Location Unknown, circa 1880s



Well-Dressed Cowpoke

Location and Date Unknown

Cowboy and His Chuck Wagon

Bonham, Texas, 1909

Erwin E. Smith, Courtesy The Getty Online Collection



Charlie Meadows, The Famous Scout & Horseman of Arizona

Location and Date Unknown

Courtesy UC Riverside, California Museum of Photography



Cutting Out From the Herd

LS Range, Texas, 1907

Erwin E. Smith, Courtesy Library of Congress

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

DUDE OR NOT A DUDE?

CAN YOU SPOT THE REAL COWBOY? ONLY THE PHOTOGRAPHER KNEW FOR SURE.

Ever since the first camera studio was set up, men and women have posed as their favorite Western hero, but how do we know for sure if they were real cowhands or dudes a century or century and a half later?

About some, we will never know. For others, their life stories reveal the truth.



The name of this Wyoming cowboy is lost to history, but his photo is attributed to Cheyenne, Wyoming, photographer Charles D. Kirkland and is estimated to have been taken between 1877 and 1895.

Charles D. Kirkland, Courtesy Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas

Don't let the overalls fool you. Pedro Rios, a San Juan [Capistrano] vaquero of Orange County, California, was all cowboy.

Courtesy C.L. Pierce Collection, The Huntington Library Digital Collection



Texas Jack Omohundro is considered one of the greatest cowboy entertainers of the 19th century, but before he ever put on the greasepaint and went on tour, he was a working Texas cowboy who drove a lot of cattle a lot of miles up to Kansas on the Chisholm Trail.

True West Archives



Are Indians cowboys? Is the Colt .45 a six-gun? Shoshone Eddy Drink cowboys on the Shoshone Bannock Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho in the early 20th century. In addition to his traditional cowboy clothes and gear, Drink wears a beaded ermine strip in his hair, beaded armbands and a beaded tie slide.

Idaho Museum of Natural History, Ruffner Collection: 253274

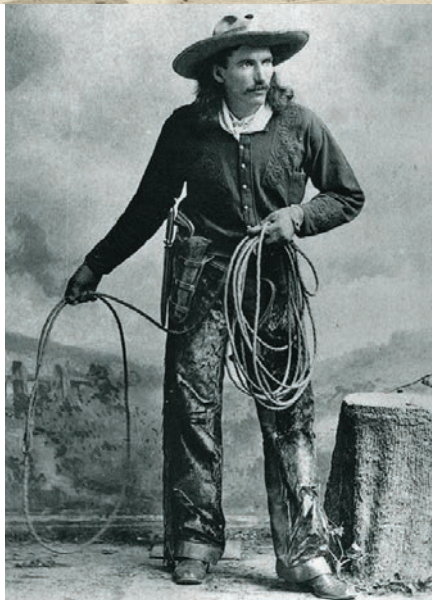


Legendary cattleman John Chisum may look like a banker in his famous studio photograph but do not doubt that he could out-cowboy any man when in his prime.

True West Archives

These three Basque buckaroos from Nevada were known as the Wild Bunch, circa 1910. L.-r.: Uncle of Jean Pierre Laxalt, Jean Pierre Laxalt and Frank Perarana.

Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno, Library and Special Collections



William Levi "Buck" Taylor spent hundreds of miles in the saddle working and driving cattle in his native Texas and the Southern Plains before he hired on at Buffalo Bill Cody's spread in North Platte, Nebraska, in 1880. Cody put him to work and made him part of his *Wild West* show, dubbing him the "King of the Cowboys."



May and Gordon William "Pawnee Bill" Lillie adopted Oklahoma as their home in 1889, and he quickly became the state's greatest booster and Old West entertainer. But before Lillie was known as Pawnee Bill, he was raised on the plains of Kansas, was a trapper and cowboy in the Indian Territory and a member of *Buffalo Bill's Wild West*.

True West Archives

Before Edmund Richard "Hoot" Gibson became a pioneer Western movie star, the native Nebraskan was a working cowboy, bronc buster, circus and *Wild West* show performer and rodeo star. In 1912 he won the Pendleton Round-Up's all-around championship. After serving as a sergeant in the Army's Tank Corps in France during World War I, Hoot returned to Hollywood and became a big Western star in silent and talking pictures.

Courtesy Universal Pictures



Across the West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American Indian tribes established large cattle ranches on their reservations. Paiute Jim took time out from cowboying to have his photo taken in Wadsworth, Nevada, in 1911.

Courtesy C.L. Pierce Collection, The Huntington Library Digital Collection

BY JOHN P. LANGELLIER

THE REAL MCCOY

Wyoming cowboy and Army cavalry and horse artillery veteran Tim McCoy brought realism to the silver screen.



After McCoy's string of military-themed films, he joined the ranks of tall Stetson-sporting "cowboys" that at first featured white hats, but later gave way to his signature black headgear.

In 1965, McCoy made his final appearance in *Requiem for a Gunfighter*, as Judge Irving Short.

True West Archives

For a lad of Irish-born parents, his Michigan hometown, a lumber community, was too tame.

Young Timothy John Fitzgerald McCoy longed for excitement.

His father was a Civil War veteran. Smart uniforms with brass buttons and gold braid stirred his imagination. So, too, did the national hero of his day—the cowboy.

During late spring 1909, the 18-year-old left family and friends in quest of the West. After arriving in Wyoming, he learned to ride, rope, brand and became an able hand. He even acquired a small spread of his own, as well as learned sign language from the local Arapaho people whom he admired. In turn, they respected him. The Arapahos gave him the name "High Eagle."

With the outbreak of the First World War, McCoy's life took another turn. Filled with ideas of adventure and stirred by patriotism, McCoy, through a little Irish luck and blarney plus a pinch of persistence, secured a commission in the United States cavalry. When the machine gun, barbed wire and other modern martial technology spelled the beginning of the end for that branch of service, McCoy transferred to the horse artillery. After that, he spent his days as an officer at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. By the time of the 1918 Armistice, McCoy impressively had risen to lieutenant colonel, no mean accomplishment for someone still in their 20s! Besides securing rapid promotion, the youthful colonel also met Gen. Hugh Lenox Scott, who long before earned his spurs in the Indian Wars.

McCoy and Scott developed a professional and personal friendship that lasted until Scott's death in 1934. In the process, McCoy learned much about the "Old Army" on the frontier.



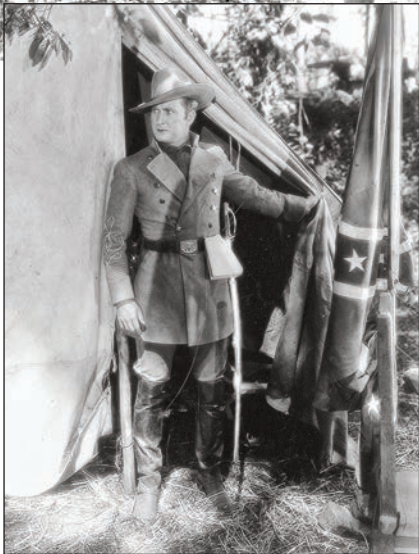
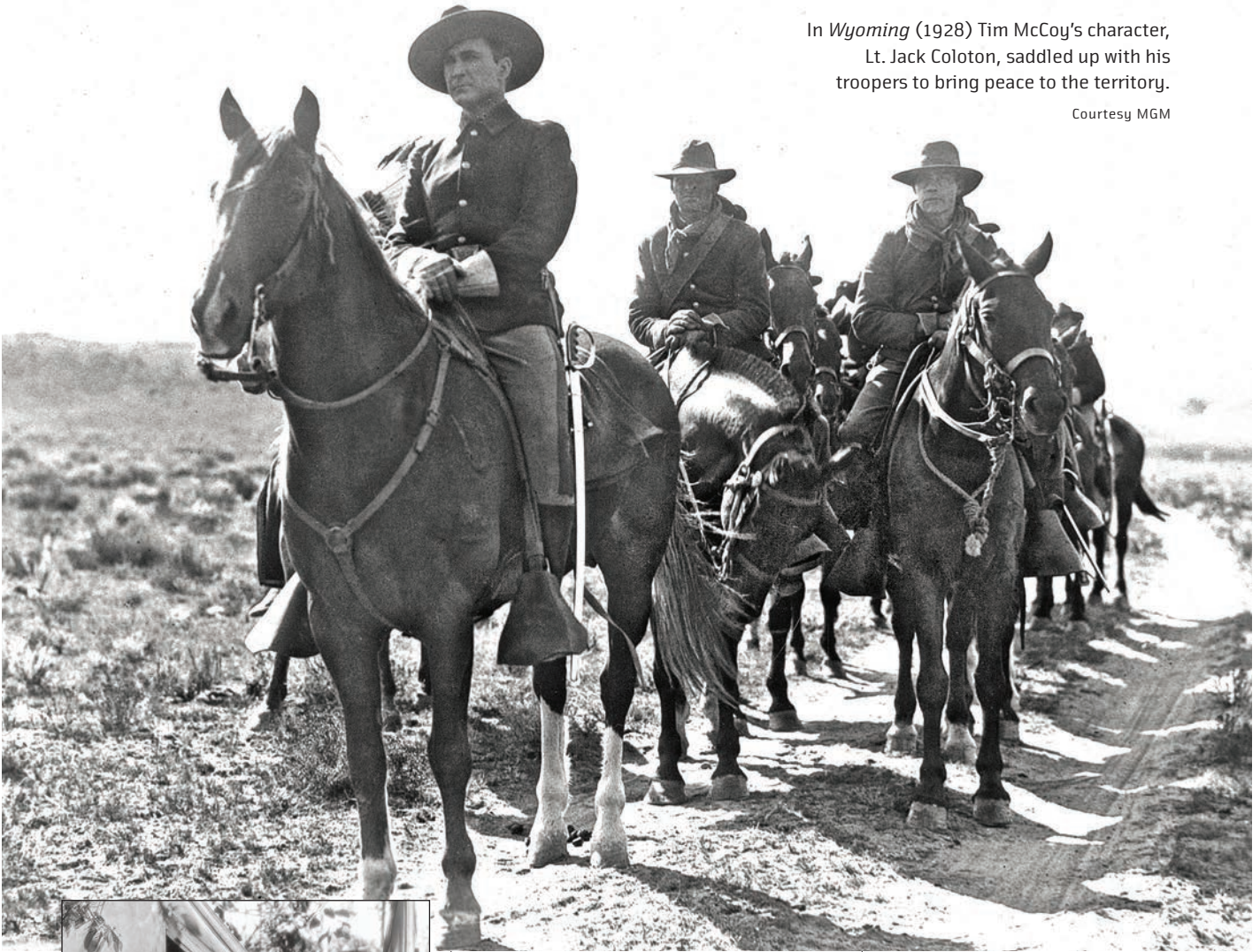
McCoy's reservoir of experience made him an ideal advisor on one of the first major budget blockbusters of the silent era—*The Covered Wagon* (1923). The following year, he served in the same

Tim McCoy's real knowledge of the West, the Frontier Army and the local Native people is on full display in this scene from the movie *Wyoming*.

Courtesy MGM

In *Wyoming* (1928) Tim McCoy's character, Lt. Jack Coloton, saddled up with his troopers to bring peace to the territory.

Courtesy MGM



McCoy hung up his saber until 1929, when in he starred in a Civil War drama *Morgan's Last Raid*. McCoy as Captain Daniel Clairbourne, a Tennessee-born U.S. Army officer, refused to take up arms against his native state. He subsequently joined Morgan's Confederate raiders and saved the heroine, Dorothy Sebastian, who previously branded him a traitor.

capacity for *The Thundering Herd*, which was filmed near Bishop, California, and in which McCoy had a small onscreen part as Burn Hudnall.

By 1926, MGM offered McCoy a three-year contract that launched his career as a star. His first featured role, *War Paint*, became a template for most of his movies with Metro. In the process, he blazed the trail for later make-believe U.S. cavalymen including John Wayne, Randolph Scott, Richard Widmark and Matt Damon. In fact, more than half of McCoy's 16 starring roles, between 1926 and 1929, cast him as a military officer. (McCoy's 1926-29 non-military films were *The Adventurer*, *Beyond the Sierras*, *The Bushranger*, *The Law of the Range*, *The Desert Rider* and *Sioux Blood*.)

War Paint also teamed McCoy with director W.S. "Woody" Van Dyke, who the new contract player recalled as, being "...annoyingly arrogant, maddeningly self-opinionated, damned sure of himself

and utterly ruthless." Nevertheless, McCoy conceded: "Van was a great director." While Van Dyke was a demanding taskmaster, he and McCoy shared one thing in common. They wanted a high degree of realism in their productions. Although William S. Hart was touted as being the genuine article, "High Eagle" actually could claim he was the master of veracity. For instance, he collaborated with Van Dyke on *War Paint's* script because the director contended the staff writers knew nothing about the subject. He rightly concluded that McCoy did. Indeed, McCoy's movies rang with more authenticity than most other silent films.

Unfortunately, even McCoy eventually succumbed to the B-Western formula. After Metro failed to renew his contract, mainly because they refused to increase his pay from the \$4,000 per film he was paid, he moved on to other studios. There he joined a litany of white-Stetson-wearing matinee heroes. Later he switched

In McCoy's venture, *California* (1927), he exchanged a realistic replica U.S. Marine Corps officer's uniform of the Mexican War era to don a devil may care caballero outfit that was more familiar to his audience.

Courtesy MGM

to his signature black hat to distinguish himself from the other good guys. Regrettably, as with many other nitrate pre-sound-era motion pictures, most of his early films no longer exist. The extraordinary samples of images in *True West* demonstrate his devotion to accuracy, which in the process, paved the way for hundreds of Hollywood horse soldiers who followed. He was the real McCoy.



As a child, **John P. Langellier**, delighted when his fellow southern Arizona resident, Tim McCoy, appeared on TV with his local show presenting facts and true stories of the American West. These programs and popular culture contributed to a lifelong fascination with the frontier. As evidence of Langellier's continued passion for the real West and the reel West, his books include *Custer: The Man, The Myth, The Movies*, and his most recent publication, *More Work Than Glory: The Buffalo Soldiers in the United States Army, 1866-1916* released in October 2023 by Helion & Company. Note all images in the article are from the collection of the author, now part of the extensive collections of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's McCracken Library in Cody, Wyoming.

Another 1927 period piece, *The Frontiersman* transformed McCoy into John Dale, an officer with Andrew Jackson's militia during 1813. One of his favorite leading ladies, Claire Windsor, played Lucy, General Jackson's aristocratic ward. These supporting characters converse near a covered wagon, yet another icon of Westerns found in McCoy's pictures.

Courtesy MGM





Tim McCoy's return to the screen after his Metro contract concluded rarely brought him back into the uniform of a cavalry officer. One exception was *End of the Trail* for Columbia (1932). As Captain Tom Trevors, McCoy is framed by fellow officer Major Jenkins (Wheeler Oakman) but ultimately proves his innocence in typical melodramatic style. Such a literary device previously appeared in the novels of real life cavalry veteran Captain Charles King.

Courtesy Columbia Pictures

Spoilers of the West (above) provided McCoy an opportunity to demonstrate his considerable knowledge of sign language.

Courtesy MGM



Frontier scout Tim McCoy (right) assists the cavalry in *Sioux Blood* (1929), one of his last silent films featuring the U.S. Army in the West.

Courtesy MGM

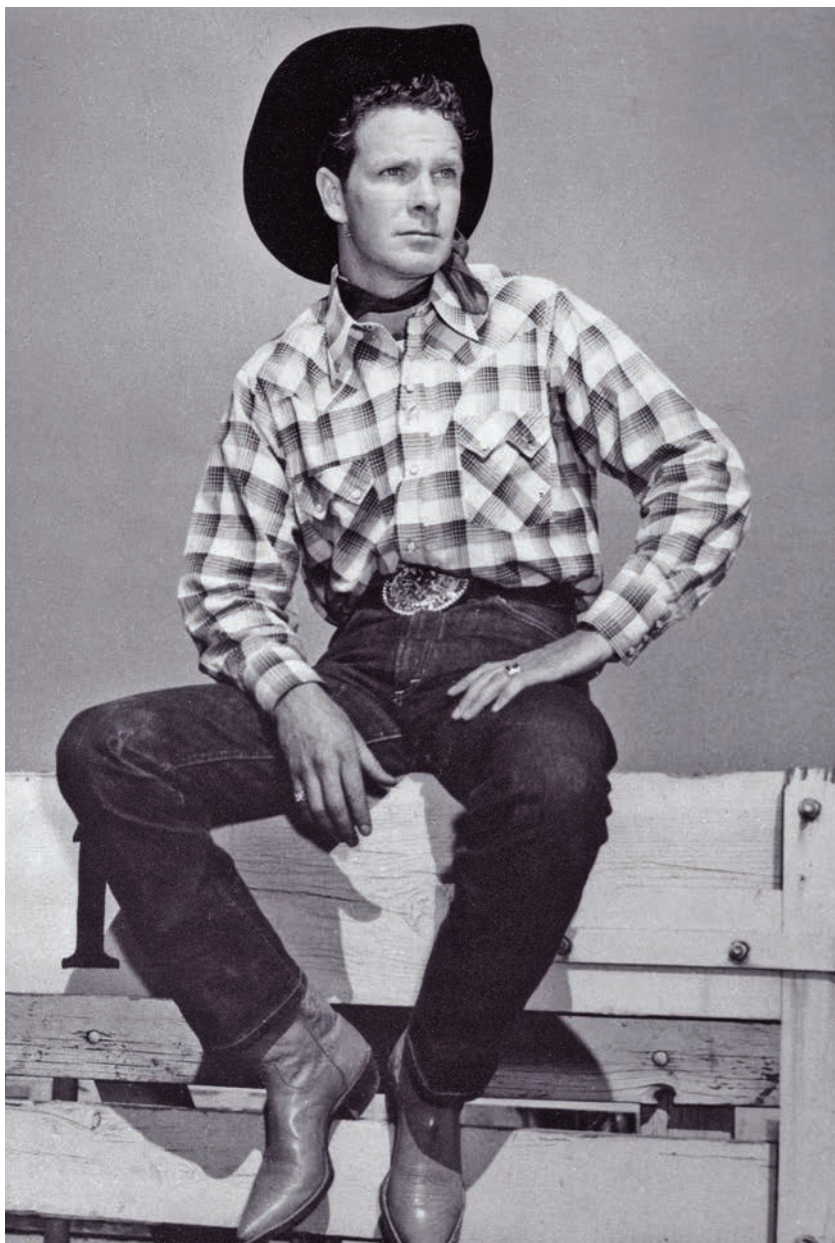
Silver Screen

FILMS AND TELEVISION SHOWS FEATURING REAL WORKING COWBOYS HAVE MADE AMERICA'S ICON FAMOUS WORLDWIDE SINCE 1894.

In America's first film studio in New Jersey, Thomas Edison produced the first Westerns starring real cowboys, cowgirls, vaqueros and American Indians. Director William K. L. Dickson and cinematographer William Heise made *Annie Oakley*, *Bucking Broncho*, *Buffalo Bill*, *Buffalo Dance*, *Lasso Thrower*, *Mexican Knife Duel* and *Sioux Ghost Dance*. Shot on 35 millimeter black-and-white film, the shorts were less than 60 seconds long, but they were the first Westerns and the first to employ real working cowboys, vaqueros and Native people, all of whom worked for *Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West* show.

One hundred and thirty years later, working cowboys and cowgirls are still a large part of the film and television industry. From Hollywood to Santa Fe, from Tucson to Fort Worth, current film companies, including Taylor Sheridan's Bosque Ranch Productions, continue to depend on real, experienced Western wranglers to make their movies and streaming shows authentic.

True West's editors tip their hats to the cowboys and cowgirls who gave up their real work on the range in exchange for reel work in Hollywood. Without them bringing authenticity to the artform, the American cowboy would not be the worldwide icon we love and admire so much today. The following portfolio is dedicated to those real cowboys and cowgirls who entertained us with their hard-earned skills with a rope and a horse. As South Dakota cowboy, rodeo champion and actor Casey Tibbs loved to say, "Let 'er buck!"



Casey Tibbs left home at 14 years old to earn his spurs on the professional rodeo circuit. In 1949, Tibbs was a world champion and was featured on the cover of *LIFE* magazine. After rodeo, the fun-loving Tibbs spent two decades in Hollywood as an actor, stuntman and technical advisor on rodeo.

Courtesy Rosebrook Family Collection

Buckaroos



Born in Flagstaff, Arizona, Andy Devine (above, left, with George Bancroft) was raised in Kingman, where his parents owned the famed Beale Hotel. Because he had a reputation as a good teamster who could handle a six-horse team, John Ford put him behind the reins in the 1939 Western, *Stagecoach*. Devine was a beloved character actor who appeared in more than 400 films.

Courtesy Warner Bros.



In 1958, Oklahoma cowboy Ben Johnson was the uncredited technical advisor for the rodeo sequences in the Mamie Van Doren Western, *Born Reckless*. Five years earlier Johnson had won the world team roping championship. Almost two decades later he won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *The Last Picture Show*. He is the only cowboy ever to win an Academy Award and a rodeo championship.

Courtesy Warner Bros.

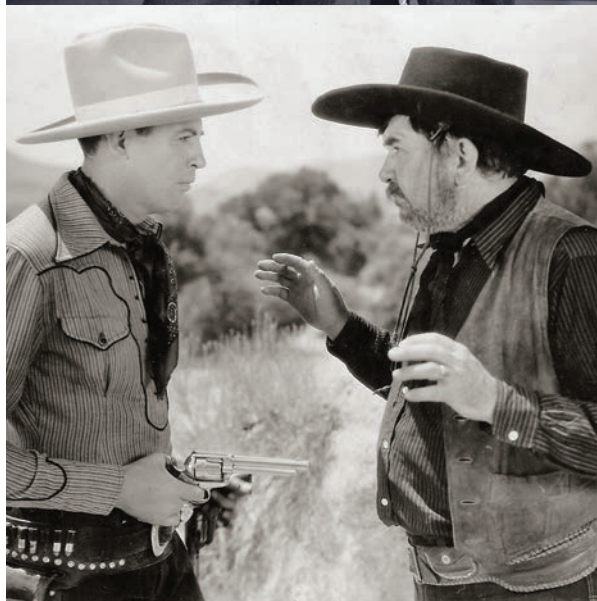


Before Jack Holt made his first movie appearance in 1914, he had led a roustabout life in Alaska as a stagecoach driver, trapper, cowboy, miner, engineer and mail courier. The native New Yorker soon found steady work in Hollywood, working with John Ford at Universal before becoming a star at Paramount, where he made *The Mysterious Rider* with Betty Jewel in 1927. Before he died in 1951, Holt and his son Tim Holt made the father-son B-movie favorite, *The Arizona Ranger*, in 1948.

Courtesy Paramount Pictures

Slim Whitaker (far right, with Jack Randall in *Oklahoma Terror*) started cowboying on a big spread in California's Central Valley in 1910. Two years later, silent film star Broncho Billy Anderson hired him as an extra and stuntman. Whitaker went on to appear in more than 300 films over a 36-year career.

Courtesy Monogram Pictures



Silver Screen Buckaroos



In 1976, Roy Rogers came out of retirement to make *Mackintosh and T.J.* "The King of Cowboys" cast two famous cowboys in the modern Western, Dean Smith (center) and six-time world rodeo champion Larry Mahan (right). Smith and Mahan passed away in 2023, but not after leaving their marks in both rodeo and Hollywood.

Courtesy Penland Productions

Native Oklahoman Gene Autry cowboied growing up on his parents' ranch. Following in the entertainment footsteps of fellow Sooner Col. George Miller and Miller's protégé Tom Mix, Autry sang, acted and entertained his way to the top of the box office. Before World War II, he even had his own touring rodeo company, the Flying A Ranch Rodeo. After the war, Autry built a media empire that included five seasons with his horse Champion and his sidekick Pat Buttram (right) on CBS's *The Gene Autry Show*.

Courtesy CBS TV



Yellowstone producer Taylor Sheridan, famous for the equestrian training he demands of his actors, also prides himself on hiring real, professional cowboys. In addition to Forrie J. Smith (not pictured), working cowboys (fourth from left to far right): Jake Ream, Ethan Lee and Ryan Bingham star with actors (left to right) Ian Bohen, Jen Landon and Denim Richards in the highly touted Western series.

Courtesy Paramount



In the annals of Western popular culture, very few men or women had such a profound influence on the popularity of the West as good friends cowboys Will Rogers (near left) and Charles M. Russell.

True West Archives

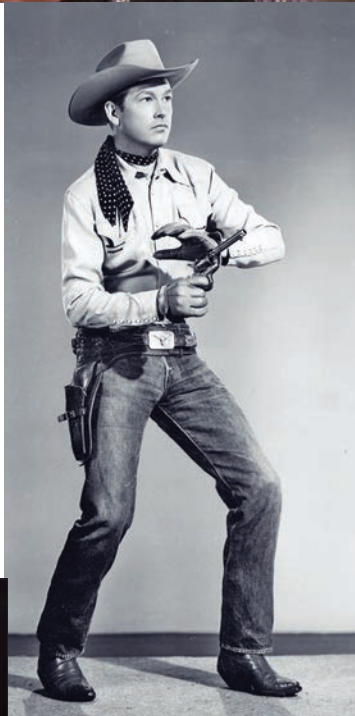


Louis Burton Lindley Jr., aka Slim Pickens, grew up riding and roping on his parents' California dairy farm. He took the pseudonym to get around the fact that his father did not want him to rodeo. The name stuck and Pickens went on to have a major career as a Western character actor in Hollywood after World War II.

Courtesy Warner Bros.

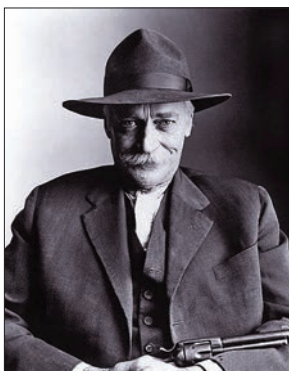
Arizona Cowboy Hall of Fame member Rex Allen grew up cowboying in Cochise County, 40 miles outside Willcox, Arizona. Considered the last of the "singing cowboys," Allen was one of the most respected of the working cowboys who found fame as a Western singer, actor and later, well-known voiceover narrator for Walt Disney Studios' award-winning documentaries.

Courtesy Republic Pictures



John Wayne, the most iconic and popular cowboy movie hero of all time, had a great respect for real, working cowboys and went out of his way to hire and work with experienced horsemen and cowhands like Texas cowboy Chuck Roberson (right). Roberson started as a stuntman after World War II and was soon discovered by Wayne and director John Ford. Roberson went on to a long and successful career in Western film and television. He was also a well-known breeder and trainer of racehorses.

Courtesy Warner Bros.



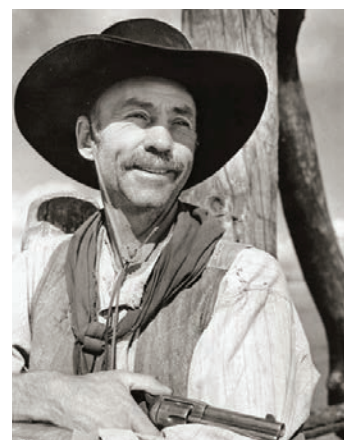
While Richard Farnsworth grew up in Los Angeles, the son of an engineer, he gravitated to the life of a cowboy and rodeoed for 10 years with other future Western stars Ben Johnson and Slim Pickens. He started work as a stuntman in 1941, a career choice that led to a six-decade career in Hollywood, including a leading role in *The Grey Fox* (1982) and two Oscar nominations for Best Supporting Actor.

Courtesy United Artists



In 2024, the Texas cowboy and Four Sixes ranch owner Taylor Sheridan is sitting atop one of the most powerful independent film and television production companies in the U.S. When Sheridan isn't making one of his eight series currently airing on TV, he is raising, training and competing reining horses.

Courtesy Paramount



Like fellow rodeo cowboy Ben Johnson, Hank Worden spent most of his career as a character actor in Westerns. Born in Iowa and raised in Montana, Worden went from rodeo to Broadway to Hollywood where he became a regular in John Ford and John Wayne Westerns.

Courtesy United Artists

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

THE DEATH TENT

FRANK DALTON
AND JAMES COLE
VS
DAVE SMITH,
WILL TOWERLY
AND MR. AND
MRS. DIXON



Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank Dalton is a busy lawman. Last Friday he came into Fort Smith with six prisoners after a protracted trip to the Indian Territory.

He is going out now on a Sunday; it will be his last manhunt.

All images True West Archives
unless otherwise noted

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Robert Ernst and George R. Stumpf; with extra reporting by Mark Boardman

NOVEMBER 27, 1887

Working out of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank Dalton is tracking a horse thief named Dave Smith in the Cherokee Nation. Dalton is accompanied by Deputy James Cole, who also has an arrest warrant for Smith for introducing whiskey in the Indian Territory.

The two track the suspect to a river-bottom camp where they see a large tent and hear men, women and children eating breakfast inside. Both lawmen dismount and walk toward the tent on foot.

Dalton approaches the south side, and Cole, the north. Dalton opens the tent flap with his left hand, while holding his rifle in his right.

As he leans in, Lizzie Smith (wife of the horse thief) grabs Dalton's rifle barrel and pushes it up. Startled, Dalton jumps back, as Dave puts down the kid he is holding, grabs a rifle and lunges out of the tent.

Dalton says, "Don't shoot; I want no trouble," but Dave fires point-blank, hitting the lawman in the chest. Deputy Cole, coming around from the other side of the tent, fires, hitting Dave in the back.

Everyone inside the tent comes bursting out the tent flap as Cole, startled, backs up and trips over a tent rope. One of the men, Lee Dixon, fires, nearly grazing Cole in the chest. Lee's wife, Jennie, grabs ahold of Cole's rifle barrel to push it away, but Cole breaks free and fires, hitting Jennie in the chest, then Lee in the shoulder.

Joe and Elizabeth Pearson flee with their six-month-old daughter toward the woods.

Cole heads toward cover, running by Dalton and asking if he's hurt. When he receives no answer, Cole takes cover behind a tree as bullets whiz around him. Cole empties his rifle, then hides deeper amongst the trees to reload. He hears two rifle shots.

Seeing Cole retreat, Will Towerly runs up to Dalton and puts two bullets in the lawman's face. (In another version, Towerly puts the barrel of his gun in the mouth of the lawman, who is pleading for his life.)

Cole makes his way back to Fort Smith for help, while Towerly takes Dalton's rifle and flees.

The bloodbath is over, but the killing is not.



Inside a Crowded Tent

When the gunfight broke out, Joe and Elizabeth Pearson were inside the tent with their six-month-old daughter. Lee and Jennie Dixon were there with their two-year-old and nine-month-old, as was Lee's sister, Lizzie Smith, her husband, Dave, and Will Towerly.

All illustrations by Bob Boze Bell





Unbeknownst to the two lawmen at the time, Dave Smith (at far left) had made threats that whoever tried to serve him papers would pay dearly. He made good on that threat, but took down several of his own with him, as well as a stalwart lawman.



These are some U.S. marshals who also worked the Indian Territory. After five years of evading the law, the accused murderer of Deputy Daniel Maples, Ned Christie, met his maker when he was shot down by 16 posse members, including these marshals: Charles Copeland and Capt. G.S. White (front row, from left); Bill Smith, Bill Ellis and Paden Tolbert (back row). Out of more than 300 marshals who have been killed in the line of duty since President George Washington founded the U.S. marshals, more than one-third of them died serving in Oklahoma.

Courtesy Fort Smith National Historic Site



Frank Dalton is buried in a place of honor at the cemetery in Coffeyville, Kansas. His nefarious brothers are nearby, yet separated from the rest of the upstanding citizens.

Johnny D. Boggs photo

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

A large posse returned to the scene later that day. Frank Dalton and Dave Smith were dead, as was Jennie Dixon. Dave was buried near the tent. Lee Dixon would also pass away from his wounds suffered during the gunfight.

In nearly a week, on December 3, lawmen tracked down William Towerly at his family's farm near Atoka, Indian Territory, and killed him during a shoot-out. Deputy U.S. Marshal Ed Stokely was also gunned down during the gunbattle to capture Towerly.

Frank Dalton's brothers, Bob, Grat and Emmett, joined the deputy marshal's ranks, but Bob was soon fired for taking a bribe, and amid rumors of cattle rustling, the other two brothers resigned. Bob and Grat died in the ill-fated dual bank robbery attempt in Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1892.

A decade after the Dalton fight, James Cole was convicted of manslaughter for killing a man during another arrest attempt.

Recommended Read: *Deadly Affrays: The Violent Deaths of the U.S. Marshals* by Robert Ernst, published by ScarletMask.



CLASSIC TRUE WEST FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: Texas photographer Robb Kendrick is well-known for his photography of the West and the American cowboy. If you'd like to read Kendrick's original article from the August 2008 issue, please go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to 70 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY ROBB KENDRICK

KENDRICK'S NORTHERN COWBOYS

Growing up in the Texas Panhandle, I often visited a cousin who worked at the 6666 Ranch, one of the old historic outfits in Texas, so I am quite familiar with the cowboy lifestyle. Though I've never been drawn to doing the actual work of a cowboy, I do connect with some of the essentials they hold dear: raw land, solitude, self-reliance, trusting those you work with, earning respect and being your own boss. Many of them might laugh at my comparison between common threads we share, since their work is so much more physical, dangerous, and less rewarding financially, but I think some of the ranching men and women I've gotten to know over the years would understand.

I have been drawn to photograph cowboys for 25 years—in tintype for the past six years. The tintype process takes me even closer to the cowboys in important ways, I believe. It requires more patience, and making each plate by hand has shown me that I'm not always in control—environment, weather and chance always play a part in the final product. In this world of yesterday deadlines and “perfect digital photography,” I find a renewed awareness that patience and serendipity are important gifts. I would like to thank all those who gave me time and tolerance, allowing me to photograph them in this arcane style of photography that slowed us all down

so we could get to know each other a bit better.

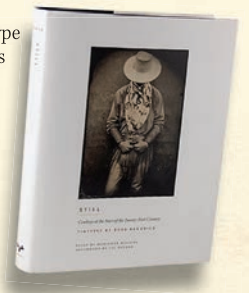
People who have seen my cowboy photos often ask if I have “styled” the cowboys. Did I tie their scarves just so? Did I ask them to put the leather brush cuffs on their arms? Did I turn up their shirt collars like that? The answer to all these questions is a clear “no.” I did not have to do anything to their clothes or their look. I photographed the men and women exactly as I found them. These are their ordinary, workaday outfits—not costumes, not dress up. Every piece and feature serves a purpose in their jobs. It's amazing and refreshing that in the early 21st century there are still people who get to go to work dressed like this.

In Minden, Nebraska, I met Tom Kelly and his two daughters on their small family ranch—one of the increasingly few family ranches left in the West. I made my first mistake with Tom by inadvertently running my trailer tires about a foot off the driveway onto his grass. Tom was visibly upset, but he gently informed me that he considered grass absolutely precious. It was hard to grow and keep in the dry plains of Nebraska and it was the thing that kept his ranch going, the thing that fed his cattle, from which the family earned their living. I felt terrible, but Tom quickly forgave me and made me feel very welcome at his home. When

it was time to leave the Kellys, Tom, who's raised his daughters to be excellent horsewomen and ranchers, pulled me aside and said, “Robb, please promise me one thing. That you'll get it right.” I knew exactly what he meant. His way of life is misunderstood in many ways. Cowboys are sometimes thought of as a brutish, drinking lot with little respect for the environment. The truth as I saw it was that these are kind, family-centered people with great respect for nature, animals, and God's gifts and for a hard day's work. I'm sure Tom will let me know if I succeeded or not.

Excerpt and tintype photographs from *Still: Cowboys at the Start of the Twenty-First Century* by Robb Kendrick and Marianne Wiggins published by the University of Texas Press. The book is available at bookstores everywhere and directly from the press at 800-252-3206.

Robb Kendrick is a sixth-generation Texan who contributes regularly to *National Geographic* and focuses his efforts on in-depth projects that use historic photographic techniques such as the tintype process. He currently resides in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

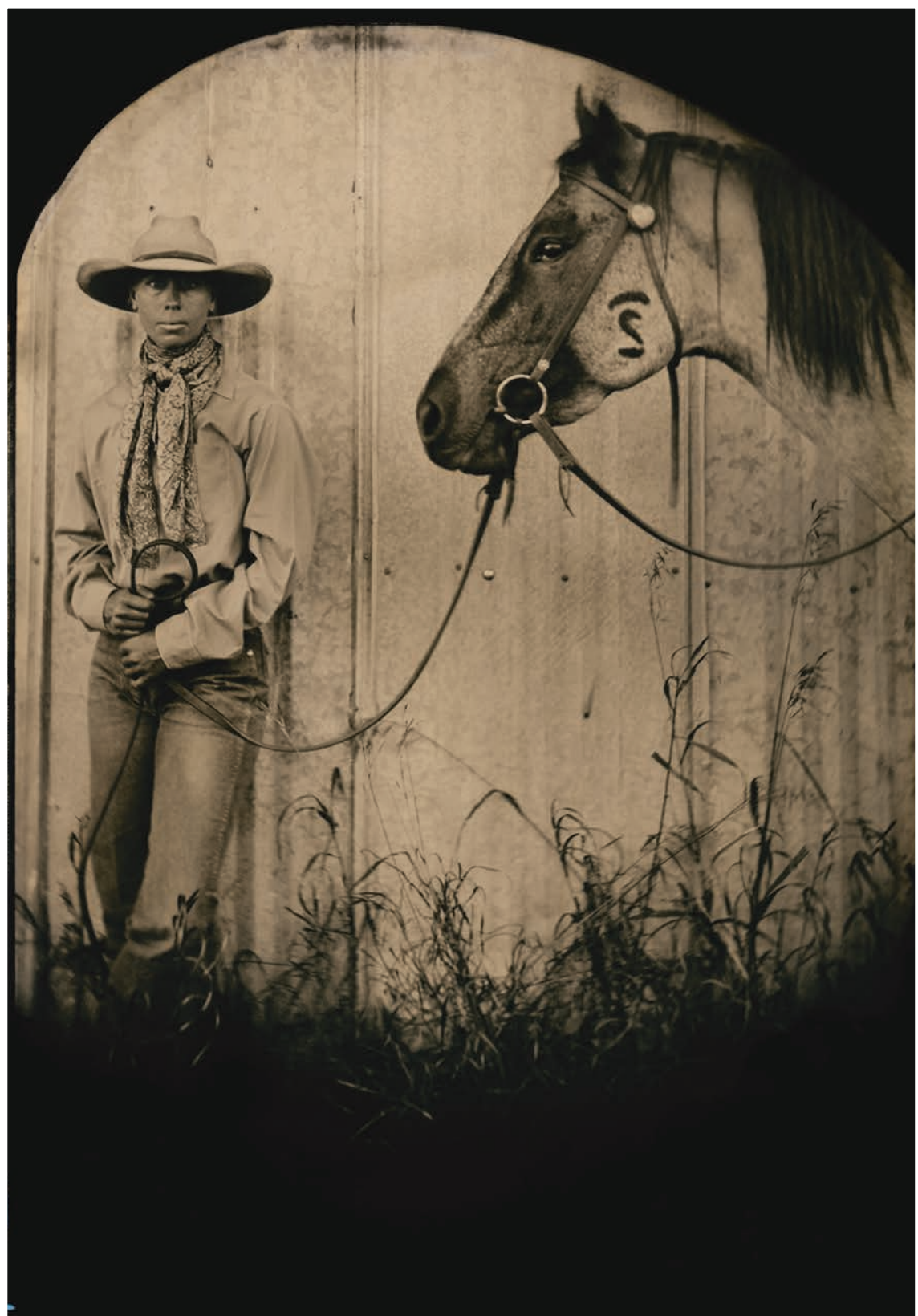


"I'm independent and able to do what I love and, even though it is generally a man's world, I—women—can still hold their own."

—Jodi Miner



Jodi, Wes and Myla Miner of Snowline Ranch in Beaverhead County, Montana



Stephanie Hagenbarth of Hagenbarth Ranch, a family-owned cattle ranch on the Idaho-Montana border since the 1880s

"Being a buckaroo means great freedom. It's no man owns you, you know,
no man owns you. No words can describe it."

—Merlin Rupp



Faithe, with her husband Merlin Rupp, a lifelong range worker from Burns, Oregon, who retired a few years ago after a horse fell under him and broke his neck, knocking him out for three weeks

"I just love ranch life. I think it's a wonderful way to raise your kids because they learn, they learn a lot about life, and as a family, I think you draw closer as a family. I like it out here. You're off by yourself and it's quiet and I suppose to live like that, to be out away from people, you'd almost have to like yourself or something. I like being by myself."

—Melanie Anseth, EZ Ranch, Montana



Martin Anseth, with Jiggs and Patches, at EZ Ranch in St. Xavier, Montana



Reuben and Wesley Busenitz of Denny Livestock in Lame Deer, Montana



Tom Kelly's two teenage daughters, Mary Ann and Katherine, of the Cacklebur in Minden, Nebraska

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Robb Kendrick's original, unabridged article as it appeared in the August 2008 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Kendrick's articles and subscribe to *True West* Archives, go to TrueWestMagazine.com.
Our past awaits you!

Kendrick...

Towed a Mennonite-built trailer that he used as a darkroom for six years to 14 Western states covering more than 40,000 miles visiting more than 50 ranches.



Cleve and his son Quentin Anseth, with Gus, at ZX Ranch near Paisley, Oregon. (Cleve is a brother of Martin, shown on page 34.) The 1.4 million-acre ZX Ranch is the largest in the state and larger than the state of Delaware.



BEST of the WEST

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



When Joe Small launched *True West* from his office in Austin, Texas, in 1953, little did he know that his pulp would still be around 70 years later—or that his adopted hometown would be the de facto capital of the American Sunbelt. Sitting halfway between Jacksonville and Los Angeles, Austin was the perfect perch from which to launch his Western history rocket into popular culture. And as Small was soon to discover, the 1950s was the perfect decade. Westerns equally ruled the movies houses, the living room and the newsstand. Highways westward were soon

In 1911, the cowgirls in the second annual Pendleton Round-Up whoop it up before the competition begins.

COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



"Cow Girls" at the PEND

CELEBRATING THE WEST

TRUE WEST ENTERS ITS EIGHTH DECADE WITH HOPE AND PROMISE.

bumper to bumper with station wagons loaded with kids and camping gear, toy six-guns and coonskin caps. Sputnik and the bomb, Marilyn and Elvis, Dean and Brando, Chuck and Jerry Lee were everywhere and so was the Lone Ranger, the *Rifleman*, Marshal Dillon and the boys from *Bonanza*. And don't forget Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and the King of the Wild Frontier, Davy Crockett. And while tourists flooded Texas in search of their own Ole Betsy and a piece of the Alamo, a frontiersman named Walt Disney was changing it all in a California orange grove.

What have we learned since that first decade of publishing in the 1950s? The cliché answer is the more we learn the less

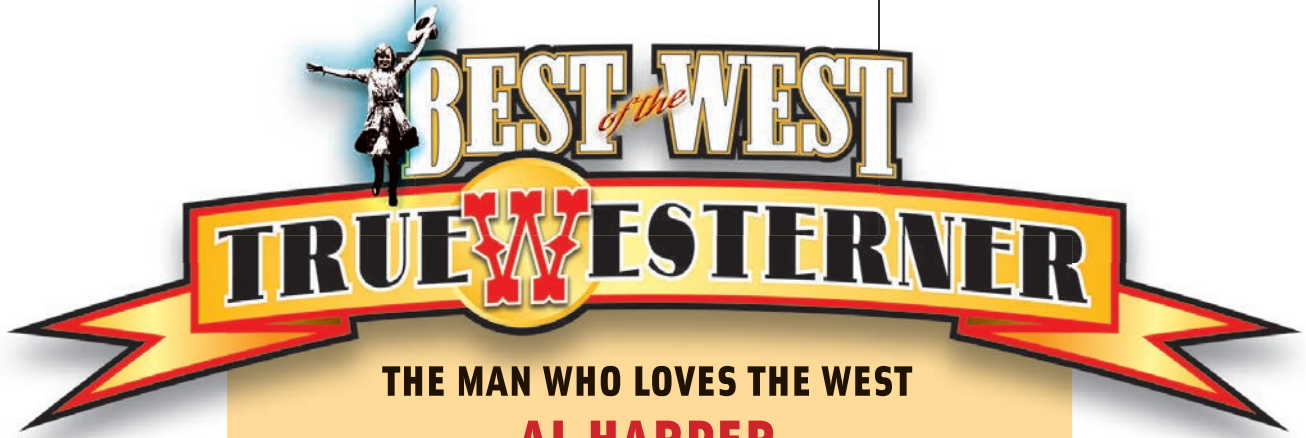
we know. But, the truth is, we are in a renaissance period of research with the digitization of primary sources and a generation of scholars who are determined to find the answers to age-old historical questions. Our goal at *True West* is to continue to be a source where the history of the West is illuminated through new and entertaining scholarship.

Seventy-one years later, the editors of *True West* continue to chronicle the Old West with the understanding and promise that we will continue to bring the best in Western history, culture and travel writing to our readers.

—Stuart Rosebrook



LETON "ROUND UP" 1911



BEST *of the* WEST

TRUE WESTERN

THE MAN WHO LOVES THE WEST

AL HARPER

IS TRUE WEST'S 2024 TRUE WESTERN OF THE YEAR

"I fell in love with trains when my dad gave my brothers and me a Lionel train set when I was eight," says Allen C. Harper, owner of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in Durango, Colorado.

The American Heritage Railways operator from Southern Illinois has been in the tourism and railway business since 1992, beginning with an investment in the Florida Fun Train. Harper soon saw his financial stake in the Florida railway was not going to succeed, so he bought the Durango & Silverton in 1998 "to save his initial investment," he says. "The Fun Train disappeared, and there I was owning a historic railroad in Colorado."

Now, 32 years later, Harper and his wife, Carol, entertain two million guests a year at their tourism enterprises. They currently own the D&SNGRR and the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City, North Carolina. In the past, he has been involved in managing and advising the Texas State Railroad, the Skunk Train in Fort Bragg/Willits, California, and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad in Chama, New Mexico/Antonito, Colorado. Harper has also been a leader in licensing deals with his railroads, creating entertaining specialty trains in partnership with Warner Brothers, Universal Studios, Peanuts International and the Jim Henderson Company.

Harper's specialty trains are one of his trademarks for broadening his audience across all generations. "The trick to running a successful railroad is



American Heritage Railways, including the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, is family business for owners and managers Al, Carol and John Harper.

Courtesy Harper Family

to maintain the historical importance of a line, while using modern innovation, like train stories from children's books, to attract a new audience of families with young children."

Two years after the Harpers acquired the Durango & Silverton, Bob Boze Bell put together an investment group to buy *True West* magazine. Ever since, *True West* magazine has been a great promoter of the historic railroad and its mission of sustaining the heritage of the Old West. Bell, who grew up along the

Santa Fe Railroad's transcontinental line in Kingman, Arizona, is grateful to Al's dedication to the West. "You won't find a bigger supporter of the history we love than Al Harper. We are looking forward to working with Al at his new venue at Old Tucson, to help him create a first class museum there," says Bell. "So, look for big things in the future from Al and us."

So, how did Harper fall in love with the West? He credits his parents' love of travel—with an annual history theme—and his admiration for his Western heroes of film and television. "I have always loved history," says Harper. "That started with my parents who 'themed' our vacations."

But running the Durango & Silverton has not been without its challenges. "I adopted the philosophy that the best way to preserve history is to make its presentation so extraordinary that people will pay a fair price for a great experience."

Harper's passion for his railroads is infectious, and anyone who has had the pleasure of riding on the D&SNGRR, is immediately planning to go back on the line when the Colorado businessman describes his favorite section of the railway. "You haven't lived until you've ridden on the 'High Line' aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad," he says. "It not only shows you what man's ingenuity can produce, but also lets you witness firsthand the glory of all that God has made."

When Harper is asked what the future foretells for the railway business, his



Al Harper is a hands-on owner of his heritage railroads, and since 1998 he has become America's number one proprietor and promoter of historic railways such as the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Courtesy D&SNGRR

answer is straight out of Walt Disney's playbook. "To appeal to the masses of all ages, I have become an entertainer," says Harper. "Our company preserves history, educates and entertains to draw the crowds. We need no tax dollars and no charity."

And what keeps the tireless Western promoter inspired to take on a new venture like Old Tucson?

"I have a very supportive wife who let me gamble everything to buy the railroads. It was my parents who taught me to love history. It was my first train ride on the D&SNGRR through the Rocky Mountains, pulled by a 100-year-old steam engine that made me decide this is what I want to do the rest of my life."

At *True West* magazine, we are honored to name Al Harper the 2024 True Westerner of the Year for his three decades of dedication to the promotion and preservation of the West, his service

to educating generations of guests at his historic railroads and his determination to keep the Old West alive and entertaining for all ages, now and for years to come.



The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad travels under full steam.

Matt Inden/Miles, Courtesy Colorado Tourism Office





BY STEVE FRIESEN

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

SOLD!

Collectors love the Old West, and Western art, firearms and collectibles remain popular coast to coast.

As the 19th century turned into the 20th century, people in the United States looked to both the future and the past. Visitors to Chicago during the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 could see products of the future and ride the newly invented Ferris wheel. But they could also visit *Buffalo Bill's Wild West*, where the recently ended American frontier was brought back to life. Like those visitors, but 130 years later, collectors in 2023 were presented with both the old and the new in the West.

A beaded dress that belonged to Jenny Yellow Elk Woman, a performer with *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* in 1893, brought nearly twice the projected sale price at the Bonhams' auction of the Robinson collection. At the 1893 exposition, Pabst got a blue ribbon for its beer (PBR anyone?), Aunt Jemima started making pancake mix and Smith and Wesson was a featured firearms manufacturer. One of the new revolvers at the company's booth was the Model Number 3; that revolver was sold at the Rock Island Premiere Firearms Auction in 2023. Twelve years after the exposition, a dentist named Zane Grey started writing novels about the American West, creating a place that was both real and imaginary. His Model 1895 Winchester commanded

a premium price at another Rock Island Auction.

Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in Mesa, Arizona, kicked off the year with a bow to the legendary West, a place introduced by men like Cody and Grey. That Mesa auction and Lebel's Santa Fe auction later in the year included several Edward H. Bohlin parade saddles, never used for riding the range but always popular with collectors. The Santa Fe auction also offered a *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* advertising poster and an original wanted poster for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, inhabitants of both the real West and the movie West.

The Western landscape and its peoples have inspired artists from the 19th century through the 21st century. Ed Mell's *Cloud*

Force presented a very abstracted vision of the desert at the Scottsdale Art Auction. While interest in the contemporary art of the West is increasing, it was paintings by the "Old Masters" that commanded the highest prices. An aspen forest was the setting for *The Hunters, Taos* by Oscar Berninghaus. Its sale at the Scottsdale auction established a world record price for one of his paintings. As might be expected, works by Charles Russell captured the highest bids at The Russell, the Charles Russell Museum's premier event in Great Falls, Montana. The top seller was *Piegans*, an early oil painting (ca. 1895) by Russell, which shows three members of the Piegan sub-tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy in Montana.

The future and the past, the old and the new, the real and the legendary...all attracted collectors to the Best of the West in artifacts and collectibles in 2023.



Zane Grey's well-documented Model 1895 Winchester hammered down at a price sold of \$440,625 at the Rock Island Premier Auction in May 2023.

COURTESY ROCK ISLAND

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.

Hopi Basketmaker, Hopi Towns, 1900

ARTHUR C. VROMAN, THE GETTY ONLINE COLLECTION



Best Western Museum

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

The beautiful design of this building and its outdoor sculpture gallery offer just a taste of what you will experience inside this state-of-the-art museum filled with paintings, sculptures, cowboy gear and ranch paraphernalia, including the Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection. Western Spirit recently acquired the Eddie Basha Collection of Western American fine art and a new wing will be built to exhibit it. Major exhibitions in 2023 included "The Gather—A Portrait of the American West—Scott T. Baxter," "William Matthews: Decades," "Western Pop: Andy Warhol and Billy Schenck" and "Werner Segarra: Vaqueros de la Cruz del Diablo."

scottsdalemuseumwest.org

Readers' Choice

Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, KS

Best Western Art Collection

Museum of Western Art, Kerrville, TX

After celebrating its 40th anniversary with "40 Years of Western Art," an exhibition featuring 86 pieces of Western art since 1983, the former The Cowboy Artists of America Museum this year looks ahead to the next 40 years and beyond. In celebration of another anniversary, "100 Years of Schreiner Treasures" salutes the local university's centennial in an exhibit November 4-December 16, 2023. The next exhibit, "Glory and Grime: The Art of Suzanne Vincent," opens on January 13, 2024.

museumofwesternart.com

Readers' Choice

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX

Best American Indian Collection

Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

Except for the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the five-museum complex in Cody stands singularly in the United States for the breadth and depth of its collections and exhibitions on the American West. A visitor to the BBCW should stay at least three days in Cody to take in all the museums' exhibits, but if time is limited and you love American Indian history, start with the world-class Plains Indian Museum and the Whitney Western Art Museum.

centerofthewest.org

Readers' Choice

Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ

Best Western Art Collector

Philip F. Anschutz, Denver, CO

Billionaire Western art collector Philip Anschutz's passion for Western art has led him to become one of the most influential collectors and donors of the genre in the country. The Anschutz Collection at Denver's American Museum of Western Art has over 600 paintings, drawings and sculptures representing more than 180 artists. The collection provides one of the nation's finest surveys of American Western history from the early 19th century to the present.

anschutzcollection.org

Readers' Choice

Tim Peterson, Cape Cod, MA

Best Western History Collector

Bob Nelson (Nelson Museum of the West), Cheyenne, WY

Wyoming native Bob Nelson had a career as a successful attorney, but his real passion is Western history. A lifelong collector, the Nelson Museum of the West in his hometown of Cheyenne is a showcase for his collection. Seeing works by Will James, Frank Tenney Johnson, Charles M. Russell and Joseph H. Sharp is reason enough to visit this gem. But add the wearable and functional artwork of Plains and Pueblo Indians and transplanted Californian Burt Procter's works exhibited in his "studio" and you'll understand why the Nelson consistently draws accolades and crowds.

nelsonmuseum.com

Readers' Choice

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

Best Pioneer History Collection

Legacy of the Plains Museum, Gering, NE

Located on the route of the Oregon-California Trail and near Scotts Bluff, the natural landmark that was a key travel marker for 19th-century wagon trains, this museum tells the stories of the trails by showing various modes of travel. Other exhibits focus on dryland farming, livestock production and early settlers in the region. A sod house, blacksmith shop and herd of longhorn cattle are part of the museum's outdoor exhibit area.

legacyoftheplains.org

Readers' Choice

Cowtown, Wichita, KS

Best Old West Collectibles Auction

Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA

For the second year in a row, *True West's* editors honor the excellence of Morphy Auctions. In 2023, Morphy acquired Brian Lebel Wild West Auctions and is now considered the premier Western collectibles auction house. Morphy has five collectible divisions: Advertising & General Store, Automobilia & Petroliana, Coin-Op & Gambling, Fine & Decorative Arts and Toy & Doll. Collectors can find hundreds of items from the Old West in the annual auctions.

morphyauctions.com

Readers' Choice

Richmond Auctions, Greenville, SC

Best Western Collectibles Gallery

Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

For the second year in a row, *True West's* editors honor the excellence of Cowboy Legacy Gallery.

Over 100 nationally known artists are represented by the gallery, which has been in business for 35 years. The popular gallery is highly regarded for the diversity of art and artists—and variety of mediums and subject matter, including Western, wildlife, figurative, landscape and still-life—they represent for their customers.

legacygallery.com

Readers' Choice

C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT

Best Old West Art Auction

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

Heritage Auctions in Dallas is an internationally recognized leader in selling Western Americana, Texana, art, movie posters and collectibles. Major Western artists' originals auctioned in 2023 included pieces by Maynard Dixon, Bill Nebeker, Remington Schuyler, Frank Tenney Johnson, Olaf Wieghorst, Peggy McGivern, Oscar E. Berninghaus,

Edward Borein, Joe Beeler and Thom Ross.

ha.com

Readers' Choice

Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale, AZ

Best Old West Firearms Auction

Rock Island Auction, Rock Island, IL

For the second year in a row, *True West's* editors have selected Rock Island Auction as the best firearms auction house in the country. Rock Island prides itself on its integrity and the quality and rarity of the antique firearms, collectors' firearms, rare guns, modern guns and other firearms-related items auctioned since 2003. Annual events include Premier Firearms Auction, Sporting & Collector Firearms and nine regularly scheduled online firearms auctions.

rockislandauction.com

Readers' Choice

Amoskeag Auction Company, Manchester, NH

BOB BOZE BELL BOOKS BIG BOOK SALE

Factual, lively, and irreverent... History as it should be presented.

—Garry James, *Guns & Ammo*

ON SALE NOW! \$19.95

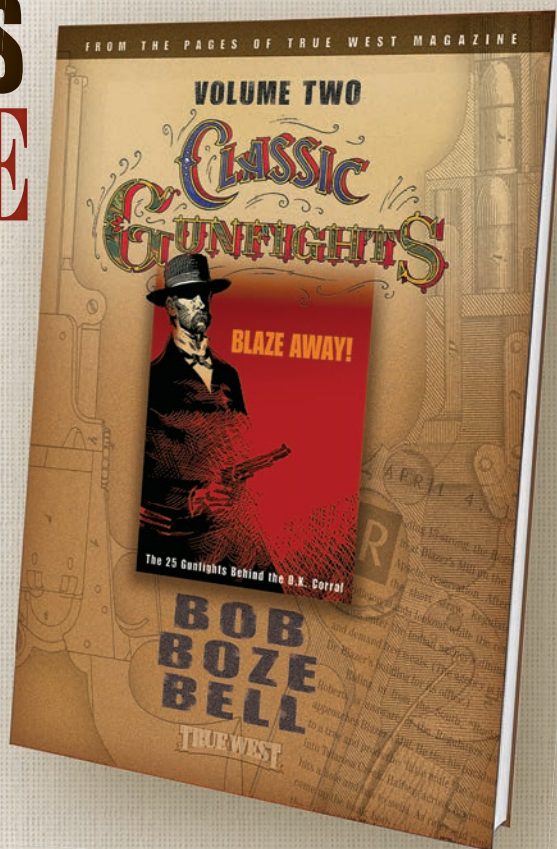
Soft Cover Only/Plus S&H [each]

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Store.TrueWestMagazine.com



**CLASSIC
GUNFIGHTS
V. I, II & III**



ANDY THOMAS



Russell's Last Ride | 26x38 oil on linen

Painted exclusively for The Russell Art Auction
The CM Russell Museum Great Falls, Montana, March 14 - 16, 2024

RUSSELL'S LAST RIDE

Charles Russell died in October of 1926. Tributes came from all over the country. They came from celebrities and humble working people who knew him. Cowboys, too, of course. In Great Falls, schools, banks, and the Post Office were closed so everyone could gather and see Charlie off for his last journey. He rode to the cemetery in a horse-drawn hearse with his horse Dexter led behind. On Dexter were Russell's saddle and gear. It was a day to remember America's Cowboy Artist.

ANDY THOMAS FINE ART

Professional artist since 1991 • andythomas.com

Best Historic Firearms Museum

Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, NV

The Bob Chow Collection showcases a unique exhibition of firearms that were popular during the settlement of the West in the 19th century. The museum has a great collection of original art by Will James and seasonal exhibitions of cowboy gear, wildlife and pioneer items.

museumelko.com

Readers' Choice

Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, NE

Best Treasure Hunting Device

Electroscopes by Thomas, Jersey Shore, PA

An internationally recognized metal detector company founded 35 years ago, Electroscopes has five models that are popular for detectorists and

treasure hunters. All of Thomas Afilani's unique electronic products, including the Regulator, Gravitator Recovery System, Model 301, Fieldscope and Ancient Artifact Relic Hunter, are made in the USA.

metaldetector distributors.com

Readers' Choice

Garrett Metal Detectors, TX

Best Western Painter

Oscar E. Berninghaus

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1874, Berninghaus was one of six artists who founded the Taos Society of Artists in 1915. Before making his home permanently in Taos in 1925, the influential Western artist spent many years working as a commercial artist in St. Louis and summers painting in Taos. Today, Berninghaus's art is highly sought after and is part of the permanent collections of major



The wife of Western star Montie Bohlin rode this ornate saddle in parades. In January it sold at Brian Lebel's Mesa Auction for \$82,600.

COURTESY MORPHY'S - BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION

museums across the United States.

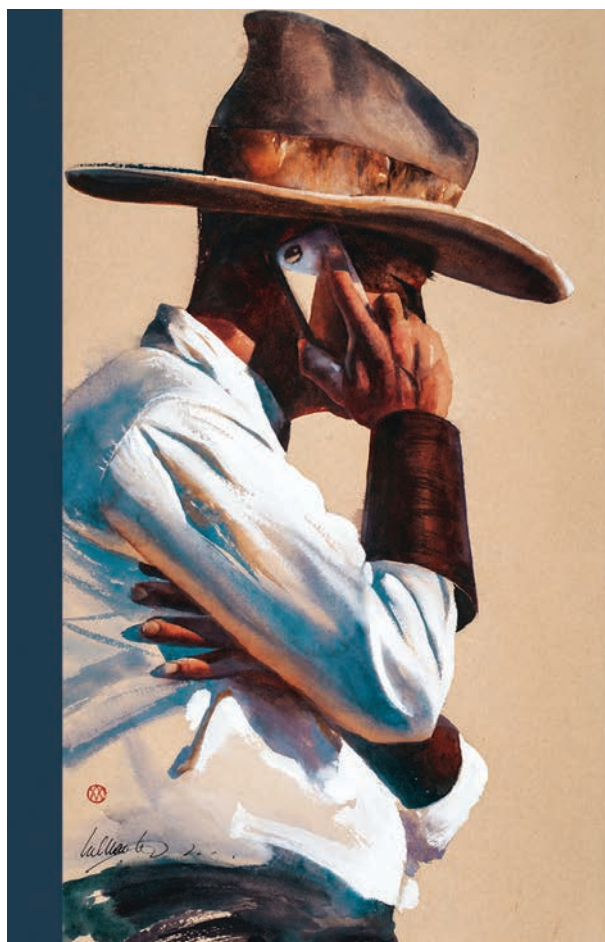
Readers' Choice

Frederic Remington

Best Western Painter (Living)

Mark Maggiori, Taos, NM

Award-winning, French-born artist Mark Maggiori makes his home today in Taos, one of the most important centers of Western art in the country. Trained as an artist at Académie Julian in Paris, Maggiori was the front man for the acclaimed rock band



ILLUMINATING THE PAST. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

William Matthews: Decades
On view now - April, 28, 2024

WS Western Spirit
SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST

Smithsonian
Affiliate

3830 N MARSHALL WAY | SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WESTERNSPIRIT.ORG

Long Distance, William Matthews, Watercolor, Collection of Stephanie and Richard Johnston

Cowboy Legacy



A GALLERY OF THE WESTERN LIFESTYLE

Antique & Contemporary

Saddles • Bits • Spurs • Fine Art • Indian Artifacts



480.595.8999

BillCowboyLegacy@aol.com

7077 E. Main St #10 • Scottsdale AZ 85251

proprietor Bill Welch

The Museum of Western Art
WHERE THE LEGEND LIVES



Thanks for the Rain - Joe Beeler

Jan. 13 - March 2: **Glory & Grime:**
The Art of Susanne Vincent

Now Thru April 20: Works from Our
Permanent Collection



1550 Bandera Highway, Kerrville, TX
museumofwesternart.com 830.896.2553

I'M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY!



\$24.95
EACH + S&H

100% Cotton / Most Sizes:



STORE.TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM



Part of the Robinson collection, a fully beaded dress that was worn by Jenny Yellow Elk when she and her husband John Y. Nelson performed for *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* in 1893 sold for \$214,575 at the Bonhams' auction.

COURTESY BONHAMS

Pleymo before he turned to art fulltime in 2014. Since the French artist has focused his career on Western American art, he has become one of the most collected and lauded artists of the West. Many art critics compare his style to that of Frederic Remington, Maynard Dixon and Frank Tenney Johnson.

markmaggiori.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Sherry Blanchard Stuart/
Andy Thomas, Carthage, MO

Best Western Art Gallery

Taos Art Museum, Taos, NM

Located in the former adobe house of Russian-born artist Nicolai Fechin (1881-1955), the Taos Art Museum is an intimate, extraordinary experience that celebrates the Taos Society of Artists and the life and work of the immigrant painter who made his home in Taos from 1927 to 1933. New exhibitions in 2023 include "Art of Timeless Beauty, the Navajo Child's Blanket," "Atmospheric Pressure Works" by Anaïs Rumpfelt and "Natural Forms" works by Britt Brown.

taosartmuseum.org

Readers' Choice

Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

Best Western Art Museum Gallery

The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Santa Fe, NM

The state museum is internationally recognized for its excellence in curating the rich and diverse art of the indigenous people

of New Mexico.

Exhibitions in 2023 and 2024 include "Down Home" featuring the work of MIAC's 2023 Living Treasure Anthony Lovato (Kewa/Santo Domingo Pueblo), "Here, Now & Always" and "Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles."

indianartsandculture.org

Readers' Choice

The Brinton Museum, Big Horn, WY

Best Western Bronze Foundry

Pyrology Foundry & Studio, Bastrop, TX

Founded by a renowned sculptor, Pyrology is one of the few full-service foundries in the world. It has earned a great reputation from artists who seek out the foundry to cast their monumental art for public and private exhibition.

pyrology.com

Readers' Choice

Bronzeworks, Prescott Valley, AZ

Best Western Bronze Artist

Erik Christianson, Texas Hill Country, TX

In the United States, Hawaiian-born artist Erik Christianson is considered one of the finest and most respected monumental, historical bronze artists. Based in Texas, the sculptor is well-known for his horse sculptures and has received commissions from United States Horse Cavalry, the Vaqueros Association and the First Cavalry Division.

erikchristianson.net

Readers' Choice

Bill Nebeker, Prescott, AZ

Best Classic Western Bronze Artist

Alexander Phimister Proctor

Born in Ontario, Canada, in 1860, Proctor moved with his family to the United States when he was a child and was raised in Iowa and Colorado. Formally trained in art in the U.S. and France, Proctor became renowned for his bronze sculptures of domestic animals and wildlife. He was also sought after for his monumental bronzes, which he made his specialty. An avid outdoorsman, the award-winning artist was a great admirer of President Theodore Roosevelt, who was the subject of his monument, *The Rough Rider*. Other famous works are *Bucking Bronco* and *On the War Trail*, both in Denver, Colorado, and the four *Buffalo* on the Q Street Bridge in Washington, D.C.

aphimisterproctorfoundation.org

Readers' Choice

Frederic Remington



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

January 26, 2022

34th Annual Old West Show & Auction
Morphy Auctions & Brian Lebel's
Old West Events
(Las Vegas, NV)

oldwestevents.com • 480-779-9378

March 21, 2024

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

April 12-13, 2024

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

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM

CURRENT EXHIBITS

HISTORY GALLERY
40 custom exhibit cases displaying natural and regional history artifacts

WANAMAKER WING
Nevada's largest collection of wild animals from around the world!

ART EXHIBITS
Will James • Edward Borcin • Ansel Adams
•Edward Weston

775-738-3418
1515 Idaho St. Elko, NV
www.MuseumElko.org

Visit our website to learn about monthly events and new exhibits.

OPEN RANGE Gallery

SHERRY BLANCHARD STUART
www.sherryblanchardstuart.com

7076 E Main Street
Scottsdale AZ, 85251
480.946.0044

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

FIREARMS

1894 WINCHESTER: AMERICA'S DEER RIFLE

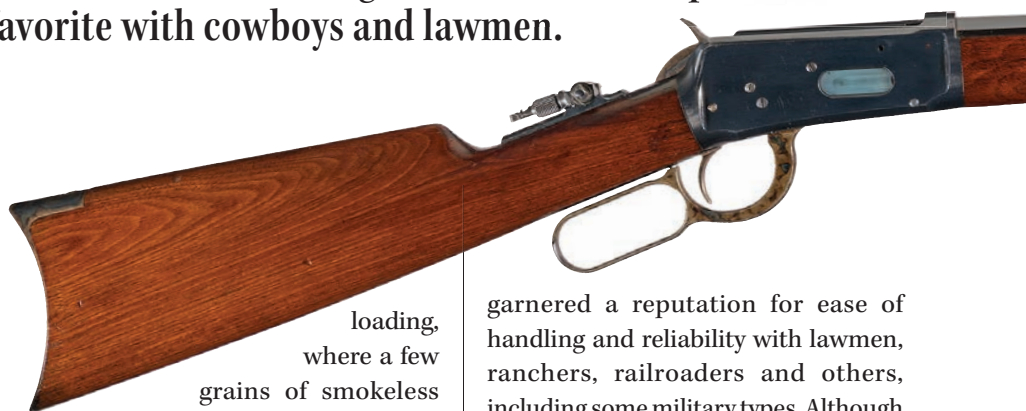


Considered one of the world's best hunting rifles since its inception, it's also been a favorite with cowboys and lawmen.

Whenever riflemen make a list of classic hunting rifles, Winchester's 1894 lever-action is sure to be at or near the top. Sometimes known as "America's Deer Rifle," its lightweight and easy-to-carry design, combined with a smooth, fast-shooting capability, continues to rank the Model 1894 as a favorite short-range hunting rifle, well over a century after its introduction.

Designed along the lines of firearms genius John M. Browning's 1886 and 1892 models, Winchester introduced his then latest-designed lever action on August 21, 1894. This slick new rifle enjoyed the latest improvements John Browning could dream up. Besides using stronger nickel steel barrels as standard equipment of the Model 1894, the design used a single thick steel locking bolt at the rear of the gun's breech block, rather than the two vertically sliding locking bolts of its earlier inspirations, thus allowing additional room for the receiver to handle the new, longer smokeless-powder cartridges.

Interestingly, while this rifle was conceived especially to handle the then-new, high pressure smokeless-powder cartridges, the company's ammunition makers were experiencing unforeseen production problems. Due to the restructuring of commercial ammunition



loading, where a few grains of smokeless powder could make a considerable difference in a gun's performance, the actual introduction of these revolutionary new loads was delayed until the following year, and the first 1894 Winchesters were shipped in the black powder chamberings of .32-40 and .38-55 calibers.

In the August 1895 catalog, when the powerful new ammunition was finally made available, the '94 made its smokeless powder debut—as it was originally intended to be introduced—in the newly developed chamberings of .25-35 and .30 Winchester Center Fire (.30 WCF). It was this latter round, also nicknamed .30-30, that through the decades has become synonymous with, and is often the more popular designation for, the 1894 model. In some parts of the USA, that's pronounced "Thutty Thutty."

With its more powerful, longer-reaching smokeless-powder loads, the 1894 model quickly gained acceptance with hunters, especially out West where game was becoming scarcer and more wary. The stout new lever gun also

garnered a reputation for ease of handling and reliability with lawmen, ranchers, railroaders and others, including some military types. Although the '94 Winchester was never a standard-issue weapon, it was purchased by several state militia units.

The rifle also made quite a name for itself in the wilds of Alaska during that state's gold rush of 1898. Its loose, rugged action, which resisted the freezing temperatures of the North Country, coupled with its large trigger guard, favored by those gloved and mitten-wearing adventurers, earned it the moniker of "Klondike Model," with many who trekked that cold country. During the First World War, the U.S. government purchased 1,800 Model 1894 Winchesters along with 50,000 .30-30 cartridges for the Army's signal corps serving in the Pacific Northwest. These '94s were used to protect the harvesting of the Sitka spruce lumber used for framing fighter airplane fuselages.

As testament to its popularity, within a scant half dozen years of its introduction, over 200,000 Model '94s had been turned out, and as early as 1927, it became the first sporting rifle to pass the one million production mark. This

Designed by John M. Browning, the '94 Winchester became an immediate favorite with hunters and has not had any major changes throughout its 130-year history. This 1894 rifle sports a three-leaf buckhorn rear sight as well as a tang-mounted peep sight and a Lyman globe front sight.

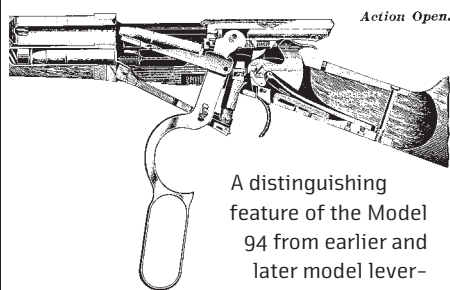
COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY



year the '94 celebrates its 130th anniversary, having sold well over seven million copies to date. Among its many followers were famed cowboy detective Charlie A. Siringo and the Texas Rangers, including young Ranger Frank Hamer, who later put an end to the killing spree of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. The notorious cowboy "regulator," Tom Horn is said to have used a .30-30 caliber 1894 model while working as an assassin for a group of Wyoming cattlemen.

In this fast-paced and ever-changing world, Winchester's Model 94 is one of those guns that has seen little change from its late 19th-century beginnings. Perhaps the biggest change was the transition of the original 1894's top eject system for fired shells, to the angle eject of the more modern Model 94s, as well as the addition of a tang-mounted safety on guns manufactured from 2006 to the present. Generally looking and handling like it did when first introduced, the "Old '94" is still a popular choice with hunters, and in this writer's mind, that's proof positive of a *True West* classic.

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



A distinguishing feature of the Model 94 from earlier and later model lever-action rifles is the pivoting flat plate profile at the bottom of the frame, as shown in this 1916 Winchester catalogue illustration, revealing the action in open position.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVE

Best Gunleather Artisan

Mernickle Holsters, Pampa, TX

Founded in the 1970s by Bob Mernickle, the Texas-based gun leather company is one of the most respected gun holster companies in the world. Today, U.S. Army veteran Cliff Powers and his family own the firearm leather accessory firm. Mernickle's products are highly regarded by the Single Action Shooting Society as well as the Cowboy Fast Draw Association. The company is also well-known for its conceal-carry holsters and buscaderos. For Western film fans, they also have a line of Hollywood-style holster sets, including the Wild Bunch series.

mernickleholsters.com

Readers' Choice

Tie: John Bianchi Gunleather/
Old West Reproductions

New Colt Engraving Style Guide

Besides being chock full of 480 beautiful photos (mostly in color) of percussion Colts and 19th-century period illustrations, this latest work by respected arms scholar Robert M. Jordan offers a very practical guide that collectors can refer to for years to come. Titled *Colt Percussion Engraving Styles*, this

184-page, 9-by-12-inch hardcover volume will aid firearms students to identify and recognize the various types of Colt engraving styles and patterns used from the time of Sam Colt's earliest Paterson revolvers up through the end of the percussion era. Attractively shown are numerous close-up details of the individual characteristics of the various engraving patterns such as the English Style, Donut Style, Early and Late Vine styles and Panel Scenes, along with the works of Gustave Young, Nimschke, Helfricht and other forms of incising found on percussion Colts. Priced at \$65 domestic shipping, this is a must-have work for Colt collectors.

Available from orders@manatarmsbooks.com



COURTESY MOWBRAY PUBLISHING

These five heavily armed deputy U.S. Marshals served at the behest of federal Judge Isaac Parker of Fort Smith, Arkansas. They are all holding Winchester 1873 rifles.



The 1894 model was Winchester's first lever-action rifle made for smokeless powder, and with well over seven million copies produced, it's the most successful rifle the company ever turned out. Here's a typical well-used, but well cared for 20-inch barreled 1894 carbine, by far the most popular configuration of the model. This .30-30 caliber lever action was manufactured in 1897 and is fitted with a silver blade front sight, a three-leaf rear sight and a flip-up aperture tang sight.



COURTESY POULIN ANTIQUES & AUCTIONS, INC.

Best Firearm Engraver

Jim Downing The Gun Engraver

For 40 years, Jim Downing has built an international reputation for excellence in handwork with his gravermeister tool on metal blades and firearm metals from his shop in the Commercial Street National Historic District of Springfield, Missouri. Downing's philosophy of artisanship defines the excellence of the artisan's work: "The art of gun engraving will take a lifetime to master, but I have time, patience and perseverance, and look forward to being an old-timer among this very elite group of artisans." While he's mastered a variety of styles, his forte is that of the late 19th century, recreating the looks of yesteryear.

thegunengraver.com

Readers' Choice

Altamont Company

Best Cowboy Action Pistol

Taylor's Smokewagon

Taylor's & Co.'s exclusive second-generation stagecoach-style, single-action revolver, The Smoke Wagon, has a blue finish with a case-hardened frame, and a thin, richly detailed, checkered grip for comfort and improved aim. The Smoke Wagon is an exclusive, trademarked sidearm of the Winchester, Virginia, firearm company. The deluxe Smoke Wagon includes custom tuning, a custom hammer and base pin springs, a trigger pull set at three pounds, jig-cut, positive angles on all triggers and sears for crisp, reliable action, and a wire bolt spring.

taylorsfirearms.com

Readers' Choice

Colt Single Action Army

COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE WEST'S MOST DEADLY GUNFIGHTER

“A highly-readable feast that takes one into unexpected nooks and crannies; as wildly entertaining as it is revealing.”

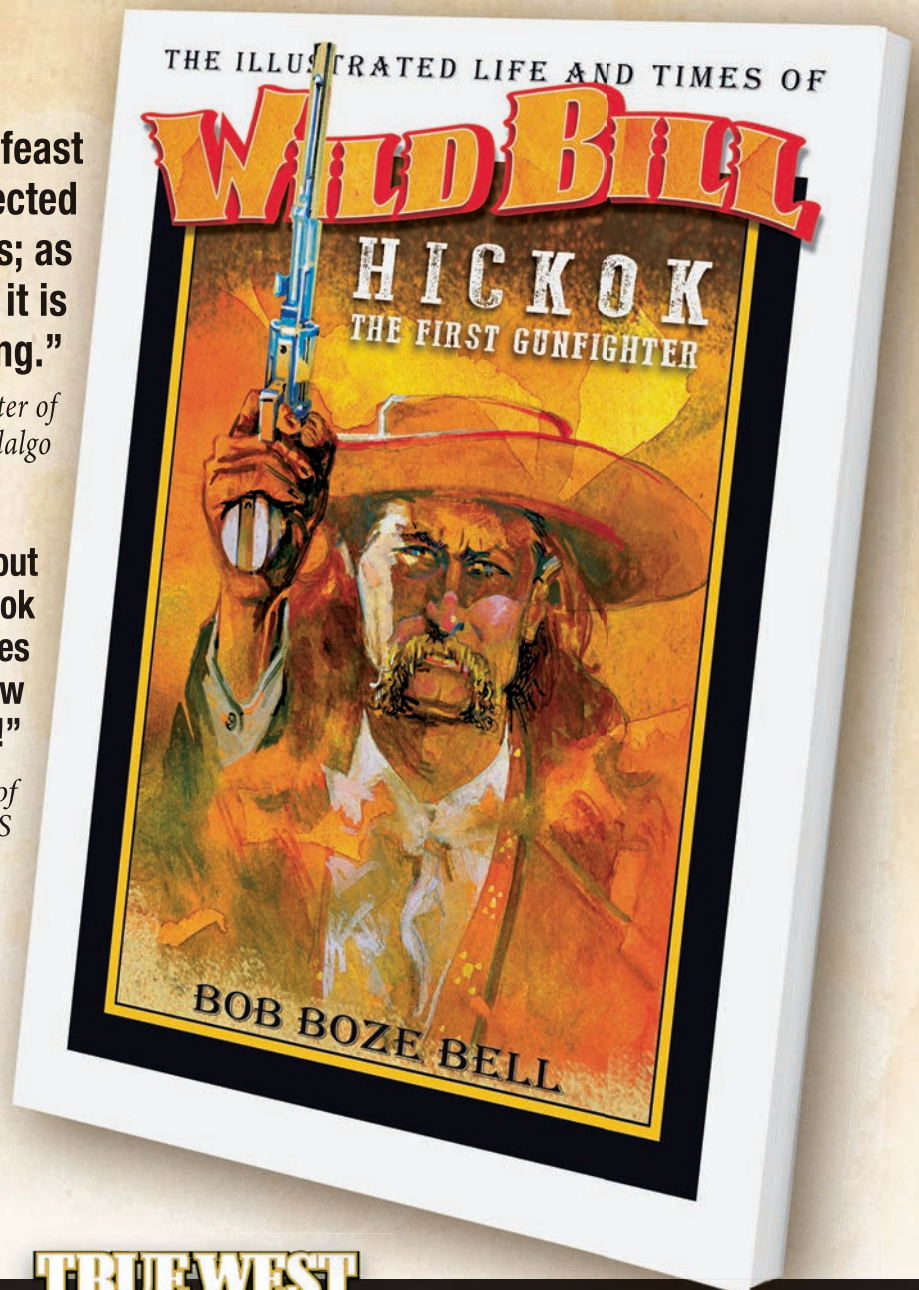
*—John Fusco, Screenwriter of
Young Guns, Thunderheart, Hidalgo*

“It’s one thing to read about history. It’s another to have it look back at you through the eyes and art of a true storyteller. Now this is a history book!”

*—Ted Simons, host of
Horizon on PBS*

\$19.95

Plus S&H



TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

Shoot Us Your Order Right Now!

Store.TrueWestMagazine.com / Amazon.com

Independently owned
and family operated
in the U.S.A.



Over 11,000 products!
your source to old,
obsolete, hard to find
reloading accessories,
and shooting supplies.

(208) 263-6953
BUFFALOARMS.COM



Best Cowboy Action Rifle

Cimarron 1873 U.S. Marshal IT Carbine

The U.S. Marshal IT (Indian Territory) Carbine is a very accurate copy of an 1873 carbine that Judge Isaac Parker gave to one of his serving U.S. Marshals in 1880. While the stock is shortened slightly and the barrel reduced by two inches from the original, the 1873 U.S. Marshal IT carbine is made exclusively by A. Uberti of Italy for Cimarron. Customers can choose between a .44 Special or .45 Colt with an 18-inch barrel, as well as U.S. Marshal markings.

cimarron-firearms.com

Readers' Choice

Taylor's 1873 Rifle

Mernickle Holsters are made in the U.S. and are sought after by gun enthusiasts around the world

COURTESY MERNICKLE HOLSTERS

Best Action Shotgun

EMF Company Hartford SxS Shotgun

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

emf-company.com

Readers' Choice

Cimarron "Doc Holliday" Double Barrel Shotgun

**IT'S MORE THAN A RIFLE,
IT'S HISTORY!**

Genuine S. Hawken
Classic Plains Rifle
Made in the USA

www.thehawkenshop.com
The Hawken Shop® • Oak Harbor, WA
FREE CATALOG!



Best Single Shot Rifle

Shiloh Sharps 1874 Long Range Express

The Sharps was the first choice of the old-time buffalo hunters on the frontier, and Shiloh Sharps continues that tradition of top-quality arms.

Like all of Shiloh's guns, the 1874 Long Range Express can be custom ordered with many choices available to meet the particulars of each owner's specifications, including caliber, barrel length, sights, wood and metal finishes.

shilohrifle.com

Readers' Choice

Cimarron Deluxe Model 1885 High Wall Sporting Rifle

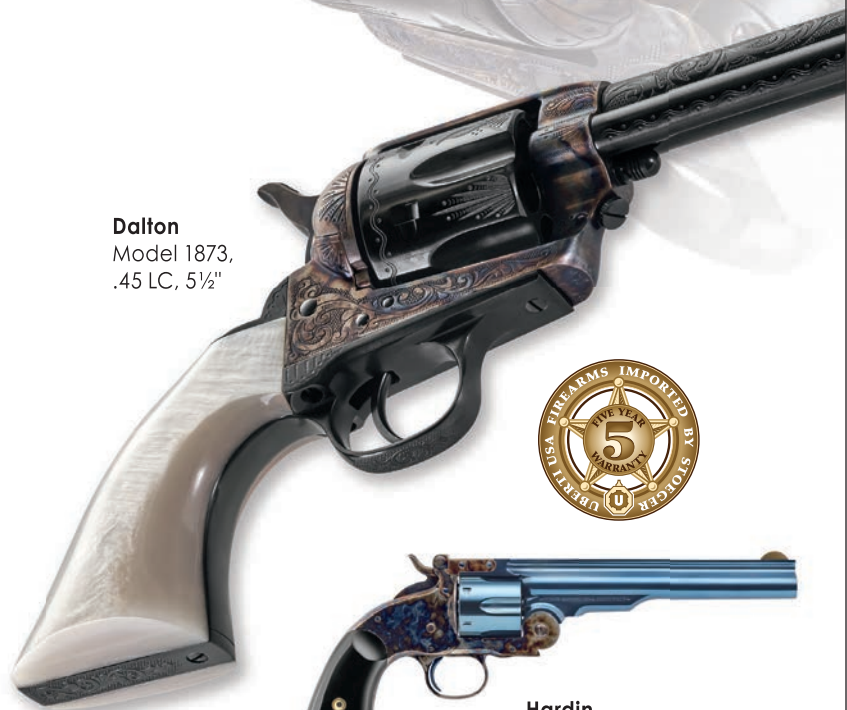
The Shiloh Sharps 1874 Long Range Express rifle is equally popular with collectors and outdoorsmen.

COURTESY SHILOH SHARPS

BECOME PART OF THE LEGEND



Dalton
Model 1873,
.45 LC, 5½"



Hardin
1875 Top-Break,
.45 LC, 7"

OUTLAWS & LAWMEN SERIES

The Outlaws & Lawmen series pays homage to the most legendary names in the Wild West. Each piece in this collection is inspired after revolvers actually carried by famous heroes and villains, undying characters in the riveting drama of American history. Stunning to look at, fantastic to shoot, available in limited quantities through your Uberti USA dealer.

Find us on  Facebook
Uberti-USA.com



THE DURANGO
Model 1899



The NEW Durango is adorned with high quality silver conchos, Double Row Hand Stamped Border Design on a contoured gunbelt along with full leather lining, includes our Eldorado silver buckle in antique finish. Custom made, one at a time, especially for you

John Bianchi's
FRONTIER GUNLEATHER


frontiergunleather.com 4 760-895-4401

Call for a new 52 page color catalog!



Two centuries ago, Hawken Rifles became the most popular hunting rifle for fur trappers heading to the Rockies to make their fortune in beaver pelts.

COURTESY THE HAWKEN SHOP




Edward Tucker Photographer

The Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies

The Official Old West Ambassadors to the City of Prescott, Arizona

Shootout on Whiskey Row!

The Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc. (PRSL) are an award winning 501(c)(3) re-enactment group. We proudly raise money for the Yavapai College Military Families Scholarship Fund. If ya wanna bring the Old West to your special occasion or gatharin, give us a holler. We are fully insured & a proud member of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce. Sponsorships available.



Follow us at www.prescottregulators.org
Facebook The Prescott Regulators and Their Shady Ladies Inc
email: president@prescottregulators.org
(928) 445-1754

Best Commemorative Rifle

150th Anniversary 1873 Rifle, Uberti-USA, Accokeek, MD

Uberti pays tribute to the "Gun that Won the West" with this special commemorative 150th anniversary rifle. Each rifle is offered in the handy 20-inch version, with a sturdy all-steel frame. Customers can choose between .45 LC and .357 Magnum/.38 Special chamberings. All are adorned with an original 19th-century engraving.

uberti-usa.com

Readers' Choice
Henry Texas Rangers
Bicentennial Tribute Edition

Best Firearm Kit

**The Hawken Shop
Hawken Rifle Kit**

For the third year in a row, *True West's* editors honor The Hawken Shop's Hawken Rifle Kit as the Best in the West. Invented in St. Louis, Missouri, two centuries ago, the Hawken was the favorite of mountain men Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and others. Craft your own rifle from the Hawken Shop's Hawken Kit. It's 95 percent finished and requires minimal hand tools and patience for the final fitting.

thehawkenshop.com

Readers' Choice
Dixie Gunworks Pietta 1851 Navy
Brass Frame Revolver Kit



Western enthusiasts can enjoy owning EMF Company's meticulously designed Hartford side-by-side shotgun and know they are owning a recreated piece of the Old West.

COURTESY EMF COMPANY



1911 ONE RANGER

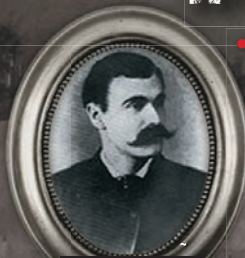
Cimarron Firearms introduces a .45 ACP One Ranger Classic 1911 pistol. A percentage of every sale is donated to the Former Texas Rangers Foundation to help build the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, Texas. Engraved on the 4.25" barrel is a quote attributed to the legendary Texas Rangers, "One Riot One Ranger". Tell your dealer, "I want a Cimarron!"

1877-SIXGUN1

www.cimarron-firearms.com

Concordia Cemetery

HISTORY TO DIE FOR...



JOHN WESLEY HARDIN
1853 • 1895

- Visit one of Texas' Most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Rangers and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the State.
- Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.
- Veterans from the Mexican-American War through recent conflicts, as well as The World's Tallest Man." Permanent residents.
- Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia, and visit the American Victims of Gringos' Curve Massacre.

- January 10, 2024 at 10 AM: Gringos' Curve Massacre of American Miners by Villistas Commemoration
- January 20, 2024 at 12:30 PM: Texas Rangers Memorial Crosses Dedication ceremony.
- August 17, 2024 at 6 PM: Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin
- October 19, 2024 at 5 PM: Sundown Walk With the Spirits of Concordia Cemetery.
- November 2, 2024 at 2:00 PM: Dia De Los Muertos first Saturday in November.
- Exciting Historically-based Ghost Tours with a Paranormal Twist held Saturday nights after dark. Check Website or Facebook for dates!

915-842-8200 • CONCORDIACEMETERY.ORG • FACEBOOK/CONCORDIACEMETERY
3700 EAST YANDELL • EL PASO, TEXAS



BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

WESTERN PRESERVATION



LOVE THEM ALL

Pick my favorite column of 2023? No way.

I am supposed to write about my favorite Old West Savior of 2023. The problem is, I don't have a favorite column from last year—I loved every one.

I loved every determined, stubborn, sock-it-to-me fearlessness that revealed again and again, American Strong stories. I loved every one of the folks taking chances and putting it all on the line because they knew their piece of our American legacy needed them. That's the joy of this column.

Joy like Arizona's Frances Willard Munds, the fierce teacher who got women the right to vote in the brand new 48th state in 1912. This was after Territorial women had spent decades trying to get the legislature to recognize that "women struggled as anxiously as men in building the state."

My February-March column detailed a statue of Frances sponsored by the Arizona Women's History Alliance—it would be the first statute of an individual woman at the statehouse plaza. Boy, does she deserve that honor!

In April, I got to revisit one of the favorite spots in my original home state of North Dakota: the Chateau de Mores in Medora. Not only is this "hunting lodge" worth a tour, but any visit to Medora is exciting.

In May I learned tons about ranching from the Ranching Museum in Lubbock, Texas. And, boy, are these folks proud of the incredible history they're showcasing.

In June I met Kenneth Thomasma of Wyoming, who has written dozens of books about American Indian children.

I was gifted one of them—Naya Nuki—and that led me to track him down for the whole story.

The July-August issue took me inside Tombstone's St. Paul's, the oldest Protestant Church in Arizona. I don't know what impressed me more—the beautiful and beloved church building or its creative and enthusiastic female pastor, The Rev. Heather Rose.

In September, I profiled the newest variation on Montana's oldest Dude Ranch—the O.T.O. Ranch (1898-1939). It's finding new life as a "pop-up dude ranch." Check it out!

In October, I told about the "Oldest Old West Savior": Arizona's San Xavier del Bac. If you have no other reason to visit Arizona, going to view this over-200-year-old Catholic mission is reason enough.

In November I found two women who have turned an abandoned North Dakota school into a fabric art center—and brought new life to a tiny town.

And in December, the Trinidad, Colorado Fox Theatre caught my eye—and showed that this is a city determined to save its heritage.

So now I'm on the search for another year of columns about folks who are America's historical patriots!



In 1908, the Fox West Theatre opened in Trinidad, Colorado. From 1929 to 2012 the grand 650-seat movie house entertained customers with first-run films. Today, the city and local citizens are working hard to raise the funds to restore the theater to all its glam and glory.

COURTESY FOX WEST THEATRE ALLIANCE

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*.



Best Preservation of a Historic Western Building

Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie, WY

Built in 1872, the Wyoming Territorial Prison held the West's most violent and desperate outlaws (including the notorious Butch Cassidy) during the dramatic time of Wyoming's federal Territorial days and early statehood. The Wyoming prison is now a museum, and includes an exhibit on Cassidy. Visitors can tour the warden's quarters, the horse barn, prison industries broom factory, visitor center, historic buildings, as well as picnic and enjoy a nature trail.

wyoparks.wyo.gov

Readers' Choice

Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, AR



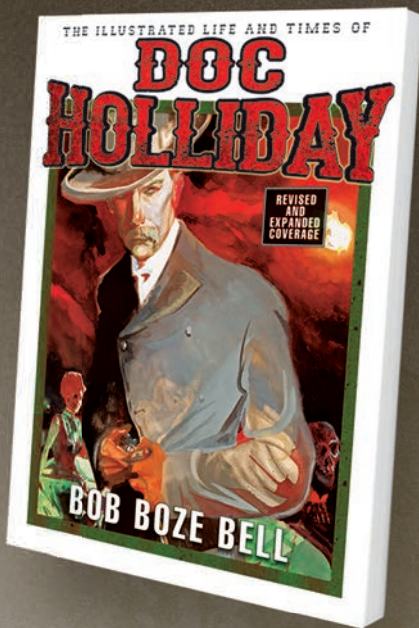
Dick and Dora Randall's 1898 O.T.O. Lodge was Montana's first guest ranch. Expanded in the early decades of the 20th century, the True Ranch Collection company has restored the lodge and its cabins, operating today as a "pop-up dude ranch!"

SCOTT T. BAXTER,
COURTESY TRUE RANCH COLLECTION

Red Hawk, Oglala Warrior
Badlands, South Dakota, 1905

EDWARD CURTIS, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THE AMERICAN WEST'S MOST BELOVED GUNSLINGER



The Illustrated Life and Times of Doc Holliday, Third Edition is filled with color and features a wide array of Bell's amazing art depictions of the American West's most beloved gunslinger.

This complete and updated version fills in the gaps and brings forth all the untold stories and discoveries since the first edition published 30 years ago.

\$19.95
ORDER TODAY!



TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM

Best Preserved Historic Trail

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

The international highway between the United States and the state of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico changed North American history and began American citizens' settlement in the far Southwest. Today, travelers can enjoy revisiting the historic highway from western Missouri to New Mexico, with trail markers, civic centers, main streets, museums and historic sites marking the way for exploration and education about the trail's significance.

nps.gov

Readers' Choice

Pony Express National Historic Trail, MO, KS, NE, CO, WY, UT, NV, CA

Best Preservation Effort of the West

Fox West Theatre, Trinidad, CO

Since 1908, the Fox West has been a major landmark in Trinidad. It's one of its tallest buildings, the only second-story balcony in the whole area and has seating for 650.

Originally, the theater was flanked by a saloon on one side and a drug store on the other. "Modernization" converted it from a performing stage to a movie house in 1929. In 2018, the city bought it and has recently reopened the first stages of the preservation of Trinidad's oldest and favorite theater.

foxwesttheatre.com

Readers' Choice

San Xavier del Bac, Tucson, AZ



Best Historic Cemetery of the West

Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

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

concordiacemetery.org

Readers' Choice

Boot Hill, Dodge City, KS

Best Preserved Historic Fort of the West

Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX

For the second year in a row, *True West* honors Fort Concho for its extraordinary preservation efforts and living history programs. Built in 1867 as a strategic U.S. Army outpost

during the post-Civil War conflict with the Southern Plains tribes, Fort Concho served its purpose effectively until it was closed in 1889. The city of San Angelo handles staffing and the preservation of the

historic landmark, museum and 23 fort buildings. Walk in the footsteps of



A 20-Mule Wagon Train on Devils Dance Floor

Death Valley National Park, California, circa 1920-55

COURTESY UNLV SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES



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

COURTESY NRH

soldiers and their families who lived at the fort and tour Officers Row and Quarters, the enlisted men's barracks, post headquarters, hospital, school-house and chapel. Fort Concho hosts annual living history events, including Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day in February and Fort Concho Frontier Day in April.

fortconcho.com

Readers' Choice

Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Laramie, WY

Best Architecturally Preserved Western Town

Silverton, CO

Gold and silver were found in 1860, but miners didn't return to the Animas River Canyon to seek their fortunes until after the Civil War. In 1874, the town of Silverton was laid out and the boom was on. In 1882, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Silverton. At its height, over 2,000 called Silverton home, with more than 400 buildings, including 29 saloons. Today, historic Silverton is a popular tourist destination and the terminus of the internationally acclaimed Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

silvertoncolorado.com

Readers' Choice

Wallace, ID

FORT CONCHO

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

GIFT SHOP ~ LIVING HISTORY ~ SPECIAL EXHIBITS
SPECIAL EVENTS YEAR ROUND

Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day
February 25, 2024

Regional Cavalry Competition
April 18-20, 2024

American Plains Artists Show
June 27 - August 4, 2024

National Cowboy Day
July 27, 2024

Archaeology Fair
September 21, 2024

Don't miss out on our many
Halloween events in October

Christmas at Old Fort Concho
December 6-8, 2024

325-481-2646
630 South Oakes San Angelo, Tx
www.fortconcho.com



MAHAFFIE

STAGECOACH STOP & FARM HISTORIC SITE
OLATHE, KANSAS
EST. 1858

Living History: 1860s Style

1200 E. KANSAS CITY RD.
OLATHE, KANSAS 66061



mahaffie.org • 913-971-5111

WESTERN FARE



COME AND GET IT!

Historic Western-style restaurants, saloons and dinner shows keep the Old West alive.

Across the West, from small towns to big cities, authentic, local, historic restaurants and saloons are working hard to offer the best in traditional, locally sourced Western cuisine. Local beer, wine and distilled spirits are also on the menu at heritage venues across the West. Rodeos, county fairs and festivals—including popular cowboy shows and chuckwagon cookoffs—draw great numbers of attendees in all seasons.

True West's editors encourage our readers, at home or while traveling in the Western United States, to support the local historic venues and their proprietors who are keeping the Old West alive—one drink and one meal at a time.



“Mexican John”
XIT Ranch, Texas, 1897

L.A. HUFFMAN, COURTESY THE GETTY DIGITAL COLLECTION

Best Historic Saloon of the West

Miners and Stockmen’s Steakhouse & Spirits, Hartville, WY

Open year round, Thursday through Sunday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Miners and Stockmen’s has the oldest



bar in Wyoming and is famous for its steaks and whiskey selection. Its Brunswick bar was made in Germany in 1862 and was originally used in the Fort Laramie Officer’s Club. Miners first settled the area in the 1870s, and the town was founded in 1884.

wysingoldestbar.com

Readers’ Choice

The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Prescott, AZ

Arizona Club
Las Vegas, Nevada, 1906-12

COURTESY UNLV SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Best Historic Restaurant

Big Nose Kates, Tombstone, AZ

Big Nose Kate’s Saloon was once the Grand Hotel, originally built in 1881. On October 25, 1881, the night before the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral, the Clantons and the McLaurys were guests here. This was the place to stay! A number of changes have been made to the structure since it burned down and has been rebuilt. The bar area, housed in the basement of the old hotel, is now located on the main level. In the basement is a gift shop, but the tunnel leading to the mine shafts still exists. The saloon holds the Grand Hotel’s original long bar, the only one that survived the fire of 1882 and is still serving thirsty patrons. Imagine setting your elbows down on the very place that the Earps, Doc Holliday and the Clantons once did!

bignosekatestombstone.com

Readers’ Choice

The Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO



As seen on *Yellowstone*

TRUE WEST

RODEO PATTERN, undeniably the #1 best seller in classic cowboy china!

Texas based TRUE WEST faithfully recreates the original heavy roll rim design featuring Till Goodan's art from the 1940's. **CHRISTMAS, BOOTS & SADDLE & LONGHORN** patterns also available.



- ★ HEAVY ROLL RIM DESIGN
- ★ MICROWAVE SAFE

As always . . . **MADE IN THE USA**

Dealer inquiries welcome. Call, fax, write or email for color brochure, complete pricing and details.

Box 441 • Royse City 75189

Ph: 888-636-7922 Fax: 972-635-2059

e-mail: truwesthome@aol.com

WWW.TRUEWESTHOME.COM

THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL

Where the Real Old West Still Lives
Over 140 Years of Hospitality



Hotel Lobby



Pres. Hoover Suite

Saloon

A multiple award winning fully restored frontier Hotel is waiting for you in Buffalo, Wyoming. Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid stayed here, now you can too!

Founded in 1880, and still the best Hotel on the Frontier!

10 N. Main St., Buffalo, WY 82834

307-684-0451 | OccidentalWyoming.com

Historic Occidental



Arizona Saloon
Unknown Location, n.d.

C.C. PIERCE, COURTESY THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION



Camp Scene
Yosemite, California,
circa 1863-65

CARLETON WATKINS, COURTESY THE GETTY ONLINE COLLECTION



Best Chuckwagon Cook-Off

**Chandler Chuckwagon Cook Off,
Chandler, AZ**

The Old West-style cook-off is hosted by the Chandler Museum the second week of every November and has quickly become a signature community event, with competitors entering from all over the country. Festival-goers will enjoy the one-day event at Tumbleweed Ranch, where chuck wagon competitors wear period dress and prepare their meals with period equipment and cooking methods as if they were on an 1880s cattle drive.

pardnersoftumbleweedranch.org

Readers' Choice

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK

Best Chuckwagon Show & Supper

Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show, Rapid City, SD

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

mountrushmore.com

Readers' Choice

Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner & Western Show, Colorado Springs, CO



Teatime, Chinese Restaurant
San Francisco, California,
1876

CARLETON WATKINS, COURTESY THE GETTY ONLINE COLLECTION



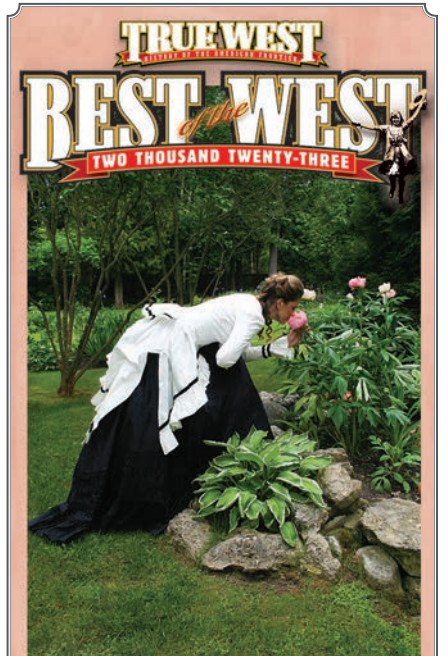
ANTIQUES, OLD-TIME CANDY & MEMORABILIA

In historic downtown
BENSON, ARIZONA.



Open Thursday ~ Saturday
from 10AM ~ 5PM

324 E. 4th Street ~ Benson, AZ 85602
(520) 631-5507



RECOLLECTIONS

History Inspired Fashion Since 1981.

Fashions with the Spirit of the Old West. Sweet, sassy and always elegant, with the perfect touch of romance.

Shop 24/7 at
Recollections.biz



BY STUART ROSEBROOK



WESTERN BOOKS

THE WILD, WILD WEST

Western writers—and *True West's* editors—are fighting hard to keep the genre alive.

If you love to read about the Old West, *True West's* era of publishing since 1953 has been a glorious time for writers, researchers, scholars and readers. The genre and the scholarship have each grown exponentially and inclusively. Under the tutelage of academics and grassroots historians and authors in such organizations as Westerners, Western Writers of America, Western History Association, Wild West History Association (formerly the National Association for Outlaw and Lawmen History and the Western Outlaw-Lawman History Association), Women Writing the West and local and state historical associations throughout the country, we have all benefited from their passion for teaching, researching, writing, publishing and presenting on their topics.

Is every aspect within the broad Western history canopy your favorite—or mine? No, but that's okay.

Does every writer, every researcher, every editor, every publisher, every documentarian or filmmaker get it right every single time? No they don't, and they never will.

But that does not diminish their earnestness or desire to get it right—and tell a story that illuminates, provokes or inspires ethos, pathos or logos.

I believe Western fiction and non-fiction have a long and bright future. The future may look a lot different than the analog world of hard copy

magazines and books we have grown up with; the future may all be digital, streaming and blogs, but the conversation and conviviality of our Western writing community will remain relevant and purposeful if we are supportive of and energized to adapt to the new paradigms of publishing.

I believe it has been a great ride so far and there are many more great trails of

writing and publishing about the West we so dearly love ahead of us for many years to come.

Thomas E. Minckler's *Montana: A Paper Trail* is a remarkable work of art and history, with hundreds of illustrations from his personal collection, including this rare photo of Edward Charles "Teddy Blue" Abbott (1910).

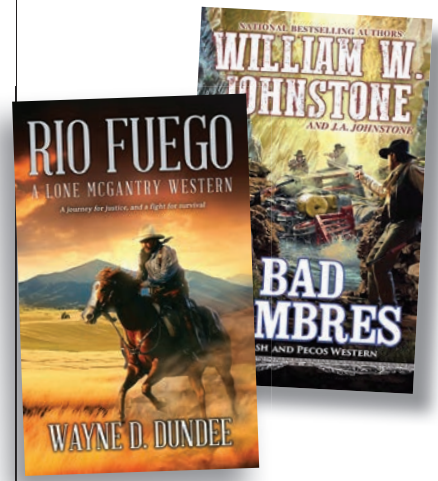
Image Courtesy Thomas E. Minckler





Original oil on canvas *The Other Medicine* (1905) by Richard Throssel

Artwork Courtesy Thomas E. Minckler



WESTERN HISTORY

BEST AUTHOR AND HISTORICAL NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

Thomas E. Minckler and *Montana: A Paper Trail* (Montana Historical Society Press)

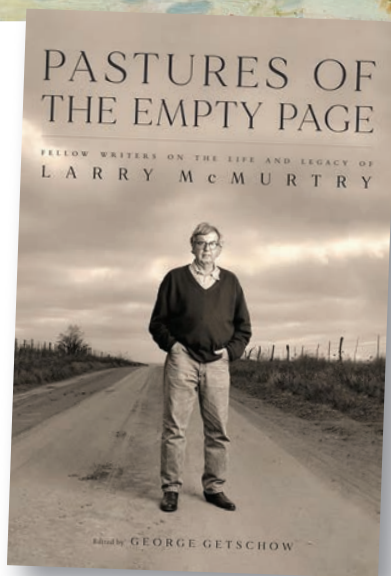
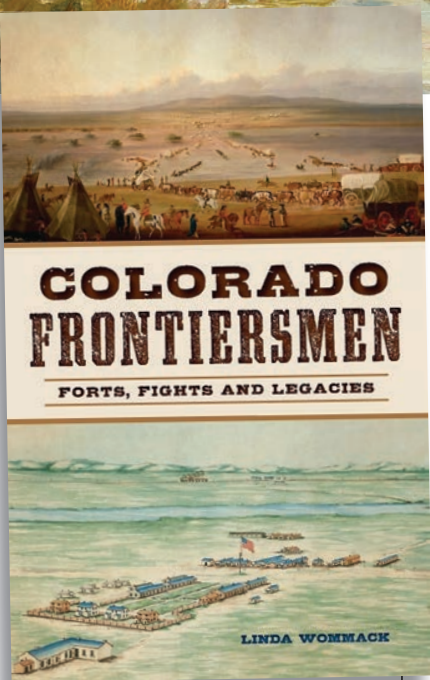


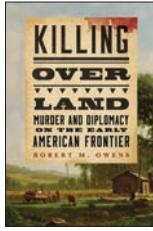
Every year I receive a handful of books that should be considered objects of art as much as they are books. Thomas E. Minckler's *Montana: A Paper Trail* is one of those tomes. From the endpapers to the final page, Minckler's masterpiece is an

entertaining and visual travelogue of Montana history. As Dr. Brian W. Dippie notes in his foreword, "In this sumptuous book, Tom lays his treasures out before our eyes, and provides the context necessary to understand the claim each holds on his attention. When I look at what he has packed in his treasure chest, I find my vision tinged with green."

While Minckler's tome is hefty, and readers will need a good-sized table to enjoy reading it, the coffee table book is also a great resource for researchers.

Minckler's end notes are extremely useful as are the hundreds of pieces of artwork, material ephemera and photographs from his personal collection. As the author says in his Introduction, "The pieces within the collection, embedded here into a





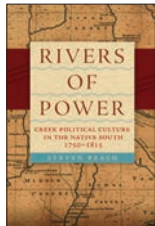
Killing over Land
*Murder and Diplomacy on the
 Early American Frontier*
 By Robert M. Owens

\$45.00 HARDCOVER 9780806193625



**Indigenous War
 Painting of the Plains**
An Illustrated History
 By Arni Brownstone

\$60.00 HARDCOVER 9780806193649



Rivers of Power
*Creek Political Culture in the
 Native South, 1750-1815*
 By Steven Peach

\$95.00 HARDCOVER 9780806193267
 \$32.95 PAPERBACK 9780806193274



Corn Dance
Inspired First American Cuisine
 By Loretta Barrett Oden,
 with Beth Dooley

\$34.95 HARDCOVER 9780806190785



OU PRESS | OUPRESS.COM

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS AN EQUAL
 OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. WWW.OU.EDU/EOO

historical narrative, guide the reader on a journey through the 19th century of the northern Plains, the Rocky Mountains and early Montana. It is a trail made of paper.”

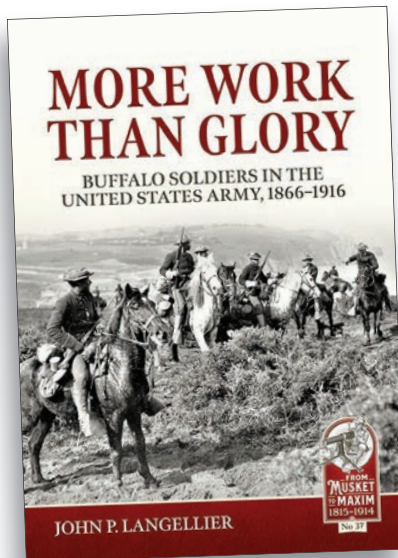
mhs.mt.gov

Readers' Choice

John Boessenecker's *Gentleman Bandit: The True Story of Black Bart, the Old West's Most Infamous Stagecoach Robber* (Hanover Square Press)

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN
 WESTERN HISTORY
 PUBLISHING**

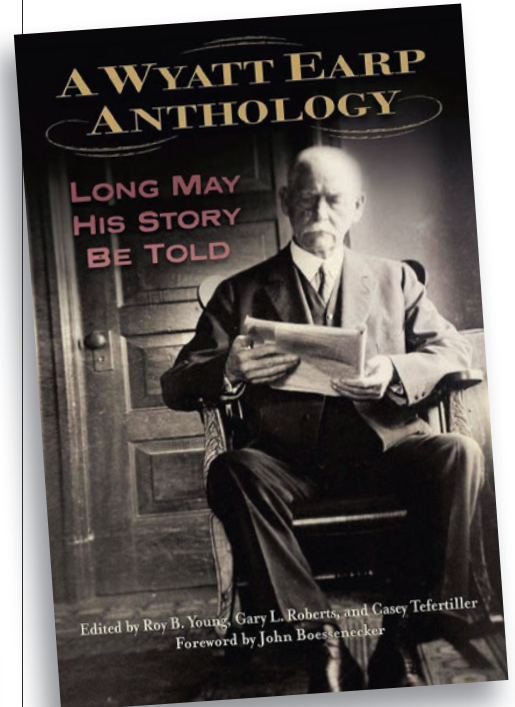
In 2024 we'd like to recognize two Western authors for their contributions to Western history. First, John P. Langellier, who has just published his latest book, *More Work Than Glory: Buffalo Soldiers in the United States Army, 1866-1916* (Hellon & Company), No. 37 in the "From Musket to Maxim, 1815-1914" series. Few authors in the past 45 years have published as much



on the Buffalo Soldier and the frontier Army of the West. His titles include *Fighting for Uncle Sam: Buffalo Soldiers in the Frontier Army; Bluecoats: The U.S. Army in the West, 1848-1897; and Custer: The Man, the Myth, the Movies*. His series on American Army uniforms is

unmatched and very few in the field can equal his knowledge on the subject matter. (Langellier is also a contributor to this issue; see his feature "The Real McCoy" on page 24.)

Second, and equally, we'd like to recognize Roy B. Young for his 12 years of service to the Wild West History Association as editor of the



WWHA Journal. Young's leadership and fine editing have helped many youthful researchers and veteran historians achieve their goals of publishing their hard-earned research in the field of Western history. In addition, Young, with Gary L. Roberts and Casey Tefertiller, edited *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told*, which received the 2019 WWAH Six-Shooter Award for Best Book on Wild West History.

Thank you, John P. Langellier and Roy B. Young. Your dedication to your craft, your characters and skills have been a great service to the community of Western history research, editing and publishing.

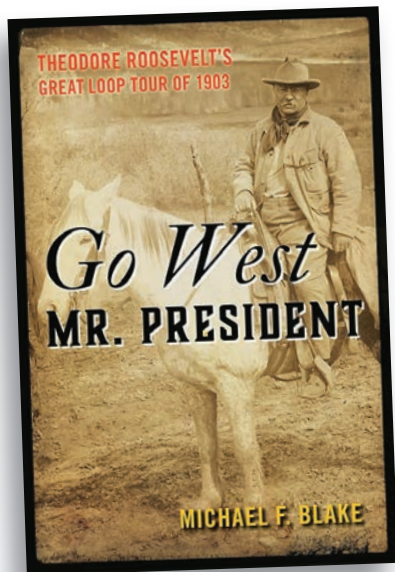
WESTERN HISTORY PUBLISHING

Where is Western history publishing going this year? My hopes are that publishers stay the course and Western publishing continues to flourish in 2024, even if it means fewer imprints are publishing just on the 19th-century West. But we have a lot of hard work ahead of us to save the genre. As I wrote in the November 2023 issue, we must be consumers of Western culture and share that passion for the West with the next generation. Whatever platform your family and friends enjoy the most, share it, trumpet it, praise it and give it as a gift. A broad, popular consumer interest in the West will not survive unless it is shared and celebrated with our younger friends and family members.

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHER

TwoDot, Lanham, MD

An imprint of Globe Pequot, the trade division of Rowman & Littlefield, TwoDot must be credited

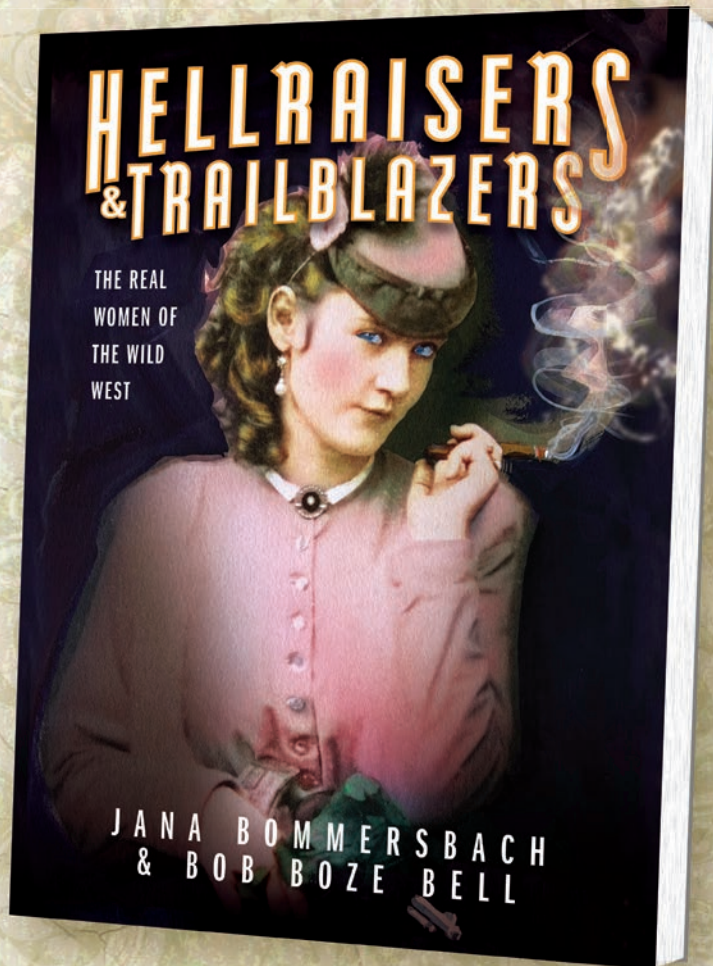


for its determination to keep the Western history genre in print and affordable for popular audiences. We

“GROUND BREAKING AND ABSOLUTELY ENTHRALLING!”

—JOHN FUSCO

Writer and Producer of Young Guns



Finally, An Honest Book About The Real Women Of The Wild West.

ORDER YOURS TODAY

\$24.95 +S&H

TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM / AMAZON.COM

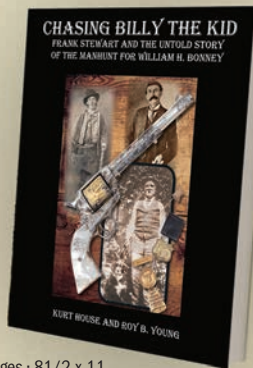
HER ONLY
CHANCE AT
FREEDOM WAITS
ACROSS THE
HORIZON



Get 30% Off
Scan to Shop
and Free Shipping

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD.

CHASING BILLY THE KID
New Book!



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

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

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

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

Old West Book Roundup
P.O. Box 759, Apache, OK 73006...or order on Amazon or ABE Books

look forward to a strong catalog of Western history from TwoDot in 2024.

twodotbooks.com

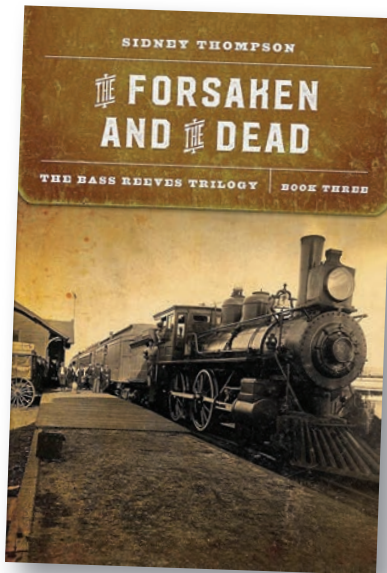
Readers' Choice: TIE

Montana Historical Society Press
St. Martin's Press

BEST UNIVERSITY PRESS

**University of Nebraska Press,
Lincoln, NE**

Since 1961, Bison Books at the University of Nebraska Press has been a leader in publishing Western history. Bison has continued to do



so, and in 2023 the imprint has taken a leadership position in the genre. We hope they continue to do so for many years.

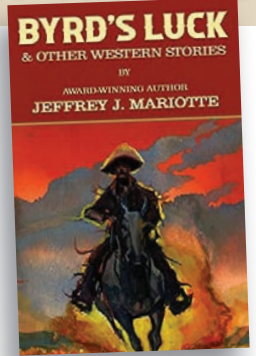
nebraskapress.unl.edu

Readers' Choice: TIE

The University of Oklahoma Press
University of New Mexico Press

WESTERN FICTION

In 2023, Western fiction publishing was hit hard with Five Star's decision to cease publishing Old West novels. It has maintained a shorter list with its Thorndike oversized print division, but it left a lot of authors scrambling.



Pinnacle Books in New York, New York, and Wolfpack Publishing in Las Vegas, Nevada, have maintained

their lists and are really the last two imprints publishing traditional Western fiction in any volume.

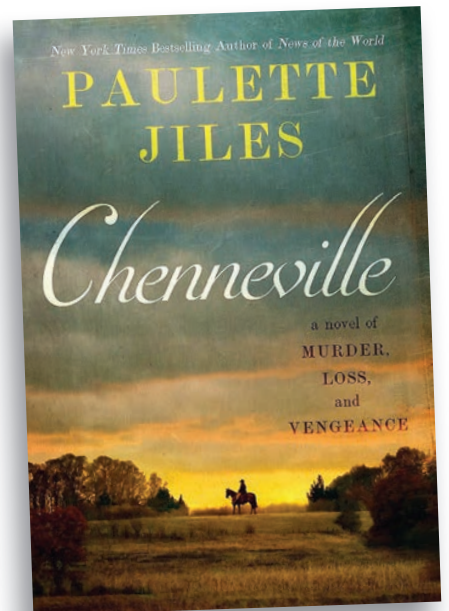
A small emerging imprint is Silverado Press which published Jeff Mariotte's *Byrd's Luck & Other Western Stories: Traditional Western Fiction and Western Horror Fiction* and Howard Weinstein's *Galloway's Gamble 2: Lucifer & The Great Baltimore Brawl*.

Western fiction is being published by small houses, authors publishing independently, a few university publishers, and an occasional novel set in the West makes it through the editor-agent steeplechase in New York. But, on the horizon, there are no Larry McMurtrys emerging in today's publishing atmosphere in the Big Apple.

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST AND NOVEL

Paulette Jiles and Chenneville: A Novel of Murder, Loss and Vengeance (William Morrow)

New York Times bestselling author



of *News of the World*, Paulette Jiles's latest, *Cheneyville*, is a well-researched, sharply written novel that takes the reader on a journey from the post-Civil War Midwest to the Texas frontier. Jiles, who writes from her home in San Antonio, Texas, was a nominee for the 2016 National Book Award for *News*. *Cheneyville* is her sixth Western novel, and readers should take another look at her body of work that is set during and after the Civil War, in Missouri, Texas and the Southern Plains. I am eager to read the next volume by the Missouri native, who is also an accomplished poet, essayist and memoirist.

harpercollins.com

Readers' Choice
Johnny D. Boggs and
Longhorns East
(Pinnacle/Kensington)

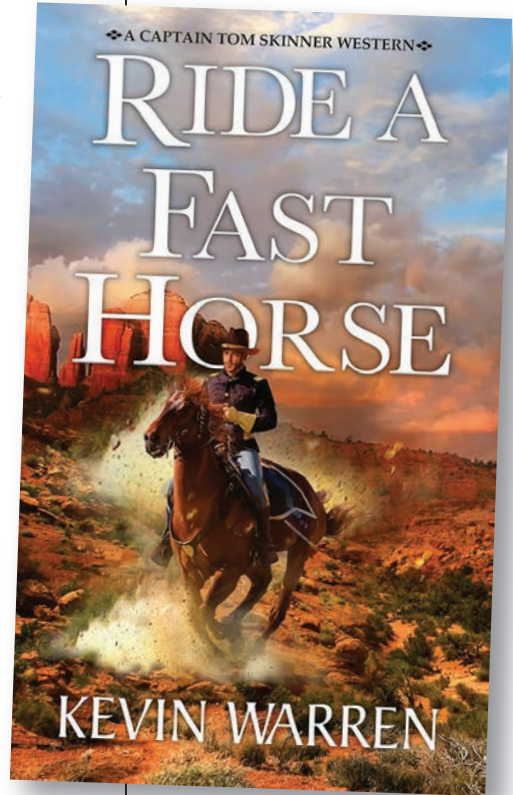


BEST FIRST-TIME AUTHOR

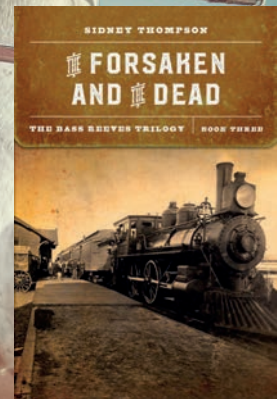
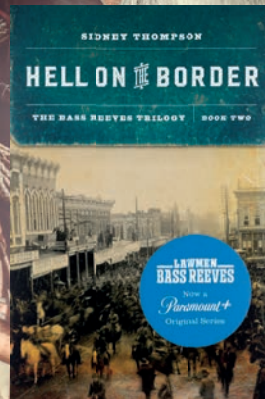
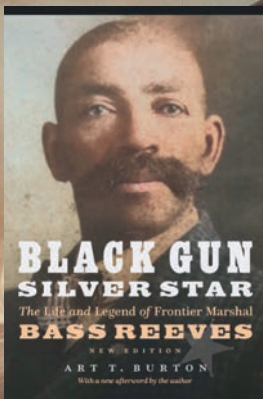
Ride a Fast Horse (A Captain Tom Skinner Western, Book 1) by Kevin Warren (Pinnacle Books)

Congratulations to Wyoming author Kevin Warren on his first Western novel. A lifelong cowboy who grew up in Arizona's Verde Valley, Warren spent 20 plus years on the back of horse guiding hunters into the Wyoming back country before writing his first book

of Western fiction. Warren's novel is inspired and informed by his many years on Wyoming's rough and rugged trails—and the characters he has met along the way. In addition to guiding and



**HISTORY
MAKES
THE
BEST STORIES**



FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS & BISON BOOKS | nebraskapress.unl.edu

outfitting, Warren has worn many hats in the horse business, including working as a farrier, rancher and riding instructor. His follow-up, *The Night Holds Terror*, will be released in 2024.

kensingtonbooks.com

Best Western Fiction Press

Pinnacle Books, New York, New York

In the annals of Western fiction publishing, Gary Goldstein is one man who has not received enough recognition for keeping the genre alive and viable for booksellers.

For over 20 years he has had the reins of mass market Westerns at Pinnacle, and I credit Goldstein for the imprint's success. He is a master



at maintaining strong author brands including William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone, while cultivating two generations of Western authors, many of whom are now household

names—Johnny D. Boggs, Max McCoy, Charles G. West, Dusty Richards, Brett Cogburn and Terrence McCauley.

kensingtonbooks.com

Readers' Choice

Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV

Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, Texas

Courtesy San Angelo CVB



BOOKSELLING

One of the joys of travel is visiting bookstores, and travelers will discover all across the West that the pulse of the local community can be discovered in the neighborhood bookstore. *True West's* editors applaud the independent bookstore owners who keep their stores open in their towns across the West. If you have a

favorite Western bookshop, let us know; we'd love to share it in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, TX

After a tour of historic Fort Concho, don't miss a chance to visit the downtown San Angelo landmark Cactus Book Shop. With shelves overflowing with Western Americana, West Texas history and Texana, there is something for everyone who loves the Old West. And don't forget, Cactus has the largest selection of Elmer Kelton books in the country.

cactusbookshop.com

Readers' Choice

Collected Works, Santa Fe, NM



DINNER WITH A LEGEND!



VIP Special Event! March 6th, 2024 at 5PM. Plan To Attend!

Mosey into Tombstone's Big Nose Kate's Saloon and don't miss New York Times Best-Selling Author Chris Enss as she talks about her bestselling book, *According to Kate: The Legendary Life of Big Nose Kate Elder, Love of Doc Holliday*. Learn about this Western legend as you savor a great dinner and enjoy a brave and adventurous blend of Big Nose Kate Whiskey!



**"BEST COWBOY BAR"
IN THE WEST**

(520) 457-3107 ☎ BigNoseKate.com
417 E Allen Street ☎ Tombstone



**THE
LONGHORN
RESTAURANT**

(520) 457-3405 501 ☎ E. Allen St, Tombstone
TheLongHornRestaurant.com



Make yourself at home in one of the 6 individually decorated guest rooms.

☒ Complimentary wireless Internet.

☒ Satellite TV programming is available for your entertainment.

☒ Private bathrooms, toiletries and hair dryers.

Book Your Stay Today!
(520) 506-6442



The Russ House
131 S. 6th Street/PO Box 399
Tombstone, Arizona USA, 85638
www.russhousetombstone.com



Tombstone Harley-Davidson® is your one-stop shop for everything Harley-Davidson® and MotorClothes®.

Our retail shop carries t-shirts for men, women, and children. We also carry a large selection of souvenirs and accessories. Located just down the street from the historic O.K. Corral. We are a great stop for any tourist!

(520) 457-1482 ☎ 526 E Allen St ☎ Tombstone



We carry a wide variety of the latest fashions in Casual, Business, Western Wear & Accessories as well as 1880's and Victorian Pieces & Ladies Footwear... items that can't be found elsewhere.

(520) 457-2562 ☎ 406 E Allen St, Tombstone

BY HENRY C. PARKE



WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

EVERYBODY'S WEST

2024 will be remembered as a bellwether year for diversity in Western film productions and subject matter.

“Compared to the 20th century, where there was a bottlenecking [of] history into one particular pathway, in the 21st century, there are so many open pathways to such a diverse series of stories that I think a retelling of the story of the West, and being able to bring in some of these traditionally marginalized communities, has been long overdue.”

—Dom Flemons,
musician, narrator of *The Real Wild West*.

In case you were wondering how deeply cowboy culture has lately made inroads into mainstream culture, Crocs, the clog shoe company, has issued its first cowboy boot—with spurs! (A resulting much-Googled question was, “What are spurs for?”) The past year’s entertainment industry strikes, which began with the Writers Guild’s walk-out on May 2, 2023, and ended with the Screen Actors Guild’s return on November 9, 2023, resulting in an endless cycle of reruns, and a plethora of mind-numbing game shows, was an inconvenience to most viewers. But it was a boost to the Western TV

profile, and a bounteous feast to CBS, which ran *Yellowstone*, the only “new” dramatic network programming and thus the only game in town.

Yellowstone is, of course, in its final season, as star Kevin Costner has departed to film his long-envisioned two-part Western epic, *Horizon*, whose story will cover a 15-year period beginning before the Civil War. It’s planned to be released at the beginning and end of the summer of 2024, and Costner will be joined on-screen by saddle-ready Westerners like Giovanni Ribisi (*Cold Mountain*), Jeff Fahey (*Wyatt Earp*), James Russo (*Open Range*),



Yellowstone, Taylor Sheridan’s signature streaming series that started it all, will be back in 2024 for a final season with Kevin Costner. There is speculation that a spinoff is planned that will star Matthew McConaughey.

COURTESY PARAMOUNT TV

Luke Wilson (*3:10 to Yuma*), Michael Rooker (*Tombstone*), Tatanka Means (*Comanche Moon*) and Thomas Haden Church (*Broken Trail*).

1883 was a prequel to *Yellowstone*, and this year’s *1923* was a



Tom Blyth helms the title role in *Billy the Kid*. Filmed in Alberta, Canada, the series had a successful second season. Viewers highly anticipate the dramatization of the Lincoln County wars.

COURTESY MGM+

sequel to *1883*, following yet another generation of the Dutton clan, led by Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford, and their determination to hang onto the family homestead, now during Prohibition. While mostly in Montana, a son who's a big-game hunter gave the show a reason to travel to Africa. Unlike *1883*, whose ending precluded a sequel, there will definitely be a second season of *1923*, although no date has been set. There will almost assuredly be a spinoff of *Yellowstone*, probably starring Matthew McConaughey, but no more information is available.

The year closed with two high-profile successes which each tells an important story about Westerners we haven't heard



enough about. On the big screen, *Killers of the Flower Moon* is the sixth collaboration of director Martin Scorsese and star Leonardo DiCaprio, and Scorsese's first

Robert DeNiro (left) and Leonardo DiCaprio teamed up with director Martin Scorsese on *Killers of the Flower Moon*, which many consider a strong contender for best picture of the year.

COURTESY APPLE TV+

English actor David Oyelowo was determined to bring the life of Bass Reeves to television, and *Lawmen: Bass Reeves* is proving to be a major hit for its producers, including executive producer Taylor Sheridan.

COURTESY PARAMOUNT •



Emily Blunt starred in the leading role of *The English*, a limited six-part series that was filmed in Oklahoma and Spain.

COURTESY AMAZON/BBC



Western. Based on David Grann's book, *Killers* tells the little-known story of the insidious conspiracies surrounding the murders of the oil-rich Oklahoma Osage following World War I. The Western is usually such a face-to-face showdown genre that the details of how the Osage were obliquely swindled, using not only murder, but marriage, diabetes and a paternalistic legal system that left the nouveau riche Oklahoma tribe

unable to protect themselves, are mind-blowing. With unprecedented input by the Osage community, the tale is so fascinating, and beautifully photographed, acted, and directed, that it triumphs over its excessive 3½-hour running-time.

On the small screen, *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, first of a planned series of historical Western dramas executive produced by Taylor Sheridan, is the first substantial

telling of the story of one of the finest lawmen in American history—and the first black deputy U.S. Marshal west of the Mississippi. It's a passion project of its star, David Oyelowo, who fought for eight years to get it made before successfully partnering with Sheridan. Originally announced as a follow-up to Sheridan's magnificent *1883*, it is, judging by the first episodes, a worthy successor to that high-watermark in television Westerns. Like *1883*, *Reeves*, created by Chad Feehan, is a physically beautiful production and an enthralling story, combining unflinching violence with humanizing heart.

Another impressive presentation is the four-part documentary series from Curiosity Stream, *The Real Wild West*, which looks at the Western experiences of Native

1923, the second part of the epic multi-series chronicle of the Dutton Clan in Montana, will return for a second season with Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford in the lead roles.

COURTESY PARAMOUNT+



people, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and women. Grammy-winning songster Dom Flemons, who narrates, and wrote the theme song, recalls, “I first was brought onto the project as one of the experts, talking about African-American cowboys and the Black Westward Migration. If you think of the settling of the West as being a phenomenon of only the pioneers and settlers who are mostly white, you [have] a false sense of...the events.” The series examines the effects of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Homestead Act on the settling of the West, and points out that Edison was filming *Lakota Ghost Dances* just four years after those dances had led to the massacre at Wounded Knee.

One of the more unexpected and impressive Westerns on television this year was a co-production of Amazon and the BBC. *The English*, a six-part limited series from writer/director Hugo Blick, stars Emily Blunt as an English mother who travels to the American West to investigate the death of her son. Chaske Spenser plays the Pawnee former cavalry scout who helps her. A mystery as well as a Western, shot a little in Oklahoma and a lot in Spain, the story is well-written

and original, as are the characters, with memorable performances not only by the stars, but supporting players like Gary Farmer and Kimberly Guerro as desert farmers.

Billy the Kid, the Alberta-lensed series from *The Tudors* creator Michael Hirst, returned for a second season on MGM +. Like *The English*, *Billy* focuses on the clash between Irish and English expatriates in the New World. Starring Tom Blyth, it’s a handsome, well-acted show, but feels out of period in terms of character behavior. Incongruously, the show bestows pop-star status on Billy the Kid before the Lincoln County Wars even begin.

The INSP Channel, which produces more Western and Western-adjacent entertainment than any other outlet, had additional seasons of its very entertaining and informative docudrama series, *Wild West Chronicles* and *Into the Wild Frontier*, and its reality competition *Ultimate Cowboy Showdown*, hosted by

Trace Adkins. *Wild Frontier* has successfully avoided the common Western pitfall of dotting on over-familiar Western icons, by focusing on the underutilized mountain man era, and INSP will double-down on that strategy in January of 2024 with the premiere of a new series, *Tall Tales of Jim Bridger*.

Neal McDonough and Gregory Cruz are back as lawmen John Breaker and Bugle Bearclaw in *The Warrant: Breaker Law*, INSP’s second feature in their *Warrant* franchise. They’re coming to the aid of a reluctant Judge Breaker (Bruce Boxleitner), who’s made a dangerous enemy of Dermot Mulroney of the *Young Guns* films. And *Far Haven*, stars *Longmire*’s Bailey Chase as a

COURTESY INSP

widowed lawman trying to work his way back into his family's life, while protecting his hometown from the corrupt characters who are controlling it.

The other period Western series—and in this case the period is the 1970s—*Dark Winds*, based on the Tony Hillerman mysteries following the exploits of Res police Joe Leaphorn (Zahn McLarnon) and Jim Chee (Kiowa Gordon), will be returning to AMC for a third season of Native crime and Southwest atmosphere.

A disappointment for fans of contemporary Westerns series, the darkly comic and gleefully gritty *Reservation Dogs* will end with its current season, as will the two series based on the writings of C. J. Box, *Joe Pickett* and *Big Sky*.

Coming to Disney + from Marvel in January is *Echo*, a new superhero series about a girl with a Native background, played by Menominee actress Alaqua Cox who, like her character, is deaf and has a prosthetic leg. Also in the series are Vincent D'Onofrio, Zahn McLarnon, Graham Greene, Tantoo Cardinal, and Chaske Spenser.

One of the less-lauded film releases that's well worth tracking down is the delightful *Outlaw Johnny Black*. Backdating his hilarious Blaxploitation spoof *Black Dynamite*, star, director and

COURTESY PRIME VIDEO



co-writer Michael Jai White has done the seemingly impossible: made a movie that parodies Westerns films while being one, and a heartfelt one at that. In fact, the flashbacks, which feature Glynn Turman as Johnny's father, whose murder triggers the story, are played as straight Western drama. Perhaps an omen of good things to come in the sub-genre, in 2024, 31 years after his original *Posse*, Mario Van Peebles will be releasing his follow-up, *Outlaw Posse*.

In the decidedly darker drama, *Surrounded*, a former Buffalo Soldier is heading for Colorado when his stagecoach is ambushed. As the soldier is left alone to guard the surviving outlaw while the others seek help, it becomes a taut physical and psychological duel, especially once the outlaw realizes his captor is actually a woman, played by Letitia Wright.

The Old Way stars Nicholas Cage as a gunman-turned-shopkeeper

who is out for revenge when his wife is murdered. What makes this revenge story fresh is that he's hunting the killers with 12-year-old daughter Brooke (Ryan Kiera Armstrong) in tow, plus a strong script and direction, and excellent performances throughout.

Filmmakers learned long ago that having the name of a popular historical character in a film title was like having a famous movie star in the film, but without paying them. Here are the best Western box-office titles of the year: *Wyatt Earp* and *Bass Reeves*, *Butch Cassidy and The Wild Bunch*, *Butch vs. Sundance*, *Unforgiven*, *True Grit*, and *Once Upon a Time in Tombstone*.



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, and the People Who Made Them*, will be published by TwoDot in February 2024.



Best 2023 Western Movie

Killers of the Flower Moon (Apple TV+)

An aimless World War I veteran (Leonardo DiCaprio) drifts onto the Oklahoma ranch of his beneficent Uncle King (Robert DeNiro), weds a wealthy Osage woman (Lily Gladstone), and is gradually drawn into a homicidal swindle of the oil-rich Osage people.

Readers' Choice
The Old Way (Saban Films)

Best Western Documentary

The Real Wild West (Curiosity Stream)

The film offers a look at the settling of the American West with a focus on the stories of blacks, Asians, Hispanics, and women.

Readers' Choice
Good Ol' Girls (BullMoose Pictures, Tal Vez Entertainment)

Best TV Western Series

Lawmen: Bass Reeves (Paramount +)

David Oyelowo stars as the man who made the journey from slave to one of the most effective and fair lawmen in the history of the West, Bass Reeves.

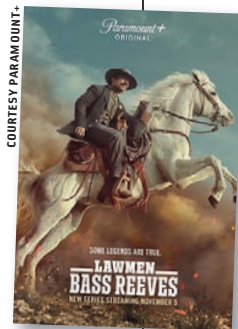
Readers' Choice
The English (Prime Video)

Best TV Western Movie

The Warrant: Breaker's Law (INSP)

U.S. Marshall Breaker (Neal McDonough) and his deputy (Gregory Cruz) are transporting a prisoner for trial when they find themselves trapped in a town under siege.

Readers' Choice
Far Haven (INSP)



Best Western to Stream

Outlaw Johnny Black (Jaigantic Studios)

In this half Western and half Western Spoof, Michael Jai White stars as Johnny Black, a gunman hunting the man who murdered his father.

Readers' Choice
The Counterfeit Kid (Falcon 85 Films)

Best Blu-Ray Western Movie

Will Penny (Kino Lorber)

Writer/Director Tom Gries's masterpiece stars Charlton Heston as an aging cowboy who finds a woman (Joan Hackett) and her son living in his lineman's cabin, and a lunatic (Donald Pleasance) who wants him dead.

Readers' Choice
Nevada Smith (Kino Lorber)

Best Western Movie Collection

The Ranown Westerns: Five Films Directed by Budd Boetticher (Criterion Collection)

Mostly shot in Lone Pine, and stunningly restored, these five low-budget Westerns starred Randolph Scott at nearly 60. Most were written by Burt Kennedy, all were directed by Budd Boetticher, and the films were the high watermark for all their careers.

Readers' Choice
The Cisco Kid 13-Film Western Movie Collection (VCI Entertainment)

Best TV DVD

Bonanza: The Official Complete Series (Paramount/CBS)

All 14 seasons, all 431 episodes of the ground-breaking Western that had the entire family gathered around their first color TV for years, are beautifully restored from 35mm camera negatives,

and presented in one immense set, with commentaries and a whole disk of amazing special features.

Readers' Choice
Dark Winds (AMC)

Best Silent Western

Tom Mix in Sky High and The Big Diamond Robbery (Undercrank Productions)

Ben Model's exciting piano and organ scores are icing on the cake for this terrific Mix double-feature, with Sky High featuring spectacular photography in the Grand Canyon.

Readers' Choice
Hoot Gibson in *Chip of the Flying U* (Alpha Video)

Best Foreign Western

The Head of Joaquin Murietta (Mexico, Prime Video)

While it has precious little to do with the life or even the legend of Joaquin Murietta, this eight-part series is elegantly shot, full of style and action, bravado and fun.

Best Western Film Festival

Lone Pine Film Festival, Lone Pine, CA

The Western film fest debuted in 1990 and ever since has been one of the most popular and well-attended fests by stars and fans alike. Held the first weekend in October, the festival showcases productions made in the Eastern Sierra, a legacy of filmmaking that goes back more than a century. Each year a major lineup of actors, writers, directors, producers and family members of filmmakers provide unique insights into the history of cinema along with special events and screenings.

lonepinefilmfestival.com

Readers' Choice
Go West Film Festival, Greeley, CO

BY STUART ROSEBROOK
AND THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

HERITAGE TRAVEL

THE CALL OF THE WEST



People from around the world are drawn to the Western United States.

Whether as passengers on a Santa Fe Super Chief, a station wagon on Route 66 or a Boeing 707, tourists flooded the West in the 1950s. For the last 70 years, with the construction of the Interstate highways and the rapid growth of airline travel, tourism has grown into one of the top five economic drivers of the Western states.

At the heart of Western tourism are the men and women who day after day keep the West alive through their dedicated work in museums and preservation, historic hotels and saloons, local rodeos and heritage events. At *True West*, we celebrate these determined Westerners who give tens of thousands of hours annually to welcoming visitors to their hometowns and providing them opportunities to create memories that will last a lifetime.



Whittier Family

Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park, 1915

The Huntington Library Digital Collection





Boating Crater Lake
Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, 1912
Courtesy Library of Congress

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

Bandera, TX

The self-proclaimed cowboy capital of the world, Bandera is a wonderful small, historic town in the Texas Hill Country—and the perfect place to live like an Old West Cowboy in the wintertime. Whether you stay at a local resort, hotel or Airbnb, you can't go far without encountering the cowboy lifestyle that dominates life in Bandera. Downtown is a great place to spend time immersing yourself in the cowboy way at Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar Saloon, the 11th Street Cowboy Bar, the Frontier Times Museum, the Western Trail Antiques and Marketplace, Bandera General Store and Cedar Street Market. And schedule time to enjoy the Bandera

Cattle Company Gunfighters who perform downtown at Rattlesnake Ridge behind the Visitors Center.

banderacowboycapital.com

Readers' Choice

Prescott, AZ

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

Sheridan, WY

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

King Ropes and the Mint Bar, tour the local Brinton, Sheridan County and Bozeman Trail museums and stay at Buffalo Bill Cody's fully restored Sheridan Inn.

sheridanwyoming.org

Readers' Choice

Durango, CO

Best Old West Gunfighter Town

Deadwood, SD

The epicenter of the Gold Rush of 1874-76 that transformed the Black Hills, Deadwood was founded to supply the rush of miners everything they needed to survive: supplies, saloons and soiled doves. Visitors

THE
ORIGINAL
Adventure



ESTD  1872

*Dodge
City*



FUN AND ADVENTURE AWAIT AROUND EVERY CORNER IN DODGE CITY, KANSAS.

Relive the wild west with live reenactments of the shootouts that earned the city the nickname “Wickedest Little City in the West”, sip a sarsaparilla in the world famous Long Branch Saloon, and catch the Variety Show with Miss Kitty.

Discover the best the new west has to offer with art galleries, live theater, concerts, handcrafted beers, distillery tours and tastings, games of chance, shopping, and more.

..... VISITDODGECITY.ORG

1-800-OLD-WEST  

who walk the streets of Deadwood today should start at the visitors center in the restored railroad station for a map of the city, directions to local museums, daily events, gunfight reenactments, historic sites and the Mt. Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried near each other.

deadwood.com

Readers' Choice

Tombstone, AZ

Best Preserved Pioneer Town Recreated

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE

A hands-on living history experience tells the story of early town-building in Nebraska. For 40-plus years, the renowned educational center and outdoor living



Burro Pack Train Hauling Basketry Supplies
 Location Unknown, circa 1880-90
 Courtesy UNLV Special Collections and Archives

"ALL ABOARD!"

The Far-Famed Georgetown Loop

Historic Mining & Railroad Park

A partnership of

History Colorado

and

Historic Rail Adventures

**THE 2024
SEASON
OPENS IN
APRIL**

A Train for all Seasons & Occasions

GeorgetownLoopRR.com

888-456-6777



Savage Silver Mining Works
Virginia City, Nevada
Timothy O'Sullivan, Courtesy NARA, 077-KN-095_18-2998M

history museum, called a “crossroads in time,” has given visitors from around the world an authentic glimpse of frontier Nebraska prairie town life, while preserving and portraying the pioneers’ inspiring stories of life on the Great Plains.

stuhmuseum.org

Readers’ Choice
Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS

Best Old West Art Town

Cody, WY

From galleries to museums, Cody, Wyoming, is a Western art lovers dream come true. Start at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West’s Whitney Western Art Museum, then head downtown to tour and shop at the art galleries, saddle shops and Western artisan stores. Don’t miss the month-long Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale every August and September, and the Rendezvous Royale Western

Fort Smith
ARKANSAS

STAR of the WESTERN FRONTIER



#ExperienceFortSmith

Relive a history that inspired the iconic tale of *True Grit* at **Fort Smith National Historic Site**, tour a former Old West bordello turned visitor center at **Miss Laura’s**, rediscover America at the **U.S. Marshals Museum**, explore world-renowned public art and more in **Fort Smith!**



Learn more at EXPERIENCEFORTSMITH.COM | @ExperienceFortSmith @ExpFortSmith



art celebration the fourth week of every September.

codychamber.org

Readers' Choice

Santa Fe, NM

Best Town for Historic Entertainment

Amarillo, TX

When traveling through the Panhandle of Texas, a must stop city for historic entertainment is Amarillo. The American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum is a must-see, as are the Amarillo Museum of Art, Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian and Bill's Backyard Classics. The Big Texan

serves up giant steak challenges daily, so make sure and have a great Western meal at a roadside landmark when in town. And don't miss side trips to nearby Canyon, home of the world-class Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

visitamarillo.com

Readers' Choice

Deadwood, SD

Best Living History Farm Museum

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Museums, Olathe, KS

Open year round, the living history center entertains and educates visitors

about 1860s Kansas frontier life. All generations will enjoy learning about the day-to-day responsibilities of farm living, including the raising and caring of horses, chickens and other livestock. Don't miss a tour of the Agricultural Heritage Barn and its farm implement and wagon collection.

mahaffie.org

Readers' Choice

Grand Encampment Museum
Encampment, WY

Best Historic Town Tour

Bisbee, AZ

Visitors to the mining town of Bisbee will discover a wealth of information



Freighters Leaving Goldfield
Goldfield, Nevada, 1905

Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University

Best Old West Town to Live In

Virginia City/Nevada City, MT

For the second year in a row, the historic communities of Virginia City and Nevada City are the editors' choice for Best Old West Town to Live In. The rush into the hills led to numerous claims and the founding of Virginia City, Montana. Once the territorial capital of Montana, the historic, living-history village invites visitors to stay and immerse themselves in the heritage community with its Old West entertainment, lodging, restaurants and activities, including stagecoach and train rides.

virginiacity.com

Readers' Choice

Tombstone, AZ

Best Historic Railroad of the West

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO

Located in the heart of the San Juan Mountains on the banks of the Animas River in Southwest Colorado, the world-famous Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad station is right downtown, a short walk from the historic district and the Strater Hotel. The round-trip ride into history on the narrow gauge railway to Silverton and back is one of the greatest heritage rail experiences in North America. The train runs all year, with special excursions in the heart of winter.

durangotrains.com

Readers' Choice TIE

Georgetown Loop Railroad,
Georgetown, CO

Nevada Northern Railroad, Ely, NV

on the historic town tour. One of the highlights is the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum located in the former headquarters of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company, next door to the Copper Queen Hotel (a great place to stay when in town). There are many choices in touring Bisbee: ghost tours, jeep tours, walking tours, golf cart and e-bike tours. Make sure to schedule time to take the underground Queen Mine Tour, too.

discoverbisbee.com

Readers' Choice

Cody Trolley Tour, Cody, WY

Best Promotion of a Historic Place

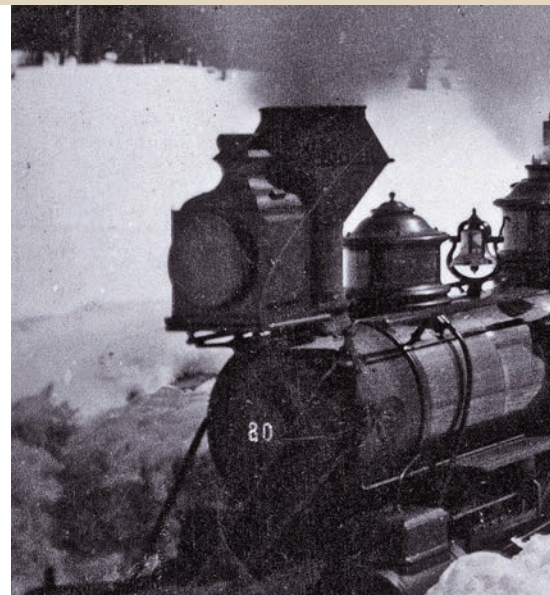
Prescott, AZ

Promotions of Prescott, the original territorial capital of Arizona, have made the city a popular destination. Check with the chamber of commerce for a full calendar of annual Old West events held at the Courthouse Plaza. Don't miss Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo every Fourth of July.

visit-prescott.com

Readers' Choice

Abilene, KS



Locomotive and Train
Summit of Fremont Pass, Colorado, circa 1870s
Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University

Expedition Boat
Truckee River, Nevada, 1867
Timothy O'Sullivan, Courtesy NARA, 077-KN-092_18-2995M

**DEADWOOD'S FIRST SHERIFF
SETH BULLOCK OPENED HIS HOTEL IN 1895**



THE HISTORIC BULLOCK HOTEL

DEADWOOD'S
FIRST

**Main Street Historic Rooms
with modern amenities**



DEADWOOD'S
BEST



**BULLY'S
Breakfast Served Late Daily**

**RESERVE YOUR DOWNTOWN DEADWOOD STAY RIGHT NOW!
CALL 605-578-1745 OR VISIT HISTORICBULLOCK.COM**





Best "Who Slept Here" Hotel

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

Built by Buffalo Bill Cody in 1902 and named after his daughter, the Irma Hotel is still a gem just outside the east entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Relax in modern accommodations or choose to stay in historic rooms enjoyed by Annie

Oakley, Calamity Jane, Frederic Remington or Bill Cody, himself. Don't miss the restaurant and historic saloon with the cherrywood bar, a gift to Cody from Britain's Queen Victoria.

irmahotel.com

Readers' Choice

The Occidental Hotel, Buffalo, WY

Best Heritage Hotel

The Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

The Strater Hotel in the historic district of Durango, Colorado, is the perfect place to stay when vacationing in the Animas River Valley city made internationally famous by the Durango & Silverton

Explore
for Yourself

TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF THE YEAR 2024

EXPLORE THE DALLES

CREATE your adventure today!

exploredalles.com • info@thedalleschamber.com • 1-800-255-3385 • [#exploredalles](https://twitter.com/exploredalles)



3531 LIBERTY CAP AND HOTEL

Narrow Gauge Railroad. Opened in 1887, the Strater is a landmark hotel, luxuriously maintained and preserved with antiques throughout the historic inn and its well-appointed rooms. Don't miss an evening in the Diamond Belle Saloon and dinner in the Mahogany Grill.

strater.com

Readers' Choice

Bullock Hotel, Deadwood, SD

Best Dude Ranch of the West

Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Company, Tombstone, AZ

Conveniently located miles from the historic district of Tombstone, this 1880s working cattle ranch built to resemble Old Tombstone is the perfect retreat where you can "earn your spurs" while immersing in legendary history of Cochise County. Guests can stay in the Grand hotel, the marshal's office or even the jail. Enjoy a drink, music and entertainment in the Old Trappman

Saloon. Guests can choose different trail riding experiences, from working cattle to a history tour on horseback. Owned and operated by True Guest Ranches, Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Company is definitely a place to return year after year. Who knows, you might even find yourself back in time as you take a ride into town and tie up your horse on Allen Street.

tombstonemonumentranch.com

Readers' Choice

Rowse's 1+1 Ranch, Burwell, NE



Old Faithful Lodge and Liberty Cap
Yellowstone National Park, 1881-89

Frank J. Haynes, Courtesy The Getty Online Collection

Best Heritage Bed & Breakfast

Nagle Warren Mansion Bed & Breakfast, Cheyenne, WY

If you are looking for one of the nicest, most sophisticated and historic bed and breakfasts in the state of Wyoming, look no further than the Nagle Warren Mansion Bed and Breakfast in Cheyenne. Known as the “Duchess of Cheyenne,” the

The BEST of the WEST!



Best Historic Railroad of the West, AGAIN!

In **CELEBRATION**, museum members **SAVE 24%** on our *Be the Engineer Experience!* Help preserve an old west icon, and treat yourself! Become a museum member, make a reservation before 12/31/23 and **SAVE 24%** on a true old west experience, being the engineer of a steam locomotive!

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

1100 Avenue A • Ely, Nevada • www.nnry.com • (775) 289-2085

JOIN THE REVELRY!

36TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™ & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

NINE FESTIVE WEEKENDS!

FEB. 3-MAR. 31

Saturdays, Sundays & Presidents' Day
10am-6pm

SAVE WITH DISCOUNT TICKETS AT:

Basha's & **FOOD CITY**

Directions & Information at

Arizona.Renfestinfo.com



Montana Café and Residents
Ellendale, Nevada, 1909

Courtesy UNLV Special Collections and Archives

1888 Victorian era home is beautifully decorated in the style prevalent in 1900. Guests can choose between Mansion or Coach rooms, all of which are beautifully appointed. Breakfast and afternoon tea are served daily. Reservations are required for Clara's High Tea and the seasonal Emilie's Summer Garden Tea.

naglewarrenmansion.com

Readers' Choice

Russ House, Tombstone, AZ

Best Heritage Guest Ranch

Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera, TX

"Where a Western Welcome Awaits You" is the motto of the Mayan Dude Ranch in Bandera. Visitors can enjoy nearly 350 acres of ranch land from the banks of the Medina River to the ranch house with its picturesque views. Trail rides, cowboy breakfasts,

(continued on page 100)

**Come see for yourself why "Bandera, TX is the
"Best Place to Live Like an Old West Cowboy"
And
"Experience Cowboy Culture"**



Harvesting

La Puente, California, 1885-87

Courtesy The Huntington Library Digital Collection

WHERE HISTORY LIVES ON...

In Cody, Wyoming



You'll find Historic Rooms and Delicious Dining, including our famous Prime Rib Buffet.

Relax in the Silver Saddle Saloon!

Restaurant & Saloon
Buffalo Bill's
est. 1902
IRMA HOTEL

Visit us and stay awhile!

12th & Sheridan Ave. • Cody
irmahotel.com (307) 587-4221



*Firemen, Horses and Chemical Wagon
Goldfield, Nevada, circa 1905
Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University*



FIND YOUR WEST

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

10 ISSUES FOR \$39.95

TRUE WEST
MAGAZINE

STORE.TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM



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

Texas' largest history museum!

Come see why we are the **Best in the West.**

PPHM
PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM
2503 4TH AVE | CANYON, TX 79015



Visit panhandleplains.org to plan your visit!



(continued from page 96)

hayrides and big Western-style dinners are all part of the fun at this Western guest ranch.

mayanranch.com

Readers' Choice

Concho Hills Guest Ranch, Magdalena, NM

Best Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, Prescott, AZ

One of the nation's most celebrated cowboy poetry events, the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering will be held August 8-10, 2024. For more than three decades, the gathering has celebrated the traditions, history and culture of cowboy music and poetry. Every year the popular event attracts more than three dozen poets and singers who share their love and passion for the working cowboy and ranching way of life through verse and song.

azcowboyspoets.org

Readers' Choice

Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Durango, CO

Best Cowboy Music Gathering

Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous, Lewistown, MT

R.W. Hampton will headline the long weekend of fun in Lewistown, from Thursday through Sunday, August 8-11, 2024. The popular gathering celebrates the Western ranching lifestyle and the heritage of the American cowboy of the Northern Rockies. The gathering will have 70 cowboy poets and Western musicians and over 20 popular vendors.

montanacowboypoetrygathering.com

Readers' Choice

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

Best Old West Mounted Reenactment

Little Big Horn Battlefield, Crow Agency, MT

Near Garryowen, Montana, on the Crow Nation, the Real Bird Family hosts the annual reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Watch Native braves and Cavalry troopers crash through the river, and battle along its banks, where some believe Custer was killed. The reenactment is held over two weekends in June in

conjunction with the anniversary of the battle. In 2024, it will be held June 21-23.

littlebighornreenactment.com

Readers' Choice TIE

Green River Rendezvous, Pinedale, WY
Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN

Best Old West Reenactment Group

Six Guns and Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX

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

sixgunsandshadyladies.homestead.com

Readers' Choice

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Best Wild West Show



Stagecoach
Harlem, Montana,
1897-1924

Courtesy Beinecke Library,
Yale University

**O.K. Corral,
Tombstone, AZ**

Discover legendary Tombstone at the O.K. Corral Historic Complex, a unique step back into the Old West—a true encounter with history

in “The Town Too Tough to Die.” In the historic district on Allen Street, visitors can watch Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Virgil and Morgan Earp shoot it out with the McLaurys and Clantons in daily reenactments of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in The Streets of Tombstone Theater.

ok-corral.com

Readers’ Choice

Deadwood Alive, Deadwood SD

Best Historic Western Rodeo

**The World’s Oldest Rodeo,
Prescott, AZ**

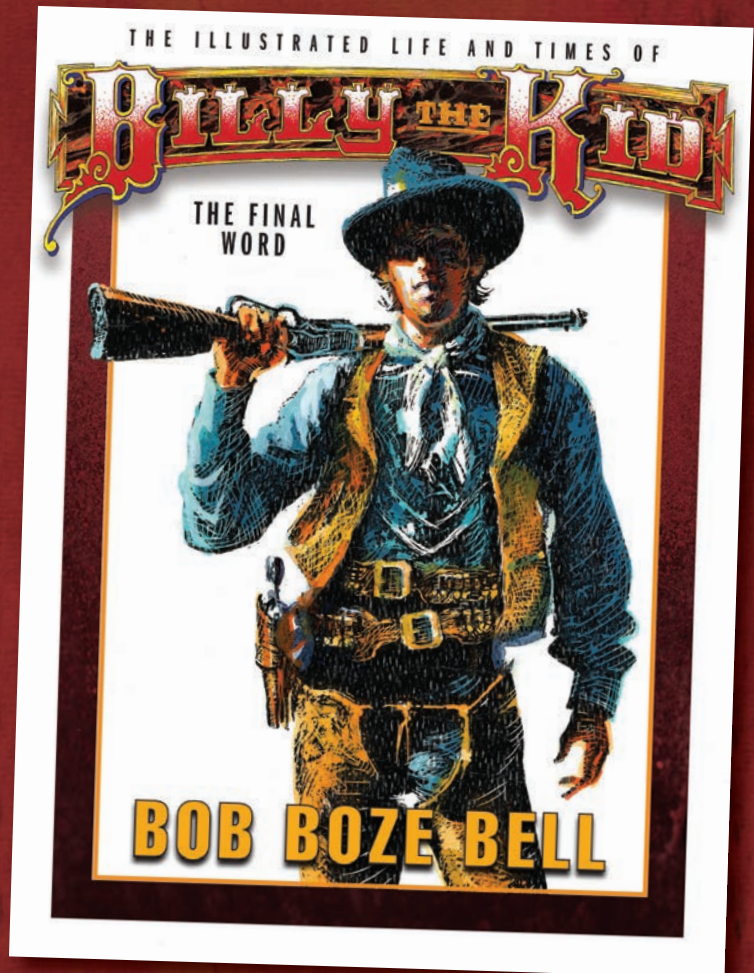
Since 1888, the Prescott Frontier Days rodeo has been held over the Fourth of July weekend. The World’s Oldest Rodeo will celebrate its 136th annual performance with eight shows July 1-7, 2024. In conjunction with the rodeo, the always popular annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, and the Rodeo Dance the evenings of July 4-7.

worldsoldestrodeo.com

Readers’ Choice

Cheyenne Frontier Days,
Cheyenne, WY

**THE TRILOGY IS
COMPLETE.**



BILLY: THE FINAL WORD

It has taken three decades, but finally, we can see the groundbreaking results, featuring a score of new—and incredibly authentic—illustrations and many rare and never-before published photographs.

***** ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY! *****

TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM





WESTERN WEAR

COWBOY UP!

Across the Americas, from the fields to parades, Western wear is the uniform of working men and women.

In 2024, cowboy hats and boots are the fashion rage across the globe. Beyond boots and hats, Western clothing for all seasons is also driving sales from Montana to Texas. And Old West fashion isn't exclusive to just ranching, rodeoing and reenactors, but also farming and mining, logging and forestry. And don't forget entertainment. From Hollywood to Nashville, film, television and music productions, including Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* universe, are influencing the surge in the worldwide popularity of Western wear.

True West's editors are grateful to all the Old West enthusiasts behind boot, hat and clothing companies expanding their lines to reflect historic fashion trends from the 1860s to the present. "Get Western" should be the motto for *TW* readers who love



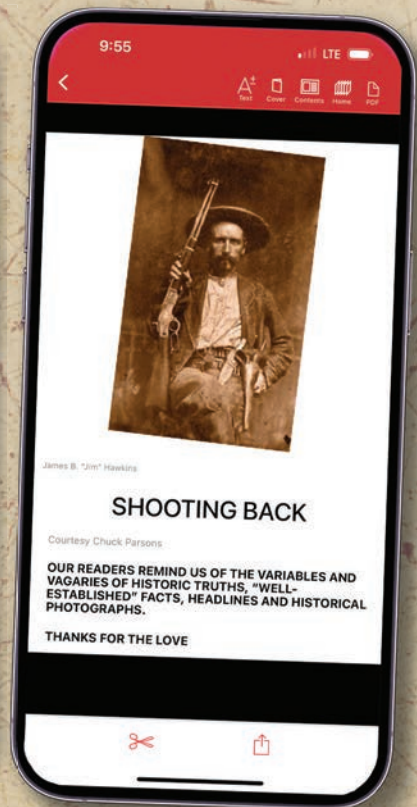
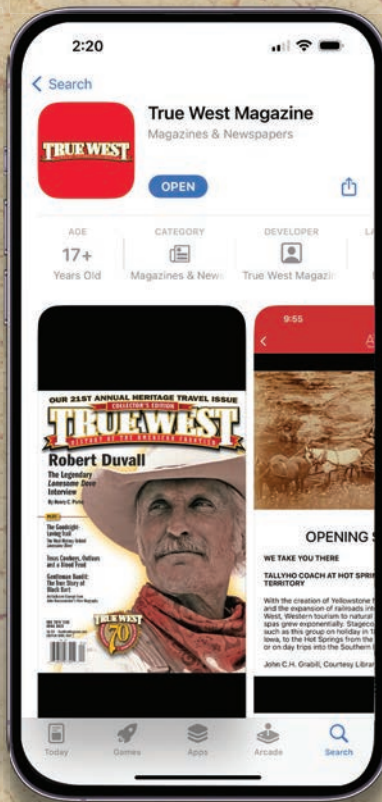
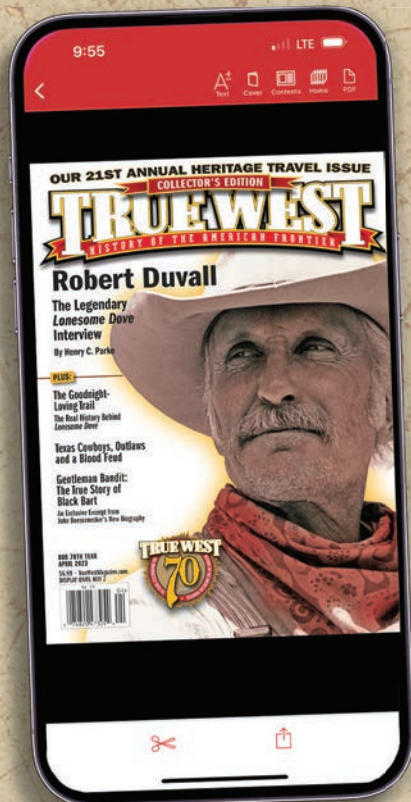
Vera McGinnis and Two Other Cowgirls

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

the American West. So check out our 2024 Best of the West companies and tack yourself up!

—Stuart Rosebrook

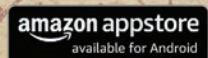
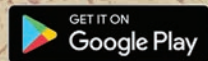
DOWNLOAD THE APP



EVERYTHING TRUE WEST AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



- Just scan the QR Code
- Then Download the App for Free
- Free, easy access to truwestmagazine.com
- Unlock any and all issues back to 2015
- Be the first to see every new issue
- Free Trial for all subscriptions
- Quick access to the True West Mercantile



Donkey and Miner with Steady Jack,
circa 1900-09

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA,
RENO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES



Best Western Bootmaker

Tecovas, Austin, TX

For the second year in a row, the editors' choice for best bootmaker is Tecovas.

The hand-crafted men's and women's boots have taken the cowboy-boot marketplace by storm since Paul Hedrick founded the innovative Western brand in 2015. The Austin, Texas-based company has all its boots handmade in its León, Guanajuato, Mexico, factory, and ships them to customers worldwide. In addition to 10 Texas stores, Tecovas operates retail shops selling boots, clothing and accessories in 17 additional states.

tecovas.com

Readers' Choice

Lucchese, El Paso, TX

Best Western Hatmaker

Stetson (Hatco), Garland, TX

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

hat-co.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX & Knudsen Hat Co / Golden Gate Western Wear, Richmond, CA



Best Western Clothing Maker

Miller International (Cinch Brand), Denver, CO

In 1918 Philip Miller moved to Denver for health reasons and to sell hats for his family's New York City-based Miller Brothers Hat.

Miller's trip to Denver evolved into a Western clothing business and a passion for the American West. The Miller Ranch and Cinch Brands are based on the traditions and values that made the company a significant part of Western heritage and culture.

rockymountainclothing.com

Readers' Choice

Recollections, Hawks, MI

Best Period Western Clothing Maker

Michael J. Guli Designs, Bellvue, CO

For the second year in a row, Michael J. Guli Designs is the editors' choice. Guli has been creating leather goods for customers worldwide for four decades. The Colorado company specializes in making buffalo coats, deerskin, buckskin dresses and rawhide coats, many of which have appeared in film and television.

michaeljgulidesigns.com

Readers' Choice

Scully/Wahmaker, Oxnard, CA



Packers, Mulers and One Dog
Sierra Nevada, California, circa 1890

COURTESY THE GETTY ONLINE COLLECTION



PLAN YOUR ARIZONA

Dude Ranch Vacation

at a historic guest ranch in the heart of the Sonoran Desert.



KAY EL BAR GUEST RANCH
WICKENBURG, ARIZONA
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



Award-Winning Old West Clothing
Custom Designs, Historically Inspired



www.MichaelJGuliDesigns.com
970-221-2992



BY STUART ROSEBROOK AND THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*



TIME TO MOTOR WEST

ENJOY WELCOMING WESTERN HOSPITALITY WHEN YOU STAY AND EXPLORE
THE REGION'S BEST TOWNS.

Whether you grew up in a small town or a big city, in the American West or overseas, there is no better way to discover the true meaning of hospitality than a week-long stay in one of America's best Western towns.

True West's 2024 Top Ten Towns celebrates the best communities of the West—and the men and women who work year round to preserve, promote and celebrate their Western history and heritage. Our favorite Western communities offer historic sites and museums, and fully restored century-old (or more) hotels, restaurants and saloons—perfect places to make your headquarters during an extended holiday exploring the town and the surrounding region.

The editors of *True West* invite you to pack your bags and motor West to stay and immerse yourself in the unique heritage and history of the best Western towns. But watch out, you might just discover yourself planning to come back next year—or even buying a second home and making it more permanent than just a one-time adventure out West.



Buffalo Bill—the Scout by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney greets visitors at the entrance to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Courtesy Carol Highsmith Archives, Library of Congress





Cody, Wyoming

Cody Stampede Rodeo
Cody, Wyoming
Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

From near and far, across the United States and around the world, Cody, Wyoming, is synonymous with the West.

William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody lent his name to the town, which was founded as a land venture to attract the railroad near the east entrance of Yellowstone.

As a preeminent Western destination and eastern gateway to Yellowstone, Cody is a city that can be returned to year after year—in all seasons—to explore the magnificent natural wonders, historic sites and world-class museums.

From the Historic Irma Hotel founded by Buffalo Bill Cody in downtown Cody to nearby guest ranches and lodges with trail riding and fly fishing, the Wyoming city of 10,000 is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the West. Enjoy the Western atmosphere while walking the historic downtown district, which is filled with fun boutiques, coffee shops, restaurants and saloons, including the famous Victorian bar at the Irma Hotel.

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is the most significant museum complex in the United States outside of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Admission includes entrance to the center’s five museums: Buffalo Bill, Plains Indian, Cody Firearms, Draper Natural History and Whitney Western Art. The McCracken Research Library is also open to visitors, but an appointment must be made to view archival materials.

If you are a summer visitor, the 1890s Old Trail Town is open from May 15 to



September 30 in 2024. The outdoor park has the largest collection of frontier structures in one place in Wyoming and includes a mountain man memorial and the gravesite of John “Liver Eatin’” Johnson.

Western art lovers flock to Cody year round, but especially in September for the Rendezvous Royale and the prestigious Buffalo Bill Art Show & Sale, which in 2024 will be held September 21-24.

If you think Cody is all about museums and natural wonders, think again. The

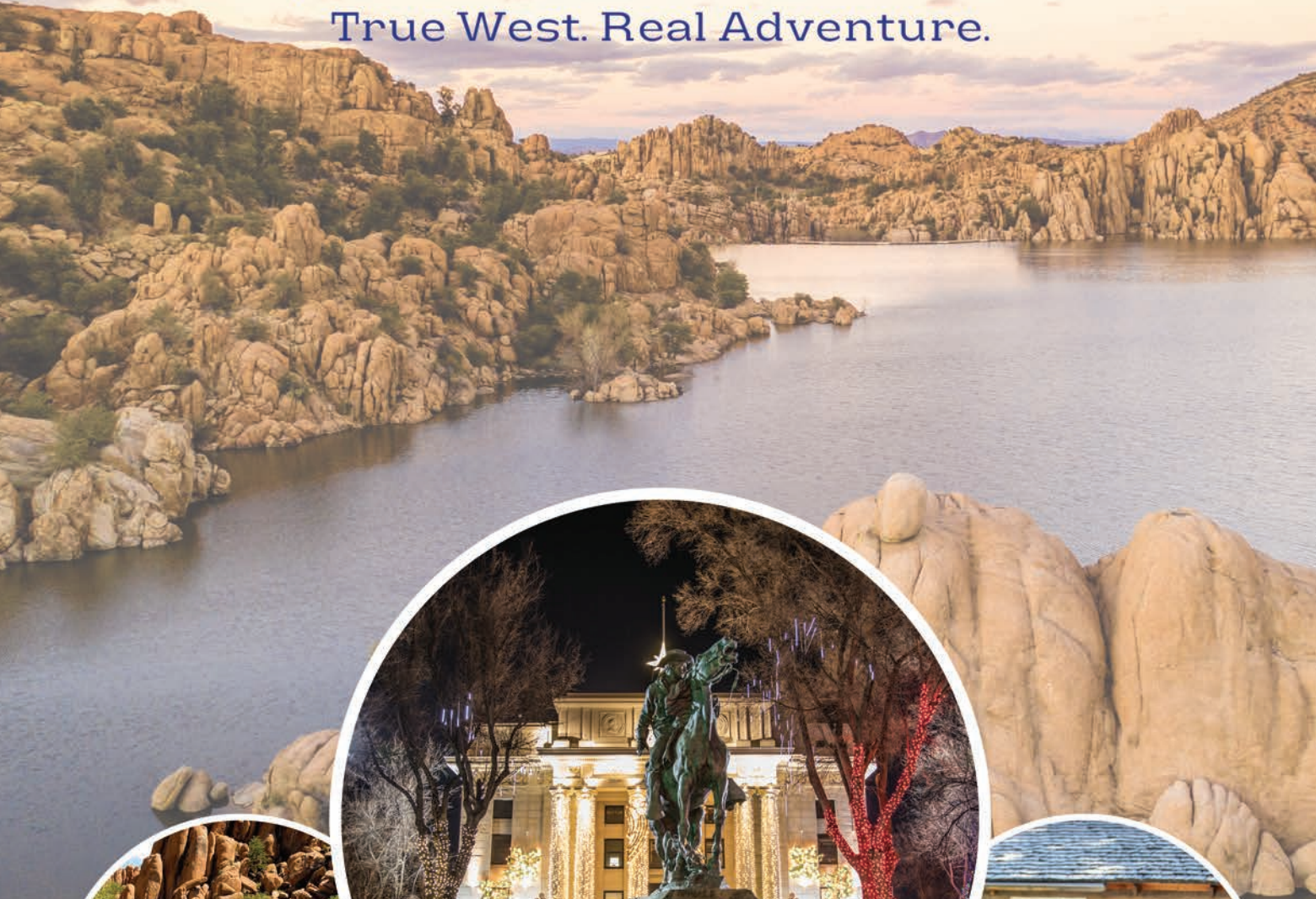
Cody Stampede Rodeo and Cody Nite Rodeo make the northwestern Wyoming town one of the rodeo capitals of America. In 2024, the annual Stampede will celebrate its 105th anniversary June 30-July 4, and the 86th Night Rodeo is held every remaining summer night, June-August.

All these reasons and more are why Cody is our number one True Western Town for 2024.

codyyellowstone.org

Experience Prescott

True West. Real Adventure.



EXPERIENCE PRESCOTT

One of Arizona's Most Beautiful & Historic Destinations. Prescott's perfect weather provides an average temperature of 70 degrees, with four beautiful and distinct seasons, breathtaking landscapes complete with granite mountains, lakes, streams, and rolling meadows filled with wildlife. Visit experienceprescott.com for more details.



Prescott, Arizona

The original territorial capital of Arizona is well known as “everyone’s hometown” and has rightfully earned that nickname. The historic and picturesque mile-high town in Yavapai County is the perfect place to take a walk through the state’s history.

Start at Sharlot Hall Museum, a living history center that has one of the finest collections of territorial buildings in the state, including the Territorial Governor’s Home, the Sharlot Hall Building and Fort Misery. The Lawler Exhibit Center’s “Prehistory of the Central Highlands” provides visitors with an insightful understanding of the natural and cultural history of the area before the arrival of Europeans.

From Sharlot Hall, walk east on Gurley Street to the historic Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza and Prescott’s historic downtown district. Solon Borglum’s *Rough Rider* bronze, also known as the Buckeye O’Neill Monument, was dedicated in 1907 and is one of the most recognized landmarks in the city and the state.

The historic district around the plaza is a mecca of antique shops, boutiques, restaurants, historic hotels and classic historic bars, including The Birdcage, Matt’s Saloon and the Palace Restaurant and Saloon. The Palace is the oldest operating bar in the state and offers up great food and entertainment in a historic, Old West museum atmosphere.

While in Prescott, schedule time to visit Prescott’s Western Heritage Center



(just down the street from the Palace), the Indigenous People’s Museum and the Phippen Museum, which houses one of the finest Western art collections in the state.

Prescott hosts public festivals and parades on the plaza year round, including the popular, annual Courthouse Lighting held the first Saturday of every December.

Since 1888, the city’s biggest annual event, the World’s Oldest Rodeo, has been held every Fourth of July. In 2024, Prescott Frontier Days will celebrate its 136th anniversary with eight shows July 1-7, 2024. The annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade will be held on Saturday morning, July 6.

prescott.org

Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza
Prescott, Arizona

Courtesy Prescott Tourism



The Prescott Frontier Days
World’s Oldest Rodeo Parade
Prescott, Arizona

Courtesy Art Markham

1876
DEADWOOD
SOUTH DAKOTA

HOTEL

Warm up to

a **WILD** winter



Deadwood.com



DOUGLAS & GLENROCK

RAILROAD Adventure!

DOUGLAS RAILROAD MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER

The Douglas Railroad Museum & Visitor Center is housed in the historic FE & MV Railroad Passenger Depot.

Visitors to the museum are invited to go inside many of the rail cars, including a day coach, a dining car and a sleeper, as well as a little red caboose! And ask to see the model train on display in the back room. **The Jackalope Junction Gift Shop is located inside the depot.**

121 Brownfield Rd. • Douglas
307-358-2950

Wyoming PIONEER MUSEUM

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



400 W. Center
307-358-9288

Scan to Discover More!

WYOMING
CONVERSECOUNTYTOURISM.COM



Fort Smith, Arkansas

In 1817, Fort Smith was founded as an outpost of a youthful nation growing westward. Over two centuries later, Fort Smith is still a crossroads of history, but today the history can be discovered in its local and national museums.

Fort Smith was built on the bluffs of the Arkansas River and has remained an important and vital economic center for the tri-state region of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

While Missouri's St. Louis, Independence and St. Joseph receive more attention in the history books, Fort Smith's role in the development and

centers of a historic 19th-century federal post west of the Mississippi. Tours should begin at the visitors center in the fort's former barracks/courthouse/prison.

Fort Smith may have been best known as the court of Judge Isaac Parker, "The Hanging Judge," but it is also becoming famous for the service of hundreds of deputy U.S. marshals, including Bass Reeves.

Visitors can see the 37-acre grounds of Fort Smith on a 1.5-mile self-guided tour of all the key historic structures and sites, including the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Overlook.

In the city, visitors should enjoy walking the Fort Smith Belle Grove Historic District, a 22-block area of homes dating back 130 years. Four of the homes are open to the public.

The newest museum to open in Fort Smith is the United States Marshals Museum. The state-of-the-art facility opened its doors in July 2023 and is one of the most significant historical centers to open in the country in the past five years.

fortsmith.org



settlement of the Western territories, must be considered.

The National Park Service's Fort Smith National Historic Site is one of the largest, best-preserved interpretive

Fort Smith National Historic Site
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Courtesy NPS.gov

WHERE THE WEST IS FUN



From ghost towns to neon lights, railroads to mining, atomic testing to Native American culture, Western history is Nevada's history. Discover the rich and colorful story of the Silver State in seven Nevada State Museums.

NEVADA
MUSEUMS & HISTORY

**BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER FOR FREE
ADMISSION TO ALL STATE MUSEUMS.**

Visit NVMuseums.com for museum locations, exhibits, & events.



Tombstone, Arizona

In the annals of Old West history in the United States, few towns are as iconic and internationally famous as Tombstone.

“The town too tough to die” is the Grand Canyon State’s most infamous mining camp and is known world-wide as a destination for those who want to walk the streets of the Earps and Clantons with hopes of discovering the

truth about the notorious gunfight behind the O.K. Corral.

Visitors have many choices for lodging when planning a visit to the historic mining camp. Tombstone Monument Ranch is a historic working cattle ranch where guests can stay in rooms and buildings rebuilt to look like Old Tombstone in the 1880s. They can even work cattle and learn the basics of cowboying. Also popular are local motels and bed and breakfasts, including the Larian Motel, The Tombstone Grand Hotel, Trail Rider’s Inn and Virgil’s Corner Bed & Breakfast.

When booking a vacation to Tombstone consider staying at least a long weekend to visit all the local attractions. Plan a longer stay if you are attending one of the popular annual festivals which kick off every March with the Annual Tombstone Wild West Days, followed by Wyatt Earp Days in May and Doc Holliday in August. The annual Old West festivals culminate with the oldest and

most prestigious, Helldorado Days, which is held the third weekend of every October.

A trip to Tombstone would not be complete without touring Big Nose Kate’s Saloon, the Crystal Palace, C.S. Fly’s, O.K. Corral, the Bird Cage Saloon, Rose Tree Museum, Good Enough Underground Mine Tour, Gunfighter Hall of Fame and The Tombstone Epitaph Museum.

tombstonechamber.com



Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park
Tombstone, Arizona

Courtesy Cochise County Tourism

Winter in Wyoming

From majestic frosty views of the Snowy Range to museums about Wyoming history-makers - Adventure Awaits you in Albany County.

VISIT LARAMIE
Adventure Awaits

Albany • Centennial • Rock River • Woods Landing
VISITLARAMIE.ORG • 307-745-4195

Louisa Swain
First Woman Voter Under Equal Rights

SCAN HERE TO EXPLORE WINTER



San Angelo, Texas

For many who travel the West, the first place they stop when they enter a new town is the local bookstore. For those who love a good bookshop—and the West—the Cactus Book Shop in San Angelo is the place to start your visit to this wonderful West Texas town, which the great Western writer Elmer Kelton called home.

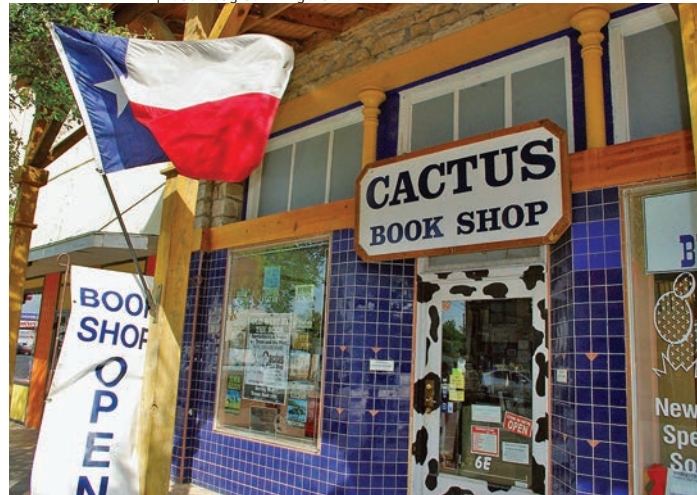
The Cactus was Kelton's favorite bookseller in the area, and if you love

his books and Western reads of all kinds, then this is the place for you. Once inside its lovely confines, you are sure to discover a handful of good books on local history and maybe a couple of Kelton's novels to enjoy during your road trip.

San Angelo was founded in 1867 adjacent to the newly constructed Fort Concho near the Concho River. The post-Civil War era was a time of expansion in West Texas, and the fort and town were strategically placed at a key frontier crossroads. Fort Concho served its purpose effectively until it was closed in 1889.

Today, San Angelo is still a vital economic center for the region's agriculture and oil industries, with nearly 120,000 residents living in the metro area. The city is home to Angelo State University, the San Angelo

Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, Texas
Courtesy San Angelo CVB



Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo State Park and San Angelo Nature Center.

The city owns and operates historic Fort Concho, an active living history center with a museum. Twenty-three buildings at the landmark have been preserved and are great examples of frontier Army architecture. Two big events held every year are Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day in February and Fort Concho Frontier Day in April.



10+ Museums & Historic Sites

DISCOVER
CARBON COUNTY
WYOMING

ADVENTURE. OUT.
wyomingcarboncounty.com

Discover the scenic side on the road less traveled. Find your next adventure out west.

Sponsored by the Carbon County Visitors' Council

Start planning your outdoor escape!



If you didn't know already, nothing small happens in West Texas, and the San Angelo Rodeo and Stock Show is no exception. Founded in 1932, the Stock Show in 2024 is officially February 1-18, but livestock events start on January 24 and culminate during the rodeo with the final Premium Sale on April 20. The San Angelo Rodeo at the Foster Communications Coliseum is April 5-21 with the Rodeo Parade on April 6. And if that's not enough rodeo for you, in October, the Cinch Roping Fiesta is a popular three-day event.

discoversanangelo.com



Deadwood, South Dakota

Walking down Deadwood's Main Street is like walking back in time. On the National Register of Historic Places, the city is one of the most significant Western boomtowns in Old West history.

Deadwood earned its reputation as a Wild West town honestly. Founded in 1876 after gold was illegally discovered on the Sioux Nation, Deadwood quickly gained notoriety as a 24-hour den of iniquity with dozens of saloons, gambling halls and houses of prostitution.

Visitors to the Black Hills of South Dakota will discover quickly that a week is not enough time to enjoy all the historic sites and natural wonders of the region. Deadwood is a great place to call home while touring the Hills with easy access north and south on scenic

mountain roads to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park and Wind Caves National Park. Hiking, fishing, off-roading and horseback riding are all fun outdoor activities available when staying in Deadwood.

The city's boosters host a series of popular festivals every year including Wild Bill Days, June 13-15, 2024, and Days of '76, July 21-27, 2024. The PRCA has named The Days of '76 Rodeo the best rodeo 19 times. As they say "Best Rodeo. No Bull."

Book a room in the historic Bullock Hotel and you will be in walking distance of all that Deadwood has to offer by day and night, including most of its museums. Stop at the visitors center at the historic train station and pick up directions to The Adams Museum, Historic Adams House, Days of '76 Museum, The Brothel and the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center.

And don't forget to visit Mt. Moriah Cemetery high above the town. The views are spectacular, the walks through the historic memorial grounds are peaceful and reflective and a stop at James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok and Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary's gravesites provide a gravitas to a visit to Deadwood that will not soon be forgotten.

deadwood.com



Deadwood Alive Reenactors
Deadwood, South Dakota

Chad Coppess, Courtesy South Dakota Tourism



The Dalles, Oregon

Originally founded as the terminus of the Oregon Trail, The Dalles has played a key role in Oregon's history ever since.

Long before the first European explorers traveled up the Columbia River Gorge, the Dalles was a tribal fishing center and crossroads of Northwestern Native culture. With the advent of the Oregon Trail, the Dalles developed as a launching point for emigrant rafting parties down the river to the Willamette River Valley. While an alternate overland route was built over the Blue Mountains and around Mount Hood to Oregon City, the Dalles remained an important economic and transportation hub. Today, the city is home to a little more than 16,000 residents and is a hub of activity for enthusiasts of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

If you plan on exploring the history and natural wonders of the Columbia River Gorge region for a long weekend or more, The Dalles is a wonderful city to make your headquarters. The Dalles Main Street District downtown is home to over 100 businesses, including bakeries and coffee bistros, brew pubs and wineries, eclectic and unique shops such as Klindt's Booksellers and Gorge Community Music, and convenient places to stay like the Columbia Windrider Inn and The Dalles Inn.

The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum is one of the state's most significant museums and a perfect

Flint Boot & Hat Shop

THE ART OF THE COWBOY

The steam rises from the crease of a perfectly shaped hat. An art lost on some but not on those familiar with the way of the cowboy. This is a lifestyle not for the faint of heart, a calling to cherish the land and the creatures of it.

Here in West Texas, people connect with this way of life. From the sound of the eight second buzzer to the history of prominent Texas ranches, visitors learn the art of the cowboy.

ENCOUNTER THE WILD WEST AND PLAN YOUR TRIP TO LUBBOCK AT VISITLUBBOCK.ORG.



The history
of the west
flows
through
here



Visit
Nebraska's
Landmark
Country.



NEBRASKA'S LANDMARK COUNTRY
Scottsbluff · Gering

800-788-9475 | NebraskaMonumentCountry.com



The Dalles Skyline and Mount Hood
The Dalles, Oregon

Courtesy Explore The Dalles

destination where all ages can learn about Oregon and Northwest history and culture. The museum's exhibits detail the history of the local American Indian tribes, early European and American exploration and the Oregon Trail.

Territorial and pioneer history is also on display at one of Oregon's oldest museums, the historic Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson Homestead. While Lewis and Clark encamped at the location in 1805, the first permanent building at Fort Dalles was constructed in 1838. Today's museum exhibits are housed in the Surgeon's Home, which was built in 1856. The Anderson Homestead is a grand collection of Swedish pioneer farm buildings relocated and restored on the campus. A tour illuminates day-to-day family life on an Oregon homestead.

exploredalles.com



**Abilene,
Kansas**

Illinois cattle dealer Joe McCoy did not know what he was starting when in 1867 he advertised his new Abilene stockyards and Drovers Cottage in Texas newspapers, but he might as well have been launching a mini-revolution with his entrepreneurial investment in the Kansas-Pacific Railroad town.

Today, Abilene is a modern eastern Kansas city of about 6,500 residents. The Dickinson County Seat is nestled in the state's Smoky Hills region and has been an important economic center for the region since the first

Experience Cowboy Culture

Bandera, TX: The self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World" in Texas Hill Country is the perfect place to immerse yourself in everything cowboy. The Bandera Pro Rodeo is held every Labor Day weekend.

Casper, WY: Rodeo is king in Wyoming, and Casper is annually home to the College National Finals Rodeo, Central Wyoming Fair & Rodeo and the Tribute to the American Cowboy Rodeo.

Cave Creek, AZ: World headquarters for *True West* magazine, the city is famous for its Western art, entertainment and restaurant district. Cave Creek Rodeo Days are held every March.

Cheyenne, WY: The state's capital city is home to "The Daddy of 'em All," Cheyenne Frontier Days. The 127th annual rodeo extravaganza will be held July 19-28 in 2024. Don't miss a visit to the Cowgirls of the West Museum.

Elko, NV: In the heart of Buckaroo Country in Nevada's Great Basin, Elko is home to the world-famous National Cowboy Poetry Gathering hosted by the Western Folklife Center.

Fort Pierre, SD: The Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Museum in the multipurpose center has a museum dedicated to nine-time world champion Tibbs and South Dakota rodeo. The Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions is held in the Casey Tibbs Arena every June.

Ruidoso, NM: Ruidoso Downs Race Track hosts the annual Renegade Roughstock Challenge, the All-American Cowboy Fest and the Mescalero Apache Ceremonial Dances and Rodeo.

Scottsbluff/Gering, NE: The historic twin cities on the North Platte River are home to Scotts Bluff National Monument, Legacy of the Plains Museum and Oregon Trail Days, which will hold its 103rd annual celebration in July.

Sheridan, WY: Every July, the Sheridan WYO Rodeo is a weeklong celebration of the cowboy way of life. Downtown, visitors should not miss King's Saddlery, the Don King Museum, the Sheridan Inn and the historic Mint Bar.



TOUGHEST TOWN
SIDNEY
ON THE TRACKS

Cheyenne County Visitors Center
658 Glover Road - Sidney, NE
www.VisitSidneyNE.com - 308-254-4030



APRIL 19, 20, & 21
Andrews, TX

**WILD, WILD WEST
FEST**

Celebrating the diverse
culture of the Wild, Wild West!

For Info: 432-523-2695
admin@andrewstx.com
www.wildwildwestfest.com



SEWELL
SewellAndrews.com





Chisholm Trail Days
Abilene, Kansas
Courtesy Abilene, Kansas, CVB

Smoky Valley Railroad and Old Abilene Town are fun for all ages and offer many enjoyable activities throughout the summer season, including Chisholm Trail Days held every Labor Day Weekend. The local Heritage Center of Dickinson County should also be toured to learn about the local history and heritage.

Downtown Abilene is great for walking and has plenty of entertainment and eating establishments for all ages and interests, including antiques and specialty store shopping.

Looking for some great photo ops? Don't miss a photo in front of the World's Largest Belt Buckle and the Big Spur before a ride on the C.W. Parker Carousel, the oldest of its kind still in operation.

abilenekansas.org

cattle arrived in the town via the trails from Texas over 150 years ago.

The city was important enough that a future president's parents settled there in 1898. Future West Point graduate and World War II Army leader Dwight D. Eisenhower spent his most formative years in Abilene, and today it is home to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home.

Award-winning Boot Hill Museum is considered one of the eight wonders of Kansas. A first-class repository of Old West artifacts and exhibits, the popular museum expanded its exhibit space in 2020. Visitors should not miss the Long Branch Saloon and fan favorite Front Street gunfighter reenactments.

Two other Old West attractions should not be missed: the Abilene and



Come Discover the Sonoran Desert in the **TOWN OF CAVE CREEK**

- 5,000 Acres of Open Space
- Conservation Areas
- Rodeo Grounds
- Hiking
- Parks & Preserves
- Cave Creek Museum
- Biking
- Art Galleries
- Tourism Bureau
- Horseback Riding
- Boutique Retail
- Desert Foothills Library
- Golfing
- Dining & Night Life
- And so much more!



For more information visit CaveCreekAZ.gov



Lubbock, Texas

Famously known as “Hub City” because all roads in West Texas lead to Lubbock, the Southern Plains city is definitely the economic center for the vast region of the Lone Star State.

With Texas Tech University and a vibrant downtown working in tandem to elevate the quality of life in the bustling city, visitors will quickly discover they will need three to five days to enjoy everything Lubbock has to offer. The recently opened Cotton Court Hotel

near downtown is a perfect place to stay while relaxing in Lubbock.

Museums are a staple in Lubbock. If you love Western ranch and agricultural history, start at the National Ranching Heritage Center and then schedule time at the American Windmill Museum and FiberMax Center for Discovery. Local art and music history fans should not miss tours of the Buddy Holly Center, Museum of Texas Tech University and the Caviel Museum of African American History.

And if you are a researcher of Western history, book some extra time in the university’s libraries and archives.

Every September, Lubbock hosts its second-largest event after Texas Tech football. The National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration is held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center and includes chuck wagon cookoffs, American Indian dance demonstrations and the always popular Saturday morning Annual Parade of Horses.

If you love regional wine, you will want to book a ticket on the Lubbock

The National Ranching Heritage Center
Lubbock, Texas

Courtesy Lubbock CVB



Shuttle for a Sunday Brunch Wine Tour or go on a walking wine tour in downtown, where you can sample vintages at McPherson Cellers and Burklee Hill Vineyards.

And what about Red Raiders athletics? Well, if you love college football, I’d put a game in Jones AT&T Stadium on your bucket list. You just might find yourself coming back every fall to the Hub City for some great entertainment, gourmet food, local wine and a Texas Tech tailgate. Guns Up!

lubbockchamber.com

ROAM.
The Best of the West!

SCAN ME

BUFFALO

WWW.VISITBUFFALOWY.COM

Where History is Happening Now

Bozeman, MT: Home to Montana State University, the town also boasts a historic dining and entertainment district that is legendary, as are its local museums, including the Museum of the Rockies and the Gallatin History Museum.

Buffalo, WY: Stay in the historic Occidental Hotel and enjoy walking, dining, shopping and visiting the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum in the downtown district. Longmire Days is held every July.

Coffeyville, KS: The Condon Bank Building, home to the area's chamber of commerce, is the centerpiece of historic downtown Coffeyville. Walking tours are a great way to learn about the Dalton Gang's infamous failed bank robbery.

Grapevine, TX: Take a step back from the hustle and bustle of Dallas and Fort Worth and spend some quality time in Grapevine's historic district and take a ride on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad.

Laramie, WY: Laramie is home to the University of Wyoming and American Heritage Center. Don't miss a tour of the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site.

Pendleton, OR: The town is world famous for the Pendleton Round-Up, and visitors will also enjoy touring the Pendleton Woolen Mills and Hamley's & Co. saddle shop and steakhouse.

Reno, NV: Nevada's second-largest city is a gateway to the natural wonders of the Sierra Nevada and one of the state's centers of culture and art museums.

Santa Fe, NM: An internationally acclaimed destination for history and art lovers, Santa Fe, established in 1607, is a UNESCO-designated City of Craft and Folk Art.

Trinidad, CO: If you love history, book a long weekend in downtown Trinidad and enjoy visiting the local history museum, the A.R. Mitchell Museum and the historic district.

Williams, AZ: "The Gateway to the Grand Canyon" lives up to its moniker with a fun-filled historic downtown that honors the town's railroad and Route 66 history. Book well in advance your round-trip ride to the South Rim on the ever-popular Grand Canyon Railway.



Miles City, Montana

Located at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Tongue rivers, Miles City was founded in 1877 and named after Col. Nelson Miles, the commander of nearby Fort Keogh.

Today, nearly 150 years later, Miles City is one of the Big Sky state's most important economic hubs for ranching and farming in the plains region of southeastern Montana. The Custer County Seat is home to nearly 8,500 residents and is located conveniently off Interstate 94 and Montana Highway 59. Outdoor recreation is also popular at Woodruff Park, Spotted Eagle Recreation Area, Strawberry Hills, Signal Butte, Mile Dam, the Tongue River and Pirogue Island State Park.

Don't miss a tour of the city's historic downtown district. Ranching and local cowboy history can be experienced firsthand at the Miles City Saddlery, which has been in business at 808 Main Street in Miles City since 1910. Walking downtown is sure to make you thirsty and hungry, so schedule time to visit the historic Montana Bar.

If you love museums, Miles City has two not to miss: The Range Rider Museum and WaterWorks Art Museum. If you love the Old West, schedule a few hours to tour The Range Rider, which has become the primary museum for exhibiting the history of southeastern Montana.

Every May, rodeo fans and promoters from around the world attend the World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale to compete and see the next great generation of bucking horses. The annual Miles City Ranch Rodeo Parade is one of the most popular events in the southeastern Montana community. If

you love county fairs, the Eastern Montana Fair is held every August. Events include 4H and animal exhibits, demolition derby, carnival, concerts and a PRCA rodeo.

So what are you waiting for? Time to cowboy up and head to Miles City!

milescitychamber.com



Bucking Horse Sale
Miles City, Montana

Courtesy Visit Southeastern Montana

Where History Lives

Amarillo, TX: Pull on your hat and boots and get Western in this Texas Panhandle city famous for the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum and the Big Texan restaurant.

Andrews, TX: Founded in 1908, the West Texas town's rich history of cattle, cotton and oil can be discovered at the Legacy Park Museum.

Bartlesville, OK: Don't miss a tour of the Woolaroc Museum when visiting this historic, northeastern Oklahoma town.

Bodie, CA: Visitors to the state historic park will discover the real West in the 170 buildings that remain preserved in one of California's most notorious mining camps.

Clifton, AZ: Located on scenic U.S. Highway 191, the Greenlee County copper town is a gateway to exploring the historic communities and natural wonders of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

De Smet, SD: Known as "The Little Town on the Prairie," the South Dakota town is home to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society. The famous author's parents settled the family in the area in 1879.

Douglas, WY: Discover the rich history of the Oregon Trail community at the city's Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum Oregon.

Durango, CO: Book a room at the historic Strater Hotel, take a ride into history on the Durango and Silverton Railroad and discover the wonder of the beautiful San Juan Mountains.

Grass Valley, CA: Stay downtown in the Holbrooke Hotel founded in 1851 and take a tour of the Empire Mine State Historic Park in this town located in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Kingman, AZ: Get your kicks in the historic Route 66 and Santa Fe Railway town located at the crossroads of Interstate 40 and U.S. 93. Don't miss a tour of the Mohave Museum of History and Arts.

Muskogee, OK: If you love Western museums and hometown hospitality, book a long weekend in the town made internationally famous by Merle Haggard's classic song "Okie from Muskogee."

Ogallala, NE: At this crossroads of the Oregon Trail, the Pony Express Trail and the Western Trail, take time to visit Boot Hill and the always popular Old West Front Street.

Placerville, CA: The El Dorado County gold rush town on the California Trail was originally known as Hangtown. Visitors should not miss exploring the historic downtown.

Rawlins, WY: Make the historic Union Pacific Railroad town your headquarters for discovering the natural wonders and historic sites of Carbon County.

St. Joseph, MO: Stay in the historic district and tour the town's world-class Pony Express Museum and Patee House Museum and Jesse James Home.

Santa Clarita/Newhall, CA: Santa Clarita and Newhall were originally famous for cattle, cowboys and citrus. Today, Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio keeps the West alive there on its 22-acre back lot.

Sidney, NE: Don't miss the historic downtown district here, in what was originally a Union Pacific railroad town in western Nebraska.

Taos, NM: The historic New Mexico community is home to the Kit Carson House & Museum and the Taos Art Museum at Fechin House.

Virginia City, NV: The Comstock Lode town is a virtual Victorian-era heritage center, with historic sites, museums and buildings.

Wallace, ID: Here, in the richest silver district in American history, start your walking tour of the Wallace Historic District at the Wallace District Mining Museum.



STRATER HOTEL

HOW THE WEST WAS WON

THE MAGIC OF THE STRATER HOTEL

- Iconic landmark historic hotel in downtown
- 88 unique guest rooms for a relaxing sleep
- Authentic Diamond Belle Saloon for bellying up to the bar
- The Office Spiritorium for cocktails/small plates
- The Mahogany Grille for casual fine dining

“BEST HISTORIC HOTEL”
— True West Magazine

BOOK DIRECT
strater.com | 800.247.4431

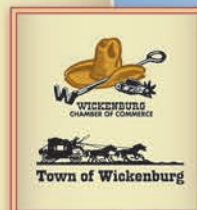
75TH ANNUAL GOLD RUSH DAYS & SENIOR PRO RODEO FEB 9-11, 2024

It's back! Wickenburg celebrates its origins as a historic ranching and gold mining center in this legendary heritage event. Join us!



Wickenburg
LET'S RIDE

SENIOR PRO RODEO
CARNIVAL
ARTISAN FAIR
WESTERN STUNTS
CLASSIC CAR SHOW
GOLD PANNING
MORE!



928-684-5479
OUTWICKENBURGWAY.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/WICKENBURGAZ



TRADING POST

Historic EyeWear Company

Keeping History in Sight®

The Best Old West EyeWear

Its time for period correct eyewear!
When you are ready to complete your impression, visit us at

www.HistoricEyeWearCompany.com

862-812-4737

Prices start at \$139.95



Thomas Valenza, Proprietor of Historic EyeWear is wearing our 1835-80 Oval Large in Tombstone Silver Dust finish with custom tinted lenses.

GOLDEN GATE WESTERN WEAR

Old west and contemporary hats, apparel, boots, and accessories for the whole family. Our Custom hats are hand-formed by Bill Knudsen, 9-time winner of True Wests magazines Reader's Choice award for Best Hatmaker.

Good Bad and Ugly



Kilgore

See our online catalog at
www.KnudsenHats.com
ORDERS: (510) 232 - 3644

ELECTROSCOPES

by Thomas



FREE OFFER

Cover More Ground,
Save Time, Increase Finds!

For Your Prospecting,
Relic, Coin & Cache
Hunting Needs!



Call
Today! 1-800-245-9276

www.electroscopes.com

CATALENA HATTERS

*Fits Right.
Looks Right.
Feels Right.*



The Gus

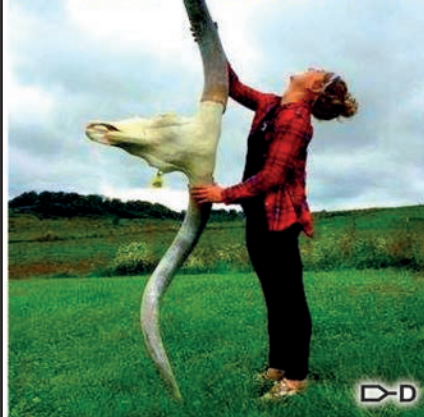


Telescope

800-976-7818

www.catalenahats.com

LONGHORNS HEAD TO TAIL STORE



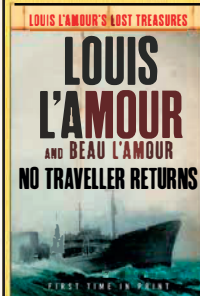
Texas Longhorn Skulls

The ultimate western decor. Real, authentic, home-grown Texas Longhorn skulls for a true Western flavor. Polished - ready to hang. Photos and data at: www.head2tail.com - Priced from \$225

35000 Muskrat TW - Barnesville, OH 43713
740 758-5050

The Official
LOUIS L'Amour
TRADING POST
Exclusive Louis L'Amour products plus all of his novels, short stories, non-fiction, poetry, audio books & CDs, branded clothing, MP3's, DVD movies and more!

WWW.LOUISLAMOUR.COM
The Home of America's Favorite Storyteller



Louis L'Amour's
First Novel,
Never Published
UNTIL NOW!
Faithfully Completed
by Beau L'Amour

\$23.80
Hardcover

Fate is a Ship ... a tanker west-bound on the eve of WWII. Aboard, thirty-three officers and crew. A deadly mixture of personalities made all the more explosive by the dangerous nature of their cargo.

1-800-532-9610

Brothers in Arms, Henry Rifles and Tepees

When did the Army invert its chevrons and why was that done?

Bob Rooks
Fort Worth, Texas

Chevrons are the stripes on a uniform arm that denote rank or experience. From 1820 to 1903, the insignia was worn with the point down. From 1903 to 1905, there was some confusion, and rank could be worn with the point either up or down. On November 30, 1905, the War Department determined that the points of the chevrons would be worn pointing upward.

The reason given was that stripes pointing up denoted success in war, a sign of strength and winning. By that reasoning, points facing downward was a sign of having lost, or of weakness. Some of America's toughest allies, the Canadians, British and Australians, wear their chevrons pointing down. They can provide some heated debate on that one.

Many Southern Plains tribes (Comanche, Kiowa, Southern Cheyenne) lived in areas with few trees. How did they get poles for their tepees?

Kevin Henderson
Round Rock, Texas

All these tribes ranged hundreds if not thousands of miles from their usual stomping grounds, the Llano Estacado. The lodgepole pines are native to the Rocky Mountains, growing in middle to high elevations in dry, cold forests. They are conveniently close to where those tribes spent part of the year. Spruce trees also made good lodgepoles.



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.

Despite the fact that Sheriff Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid, historians have speculated over time on the depth of their friendship before the Kid became a wanted fugitive.

True West Archives

Were Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid friends?

Charlie Fowler
Dallas, Texas

It's likely they knew each other, but they weren't close friends.

When was the last Indian war attack in the U.S.?

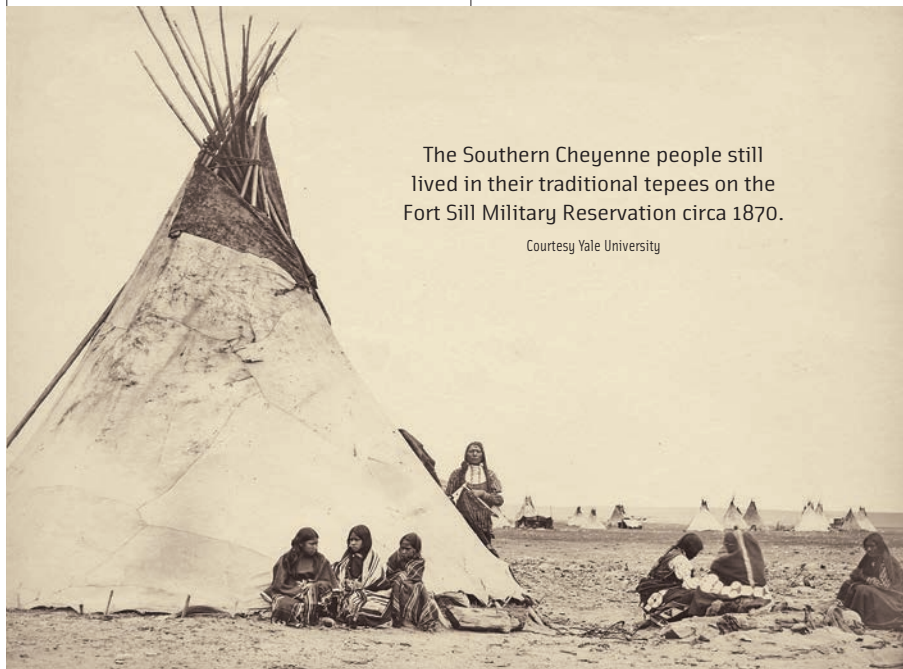
Harry Delger
Charleston, South Carolina

During the late 1800s and the early 1900s, the Yaqui people were fighting the government of Mexico, hoping to establish an independent homeland in Sonora. Yaqui warriors joined in the rebellion when the Mexican Revolution broke out in 1910, but by



1916 Mexican generals were claiming Yaqui land as their own, which led to renewed conflict between Yaqui and Mexican military forces. On January 8, 1918, at Bear Valley in southern Arizona, The Battle of Bear Valley was fought between the Yaqui Indians and the U.S. 10th Cavalry troops.

The Yaqui had been illegally purchasing weapons in the U.S. Believing the Buffalo Soldiers were Mexican troops, they opened fire on them. After a firefight, the troopers overtook a group of 10 Indians who were covering for the escape of the



The Southern Cheyenne people still lived in their traditional tepees on the Fort Sill Military Reservation circa 1870.

Courtesy Yale University

ATTENTION READERS

Thanks to our advertisers for their support of True West and helping to preserve the history of the American Frontier. If you would like more information, please visit their websites shown below.

rest of the band into Mexico and took them captive. One officer later wrote of the engagement that it “was a courageous stand by a brave group of Indians; and the Cavalrymen treated them with the respect due to fighting men.” All 10 Yaqui were captured, including the chief, who had been badly wounded and died the next day.

The surviving prisoners were held at Arivaca while the Army awaited orders from Washington. Eventually, they were sent, in chains, to Tucson for trial in federal court, where they were charged with illegal exporting of arms without a license. The adults were sentenced to 30 days, a much preferable outcome than deportation to Mexico, where they would have been executed.

Was the Henry repeating rifle ever used as a buffalo gun?

Joe Manriquez
Whittier, California

The Henry was seldom used as a buffalo gun. It was designed for human targets. According to Andrew Bresnan of the National Henry Rifle Company, the Henry was not a powerful round, but it held 16 quick shots with which to repel a sudden Indian attack. The cartridge, with its 200-grain bullet and 26 grains of black powder, is a marginal hunting round. The New Haven Arms Company, however, made claims to the contrary, saying it was lethal on buffalo and bear. Despite its popularity, only some 14,000 were ever produced.



A cowboy stood proudly with his Henry .44 caliber.

True West Archives

Abilene, KS <i>AbileneKansas.org</i>	p. 123	Laramie, WY <i>VisitLaramie.org</i>	p. 114
Andrews, TX <i>AndrewsTX.com</i>	p. 119	Longhorn's Head to Tail <i>TexasLonghorn.com</i>	p. 125
Andy Thomas Fine Art <i>AndyThomas.com</i>	p. 49	Louis L'Amour Trading Post <i>LouisLAmour.com</i>	p. 125
Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace <i>RenFestInfo.com</i>	p. 95	Lubbock, TX <i>VisitLubbock.org</i>	p. 117
Bandera, TX <i>BanderaCowboyCapital.com</i>	p. 96	Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site <i>Mahaffie.org</i>	p. 65
Bass Reeves Trilogy <i>NebraskaPress.UNL.EDU</i>	p. 75	Michael J. Guli Designs <i>RiverCrossingInc.com</i>	p. 105
Big Nose Kate's Saloon <i>BigNoseKatesTombstone.com</i>	p. 77	Museum of Western Art <i>MuseumofWesternArt.com</i>	p. 52
Brian Lebel's Old West Auction <i>MorphyAuctions.com</i>	p. 5	National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum <i>NationalCowboyMuseum.org</i>	p. 99
Buffalo Arms Co. <i>BuffaloArms.com</i>	p. 58	Nevada Museums & History <i>NVMuseums.org</i>	p. 113
Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel <i>IrmaHotel.com</i>	p. 97	Nevada Northern Railway <i>NNRY.com</i>	p. 95
Bullock Hotel, Deadwood <i>HistoricBullock.com</i>	p. 92	Northeastern Nevada Museum <i>MuseumElko.org</i>	p. 53
Carbon County, WY <i>WyomingCarbonCounty.com</i>	p. 115	OK Corral <i>OK-Corral.com</i>	p. 3
Catalena Hatters <i>CatalenaHats.com</i>	p. 125	Outlaws & Lawmen Series by Uberti-USA <i>Uberti-USA.com</i>	p. 59
Cave Creek, AZ <i>CaveCreek.org</i>	p. 120	Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum <i>PanhandlePlains.org</i>	p. 99
Chasing Billy the Kid: Frank Stewart and the Untold Story of the Manhunt for William H. Bonney by Kurt House and Roy B. Young <i>KurtHouse.com</i>	p. 74	Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies <i>PrescottRegulators.org</i>	p. 60
Chasing the Horizon by Mary Connealy <i>BakerBookHouse.com</i>	p. 74	Prescott, AZ <i>VisitPrescott.com</i>	p. 109
Cimarron Firearms <i>Cimarron-Firearms.com</i>	p. 61	Recollections <i>Recollections.biz</i>	p. 69
Cinch Western Wear <i>CinchJeans.com</i>	p. BC	Russ House B&B/Tombstone <i>RussHouseTombstone.com</i>	p. 77
Concordia Cemetery <i>ConcordiaCemetery.org</i>	p. 61	San Angelo, TX <i>DiscoverSanAngelo.com</i>	p. 4
Converse County, WY <i>ConverseCountyTourism.com</i>	p. 112	Scottsbluff/Gering, NE <i>VisitScottsbluff.com</i>	p. 118
Cowboy Legacy Gallery <i>BillCowboyLegacy@AOL.com</i>	p. 51	Shady Lady's Closet, Tombstone <i>ShadyLadysCloset.com</i>	p. 77
According to Kate: The Legendary Life of Big Nose Kate Elder, Love of Doc Holliday by Chris Enss <i>ChrisEnss.com</i>	p. 77	Sheridan, WY <i>SheridanWyoming.org</i>	p. 2
Deadwood, SD <i>Deadwood.com</i>	p. 111	Sherry Blanchard Stuart/Open Range Gallery <i>SherryBlanchardStuart.com</i>	p. 53
Dodge City, KS <i>VisitDodgeCity.org</i>	p. 87	Sidney, NE <i>VisitSidneyNE.com</i>	p. 119
Electroscopes by Thomas <i>Electroscopes.com</i>	p. 125	St. Joseph, MO <i>StJoMo.com</i>	p. 1
Fort Concho National Historic Landmark <i>FortConcho.com</i>	p. 65	Strater Hotel <i>Strater.com</i>	p. 123
Fort Smith, AR <i>FortSmith.org</i>	p. 89	The Dalles, OR <i>TheDallesChamber.com</i>	p. 93
Georgetown Loop Railroad <i>GeorgetownLoopRR.com</i>	p. 88	The Longhorn Restaurant/Tombstone <i>TheLonghornRestaurant.com</i>	p. 77
Golden Gate Western Wear <i>GoldenGateWesternWear.com</i>	p. 125	The Occidental Hotel <i>OccidentalWyoming.com</i>	p. 68
Hawken Shop <i>TheHawkenShop.com</i>	p. 58	True Ranch Collection <i>TrueRanchCollection.com</i>	p. 105
Historic Eyewear Co <i>HistoricEyewearCompany.com</i>	p. 125	True West Home <i>TrueWestHome.com</i>	p. 68
Jerome, AZ <i>JeromeChamber.com</i>	p. IFC	University of Oklahoma Press <i>OUPress.com</i>	p. 72
John Bianchi's Frontier Gunleather <i>FrontierGunleather.com</i>	p. 60	Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West <i>ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org</i>	p. 50
Johnson County, WY <i>JohnsonCountyWY.com</i>	p. 121	Wickenburg, AZ <i>OutWickenburgWay.com</i>	p. 124
		Zearing's Mercantile <i>ZearingsMercantile.com</i>	p. 69

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



Mark Hendrickson

TRICIA LOSCHER, PhD, MUSEUM CURATOR

Dr. Tricia Loscher is assistant museum director and chief curator at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. She has taught contemporary art and non-Western art history courses at Arizona, Oklahoma and overseas universities. She holds a PhD, MA and BA in art history and education, with minors in Latin American art, anthropology and museum studies.

I was raised in Wickenburg, Arizona, and recall a snowstorm that made the branches on the palo verde and mesquites bow. Our polydactyl kitty flung snow high in the air. No one believes that it ever snowed that much!

My parents supported us in many ways—at the Kay El Bar Ranch, my sister and I took art lessons. Our favorite time was painting skies and clouds!

A high school teacher saw my love of art. I received an award for a cypress tree painting inspired by a trip to Monterey. She suggested I attend the Art Institute of Chicago, and I contemplated a career in fashion design.

As an undergraduate I curated an exhibit about Castle Hot Springs. We felt the excellent thermal water at CHS and fell in love with Wilbur, the resident pot-bellied pig!

At the University of Arizona I almost lost my mind trying to decide on my dissertation. Pondering the Chicago World's Fair or the artist Hart Merriam Schultz, walks in Sabino Canyon helped for clarity.

An artist who taught me to think about life's gifts was Allan Houser. I met Mr. Houser in Santa Fe and curated a retrospective. Mrs. Houser vividly recalled their trips driving to Mexico in an RV.

The desert is where I feel at peace. One is reminded that the desert is a treasure by experiencing creations from Gila monsters to meteorites, the smell of rain and creosote.

My favorite Southwestern meal was at Embudo Station, New Mexico. On a sunny day, we ate trout next to the Rio Grande.

Edward Curtis was multifaceted. He mined for gold, and an exhibition focusing on his mineral exploration sounds interesting.

A Western artist once described his bronzes as they relate to ancient myths and stories. Kokopelli and the Pied Piper can connect cultures to aspects of a shared human experience.

Latin American art is inspiring in its history, traditions, diversity and changes. Many artists capture such energy, but Mexican Modernist and master silversmith Antonio Pineda prominently stands out among jewelers.

The Renaissance had many incredible women artists. I once ended an internship when the professor said there were none! Since then, numerous exhibitions have shed light on these talented women.

Italy is where I reset and thrive. One of the most fascinating exhibits I saw was about Plautilla Nelli, a 16th-century Dominican nun whose workshop was inside a Florence convent.

No one knows I love making jewelry! I am inspired by many, but especially the work of Eveli Sabatie!

If I could have dinner with the late Maidu artist Frank Day, I would ask him the meaning behind a painting about poisoned mushrooms. What a dinner conversation!

An American Indian woman artist created an incredible purse. I recall feeling awe as Veronica Poblano carefully unfolded the cloth to reveal its shell and silver detail!

A Western movie favorite of Dr. Rennard Strickland, collector and pioneer in law and legal education, was *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. He loved the quote, "This is the West, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

A museum can be a profound experience. Revisiting the Museum of the Northern Culture, Paquimé, and seeing Casa Grandes and the macaw pens again would be great fun!

"Western art..." a professor said, "is a field that will bore you!" I realized the genre was often misunderstood and set off on a road trip. Encountering the skills of creative people firsthand is vital. At the end of the journey, what was evident more than ever? Western art speaks to the spirit of the American people. It is a truly American phenomenon!

What history has taught me is never to take for granted people who share from their entire being personal stories as they weave tapestries of art and culture. It is an inspiration and blessing to know vibrant and powerful personalities who are kind and critical yet hopeful that the past will shape a promising future.



Discover Where History Happened in the Old West

True West magazine has inspired travelers to take the road less traveled and explore the historic sites and towns of the American West. The Third Edition of the True West Ultimate Historic Travel Guide has been carefully updated with recommendations on the essential museums of the Old West. Anyone who wants to discover a region from the ground up—and immerse in its local history—will be inspired to visit a Western museum and experience the dynamic, enthralling history of the American West.

INCLUDED IN TRUE WEST'S ULTIMATE HISTORIC TRAVEL GUIDE

- Hundreds of places expertly and succinctly described to inspire and guide your tour of the West
- Dozens of historic and color photos of Western historic sites
- 22-colorfully, illustrated state maps
- Easy-to-use listings with addresses, phone numbers and websites
- Eight of Bob Boze Bell's best Classic Gunfights of the Old West
- True West's favorite Historic Trails, National State Parks, Monuments, Battlefields, Site and Memorials where Old West history happened.
- And, so much more!

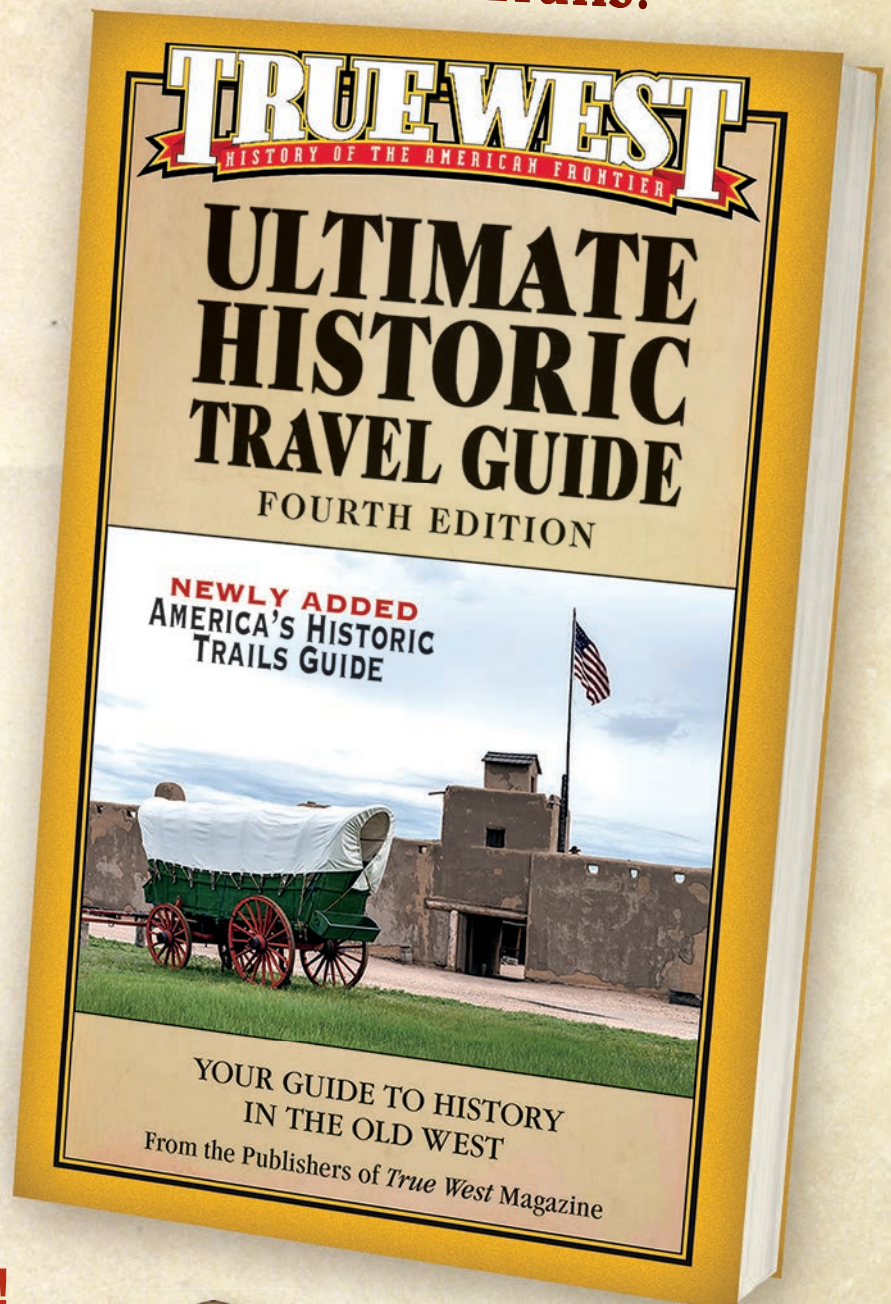
ON SALE NOW!

\$19.95

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

TrueWestMagazine.com

NEW 4th EDITION
Now Including Our National Historic Trails!





CINCH

CINCH

LEAD, DON'T FOLLOW.

