

OUR 22ND ANNUAL HERITAGE TRAVEL ISSUE

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

# TRUE WEST

HISTORICAL

AMERICAN FRONTIER

## THE DAY TOM MIX DIED

What really happened on that lonely stretch of desert highway?

By Jeb Rosebrook

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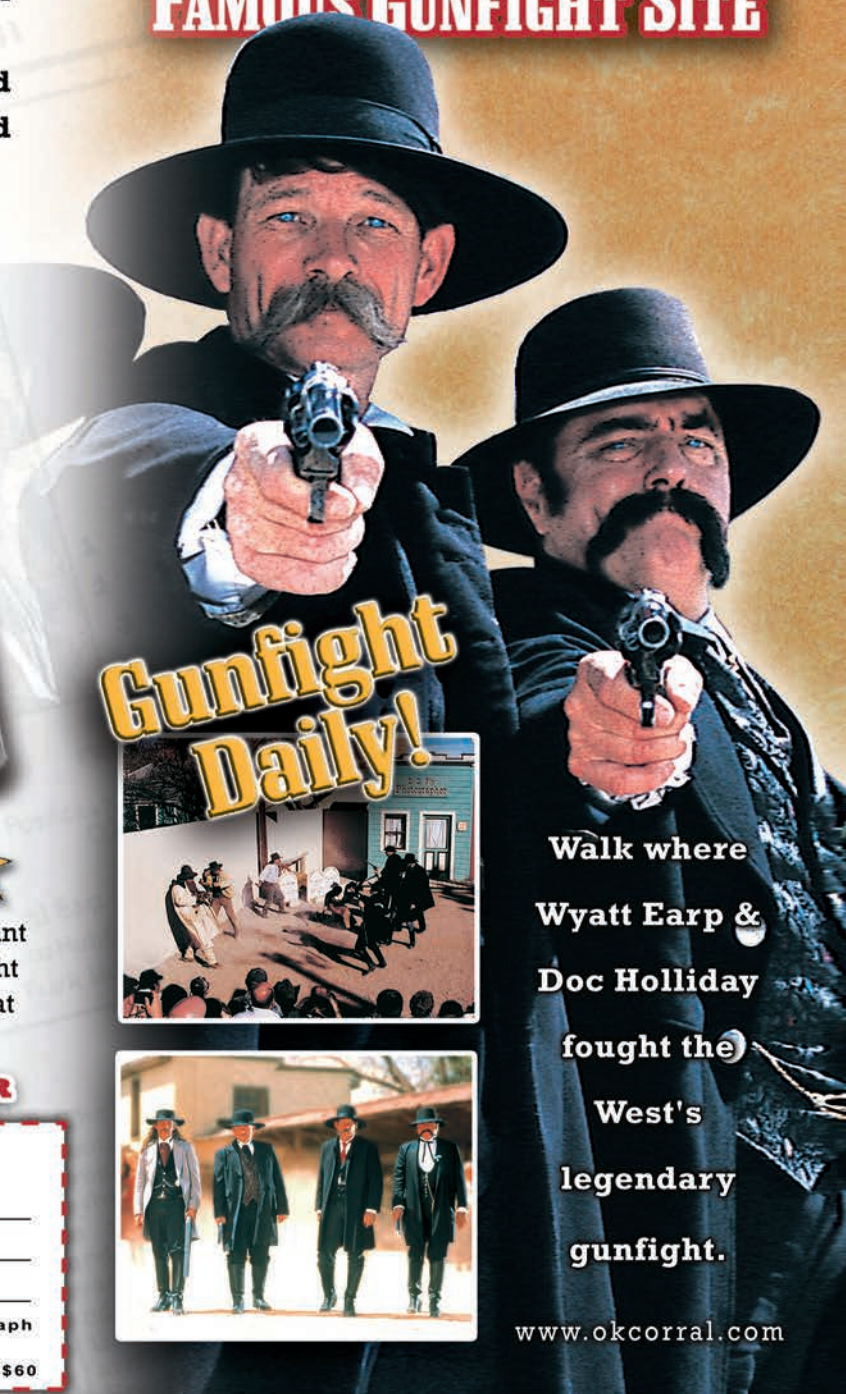
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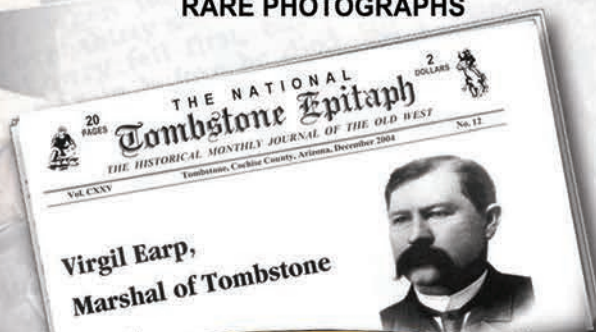


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Courtesy University of Nevada-Reno Library and Special Collections







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

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March-April 2024 Vol. 71, #2, Whole #641. 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.

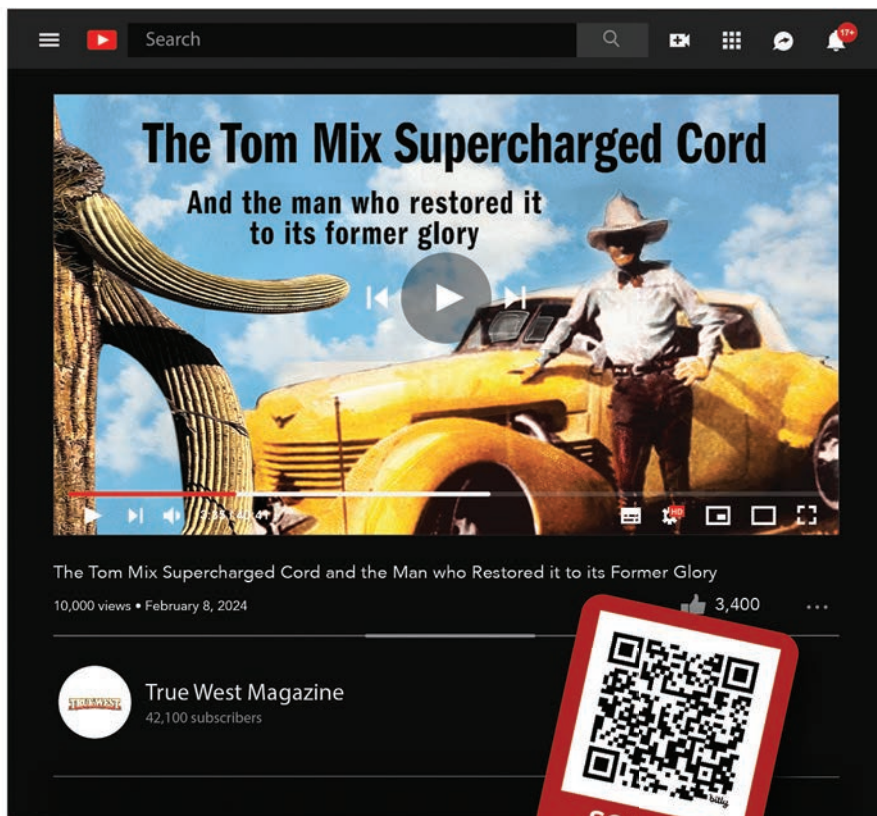
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Illustration by Bob Boze Bell  
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COMPILED BY THE EDITORS OF *TRUE WEST*

## Old Vaquero Sayings



*"Study the past if you want to know what the idiots are going to do next."*

### Quotes

"I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move."

—Robert Louis Stevenson,  
Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes

"The impulse to travel is one of the hopeful symptoms of life."

—Agnes Repplier

**"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."**

—Henry Miller

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world."

—Gustave Flaubert

**"Not all those who wander are lost."**

—J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

"Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey."

—Pat Conroy

"If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion, and avoid the people, you might better stay home."

—James A. Michener

"See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories. Ask for no guarantees, ask for no security."

—Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

"You don't even know where I'm going." "I don't care. I'd like to go anywhere."

—John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

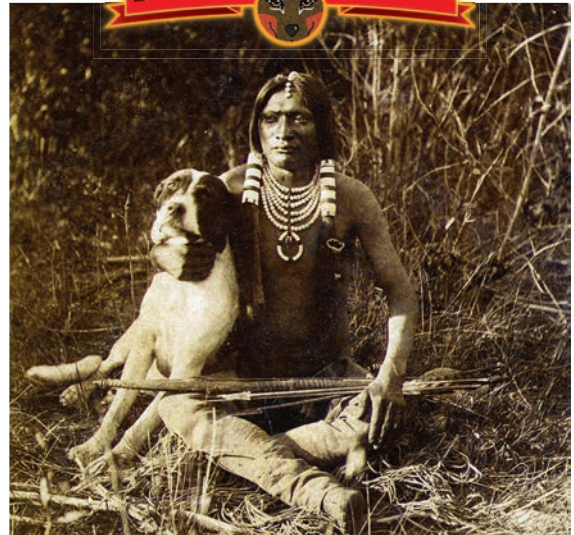
"At the end of 2023, the country bounces along like Custer on the way to the Little Big Horn: So far, so good. The regimental band plays 'Garryowen.'"

—Lance Morrow in *the Wall Street Journal*

**"I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts."**

—Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick or, The Whale*

## PIONEERPETS



**UTE INDIAN BOY  
AND HIS DOG**

Western slope  
of the Wasatch  
Mountains, Utah,  
1874

John K. Hillers, Courtesy  
Library of Congress



Actually, I'm from New Jersey, the nickname comes from thirty years in the textile business.

CartoonStock.com

# Secret Agent Man

*A legendary screenwriter gets his final byline.*

**I**n early 2003 my agent called me to tell me the Westerns Channel wanted to start running *True West Moments* between movies with me as the host. It was a dream come true, but the odd thing is I didn't have an agent, and the guy who was calling me his agent was actually a legendary Hollywood screenwriter who wrote one of my favorite movies, *Junior Bonner*. As it turns out, Jeb Rosebrook was being facetious about being my agent, but it was an inside joke between us that he never got tired of ribbing me about.

Around this same time, Jeb, and his son, Stuart, pitched me on doing a feature for the magazine on "The Day Tom Mix Died." They would bring together all the cultural and current events going on in the world on that fateful day in October of 1940. I immediately told Jeb and Stuart it was a go, and Jeb was on assignment. As often happens, other projects—and life—got in the way, and then Jeb got sick and he never completed the piece. (He died in August 2018.) In this issue, Stuart and I have completed the project in his honor, and it was a labor of love to do it.

We had some great assistance from Mike Lanning and Bob White, who both know a thing or two about the King of the Cowboys, Tom Mix.

As for becoming my agent, here's what happened: back in 2003 Jeb flew to Denver to meet with a producer, Jeff Hildebrandt, about a Western film Rosebrook was helping sell for a Hollywood director friend. Jeff turned down the offer but asked Jeb to relay to me that he had a gig for me. So, when he got back to Phoenix, Jeb called me and told me he was calling as my agent, and that was the start of a long-running joke that neither of us ever got tired of.

Ride on, my good friend.



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



My "agent" Jeb Rosebrook and me having fun at the 2016 Tucson Festival of Books

Stuart Rosebrook

**"We're all speeding towards a dry wash somewhere, it's the time between that matters. Tom Mix created the life he wanted to, and his tragic end was an exclamation point to an adventurous life. I imagine as he floated away, he said with a grin...well, I never saw that comin'!"**

—Bradley Ross



Michael Lanning models Tom Mix's famous hat.

Bob Boze Bell



Bob White is a world-renowned authority on Tom Mix.

Bob Boze Bell

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

## THE COWBOY CODE

A steely-eyed buckaroo graces the cover of the January-February 2024 issue of *True West*. Beside him is the caption: "The Cowboy: America's Icon."

The cowboy is as American as the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore.

But what truly makes the cowboy iconic is the Code of the West—a set of rules for him to live by. These include courage, loyalty, fair play, self-reliance and respect for the land.

Cowboys are riding tall in the saddle again now with the resurgence of Westerns. I don't reckon that real cowboys or reel cowboys will be riding off into the sunset anytime soon.

—Paul Hoylen  
Deming, New Mexico

*Thank you! Your letter reminded us that at one time Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, the Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy, Buck Jones and Tom Mix, to name just a few, emphasized a "Code of the West" for young boys and girls to live by. As a reminder of those long-ago codes, here is the Buck Jones Cowboy Creed:*

- I must be courteous and obedient to my elders.
- I must study and learn.
- I must be courageous, honest, industrious, truthful and unselfish.
- I must be a pal to my playmates and big brother (or big sister) and to all boys or girls younger than myself.
- I must keep my life bright and clean.

## THE DUKE VS. HOPPY, GENE AND ROY

I keep reading that John Wayne is the most popular Western hero of all time, but is he? Counting ticket sales over the years from 1930 to 1976, perhaps he was, but using other measures, I doubt it. He never sold merchandise like RR, Gene A. and, particularly, Hoppy (William Boyd) in the '50s. And I don't think he had their kind of fan clubs all over the world. I like the Duke's movies, too, but they were mostly A-features, with different standards of quality.

—Dr. Jim Vickrey  
Montgomery, Alabama

*That is a great question and one that may never be answered, but you make a good argument for the great B-Cowboy heroes of Western serial fame and the immeasurable joy our cowboy favorites of film and television brought to us all.*



Courtesy Universal Pictures

## RIGHT ON, DUDE!

In the January-February 2024 issue, Stuart Rosebrook is right on the money with "Dude or not a Dude." Do you know how the term "dude" came about? If not, here it is. It was coined by the cowboys. When a cowboy spent too many hours in a saddle that maybe didn't fit him just right he would likely end up with a blister or a boil on his backside and it was called a "dude." When Eastern tourists showed up out West they were quite often a real pain in the ass. Hence, the term "dude." The hippie culture, not knowing anything about this (and a lot of other stuff), changed the meaning of the word.

—Lee Anderson  
Chino Valley, Arizona

*We are always grateful to learn the origin of Western words. The Dude abides!*

## CORRECTIONS

On page 94-95 of the January-February 2024 issue, the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in the photo with the Liberty Cap (below) was misidentified as Old Faithful Lodge; on page 116, the Blue Mountains should have been listed as the Cascades between The Dalles and the Willamette Valley; on page 120, the Boot Hill Museum was incorrectly listed in Abilene, Kansas, but it is located in Dodge City; on page 123, Jerome, Arizona, was inadvertently left off the "Where History Lives" list of towns.

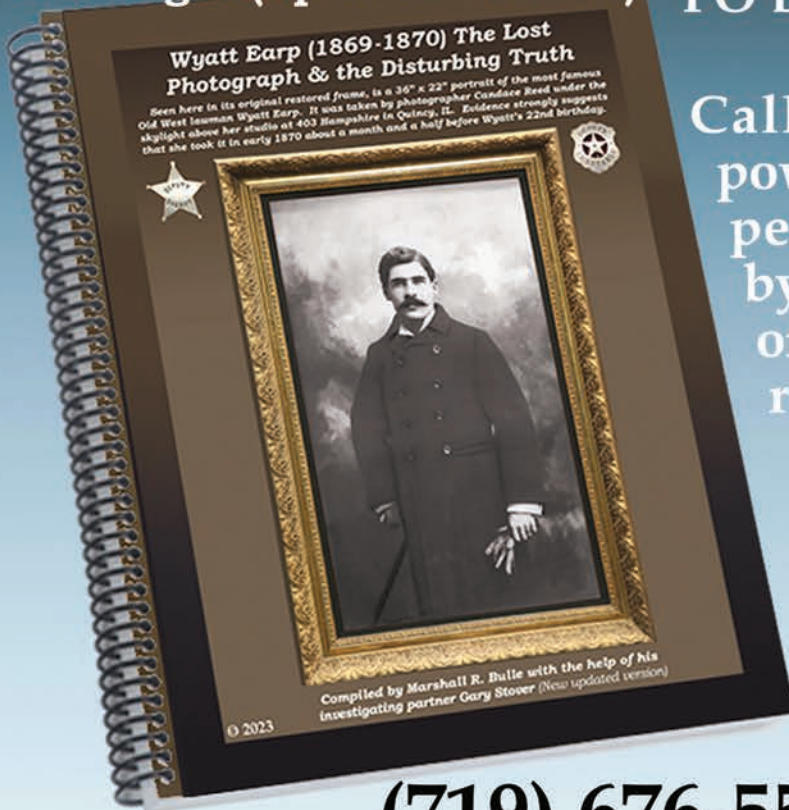


Frank J. Haynes, Photo Courtesy The Getty Online Collection

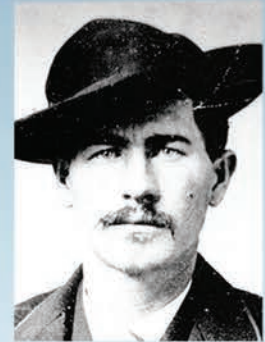
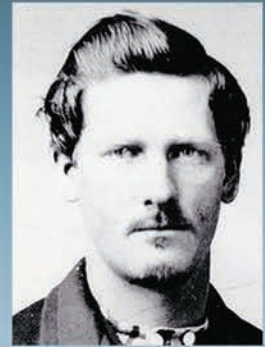
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BY MARK BOARDMAN

# From Hero to Outlaw

*It took John Joel Glanton a year to hit bottom.*

**T**he name John Joel Glanton probably doesn't ring a bell. But in the 1840s into 1850, he made an impact that reached into two countries and affected Mexicans, Americans and Indians alike.

The South Carolina native was born in 1819; when he was old enough, he made his way west, to Arkansas and Louisiana and then Texas. Later legends said he was guilty of numerous violent acts, but there's no evidence to back those claims. By 1847, he'd joined the Texas Mounted Volunteers as the Mexican-American War heated up. On November 24, Glanton was a member of a force that took on some 200 Mexican mounted lancers and drove them from the field. General Joseph Lane's report commended several officers for their actions during the encounter; the only enlisted man who gained such recognition was Pvt. John Joel Glanton. He was a hero.

But that began to change in 1848. On November 15, Glanton ran into three

disagreeable soldiers in San Antonio. All went for their guns; Glanton killed one and wounded the others. He acted in self-defense so a court acquitted him in the gunfight. But that effectively ended his military career. He and about a dozen men headed west to look for gold in California, but they ran out of supplies along the southern route and were stranded in Chihuahua.

In late 1849, Glanton and a few of his men found a new money-maker. Mexican authorities had put a bounty on the heads—well, literally, the scalps—of Apache Indians who had been conducting hit-and-run raids throughout Chihuahua. The Glanton group gladly joined in, obtaining an official contract from the Mexican government. But it was easier to turn in the black-haired scalps of Mexicans; it's unclear just how many non-Apaches they killed and scalped. But when the governments on both sides of the Rio Grande sussed out the

scheme, they branded Glanton and company as outlaws.

When that happened, the company started a ferry across the Colorado River in the State of Sonora, south of Arizona and California. Unfortunately, some Yuma Indians were already there and conducting their own business. The Glanton forces killed some, harassed others (including the chief) and took over. That was a mistake.

The normally peaceful Yuma people took up arms on April 23, 1850. Glanton and eight of his compatriots died in the encounter. Supposedly, his corpse was tied to that of a dead dog, taken back into U.S. and then set on fire. The Indians must have been pretty upset.

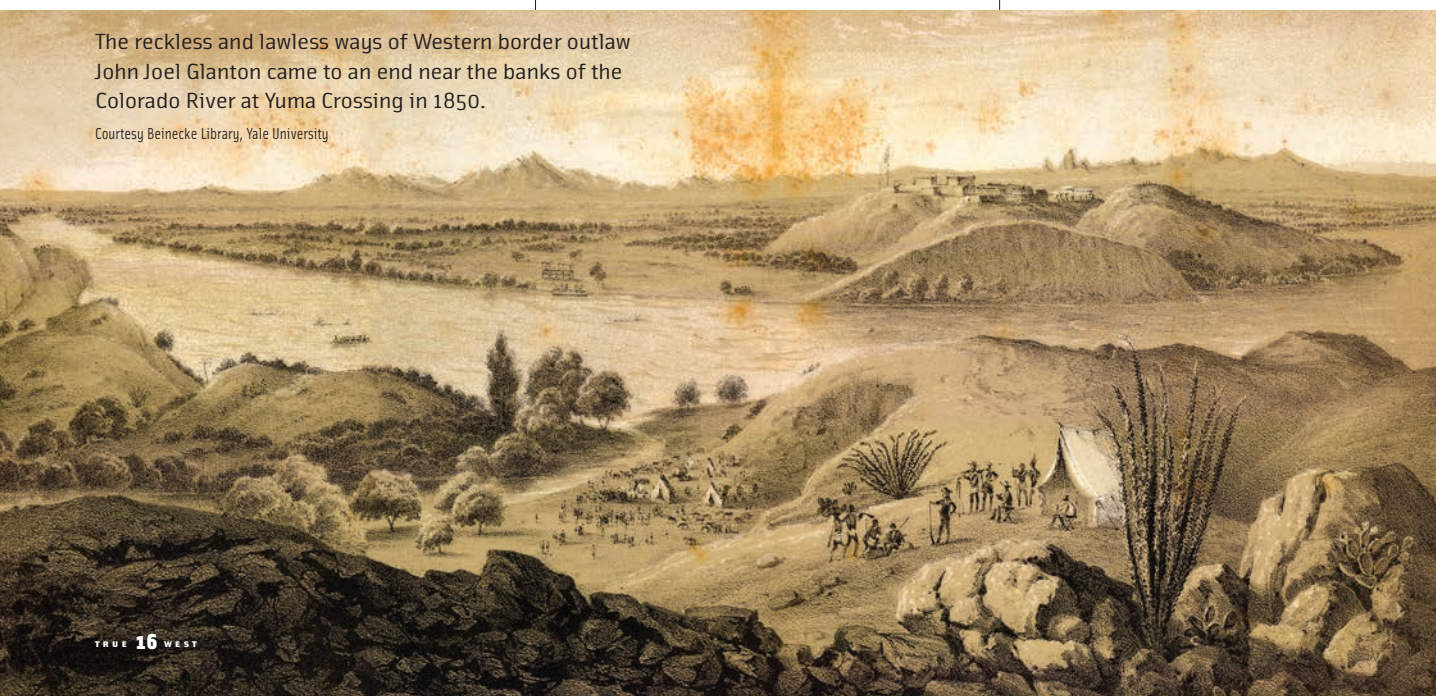
This sparked retaliation from American forces; the ensuing war went on—sporadically—for about three years before the Yuma soldiers surrendered.

Say this about John Joel Glanton: his activities had an international impact. And in the space of just over a year, he went from war hero to dead outlaw.



The reckless and lawless ways of Western border outlaw John Joel Glanton came to an end near the banks of the Colorado River at Yuma Crossing in 1850.

Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University



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BY STEVE FRIESEN

# The Cowboy Still Stands Tall

Collectors and auction houses still profit from cowboy art and collectibles.

**“He** was an heroic, romantic figure in his day—but his day has gone. The old-time cowboy of forty years ago is almost an exclusive motion picture figure now,” wrote the *Los Angeles Times* on September 19, 1922. Thanks to those motion picture figures, the stories of the cowboys became larger than life, elevating a time that was comparatively short in American history to the stuff of legends. One cowboy actor became legendary as well...John Wayne.

Today, artifacts associated with John Wayne are very collectible. On November 18, 2023, commemorative firearms belonging to John Wayne’s son Patrick were featured at Richmond Auctions’ Premier Firearms and Sportsman Auction. Reflecting John Wayne’s popularity, a set of three John Wayne Commemorative Colt Single Action Army

Revolvers sold for \$51,750. Just seven sets were produced by Colt and presented only to Wayne family members. A pair of Winchester Model 1894 John Wayne Commemorative Lever Action Rifles also sold for \$18,400. Part of a limited edition of three hundred rifles, they featured the large loop lever favored by Wayne and had scenes from his movies engraved on their sides.

The old-time cowboys the *Los Angeles Times* referred to in 1922, as well as contemporary cowhands and ranchers, are also popular subjects in Western art. Paintings of American cowboys commanded some of the highest prices at Scottsdale Art Auction’s first online auction on August 26, 2023. It was an iconic painting that captured the highest price at the online auction. Lon Megargee’s *The Last Drop from His Stetson*, an image found on the liner inside Stetson’s cowboy hats, sold for \$105,300.

Mark Maggiori’s *Everlast Sundown*, depicting three cowboys riding at sunset, fetched \$93,600. The price reflects the popularity of such scenes as well as Maggiori’s growing reputation as a painter. A similar scene by G. Harvey, *Rancher’s Reward*, hammered down for \$76,050. The calm scene shown in Logan Maxwell Hagege’s *Pueblo Cowboy*, which sold for

Two paintings of cowboys on an evening ride over the open range gathered high prices at the Scottsdale auction. Mark Maggiori’s *Everlast Sundown* captured \$93,600 while G. Harvey’s *Rancher’s Reward* went for \$76,050.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



*The Last Drop from His Stetson* is a familiar image to anyone who has owned a Stetson cowboy hat. This painting, which is used on the lining of the hats, was created by Lon Megargee and sold for \$105,300 at the Scottsdale Art Auction.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction

\$49,725, was a marked contrast with Olaf Wieghorst’s *Bustin’ Out*. In that painting, which sold for \$64,350, a cowboy is thrown from his seat on a bucking bronco as both bust through a corral fence. A corral fence is also the support for three cowboys in Howard Post’s *Horse Tradin’*, which sold for \$22,230.

The cowboy art at the Scottsdale Art Auction shows the timeless nature of a cowhand’s life, with scenes that could have taken place 100 years ago, or just last week. Similarly, there is something timeless about the appeal of movie Westerns and the popularity of stars like John Wayne, who draw as much interest as they did in their heyday. The 1922 *Los Angeles Times* article was wrong, the cowboy’s day has not passed.





Logan Maxwell Hagege's work continues to sell well at auctions, including the Scottsdale Art Auction, where *Pueblo Cowboy* brought \$49,725. A simple scene, it employs the Southwestern themes and strong colors for which Hagege is known.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



Olaf Wieghorst captured the action as a cowboy is tossed by a bucking bronco while busting through a fence. Howard Post showed a quieter moment as three cowboys stand by another fence discussing a business transaction. *Bustin' Out* brought \$64,350 while *Horse Tradin'* sold for \$22,230 at the Scottsdale Art Auction.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction



A matched set of Winchester rifles (right and below) commemorating John Wayne and his movies sold for \$18,400 at the Richmond Auction. Engraved on either side of each were scenes of a stagecoach and a cattle drive, surrounded by the names from his Westerns.

Courtesy Richmond Auctions

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**April 12-13, 2024**

Scottsdale Art Auction (Scottsdale, AZ)  
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**April 30, 2024**

The Paul Friedrich Collection of  
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 morphyauctions.com • 877-968-8880

**May 17-19, 2024**

Premier Firearms Auction #4091  
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A set of three revolvers created by Colt for the Wayne family. Each of the revolvers bears the likeness of John Wayne. The set sold for \$51,750 at Richmond Auctions' Premier Firearms and Sportsman Auction.

Courtesy Richmond Auctions



Gene Autry, another star of movie Westerns, established the Autry Museum of the American West in 1988. This Colt Single Action Army revolver, created for an Autry Museum fundraiser with an image of the museum on its barrel, sold for \$13,800 at the Richmond Auction.

Courtesy Richmond Auctions

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# Firearm Conundrums

*A few questions puzzle nimrods and veteran shooters alike.*

## Single Action, Double Action?

One of the many enigmas to newcomers in the Western gun world is the description of operating a “single action” (SA) versus a “double action” (DA). Why are two actions required of the shooter to fire a single-action revolver while only a single act is needed to get the same result from a double-action wheel gun? To fire a SA, the shooter must first pull back the hammer to the firing position, secondly the trigger must be pulled in order to release the hammer and fire the arm. As the hammer is cocked back to the firing position, the SA also rotates the cylinder into battery (lining up a cartridge under the hammer for firing). Thus despite accomplishing two mechanical actions with a single pull of the hammer, the shooter must still pull the trigger in order to complete the firing sequence. The term single action means the operator is only capable of accomplishing one task at a time.

With a DA revolver the simple act of pulling the trigger causes the hammer to be cocked back to the firing position while rotating the cylinder into battery, then releasing the hammer, thus firing the gun. The mechanics of the DA accomplishes two actions through one act of the operator. So, you see, the terms single action or double action refer to the firearm’s mechanical capabilities—or lack of—not the shooter’s.



In this live-action photo Cowboy Mounted Shooting competitor Colt Worley illustrates how a single-action revolver requires two motions to fire it, as opposed to the single operation needed to discharge a double-action revolver. As he gallops to his next target, Worley has already cocked the hammer back on his EMF Great Western single action, thus rotating a loaded chamber into battery, but he still needs to pull the trigger in order to fire the six-gun.

All Images Courtesy the Author Unless Otherwise Noted

## Muzzleloading Six-Guns?

Why are black powder percussion revolvers called muzzleloaders when they don’t load from the muzzle, like a rifle or shotgun? They’re stoked through the face of the cylinder. Such misleading terminology is like calling an elk a reindeer. They are both of the deer species, but each animal is a different breed with looks and other factors that differ from one another. Just because a cap-and-ball wheel gun uses separately loaded powder and ball ammunition that is rammed home via a loading rod, like a longarm, it’s different because a caplock revolver is charged via the cylinder—not the muzzle. Shouldn’t we call them “cylinder loaders”? Just asking.



Holding his face safely away from the muzzle of this 1851 Navy Colt reissue percussion revolver, shooter Michael Cooper rams the projectile home over the powder charge, via the Colt’s loading lever. As can plainly be seen, the six-shooter is not a “muzzle loader,” rather it is charged from the cylinder. It’s a conundrum that these guns are so-named and not called “cylinder loaders.”



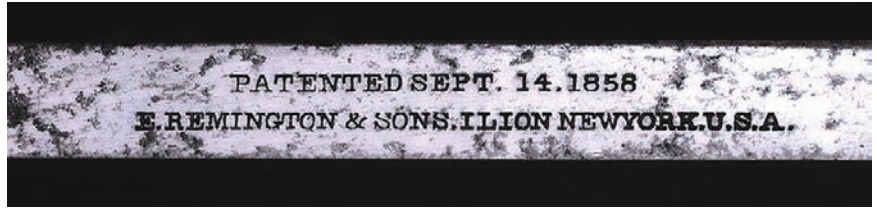
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Often wrongly called the “1858 Model,” Remington’s “New Model Army” .44 (and “New Model Navy” .36) revolvers, like this pristine Army example, were produced in 1863–75. It was the second most-used six-gun during the Civil War, and replicas of it are extremely popular with today’s black powder fans. Navy Arms Company’s founder, Val Forgett named his Remington replicas the “1858 Model” because of the “September 14, 1858” patent date stamped on the original arms’ top barrel flat, to avoid any conflict with then-modern Remington Arms. Inset reveals this original Remington’s barrel stamping.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company



### 1858 Remington? No such thing!

### Navy Colt— .36 or .38?

The .36 caliber, 1851 Navy Colt (and other cap-and-ball so-called .36 bore revolvers) actually measure .375-inch (a .38 bore size). Yet a modern .38 Special wheel gun’s bore mikes at .357-inch. A rough comparison in power between the .36 round ball and the .38 Special shows that a standard .36 caliber loading of 22 grains of FFFg black powder pushing a 70-grain lead round ball produces around 710 feet per second (fps) of muzzle velocity with approximately 78 foot pounds of muzzle energy. This actually puts the .36 round ball load closer in punch to a .32 S&W Long cartridge which generates about 705 fps of muzzle velocity and a muzzle energy of around 108 foot pounds. The .38 Special, with its 158-grain lead round nose bullet can churn out 800 fps and 225 foot pounds of muzzle energy. Nonetheless in its time, that soft lead .375-inch round ball did some pretty fair damage, especially when the medical technology of the mid-19th century is considered.

Many gun buffs refer to Remington’s “New Model Army” and “New Model Navy” percussion revolvers, produced 1863-75 and 1878 respectively, as the “1858 Remington” when no such model name ever existed. This misnomer can be traced back to the early 1960s, when Val Forgett, founder of Navy Arms Company, decided to add replicas of the famed Civil War-era Remington to his growing list of reproduction black powder revolvers. In order to avoid problems with Remington Arms Co., Val told me he decided to name his percussion six-gun after the patent date found stamped along the top of the 1860s original E. Remington & Sons revolvers barrels which read “PATENTED SEPT. 14, 1858.” Shooters, collectors and arms dealers alike never bothered to find out what E. Remington & Sons officially dubbed their revolvers, and just accepted Forgett’s sales title of his Remington repros. Now arms scholars, dealers, firearms auction houses and others know the New Model Army or Navy model by Forgett’s “made-up” sales name. It’s the rare gun fan who calls them by their rightful moniker. No foul no harm, but it’s interesting how a made-up 20th-century handle can be accepted as “official” for a 160-plus-year-old firearm. Think about it; maybe you have your own firearms conundrum.

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.”





Sharon Guli

### MICHAEL J. GULI LEATHER CLOTHING

Buckskin and other leather garments have long played a significant role in the story of the Old West. Today's living history reenactors recognize the importance of leather and often incorporate animal hide pieces into their period outfits. Artisan Michael

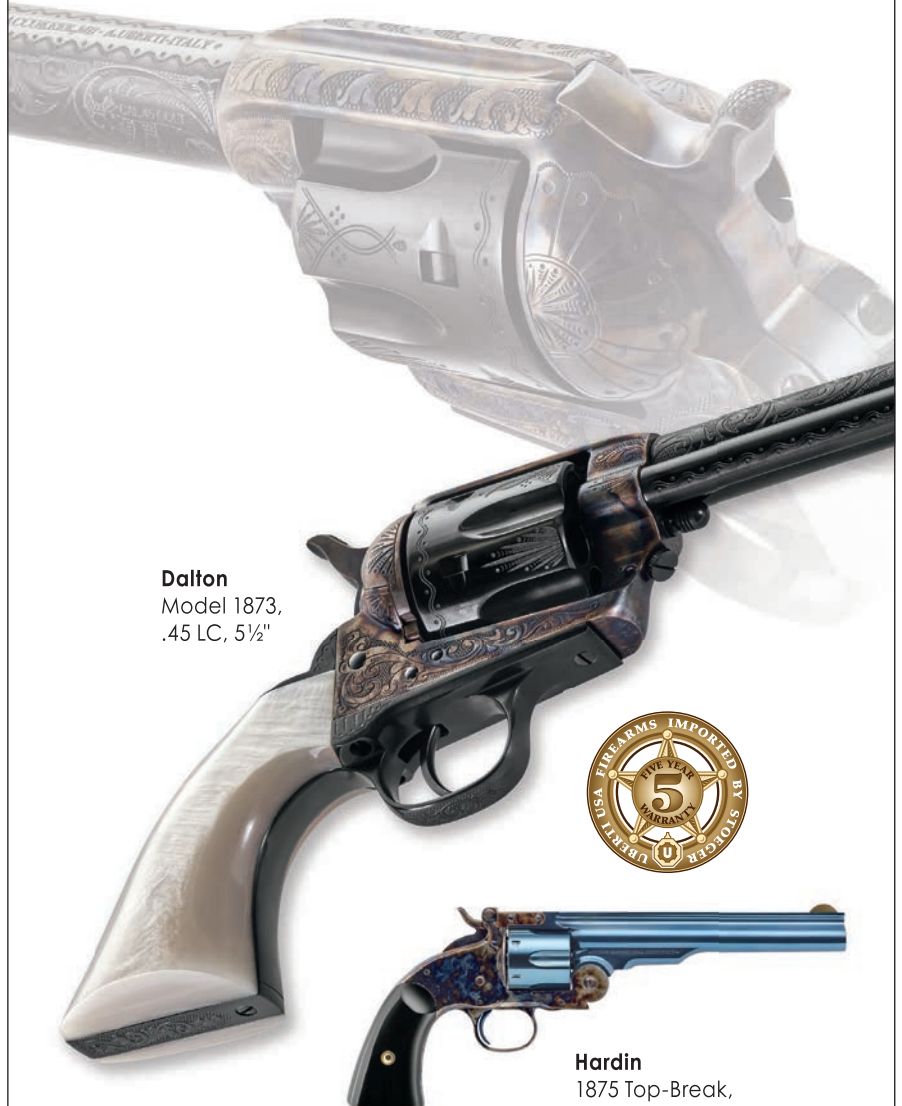
J. Guli, has been designing and custom crafting historical clothing for over 44 years, having produced carefully researched, early American leather clothing and accessories for museums, movies and other venues. He's costumed country and Western performers such as Randy Travis, and Cowboy Poet Waddie Mitchell. Other celebrity clients include Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and 2001's Miss Rodeo

America. His costuming has also been seen in Ted Danson's film *Made in America*, Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful 8* and the 1980 classic *The Mountain Men* starring Charlton

Heston. This westerner has long admired Guli's work and many of my living history friends proudly wear Michael J. Guli leather duds. For more information on Guli's custom leather clothing contact him at:

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 **Uberti USA.**  
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

BY WILLIAM GRONEMAN III

# LONE STAR DESTINY

*Two years before the fateful Battle of the Alamo, the storm clouds—and leaders—of a revolution gathered across Texas.*

Things looked up for William Barret Travis in the early months of 1834. The 24-year-old attorney had just set up his law practice in the town of San Felipe in the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, and struggled to get his life in order. South Carolina born, he had left home, wife, son and unborn daughter in Claiborne, Alabama, three years earlier and settled in Anahuac, Texas. He soon ran afoul of Mexican authorities there, involving himself in incidents that led to armed conflicts, later known as the Anahuac disturbances. Censured by cooler heads among settlers, he found it expedient to relocate to San Felipe.

Now, he received good news. His estranged wife agreed to send him his five-year-old son, Charles Edward, to raise. He wasted no time arranging for an adult to bring the boy from Alabama.

He also learned of the repeal of the Mexican Law of the sixth of April 1830, which restricted immigration to Texas from the United States, but encouraged it from the interior of Mexico and Europe. Because he'd arrived in the Tejas (Texas) portion of Coahuila y Tejas in 1831, the law's repeal provided him retroactive legality.

Travis's law practice and personal life flourished. He kept a diary, recording nearly every activity. The existing portion, August 30, 1833 to

June 26, 1834, reveals his devotion to detail. He recorded legal transactions, who he represented or opposed, including James Bowie and Stephen F. Austin. In addition, he kept track of his travels to and from San Felipe, some trips for business and others romantic. He documented purchases and sales; livestock, property, food, clothing, even down to a pair of socks. Some involved human beings, for others and himself. On Thursday, February 13, he recorded writing a bond for a J.W. Moore to the local sheriff, "indemnifying him to buy one Boy [sic] Joe belonging to Mansfield."

He spent time gambling, with winnings and losses listed in the diary. He also read, favoring heroic stories such as Jane Porter's *The Scottish Chiefs* about William Wallace, and Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*.

Kind and generous, in May Travis paid \$1 for a pair of shoes for the child of Johnathan C. Peyton. Peyton had died that month. In June he bought two books of J.B. Miller and sent them to the daughters of Dr. Pleasant W. Rose. In that same month he loaned a Padre Jaén \$2, borrowed a cot for the padre to move in with him, and took on the responsibility of his board at another location.

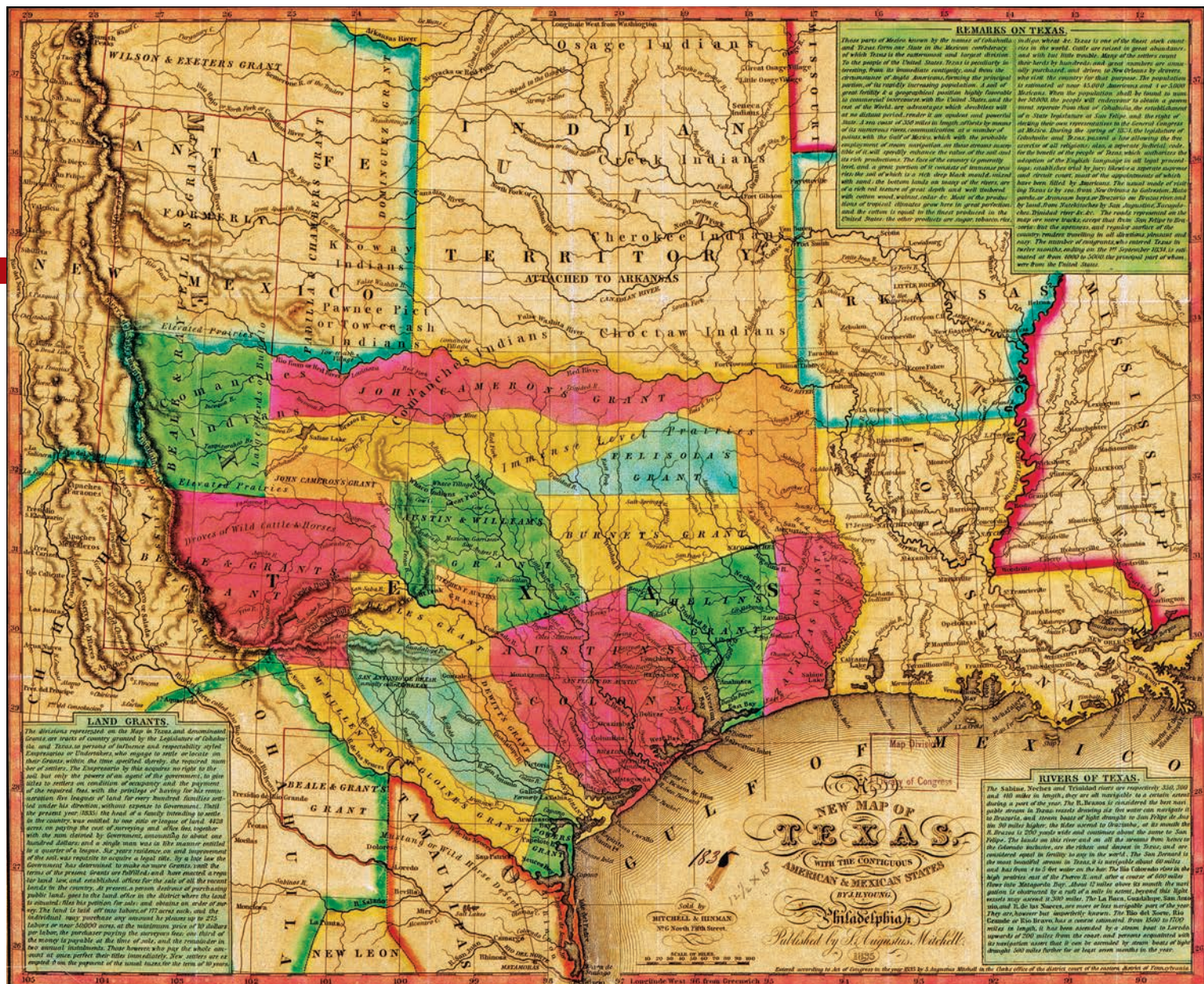
Sometimes brutal, Travis whipped "old Jack," a slave who had committed the sin of getting drunk.

Despite not yet being divorced, Travis entered into a relationship with Rebecca Cummings of Mill Creek. On March 9, he attempted to visit her but found Mill Creek flooded and the surrounding countryside too boggy to continue.



Lateral descendants of William Travis endorse this as the only authentic portrait of the Texas leader done from life. In 1834, the Texas pioneer attorney was settled in San Felipe, eager to begin a new life and family in the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas.

Courtesy Sally Mauck, Liz Case Pickens and Bob Sanders



"The first time I ever turned back in my life," he reported in his diary. However, he did not give up and the two exchanged gifts a few days later. He gave Rebecca a breast pin and took a lock of her hair, and she gave him a ring. By the end of April, he made plans to marry Rebecca as soon as his divorce became final.

Travis made one historical observation in his diary. He remembered January 8 as the "anniversary of the victory of New Orleans," which occurred while he was four and a half years old. Stories of Andrew Jackson and his rag-tag army of soldiers, volunteers, frontiersmen, citizens and pirates in

their stand against a superior force of the powerful British Army had made a lasting impression upon him.

### THE LEGEND FROM ARKANSAS

There were fewer men more respected on the Southwestern frontier in 1834 than 37-year-old James Bowie. Seven years earlier, on the Vidalia Sandbar in the Mississippi River, he established his reputation as a dangerous man. A duel between Samuel L. Wells III and Dr. Thomas H. Maddox ended with neither injured and their honors intact. However, the affair devolved into a brawl between supporters of the duelists, including

In 1835, a new official American map of Texas was published in accordance with the laws of the United States Congress. The detailed map illustrated Texas colonies and land grants, the Nueces River as the border between Texas and Mexico, the Indian Territory attached to Arkansas, and the Mexican state of New Mexico.

Courtesy Library of Congress

Bowie, aligned with Wells. Bowie took action, after being shot in the hip, by drawing a knife and charging into the fray. Despite being pistol-whipped over the head and stabbed in the chest with a cane sword, he dispatched his opponent with a knife thrust.

James Bowie, like Davy Crockett, earned public notoriety for his fighting spirit. In 1834, he returned to San Antonio after his family died in 1833 in a cholera epidemic in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico.

True West Archives



Bowie survived and always afterwards carried a large knife, which he may or may not have designed himself, but bearing his name. The “Bowie Knife” became the preferred hand weapon of the frontier.

Bowie became a Mexican citizen in Texas in 1830, when he entered in land-speculation business dealings with Juan Martin Veramendi, the vice-governor of Coahuila y Tejas. The following year he solidified his relationship with the powerful and wealthy Veramendi by marrying his 19-year-old daughter Ursula.

Marriage did not settle down Bowie. In 1831 he obtained permission from the Mexican government to enter Indian territory in search of a famed silver mine near the Santa Cruz San Sabá Mission west of San Antonio. His father-in-law and partner financed the expedition. Bowie set out with his brother Rezin (Reason) and nine companions in November. A large party of hostile Caddo Indians interrupted their search, and Bowie’s party took cover in a grove of trees. Negotiations failed and in the ensuing battle the treasure hunters stood off the Indians, inflicting a reported 40 to 50 men killed and 35 wounded. Bowie’s party lost one man killed and three wounded.

Rezin later published an account of the fight which only enhanced brother Jim’s reputation. For Jim Bowie, the lesson of a small group of determined men fighting off a much larger force could not have been lost on him.

In September 1833, Bowie’s wife and in-laws died of cholera in Monclova.

Historians still debate if one or two Bowie children may have died. Bowie, near death himself of yellow fever in Natchez, Mississippi, did not hear of his family’s deaths until November.

He returned to San Antonio in March 1834, and then lost himself on a “long hunt,” probably more in search of land than game, but could not escape his fame. Friend William Lacy later stated, “He was like Barnum’s show. Wherever he went everybody wanted to see him.”

After a period of grief, he got down to business again, much needed after the passing of Veramendi, and that business was land.

### **THE MAN FROM TENNESSEE**

Forty-seven-year-old David Crockett, popularly known as “Davy” throughout his life and afterward, served in

the middle of his third term as a United States Congressman from Tennessee in 1834. He had never adjusted to his duties in Washington City since first elected in 1827, serving in the 20th and 21st Congresses, defeated in the 22nd, but regaining his seat in the 23rd. He naively believed that he went to Congress to represent the people from his district, while President Andrew Jackson, also from Tennessee, believed he should fall in lockstep behind him along with the rest of the state’s delegation. He battled the President on every front, in 1834 the main issue being Jackson’s desire to remove funds from the Bank of United States. Crockett opposed him as he did on every issue.

He used descriptive terms for the President: “the government of one man,” “King Andrew the First” and “A greater tyrant than Cromwell Ceasar or Bonepart [sic].” It did not make for a peaceful legislative session.

Besides his official duties, Crockett dealt with a number of distractions, mostly involving his emergence as a celebrity. Since his entry into national politics, newspapers found the “Gentleman from Cane,” to be good copy; a hero in the National Democratic press when still aligned with Jackson, and a buffoon in the anti-Jackson papers. These perceptions reversed after he split with the Jackson camp and joined the newly formed Whig party.

A stage play, *The Lion of the West*, by James Kirke Paulding with a character, “Nimrod Wildfire,” based on Crockett in 1831, and a book, *Life and Adventures*

In early 1834, United States Congressman David Crockett, popularly known as Davy, was still serving his constituents in Tennessee, but he was unhappy with the politics of President Andrew Jackson and the possibility of a Martin Van Buren presidency.

Portrait by John Gadsby Chapman, Courtesy Library of Congress



*of Colonel David Crockett of West Tennessee* by James Strange French, brought him further into the public's eye.

The latter proved irksome to Crockett since he found it less than factual, and more so since someone else made money from his life's story. He resolved to do something about that, and in early 1834 made arrangements with a publishing firm, Carey and Hart of Philadelphia, for his own autobiography. With the help of Congressman Thomas Chilton of Kentucky, he sent a manuscript to the publishers by early February. Along with the manuscript he included many requests of a novice author, specifying print size, page count and stressing no corrections for spelling and grammar. He also wanted 10 copies as soon as possible.

In the midst of these heady times came a letter from "two citizens" from Lowndes County, Mississippi, seeking permission to put his name before the people as a candidate for the U.S. Presidency. He answered with a self-deprecating letter, but still wrote, "If you think you can run me as President, just go-ahead. I had a little rather not; but you talk so pretty I cannot refuse."

Besides the concerns of his book, and possibly running for President, Crockett prepared for a tour of Northeastern states arranged by the Whigs, which he undertook in late April. Earlier in the year he had written to his oldest son, John Wesley, about both the proposed trip and his book, planning to "never go home until I am able to pay my debts." Anxious to go, he left Washington before

the official end of the Congressional session, to which he looked forward as a "convict from a penatintary [sic]."

For political purposes he delivered variations of an anti-Jackson speech in Philadelphia, New York City, New Jersey, Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts. For his purposes he basked in celebrity, collected gifts, and publicized his new book. He enjoyed all aspects of his trip, but one experience stood out, his visit to Bunker Hill where 59 years earlier Continental troops faced a superior British force until driven from their position.

"We then went up to the old battleground on Bunker's hill [sic], where they are erecting a monument to those who fell in that daybreak battle of our rising glory. I felt as if I wanted to call them up, and ask them to tell me how to help to protect the liberty they bought for us

with their blood; but as I could not do so, I resolved, on that holy ground, as I had done elsewhere, to go for my country, always and everywhere."

For the rest of the year, Crockett harangued his publishers concerning his book, requesting information, sending friends to stop by their office and check on the progress, arranging for boxes of books to be sent places where he could bring them home to Tennessee, and for money.

His financial situation had become desperate. Never avaricious, he wrote to Nicholas Biddle that "[P]overty is no crime but it is attended with many inconveniences." He told Carey and Harte, "I can never need money worse that at the present," as he laid out

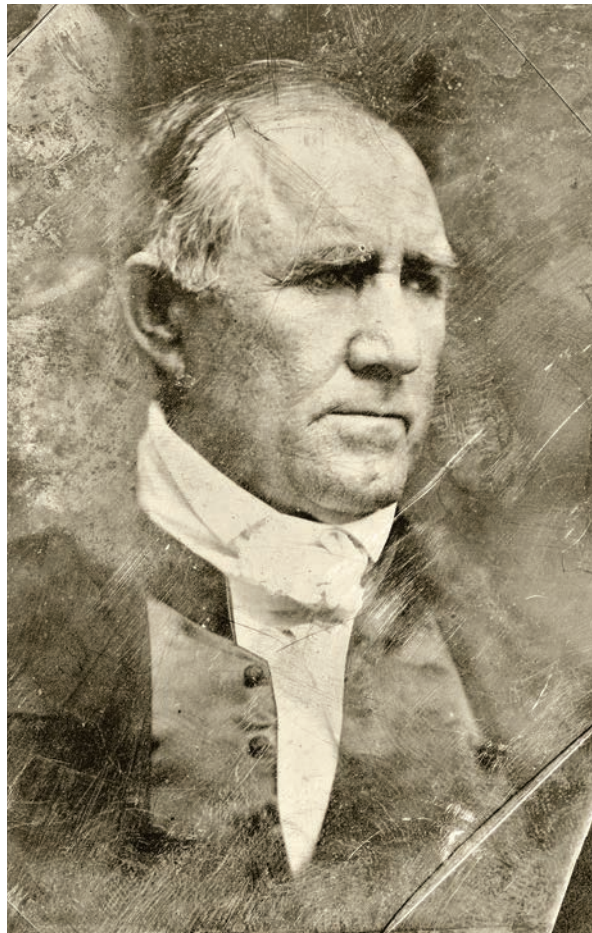
plans for another book, based on his trip to the north and east.

If Andrew Jackson presented Crockett with political problems, Martin Van Buren, Jackson's vice president and chosen successor, made him apoplectic. As with the president, he had some pet names for Van Buren—"the little political Judeas [sic]" and "a perfect scoundrel"—and stated he would prefer voting "for the devil against Van."

By December Crockett went on record several times writing to his son John and others that if Van Buren was elected to the presidency he would leave the United States before submitting to his government. He had already chosen a destination. He would, "go to the wildes [sic] of Texas [sic]." Why? "I do believe Santa Ana's [sic] Kingdom will be a paradise, compared with this, in a few years."

In 1832, Sam Houston traveled to the Mexican state of Texas for the first time, and the tour included a stop in San Felipe, which William B. Travis noted in his diary. Houston returned to the U.S. in 1833, but Texas had captured his imagination, and in 1834 the future Lone Star leader returned and settled in the Mexican state.

Courtesy Library of Congress



## THE RAVEN

Sam Houston had lived a full life by the time he involved himself in Texas affairs. Virginia born and Tennessee raised, he had been promoted to an officer from the ranks in the United States Army, receiving three severe wounds at the 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend against the Creek Indians. As a protégé of Andrew Jackson, he served as a two-term Congressman from Tennessee, and later as Governor of the state. When his marriage failed in 1829, he went into self-exile among the Cherokee Indian tribe, in which he had been an adopted member since 1809. After drowning his sorrow in drink and earning the name of “Big Drunk,” he slowly reconnected with his previous life, returning to Tennessee, Washington and New York.

He entered Texas for the first time on December 2, 1832, not settling but traveling through, monitoring the political situation between the Mexican government and settlers, and evaluating the land’s potential.

William B. Travis’s diary recorded Houston’s presence in San Felipe on December 15. By February 13, 1833, Houston wrote to Jackson, with barely controlled excitement, inaccurately describing Mexico as involved in “Civil War [sic]...powerless and penniless,” predicting the transfer of Texas to some power, perhaps England, “[I]f the United States doesn’t press for it.” He informed Jackson that Texans would soon form a convention to declare all of the country north of the Rio Grande as “Texas proper, and form a state constitution,” with his

expectations at being part of that convention. Lastly, he assured the president, “I may make Texas my abiding place! [but] I will never forget the country of my birth.”

The 40-year-old Houston kept tabs on Texas even at long distance. In February 1834, while in Washington D.C., he received a letter informing him that Texas colonizer Stephen F. Austin had been imprisoned in Mexico for treason. A short time later, in New York City, he declined an offer from James Prentiss, also in New York, seeking to secure his services in Texas land dealings. Houston replied:

“I am not, nor have I ever been engaged, by any land Company, Grantee [sic], or any other person engaged or interested in Texas lands. I have not sought to be engaged, nor am anxious on the subject of being employed as counsel, or agent of any company.”

Then, he went on to specify his monetary requirements if a land company sought his services.

He soon left New York, returning to Washington, only to discover he had left behind a map at the City Hotel. He wrote to Prentiss asking him to secure the map, send it to a Senator Felix Grundy from whom he would retrieve it. “I can’t do without it,” he wrote of the map, very likely that of Texas.

While awaiting its arrival, Houston spent some time with Davy Crockett before the Congressman embarked on his Northeast tour, perhaps speaking to him of Texas’ potential. He also invited him to visit writer and socialite Octavia Walton, both adding their names to those of other prominent figures in Walton’s autograph book.

Houston received his much-needed map from Prentiss and wrote to him, “I do think within one year that it [Texas] will be a Sovereign State [sic]... Within three years I think it will be separated from the Mexican confederacy, and will remain so forever.”

On April 25, as Crockett headed northeast, Houston turned southwest and dropped from the record. In December, British travel writer G. W. Featherstonhaugh discovered him at the Travelers Inn, in Washington, Arkansas, an important crossroads from the United States to Texas, 20 miles beyond. He also found there, “[M]any people... from the States...whose real object was to encourage the settlers in Texas to throw off their allegiance to the Mexican Government.” Houston isolated himself during the day and stayed up during the night, perhaps studying his map.

Stephen F. Austin was incarcerated in Mexico City for most of 1834. His future and the fate of his peers Bowie, Crockett, Houston and Travis became more and more apparent with rising tensions between settlers and the Mexican government.

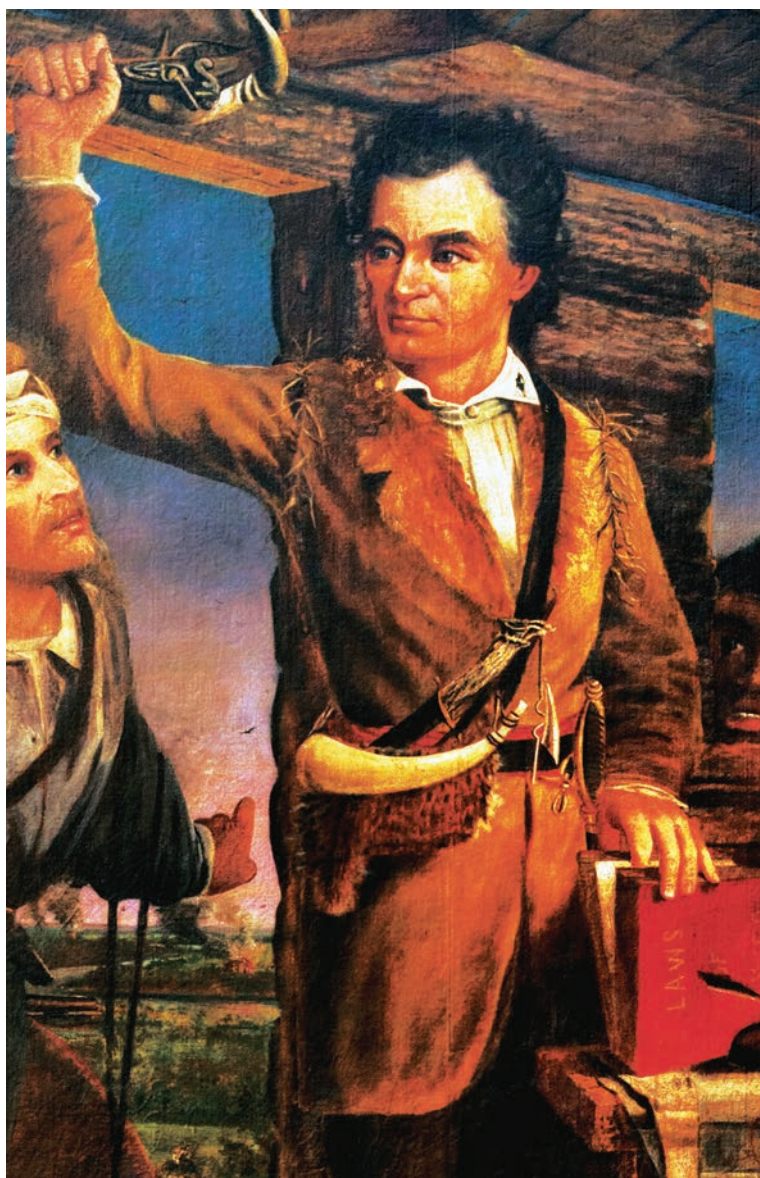
Courtesy Library of Congress

## THE FOUNDER

No one had a more vested interest in Texas, nor more time to contemplate that interest in 1834 than 40-year-old Stephen Fuller Austin. He had come to Texas in 1821, reluctantly taking over his late father's role as an Empresario in setting up a colony in the territory. In that he proved successful, working closely with the Spanish and then Mexican governments to ensure the continuation of his colony and the rights of his colonists. During the December 1826 to January 1827 "Fredonia Rebellion," in which another Empresario, Haden Edwards, sought to wrest his own colony from Mexico, Austin loyally sided with Mexico to bring the rebellion to an end.

He often traveled to Mexico City to represent the concerns of his people to the ever-changing Mexican governments. He went once again in July 1833 to petition the government for his colony's latest concern, granting Texas statehood from the larger Coahuila y Tejas. He had some success, as in the repeal of the Law of April 1830, but not with the question of statehood. Texas had not the required population to justify its separation from Coahuila.

Frustrated, Austin wrote a letter on October 2 to the governing body in San Antonio de Béxar urging them to begin laying out plans for a separate state



government. Either Mexican officials intercepted this message, or those in San Antonio made it known to them.

Austin left Mexico City on December 10 but never made it home. Mexican authorities arrested him in Saltillo in January 1834 for the charge of citing an insurrection and sent him back to Mexico City, incarcerating him in the Spanish Inquisition prison.

He suffered in solitary confinement with poor food for months, his only visitors Irish priest Father Michael Muldoon, and his legal counsel, who changed several times. In May, officials freed him from solitary and allowed him into the

prison's general population. On December 25 he received the Christmas gift of limited freedom, released from the prison but confined to the Federal District of the Mexican capital.

As 1834 came to a close, Austin, Bowie, Crockett, Houston and Travis contemplated their futures, with Texas the common denominator in those futures.



Former New York City Fire Department Capt. **William Groneman**, a sustaining member of Western Writers of America, writes about the Alamo, Davy Crockett, John Steinbeck, and the FDNY. His latest book, a novel, is *The Minstrel Boy*.

BY CHRIS ENSS

# THE DOCTOR WAS A WOMAN

**With her black bag  
in hand,  
Dr. Sofie Herzog  
broke all barriers  
as a female  
frontier physician  
in Texas.**

The gunshot victim occupying a room in Dr. Sofie Herzog's office winced in pain while struggling to remain still. His discomfort was not entirely due to the bullet lodged in his abdomen but in the uncomfortable position the Brazoria, Texas, physician had him placed. The lower half of the man's body had been raised with his ankles fastened to a horizontal pole. The upper portion of his body was flat against the mattress. Dr. Herzog's procedure for removing bullets and buckshot were unconventional but had proven to be successful. It had been her personal experience that probing the wound in search of the bullet with a surgical instrument was detrimental to the patient. If, indeed, she had to do any probing at all, she preferred to use her fingers, but that was only a last resort. After tending to more than a dozen gunshot wounds, the doctor had learned the most effective way to deal with such an injury was to let gravity do the work. When the victim's body was elevated, the bullet often found its way to the surface for easy extraction.

Dr. Herzog's reputation for the treatment of gunshot sufferers spread rapidly throughout the region in the 1890s. Her



Dr. Sofie Herzog may have been born in Austria-Hungary, but no one would have accused her of not being as tough as any cowboy she cured of disease, injury or gunshot wound.

Courtesy Chris Enss

talents were in constant demand. When she'd removed more than 20 bullets from outlaws and lawmen alike, she had a necklace made from the slugs with gold links to separate each projectile.

Sofie Deligath was born on February 4, 1846, in Austria-Hungary. The precocious young woman eventually followed her father's example and pursued a career as a physician. At the age of 14, before she fully realized it was possible for a woman to become a doctor, she married a prominent Viennese physician named August Herzog. Between 1861 and 1880, Sofie gave birth to 15 children, among them three sets of

twins. She lost eight of her children to various illnesses while they were still infants.

August accepted a position with the United States Navy hospital in 1866 and moved his family to New York City. While caring for her home, children and husband, Sofie decided to study medicine. Training for women in the profession in the states was limited to midwifery. The aspiring doctor not only took advantage of those limited courses but also traveled to Vienna to attend school. The stigma of women learning medicine was less controversial in Austria.

Armed with a certification in midwifery in 1871, Sofie returned to the U.S. and began practicing medicine. She continued her education in the states, receiving a degree in 1894 from the Eclectic Medical College. She worked as both a midwife and physician on the East Coast until her children were grown and her husband passed away in 1895.

Dr. Herzog traveled west shortly after her husband's passing. The couple's youngest daughter was living in Brazoria, Texas. Sofie decided to make her home and open a practice there after spending time with her daughter, son-in-law and her grandchildren. She adapted quickly to her new surroundings, which were wild and rustic compared to where she had lived and worked in New Jersey. Brazoria was an agricultural town. Sugar and cotton mills provided the bulk of the employment and income for the region. Federal soldiers, Northerners, foreign immigrants, Confederate soldiers from Texas and the South, ambitious businessmen



Alvin, Texas, like its neighbor Brazoria, Texas, depended economically on the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway for freight and passenger service. As the popular "Brownie's" railroad physician, Dr. Sofie Herzog would have been very familiar with Alvin and the many towns along the Gulf Coast railroad.

Courtesy DeGolyer Library Digital Collection, SMU

and desperados filtered in and out of the location, and many of the disputes that erupted because of combative, unruly individuals were settled with six-shooters.

Patients without gunshot wounds who couldn't make it into town to see a doctor depended on physicians traveling to them. Dr. Herzog made her way to homesteads and farms across the rugged trails on horseback. Those who objected to a woman being a doctor quickly set their biases aside when they were stricken with pneumonia or needed a broken bone mended. Adorned in a split-skirt and black coat, with a man's top hat covering her short hair, the 50-year-old physician visited the sick and hurting in and around Brazoria.

Dr. Herzog was not only the sole female physician in town, but she also served as the pharmacist. She always had ingredients at the ready to mix laxatives, treat malaria, check diarrhea or help with upset stomachs, migraines and hemorrhoids. The

residents of Brazoria trusted the lady medic and fondly referred to her as Dr. Sofie. She made history in 1897 when she became the first woman to join the South Texas Medical Association. Six years later, she made history again when she became the first woman to be elected vice president of the organization.

In the spring of 1904, the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway began work on expanding the line that ran from Brownsville, Texas, to Houston, Texas. Hundreds of railroad employees filtered into the area to survey land and

lay track for trains bound for Brazoria and surrounding communities. Dr. Herzog was frequently summoned to tend to the railroad workers along the line who were either sick or injured. Railroad executives soon recognized a designated physician needed to be added to the payroll, and they offered the job to Herzog. She accepted the position as "railroad surgeon," but, before she officially began work, she re-

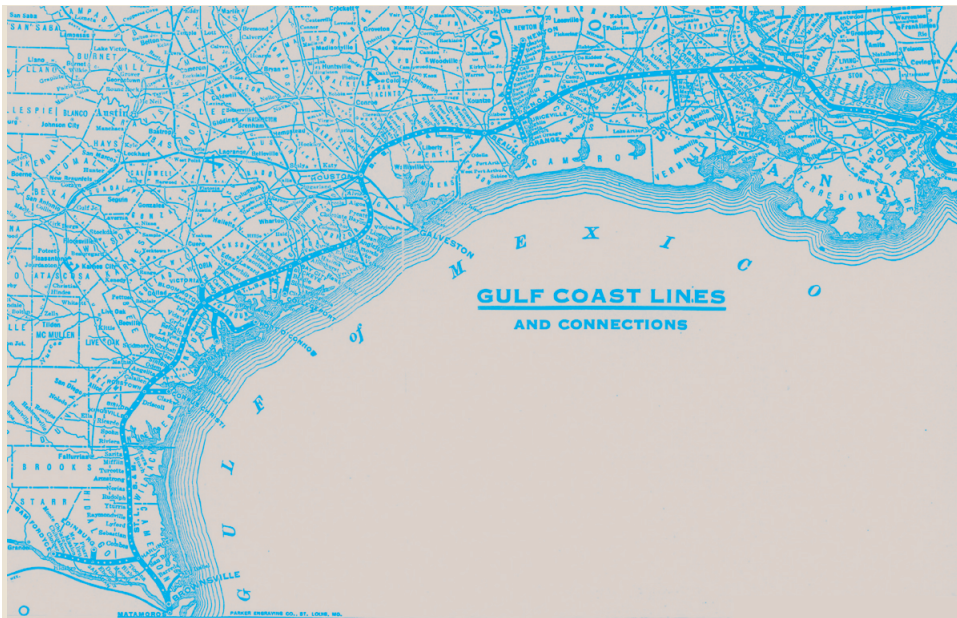
ceived a telegram from the board of directors of the line. Hiring a woman doctor seemed inappropriate to the railroad executives. They politely offered Herzog a way out, letting her know how understanding they would be if she reconsidered taking the job because it wasn't suitable for a lady. Dr. Herzog responded with a telegram that assured the gentlemen she was up to the task and that her gender wasn't a factor. She let them know she'd only step down if they fired her for not doing the work. No more discussion was had on the subject in the 20 years she was employed with the railroad.

An article about the headstrong and accomplished doctor and her work with the railroad appeared in the January 4, 1910, edition of the *El Paso Herald*. "No railroad surgeon in the country is prouder of the title than is Dr. Sophie [sic] Herzog of Brazoria, Texas, who is the only woman in the United States to enjoy that distinction," the report read. "Dr. Herzog has been a practicing physician in this country for nearly 20 years, the formative years of her American career having been spent in New York state. When she moved to Texas, her fame as a surgeon soon spread, and her reputation reached the ears of men backing the construction of the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexican railroad, and she was employed as the official railroad physician. She has been retained in that capacity ever since.

"No matter what time of day or night she is needed, Dr. Herzog leaves her home for the scene of railroad accidents or other trouble. Freight cars, 'wildcat' engines, and handcars alike have been her mode of transportation when haste was necessary, for she does not balk at

**"An eccentric individual with an independent spirit, Dr. Herzog pushed the boundaries of proper societal behavior for women...."**

—Inscription on the Texas Historical Commission Marker for Dr. Sofie Herzog, 2018



The St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway opened for business in 1904, and soon thereafter Dr. Sofie Herzog was hired as the "railroad surgeon." She was the first woman to hold the position for an American railway.

True West Archives

A widely circulated newspaper article about Dr. Herzog's career in January 1911 noted that in the last 10 years the well-known physician had had many offers of marriage. When the reporter asked for a picture to accompany the published article and told Sofie he was going to mention the proposals she had received, she replied, "If you can find a husband for me, I can support one. He need not do anything except call me 'honey' and 'sugar plum.'"

We don't know if a band ever greeted Dr. Sofie Herzog upon her arrival in Alvin or one of the dozens of towns she served as the SL, B&M railroad surgeon, but by 1914 she did trade in her horse and buggy for a Ford Runabout.

Courtesy DeGolyer Library Digital Collection, SMU

any conveyance when it gets her to her destination in a hurry."

Although Herzog was employed by the railroad, she continued to maintain her own practice. Not only did she treat those suffering with everything from deep cuts to pneumonia, she was also intent on finding cures for more serious ailments such as smallpox. Her office was in her daughter and son-in-law's home until her son-in-law learned Dr. Herzog was treating people with highly contagious diseases there. He did not want to run the risk of his wife, children or himself getting infected, so he asked Sofie to leave. The doctor then opened a clinic near the railroad. The building was large enough for her practice and included an examination room, waiting room, a pharmacy and her living quarters.

Dr. Herzog's office was unique because, in addition to the usual elements found in a medical practice, the pharmacy area looked more like a mercantile. The doctor had several items on display for sale including postcards, lace doilies, walking canes and tonics she made herself. Among the ordinary merchandise

was a collection of oddities that sparked Sofie's fascination such as taxidermy animals, snake skins, antlers and bear rugs. She also had an enormous collection of books and invited citizens of Brazoria to borrow any title they wanted at any time.

Dr. Herzog's interests were varied. She briefly ventured into real estate, opening the Jefferson Hotel on October 9, 1908. Her desire to maintain historic burial places led to her supplying the funds to build Brazoria's first Episcopal church and cemetery.



Dr. Herzog accepted Col. Marion Huntington's invitation to be his wife in the spring of 1913. Before the pair was married on August 23 of that same year, Sofie had a prenuptial agreement drafted and signed by her future husband. Their marriage certificate is proof Sofie wanted to maintain her independence after the couple was wed. She insisted the document read Mr. Marion Huntington and Dr. Sofie Herzog. Sofie was 67 when she married for the second time.

Shortly after Sofie and Marion were wed, she traded her horse and buggy for an automobile. For the duration of her career, she made the rounds to see her patients in a Ford Runabout.

Dr. Sofie Herzog Huntington died of a stroke at a hospital in Houston on July 21, 1925, at the age of 79. The beloved physician was laid to rest wearing the necklace she had made from bullets she had extracted from gunfighters in Brazoria.



**Chris Enss** is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has been writing about women of the Old West for more than 30 years. "The Doctor Was A Woman" is an excerpt from her most recent work, *The Doctor Was a Woman: Stories of the First Female Physicians on the Frontier* (TwoDot, 2024).



At nearly 50 years old, Dr. Sofie Herzog opened her general medical practice in her daughter's adopted hometown of Brazoria, Texas, in 1895, and served the community as both doctor and pharmacist until her passing in 1926.

Courtesy Chris Enss

## Gunshot Wounds

By Sofie Herzog, M.D., Brazoria, Texas

The term "gunshot wound" is applied generally to all injuries inflicted by missiles [sic], whatever their character, whose force is derived from the explosive power of gunpowder, but as we have had most to do with those whose caliber range from 22 to 45, I will only speak of removing and repairing this kind of injuries. I will especially describe what I do when I am called to a person who has been shot and the result of the injury.

The country physicians have many shooting calls, as no-goods shoot every chance they have. Accidental shooting is seldom. When I have arrived, I inquire how the shooting was done, position of the person, distance, Winchester, or pistol. I never probe. I desire that the bullet shall come to me, and I've never failed to get it. I have lived in Brazoria for 22 months, and, during this time, I have been called in 15 times to remove bullets and twice for shot. I got the bullet out every time and never lost a case.

I first insert my finger in the entrance made by the bullet with forward motion in the direction which the bullet had taken, and I nearly always find it this way, because wherever the bullet goes there is pain. The principal thing is to know the position of the patient when the bullet entered the body. I do not touch the wound, and if I cannot find the bullet with my finger, if possible, I wait. I put the patient on the side corresponding to the entrance of the wound, and in this way, I never fail to get it because the heavy weight of the bullet gravitates to the wound entrance. If the bullet entered the abdomen, I put the patient in a hanging position so that the back is upwards, and the bullet will, by its own weight, come out this way. I had two calls of this kind—one, that of a .22 and in the other a .38 caliber. The first, a boy 14 years old, shot himself while cleaning a pistol. The bullet entered the abdomen half an inch below the umbilicus. I was called one hour later, after another doctor had failed to locate the bullet. There was slight hemorrhage. I closed the wound with absorbing cotton, then put the patient in a hanging position, two inches above the bed. Twenty-four hours later, I removed the cotton with a quick pull, and the bullet fell out with the cotton. The boy was well in one week.

The other case was that of a man twenty-eight years old. He was shot in the abdomen one and a half inches to the left of the umbilicus. I treated him the same way as I did the boy, and, the next day, I removed the bullet without trouble.

To see if my treatments were right, I probed the third call of this kind which I had with the "Feuhrer" probe. I could feel the bullet, but, when I went to remove it, the bullet slipped out of the way, and I failed to get it. The man died. I made an incision where the bullet had gone to see where it stopped, and I found that it had been pushed out of the way by the probe.

The repair of the gunshot wound is often disturbed by foreign matter, such as [a] portion of clothing, gun wadding, etc. Severe hemorrhage seldom occurs, especially, as arteries and veins are not injured because of their nonresistance and elasticity; they are frequently pushed aside. There is one thing I want to say—if ever you have to deal with shot wounds, abdominal, never let the bowels come out, as your patient may be lost. I have had severe cases, but all were out on the twelfth day. If you come to Brazoria, I will show you my seventeen men who are well and ready to shoot as well as to be shot at any time.

My treatment is, after I know the location of the bullet, to give hypodermatic [sic] injections of cocaine. I make the incision according to the hole in the skin. Never make a long incision in the face or neck – always make it according to the wrinkles and folds, because the wound heals quicker, it prevents scars, while it will not be so disagreeable and looks better. After the removal of the bullet, I make one or two stitches, fill the cavity with acetanilide, cover with absorbing cotton, and bandage the wound up. I do the same with the wound of entrance; after three days, I remove the dressing and close only the entrance; the exit I leave open, but dust with acetanilide.

BY JEB ROSEBROOK WITH BOB BOZE BELL AND STUART ROSEBROOK

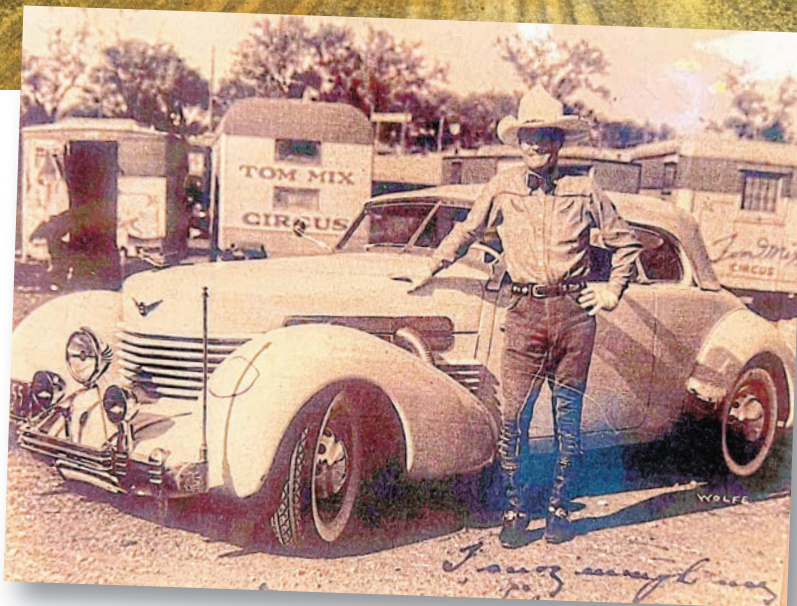
# THE DAY TOM MIX DIED

## What really happened on that lonely stretch of highway?

**TOM MIX** had the pedal to the metal on his bright-yellow Cord Phaeton sports car as he barreled along the dirt road from Oracle Junction toward Florence, Arizona. He was in the midst of a cross-country driving tour, and he had big plans for recharging his flagging circus and movie career. Mix had the supercharged Cord at 80 miles an hour and his siren blaring that Saturday afternoon when he passed two Midwestern boys driving north on the unpaved stretch of U.S. Highway 80-89. The promise of the day—and the future—lay ahead of him across the beautiful desert.

Author-screenwriter **Jeb Rosebrook** was a contributor to *True West* for many years and had started his feature on Tom Mix when he passed away on August 31, 2018. Rosebrook was a fan of Mix, the Straight Shooters and Ralston's Wheat Chex but would probably tell you that Gene Autry was his all-time Western hero. He shared his passion for the West and Tom Mix with his son, **Stuart Rosebrook**, and his great friend, **Bob Boze Bell**.

Witnesses said they heard a roar of a fast-moving car, kicking up a rooster tail of dust.



Tom Mix brought his 1937 Cord 812 Supercharged Phaeton on the road with him during the circus season of 1937-1938.

Courtesy Bob White Collection

All Photos and Artwork Courtesy True West Archives and Bob Boze Bell Unless Otherwise Noted



**“When I come home I will come home by way of Prescott and see you all,  
as you know my heart always leans towards old Yavapai.”**

—Tom Mix, in a letter from Denmark to Grace and Lester Ruffner of Prescott, Arizona, July 26, 1939



## The First Superhero

According to Arizona historian Marshall Trimble, Tom Mix was “America’s First Superhero.” “Mix’s movies were pure frolic and delight,” says Trimble. “He was the man in the white hat who rode into town and battled the bad guys. The films were loaded with fistfights, slapstick stunts and pretty ladies, and to the relief of his adolescent fans, Mix seldom rode off into the sunset with any of them.”

By 1917, the Pennsylvania-born Western star was contracted to Fox Studios in Hollywood. Mix eventually made over \$17,000 a week, lived in a custom-built Beverly Hills mansion drove fast, expensive cars, including a 1927 Rolls-Royce Phantom 1. He and his wonder horse Tony were international box-office stars of the silent screen, and before the introduction of talking pictures and the stock market crash in 1929, Mix’s fame and fortune seemed to have no end.

## Humble Roots

So how did the boy from Mix Run, Pennsylvania, become the most world-renowned Western actor?

Like many American celebrities before and after the superstar cowboy hero, Mix rose to fame on a recipe of audacious courage, serendipity, luck and talent. It was anything but easy, but Mix never liked doing anything easy, as he proved again and again in his action-filled pictures. As Gene Autry once said, “Could anyone have written a character more colorful than Mix?”

Mix’s life story started on January 6, 1880. He was the third of four children



Courtesy FBO Pictures, 1928

of Edwin and Elizabeth Mix. His father managed the stables for a local family, and Tom took to horses at an early age. In 1898, he volunteered for the Army, hoping to see action in the Spanish-American War. Instead, he served at a series of posts in the East until 1902, when Sgt. Tom Mix, recently married to Grace Allin, drove away from his post at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and never returned.

## Westward Ho!

The AWOL soldier went to the Indian Territory and didn’t return to the East until he rode in President Theodore Roosevelt’s inaugural parade in 1905.

By that time he was on wife number 2, Kitty Jewel Perrine, and was honing his cowboy skills as a hand and performer with the famous Miller Brothers 101 Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma. According to Mix authority Jeff Arnold, “One of his duties was telling ‘windies’ to gullible tourists, and tall tales became part of his repertoire.” Mix’s own storytelling and that of overeager publicists created for the fearless Mix an imaginary and overly heroic military and law enforcement history that has been well-repeated during the eight decades since his passing.

Divorced from Perrine in 1906, the single, fun-loving cowboy



Child actor Michael D. Moore (right) costarred with Tom Mix in William Fox’s *No Man’s Gold* in 1925.

Courtesy Fox Films

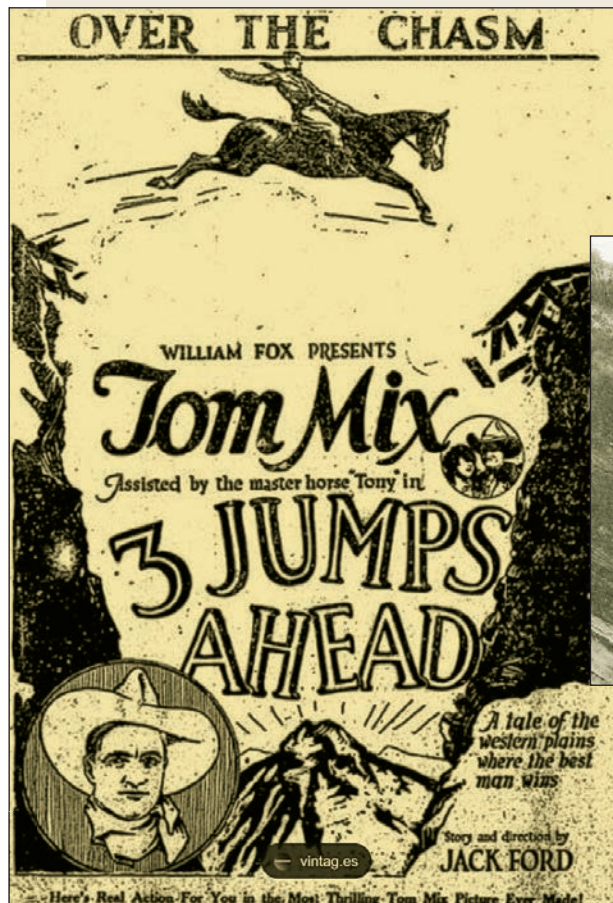
# DID TOM MIX ACTUALLY MAKE THE JUMP?

went West in 1909, to test his riding, roping and rodeo skills in the Prescott, Arizona, Frontier Days Rodeo. His cowboy skills soon caught the attention of a young Hollywood producer, William Selig, who would make Tom Mix a star. Also in 1909, a red-letter year for the cowboy, Mix fell in love with and married his third wife, Olive Stokes.

## Fearless and Bold

Mix's first picture for Selig Polyscope was *The Cowboy Millionaire*. From 1909 to 1917, the boy from Mix Run starred in over 236 Selig pictures, many made on location in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

In 1913, Mix starred in his first Prescott, Arizona, Western for Selig. He was the villain "Apache Frank" in *The Sheriff of Yavapai County*. He and Olive were also the grand marshals of the

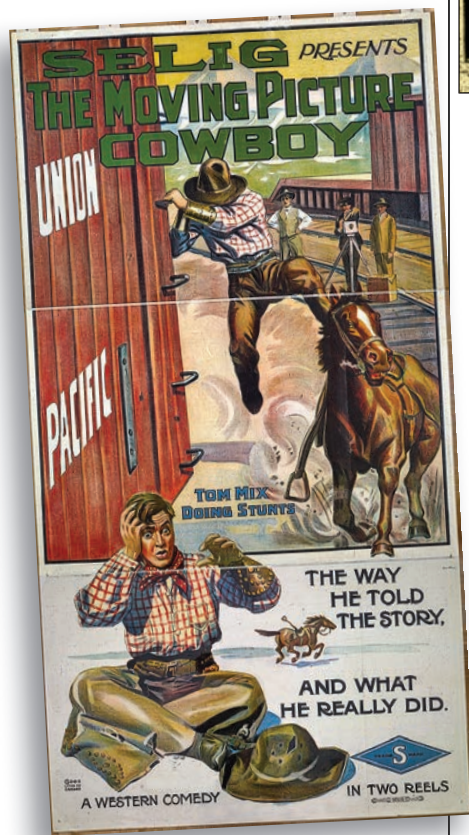


Images Courtesy Fox Films, 1923



Tom Mix on Tony in a publicity still for the movie *3 Jumps Ahead*.

The 50-minute film was written and directed by Jack Ford, better known as John Ford.



Courtesy Library of Congress, 1914

This photograph is very controversial. Some say it has been faked, while others say the stunt was actually done and captured on film. (The film has been lost, but one author claims he has seven frames of the contentious jump.) One faction asserts that a stunt double did the jump. Others say Tom would never have stood by while someone else did it for him. I agree with that! Still, to my eye, it seems a little too good to be true—horse and rider seem a tad small for the scale—but more than a few historians believe the two—Tom and Tony—actually made the jump. Whether it was faked, or not, one thing is certain: Tom Mix was famous for actually doing hairy stunts that were every bit as ridiculous. And, it was that very personality trait and attitude that later got him killed. —BBB

***"The Old West is not a certain place in a certain time, it's a state of mind. It's whatever you want it to be."***

—Tom Mix

annual Frontier Days Parade, and he won the first steer-riding event ever held at the rodeo.

Soon he was ready for the spotlight and the production company sent him to California to get more experience. In 1915, the actor returned to his beloved Prescott, where he made another 30-plus Westerns for Selig

Polyscope. His home was the Bar Circle A Ranch (today's Yavapai Hills).

After Prescott, Mix went on to be a big star for Fox Film Corporation, but he never forgot his "hometown" and its famed Fourth of July Frontier Days, returning in 1920 to film the rodeo for scenes in his film *The Texan*.

Tom Mix's lavish mansion at 1018 Summit Drive in Beverly Hills, California, was built in 1924. Mix famously hosted big parties at his Beverly Hills home and his Catalina Island retreat, where he had his initials in lights on the roof.

## You'll Never See Tom Mix Again

On Columbus Day, October 12, 1940, the sun came up over Tucson, Arizona, where Tom Mix was a guest of the Santa Rita Hotel, a favorite of his. According to *The Arizona Star*, the film star was in town for "one of his periodic visits to the Old Pueblo." The weather was cool in the early morning hours, fair and sunny. The desert would warm to chamber-of-commerce 80 degrees. Mix must have welcomed the warmth and the promise of a beautiful drive north in his convertible sports car. He was rebuilding his career in film and circuses, and the cool, dry desert morning held the promise of a good day ahead. He needed it.

## Swinging on a Star

Twenty years before Tom Mix loaded up his supercharged Cord for his fateful drive north from Tucson to Florence, the Western hero was one of the highest-paid movie stars in the world.



In the mid-1920s he built his opulent Beverly Hills mansion for his fourth wife, Victoria Forde, and their daughter, Thomasina. Mix was under contract to Fox Studios, and in 1924 he made *The Heart Buster*, his 50th feature for William Fox, which, *The Oakland Post Enquirer* reported, "establishes a production mark which stands unequalled in the history of the photoplay. Making this record the more remarkable, Mix has never made a failure."

During the Roaring Twenties, the actor was always working, starring in more than 160 films. He even built a 12-acre set at Fox's Edendale lot in Los Angeles; he dubbed it Mixville. In 1928, after a dozen years under contract to William Fox, Mix left the studio that made him a millionaire many times over. Critics were bored with his pictures, and Mix sought greener pastures. He was desperate for good reviews

and signed for half his usual salary with Joseph Kennedy's FBO Pictures. Kennedy and Mix were not a good match. He made five low-budget films, the last of which he completed in January 1929, the same month he was a pall bearer at Wyatt Earp's funeral. He would not make another movie for three years.

## Under the Big Tent

Tom Mix was unequivocally the Western king of silent films. But when talkies took over in the late 1920s, Mix was not ready to adapt to the new medium. He was a showman; he loved the adulation, the roar of the crowd and the moviemaking style he had enjoyed for two decades. And he loved the exhilaration, the adrenaline of the stunts. He was a born thrill-seeker who was unafraid of putting himself in

harm's way for the good of the picture. But Mix was famous for drawing the line in the sand when it came to his heroic onscreen image: he would not lose a fight (he did once, and never did it again), he would not



In 1924, Claire Adams (left) costarred with Tom Mix in *Oh, You Tony!*

Courtesy Fox Pictures



Courtesy Fox Pictures

ride off into the sunset with the girl and he would not play guitar and sing. Ever!

From 1929 to 1932, Tom Mix toured with the Sells-Floto Circus. Life on the road, under the Big Top, should have been the best of times for the Western star. But in 1929, his fourth wife Victoria couldn't stop spending money; the IRS accused him of tax evasion; and in October the stock market crashed. Mix was nearly bankrupt. Only his reported \$15,000-a-week salary from the circus kept him afloat—but that wouldn't last.



Tom Mix posed with his cowboys and cowgirls while on tour with the Sells-Floto Circus in 1931.

Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

### Straight Shooting

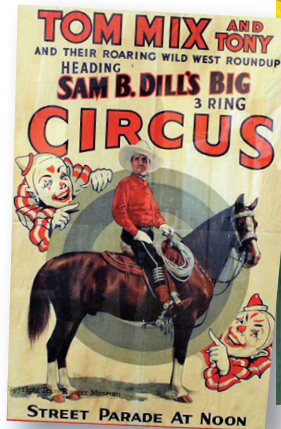
In 1932, Tom Mix again heeded the siren call of the silver screen and marriage. He had divorced Victoria in 1930, then met and married his fifth and final wife, Mabel Hubbell Ward. Universal Pictures' Carl Laemmle offered him a deal that would make him their top Western star in talking pictures. While back in the saddle, making horse operas for Universal in the San Fernando Valley,

Ralston Purina made a deal with the Western hero to lend his name to a new radio series, *Tom Mix Ralston Straight Shooters*. The show debuted on NBC radio on September 25, 1933. The shows were 15 minutes long and aired three times a week. The show was broadcast worldwide, and his young fans joined the Straight Shooter Club by the millions. Ralston even created a Sunday morning comic strip that sold Ralston's Shredded Wheat Chex and Tom Mix comic books.

Mix's experiment with talking pictures ended in 1935. His body was tired, and old injuries from nearly 30 years of doing his own stunts had caught up with him. Mix left Universal after a year, bone-weary, tired and sick. He turned back to the circus. Mix was soon touring under the banner, *Tom Mix Wild West and Sam Dill Circus (Combined)*. The entertainer was now in control of his own destiny. In February 1935, Dill died, and Mix bought out his heirs. In need of fast cash, Mix made a deal with Mascot's Nat Levine for a 15-part serial. He would be paid \$40,000 for four weeks' work. *The Miracle Rider* would be his only serial and final work on celluloid.

### King of the Cowboys

From 1935 to 1940, Mix focused all his time and finances on his *Tom Mix Circus and Wild West*. The Ralston Straight Shooters radio program was popular



Circus poster, True West Archives/Movie Poster Courtesy Universal Pictures

across the U.S. and Canada and could be heard on shortwave radio broadcasts overseas. In the late 1930s, Mix fought alcoholism, smaller crowds and financial hardships. He faced lawsuits from his fourth wife, Victoria, and money was a constant problem. After a dismal summer circus season of 1938, Mix went



In *Eyes of the Forest*, Tom Mix climbed off Tony onto the biplane flown by his friend and famous stunt pilot Dick Grace.

Courtesy Fox Pictures, 1923

with his horse Tony and two other performers to England in September for a 20-week tour. Later, he signed with the famous Danish troupe, Circus Belli, which he toured with in Europe in the summer of 1939.

And then the war broke out on September 1, 1939.



# THE MYSTERY OF THE WARNING

## Why did Tom Mix not see the barrier and road signs?

### Washed Up and Washed Out

Western pulp writer Walt Colburn wrote up the death of Tom Mix for our sister publication, *Frontier Times*, and he described the death scene this way: “Tom Mix owned a flashy looking Cord that he drove with the top down. The rear seat held his luggage, including a locker trunk. A highway crew was working on the Florence highway and they had put up a barrier with a detour sign. Tom Mix, traveling eighty miles an hour, had smashed through the barrier, turning the Cord over in a dry wash. The heavy trunk had been dislodged with the sudden impact, striking Tom on the back of the head and breaking his neck. He was killed instantly.”

Of course, Colburn was not there and got his information from a friend who also was not there. Although basically accurate, two things jump out at me. The first is, why would Tom Mix blindly drive through a “barrier with a detour sign” without slowing down? And, two, we now know the “heavy trunk” was actually a medium-sized aluminum suitcase—made by Halliburton!—and it is in the Tom Mix Museum in Dewey, Oklahoma.



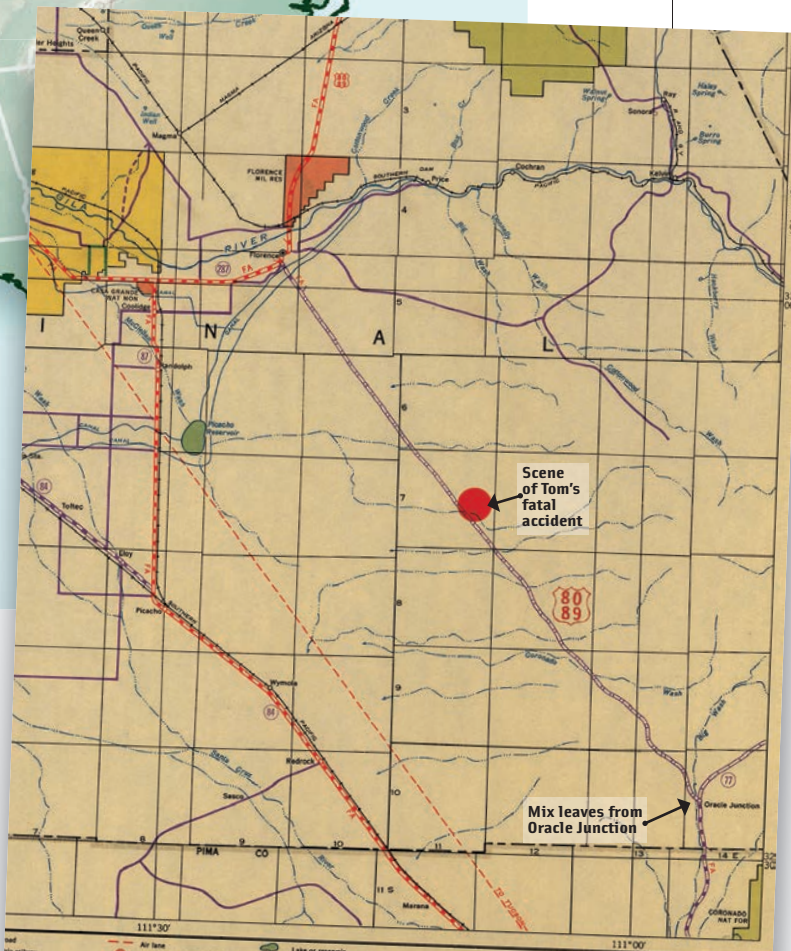
Tom Mix talked to a deputy sheriff in McNary, Texas, on his last road trip.

# SIGNS



## A Sad Sentry

This very old saguaro stands—with arms down—almost in somber tribute, pointing to the spot where Tom Mix died. It witnessed the wreck in 1940 (see car on current bridge in background).



A 1940 road map of Highway 80-89 shows it was still dirt at the time of the crash. It was paved in 1945.

Tom Mix Photos Courtesy Bob White Collection/U.S. Map By Tom Jonas/Topographic Map Courtesy Arizona Memory Project

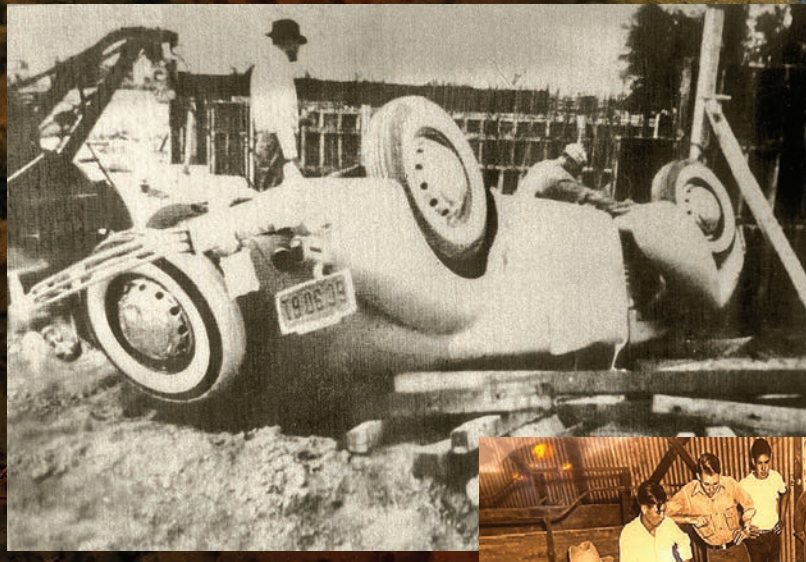
## Impaired? Or Drunk?

We know that Tom Mix visited with Walt Colburn and Pima County Sheriff Ed Echols at Colburn's Catalina Foothills ranchito on the outskirts of Tucson on the day before the accident. In the *Frontier Times* article, Colburn describes the King of the Cowboys sipping whiskey and trading stories with his two old friends. That night, Mix reportedly gambled and drank until 3 a.m. with Santa Rita Hotel musicians. He left Tucson around noon the next day, October 12, drove north on Oracle Road and stopped at Oracle Junction (near the present-day Lupé's Restaurant) and allegedly played poker and drank whiskey at a roadside establishment before driving off to his appointment with the washed-out roadway south of Florence. Invariably, when a famous person dies, local legend grows up around the event with everyone remembering him stopping at their place of business and enhancing the encounter with tales of playing cards and drinking. I'm not saying it didn't happen, but I am saying I take some of these "remembrances" with a grain of salt. That said, it is probably safe to say Mix had a few nips of whiskey before he took the highway to hell. How high was he? Maybe high enough to ignore the detour signs. And let's be honest, it's hard to read distant road signs at 80 miles an hour, no matter how much you have had to drink.

One of the local newspapers gave this account: "He was driving so fast that he didn't notice—or failed to heed—signs warning that one of the bridges was out on the road ahead." A small highway crew was working on the bridge at the time of the accident. John Adams of Oracle claimed that after the car overturned, Adams saw a figure move from beneath the Cord and start to stand up. Mix supposedly took a step and fell dead.

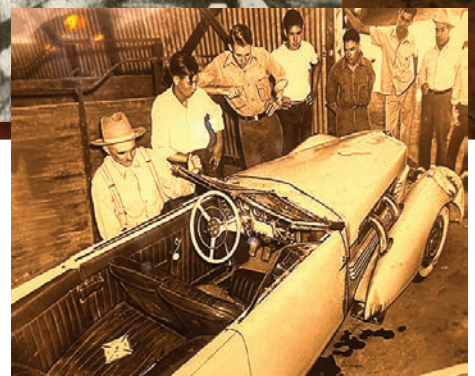
Several minutes after the crash, Martin Younkers, of Beloit, Wisconsin, and Anthony Monts of Rockford, Illinois,

Tom Mix's Cord sports car overturned on the north side of the bridge and had to be levered up with lumber from the construction site with help from a tow truck.



drove up to the crash site from the south and helped pull the actor's body from under his racing car. They had been passed by Mix on the dirt road, and they reported Mix used his siren to pass them at a high rate of speed. Younkers and Monts also claimed a heavy suitcase had fallen against Mix's head, burying his face in the soft sand.

If there was a barrier, it must have been hard to see from a distance. And



The Western star's wrecked car was taken to a Florence garage where it became a local spectacle.

Photos of Wrecked Cord Courtesy Bob White Collection

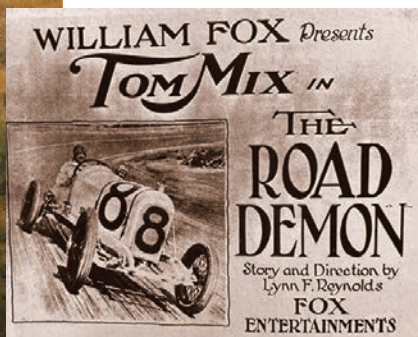
# THE DAY TOM MIX DIED

Clippings Courtesy Newspapers.com



Tom Mix's Halliburton suitcase broke his neck in the crash.  
Courtesy Bob White Collection

Courtesy Fox Films, 1921



perhaps it created an optical illusion, with the rebuilt bridge abutments below the roadway making it appear as if the road was unobstructed, and therefore unable to be seen by Mix in the speeding roadster.

In the end, drunk or sober, signs or no signs, The King of the Cowboys was dead. He had cheated death numerous times in his long career, and it's more than a little ironic that this anonymous wash, one of thousands that crisscross Arizona's roadways, had finally claimed "The Road Demon."

On Sunday morning, October 13, 1940, newspaper readers around the country learned of Tom Mix's death in the Arizona desert the day before. He lived fast, and he died fast, and the world mourned. And while Mix's demise at the wheel of his Cord sports car in an unnamed Arizona wash made front page news across the United States and in London, England, Mix's crash was hardly the most important news of the day. Germany, Italy and the USSR were still dividing up

Europe, and Japan was making war on China. Even Mix had a premonition of the future after he returned from Europe near the end of summer in 1939. Speaking to a group of reporters in Binghamton, New York, on September 24, 1939, he told them "This war is mean business. I don't know how Germany can be stopped," Mix was quoted while on a short stop at the Lackawanna station. "The Nazis show unbelievable power already."

## Headlines of the Day

- "British Blast Nazi Bases/Germans Enter Bucharest," *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, AZ
- "Total Defense of Hemisphere is Aim of FDR," *The Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, AZ
- "Battle Waged by Flotillas Off Coast of Britain," *Brooklyn Eagle*, Brooklyn, NY
- "FDR Warns Japs U.S. Will Continue Aid," *The Pampa News*, Pampa, TX
- "German Attacks on London Are Lightened," *Journal and Sentinel*, Winston-Salem, NC
- "Nazi Troops Occupy Bucharest," *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles, CA
- "Greece Will Fight Axis if Invaded," *The Independent Record*, Helena, MT
- "U.S. Navy and Air Force Pledged by President for Western World Defense," *The Bellingham Herald*, Bellingham, WA
- "Poll Reveals Gain for G.O.P./Nation Arming Only For Peace Says Roosevelt/Willkie Blasts New Deal for Defense Delays," *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, Chicago, IL
- "Roosevelt Defies Dictators To Halt U.S. Sending Supplies to British," *Miami Daily News*, Miami, FL
- "U.S. Works for British-Russia Friendship As Nazis Tighten Grip on Balkans," *Sunday Dispatch*, London, England
- "Roosevelt Sounds New Warning to Axis Powers," *Albuquerque Journal*, Albuquerque, NM
- "Nazi Flag Goes Up in Rumania/Draft Setup is Revealed on Big Island/Aliens Warned to Register" *Hilo Tribune Herald*, Hilo, HI

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## SIEBER GOES DOWN

### THE APACHE KID VS AL SIEBER, THEN EVERYONE IN ARIZONA



Al Sieber felt totally betrayed by the Kid and blamed him for his career-ending injury.

All Photos Courtesy True West Archives

JUNE 1, 1887

**A**bsent from duty for five days, the Apache Kid, along with four other Apache scouts under his command, rides single file into the headquarters of the San Carlos Reservation (near Globe, Arizona). The Kid has been serving as the acting chief of scouts while Al Sieber was away at Fort Apache and the White River Subagency.

Now that Sieber is back in San Carlos, he has summoned the Kid after hearing he killed another Apache in an alcohol-fueled family feud. (The offending liquor? Tiswin, a traditional Apache drink made from the heart of the mesal plant.)

Told by a messenger that the Kid wants to powwow, Sieber contacts the commanding officer, Capt. Francis Pierce; two interpreters are also notified. The clock is approaching 5 p.m. as Sieber and Pierce proceed, on foot, from headquarters to Sieber's tent (a 75-yard walk) to meet the incoming party.

Despite the appearance of the Kid and his men, who are carrying their arms openly in direct violation of camp regulations, none of the men in Sieber's party is armed.

As word of the scouts' arrival has spread, other Apaches from the nearby camps are gravitating toward the tent, and some of them are armed, as well.

Walking up to the scouts, Sieber says, "Hello, Kid." Returning the greeting, the Apache Kid and his scouts dismount, with their weapons in their hands.

Captain Pierce asks, "Where are the five scouts who have been absent?" The Apache Kid and the others step forward.

"Give me your rifle," Pierce orders the Kid. The Kid complies. Pierce demands his gun belt, too, and the Kid gives it up. The captain places the rifle against Sieber's tent and the gun belt in a chair. He then demands the same from the other four scouts.

They, in turn, give up their arms and gun belts.

Pointing in the direction of the guardhouse, the captain barks, "Calaboose!" (Spanglish for jail). Several of the Indians pick up their gun belts and remove their knife scabbards.

At this point, both Pierce and Sieber hear an "unusual commotion." They turn to see mounted Indians loading their rifles. (The assembled Apaches later claim one of the interpreters, Antonio Diaz, had intimated, with Apache sign, that the arrested scouts would be sent to the "island," which signified Alcatraz or even Florida, where Geronimo and other Apache leaders were being held as prisoners of war; see quote, below.)

Alarmed by this prospect, several of the disarmed scouts lunge for their weapons as Capt. Pierce jumps in between them, trying to shove their guns away and out of reach. The Kid makes a grab for his carbine, but Sieber grabs the rifle with his right hand, while shoving the Kid back with his left.

Unable to retrieve his weapon, the Kid runs around the tent and disappears.

"Look out, Sieber!" Pierce yells, "They are going to shoot!"

Sieber kicks the guns toward the tent as two shots ring out, one right after the other. Sieber and Pierce dive into the tent as bullets rip through the twin openings, from front to back.

Sieber grabs his weapon and runs out to engage the shooters. He fires at a mounted Apache who has just fired at him. But before Sieber can fire again, a .45-70 slug tears into his left leg below the knee, breaking the bone and knocking him flat. He crawls back into the tent as the Apaches disappear into the twilight.

The unexpected gunfight is over, but the long, tragic nightmare of the Apache Kid has just begun.



**"The Indians know by motions. We know by signs. Antonio reached out his hand and made a circle in his hand and spoke in Apache at the same time. He said that the five scouts will be sent down to the islands."**

—Chief Gonshayee, an eyewitness to the fight, who testifies that Antonio Diaz's sign conveyed to the Indians that the scouts would be sent to Alcatraz or Florida, which triggered the shoot-out

BY BOB BOZE BELL

After a group of Apache defendants is found guilty in a Globe courtroom, they are photographed (right) before they depart for the Yuma Territorial Prison. Note that the Apache Kid (standing, second from right) is still wearing his brass reservation tag on his left breast pocket.



Chief of Scouts Al Sieber is crippled for life after his leg stops a .45-70 slug during the Apache Kid melee.



## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After 24 days of running, the Apache Kid surrendered. A military court convicted him and four other scouts. When the jury was deemed prejudicial, the Kid's sentence was overturned and he was sent home after serving 16 months.

Angry Arizona citizens demanded and got a civilian trial in which the Apache defendants were sentenced to seven years. While the Kid and the scouts were being transported to Yuma Territorial Prison in November 1889, they escaped.

Military and civilian authorities launched a colossal manhunt for the escapees. By the summer of 1890, all the fugitives had been killed or captured—all except the Apache Kid. By 1892, the State of Arizona offered a \$6,000 reward for the Kid, and several officers were commanded to bring in the Kid, dead or alive. No one ever claimed the reward.

New research by historian Lynda Sánchez has uncovered evidence of the Apache Kid being slain by Mormon fighters living in Sonora, although others believe the Apache Kid escaped and lived out his life in the Sierra Madres.

**Recommended:** "The Final Nail in the Apache Kid's Coffin," *True West* (Feb. 2019) by Lynda A. Sánchez; *The Apache Kid* by Phyllis de la Garza, published by Westernlore Press; *Al Sieber: Chief of Scouts* by Dan L. Thrapp, published by University of Oklahoma Press.



## CLASSIC TRUE WEST FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

**Editor's Note:** Cave Creek, Arizona, writer Tom Aughterton is a longtime contributor to *True West*. If you'd like to read more of his articles please go to [truwestmagazine.com](http://truwestmagazine.com) and subscribe for full access to 70 years' worth of exciting issues of *True West*.

BY TOM AUGHERTON

# WINCHESTER WARRIOR

P.C. Baird enforces the law on the Texas Frontier.

The Texas Rangers are arguably the most famous law enforcement agency in U.S. history, and they certainly made their mark in the Old West.

It took special men to put on a Ranger badge—"men of fiber," as historian J. Evetts Haley put it. The job was tough, sometimes boring, occasionally dangerous. It tested men to the utmost. Yet, sadly, many of the Rangers of old have been nearly forgotten by history.

One of them is Phillip Cuney "P.C." Baird, who during his time came to be known as the "Old Sleuth."

Baird was a Lone Star native, born in Travis County on March 4, 1862. At the age of 20, he joined Company "D" of the Rangers' Frontier Battalion, serving under Capt. L.P. Sieker until 1884. Even in that relatively short period of time, Baird saw some hot action.

Fence cutting and cattle rustling had become a big problem in Texas, and the Rangers were sent to stop the practice. In July 1884, Baird—leading three other Rangers—discovered several fence-cutters near Green Lake. When ordered to surrender, the five scofflaws began shooting at the lawmen. One of the Rangers with Baird was wounded, but he and his men returned fire and killed one of the outlaws. The others were taken into custody.

After taking a few years off to raise and support a family, Baird was elected sheriff of Mason County in 1888. It was dangerous work. The next year, Baird and a deputy responded to a fight outside Garner's Saloon in the town of Mason. As they arrived, two local brothers, John and Jesse Simmons, opened up on them. The lawmen stood

calmly facing the drunken men. Baird took aim and killed John Simmons—the saloon proprietor—with a single shot. Deputy John Butler fatally wounded Jesse, who was a former Ranger himself.

Baird held the sheriff job until 1896 when he was appointed as a Special Texas Ranger, attached to Company "E" of the Frontier Battalion. He retired in 1898. Or tried.

Baird agreed to run for Mason County sheriff once again in 1928—when he was 66 years old. But the old lawman had run out of trail; he died of pneumonia in San Antonio's Baylor Hospital on March 9, 1928.

Baird wasn't totally forgotten. On June 2, 2012, the Former Texas Rangers Association honored him at his grave in Mason with a benediction of "The Rangers' Prayer," the placement of a Texas flag and the playing of "Taps." They marked his last resting place with their Texas Rangers' Memorial Cross, a mounted circle badge.

An unsung hero finally got his due.



**Tom Aughterton** is a Cave Creek, Arizona-based freelance writer.



The famed Company "D" of the Texas Rangers enjoyed a meal together near Realitos in March 1888, the same company P.C. Baird had served in from 1882 to 1884.

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

Texas Ranger Phillip Cuney "P.C." Baird, a legendary lawman known as the "Old Sleuth," was finally honored in 2012 for his valiant service to his home state.

Courtesy James Baird Family



## TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, every issue of *True West* magazine is now online, including Tom Aughterton's original, unabridged article as it appeared in the March 2014 issue. To learn more about how you can read all of Aughterton's articles and subscribe to *True West* Archives, go to [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com).

**Our past awaits you!**

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Rawhide!

*Gettin' along little dogies up the Western Trail is still a fun road trip today.*

**B**y the 1880s, time was catching up with the Western Trail—the cattle-drive highway from Texas to Kansas/Nebraska/Dakotas/Colorado/Wyoming/Montana. Just as time—and angry farmers and stock raisers—had caught up with the Shawnee and Chisholm trails before.

It's easy to blame "Texas Fever," the tick-spread disease that proved fatal to domesticated cattle along the trail's path (Texas longhorns were immune), for the closing of the trail. But Kansas sodbusters weren't entirely to blame.

Texas cattleman J.G. Reed told a *Kansas City Times* reporter in 1881:

"Well, sir, the fact is there is a market for cattle in Texas, and it don't pay to drive them up north. Besides, there are not as many cattle in the State as there used to be. The ranges are becoming

circumscribed, and settlers are being brought in by the railroads, especially in northern Texas, and they are taking up land for farming purposes that used to be devoted to stock ranging"

Reed estimated about 180,000 would hit the markets that year, "though some claim that 200,000 are on the drive."

Claim? Was Reed suggesting that a Texan might exaggerate?

He wasn't alone. Five years earlier, *Mines, Metals and Arts* reported: "It is known by actual account that the 55,000 head of cattle reported to have passed up the western trail [in 1876], does not exceed 35,000."

### Sight-seeing

John Lytle gets credit for blazing what eventually replaced, and topped, the Chisholm Trail. In 1874, Lytle

brought 3,500 longhorns from southern Texas to the Red Cloud Agency at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.

The Western Trail started with feeder trails that headed from cattlemen's gathering areas to San Antonio (Briscoe



Fort Griffin State Historic Site is home of the Official State of Texas Longhorn Herd.

All Images Courtesy Johnny D. Boggs Unless Otherwise Noted

Dodge City was platted in 1872, the same year the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway arrived to the western Kansas settlement. Within a few years, Dodge City had become the favorite Western Trail railhead for Texas cattlemen.

True West Archives





The first trail herd forded the Red River at Doan's Crossing in 1874, but the name didn't come about until four years later, when the Jonathan Doan and nephew Corwin Doan started a trading post about a mile southwest of the river.

recalled in *The Trail Drivers of Texas*, “but as a matter of fact most of the trail drivers did not care anything about the name of the trail they were traveling, as they were generally too busy to think or care about its name.”

select herding ground for nights and grazing grounds for nooning, grazed the horses up to these grounds and grazed or drove them off, never allowing them to graze back at all...for I had learned that good time and lots of it was lost by the old way of stopping a herd and allowing it to graze in every direction, sometimes a mile or more on the back trail. In such cases the stock would travel over the same ground twice...”

Competing trail herds weren't the only concerns on drives.

In 1880, *The Caldwell Commercial* reported that a cattleman had to stop near the town instead of driving to Ogallala after finding “neither water nor grass on that route” and would have to winter the herd nearby.

Located on the original site of Dodge City's “Boot Hill,” Boot Hill Museum's faithfully reconstructed Front Street houses thousands of historical artifacts, many collected by Chalkley Beeson in the 1870s.

Western Art Museum, The Buckhorn Saloon & Museum and Texas Ranger Museum) and Bandera (Frontier Times Museum, Western Trail Heritage Park). From there it kept west of the old Chisholm Trail.

Its most famous sites included near Albany, Texas (Fort Griffin State Historic Site) and Doan's Crossing on the Red River, not far from Vernon, Texas (Red River Valley Museum), where it crossed into present-day Oklahoma. From there, the trail passed near Frederick (Pioneer Townsite Museum), Clinton (Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, which was formerly the Western Trails Museum), before moving into Kansas to Dodge City (Boot Hill Museum) and beyond—Ogallala, Nebraska (Boot Hill); Miles City, Montana (Range Riders Museum); Deadwood, South Dakota (Adams House Museum); and Fort Burford State Historic Site near Williston, North Dakota.

Some argue that the trail started farther south—in Mexico—and went even farther north (Saskatchewan).

Forgotten sites included places with names like Indian Camp, Red Clark's Long Horn Roundup on Bear Creek and Mailey's roadhouse.

### What's in a name?

The trail took on other names—Great Western Trail, Fort Griffin Trail (at least by 1876), Dodge City Trail. Not that names mattered.

“Most everyone has heard of the Chisholm Trail, the Goodnight Trail and the Loving Trail,” George W. Saunders

A son of a Goliad County rancher, Saunders had taken part in his first cattle drive as a 17-year-old in 1871. He was president of the Old Time Trail Drivers' Association when *The Trail Drivers of Texas*, compiled and edited by J. Marvin Hunter, was first published in 1924 under Saunders's direction.

Herding cattle—and lots of horses—wasn't easy. (It still isn't.) In another *Trail Drivers of Texas* account, Saunders recalled a trip up the Western Trail in 1884.

“There were many herds on the trail that year, and we wanted to keep in the lead ... so I kept my herd moving forward all the time. I would go on ahead and





In his novel *Log of a Cowboy* (so authentic it's often mistaken for nonfiction) cowboy Andy Adams wrote that Ogallala, Nebraska, "was the 'town too tough for Texans.'" Boot Hill Cemetery is proof of that.

### End of End of Trails

The Western Trail was longer distance-wise than the Chisholm Trail; it had a longer career (thanks to Kansas quarantine lines) and it shipped more cattle—if we can believe the figures—6 million to 7 million (estimated by some to be as high as 8-9 million) to the Chisholm's roughly 5 million.

But like the Chisholm and Shawnee, the Western Trail's days were numbered.

Kansas cattle continued to die from "Texas Fever." In September 1877, the *Inland Tribune* of Great Bend, Kansas, reported that a "Col. Stone" had bought 40 cattle in Colorado and driven them across the Dodge City trail, losing 10 shortly afterward to Texas Fever. The newspaper declared: "There is no use talking; the air of the unnaturalized Texas steer is certain death to our civilized cattle."

In 1885, Kansas declared Texas cattle off limits statewide, and proposals for a "national" cattle trail from Texas to

the northern ranches and markets never materialized. As *The* (Denison, Texas) *Sunday Gazetteer* remarked that May:

"When the Fort Worth refrigerator works go to shipping beef again the Western cattle trail will be replaced by the Missouri Pacific."

Those trail-driving days were soon over. Cattle drives would be done by railroads.

Which J.G. Reed had predicted years earlier.

"There will always be a big supply in the State [of Texas]," he said back in 1881, "but from year to year there will be fewer cattle driven north, until that business will be abandoned altogether, Texas will become the cattle market, and even now we are getting our price there."



Johnny D. Boggs's novel *Bloody Newton*, due out in July from Kensington, takes place on the Chisholm—not the Western—Trail.

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# A WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

## FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK

All surviving Old West military forts, whether reconstructed, ruins or still active, have rich histories—but few can match Fort Robinson in the heartache department.

The destination of John T. Lytle's cattle drive that opened the Western Trail when he drove a herd to the Red Cloud Agency in 1874, Fort Robinson is site of Crazy Horse's death in 1877 and the Cheyenne Breakout of 1879 that left 64 Indians and 11 soldiers dead.

Established in 1874, the post remained active until 1948. It became a Nebraska state park in 1956 and a National Historic Landmark four years later.

Today the park is home to historic buildings, cabins, 22,000-plus scenic acres to explore and bison and longhorn herds. Lodging is available in former officer's quarters, dating from 1874 to 1909, and the 1909 enlisted men's quarters. Tent and camper sites are also available.

[outdoornebraska.gov](http://outdoornebraska.gov)



In addition to its legacy as a frontier Western outpost, Fort Robinson was a prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

## GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**GOOD GRUB:** **Cattle Drive & Bull Bar**, Coleman, TX; **Vernon Burger**, Vernon, TX; **Wagg's BBQ**, Woodward, OK; **Open Range Grill**, Ogallala, NE

**GOOD LODGING:** **Dixie Dude Ranch**, Bandera, TX; **Sayles Ranch Guesthouses**, Abilene, TX; **Hampton Inn & Suites**, Dodge City, KS; **Historic Olive Hotel**, Miles City, MT

# DEADWOOD

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## Missouri Barbecue



Barbecue may have been served at a Missouri family birthday celebration in August 1910.

Courtesy Missouri State Archives

**T**he word “barbecue” in frontier Missouri was used to describe how meat is cooked and not a food category. In 1899 *The Miller County Autogram* reported, “To barbecue meat is to roast it whole, generally in the open air.” As late as 1947 a Missouri cookbook noted the definition of barbecue was “to cook on a grill or spit over open coals.” Keep in mind that broiling was also used when grilling meat over hot coals in the mid- to late-1800s, but normally indoors.

The first reports of barbecues appeared in Missouri newspapers as early as 1853, and they were commonly held on the Fourth of July. In 1867, Meramec Township, Nevada, and Kansas City held Fourth of July events that included an “old-fashioned” barbecue. Barbecues also were held in connection with political rallies where free meat, lemonade and other items were offered to all. Later, barbecues became more civic-oriented and served as fundraisers and family gatherings. In 1886 a grand barbecue that featured beef, pork and lamb was held to raise

Blender’s Barbecue was founded in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1927. The family business survives today as a barbecue sauce company.

Courtesy Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Digital Commonwealth

funds to buy a steam heater for St. Francis church in Portage.

In 1891 *The St. Joseph Herald* described a barbecue pit near Easton as being about 60 feet long, by three feet wide and two feet deep. Iron rails were laid lengthwise above the pit where the half-cut beeves were cooked over red-hot coals in the pit. Ribs were the most requested portion of the barbecued beef at many events, and all was served with fresh bread. In 1900, a famous barbecue man named Christ Brokate was interviewed in the *St. Louis Dispatch* about his technique. He recommended cutting large beeves into quarters for even cooking and used iron rods, spits or spears to cook the meat in various ways. He suggested

basting the meat with butter, pepper and vinegar, aka barbecue sauce.

Barbecue sauce was used to “so” the meat as it was being cooked over the hot coals. At a political rally in Bunceton, it was reported that, “With meticulous care, George A. Weyland, official master of the barbecue, has prepared three hundred gallons of barbecue sauce to be used in basting the meat in the trenches. The sauce will be applied with big white-washing brushes. Mr. Weyland enumerated the condiments of the basting sauce—allspice, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, black pepper, cayenne pepper, horseradish, sweet marjoram, grated carrots, pearl barley, mustard seed and salt. The barbecue master confided the sauce was good not only to flavor the meat, but in pre-Volstead days had been used to ‘mix a toddy.’” Weyland stated, “Barbecued meat is healthful.”

By the 1930s “BBQ” started appearing in the newspapers for both the sauce and barbecue events, and by the 1940s “B-B-Q meat” was being sold in cans in St. Louis for \$.29. Bottled BBQ sauce also started appearing on supermarket shelves all over Missouri cities.

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### BARBECUE SAUCE

1-2 teaspoons mixed whole spices  
(peppercorns, clove, celery seed, nutmeg,  
ginger and cinnamon stick)  
2 cups white vinegar  
2 cups canned tomatoes  
1 cup tomato sauce  
½ teaspoon paprika  
1 cup ketchup  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Salt and cayenne pepper to taste  
6 small onions, peeled and chopped  
1 stalk celery, cut into small pieces

For mixed spices, combine 4 peppercorns, 1 clove, ½ teaspoon celery seed, ¼ teaspoon of ground nutmeg, 1 piece ginger and a half cinnamon stick. Combine them and the remaining ingredients in a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook over low heat for one hour. Strain through a sieve and use when ready.

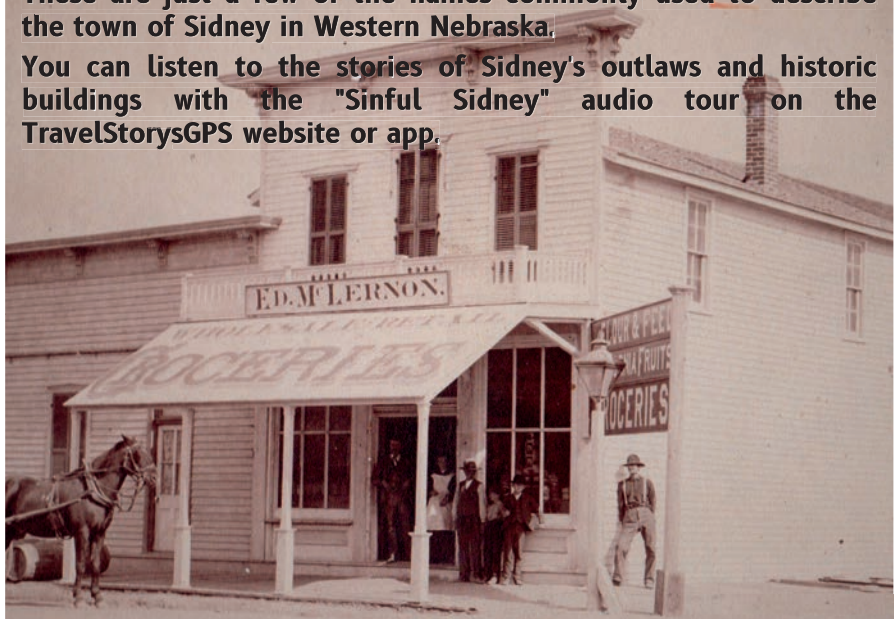
Recipe adapted from *The Kansas City Star*,  
August 18, 1927.

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

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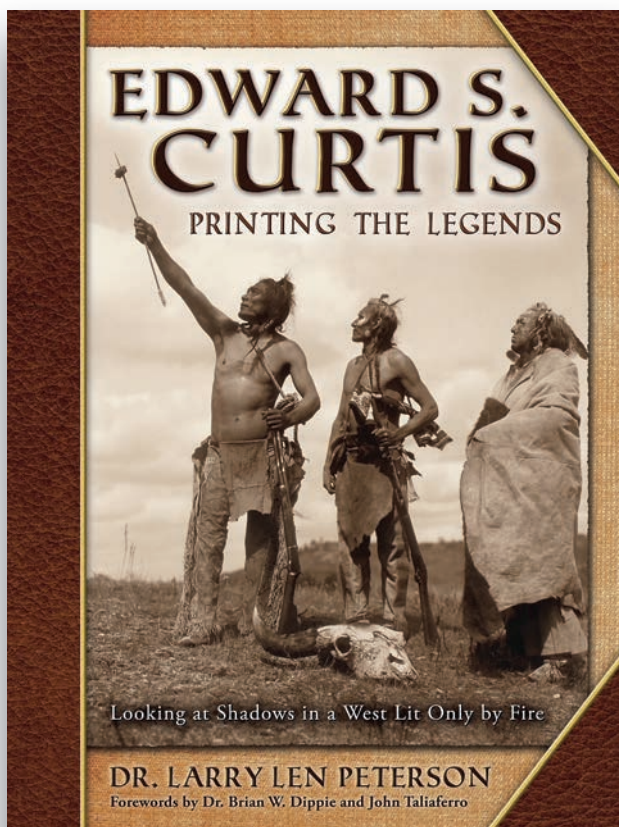


## The Shadow Catcher

Larry Peterson's extraordinary new biography of Edward S. Curtis, plus two new classic Westerns, a Pony Express travel adventure and a history of a classic Western film noir.

On October 19, 1952, Edward S. Curtis passed away at the age of 84 in Los Angeles. He was interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in nearby Glendale. The great irony of the famed photographer's life, which had started in the small town of Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1868, was that his eternal resting place would be in the West's great metropolis of imagination within a short distance of the film studios and Hollywood. Curtis, one of the great photographers of his generation, had died and was buried without fanfare. Like many artists during their lifetimes, Curtis never saw the profits or well-deserved adulation from his life's work, *The North American Indian*, a 20-volume portfolio with 2,200 photogravures and a 20-volume book set.

Today, seven decades after his passing, Edward S. Curtis is considered one of the most creative, artistic and visionary photographers in American history. Over the past two decades the value of his photography and ephemeral material has skyrocketed as his life has become well-examined by historians, biographers and art museum curators. Award-winning Western author and collector Dr. Larry Len Peterson, who is well-known for his beautiful Western art books has just published what will undoubtedly be considered the finest book ever published on the photographer: *Edward S. Curtis: Printing the Legends*,



*Looking at Shadows in a West Lit Only by Fire* (Sweetgrass Books, \$79.45).

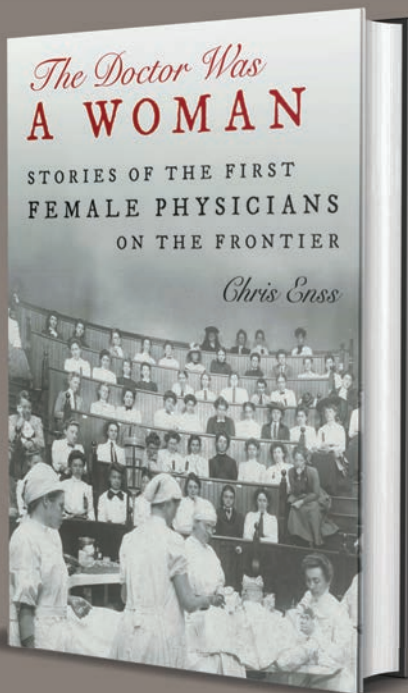
Collectors, Western history and photography scholars and enthusiasts will want to own a copy of Peterson's masterwork on Curtis. Peterson's personal collection of 2,500 Curtis photographs is currently archived in the Larry Len and LeAnne Peterson Big Sky Collection in Montana. As a historian and collector, Peterson was inspired to write the book on Curtis after touring Scottsdale's Museum of the West's "Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward S. Curtis" exhibition in 2022. How does Curtis inspire Peterson? "A Curtis

photogravure unfolds like a musical composition, its images and sepia tones moving the viewer's eyes around," writes Peterson in his introduction. "His works and life have a sense of being in warm light, of being near, yet at times not so close, wrapped in a mysterious shroud of shadows."

Readers of Peterson's biography of Edward S. Curtis will find their inspiration in both the biographer's prose and the more than 250 illustrations. Curtis's photography is beautifully reproduced, and it will take many viewings to absorb the magnitude of the subject matter. The chapter titled "Custer Almost Kills Curtis (1906-1909): Son of the Morning Star" about Curtis's attempts to prove Custer a fool at Little Bighorn will be of great interest to Western historians.

What should we expect next from Larry Peterson? Based on the standards the Oregon author and publisher has set for himself, Peterson's next volume of Western history will be an extraordinary collectible. Western book and art collectors owe a great deal of thanks to Peterson and his efforts to write and publish such beautiful books in an era in which publishers are turning more and more to the digital format and abandoning the timeless artisanship of publishing books as an art form. We look forward to his next masterpiece.

—Stuart Rosebrook



“No women need apply.” Western towns looking for a local doctor during the frontier era often concluded their advertisements in just that manner. Yet apply they did. And in small towns all over the West, highly trained women from medical colleges in the East took on the post of local doctor to great acclaim. In this new book, author Chris Enss offers a glimpse into the fascinating lives of ten amazing women, including the first female surgeon of Texas, the first female doctor to be convicted of manslaughter in an abortion-related maternal death, and the first woman physician to serve on a State Board of Health.

978-1-4930-6292-8 • 192 Pages  
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“Historian Enss (*The Widowed Ones*) profiles in this colorful account 10 of the first female physicians on America’s Western frontier. She portrays them as highly determined individuals, whose resolve not only saw them through the medical schools that resisted admitting them, but also through the treatment of recalcitrant patients...Between the brief biographies are insightful notes on topics such as treating influenza, sterilizing patients, and extracting bullets. Readers who enjoyed Campbell Olivia’s *Women in White Coats* will want to check this out.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“A collection of tales about real superhero women and how they won respect.” —*Library Journal*

“*The Doctor Was a Woman* reads with the drama of fiction and the authority of well-researched nonfiction. It is highly recommended for women’s history collections, American history holdings, libraries attractive to medical students and researchers, and general-interest audiences alike. Its powerful stories are sterling examples of early women who succeeded, yet are rarely mentioned in the chronicles of medical or American history.” —*Midwest Book Review*

Chris Enss is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has been writing about women of the Old West for more than thirty years. She has penned more than fifty published books on the subject. Her work has been honored with nine Will Rogers Medallion Awards, two Elmer Kelton Book Awards, an Oklahoma Center for the Book Award, three Foreword Review Magazine Book Awards, the Laura Downing Journalism Award, and a Willa Cather Award from Women Writing the West for scholarly nonfiction. Enss’s most recent works are *The Doctor Was A Woman: Stories of the First Female Physicians on the Frontier*, *An Open Secret: The Story of Deadwood’s Most Notorious Bordellos*, and *Along Came a Cowgirl: Daring and Iconic Cowgirls of Rodeos and Wild West Shows*.



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Photo by Robert Ray

Congratulations are in order to *True West's* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell, who will be honored with the Will Rogers Medallion Award's Golden Lariat, which is given to individuals for support of WRMA and the art of storytelling about the American West. *New York Times* bestselling author Jane Kirkpatrick will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards will be given at a ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 19, 2024.

Last fall the Annual Will Rogers Medallion Awards honored Larry Martin with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Craig Johnson received the Golden Lariat.

### Congratulations to the 2023 WRMA gold medal winners:

**Western Biographies and Memoirs:** *Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody: Plainsmen of the Legendary West* by Bill Markley (TwoDot)

**Western Nonfiction (TIE):** *Billy the Kid: El Bandido Simpático* by James B. Mills (University of North Texas Press) and *From Sand Creek to Summit Springs: Colorado's Indian Wars* by Linda Wommack (Caxton Press)

**Western Fiction, Traditional (Pre-1900):** *Rio Hondo* by Preston Lewis (Five Star)

**Western Short Stories:** "Irish Kelly and the Heartbreak Kid" from *Rebel Hearts Anthology* by Sharon Sala (Wolfpack Publishing)

**Western Maverick:** *Blood West* by Thomas D. Clagett (Five Star)

**Western Cookbook:** *The Tombstone Cookbook: Recipes and Lore from the Town Too Tough to Die* by Sherry Monahan (TwoDot)

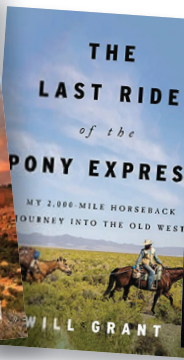
**Western Short Nonfiction:** "The Kid's Mom" by Melody Groves, *Wild West Magazine*

**Western Film—Drama:** *Dead For a Dollar*, writer: Walter Hill; producers: Carolyn McMaster, Neil Dunn and Jeremy Wall (CHAOS & Polaris Pictures)

**Western Film—Documentary:** *Battle of Red Buttes*, writers: Candy Moulton and Bob Noll; producer: Candy Moulton (Boston Productions [BPI])

*True West* also wants to congratulate Bill Markley on his WRMA Bronze Medallion for **Western Short Nonfiction** for his June 2022 *True West* feature "Gunpowder and Smoke."

—Stuart Rosebrook



### Arizona Adventure

In *Ride a Fast Horse* by Kevin Warren (Kensington, \$8.99), Capt. Tom Skinner, an orphan who grew up hard on the Arizona frontier, has a wonderful way with horses. He rides Too Tall, a horse of amazing speed and stamina, while serving in the U.S. Cavalry. He's agonizing over having offended the girl he loves when Colonel Brickman sends him out on patrol with only 12 men. Twenty or more of the worst of the worst outlaws have invaded Arizona, and Tom can see they're headed for the Mogollon Rim where his lady lives, but his orders are to go south. Heading for the Mogollon will cost him his career, but he might arrive in time to save his sweetheart. It's nonstop action as Tom undertakes one Herculean feat after another.

—Doug Hocking, author of *Southwest Train Robberies*

### Northwest Escapade

Author Ken Pratt excels at writing fast action in well-drawn settings. In *Everson Solstice*, his 17th Matt Bannister Christian Western mystery (Wolfpack, \$12.99), Pratt sends the accomplished U.S. Marshal to Portland, Oregon, circa 1884 on a personal mission of grave concern. Bannister's son Gabriel Smith and companion Evan Gray are caught up in Portland's sinister side, and it's up to Matt to set things straight. Pratt shines with exuberant descriptions of the old Northwest, and his breathless drops of history and wondrous true-life anecdotes add depth and dimension to his prose. Spiritual leanings (or lack thereof) grace the main characters with Pratt's usual tactful poise, making the narrative natural and never preachy. This is a stand-alone entry that can be enjoyed for its own merits, but readers will also benefit by knowing what's come before.

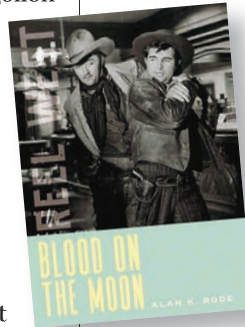
—Richard Prosch, author of *Pony Boys*

### Ride, Cowboy, Ride!

Santa Fe-based writer Will Grant knows horses. After working on ranches in Colorado and Texas, he raced the legendary Mongol Derby, a 900-mile horse race in Mongolia. But it was his 2,000-mile journey across the American West that may

have been his biggest challenge. Grant's *The Last Ride of the Pony Express* (Little, Brown and Co., \$21) is an exciting and often reflective personal journey in the wake of the young and intrepid Pony Express riders of the 19th century. Traveling from Missouri to California with his two trusted horses, Grant captures a snapshot of the modern West that few people see. He proves that there are still many miles of untamed wilderness while acknowledging the inevitable modern developments that have occurred along the Pony Express route.

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



### Classic Western Rediscovered

Alan K. Rode makes a persuasive case that the noir Western *Blood on the Moon* (University of New Mexico Press, \$19.95) beyond being an excellent film, also

set the stage for the celebrated Anthony Mann/James Stewart and Budd Boetticher/Randolph Scott post-war collaborations. Rather than just the story of one exceptional movie, Rode puts *Blood* in the context of a transitional moment in post-war Hollywood, revealing the career of celebrated director Robert Wise, the vastly underappreciated novelist Luke Short (Frederick Glidden), Robert Mitchum's rise from Hopalong Cassidy villain to stardom, and the parallel fall of RKO. Robert Preston plays a soulless charmer promoting a range-war to swindle both sides; Mitchum is the friend Preston hopes will assist. Often imitated, the copies never captured the true cunning or true heart of Short's original.

—Henry Parke, author of *The Greatest Westerns Ever Made and the People Who Made Them*





Courtesy Jon Armour

## A MONTANA AUTHOR'S BIG SKY BOOKSHELF

**Bill Yenne** grew up in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana, where he spent a great deal of time on horseback in the backcountry. He is the author of several dozen nonfiction books and a dozen novels. His works include a critically acclaimed biography of Sitting Bull, as well as the *Fugitive Gideon Safford Trilogy* and the *Bounty Hunter Bladen Cole* series of Western novels.

1 ***Speaking Ill of the Dead and Still Speaking Ill of the Dead*** edited by Dave Walter, John Axline and Jodie Foley (Two Dot). The popular "Jerks in Montana History" franchise includes 28 vignettes about forgotten and unforgettable scoundrels.

2 ***Free Grass to Fences: The Montana Cattle Range Story*** by Robert Henry Fletcher (University Publishers). Broad historic scope; insightful read! Fletcher was the Montana poet and PR man who co-composed (lyrics) the song *Don't Fence Me In* with Cole Porter.

3 ***Ride with Me, Mariah Montana*** by Ivan Doig (Simon and Schuster). In the last of the popular McCaskill trilogy, an aging Jick McCaskill and impetuous daughter Mariah are on a Montana roadtrip during the 1989 Centennial.

4 ***Trails Plowed Under: Stories of the Old West*** by Charles M. Russell; introduction by Will Rogers (Doubleday). Montana's greatest artist was also a master storyteller. He knew his subjects and told/painted them brilliantly.

5 ***The Old North Trail: Life, Legends and Religion of the Blackfoot Indians*** by Walter McClintock (University of Nebraska). Originally published in 1910. Priceless oral history, amazing lore, preserved from being lost.

**Editor's Note:** Bill Yenne also contributed "The Main Street of Montana History" on page 94.



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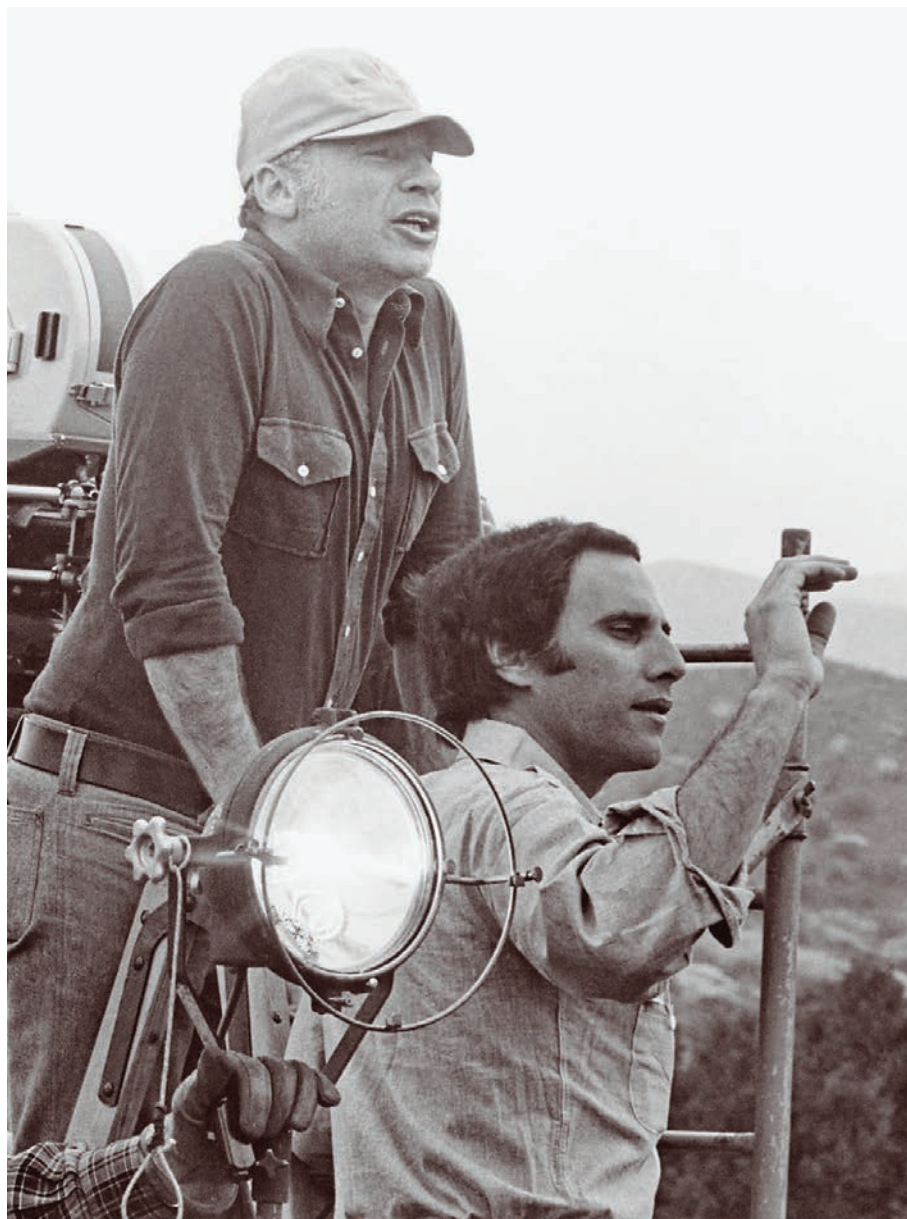
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# Blazing Bergman!

A half-century after Andrew Bergman penned *Blazing Saddles*, the epic comic Western is still a cultural tour de force.



Director Mel Brooks (left) and producer Michael Hertzberg collaborated closely on the script changes that had to be made during the production of *Blazing Saddles* because Andrew Bergman could not be on the set during the Writers Guild of America strike of 1974.

All Photos Courtesy Paramount Pictures Unless Otherwise Noted

**S**ure, Andrew Bergman has written Broadway musicals, written and directed wonderful comedies like *The In-Laws*, *So Fine*, *The Freshman* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*. He's also written the *Hollywood and LeVine* detective novels, and the history of Depression-era American film, *We're in the Money* about which he says, "It's the only book I've written that's still in print." But all of that was superfluous; he'd already achieved screen immortality by writing the novella *Tex X*, which, in the hands of Mel Brooks, became *Blazing Saddles*.

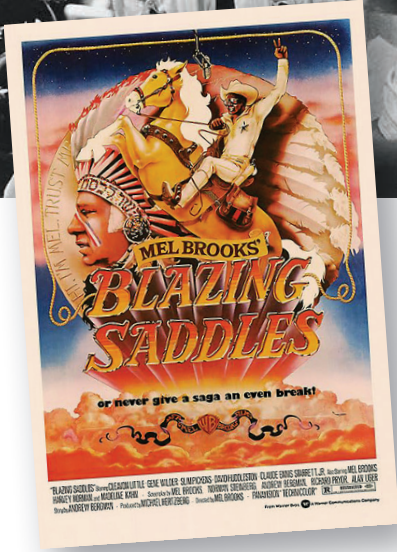
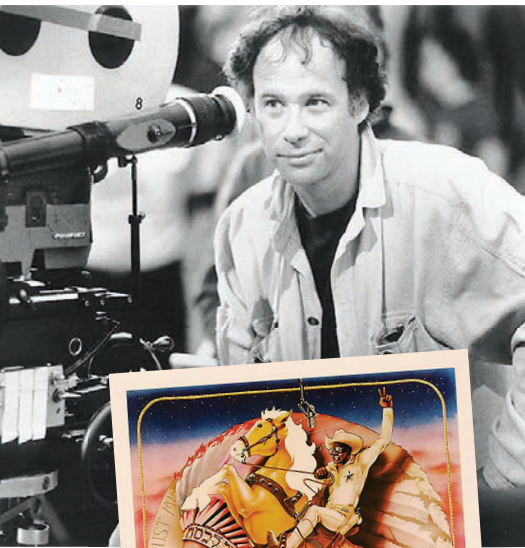
Bergman had become an academic out of necessity. "I got a PhD because in that period of time, it was get a PhD or go to Vietnam," he says. "But I really loved the research, and writing [*We're in the Money*] was fascinating and very instructive."

I asked him if he'd always intended to make films.

**Bergman:** I was always a writer. When I was a little kid, I was writing stories. My father had been a newspaperman and had aspirations to be in the movie business. Both my parents were German refugees, and he had worked for Universal Studios in Berlin back in the '30s when he was a kid. He'd always wanted to be in the movie business, but he couldn't. So this was my revenge.

**Parke:** In 1974, the top Westerns were *Billy Two Hats*, *Zandy's Bride* and *The Spikes Gang*. How dead were Westerns when you set out to do this?

**Bergman:** They were pretty dead, but I think the movie was so funny, and it drew upon the fact that Westerns were in a state of, sort of paralysis. It's what got people turned on about Westerns



Following *Blazing Saddles*, screenwriter Andrew Bergman went on to have a very successful career as a screenwriter and director of major feature films, including *The Freshman* with Marlon Brando and Matthew Broderick in 1990.

Courtesy TriStar Pictures

again: "Oh, yeah. I remember Westerns!" It sort of rekindled that love of Westerns. You know when you're a kid, you go to the movies, and you sit there in the 30th row, talking at the screen and yelling back at it? This was like a movie about people talking back to the screen.

**Parke:** Had you written many screenplays before *Tex X*?

**Bergman:** I didn't even know how to read screenplays. But I just had an idea, a vision really, of a town waiting for a sheriff to show up. And he's Black; and not only is he Black, he's like H. Rap Brown coming to be sheriff. It was my only high-concept idea. I wrote a 90-page story, which I sold to Warners, then wrote a first draft. And they hired Alan Arkin to direct it, and James Earl Jones was gonna play the sheriff. But that didn't work, 'cause James Earl Jones is not a comic actor. So the studio said, "What do you think about Mel Brooks?"

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While actors Cleavon Little (left) and Gene Wilder were not the original casting choices for Sheriff Bart and Jim the Waco Kid, their comedic chemistry is a primary reason the film's slapstick and sarcastic humor are successful.



Veteran Western-comedy actors Burton Gilliam and Slim Pickens were cast as outlaws who had to play it straight in outrageous skits, such as having Indian gang members on horseback with motorcycle handlebars



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I said, "I love Mel Brooks!" Mel loved the concept, and he wanted to write in the manner he had worked on *Your Show of Shows*, with a group. I was 26.

**Parke:** What was that experience like?

**Bergman:** Fantastic. First it was Mel and me, Norman Steinberg, Alan Uger. And Mel said, "We can't have four Jews writing a movie about a Black sheriff. We gotta have a Black writer in it." We got Richie Pryor. It was madness and hilarious. Uger dropped out, and then Richie went back to being Richie, and there was just Norman and Mel and me, and we wrote, like, another 15 drafts. It was a fantastic experience. I had never written anything, and it was an education in writing and certainly in comedy between Mel and Richie, who were two absolute genius comic brains and

fabulous fellows. As funny as the movie was, that room was funnier.

**Parke:** Are you a fan of Westerns?

**Bergman:** I love Westerns. In fact, the thing that impelled me...was when *Wild Bunch* came out, summer of '69, it just obliterated me. I just fell in love with Westerns all over again.

**Parke:** Any other particular Westerns you liked?

**Bergman:** *High Noon* was a great Western. I grew up watching Hopalong Cassidy every afternoon. I mean, it was in my bones.

**Parke:** I always wondered why it was, "You'd do it for Randolph Scott," and not Joel McCrea.

**Bergman:** One thing about comedy writing is consonants are much funnier than vowels. Joel McCrea doesn't give



Madeline Kahn's comedic interpretation of femme-fatale Lili Von Shtupp, and Harvey Korman's role as the villainous, straight-man Hedley Lamarr, are timeless and forever funny homages to the Western horse-operas of the 1920s and 1930s.

you anything, and Scott gives you those hard Ts at the end.

**Parke:** Were you on set a lot?

**Bergman:** I was not, because the Writers Guild strike began the day we started shooting, so I never went on the set because of the picket lines. It was a pity. And Mel thought [the filming] was going horribly. He called to say, like, "Our dream is dead. This thing is gonna stink!" And then lo and behold, this creature was born.

**Parke:** Like Mel Brooks, you went from writing movies to writing and directing. Were there any lessons or things you observed from Mel Brooks that you took with you?

**Bergman:** Not the directing, because I wasn't on the set. But the writing, for

sure. The comic rhythm is very much like musical rhythm, and Mel's very musical. And the way lines scan, in terms of comedy, is everything.

**Parke:** Did any cast members make a particular impression on you?

**Bergman:** Ironically, when I first wrote the story, the first person I showed the story to was Cleavon Little, because I'd seen him in a show on off-Broadway called *Scuba Duba*. I said, this guy's perfect. So it was sort of serendipity who ended up playing the part. I was involved in the casting, sort of helped put the cast together with Harvey, Madeline Kahn and Slim Pickens, who I loved always.

**Parke:** How about Gene Willder?

**Bergman:** Gene was a last-minute choice. Our original guy was Dan Dailey,

and he couldn't do it because his eyesight was failing. And then Gig Young, who couldn't do it. So we were stuck. We had to get somebody, and Mel just begged Gene Wilder to do it, and Gene said, "I'll do it if you do this other movie that I wrote," which was *Young Frankenstein*. That's how that happened. And he was wonderful. We envisioned somebody older, but it just turns out if the part's right, you know it.

**Parke:** Was the ending, when the characters essentially crash through the fourth wall, in your original story?

**Bergman:** My original story was quite traditional, although there was an interracial romance, but in this movie, the love interest is like a Nazi. So it's sort of a way to have an interracial romance

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and nobody cares about it, nobody takes it seriously, which is quite brilliant. But, no, the breaking out, we had finished it, and Mel said, there's something missing. He said, "We need a bigger ending." And that's when we came up with this insane Warner

Brothers kind of riot that breaks out at the end of the movie.

**Parke:** How did *Blazing Saddles* affect your career?

**Bergman:** Oh, my God. How about everything? It was sort of like winning the lottery. It was amazing and totally



The unforgettable "Welcome, Sheriff" scene in *Blazing Saddles* was filmed on Warner Brothers' famous backlot Western town, "Laramie Street."



Mel Brooks outdid himself in *Blazing Saddles*, playing five roles: Governor William J. Le Petomane, Indian Chief, Aviator Applicant and the voices of the German Dancer and the Grouchy Moviegoer.



One of the more outrageous roles in *Blazing Saddles* is that of Mongo, played by former NFL star Alex Karras, who in one scene "knocks out" a horse.

unexpected that it would be such a hit, you know? And the studio didn't think anybody'd go see it. But it just hit a nerve, and it was really funny. And it holds up; it's as funny today as it was then.

**Parke:** It's often said that you couldn't make *Blazing Saddles* today. Is that true?

**Bergman:** Oh, absolutely. What hasn't changed? In what way does this world

resemble the world of 1974? First of all, in just the money terms, the movie would be unaffordable today. With the locations, and a million extras. That movie cost under two and a half million dollars to make. Today, it would cost about a hundred, which means you'd have to cast an all-star cast, and you just lose everything that made it *Blazing Saddles*. And

I don't even know what politically correct means. It just means not funny. I mean, you just can't deal in reality, or heightened reality. It's like you're running for office. Every piece of art is running for office, so make nice to this group and that group, and this group, and it's...it's not art anymore. It's some other thing, a political feel-good thing.

## BLU-RAY REVIEW

### DAYS OF HEAVEN

(Criterion; Blu-Ray \$39.95, 4K + Blu-Ray \$49.95) Only silent-movie filmmakers have told a story as visually as writer/director Terrence Malick did in *Days of Heaven* (1978), and cinematographer Nestor Almendros earned his Oscar not only for the ephemeral beauty of the prairie, but for the filth of a 1916 Chicago slum and the worry-worn faces of the desperate and hopeless. Impoverished steel-worker Richard Gere assaults his supervisor, then flees with kid-sister Linda Manz, and his love, Brooke Adams. Harvesting wheat, Adams catches the eye of wealthy farmer Sam Shepard, who believes she is Gere's sister. It's wrong... but it's the chance of a lifetime, a short one for Shepard, who is dying. Western villain Robert Wilke is heartbreaking as Shepard's foreman and proxy father. The deceptively simple score is by Ennio Morricone. Manz's narration is unforgettable.

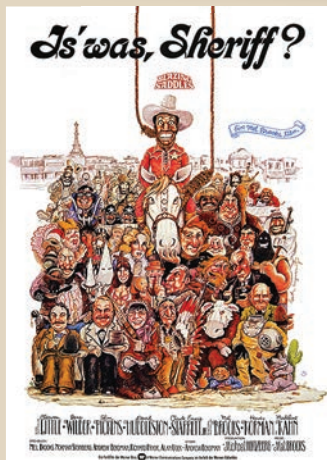


**Henry C. Parke**, Western Film and TV Editor for *True West*, is a screenwriter, and blogs for the INSP Channel, and at [HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com](http://HenrysWesternRoundup.blogspot.com). A book based on his *True West* columns, *The Greatest Westerns Ever Made*, was published by TwoDot in February.

Courtesy Paramount Pictures



Beyond the U.S. and Canada, *Blazing Saddles* was released worldwide and became an international hit. Box-office sales eventually topped \$119 million, making it just the 10th film to date to earn more than a \$100 million.



# The Wild,

**Combining Old West history with an old-fashioned Western road trip**

Everyone remembers their first trip to the “Old West.” My first memory was a family trip to the historic mining town of Jerome, Arizona, followed by a tour of Tuzigoot National Monument just down Cleopatra Hill near Clarkdale and Cottonwood. I clearly remember the day,

fascinated with the “ghost town” of Jerome and the ancient ruins of the pueblo people of the Verde Valley. The fun-filled family trip fueled my youthful imagination and interest in the Old West, and I have been curious about the past ever since.



# Wild West

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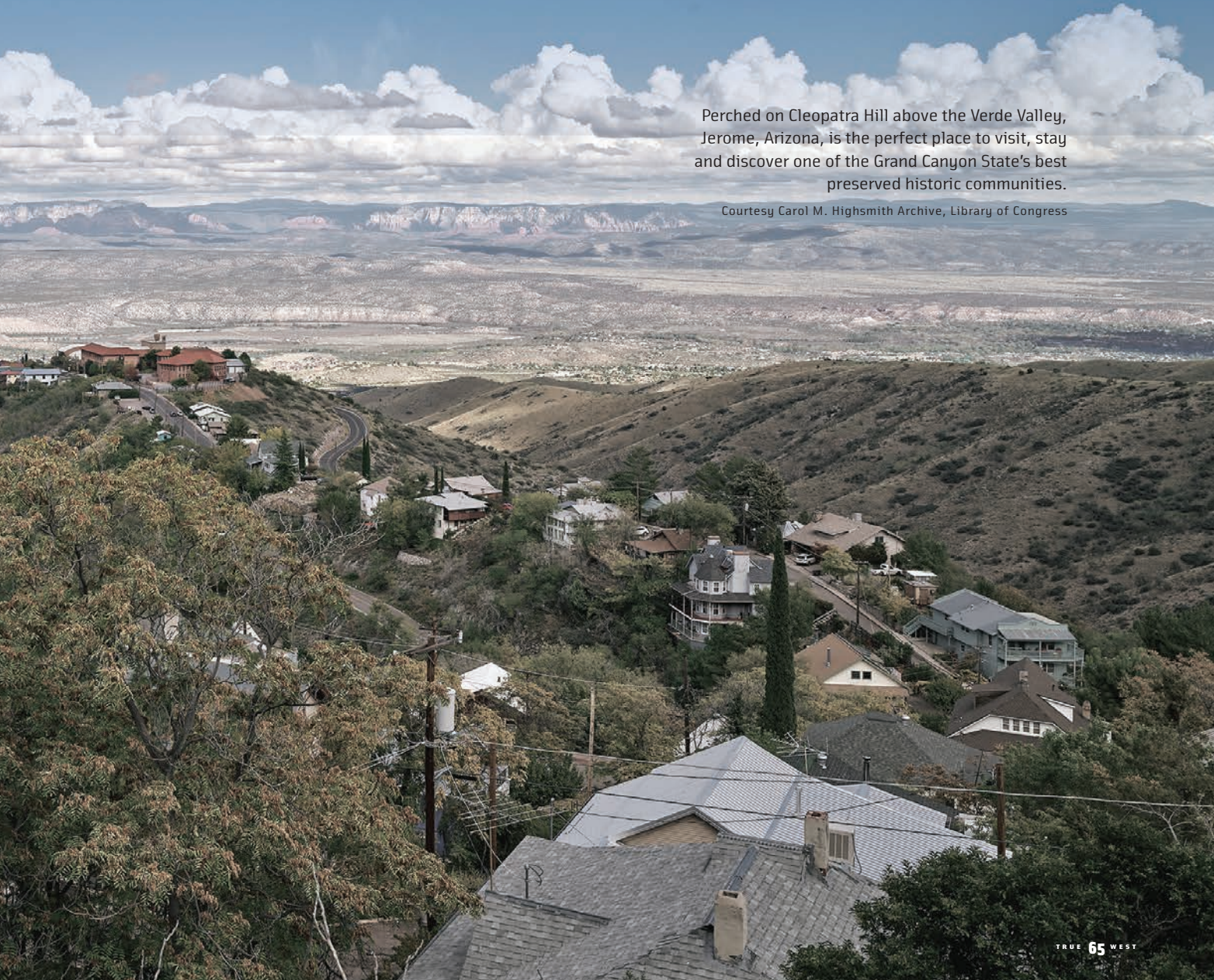
Today, over five decades later, I am still addicted to road tripping across the West and the United States. My enthusiasm for Western travel has not waned, and without a doubt, after you read the following adventures from our six contributing authors, you will be ready

to schedule your trip, make your reservations, pack your bags and hit the road to the wild, wild West. I think you will be planning your next Western adventure before you get home.

—*Stuart Rosebrook*

Perched on Cleopatra Hill above the Verde Valley, Jerome, Arizona, is the perfect place to visit, stay and discover one of the Grand Canyon State's best preserved historic communities.

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress



BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# Arizona

## Arizona Adventures

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, EAST TO WEST, THE GRAND CANYON STATE INVITES TRAVELERS TO STAY AWHILE AND DISCOVER ITS SMALL TOWNS, BIG CITIES AND HISTORIC SITES.



**A**rizona. Just the name conjures up mystery, history and wonder. California may have its beaches, Montana its big sky and New Mexico its enchantment, but Arizona... Arizona has a magic that never ends. The magic of the Grand Canyon State gets under your skin and into your soul, drawing you back to its deserts and canyons, to its red rocks and ancient ruins and to its Sky Islands and lonely wildernesses. From the big cities to

**"Arizona, magic desert sands,  
Arizona, the mighty  
saguaro stands,  
Like a monument to my  
peace of mind,  
Arizona, what are you  
doing tonight"**

—Hans Olson, "Arizona,  
(What are you doing tonight?)"

the small towns, the people of Arizona welcome visitors from around the world to stay, tour and discover their beautiful and wondrous state. But

Along the Mother Road, Old Route 66  
Mohave County, Arizona

All Images Courtesy the Carol M. Highsmith Archive,  
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don't take my word for it. Plan a trip. Pack your bags. And don't forget your hat and boots—you just might find yourself trail riding across the desert or boot-scootin' across the dance floor, making memories that will last a lifetime and bring you back time and time again for a little bit more of that Arizona magic.

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The Historic Powerhouse and Kingman Visitors Center  
Kingman, Arizona

Courtesy ExploreKingman.com

Here is a short introduction to 15 communities in six counties that I recommend you plan to visit and spend some valuable downtime enjoying, exploring and relaxing.



El Trovatore Motel  
Kingman, Arizona

### Kingman

From the day Kingman was founded in 1882, the Mojave County Seat has been a key crossroads of commerce and travelers across northern Arizona. Whether afoot, on horseback, wagon, train, plane, bus or automobile, weary travelers going to or through the high-desert town have found it a welcome stop.

Named for the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad engineer Lewis Kingman who was supervising the construction of the transcontinental line parallel to Beale's Wagon Road, Kingman at 142 years old is still a crossroads of travelers, trains and traffic. Many who stop in Kingman are just passing through on Interstate 40 or U.S. 93, but the city is also an international destination for Route 66 enthusiasts who flock to the desert town to soak up the nostalgia of the past and drive the longest uninterrupted stretch of the "Mother Road" from Kingman to Ash Fork.

Along Old Route 66 (Andy Devine Avenue) in downtown Kingman, overnight visitors have many choices of hotels, from historic motels to national chains. Within short walking or driving distance are many of the city's best restaurants, saloons and shops. Landmarks not to be missed: the Mojave Museum of History and Arts, the Kingman Railroad Museum in the historic train depot, the Bonelli House and the Visitor Center in the historic Powerhouse.

### Williams

Known as "the Gateway to the Grand Canyon," Williams, like its western neighbor Kingman, is a railroad, Route 66 and tourist town. The Coconino County town is one of the most popular



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destinations for Arizonans and visitors who have a nostalgic love for Route 66, historic railroads and national wonders. Hotels abound along Old Route 66 through the heart of the business district of the mountain town, which sits just north of its namesake, Bill Williams Mountain.

Among the centerpieces of Williams are the Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel. Founded in 1900, the rail line from Williams to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park was restored and restarted in 1989. Today, rail lovers come from all over the world to take a ride back into yesteryear to one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. The Polar Express in November and December is extremely popular.

Ghost City Inn, Jerome, Arizona

Photos by Stuart Rosebrook

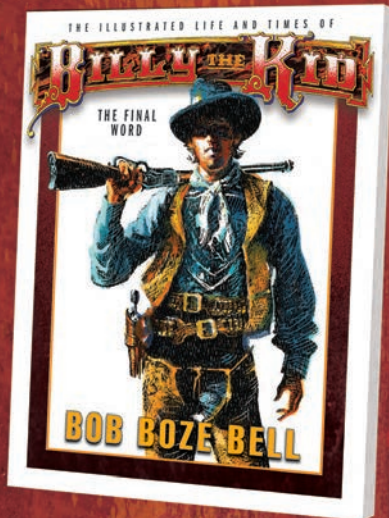
Jerome State Historic Park  
Jerome, Arizona

## Jerome

One of my favorite towns in all the West, Jerome sits atop Cleopatra Hill with a million-dollar view of the Verde Valley. Founded as a mining camp in 1876, the former copper town is currently one of the top destinations in the state for art and history lovers.



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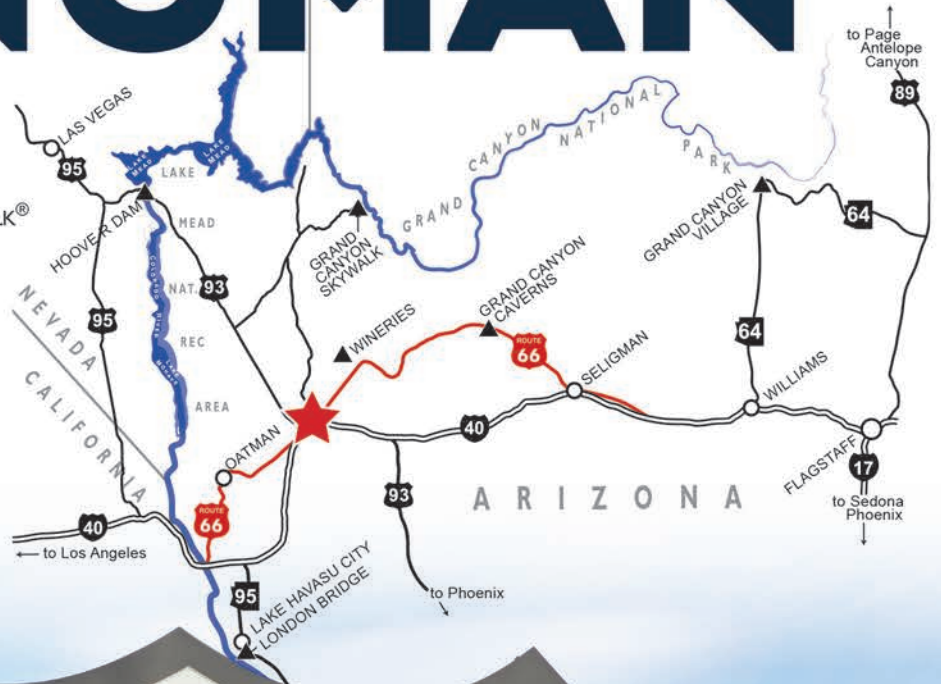
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The Ranch House  
Sharlot Hall Museum

Photos by Stuart Rosebrook

Randall Woods (left) and Danny Romero  
Fourth of July Weekend, 2023

The Palace Restaurant and Saloon  
Prescott, Arizona

In the late 1960s, Jerome was almost a ghost town, until an artist colony sprang up among the last remaining residents of the notorious mining camp. Over the past five decades, Jerome, like its southern copper cousin Bisbee, has gone through a great transformation. Once devoid of hotels and guest houses, Jerome is now a popular overnight destination with unique places to stay including the Connor Hotel, Jerome Grand Hotel and the Ghost City Inn. The historic district is replete with restaurants, Old West saloons and rows and rows of fun shops and art galleries. The Spirit Room and Bobby D's at the Old English Kitchen—the oldest restaurant location in the city—should not be missed.

History lovers will enjoy walking the historic district's switchback streets and visiting the town's museums, including Jerome State Historic Park, Jerome Mining Museum, Gold King Mine & Ghost Town and Jerome Historical Society.

#### Prescott

Known as "everyone's hometown," Prescott is my current hometown, and it is truly one of Arizona's treasures. The Yavapai County Seat, the mile-high city is one of the state's most popular weekend destinations.

Prescott, with its historic downtown plaza, is also an outdoors, festival and history lovers' destination. With popular local lakes and the beautiful Bradshaw Mountains nearby, outdoor



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Photo courtesy of Arizona Office of Tourism



Rose Garden and Territorial Governor's Mansion, Sharlot Hall Museum  
Prescott, Arizona

Stuart Rosebrook

enthusiasts return to Prescott year round. Most weekends from May to October, the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza is host to a festival. In December, Prescott transforms itself into Christmas City.

Museums that celebrate the community's history and heritage are must-visits when in the mountain town. Once in Prescott, visitors will quickly realize they might not be able to do it all in a weekend and will want to schedule more time or a return trip.

When you drive into Prescott, start in the historic district that surrounds the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza. Stop in at the Palace Restaurant and Saloon for lunch or dinner and take a tour of the Western Heritage Center, just a short walk south on Montezuma, aka Whiskey

## Prescott's Best Places to Play & Stay

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Tonto Natural Bridge State Park  
Payson, Arizona

Row. From the historic district, schedule a day at Sharlot Hall Museum, home to the Territorial Governor's Mansion, one of the state's most active living history programs and exhibits that celebrate central Arizona's history and culture. After Sharlot Hall, don't miss a tour of the Phippen Museum to see one of the finest Western art collections in the state, and the Indigenous People's Museum, with its beautiful collection of Native pottery and baskets on display.

The 137th annual Prescott Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo are scheduled for July 1-7. Get your tickets early, as it quickly sells out. Those who love a parade will want to be in town for the annual Frontier Days Parade on July 6.



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## Payson

When you are traveling in the Grand Canyon State and you get off the interstates, you will experience the “real” Arizona. Payson, in Gila County, is one of those beautiful mountain towns east of metropolitan Phoenix that is far off the interstate—and that is why it is so popular. Actually, Gila County is interstate-free, so if you love mountain roads, the great outdoors, historic sites and four seasons, you will love Payson.

The mountain burg with cowboy and cattle ranching roots sits at 5,000 feet, right below the Mogollon Rim, the spectacular geologic escarpment that slashes diagonally across the state and contains part of the world’s largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest. At the crossroads of State Routes 87 and 260, Payson is the first major town you arrive in from the hot desert valley below. The small town with great Western hospitality is a fun place to relax and explore the Rim Country, hike and fish in the nearby

mountains, visit scenic sites and enjoy the quaint neighboring towns of Pine and Strawberry.

If you stay the weekend or a week, take time to visit the local restaurants and shops along Payson’s Main Street (State Route 87), and local favorites, including the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park and Rim Country Museum.

The biggest annual event in Payson is the World’s Oldest Continuous Rodeo, the Payson Pro Rodeo, August 14-17.

## Globe

Globe, the Gila County Seat, sits at 3,500 feet, just below the Pinal Mountains at the crossroads of State Route 188 and U.S. 60. Like Payson, Globe is a mountain town. The two Gila County cities are 80 miles apart via scenic State Routes 87 and 188. But



Besh Ba Gowah Museum, Globe, Arizona

Courtesy Globe-Miami CVB

while Payson is famous for cattle and cowboys, Globe is renowned for its rich deposits of ore, including silver and copper. It is estimated that over \$360 million worth of copper was mined locally.

Founded in 1875, the mining town, like Jerome and Bisbee, has become a destination away from the big cities and

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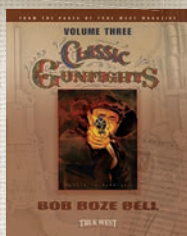
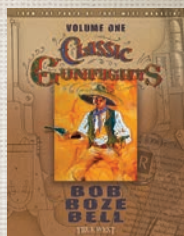
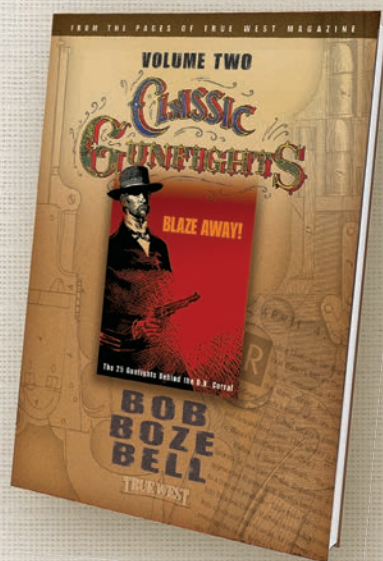
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Sunset on the Sonoran Desert  
Cave Creek,  
Arizona

Wickenburg is well suited for day, weekend or extended stays. Winter visitors go for the weather and the world-class guest ranches including the Kay El Bar, Flying E and Rancho de los Caballeros. While staying in Wickenburg, visit downtown with its popular shops, art galleries and restaurants. Desert Caballeros Western Museum is located adjacent to the historic district and is worth a full day of your time. The museum is well-known for its annual “Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West, Invitational Exhibition & Sale,” which will be held for the 19th time on March 22 through September 1, 2024.

### Cave Creek

Since 1999, *True West* has made its headquarters in the cowboy-artist community of Cave Creek. Founded in 1877, the town’s motto is “Where the Wild West Lives.” The Sonoran Desert horse community is nestled against the New River Mountains and Tonto National Forest. Downtown is a Western and art lovers paradise, with great bars, restaurants and fun annual festivals. Take a tour of the Cave Creek Museum, relax for the weekend at the Tonto Bar & Grill and Historic Rancho Mañana. Cave Creek Rodeo Days celebrates the ranching and cowboy heritage of the area and will be held March 21-24.

### Scottsdale

Scottsdale loves to brag that it’s the West’s most Western town. An international destination, it boasts renowned art galleries, restaurants, Old West saloons, shopping and museums in its famous and popular “Old Town.”

A highlight of any trip to Scottsdale should be a day spent at Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West, voted by *True West*’s editors as

the best Western museum of 2023. The museum has become one of Arizona’s top destinations, renowned for its award-winning exhibitions of art, photography and Western culture and artisanship. Currently on exhibit is “William Matthews: Decades,” “Inner Light: The Art of Tom Gilleon” and “Blair Bunting: Journeys, Neurodivergence and Belonging.”

### Benson

Where to start when on a tour of Cochise County? If traveling into the county from west to east on Interstate 10, exit at Benson and head south on State Route 90. Along the route, the Whetstone Mountains rise to the west and Kartchner Caverns State Park is a bit more than 12 miles south. Reservations are required to tour the beautiful caves. Benson is a wonderful small town with some local cafés worth a visit, including the historic Horseshoe.

### Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista

Driving south on State Route 90 leads to the crossroads with State Route 82: east to Tombstone, west to Sonoita or south on 90 to Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista. Anyone interested in Old West history—especially the war between the U.S. Army and the Apaches—should plan a stop in Sierra Vista and a scheduled visit to the Fort Huachuca Museum. Fort Huachuca is an active Army base and visitors must check ahead on museum hours.

### Bisbee

From Sierra Vista, continue east on State Route 90 over the Mule Mountains into Bisbee. The highways in southeastern Arizona are scenic and many of them are just two lanes, so take your time



Copper Queen Hotel  
Bisbee, Arizona

Courtesy Cochise County Tourism

(weather can change quickly in the high desert region) and enjoy the scenery.

Bisbee offers many choices of hotels from quaint bed-and-breakfasts to national chains. One historic property convenient to downtown is the Copper Queen Hotel, right at the bottom of the historic Bisbee Gulch district.

When in Bisbee, don't miss an opportunity to visit the local Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum as well as take the Queen Mine Tour. The historic district has an interesting assortment of restaurants and shopping, and visitors will soon learn that walking in Bisbee is good exercise. Take your time and relax in the mile-high mining town. After a couple days, you might just want to extend your stay or return for one of its many popular annual events and festivals.

### Douglas

East of Bisbee, take State Route 80 to Douglas, where lunch at the Gadsden Hotel's Saddle & Spur Tavern is always delicious. Thirty-five minutes to the east on the mostly gravel Geronimo Trail road takes visitors to the historic Slaughter Ranch Museum and San Bernardino National Wildlife Center. If you have checked out of your Bisbee accommodations, consider staying a night at the historic Gadsden, which was built in 1907 and rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1928. The lobby, with its stained glass windows, artwork and marble staircase, is one of the most beautiful in the state. If you are in town on a Wednesday or Saturday, the Douglas Historical Society's Douglas-Williams Home Museum is open to visitors from noon to 4 p.m.



## COME TAKE A HISTORICAL TOUR!

The Eureka Sentinel Museum is housed in the 1879 Eureka Sentinel Newspaper Building. This structure was used as the Newspaper Office and residence from 1879 until 1960. The Museum interprets the history of Eureka.


On the ground floor you will find a complete press-room from the 1880's.

The second floor has many exhibits depicting life in the early days of Eureka, from a classroom to an everyday kitchen and parlor. Peek into the window of an old-time Barber shop.

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## Tombstone

Tombstone was founded in 1877 after prospector Ed Schieffelin discovered silver. The rush to stake claims led to a flood of miners and opportunists arriving—and the town's construction. It quickly became one of the most notorious boomtowns in the West. On October 26, 1881, a misdemeanor arrest became the shootout behind the O.K. Corral, leaving three cowboys infamously dead in the dust of Tombstone. Over 150 years later, visitors come from around the world to walk the boardwalks of the Earps, Clantons and Doc Holliday.

If you visit Tombstone, give yourself three days to enjoy the local hospitality, historic sites, museums, restaurants, shops and saloons, including Big Nose Kate's and the Crystal Palace.

Downtown is perfect for shopping and touring local historic sites and museums including the Tombstone Epitaph Museum, Birdcage Theatre, the O.K. Corral Gunfight site, the Gunfighter Hall of Fame and the Goodenough Underground Mine Tour. The Tombstone County Courthouse State Historic Park and Boothill Graveyard provide good introductions to local history.

Tombstone has some of the best Old West reenactments and festivals,



Gadsden Hotel Lobby  
Douglas, Arizona

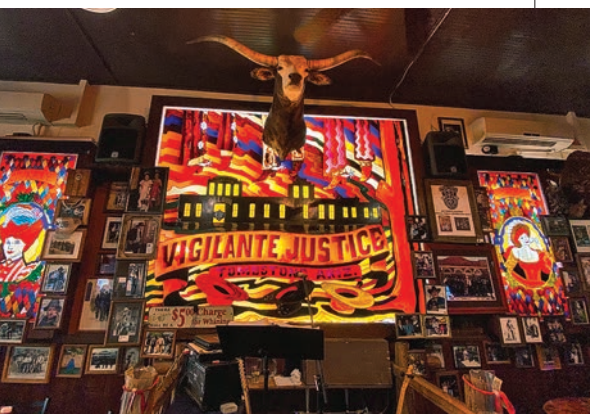
## Willcox

Northeast of Tombstone at the crossroads of Interstate 10 and State Route 186 is the cattle town of Willcox. Founded in 1880, the railroad town quickly became the most important railhead for local ranchers shipping their cattle.

Nearly 145 years later, Willcox is still a cow town with a great Western state of mind. Check into one of the many hotels available, visit the Rex Allen "Arizona Cowboy" Museum and Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, the Amerind Foundation near Dragoon and Fort Bowie National Historic Site (hike or drive to the entrance). Willcox is also a convenient place to stay if you want to tour the legendary Chiricahua Mountains and Chiricahua National Monument.

And, if you'd like, you could take a moment to pay your respects to Warren Earp, the youngest brother of Virgil, Wyatt and Morgan, who is buried in the Willcox Cemetery, just down the street from where he was gunned down in Brown's Saloon. He's the only Earp brother buried in Arizona.

**Stuart Rosebrook** is the editor of *True West*. He has traveled far and wide but still can't get enough of Arizona's small towns, back roads and friendly people.



Big Nose Kate's Saloon  
Tombstone, Arizona

Stuart Rosebrook

including Vigilante Days in February, Wild West Days in March, the Rose Festival in April, Wyatt Earp Days in May, Doc Holliday in August and the world-famous Helldorado Days in October.

## Good Eats & Sleeps

**Eats:** Mi Lindo Jalisco, Kingman; Mr D'z Rt 66 Diner, Kingman; Delgadillos Snow-Cap, Seligman; Cruiser's Route 66 Café, Williams; El Corral on 66, Williams; The Palace Restaurant & Saloon, Prescott; Matt's Saloon, Prescott; Bobby D's BBQ, Jerome; Spurs Cafe, Wickenburg; Charley's Steak House, Wickenburg; El Encanto, Cave Creek; Tonto Bar & Grill, Cave Creek; The Pinon Café, Payson; La Casita, Globe; Los Hermanos, Superior; The Horseshoe, Benson; Landmark Café, Sierra Vista; Big Nose Kate's Saloon, Tombstone; Crystal Palace Saloon, Tombstone; Cafe Roka, Bisbee; Contessa's Cantina, Bisbee; Big Tex BBQ, Willcox

**Sleeps:** El Trovatore Motel, Kingman; Best Western Plus King's Inn & Suites, Kingman; Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel, Williams; Sheridan House Inn, Williams; Hassayampa Inn, Prescott; Hilton Garden Inn, Prescott; Jerome Grand Hotel, Jerome; The Connor Hotel, Jerome; Los Viajeros Inn, Wickenburg; Prickly Pear Inn, Cave Creek; Rancho Mañana Resort, Cave Creek; Chrysocolla Inn, Globe; Allen Street Inn, Tombstone; Larian Motel, Tombstone; Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee; Bisbee Grand Hotel, Bisbee; Dos Cabezas Retreat Bed and Breakfast, Willcox

**Dude Ranches:** White Stallion Ranch, Tucson; Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson; Elkhorn Ranch, Tucson; Tombstone Monument Ranch, Tombstone; Triangle T Guest Ranch, Dragoon; Rancho Los Baños, Douglas, Arizona and Sonora, Mexico; Sprucedale Guest Ranch, Alpine; Rancho de la Osa, Sasabe; Rancho de los Caballeros, Wickenburg; Kay El Bar Guest Ranch, Wickenburg; Flying E Ranch, Wickenburg; Stagecoach Trails Guest Ranch, Yucca

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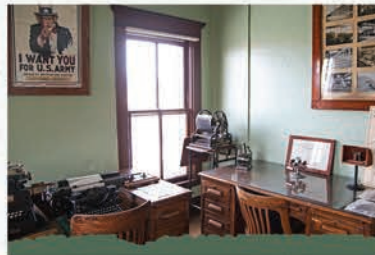
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BY RHONDA LOMELI

# California

## California Gold Country Travel

EXPLORE THE STATE'S HISTORIC REGION THROUGH THREE  
GREAT RAILROAD ADVENTURES.



**A** visit to quaint **Jamestown** will tickle your fancy not only because of its gold-mining history, casinos, antique stores, haunted hotels and award-winning vineyards, but the real gem is the Heritage of Engines in Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. Nestled near Yosemite National Park, it showcases a roundhouse containing engines used in the building of the West.

The Machine Shop opened in 1897 and operated for the first 10 years powered by a water wheel that ran the equipment. It made parts, and the machines were belt-driven while local teenagers were hired to oil the belts.

It is purported that these locomotives have seemed almost human with their breath-like qualities. The engines let the trained ear know how hard they're

working, what they need as they hum along, and when they require service.

Each has a story to tell. For instance, #2, the "Shay" engine had an off-centered boiler because it has all gears that operate the engine. Weighing in at 102 tons, it has a speed of 15 miles per hour tops and uses 20 gallons of oil per mile.

Having a vital role as an ambulance between 1919 and 1923, #8 is a 1925 Model "T" converted to a Paymaster car, and #19 was used for the Hetch Hetchy Dam project.

Built in 1902, #6 is a first-class coach that has 36 velvet seats, a wood stove for warmth and a bathroom for comfort. It was featured in *High Noon* with Grace Kelly and Gary Cooper.

#33 has been in service for over 100 years. A coal-burning engine converted to oil is known as the "Movie Queen." She's survived three derailments and is

The Sierra Railway  
Railtown 1897 State Historic Park  
Jamestown, California

Courtesy Railtown 1897 State Historic Park &  
California State Railroad Museum Foundation

currently undergoing a mandatory 15-year boiler inspection.

Bound for Glory, or #34, is a 2-8-2 steam engine, and what's interesting about #5 is its length. Known as a "Shorty Car," it's half the length of a regular train car and was used to navigate the curves going to Angel's Camp. A wooden train, it carried half passengers and half baggage.

The Sierra Railway has had Hollywood call over 200 times for many of these trains to be included in their motion pictures, commercials and television productions. It earned the nickname, "The Movie Railroad." Viewers will see some of these trains in *Unforgiven*, *Pale Rider* and *Back to the Future III*. Television



Truckee Railroad Museum  
Truckee, California  
Courtesy Truckee Railroad  
Museum

Truckee Station  
Truckee, California, 1880  
Courtesy NYPL Digital Collection



enthusiasts may have noticed the iron beauties in *Death Valley Days*, *Rawhide* and *Petticoat Junction*.

## Good Eats & Sleeps

### Jamestown

**Eats:** National Hotel, Jamestown; Gus's Steak House, Sonora; Jamestown Hotel, Jamestown; Emberz Woodfired Food, Sonora; Diamondback Grill, Sonora; Cover's Bakery and Deli, Tuolumne; Columbia Kate's Teahouse, Columbia

**Sleeps:** The Jamestown Hotel, Jamestown; National Hotel, Jamestown; Sonora Inn, Sonora; The Inn on Knowles Hill Bed & Breakfast Hotel, Sonora; Bradford Place Inn, Sonora; Best Western Plus Sonora Oaks Hotel & Conference Center, Sonora; Hotel Lumberjack, Sonora

On certain days, train rides are available for those interested in experiencing a bit of the past firsthand. The gift shop has conductor hats and wooden train whistles for the young and young at heart.

Nearby interests include Sonora, "Queen of the Southern Mines." Logging trucks are often seen going down the main street of town, Washington Street. It has a bookstore with an interior creek, and there's an old-fashioned candy store with burnished copper-clad front doors, a bank vault and antique mailboxes containing sweets. There's also an establishment for one-stop shopping selling guns, ammo, beer and fishing licenses.

The shenanigans and escapades of the characters who traveled Highway 49, the Golden Chain Highway, in the late 1800s inspired writers to pen works including Mark Twain's *The Celebrated*

*Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* and Bret Hart's *The Luck of Roaring Camp*.

A side trip to Columbia offers an idea of what the town looked like a century and a half ago. Stagecoach tickets can be purchased, and one weekend a year docents dress in period costumes for a realistic encounter.

Don't miss a chance to tour the Calaveras Big Trees State Park located 31 miles off Highway 49 to the east on Highway 4. The park offers serene paths for walking through the luscious canopy of intermingled ponderosa pines, mountain dogwood, incense cedars, white fir and sugar pines. Dwarfing them all are the giant sequoias.

Highway 49 to Interstate 80 will lead to two other noteworthy railroad museums situated in Truckee to the east and Sacramento to the west.

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#### The Great Hall

California State Railroad Museum

Courtesy California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento

#### Truckee

The Truckee Railroad Museum is in the center of the Historic Downtown District. It's a small museum, with a lot of heart—so much so that it is currently 100 percent volunteer-run, and the docents are continually striving to expand. In the works are plans for a small-scale model of the Truckee railroad.

Museum-goers learn that the Truckee area was one of the first to introduce nitroglycerin for blasting through granite. Early on, the engines at Truckee became important. When other engines needed assistance over the steep mountains, they were there to lend a hand. Currently, the "Snow Fighters" play a key role in removing snow from the tracks in the winter.

The Transcontinental Railroad made it possible for logging and lumber to become a major industry in the area. Engineers working these routes often have a view of the beautiful Truckee River.

History abounds with a short walk to The Old Truckee Jail Museum. The jail was active from 1875 until 1964. Showing the unusual usefulness of the railroad, narrow-gauge rails were used to hold up the jail ceiling.

The Museum of Truckee History gives the public an opportunity to use nine

interactive touchscreen displays. Learn about the history of ice harvesting, ice houses and even Boca Beer, the first lager in California. The product was shipped by railway for speedy delivery to thirsty customers.

Exploring Historic Donner Pass Summit Tunnel Hike is an option for those interested in hiking. One of the special features of this abandoned railroad tunnel is it affords the hiker a unique perspective and the ambiance of railroad history.

Three miles down Interstate 80 is Donner Memorial State Park and Emigrant Trail Museum. The winter of 1846 had the Donner Party following manifest destiny to California. Stranded by early and heavy snowfall, the group was soon in dire straits. Due to exhausted food rations, a few of the individuals supposedly resorted to cannibalism of some deceased in a last-ditch effort to stay alive. Visitors can see where 16 members of the group were able to endure the arduous winter in the Murphy cabin and survive.

The museum also has exhibits explaining the building of the railroad



Livery Stable, Main Street  
Columbia State Historic Park  
Columbia, California

Courtesy California State Parks

in history to see the realistic passenger station and original freight depot constructed in the 1860s. Situated on the Sacramento River, the freight depot was used for the interchange of goods not only by railroad and wagon but also riverboat.

Once inside the railroad museum building, visitors view a movie of the history

of what they are about to see. And then the doors open...the sights within the museum are a wonder to behold.

“Done.” The word was telegraphed on May 10, 1869, as the Golden Spike was driven into the rails commemorating the joining of the transcontinental railroad. Built in part by former Confederates and Yankees, they worked together, symbolically joining The Union east and west. The Golden Spike is now housed at this museum.

Farm-To-Fork explores the importance of refrigerated cars used to transport California’s rich agricultural gifts of produce and fruit promptly to markets not only regionally, but also nationally.

The Chinese Railroad Workers’ Experience introduces the workers that helped build the western part of our nation’s first transcontinental railroad.

The museum has eight of only 45 full-size steam locomotives built prior to 1880. The locomotive collection here is extensive, however not all are on display at the same time.

The engines range in dimensions from small to the million-pound Southern Pacific (articulated) cab-forward No. 4294.

over the mountains highlighting the Chinese workers.

A must-see is an 18-mile trip from Truckee on CA 89 S to pristine Lake Tahoe. The nickname “Lake of the Sky” is due to the lake’s elevation of 6,225 feet above sea level. The indigo, turquoise-colored lake is one of the purest in the world, giving the water a crystal-clean appearance. One of the deepest lakes in North America, it reaches a depth of 1,645 feet with 75 miles of shoreline. As winter snow melts, much of the lake water comes from the towering mountains. While the tributaries make their way to the lake, they pick up a modicum of warmth. Beachgoers don’t seem to mind the temperature as they swim, paddleboard and kayak.

A nice way to end the day back at Truckee is a visit to Jax Truckee Diner or Jax at the Tracks Diner. Retired and facing the wrecking ball, the 1948 Pullman dining car was pulled from the outskirts of Philadelphia. The repurposed train car had gone from the smell of industry to the aroma of cuisine, and patrons are grateful.

### Sacramento

California State Railroad Museum in downtown Sacramento can only be described as epic. The National Landmark in Old Sacramento State

Historic Park offers something for everyone.

Before entering the building where the trains are located, guests step back

## Good Eats & Sleeps

### Truckee

**Eats:** Old Town Tap, Truckee; Burger Me, Truckee; Le Bistro Tahoe, Incline Village; Wild Pine, Truckee; Pianeta, Truckee; Trokay, Truckee; Christy Hill, Tahoe City; Truckee Tavern and Grill, Truckee; Stella, Truckee; Truckee Food Shop, Truckee

**Sleeps:** Truckee Donner Lodge, Truckee; Hampton Inn & Suites Tahoe-Truckee, PlumpJack Inn, Olympic Valley; SpringHill Suites, Truckee, Truckee; Cedar Glen Lodge, Tahoe Vista; Best Western Plus Truckee-Tahoe Hotel, Truckee; Donner Lake Inn Bed and Breakfast, Truckee

On display in a massive building are not only engines, but diner cars, passenger cars and sleeping cars. Caboose, or "Home away from home" for trainmen between shifts, are here as well.

Toy trains? This museum has approximately 1,000 vintage Lionel, Marklin and Buddy L featured in a 3,300-square-foot exhibit. In addition, the museum has partnered with the National Model Railroad Association and offers a large display of model layouts and trains to scale. Both exhibits are magical as they seem to, for a moment, almost transport us back to childhood.

Two and a half miles from the California State Railroad Museum is Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. For those interested in the history of the gold rush and trails westward, it's worth seeing.

For many immigrants, the waystation called Sutter's Fort was the end of the California Trail. The first Sutter's Fort was abandoned when in 1848

gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill. This one event triggered the beginning of the California Gold Rush.

Sutter's Fort was saved from demolition by the Native Sons of the Golden West. It's now an educational center with historical reenactments like "Hands on History" that feature interactive exhibits and demonstrations such as blacksmithing and panning for gold.

East on Highway 50 is Placerville. The railroad was opened here in 1888 to haul food and lumber to Sacramento, and until the 1940s, went up and down the line serving passengers.

El Dorado Western Railroad offers rides on Vintage Inspection Cars boarding from El Dorado. When planning a trip, be mindful of the limited schedule.

**Rhonda Lomeli** is the author of *Semper Fi*, *Marine: Two Brothers in the Pacific Theater*, *WWII* and the children's book *There's a Tussle in the Coop!* She has contributed to four anthologies and is a first-time contributor to *True West*.

## Good Eats & Sleeps

### Sacramento

**Eats:** Kau Kau, East Sacramento; Sumer Nights, Sacramento; Casa East Sac, East Sacramento; The Rind, Midtown Sacramento; The Butterscotch Den, Sacramento; Fieldwork Brewing Company, Midtown Sacramento; La Trattoria Bohemia, East Sacramento; Jang Su Korean, Sacramento; Mezcal Grill, Sacramento; Allora, East Sacramento; The Firehouse Restaurant, Sacramento; Maydoon, Midtown Sacramento

**Sleeps:** Residence Inn by Marriott Sacramento Downtown at Capitol Park, Sacramento; Amber House Inn of Midtown, Sacramento; Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Sacramento; Hyatt Regency, Sacramento; Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento Riverfront Promenade, Sacramento; Parkside Inn & Spa, Sacramento; Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento; The Citizen Hotel, Autograph Collection, Sacramento; Courtyard by Marriott Sacramento Midtown, Midtown Sacramento



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BY KELLEN CUTSFORTH

# Colorado

## Colorado Gold

A SUMMER TRIP TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATE IS FILLED WITH ADVENTURE AND HISTORY.



**I**n July 1858, prospector William “Green” Russell discovered 600 grams of gold in the Rocky Mountain Region of Kansas Territory. The following year, word of the find spread throughout the United States and led to the Colorado Gold Rush.

These “Fifty-Niners,” rallied under the cry ‘Pikes Peak or Bust!’ while following Russell’s route. Miners dug deep into the Rocky Mountains, setting up camps everywhere in the territory. Some camps grew into cities while others became ghost towns. Those that

endured exploit their rich history through numerous museums, art galleries and attractions.

### **Boulder**

Soon after gold was discovered in the region in 1858, Thomas Aikins, with help, founded the city of Boulder in February 1859. Today, The Museum of Boulder covers the history of this gold rush. Also supporting the regional history is the University of Colorado’s Natural History Museum, with the largest natural history collection in the Rocky Mountains. Displays exhibiting nature and the gold-rich land are

Summertime, Rocky Mountains  
Gunnison County, Colorado  
Courtesy Gates Frontiers Fund Colorado Collection  
within the Carol M. Highsmith Archive

impressive. Accompanying these two museums, is the Nederland Mining Museum, featuring mining tools, historic photographs and mining maps.

Boulder boasts numerous art studios and galleries too. The Leanin’ Tree Museum, Sculpture Garden of Western Art and Sweetbird Studio feature Western art and jewelry. Leanin’ Tree’s free museum exhibits 250 paintings and 150 bronze sculptures by 100 artists. The



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Pikes Peak  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

William Henry Jackson, Courtesy Library of Congress

Annie Oakley's Emporium  
Central City, Colorado

Courtesy Gates Frontiers Fund  
Colorado Collection within the Carol M.  
Highsmith Archive

Sculpture Garden includes 25 life-size bronze sculptures relating to history and wildlife and Sweetbird, founded in Nancy Anderson's home, sells the finest Southwestern jewelry.

Visiting all of these spots will take time. Luckily, Hotel Boulderado is there to accommodate. Opening on New Year's Eve in 1908, it has been operating in elegance ever since.

**Blackhawk/Central City**

Southwest of Boulder is Gilpin County, where one of the earliest discoveries of gold happened by John



Gregory in 1859. After the find, mining camps Blackhawk and Central City soon sprung up. Today, these two towns focus on gambling instead of gold. However, the Gilpin History Museum emphasizes their early gold rush history.

Since the 1990s, casinos are everywhere. However, most rest within historic buildings. The Century Casino and Hotel in Central City is one of the best. Originally called Goldman's saloon in the 1890s, Century revels in its gold rush history. The Easy Street, located along

Central City's historic Main Street, is another historic hotspot.

There is plenty to do outside of gambling. Built in 1878 by Welsh and Cornish miners to celebrate the music of their homeland, Central City Opera House offers a stunning building that hosts the fifth-oldest professional opera company in the country. If there is an issue finding all these spots, Central City Visitors Center provides sightseers with all the historical highlights in town.

### Idaho Springs

When Fifty-Niner George Jackson discovered placer gold in Clear Creek County, the town of Idaho Springs soon followed. After his golden secret broke, the Argo Tunnel thrived. Perhaps the best innovation, however, was the Argo Mill. The mines relied on it to process gold ore for decades. Currently, the Argo Mill and Tunnel is an awesome experience for anyone interested in mining history.

Another gold mine, the nearby Edgar Mine, named for the Edgar mineral vein running along the hillside, produced high-grade gold in the 1870s. Currently, the experimental mine is a laboratory for future engineers studying at the Colorado School of Mines. The underground tour gives visitors an idea what miners experienced. Along with mines, the Visitor Center and Heritage Museum houses many items exhibiting how Idaho springs operated during its heyday.

### Leadville



While searching for gold in 1860, Abe Lee struck it rich near what became the town of Leadville. Two miles from Lee's fortunate find the Delaware Hotel arose in 1883. It accommodated incoming prospectors and remains a desired destination today.

One of Leadville's most famous residents, Horace Tabor, whose development of the Matchless Mine was legendary, had an affair with the beautiful "Baby Doe" while in town in 1880. They eventually married in 1883. Currently, the Tabor Home Museum emphasizes the torrid tale of Tabor's wealth and his eventual bankruptcy. Other impressive homes include the Healy House, built by August R. Meyer for his bride in 1878, and the Governor's Mansion, once home to Colorado Governor Jesse McDonald.

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# History

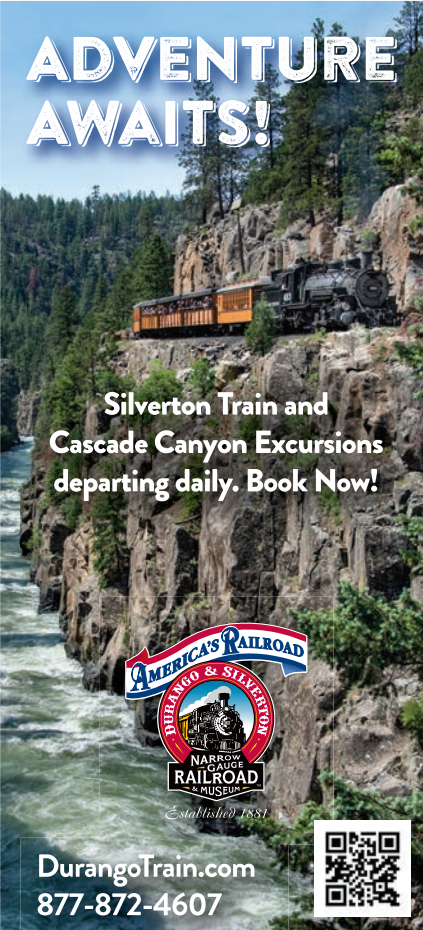
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The National Mining Museum and Hall of Fame features Tabor along with several other influential miners, and the Colorado and Southern Railroad, operating as a tourist railroad since 1988, are both wonderful attractions.

### **Cripple Creek**

The discovery of gold in 1890, at the site of Cripple Creek, ignited the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Rush. Eventually, in 1895, the Midland Terminal Railway Depot arose. It now houses the Cripple Creek District Museum displaying thousands of historic artifacts from businesses and organizations.

Discovery of gold made it priority to link the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining Districts to nearby Colorado Springs. Named for the town of Victor and writer/broadcaster Lowell Thomas (who lived in Victor) the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum exhibits this history.

Finding gold through regulated gambling, Cripple Creek survives. However, in 1896, a fire reduced the town to ash, forcing residents to rebuild. Bronco

Billy's, the Midnight Rose and McGills casinos are some of these rebuilt structures. McGills, housing McGills Pint and Platter, is a great Irish pub steeped in history.

Historic watering holes dot Cripple Creek. The Boiler Room Tavern, located in the Hotel St. Nicholas, features the hotel's original boiler from 1895. Another jumping joint is the Gold Camp Café. On historic Bennet Street, mining photos from the turn-of-the-last-century complete its decor.

### **Georgetown**

Like many of these boomtowns, Georgetown's new found riches spawned luxury hotels and attractions. In 1867, William Hamill purchased his brother's home, transforming it into the Hamill House. The sprawling estate eventually evolved into a beautiful house museum. In 1875, Louis Dupuy constructed his Hotel de Paris, a monumental structure surviving Georgetown's bust also morphed into a museum.

The Georgetown Loop Railroad, built as an attraction in 1884, remains quite relevant. During its heyday, seven trains a day once ran out of Denver on the spectacular stretch of three-foot narrow-gauge. After restarting in 1984, this scenic train has been running steadily ever since.

For a touch of the modern West in a historic setting, look to the Grizzly Creek Gallery displaying beautiful images of wildlife and landscapes. Georgetown offers wonderful hotel accommodations like the Hotel Chateau Chamonix and the Georgetown Mountain Inn. Both present incredible views of what prospectors saw when they mined the mountainside.

### **Silverton and Durango**

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was established in Durango in 1881 to pull ore from the San Juan Mountains and connect to the settlement of Silverton. The line to Silverton ran until 1981 when it became Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Its beautiful



Ouray Hot Springs  
Ouray, Colorado

Courtesy Gates Frontiers  
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Durango &  
Silverton Narrow  
Gauge Railroad

Matt Inden/Miles  
Courtesy Colorado  
Tourism



museum in Durango preserves the history of railroading and mining in the region. Nearby San Juan Historical Museum, in Silverton, also exhibits history with beautiful displays, photographs and collections.

Durango is rich with architectural history. Erected in 1887, the Strater Hotel stands two blocks north of the D&S Railroad. Its Wild West-themed Diamond Belle Saloon is a highlight. The elegance of the General Palmer Hotel named after William Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs, is in its 125th year of opulent operation. The Rochester Hotel, established in 1892, recently went through an amazing restoration.

A number of Durango attractions celebrate the town's Western heritage.

These include The Bar D Chuckwagon and Show, The Cowboy Poetry Gathering, The Animas Museum, Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum and The Durango Fish Hatchery and Wildlife Museum. The hatchery stocks approximately 150,000 catchable rainbows and 1.3 million sub-catchable fish. The Animas is dedicated to the history of the Animas Canyon and the D&S Railroad. Southern Ute Cultural Center, in nearby Ignacio, fosters the history of the Ute Indians, and the Sorrel Sky Gallery has exquisite jewelry, sculpture and Navajo weavings.

### Creede

When Nicolas Creede discovered the Holy Moses mine in 1869, he put Creede on the map. Established in 1892, the Creede Hotel (originally Zang's Hotel) is one of the finest in the territory. An excellent historical society boosts the history

of the area and the famous folks who passed through. One of Creede's best attractions, Underground Mining Tours were blasted out of solid rock, giving visitors a feeling of mining underground.

### Ouray

Ouray, chief of the Southern Utes has a town bearing his name, founded in 1875. Today, the town celebrates its past at the Ouray County Historical Museum housed in what was St. Joseph's Miners

Hospital. Ouray also claims the Bachelor Syracuse Mine Tour and the Beaumont Hotel, with its incredible Ouray Bookshop. The Western Hotel, built in the 19th century, provides great accommodations.

### Golden

Golden, established during the initial gold rush, is a testament to the Western heritage of the Rocky Mountain region. Celebrating the cowboy and prestigious art shows, the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering and the Golden Fine Arts Festival held in historic downtown are wonderful attractions. Integral to pulling ore out of the mountains to be refined, The Colorado Railroad Museum features many railroad stories and resembles an 1880-era small railroad

town with train rides.

Structures from the 1880s displayed at the Golden History Museum and Park include cabins, a schoolhouse and a chance to feed heirloom chickens. Check out more historic buildings on the Golden History Walking Tours featuring tales of gold rush era outlaws and haunted locations. Another historic site is the Golden Hotel, a boutique hotel in the heart of historic downtown. No trip would be complete without a visit to Buffalo Bill's Grave and Museum. The showman's grave sits atop Lookout Mountain with the most spectacular view in the state.

**Kellen Cutsforth** is the author of numerous books and articles about the history of the Old West. He is also a ghostwriter on multiple subjects.

## Good Eats & Sleeps

**Eats:** Gold Hill Inn, Boulder; Millie's Restaurant, Central City; Smokin Yard's BBQ, Idaho Springs; The Legendary Silver Dollar Saloon, Leadville; Maggie's, Cripple Creek; Happy Cooker, Georgetown; Natalia's 1912 Restaurant, Silverton; Diamond Belle Saloon, Durango; Tommyknocker Tavern, Creede; The Saloon at the Western Hotel, Ouray; Buffalo Rose, Golden

**Sleeps:** Hotel Boulderado, Boulder; Historic Windsor Hotel, Silver Plume; Club Hotel, Idaho Springs; Historic Delaware Hotel, Leadville; The Hotel St. Nicholas, Cripple Creek; Georgetown Mountain Inn, Georgetown; Grand Imperial Hotel, Silverton; Colorado Trails Ranch, Durango; Historic Strater Hotel, Durango; The Rochester Hotel, Durango; Aspen Inn, Creede; The Western Hotel, Ouray; The Golden Hotel, Golden

BY BILL YENNE

# Montana

## The Main Street of Montana History

DISCOVER THE TREASURE STATE ALONG ITS  
HISTORIC HIGHWAY OF HISTORY.



**I**n Big Sky Country, northwestern Montana may contain the ice-capped splendor of the “Crown of the Continent” in Glacier National Park, while northeastern Montana has the grandeur of the Missouri River Breaks—but the 600-mile swath across all of southern Montana is the Main Street of Montana History.

This “street” is actually many roads, a scattering of roots and branches that sink deep into the past, but which also

reach fresh leaves into the present. The trunk road is I-90, running from Idaho to Billings, and continuing on I-94 to North Dakota. Much of the eastern half parallels the Yellowstone River, itself an important icon of Montana history.

Unfolding our road map, we begin on the left, departing I-90 to head south on U.S. 93 along the Bitterroot River to Lolo and Traveler’s Rest State Park. The “travelers” were Lewis and Clark, and this is one of only two places where their exact precise position is confirmed. The

Big Hole National Battlefield  
Wisdom, Montana

Courtesy NPS.gov

other is Pompeys Pillar National Monument, also in Montana and described below. Their expedition rested at Traveler’s Rest in 1805 before heading west across the Bitterroot Mountains, and again eastbound in 1806. Fact: Lewis and Clark spent more time traveling, and covered more miles, under the Big Sky than in any other state.



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L.A. Huffman,  
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Three Forks from Lewis Lookout  
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
Three Forks, Montana

Courtesy NPS.gov

## Historic Southwest

Continuing south on U.S. 93 for 85 miles, we cross the Continental Divide and head east on MT 43 for 16 miles to the Big Hole National Battlefield. Here, on August 9-10, 1877, the U.S. Army tried—and failed—to stop about 750 Nez Perce people (civilians and warriors). The U.S. government had promised the Nez Perce that they would be secure in their traditional homeland in Oregon, but settlers had crowded in. Led by the legendary Chief Joseph, they decided to seek asylum in Canada. The U.S. Army lost a series of battles before finally halting their progress in northern Montana after a 1,200-mile pursuit. One can walk the battlefield and visit an excellent interpretive museum.

Eastbound on MT 43 and Secondary S 278, a drive of 60 miles takes today's traveler to Bannack State Park. Now officially a "ghost town," Bannack was once a gold rush boomtown that served for nine months in 1864-65 as Montana's first Territorial Capital. The notorious Henry Plummer, the sheriff who moonlighted as a bandit gang leader, was active here until he ran afoul of the Vigilantes. Period buildings still exist, and many can be visited. Tours are led from the visitor center during summer months, and Bannack Days, with reenactments and other activities takes place in July.

From Bannack, we head east and north on S 278, MT 41 and MT 278, deeper into the early gold rush history of Montana. Dillon, now a substantial college town, grew out of a series of gold and silver rushes that continued for around 80 years from 1862. Today, Twin Bridges is world famous as the place

where the R. L. Winston Rod Company manufactures its legendary fly rods. This is a reminder that gold rush Montana is part of a historic timeline that includes the region's current status as one of the best places for fly fishing in the country.

Virginia City, Montana's territorial capital from 1865 to 1875, was founded in 1863 after a gold strike that swelled the population to 10,000 by 1865. As the boom faded, Virginia City withered, but interest in restoration spawned the Virginia City Historic District in 1966. Today, there are many 1860s buildings to visit, including Stonewall Hall, which housed the Territorial Legislature from 1865 to 1875. Summer-time reenactments, theater productions and opportunities to pan for gold are enjoyed by visitors. The Thomas Francis Meagher Residence was home to the colorful Irish revolutionary and American Civil War general who later

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served as acting governor of Montana. Not only can you see it, you can spend the night there, by booking through Airbnb.

### Crossroads of Rivers

North for 80 miles on MT 287 is Three Forks, named for the confluence of the three rivers which flow together here to form the Missouri River. All part of the fly fisherman's paradise in this part of Montana, the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin were named by Lewis and Clark for the president and the secretaries of state and treasury. Visit the Missouri Headwaters State Park to see where this happens, and spend the night at the historic 1910 Sacajawea Hotel at 5 North Main Street.

Eastward for 30 miles on I-90, we reach Bozeman, home of Montana State University. The city shares a namesake, frontiersman John Bozeman, with the Bozeman Trail, once the main thoroughfare (until 1868) between Fort Laramie and Virginia City. My recommended steakhouse, whether you're hungry for Montana beef or Montana bison, is the Open Range at 241 East Main Street.

Billings, the largest city in Montana for over half a century, overlooks the Yellowstone River, on which steamboats were arriving here all the way from the Gulf of Mexico 150 years ago. Contemplating early Montana history, I used to dine at the steakhouse in the Rex Hotel, an Old West spot often frequented by the likes of Will James and Buffalo Bill. It closed in 2017 after 107 years, but two years later it was reinvented on the same site as the Buffalo Block Steakhouse. Check it out at 2401 Montana Avenue, or go next door to 2403, where the Rainbow Bar, an old-time watering hole, has been in the same family since 1935.

### Little Bighorn Country

Southeasterly on I-90 from Billings for 63 miles brings us to the most

## Helena

It was fun to grow up in a state where the main street in the state capital was named "Last Chance Gulch."

Helena, like Montana's earlier territorial capitals, grew out of a gold rush settlement. Two became ghost towns, while Helena became the state capital in 1889. Gold was discovered in 1864 in Last Chance Gulch, where the road was named "Main Street" as Helena grew into a city. It was not until 1953 that the city fathers, in a moment of boosterism, retro-renamed it "Last Chance Gulch." So it remains.

Still the heart of Helena, the "Gulch" is an inviting place to stroll amid historic buildings, and a segment is pedestrian-only. I always stop in at Aunt Bonnie's Books at 419 North Last Chance Gulch. When in the mood to kick back, I cross the street to number 406 to join fun-loving locals at the Gold Bar and Western Bar ("two bars in one") for dining, libation, pool tables and a hint of what a good bar experience might have been like in 1907 when the place was founded.

Also visit the Montana Historical Society at 225 North Roberts Street.

Their museum is a wonderland of historical, archaeological and ethnological artifacts, as well as fine art. They have one of the best collections of C.M. Russell artwork anywhere. On the hill across the street is the majestic Montana State Capitol Building, completed in 1902. The guided tour includes a look at Russell's masterpiece, *Lewis and Clark Meeting the Flathead Indians at Ross' Hole* (1912). Measuring 25 feet wide, it dominates the House of Representatives' chamber.

famous battlefield in the U.S. west of the Mississippi and north of the Alamo. On June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and about 600 men, mainly of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment, attacked an encampment of approximately 7,000 Lakotas and Cheyennes here, suffering a staggering defeat. Custer and all of the 210 men under his direct command were among around 260 of the attackers who lost their lives. The defenders lost perhaps four dozen. The area is now preserved as the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

Driving eastward from Billings on I-94 for 30 miles, we spy a 150-foot limestone outcropping near the southern bank of the Yellowstone River, which William Clark observed and named “Pompey’s Pillar” after his nickname for the 18-month-old son of Sacajawea. Clark did more than name the pillar, he climbed it and carved his name and the date, July 25, 1806. This, the only known graffiti left by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, is the centerpiece of Pompeys Pillar National Monument. A walking trail takes visitors to view Clark’s handiwork.

## Good Eats & Sleeps

**Eats:** Open Range Steakhouse, Bozeman; Buffalo Block Steakhouse, Billings; Custer Battlefield Trading Post & Café, Crow Agency; Sportsman’s Restaurant, Ennis; The Den Steakhouse and Bar, Dillon; Lolo Peak Brewery & Grill, Lolo; Gold Bar and Western Bar, Helena; Timber Bar & Grill, Big Timber; Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City

**Sleeps:** Sacajawea Hotel, Three Forks; Thomas Francis Meagher Residence (through airbnb), Virginia City; Sportsman’s Lodge, Ennis; Backcountry Angler, Dillon; Tongue River Winery and B & B, Miles City; C’mon Inn Hotel & Suites, Bozeman; Barrister Bed and Breakfast, Helena; Nevada City Hotel & Cabins, Virginia City; Murray Hotel, Livingston; Northern Hotel, Billings; Lure Me Inn Cabin and Hotel, Ennis

**Dude Ranches:** Circle Bar Guest Ranch, Utica; Yellowstone Pop-Up Ranch, O.T.O., Gallatin; Covered Wagon Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; Parade Rest Ranch, West Yellowstone; Elkhorn Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; 320 Guest Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle & Guest Ranch, Townsend; Hubbard’s Six Quarter Circle Ranch, Emigrant; Lone Mountain Ranch, Big Sky; Sky Guest Ranch, Emigrant; Nine Quarter Circle Ranch, Gallatin Gateway; Sweet Grass Ranch, Big Timber



320 Guest Ranch  
Gallatin Gateway, Montana

A self-guided driving tour of about six miles is highly recommended.

Also recommended is a stop at Custer Battlefield Trading Post & Café at 347 U.S. 212, adjacent to the National Monument entrance. Proprietor Putt Thompson offers hearty dining and a store with an old-time trading post atmosphere, selling souvenirs of all price points up to high-end American Indian fine arts, textiles and antiques.

As this is the heart of the 3,600-square-mile Crow Indian Reservation, one may wish to time a visit for the third week of August in order to take in the festivities of the annual Crow Fair, the largest American Indian gathering on the northern Plains.

Eastward on I-94, following the Yellowstone for 113 miles, we reach Miles City. A longtime cowtown now calling itself the “Cow Capital of the World,” the city grew out of an Army post established by Gen. Nelson Miles in 1876. A major center of the cattle industry since the 1880s, Miles City hosts the annual Eastern Montana Fair and Rodeo in August, and the world-famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale each May.

**Bill Yenne** grew up in Glacier National Park, graduated from the University of Montana, and regards time spent on the rivers, trails and back roads of the Treasure State to be one of life’s greatest treasures. An award-winning author, Yenne is a first-time contributor to *True West*.

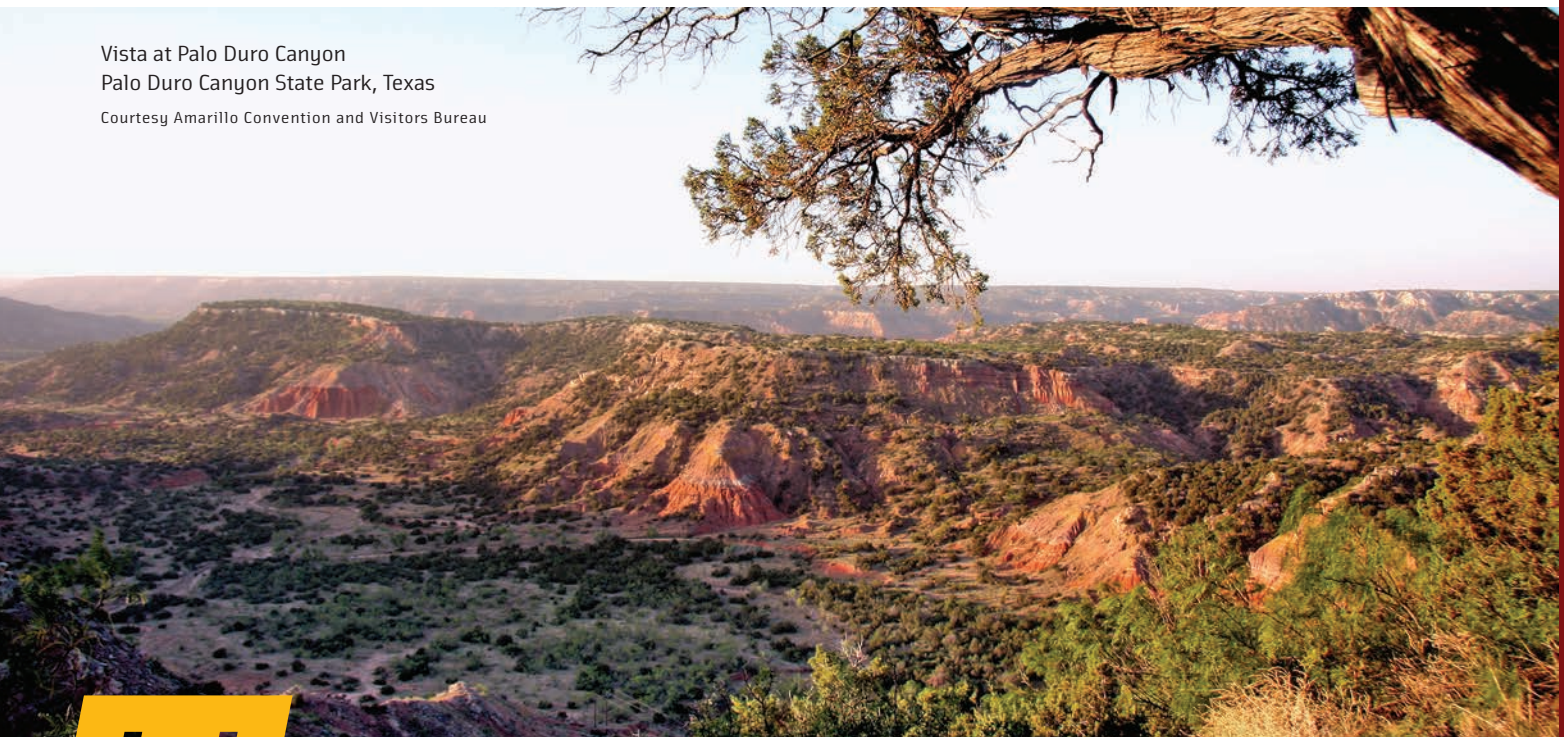
BY NATALIE BRIGHT

# Texas

## Texas Adventure

PLAN A TRIP TO AMARILLO AND THE PANHANDLE AND  
ENJOY VISITING ITS SMALL TOWNS, HISTORIC SITES  
AND NATURAL WONDERS.

Vista at Palo Duro Canyon  
Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Texas  
Courtesy Amarillo Convention and Visitors Bureau



**T**he top 26 counties of Texas are divided by the Canadian River valley. Also known as the staked plains, Panhandle Plains or Texas Panhandle, it is part of the larger area of level surface known as Llano Estacado, meaning “staked.” The sea of grass was so dense it left no path when Coronado’s expedition passed through in 1541. He created “stakes,” mounds of white stone, to mark the return route. The Comanches began trading with the Mexican Comancheros in the 17th century and kept the area under their control. It’s a place of wind and wide-open space where you will enjoy an unobstructed view of the sky.

**Turn off the Interstate and discover where the locals go in Amarillo. Cowboys and cowgirls are real, so bring your boots if ya got 'em. Horses are optional.**

In the modern day, Amarillo sits in the heart of this plain.

First called Oneida, Amarillo became the Potter County seat in 1887. The name means “yellow,” probably inspired by the abundant wildflowers that blanket the grasslands in spring. Cattle ranches along with the Fort Worth and Denver City railroad established Amarillo as one of the busiest shipping points. Next came the grain milling and feed industries, followed by the discovery of a natural gas field in 1918 and oil in 1921.

The influences of these vast land resources still exist mixed with the urban bustle of a big city. Good manners are still in style and simple pleasures rule.

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### **Beef Capital of the World**

First things first. This is the heart of cattle country. The area produces 30 percent of the nation's beef, and numerous restaurants offer it on their menu. One of our favorites is owned by a group of guys from my hometown of Dimmitt. X-Steakhouse serves only prime choice beef that is aged 30 days, which is key for tenderness and flavor. Steaks are then hand-cut in-house. Located in Townsquare Village on the west side of Amarillo, the local favorite also offers an extensive beer and wine list.

### **Amarillo by Day and Night**

The locals know that there's nothing like a pair of custom boots if you want to walk with the confident swagger of a real cowpuncher. Western Leather Craft Boot Company, Bustamante Cowboy Boots or

Beck Cowboy Boots specialize in quality footwear measured to fit your foot. Shop for Western attire at Boot Barn, West Texas Western Store in Westgate or Cavender's. To learn more about working gear and saddle craftsmanship, plan a stop at Oliver Saddle Shop. This family-run business offers a wide variety of handmade leather products.

A mile-long stretch of famed Route 66 Historic District offers more Western goods, antiques and a variety of eateries in historic buildings. Located on Sixth Avenue between Georgia and Western Streets, it was the first residential and business district in the city.

There are two museums located on Interstate 40 that celebrate the American West. Amarillo is home to the American Quarter Horse Association

### **Trail Riding**

Cowgirls and Cowboys in the West  
Los Cedros Ranch, Texas

Courtesy of Cowgirls and Cowboys in the West

and Museum, the world's largest equine breed registry. The Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian is open during the summer, Thursday-Saturday, and the dinner show includes an authentic American Indian dance performance.

For a night on the town, Starlight Ranch was voted Best Live Music Venue. For something different, Shark Beach Burgers on the Claude highway created their own sandy beachfront restaurant featuring cover bands. Spend an evening strolling along lighted Polk Street in downtown Amarillo. Choose from a



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**Day Trip East of Amarillo to Goodnight, Panhandle, Borger and Alibates**

Travel on US 287 east from Amarillo for 40 minutes to Goodnight, Texas, and the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site. The first cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle was established by plainsman Charles Goodnight and Irish business partner John Adair. After selling his share of the JA, Goodnight set his ranch headquarters in

Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site, Goodnight, Texas  
 Courtesy TPWD.Texas.gov

variety of dining options and enjoy the live music that can be heard from the rooftop wine bars.

Armstrong County and built a gabled Victorian-style house. The 1887 ranch home is restored on its original site.

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

Heading back West toward Amarillo on US 287, turn north at Claude and take TX 207 to Panhandle. The Carson County Square House Museum is a 21-building complex. It features a diorama that tells the story of our area, climb into a train car, and my favorite, see a fully furnished dugout. Locally owned Brickstreet 200 is the perfect stop for lunch. Located in a renovated 1912 bank, the chicken-fried steak is their most popular dish on the menu.



Keep heading north on TX 207 toward Borger, about a 25-minute drive. The treeless, short grass prairie on either

side of the highway is the Dixon Creek Camp of the famed Four Sixes Ranch. You'll drive past the entrance to the

*Hide Hunters* by Harold Dow Bugbee  
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum  
Canyon, Texas

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

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Storm on the Horizon  
Texas Panhandle  
Courtesy of Natalie Bright



headquarters where parts of Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* were filmed. It is private property, so do not enter.

In Borger the Hutchinson County Historical Museum has both inside and outside exhibits. Learn how the discovery of oil impacted the area. A diorama of the Adobe Walls trading post is the site of a significant conflict between bison hunters and Comanche forces. It's a fascinating story.

If you have time for a side trip, take TX 152 east and drive for 60 miles to Old Mobeetie, where Bat Masterson, Pat Garrett and Temple Houston left their mark on history.

From Borger continuing west through the town of Fritch on US 136, drive 11

miles to the Alibates Flint Quarries Visitors Center. The unique flint rock was quarried to make points, knives and other tools dating back as far as the Clovis mammoth hunters. The Canadian River provided access to this neutral site where tribes came to collect the

material they needed. The film, artifacts and guided hike to the quarry are worth your time.

**Day Trip South of Amarillo to Canyon and Palo Duro Canyon State Park**

From Amarillo travel south on Interstate 27 for 15 miles to Canyon and

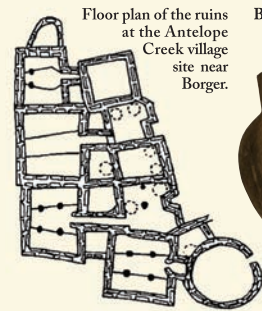
*This ad is sponsored by the Friends of the Hutchinson County Historical Museum*

***Before the Wild West even began, Hutchinson County was home to a Native American culture that is still a mystery to archeologists.***

The Antelope Creek phase is the cultural designation given to prehistoric sites found in the upper Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. Semi-sedentary, bison hunters and farmers, these people occupied the mixed-grass prairies extending from north central Texas to North Dakota between A.D. 1200 -1500. Numerous stone ruins found throughout Hutchinson County and much of the Great Plains display similarities in architecture, means of subsistence and artifacts. The group's broad geographical range and vast numbers of sites have led archeologists to conclude that the Antelope Creek culture flourished during much of this period. Their abrupt disappearance is yet to be fully explained by the archeologists and anthropologists who have studied this culture for over a century.



The ruins of a stone dwelling on a local ranch.



Floor plan of the ruins at the Antelope Creek village site near Borger.

Borger cord-marked pottery is unique to this area.



Archeological dig at the Alibates ruin in mid-1930's.



Indians ground grain, nuts and seeds in bedrock mortars such as this one.



Explorers and settlers who followed trails through this area during the opening of the West - both those who continued their journey, and those who settled here, viewed the stone ruins as mysterious remnants of the bygone past, *much as we still do today!*


Arrow points made from Alibates flint.



**HCHM**

Hutchinson County Historical Museum

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***Visit the Museum and learn more about the Antelope Creek Culture, the two battles at Adobe Walls, the Borger Oil Boom, the founding of the City of Boomtown Borger - and much, much more!***

Open Tues. - Fri. 9-5, Sat. 11-4:30 • Free admission • [hutchinsoncountymuseum.org](http://hutchinsoncountymuseum.org)



Hidden Speakeasy, The Barfield Hotel  
Amarillo, Texas

Courtesy of The Barfield Hotel

step into the past at the largest historical museum in the state. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is located on the campus of West Texas A&M University.

The downtown square in Canyon is quaint, and the options for eating and shopping are varied. You can't go wrong

at any of the restaurants. A local Farmer's Market is held every Saturday morning during the summer. One of my favorite places is located in a magnificently refurbished bank building. Burrowing Owl Books stocks new and used Westerns in the old vault.

While you're in downtown Canyon, pick up tickets for the outdoor musical drama *Texas*, which is performed at the Pioneer Amphitheatre in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Drive east out of Canyon on TX 217 for 12 miles. The highway dead-ends at the park entrance.

The stark contrast between flat land to the beauty of the deep chasm will surprise you. The purple, gray and dark red layers of rock forming the 800-foot canyon walls give witness to millions of years in geological time. At the first lookout you will discover a view that will take your breath away and The Canyon Gallery and Visitors Center with equally stunning Native American pottery and jewelry.

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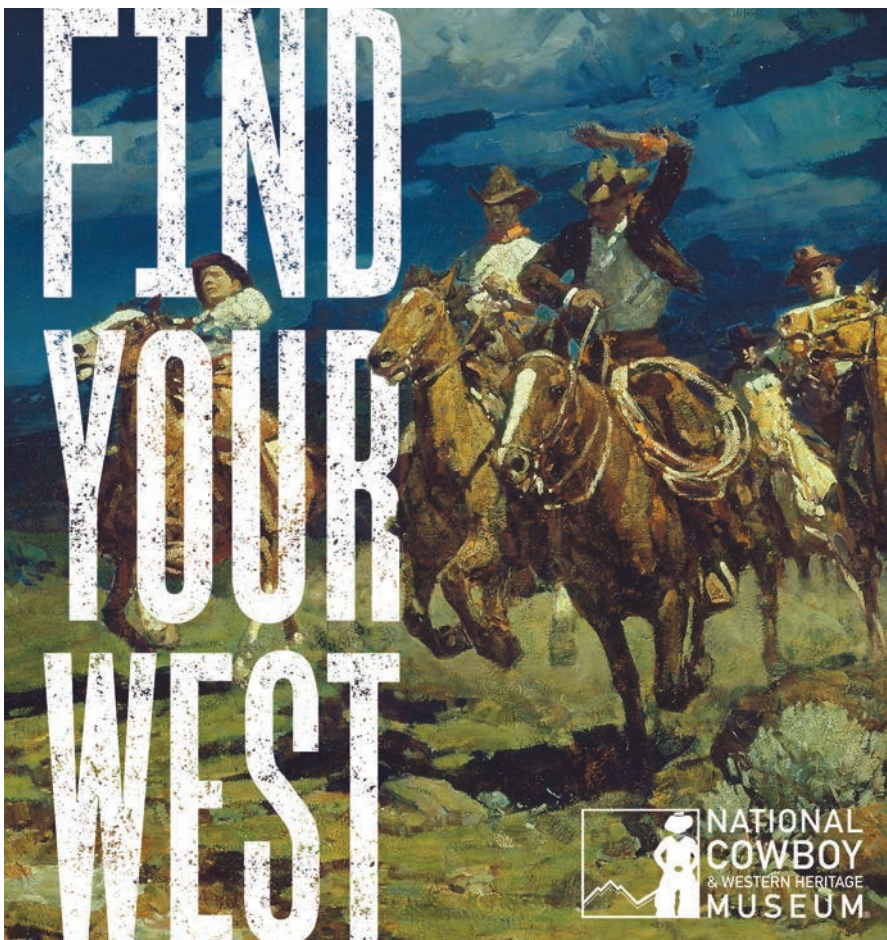
Working Ranch  
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Amarillo, Texas

Courtesy Amarillo  
Convention and Visitors  
Bureau

Enjoy a leisurely drive on a well-paved road that loops through the park and open your vehicle windows for the scent of salt cedars and the chirps of cicadas. Check the website for entry fees, reservations for camping sites or cabins and park alerts relating to heat restrictions.

### Horseback Riding

On Farm to Market Road 1258 south of Amarillo, discover the Los Cedros Ranch and Cowgirls and Cowboys of the West for horseback riding. Located on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon, they are rated #1 on TripAdvisor for Amarillo activities. You can learn about the area's history



See the fascinating history of South Texas come alive in vibrant murals and learn about the area's cultural, economic and religious development. View "Vaquero," a video describing cowboy life in the Wild Horse Desert.

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and receive instruction on saddling.

Pick a horse from Palo Duro Riding Stables, or choose a zipline that extends across the canyon, located about one mile before the entrance to Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Old West Stables is located inside the park, and Palo Duro Creek Ranch offers jeep tours as well.

**Life's a Rodeo**

The skills required of working cowboys and cowgirls are celebrated through organized events, and Amarillo is host to several of these competitions. A cattle drive through downtown on Polk Street kicks off the Coors Cowboy Club Ranch



Oliver Saddle Shop  
Amarillo, Texas

Courtesy Amarillo  
Convention and Visitors  
Center

Rodeo every June. The Will Rogers Range Riders is the oldest continually operating riding club in the U.S. and hosts their rodeo every July. The Tri-State Fair and Rodeo is held in September, and the Working Ranch Cowboy Association's (WRCA) world championship is held the second

weekend of November. The WRCA structures its competition around the skills needed on today's ranches with ranch teams comprised of actual day working cowboys and cowgirls.

Rodeos are held in most every community throughout the Texas Panhandle during the summer and fall. The contests

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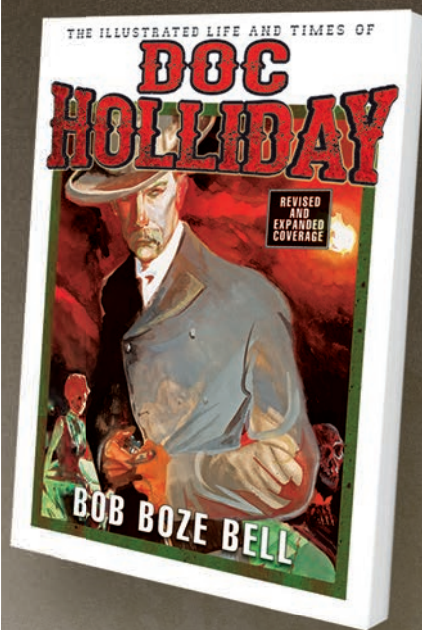
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are the perfect opportunity for cowgirls and cowboys to show off their abilities. Located northwest of Amarillo, Dalhart has been hosting the annual XIT Rodeo and Reunion since 1937.

Hospitality and an unforgettable sky view await you in Amarillo.

#### **Where to Sleep**

Amarillo can brag about an abundance of dust and hotels. There are numerous options along Interstate 40, on West Loop 335, and in downtown Amarillo at all price ranges. If you want to experience the ultimate in

southern hospitality, consider the stunning Barfield Amarillo. This locally owned treasure is the location where cattle barons, city entrepreneurs and oil industrialists once gathered. Enjoy an authentic cocktail in the basement speakeasy. I recommend a Bees Knees with a twist of lemon rind.

**Natalie Bright** is the author of 20 books for adults and kids. A lifetime resident of the Texas Panhandle, the history and people provide unlimited inspiration for her work.



"The Rider on the Rim," Texas, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Texas

Courtesy Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress

## Good Eats & Sleeps

**Eats:** Blue Sky Texas Burgers, Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock & Midland; Drunken Oyster, Amarillo; Spicy Mike's Bar-B-Q Haven, Amarillo; Mickey's Place Italian Specialties, Canyon; Lazy Gator, Amarillo; Tacos Garcia Mexican Café, Amarillo; The Plaza Restaurant & Bar, Borger; Ye Olde Pancake Station, Amarillo

**Sleeps:** Doves Rest Cabins on the rim Palo Duro Canyon State Park; Drury Inn & Suites, Amarillo; Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriot, Amarillo; Hudspeth House Bed & Breakfast, Canyon; The Barfield Autograph Collection, Downtown Amarillo; Three Falls Cove B&B, Sanford



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Albert L. Groll, Summer Clouds, Arizona, n.d., oil on canvas, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX.

# ANDY WARHOL COWBOYS AND INDIANS

**MARCH 1 – JUNE 1, 2024**

Museum of the Big Bend · Alpine, Texas

The 14 images in Andy Warhol's print series, "Cowboys and Indians," portray a fantasy of the American West, mixing together historical figures and mass media interpretations of the past. This portfolio is one of the last major series the artist completed before his death in 1987. The exhibit was organized by the Briscoe Western Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas.



MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND



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BY CANDY MOULTON

# Wyoming

## Rodeos, Ranching and Rendezvous

PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW FOR SUMMER FUN IN WYOMING.



**F**or some people the three R's are reading, writing and arithmetic, but in Wyoming they are ranching, rodeo and rendezvous, and you will find plenty of all three on any summertime visit to the state.

High school rodeos take place throughout the spring, and the college competitors converge on Casper in June for the College National Finals, this year June 9-15. While in the city, visit Fort Caspar, the Werner Wildlife Museum and the National Historic Trails

Interpretive Center or replenish your Western wardrobe at Lou Taubert Ranch Outfitters.

There is a rodeo somewhere in Wyoming almost every day and two places to visit where you are almost sure to catch arena action are Dubois with its rodeo running from June 11 to August 20, and Cody, where the Cody Nite Rodeo (June-August) has long been a hallmark event and where you'll often see not only the top cowboys and cowgirls but also some of the top stock as well.

Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

All Images Courtesy Gates Frontiers Fund Wyoming  
Collection within the Carol M. Highsmith Archive,  
Library of Congress Unless Otherwise Noted



Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, 1910

Courtesy Library of Congress

# Sheridan



COUNTY, WYOMING, USA.

## HISTORY

Sheridan features a thriving, historic downtown district, with western allure, hospitality and good graces to spare; a vibrant arts scene; bombastic craft culture; stunning museums and galleries; a robust festival and events calendar; and living history from one corner of the county to the next.

## HERITAGE

Sheridan County is the heart of cowboy country. Sheridan WYO Rodeo Week is a homecoming like nothing you've ever experienced. Get wild and rugged on a cattle drive. Shop chic western shops downtown. Experience the nature of the west in Wyoming's Emerald City and fabled western jewel.

## THE WILD

1.1 million acres of pristine wildland in the Bighorn National Forest, encompassing 1,200 miles of trails, 30 campgrounds, 10 picnic areas, 6 mountain lodges, legendary dude ranches, and hundreds of miles of waterways. The Bighorns offer limitless outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

# DOUGLAS & GLENROCK

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### 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.**

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## Wyoming PIONEER MUSEUM

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Cody Stampede Rodeo, Cody, Wyoming

Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

While in Dubois visit the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center and the National Museum of Military Vehicles which includes one of the largest private collections of military vehicles in the country. The Wind River Historical Center provides a glimpse into the American Indian and early settlement history of the region.

Cody's attractions are some of the best in the West, including the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, the Cody Heritage Museum, Dug Up Gun Museum and the Cody Firearms Experience, where you can learn about and shoot a variety of weapons from the Old West. For decades, Wayne's Boot Shop has been an anchor store along Sheridan Avenue just down the street from the Irma Hotel. At By Western Hands, you'll find furniture by some of Cody's master craftsmen and learn more about their work in accompanying exhibits. Cody Songwriters is a growing Septem-

ber attraction and the Chamberlain Inn is known for its patio concerts throughout the summer.

Buffalo Bill Cody founded the town that carries his name, but he recruited men to perform in his Wild West in Sheridan. Rodeo action takes place at the Sheridan WYO Rodeo July 10-13. Cowboys (and visitors) eat at the Cowboy Café or Silver Spur Café or head over to the Wagon Box in Story, which has live music many nights.

Sheridan's cattle country roots were established by cattlemen such as Nelson



A Bar A Ranch Encampment, Wyoming

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- ★ Dubois is a summer and autumn paradise for *fly fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, mountain biking, mountaineering, dude ranching and outfitting*. You don't want to miss the summertime weekly *rodeos and square dances*, the yearly *national art show and competition, or the national quilting show and competition*. *Dubois is the town of rainbows and sunsets!*
- ★ Dubois is home to the largest wintering herd of *bighorn sheep* in the lower 48 and is a *wonderland of winter sports opportunities*. The Dubois area boasts over 600 miles of groomed *snowmobile and cross country skiing* trails.
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Dubois Named a "Town Where History Lives" in 2023 by *True West Magazine*

Dubois Named #2 "Top 10 Western Town" in 2011 by *True West Magazine*

Dubois Named "Best Place to Escape" in 2018, 2019 by *Expedia*

Dubois' National Museum of Military Vehicles Voted "Top Ten New Attractions" in 2020 by *USA Today*

Dubois' National Bighorn Sheep Center - *The Only One in the Country!*



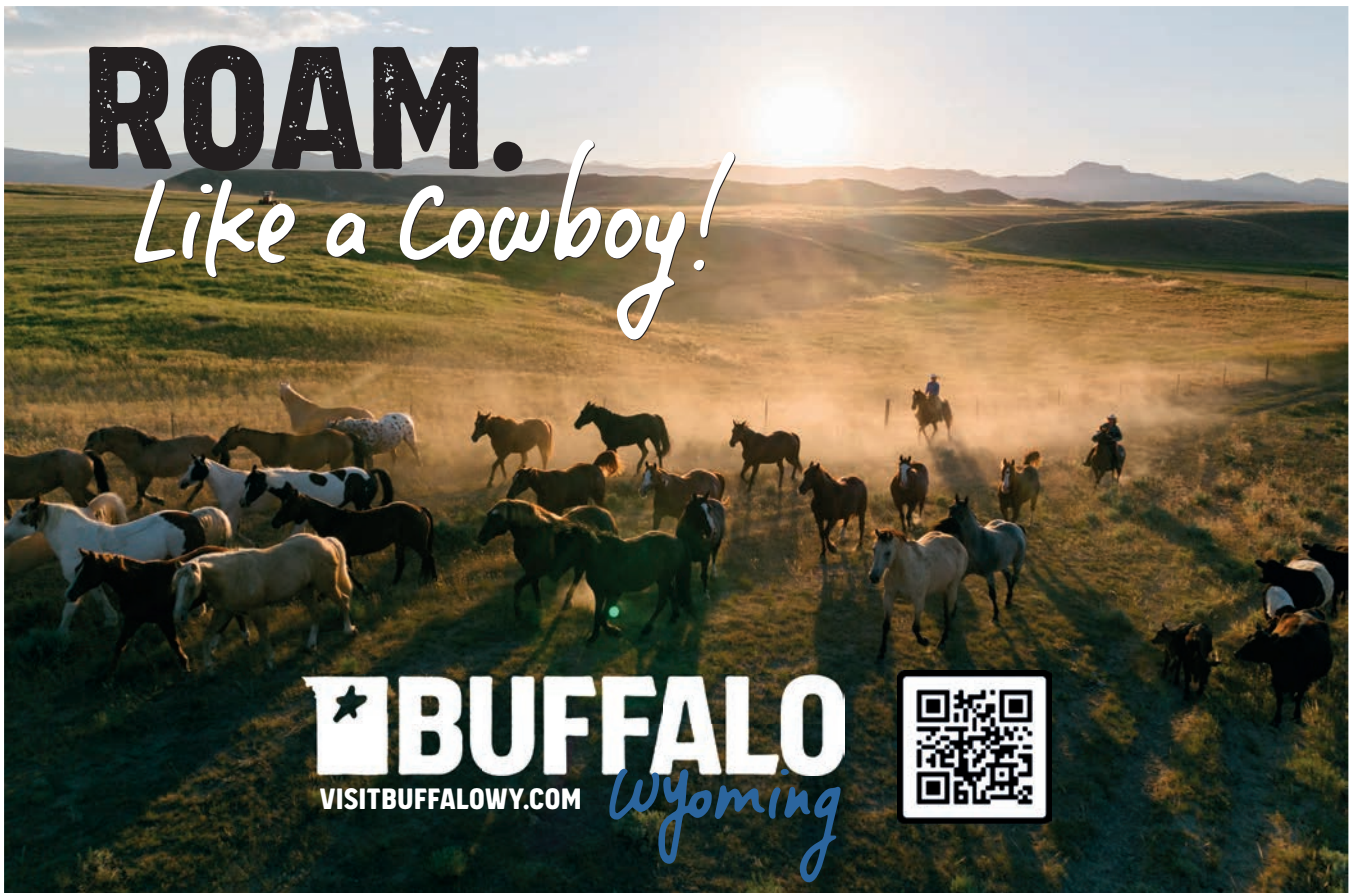


Fort Bridger Rendezvous  
Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

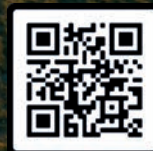
Story, who brought the first herd of Texas livestock into the area. British remittance men—those second sons of British nobility—followed and built their own cattle kingdoms. One of those ranches, established by Bradford Brinton, is home to the Brinton Museum and its outstanding collection of Western art and Plains Indian artifacts.

In downtown Sheridan, you'll find King Saddlery, King Ropes and the King Family Museum. All three are appreciated by working cowboys for the authentic gear created by the family. In 2023 Don King was recognized with the Cowboy

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Without doubt the king of rodeos in Wyoming is the Daddy of 'em All—Cheyenne Frontier Days, held the last full week of July with rodeo slack and events starting even earlier. The CFD rodeo action features the top cowboys riding for the PRCA. Among the competitors in 2023 were All-Around Cowboy Stetson Wright, and the winningest bull rider of all time, J. B. Mauney—called the \$7 Million Man, who competed in one of his last events before his retirement. There is a lot more than rodeo to Cheyenne Frontier Days. You'll be able to visit the Plains Indian Village with dance demonstrations held daily, free pancake breakfasts downtown, four parades featuring some of the greatest horse-drawn vehicles in the country and



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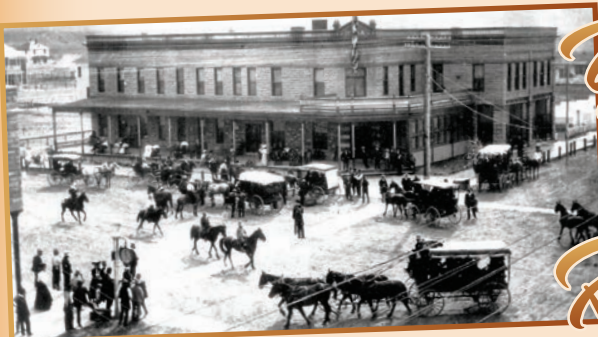
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A Bar A Ranch  
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night shows by top entertainers (to be announced in March). Additionally, the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) will be competing in “Last Cowboy Standing” on July 22 and 23.

Refresh your cowboy wardrobe at The Wrangler, Murdoch’s, Boot Barn or Just Dandy, a dandy of a store for cowgirls. Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum is expanding its exhibit area and has presentations about top competitions in the CFD arena plus a larger gift shop.

Every county has a rodeo in Wyoming, and many of them have multiple events during the summer. Albany County holds Laramie Jubilee Days, July 6-13. In Carbon County, rodeo events include the Woodchoppers Jamboree and Rodeo—an event sponsored by the

local Lions Club since the early 1960s and held over Father’s Day weekend—The Platte Valley Rodeo in Saratoga in late July and the Carbon County Fair and Rodeo the first week in August in Rawlins.

#### BRING ON THE DUDES

Dude ranching started in Wyoming at Eaton’s Ranch, at the town of Wolf, not far from Sheridan. This historic operation is still taking guests. Many other dude ranches operate in the Bighorn Mountains between Sheridan and Buffalo. These include Canyon Ranch, Double Rafter Ranch and Paradise Guest Ranch, which offers truly unique riding experiences in the Bighorns, plus options to fly fish and participate in ranch rodeo activities.

The country to the west of Cody, particularly up the North Fork of the Shosh-

one River, on the route to Yellowstone National Park, is well-known dude ranch country, too, with a variety of operations that appeal to couples or families. Rim Rock Ranch, the Crossed Sabers, Shoshone Lodge and UXU are just a few of the options for a dude ranch vacation in the Cody area.

Dubois and Lander also have multiple guest ranch options, many of them that combine a typical dude experience with an opportunity to do some horse packing into the wilderness for an on-the-ground stay that gets you far from people, automobiles, cell phones and other modern amenities. Instead, you’ll be close to nature and will have a chance to see some of Wyoming’s high mountain country. Allen’s Diamond 4 Ranch out of Lander is one of the best operations for such an adventure. CM Ranch out of Dubois offers

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Teton Range, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

stays at the ranch in addition to over-night pack trips.

Teton County is most known as the home of Grand Teton National Park, but there are legacy ranches in Jackson Hole, and the Jackson Hole Rodeo takes place at the end of the busy summer tourist season, August 23-September 2. This is another area where there are guest ranches for visitors to spend a week riding and learning about horses. Some of the Jackson Hole dude ranches are Triangle X, Lost Creek Ranch, Spotted Horse Ranch, Moose Head Ranch and Double H Bar.

For a dude ranch experience in southern Wyoming, visit the Vee Bar Guest Ranch near Centennial, the A Bar A Ranch near Encampment or the Medicine Bow Lodge and Adventure Guest Ranch near Saratoga.

For a working ranch experience in Wyoming, try The Ladder Ranch in the Little Snake River Valley or The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch near Shell.

### IT'S TIME FOR A RENDEZVOUS

The first mountain man rendezvous was a small event that took place on the Black's Fork of the Green River in southwestern Wyoming in 1825. It was

a gathering of mountain trappers, American Indians and traders from St. Louis who brought supplies and goods the people living in the mountain country needed. During the next 15 years, annual rendezvous took place at various locations in the northern Rocky Mountains. Six gatherings took place along Horse Creek in the Upper Green River Valley, near the present town of Daniel, Wyoming.

Modern-day mountain men recreate this rendezvous annually, this year



Fort Bridger Rendezvous

Courtesy Wyoming Tourism

## Good Eats & Sleeps

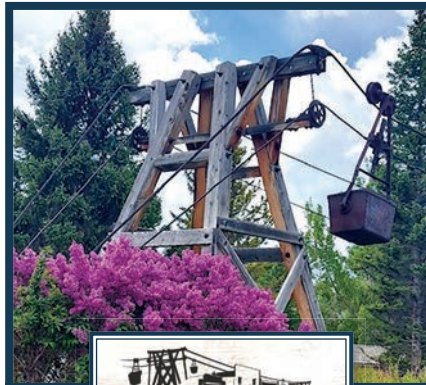
**Eats:** The Albany, Cheyenne; Cavalryman Steakhouse, Laramie; The Bear Trap, Riverside; 307 Grill, Encampment; Bella's Bistro, Saratoga; Michael's "Big City" Steakhouse, Rawlins; The Busy Bee Café, Buffalo; Mint Bar, Sheridan; Cowboy Café, Dubois; The Irma Hotel, Cody; Cowboy Bar, Pinedale

**Sleeps:** Little America, Cheyenne; Nagle-Warren Mansion B&B, Cheyenne; Spirit West River Lodge, Encampment; Occidental Hotel, Buffalo; Sheridan Inn, Sheridan; Saratoga Hot Springs Resort, Saratoga; Hotel Wolf, Saratoga; Historic Elk Mountain Hotel, Elk Mountain

**Dude Ranches:** Eatons' Ranch, Wolf; A Bar A Ranch, Encampment; Vee Bar Guest Ranch, Laramie; Crossed Sabres Ranch, Cody; Blackwater Creek Ranch, Cody; Lazy L&B Ranch, Dubois; Triangle C Ranch, Dubois; Medicine Bow Lodge & Guest Ranch, Saratoga; Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch, Shell; Paradise Guest Ranch, Buffalo; Triangle X Ranch, Moose; Spotted Horse Ranch, Jackson

July 12-14. In addition to living history camps and traders' row, the annual event, which has been occurring for more than 85 years, includes an art show, parade, music and vendors.

A special event this year in Pinedale is "1824, The Eve of Rendezvous: A Bicentennial Event" at the Museum of the Mountain Man, September 12-15. This is part of the National Fur Trade Symposium, which in the past has been held at Fort Laramie, Bent's Old Fort, Fort Union Trading Post and at the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska. In addition to presentations by fur trade historians, the symposium will include auto tours to fur trade sites.



The Grand Encampment Museum is the "GEM" of Southern Wyoming. The GEM has a rich collection of over a dozen historical buildings filled with artifacts representing the timber, mining, and agricultural history of the Encampment valley at the turn of the 20th century.

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Museum of the Mountain Man  
 Courtesy Museum of the Mountain Man

The Teton County Fairgrounds is the location for the Jackson Hole Rendezvous, May 20-30. This is one of the annual events that really kicks off summer in Jackson Hole. You'll see the mountain men in the annual Memorial Day Parade that makes its way around the Jackson Town Square and you can visit their camp to do some trading of your own.


The 1838 mountain man rendezvous is held in Riverton, July 3-7, on the site

of the original 1838 rendezvous. That same year, some mountain men gathered beside the Grand Encampment River (then called Potter's Fork) and held a smaller rendezvous at a place they called Camp Le Grande. The name of this gathering ultimately was used for the town of Grand Encampment, and each year black-powder shooting competition, traders' row and mountain stories are part of the Sierra Madre Muzzle Loaders Rendezvous, which takes place adjacent to the Grand Encampment Museum in late July.

By far the biggest rendezvous in the Rocky Mountain West is held over Labor Day weekend at Fort Bridger. This location is not too many crow miles away

from the first mountain man gathering and it is at the site that became important during the 19th century as a gathering spot after mountain men Jim Bridger and Louis Vasquez opened a trading post to serve travelers heading to Oregon and California. Hundreds of mountain men reenactors, American Indians, traders and trappers take part in this rendezvous where you can hear the music of the mountain trade by performers such as Many Strings, find hand-forged goods, trade for supplies and explore the replica trading post established by Bridger or the authentic buildings at Fort Bridger.


Candy Moulton, the 2023 True Westerner honoree by *True West*, is a lifelong resident of Wyoming.



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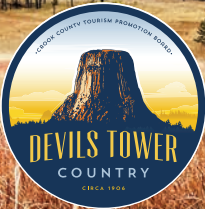
*West of Beulah, Wyo. on old U.S. 14*




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*Along the West Texas Trail in Moorcroft, Wyo.*



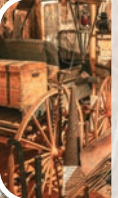


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Aladdin, Wyo., features the historic Aladdin General Store.

*At the intersection of Highways 111 and 24, about 6 mi. west of the state line*

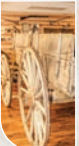


*Inside the historic "Old Stoney"*

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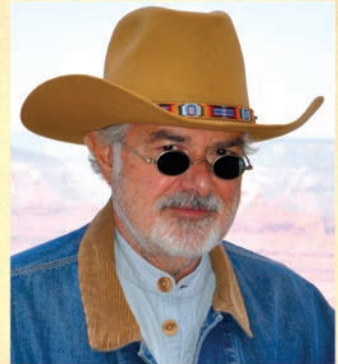
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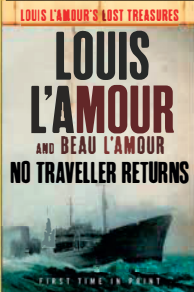


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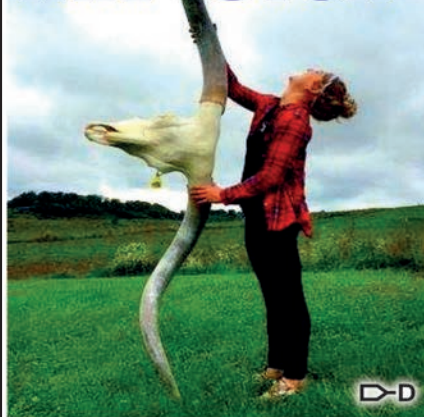
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# Wyatt Earp, Wagons and Wild Women

**What is your opinion of Stuart Lake's Wyatt Earp biography *Frontier Marshal*?**

*Josh Taylor  
Austin, Texas*

Much of Lake's book comes from the fertile mind of Lake, but to his credit, it made a Western legend out of Wyatt. Lake had a tough job—he had to deal with Sadie Earp, who was a constant thorn in his side. She was hell-bent on making Wyatt a legend and forbid Lake to write anything about his (or her) jaded past. Interviewing Wyatt was also difficult; the man just didn't want to talk.

**Westerns often show a horseless cowboy carrying his saddle. Were they that valuable?**

*Tom Gronski  
St. Louis, Missouri*

A cowboy's saddle might cost him about \$40. He probably earned about \$30 a month, so it was a big investment. Besides, a cowboy might have an attachment to a well-broken-in saddle.

**Did westward wagons only have one team pulling them all the way, or were there extra animals that were swapped out?**

*Joel Conway  
Doraville, Georgia*

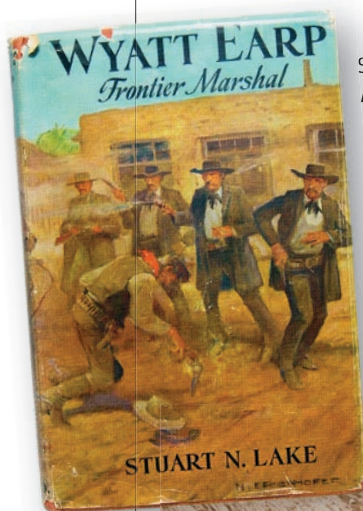
A wagon had to be light enough to not overtax the mules or oxen that pulled it and strong enough not to break down under loads of as much

as 2,500 pounds. Most didn't have extra animals, so the travelers had to take care of what they had.

**Where did the term "shoots from the hip" come from?**

*Lance Crawford  
Richmond, Virginia*

"Shoots from the hip" refers to a person who is a "straight shooter," an honest and very direct person. It also refers to speaking without thinking—



Stuart Lake's *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal* was published in 1931. The seminal work on the legendary Westerner is still credited as a classic—albeit mostly fictional—of the genre.

True West Archives



**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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

without taking aim, if you will. An interesting combination—fast, honest, but not necessarily accurate.

**Have you ever heard of a colorful "wild woman" of the West named Prairie Rose?**

*Susan Clark  
Greely, Colorado*

Some historians say the tale of Prairie Rose is a myth, but here's the story. Prairie Rose (real name unknown) was a beautiful young harlot in the rowdy town of Ellsworth, Kansas. One day, she bet a cowboy 50 bucks that she would ride a horse down main street bare naked the following day at high noon.

Next day at 12 o'clock, there she rode. In Rose's right hand was her

Prospectors in the Dakota Territory in 1889 depended on oxen to pull their wagons from the railheads to the mining districts.

John C.H. Grabill, Courtesy Library of Congress



No. 2011, Cold Fever. Prospectors going to the new Gold Field. Photo and copyright by Grabill, 1889.

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Wyoming-raised ranch girl Ann Robbins transformed herself into the nation's first bronc riding cowgirl. A sensation on the rodeo circuit in the early decades of the 20th century, Robbins renamed herself after the frontier legend "Prairie Rose" and was known as Prairie Rose Henderson until her demise in a snowstorm in 1932.

True West Archives

Colt revolver—and she pointed in the direction of any man who dared look her way.

Prairie Rose collected her winnings and rode into pages of Western folklore. If it's not true, well, it should be.

**Has there been any DNA test of Billy the Kid and or his mother to determine if he really died in Fort Sumner?**

*Hector Garza  
Laredo, Texas*

The simple answer is "no."

A few years ago, two New Mexico sheriffs and the mayor of Capitan, New Mexico, proposed a 21st-century solution: exhume the remains from the gravesites of Billy and his mother, Catherine Antrim, who is buried in Silver City, New Mexico, and match the DNA against a sample taken. The results would confirm or disprove all the claims to "the real Billy the Kid." However, the mayors of Silver City and Fort Sumner both denied permission to exhume the graves. The problem is that nobody is certain that Catherine and Billy are actually buried where their monuments say they are. Flooding of the Pecos River at Fort Sumner in 1889 and 1904 disturbed Billy's burial site (and that of his two friends, Tom Folliard and Charlie Bowdre). They are buried in the area, but the actual site is uncertain. There are similar questions about Catherine Antrim's remains. There's another factor. The mayors of those two locales—and area citizens—don't want those graves to be touched. They are tourist attractions. And what if it's discovered that Billy isn't the real Billy?



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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**I was raised** on the road. My folks used to tease me that I was potty trained along the highway. We made our first trip west in the summer of 1959, when I was still in diapers. And most every year until I left home we made one or two epic cross-country trips worthy of Jason and the Argonauts.

**My parents** were a bit different. For my dad, there was a right way, a wrong way, and his way of doing things. And his way was the only way.

**I grew up** in the Kingman area, and around Silver City, New Mexico, as well as Jackson, Michigan. I learned to ride a bicycle, and to drive a truck, on an old alignment of Route 66 near Kingman.

**A favorite teacher** wasn't found in school. Brad was an old ranch hand in New Mexico. He was somewhere between 60 and 200 years old and referred to himself as an optimistic pessimist. His philosophical outlook was transformative, and the lessons he taught still serve me today.

**An early hero** of mine was Clyde A. McCune, a justice of the peace in Kingman. He worked tirelessly to keep wayward fellows on the right track. He was fair, tough and no nonsense. I owe him a lot.

**Westerns** and the romanticism of the West were a big part of my formative years. However, unlike most kids of my generation, it wasn't the movies as much as the books and stories that sparked my imagination.

**My first car** I bought with my own money was a well-used 1963 Rambler American station wagon. But in less than a year I traded that car and bought an even more battered 1942 Chevy pickup.

**A roadside diner** that I enjoy immensely is Clanton's Cafe in Vinita, Oklahoma. One family has owned the cafe since the 1920s!

**A piece of pie** or a good cobbler have always trumped cake for me. Strawberry rhubarb, cherry, a berry or peach cobbler is the best way to round out a meal.

**Writing** is something that I just have to do. Since childhood I have been obsessed with books, and often dreamed of being a writer when I grew up. That childhood goal is one that I am still pursuing. But as with many childhood dreams I put it aside and let life get in the way. With gentle nudging from my dearest friend, I began trading the written word for cash and food in 1990. It has been a wild ride and grand adventure.



Bob Bore Bell

## KING OF THE ROAD

**Jim Hinckley** calls Kingman, Arizona, his adopted hometown. There he met and courted his wife of 40 years, Judy. Before turning to writing 22 books and speaking engagements, Hinckley worked a diverse array of jobs. He worked on ranches in Arizona and New Mexico, and in mines, both open pit and underground, throughout the West. He also worked as a truck driver, mechanic, repossession agent and as the manager of a finance company.

**If I could drive** is a subject I could fill a book or two with. I am obsessed with road trips, and most anything with four wheels. And if I were being honest with myself, perhaps I am also a glutton for punishment.

**To me a perfect day is** the open road at sunrise, discovering a little diner where the coffee is hot and the pie is fresh, and closing it out with a cold beer and lively conversation with old friends.

**One of my favorite stories about old Route 66** is the one waiting to be written. Each adventure on that old road is better than the last.

**I don't know why** folks always refer to the good old days as something in the past. If you're breathing, it's the best of times.

**History has taught me** a few lessons. Politics is sort of like cleaning stables. It comes in different colors but it all smells about the same. Times change but right and wrong don't. It's hard to get excited about the road ahead if your focus is on the rearview mirror. Study history, it's the only way that you can tell if this is the best of times or the worst of times.



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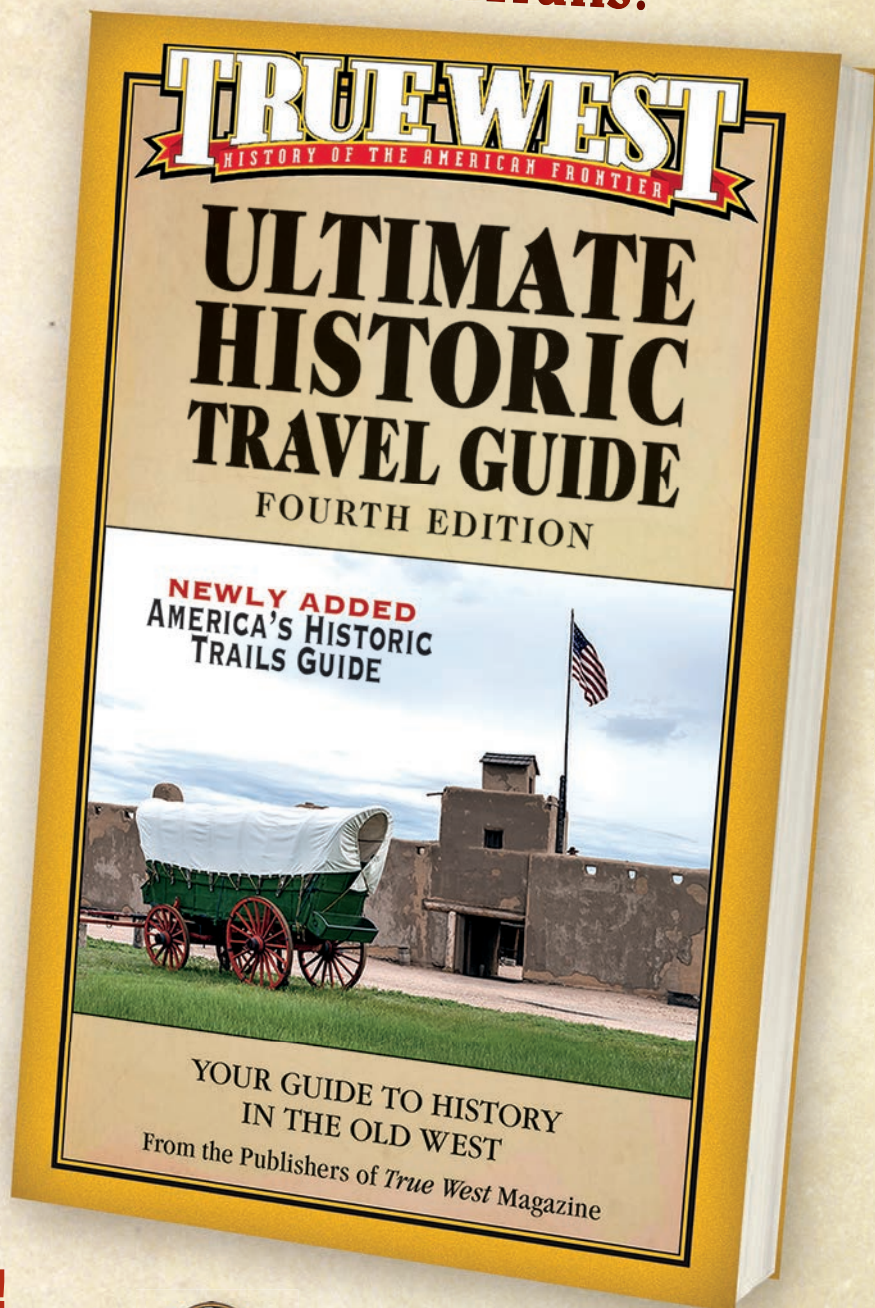
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