

BEST OF THE WEST

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

Samuel Walker TEXAS RANGER

And the Gun
That Changed
The West

PLUS:

Jay Dusard
The True Westerner
Cowboy Photographer
Gets His Due

WALK WHERE THEY WALKED

Jesse James
and the Centralia Massacre

OUR 72ND YEAR
JAN/FEB 2025

\$6.99 • TrueWestMagazine.com
DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 18, 2025



DEADWOOD NAMED 2025 TOP TRUE WESTERN TOWN

THE BEST IN THE WEST? NOW THAT'S WILD.

WILD FOREVER

Cody Yellowstone is True West
Magazine's 2025 Top Western Town.



 /CODYYELLOWSTONE

 /CODYYELLOWSTONE

VISIT CodyYellowstone.org TO LEARN MORE

Cody
YELLOWSTONE
WYOMING

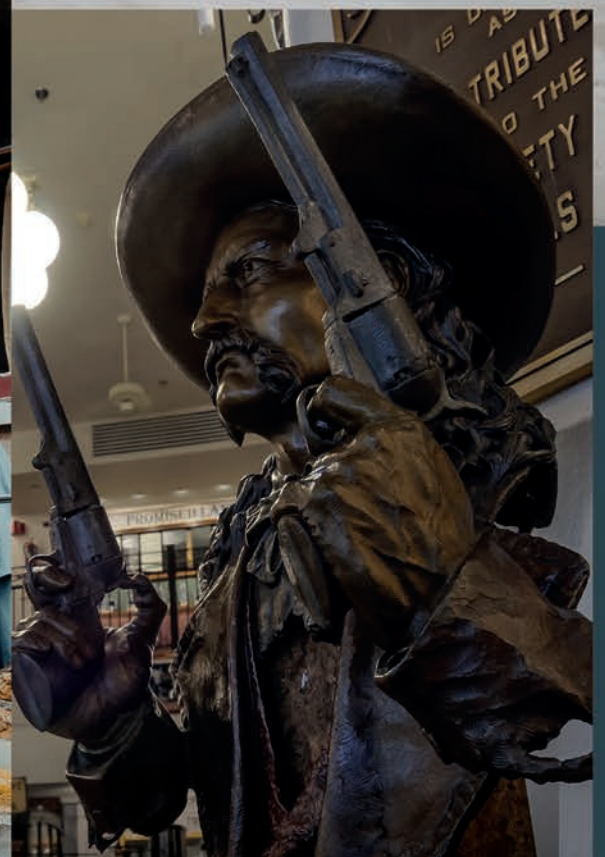
WYO  USA



BEST IN THE WEST



Deadwood, A National Historic Landmark and proud to be named the Top True West Town in this issue.



1876
DEADWOOD
SOUTH DAKOTA
Deadwood.com

Discover
**FORT
SMITH**
ARKANSAS



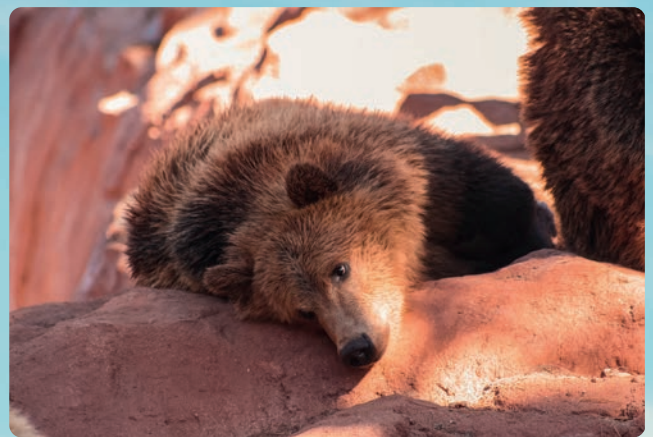
U.S. MARSHALS MUSUEM

The new frontier awaits.

WWW.DISCOVERFORTSMITH.COM



Experience Williams and enjoy Route 66, outdoor adventures, exciting attractions, and so much more.



Visit experiencewilliams.com to begin your trip planning today!





Oregon



plan your next adventure today!!!

- breweries
- fishing
- hiking
- little music city
- wineries
- biking

...and so much more!!!

ExploreTheDalles.com

(800)255-3385



OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA | JANUARY 24 & 25, 2025



Westgate Resort & Casino
3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109
WWW.OLDWESTEVENTS.COM

UPCOMING AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Breathtaking Edward H. Bohlin "Machris" Parade Saddle



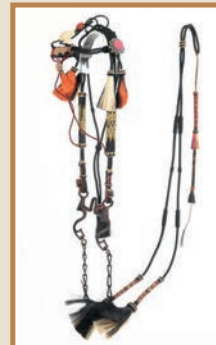
Colt Frontier Six Shooter Shipped To Celebrated Western Artist C.M. Russell



August Buermann #1471
The "Roosevelts"



Buck Jones' Personal
Miles City Chaps



Yuma Horsehair Bridle



Benton Henderson Clark (1895-1964)

Show Hours:

Friday, January 24th | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM PST
Saturday, January 25th | 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM PST

Auction Hours:

Friday, January 24th | 4:00 PM PST



(A) Henry Model 1860 Lever Action Rifle Attributed To Jacob Rideout.

The 2025 Vegas Old West Show will feature the most prestigious national dealers of Western art, antiques, apparel, décor, jewelry, collectibles, antique firearms, Native American arts and artifacts, spurs, saddles, photography, textiles, boots, books, and other fine western merchandise in all price ranges.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

LAS VEGAS
ANTIQUE ARMS
SHOW

LAS VEGAS ANTIQUE ARMS SHOW

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

WWW.ANTIQUEARMSSHOW.COM



OPENING SHOT

WE TAKE YOU THERE





RANGERS' MORNING MUSTER

The Company D Texas Rangers, preparing to take off on the mock "scout" after desperadoes, fortify themselves with hot coffee and biscuits before hitting the trail. Sergeant Ira Aten, standing with cup, issues the marching orders. Seated L to R: Jim King, Frank L. Schmid, Ernest Rogers, Cal Aten, Walter Jones, Charley Fusselman, J. Walter Durbin, Jim Robinson, John R. Hughes and Baz Outlaw.

Courtesy Jeri and Gary Boyce Radder



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

EDITORIAL

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Bob Boze Bell
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Ken Amorosano
EDITOR AT LARGE: Stuart Rosebrook
COPY EDITOR: Beth Deveny
FEATURES EDITOR: Mark Boardman
EDITORIAL TEAM
Firearms Editor: Phil Spangenberg
Western Film & TV Editor: Henry C. Parke
Military History Editor: Col. Alan C. Huffines, U.S. Army
Preservation Editor: Jana Bommersbach
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Robert Ray
ART DIRECTOR: Daniel Harshberger
DIGITAL MARKETING MANAGER: Mariah George
MAPINATOR EMERITUS: Gus Walker
MAP EDITOR: Tom Jonas

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT: Paul Hutton

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Bob Alexander, Allen Barra, Leo W. Banks, Art Burton, John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Peter Corbett, Steve Friesen, Mark Lee Gardner, Drew Gomber, Dr. Jim Kornberg, John Langellier, Sherry Monahan, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts, Mary Doria Russell, Lynda Sánchez, Marshall Trimble, Larry Winget, Linda Wommack, Erik J. Wright
ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER EMERITUS: Ron Frieling
PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Robert G. McCubbin (1937-2020)
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Dave Daiss
TRUE WEST FOUNDER: Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

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

January-February 2025 Vol. 72, #1, Whole #646. True West (ISSN 0041-3615) is published six times per year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December) by True West Publishing, Inc., 6403 East Willow Springs Lane, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. 480-575-1881.

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

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS
AND ADDRESS CHANGES

855-592-9943

Follow us on:



SUBSCRIBE TO US ON



Bob Boze Bell
America's Western Storyteller

Wild West enthusiasts are going crazy for Bob's videos on the **True West YouTube Channel**.

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

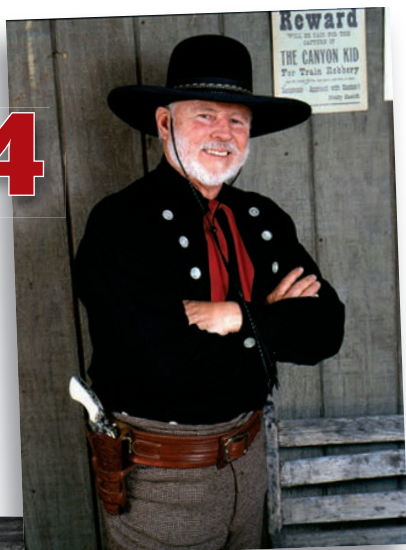
30



- 6 OPENING SHOT
- 10 TO THE POINT
- 12 SHOOTING BACK
- 13 TRUTH BE KNOWN
- 30 CLASSIC GUNFIGHT
- 32 CLASSIC TRUE WEST

- 38 FRONTIER FARE
- 94 ASK THE MARSHALL
- 96 WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

14



14 A TRUE WESTERN INDEED

A tribute to the legacy of *True West* Firearms Editor, Phil Spangenberg—firearms expert, Hollywood consultant and passionate historian.

—By *The Editors of True West*

18 THE MAN WHO SHOOTS THE WEST

Jay Dusard's remarkable journey as a photographer spans six decades capturing the true grit of the American West.

—By *Mark McDowell*

26 WALK WHERE THEY WALKED

The 1864 Centralia massacre, where Bloody Bill Anderson and his bushwhackers ambushed Union troops in a brutal and chaotic slaughter.

—By *Bob Boze Bell and Mark Lee Gardner*



40 TRUE WEST'S BEST OF THE WEST 2025

True West editors celebrate the Best of the West, honoring Jay Dusard as True Westerner of the Year and exploring the best in Western culture and heritage.

—By *The Editors of True West*

42 BEST OF THE WEST ART & COLLECTABLES, WESTERN PRESERVATION, AND WESTERN WEAR

50 BEST OF THE WEST FIREARMS & THE WALKER 47

56 BEST OF THE WEST WESTERN BOOKS

60 BEST OF THE WEST WESTERN MOVIES

64 BEST OF THE WEST WESTERN TRAVEL

80 TRUE WEST'S TOP TEN WESTERN TOWNS 2025

The small towns of the American West are where you will discover the people and places dedicated to preserving our Western heritage and way of life.



—By *Stuart Rosebrook*

18

26

50



Illustration by Bob Boze Bell
Cover Design by Dan Harshberger

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Legends of the Fall

We lost some heavyweights last year, and we loved them all.

Looking back on 2024, it is no exaggeration to say our history world took some major hits. Our immediate competitor, *Wild West* magazine, ceased operation in the spring, due, in part, to the deteriorating newsstand situation. And we at *True West* had to tighten our belts in more ways than one (we reduced our issues from 10 a year down to six). One of the advantages of not being owned by a conglomerate, as *Wild West* was, is we didn't have the luxury of writing off our losses.

We also lost beloved members of our tribe, specifically, Jana Bommersbach and Phil Spangenberger and also my old studio mate and occasional *True West* contributor—the legendary artist, Ed Mell. In October came word our long-time columnist and Arizona treasure, Marshall Trimble, was hanging up his spurs, as he puts it. He has a heartfelt farewell letter in this issue (page 94). Before he stepped down, I asked Marsh if he would cull out his favorite “Ask the Marshall” questions and answers of the past two decades, and he enthusiastically did exactly that (Marsh does everything with such joy and enthusiasm!) and so we will run them in the magazine as long as they last. Marsh is 86 and he had a great run, and he will be missed. Actually, all of the above family members



will be missed, including our scrappy competitors!

In spite of these losses, we are confident about the future and finding our way in all the chaos. This is where history is a great teacher (see all the quotes on page 13). You can take this one to the bank: The times may change, but stories about courage will never go out of style.

BBB and Marshall Trimble at the Cave Creek Museum last October. At age 86, the Ashfork native is retiring his column in *True West* with a poignant goodbye in this issue.

Photo by Vanessa Trimble at the Cave Creek Library



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

BUFFALO BILL CODY

MEET OUR ICONS AND OUTLAWS AT SHERIDANWYOMING.ORG



Sheridan



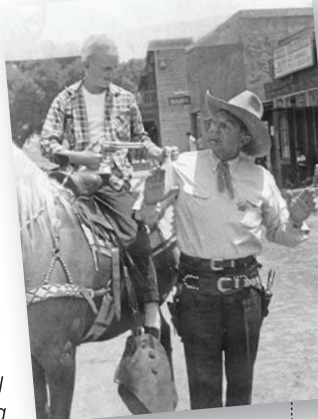
COUNTY, WYOMING, USA.

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

HE GOT THE DROP ON CRASH

I have been a subscriber for a while and love the magazine. I was reading the article "All That Glitters Is Not Gold" in the Nov-Dec 2024 issue. The part about Ray "Crash" Corrigan sparked a memory. It has taken me over a couple of weeks to find what I was remembering. This picture was taken in Corriganville in June 1959. That is me getting 'The Drop' on "Crash" from his horse. As you can see the "Rig" is the one in the article. The article and picture brought back a lot of great memories of a better time. Thank you for a great magazine.

—John Barry Zomisky
San Diego, California



been transported back in time to experience that history, firsthand.

—Doug Bradle
Peoria, Arizona

KIN CORRECTED

First, I want to thank you for talking about my great, great uncle Levi (on my mom's side). Your page talks about his gunfight with Frank Loving at the Long Branch Saloon. I wanted to let you know that there is a typo in his name. The correct last name is Richason, not Richardson.

—Tyler Sass
West Bend, Wisconsin

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER?

I've been reading *True West* off and on for decades and just discovered your YouTube page. I love it! I really appreciated your thoughts on the new Netflix *Wyatt Earp* and *The Cowboy War* show. Thank you for recommending to the directors that they get big-gun historians like Paul Andrew Hutton on the show. I love his book about Geronimo and the Apache wars. It feels like Hutton has been in every Western show like this since the 1990s! Last episode my husband said to me, "He looks old," and I said, "So do we!"

—Jane Carter
Logan, Utah

Editor's note: For the record, Paul Hutton has appeared as a talking head on 270 TV history shows (including the writing of 15) going back to 1992. And, yes, he is old, but not as old as BBB!

—Bob Boze Bell



The Distinguished Professor Paul Andrew Hutton and BBB at the Ellis Store Art & History Show in Lincoln, New Mexico, in the summer of 2024 where they tag-teamed stories about Billy the Kid and hawked their latest books.

Courtesy Bob Boze Bell

WE TAKE YOU THERE

Sometimes I wonder what it would be like to have lived in 1870s, '80s and '90s in the West. Then, I start reading my *True West* magazine, and I feel I've

ROOTING FOR HORIZON

I really wanted *Horizon* to be a great success. Western culture sure could use a shot in the arm. I for one am grateful for what Kevin Costner put into *Horizon* and giving a nod to the old Westerns. And I don't need anyone to tell me that even the name was a nod to John Ford. At least it appears to be faring better with online streaming, and for that I am glad.

—Rex Rideout
Conifer, Colorado



Horizon on location in Southern Utah.

Courtesy Warner Bros.

Old Vaquero Sayings



"If you want things to remain the same, something has to change."

QUOTES

"A generation which ignores history has no past—and no future."

—Robert Heinlein

"History is hard to know, because of all the hired bullshit."



Courtesy Wiki Commons

—Hunter S. Thompson

"If Napoleon had nuclear subs, we'd all be speaking French, so the history thing can be oversold."

—Mike Murphy, February 7, 2018

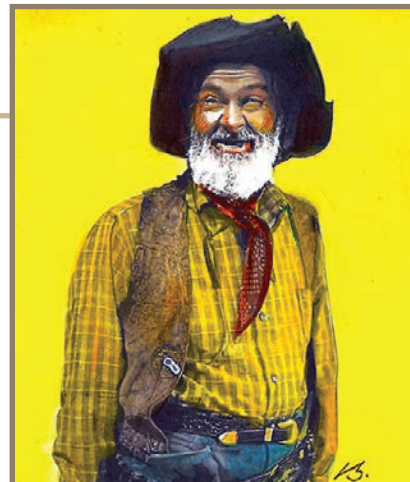
"Not to know what happened before you were born is to remain forever a child."

—Cicero, 46 B.C.

Dagnabbit! Say It Ain't So, Bro!

"I really don't like Westerns. They all feel the same to me. The stories are so few—you've got the stagecoach robbery, the cattle thieves, the bank taking away the farm, the old mine, and the retired gunfighter."

—George "Gabby" Hayes



All illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

FROM THE TRUE WEST VAULT



A miner, circa 1915, cuddles with his pet donkey for the camera.

True West Archives

BY THE EDITORS OF TRUE WEST

A TRUE WESTERNER INDEED

PHIL SPANGENBERGER

1940-2024



Spangenberg had Nevada trained to bow by the legendary horse trainer, Glenn Randall, who trained Roy Rogers' Trigger, Gene Autry's Champion, Rex Allen's Koko and the Ben Hur chariot horses, among other great equines. After each wild and woolly performance of galloping and shooting, Phil would have her make a bow, and the audience loved it. He says she was a great horse that never let him down.

All Photos Courtesy Phil Spangenberg Unless Otherwise Noted

Last September 26, 2024, *True West's* beloved Firearms Editor, Phil Spangenberg, died suddenly during a heart procedure. He contributed to *True West* for more than two decades and we wanted to send him off with an extended memorial of his life and career.

Phil Spangenberg, a Miami native, grew up captivated by horses, history and Westerns. "I was enthralled by the real people, especially those who explored the West, rode horses, fought battles and lived early on America's frontiers," he recalled.

"What really captured my interest

was watching Walt Disney's *Davy Crockett* TV series (and the later Technicolor movie) starring Fess Parker—who, about 40 years later, I got to meet and spend time with."

After his family moved to Los Angeles in 1957, Phil graduated high school and was drafted into the Army in 1963,

...serving two years with the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery. Following his service, he bought his first horse and joined the Military Memorial Regiment, a reenactment group dedicated to preserving the drills and skills of the 1870s 7th U.S. Cavalry and the Civil War-era First North Carolina Cavalry, C.S.A.

In the 1970s, Phil began writing about historical firearms. Encouraged by mentor Garry James, he joined *Guns & Ammo* magazine in 1973, contributing for four decades, including 35 years as black powder editor. A co-founder of Cowboy Mounted Shooting, Phil was a CMSA Hall of Famer, demonstrating the sport's roots with CMSA founder Jim Rodgers.

Phil was a gun coach, technical consultant, military advisor and extra on Touchstone Pictures' *Hidalgo* (2004).

He was put in a couple of short "eye-blinking" scenes in the Wounded Knee sequence in which he was a first sergeant in command of 150 dismounted 1890-era 7th Cavalry soldiers. He wore a greatcoat and fur cap, and carried a '73 Springfield trapdoor carbine and 7½-inch, holstered Colt Single Action Army revolver.



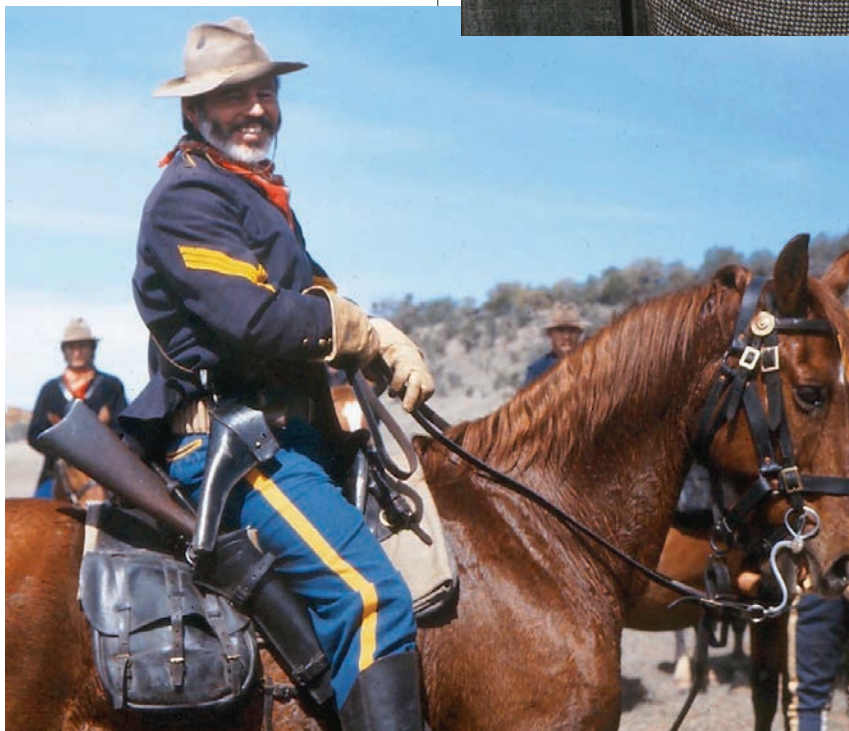
Phil, in red shirt, holding court at the centennial of the O.K. Corral fight in Tombstone on October 26, 1981. Phil put on a couple shows for the assembled crowd featuring his own gunfighters (seen here posing with him). That's Richard Ignarski on the right.

Photo by Bob Boze Bell



Phil Spangenberg and Richard Ignarski, future owner of Tombstone's Gunfighter Hall of Fame Museum, attended the 100th anniversary of the O.K. Corral shootout on Oct. 26, 1981.

For many years, Phil's love of the horse cavalry saw him recreating the skills and tactics of the 1880s U.S. Cavalry. Here Sergeant Spangenberg commands recreated "C" Troop, 6th U.S. Cavalry. He's equipped with authentic 1880s uniform and equipment, as he sits his mount, Jeb Stuart, during a three-day field exercise at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in 1977.



Phil was in a Wild West Show he produced at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede, in Branson, Missouri.

Phil was a perennial Rose Parade cast member, riding alongside his wife, Linda, in full Old West regalia, and portrayed George Washington in Laguna Beach's renowned Pageant of the Masters. He was also a regular member of the Hole in the Wall Gang, riding with friends like Bruce Boxleitner, Martin Kove and Rob Word on grueling trips to Wyoming's historic outlaw hideout.

As a renowned firearms expert and accomplished horseman, Phil spent over four decades bringing authenticity to Western films, television and theater. A recipient of the Golden Boot Award—Hollywood's "Cowboy Oscar"—he is



“Many likened Phil to a modern Buffalo Bill, who inspired generations of men and women to become participants in Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association and the Single Action Shooting Society. He was an inspiration to thousands around the world.”

—Stuart Rosebrook

celebrated as one of “Hollywood’s Hired Guns” for elevating the realism of firearms and gunleather on screen.

His Hollywood career began with Wild West shows, leading to film work in 1979. A milestone came with *The Mountain Men* (1980), for which he trained Charlton Heston in muzzleloader use and ensured authentic weaponry. His dedication extended to films like *The Long Riders* (1980), recommending Smith & Wesson Schofield revolvers, and *Quigley Down Under* (1990), suggesting the iconic 1874 Sharps rifle.

As a technical advisor, Phil coached stars, including Patrick Swayze, Mel Gibson and Heath Ledger; choreographed action scenes; wrangled horses; and appeared in the films *Hidalgo* (2004) and *Maverick* (1994). On set, he enforced strict firearm safety protocols, ensuring authenticity and preventing accidents.

From crafting simulated buffalo props to consulting for History Channel documentaries, Spangenberg’s work preserves the Old West’s legacy, inspiring filmmakers and audiences with his unparalleled dedication.



TRUE TO THE WEST

Highlights of Spangenberg’s career supplying the entertainment industry

Through the years, when Phil Spangenberg was operating his Red River Frontier Outfitters company, they made and supplied gunleather, costuming, assorted props and other services to many Western (and occasionally other genre) movies and television programs. The company brought authenticity to the screen. Here are a few of the highlights:

***Unforgiven*:** Produced all of the gunleather for the stars of this Academy Award-winning film, except Clint Eastwood’s rig. Gunbelts and holsters made for stars Gene Hackman, Richard Harris, James (Schofield Kid) Woolvett and others.

***Hidalgo*:** Supplied circa 1890-type gunleather, custom crafted by Jake Johnson, rawhide reatas, period spurs and other personal props for star Viggo Mortensen.

***American Outlaws*:** Created all of the 1860s- and 1870s-type holsters for star Colin Farrell’s Jesse James, the James-Younger Gang members and other cast members.

***Maverick*:** Supplied star Mel Gibson’s period gunbelt and Cheyenne-style holster.

***Riders of the Purple Sage*:** Custom crafted a brace of unique, early 1870s holsters and cartridge belts for star Ed Harris.

***Tombstone*:** Produced the gunleather worn by the Mexican Rurales in the opening church wedding massacre scenes.

***Wyatt Earp*:** Made nearly all of the historical gunleather used in the film by Kevin Costner, Martin Kove and others. Also supplied assorted costuming and several leather prop items.

***Geronimo: An American Legend*:** Produced leather cavalry cartridge boxes and assorted military equipment for the movie’s troopers.

***Tall Tale*:** Created most of the gunleather used in this fantasy-Western movie, including the double gun rig used by star Patrick Swayze.

***Pale Rider*:** Made most of the 1860s-era gunleather for star Clint Eastwood and many of the actors in this Western.

***Barbarosa*:** Crafted and aged special gunleather for Willie Nelson, Gary Busey and other actors.

***Four Eyes and Six-Guns*:** Created special holsters and gunbelts for star Judge Reinhold in this TNT movie.

***Rambo: First Blood Part II*:** Supplied actor Martin Kove with special shoulder holster for his S&W Model 29, .44 Magnum revolver.

***El Diablo*:** Created and specially aged down period gunleather for stars Louis Gossett, Jr. and Anthony Edwards.

***Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*:** Made special black, 1860s-style holster for Johnny Cash.

History Channel: On such shows as the *Wild West Tech* series, and programs like *Conquerors*, *Texas Rangers*, *Comanche Warriors*, *The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth*, and more, Spangenberg worked in coordination with Hollywood Guns & Props, and assisted in supplying horses, reenactors and select period artifacts.

Universal Studios Tours: Custom made frontier-era costuming for Western live stunt shows at Universal Studios tour.

Movie Sound Effects: Fired live ammunition from an assortment of antique and modern weaponry for *Rambo: First Blood Part II*, *Hoffa*, *Dick Tracy*, *The Sicilian*, *Geronimo: An American Legend* and others.

Video Games: Assisted in firing an array of World War II pistols, rifles and full auto machine guns to be used as sound effects for the video games *Medal of Honor* and *Allied Assault*.

THE MAN WHO SHOOTS THE WEST

Jay Dusard is a living American photographer who has made Arizona his home for over 60 years, seeing it first in 1960 on a visit, moving here for good in 1963. He has documented his adopted state and much else of the West in stunning photographs that demonstrate his love and knowledge of the subject.

He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1981, using the time and resources to produce The North American Cowboy series. They were first shown at the Phoenix Art Museum in 1983. In 1985, Jay teamed with Alan Weisman, the celebrated writer, on *La Frontera* and traveled entire U.S./Mexico border documenting the lives of the people along that line. Those photographs and writings were published in 1986 and received the Four Corners Book Award for Nonfiction two years

later. His solo book *Open Country* was a long look at the Western landscape, published in 1994, photographed, mostly, with one of his homemade cameras.

Jay rarely carries a camera with him. He does not point and shoot at anything that moves; he does not shoot thousands of exposures hoping to later edit through them to find one that will work. His method is measured and articulate. Most everything Jay focuses his large-format camera on has embedded in it an important and timely message. More times than not, it gets published. His work includes film, music and writing.

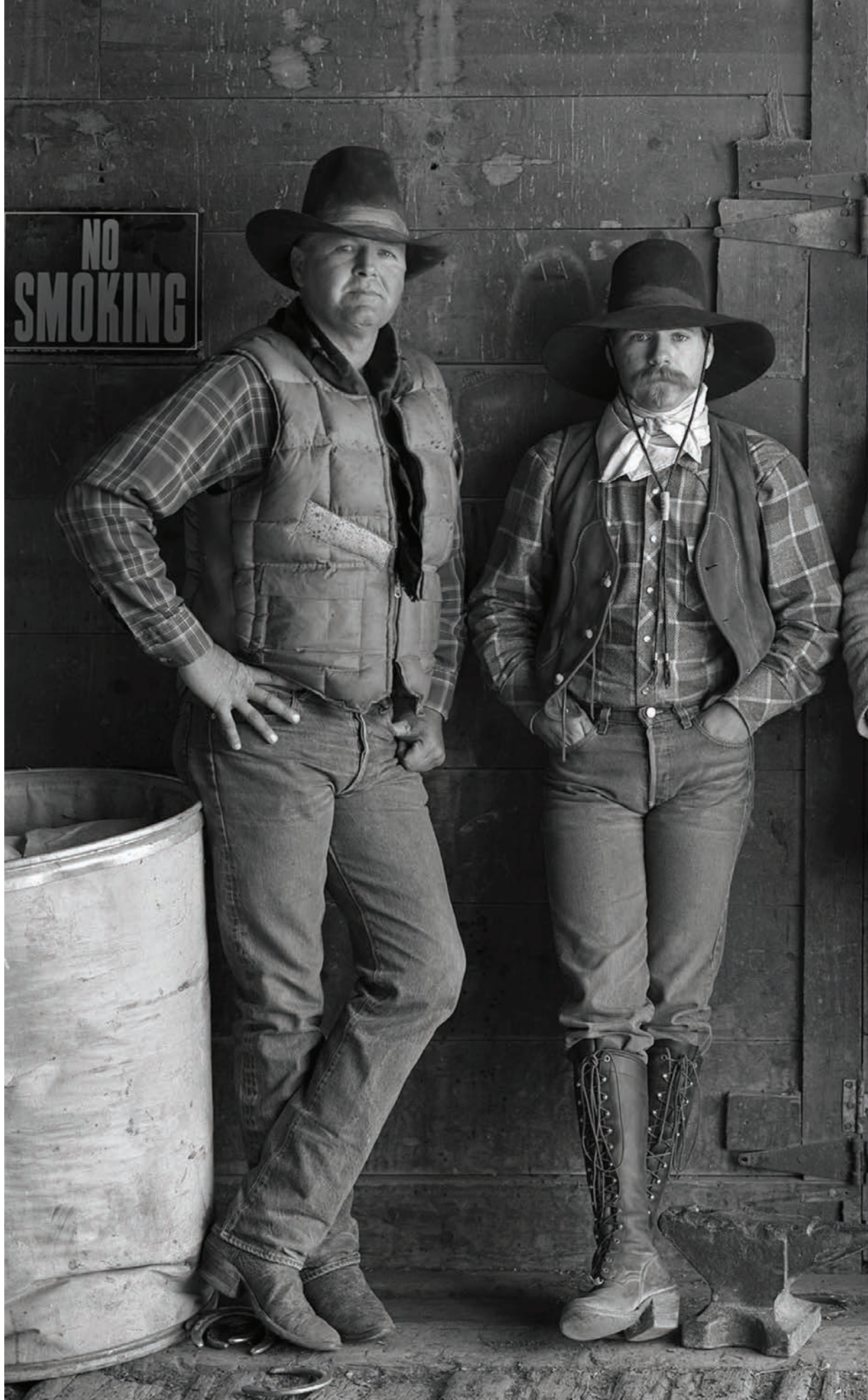
He is the best of friends with a delightful sense of humor. Don't let the cowpoke outfit or casual demeanor fool you for a minute; this is a bright, well-read, keen man with a lifetime of solid work behind him.

—Mark McDowell

Julie Hagen, Wagstaff Land & Cattle Company,
Wyoming, 1981



Bill Russell
(Feedlot Boss),
Robert Bennett,
Clay Lindley and
Thad Smith
(Wagon Boss),
T Lazy S Ranch,
Nevada, 1982







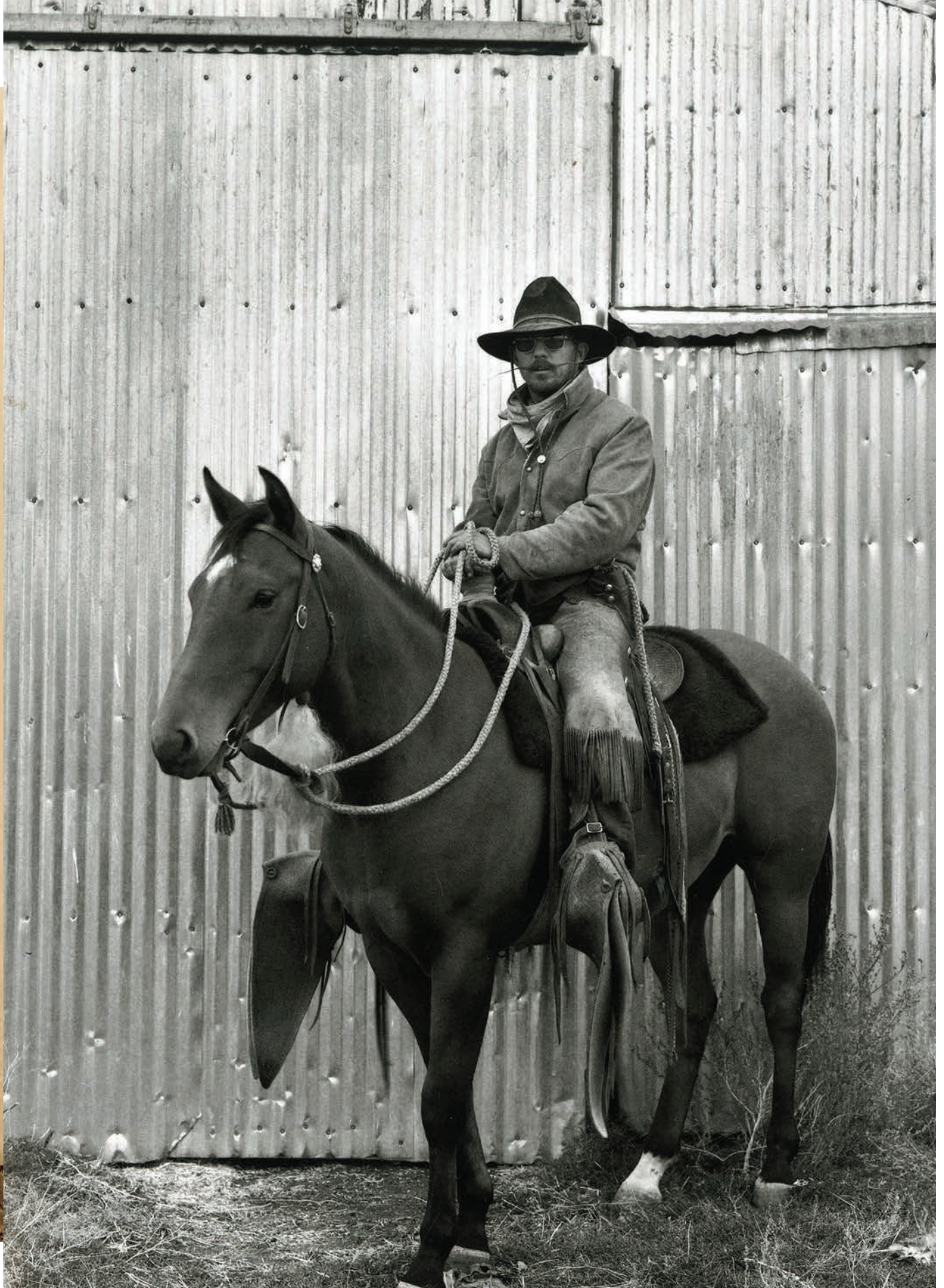
Monk Maxwell, AY Ranch,
Arizona, 1982



Raymond Jao, Idaho, 1982



Buster Scarbrough and Bob Pulley,
A Bar V Ranch, Arizona, 1981



Skeeter Clark, ZW Ranch, Oregon, 1981

“The Booth Western Art Museum is honored to have been selected as the home for Jay Dusard’s archives and legacy collection. We believe Jay is one of only a handful of 20th-century photographers who truly captured the spirit of the American cowboy and the West itself. The Booth has had a long relationship with Jay and with this gift his images will be part of the museum’s treasures in perpetuity. The Booth was the first institution to show his ultra-large prints, measuring up to four by eight feet, in 2008, and hosted a retrospective of his career in 2018. We will also feature his work in an upcoming survey exhibition of our permanent collection.”

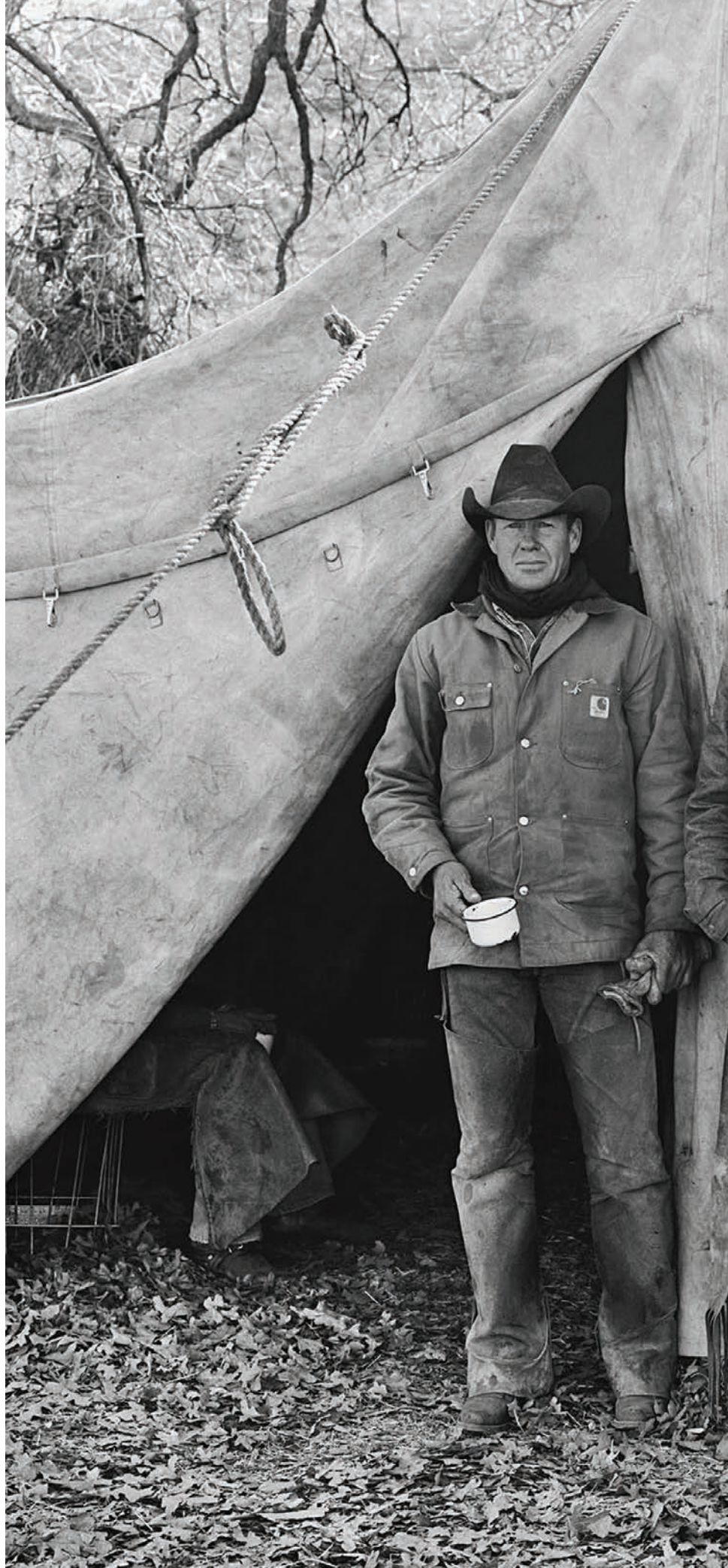
—*Seth Hopkins*

Executive Director

Booth Western Art Museum,
Cartersville, Georgia



Bill Moorhouse (Jigger Boss), Bob Phillips, Jeff Shipp, Jack Bowlin and Jerry Brashears, ORO Ranch, Arizona, 1980





BY BOB BOZE BELL AND MARK LEE GARDNER

THE BATTLE OF CENTRALIA



A.V.E. Johnston, the Union major who led his men against Bloody Bill outside town

Courtesy Mark Boardman

ON September 27, 1864, Bloody Bill Anderson and about 80 men took over the small railroad village of Centralia, looting stores and discovering a barrel of whiskey that they hauled out into the street. Wild enough when sober, they soon were roaring drunk. They robbed the passengers of a stagecoach and then stopped an express train on the North Missouri Railroad full of 125 passengers and 25 Union soldiers on furlough from Sherman's army, which had recently taken Atlanta. The passengers were robbed and the soldiers stripped and brutally gunned down except for one sergeant who Anderson intended to keep as a possible hostage exchange. They then torched the train, tied down the whistle and sent it roaring down the tracks. They burned the depot and another train before leaving in the early afternoon.

A detachment of about 147 Union troops from the 39th Missouri Mounted Infantry, led by A.V.E. Johnston, subsequently pursued Anderson and his men, closing in on the bushwhackers around 4 p.m. They were mounted on horses confiscated from "disloyal persons." In other words, they were riding horses they had purloined from secessionist sympathizers. They were armed with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, while the Bushwhackers

Centralia Butchery
Mark Lee Gardner makes
a good suggestion to bring
accounts of the killing and
“read them to the wind.”

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell



were armed with multiple
pistols.

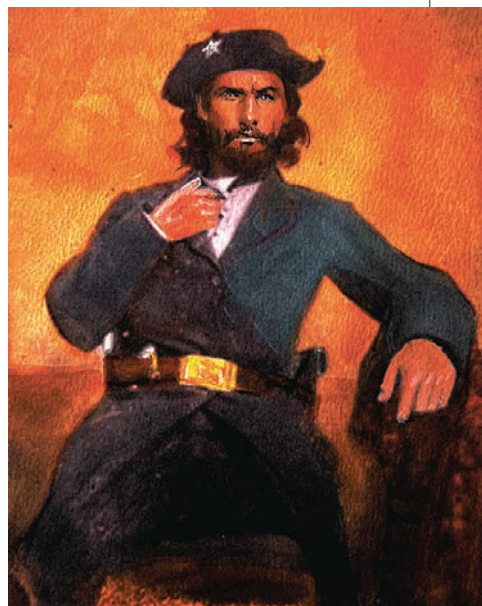
Bushwhacker Dave Pool
lured the detachment to an
open field above a creek
bottom about three miles
southeast of Centralia. The
Union troops dismounted and
formed a skirmish line. The
rebels, some 225 strong, came out of
the trees on the jump, charging up
the hill. Two bushwhackers were hit
on the first volley from Johnston’s
men, but most of the shots went
high. The Federals never had a
chance to reload.

It was over in a flash, and most of
the Union troops were slaughtered,
with Jesse James taking the claim for
killing the commander, although Jim
Cummins later stated that several in
the group took that “honor.”

—Bob Boze Bell

“We were laying low on our
horses, a trick the Comanche
Indians practice and which saved
our lives many a time.”

—Frank James



BLOODY BILL ANDERSON



JESSE JAMES



FRANK JAMES

“The crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood.”

—John Brown

Like many preserved Civil War battlefields today, the killing ground near Centralia, Missouri, hardly conjures the confusion and terror of battle. With friend Bob Boze Bell, I visited the historic site for the first time on a mild spring day last year, and the place was serene and beautiful. A short walk through a band of timber along Youngs Creek opened onto a low hill covered with lush grass. The green springtime foliage was so intense it almost glowed fluorescent.

I wish now that I had taken some of the accounts of that fight—butchery, really—and read them to the wind. They never fail to give me chills. More than 120 young men of the 39th Missouri Mounted Infantry (Union), mostly new and inexperienced recruits, slaughtered by the bushwhackers while running for their lives. The few who surrendered were promptly shot. So were the wounded. Then came the fiendish mutilations: bayonets thrust into mouths, scalps taken.

Why was the Union commander, Major A.V.E. Johnston, so bullheaded? He'd supposedly been told at Centralia that Bloody Bill Anderson had between 300 and 400 men, and yet Johnston refused to believe it, insisting that the notorious guerilla chieftain only had 80 to 90. What were Johnston's thoughts, then, as he saw the horde of yelling bushwhackers emerge from the timber? Did he even have time to think as his men panicked and broke before the tide of long-haired hellions? And did he lock eyes, however briefly, with his probable killer, a teenager named Jesse James?

Just hours earlier, Johnston and his men had seen the bodies of nearly two dozen soldiers at the Centralia depot, Union veterans who'd been on leave and were returning home. Anderson's bushwhackers had forced the soldiers to strip and then gunned them down. (The bushwhackers, famous for wearing

Union garb to fool their enemies, didn't want bullet holes and blood to spoil the uniforms.) But Anderson's men weren't finished. They hacked the bodies with large Bowie knives and then sliced away the scalps. The horrific sight that greeted Johnston and his command must have been at the forefronts of their minds as they looked at death galloping toward them from three sides.

No, there was nothing peaceful or beautiful about that open field 160 years ago. But I'm thankful it's been preserved, and I'll return again as I research my next book: *Bushwhackers: The Civil War of Jesse and Frank James and the Birth of the American Outlaw*. This time I'll indeed read those disturbing accounts to the wind, and I'll reflect on a tragic, brutal war that turned men and boys into savages.

—Mark Lee Gardner

IF YOU GO

About 65 miles away is a place where visitors can get an understanding of the life and culture of central Missouri on the eve of the Civil War: Arrow Rock State Historic Site. One of my favorite places, by the way.

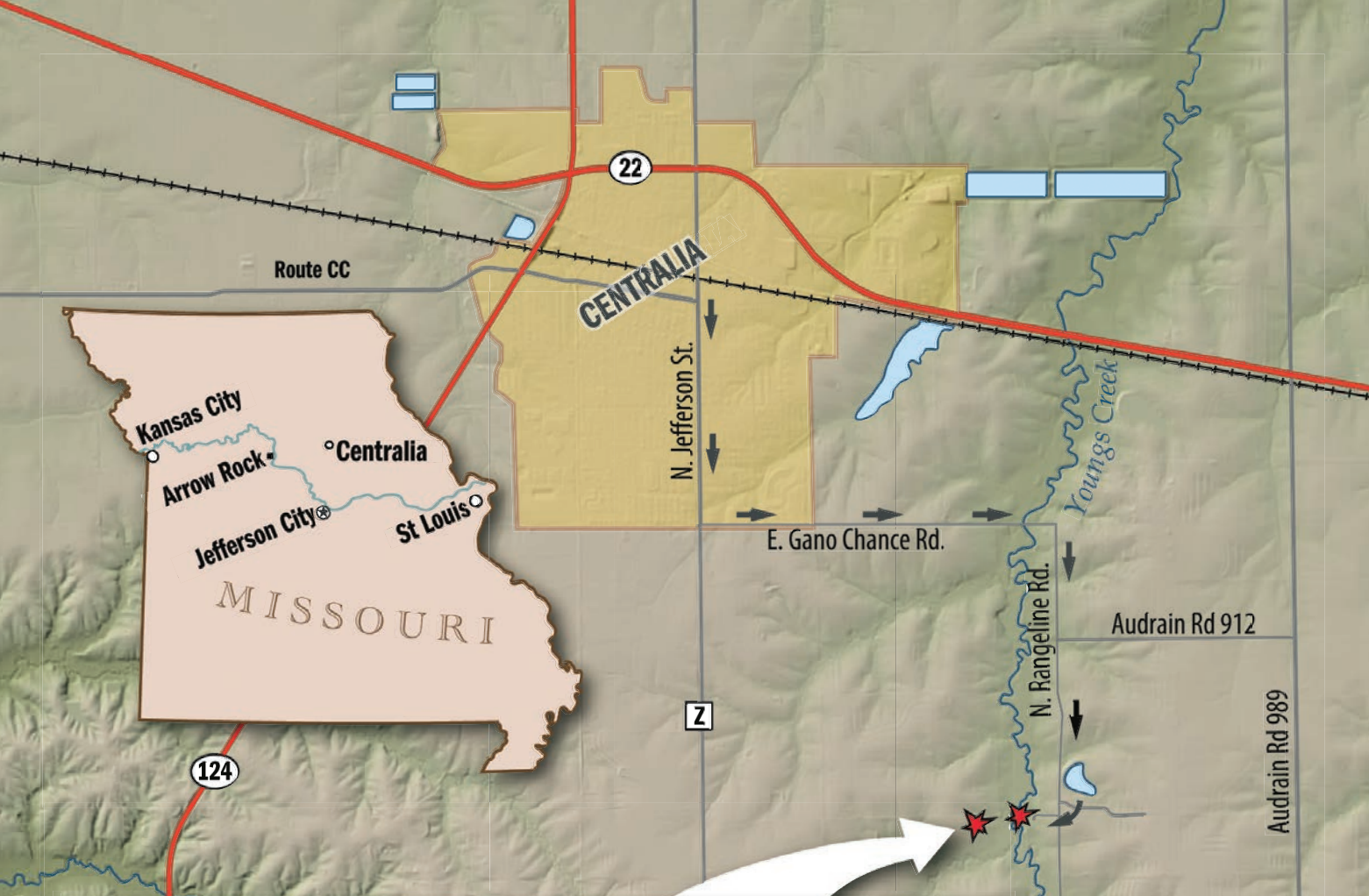
Movie to watch before visiting:
Ride With the Devil (1999)

Book: *Bloody Bill Anderson: The Short, Savage Life of a Civil War Guerrilla* by Albert Castel and Thomas Goodrich (1998)

Soundtrack to play: *Johnny Whistletrigger: Civil War Songs from the Western Border* by Cathy Barton, Dave Para and Bob Dyer. Available on CD for \$12 at this website:
<https://bartonpara.com/bp/index.php/music/johnny-whistletrigger/>.

—Mark Lee Gardner





Mark Lee Gardner and BBB at the Centralia Battlefield site



TOM JONAS 2024

Original map created for True West by Tom Jonas

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

ONE HELL-FIRIN' MINUTE OF SMOKIN' ACTION

DEPUTY ED SHORT VS BLACK-FACED CHARLEY BRYANT



Charley got the nickname from a black powder explosion that hit his face.

Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Robert DeArment

AUGUST 22, 1891

Deputy Ed Short has learned that the ill man lodging at the Rock Island Railroad hotel in Hennessey, Oklahoma, is none other than “Black-Faced” Charley Bryant, an extremely dangerous member of the Dalton outlaw gang currently terrorizing the territory.

Surprising Bryant in his room, Short clamps cuffs on him. His only problem: the closest secure jail is about 140 miles away in Wichita, Kansas.

The next day, Short, wearing two six-shooters and carrying a Winchester rifle, marches his prisoner to the train depot. Conductor Jim Collins allows Short to ride with his prisoner in the mail and baggage car, away from the other passengers.

As they board, Bryant complains that his arms ache (his hands are manacled behind his back). Short relents and uncuffs his prisoner’s hands, recuffing Bryant’s hands in front of him. The train chugs away from the station; a postal agent is their only companion.

As the train slows for its first stop, in Waukomis, Short spots several horsemen approaching at a gallop. Concerned that a rescue attempt is under way, Short hands the postal agent one of his revolvers and tells him to watch Bryant. The deputy steps onto the platform, rifle in hand, to check out the suspicious-looking riders. The agent, busy sorting mail to be dropped at Waukomis, sticks the pistol in one of the letter pigeonholes and concentrates on his job.

Bryant seizes the opportunity. In a flash, he snatches up the six-shooter with his manacled hands. He heads out on the platform to confront Bryant and make his escape.

Short quickly brings up his Winchester rifle and covers Bryant.



Deputy Ed Short escorts dangerous fugitive Charley Bryant across the train platform in Hennessey, Oklahoma. Short makes one mistake on this prisoner transfer, and it will be fatal.

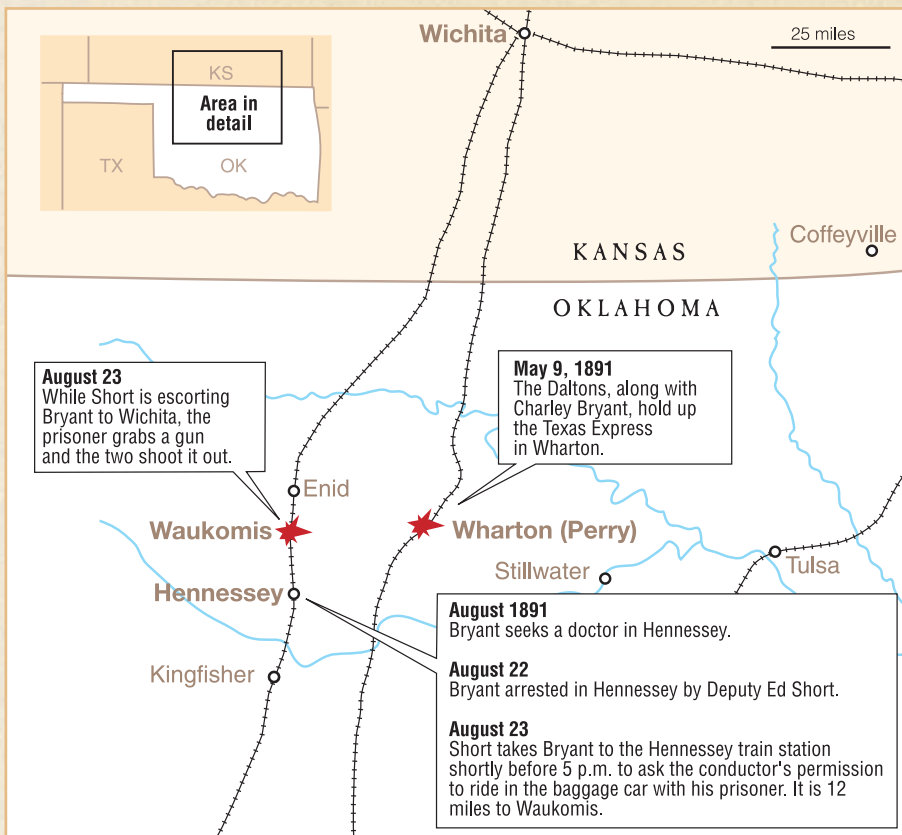
For a brief second, officer and outlaw glare at each other over leveled weapons. Both open fire at point-blank range; Bryant cocks the hammer and triggers the Colt revolver, and Short levers and fires his Winchester.

Struck in the heart and spinal cord, Bryant falls, gasping his last breath. Although mortally wounded himself, Short drops his rifle and grasps the legs of the outlaw, yelling for help. Conductor Collins rushes to his assistance. Together, they pull Bryant’s body back onto the platform.

As more help arrives, Short collapses. Stretched out on the platform beside Bryant’s body, Short, just before he dies, says, “I got my man, but he got me too. I would like to see my mother.”

As for Bryant, he got his man, but it cost him his life.





A Fearless Lawman's Tragic End

Born and raised in Indiana, Ed Short, 17, headed west to Kansas to become a cowboy. He worked cattle around Hunnewell and Caldwell, and may have worked in law enforcement before moving to Stevens County.

Descriptions of Short vary. Glenn Shirley called him “small of stature, quiet in manner, and dudish in dress...not a man to inspire fear. He was a bad man in the sense that he was fearless. Like the dime-novel hero, he reveled in deeds of blood and valor, but there was little bravado about him.” Sam Riding, an old-timer who claimed to know Short, said he was “of large and robust physique and commanding appearance. He had the appearance of a fearless and effective officer, which he was.” Both writers agreed that Short was blond.

We know that Short was actively involved in Kansas’ county seat wars. He served as a lawman in Woodsdale; the citizens appreciated his work so much that they presented him with a specially engraved Colt—which he later lost in a fight with representatives of a rival town. He married in 1887, but his wife committed suicide after just five months of wedlock.

Short joined the land rush in 1889 and settled in Hennessey in the Indian Territory, where he was elected city marshal in that town’s first municipal election. When Oklahoma Territory was established in 1890, U.S. Marshal William Grimes appointed him one of his first deputies.

The next year, Charley Bryant got his wish to die in “one hell-firin’ minute of smokin’ action.” Short (right, at top) was laid out next to the dead outlaw, where he too expired. It’s a sad note that Short lost his life for being compassionate. Had Bryant’s hands been kept manacled behind him, he likely could not have orchestrated the bloody finale.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

The mother Ed Short never got to see again, Mrs. L.M. Short of Osgood, Indiana, was presented with a check for \$500, donated by the Santa Fe Railroad. The reward had been offered by the railway line for the arrest and conviction of any member of the Dalton gang that had held up a Santa Fe train in Wharton, Indian Territory, on May 9, 1891.



True West Archives

Black-Faced Charley Bryant

It’s unclear what illness “Black-Faced” Charley Bryant suffered from in Hennessey. Some accounts state it was malaria. Others posit that he was being treated for a venereal disease. It’s also not clear how old the Texas native was when he died.

Short was buried in Osgood. Bryant’s body was claimed by relatives and transported to Decatur, Texas. His body is probably buried in the cemetery there, along with several of his kin, but no tombstone marks his grave.

Recommended: *Ballots and Bullets: The Bloody County Seat Wars of Kansas* by Robert DeArment, published by University of Oklahoma Press; and *Deadly Affrays* by Robert Ernst, published by ScarletMask.





CLASSIC TRUE WEST

FROM THE TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: If you'd like to read more of Allen G. Hatley's articles in *True West*, please go to TrueWestMagazine.com and subscribe for full access to over 70 years' worth of exciting issues.

BY ALLEN G. HATLEY

SAMUEL WALKER

VALIANT WARRIOR

While a prisoner at the castle of Perote, Walker was put to work raising a flagpole. At the bottom of the hole, Walker placed a Yankee dime, vowing to someday come back and retrieve it, at the same time exacting revenge on his Mexican captors. In the summer of 1847, when Walker's mounted riflemen returned and routed Santa Anna's guerillas, the young captain kept his promise and got his dime back.

IN SEPTEMBER 1842, after first stepping foot in Galveston, Texas, 25-year-old Samuel Walker joined Jesse Billingsley's Company of Mounted Volunteers. A hastily-recruited Bastrop County militia command, Billingsley's Volunteers went to the defense of San Antonio, under attack by a force of some 1,000 Mexican troops under the command of General Adrian Woll.

One of the most famous Texas Rangers in the force's history: Capt. Samuel H. Walker.

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

CAPTAIN SAMUEL HAMILTON WALKER, TEXAS MOUNTED RIFLES

Born: February 24, 1817, Prince Georges County, Maryland.
Fifth of seven children.

Parents: Nathan and Elizabeth Walker.

Former Occupation: Carpenter, railroad worker.

Military Record: Washington City Volunteers (1817-1836). Organized for engagement in the Seminole and Creek Indian Wars in Florida and Alabama.

Arrival in Texas: January 1842.



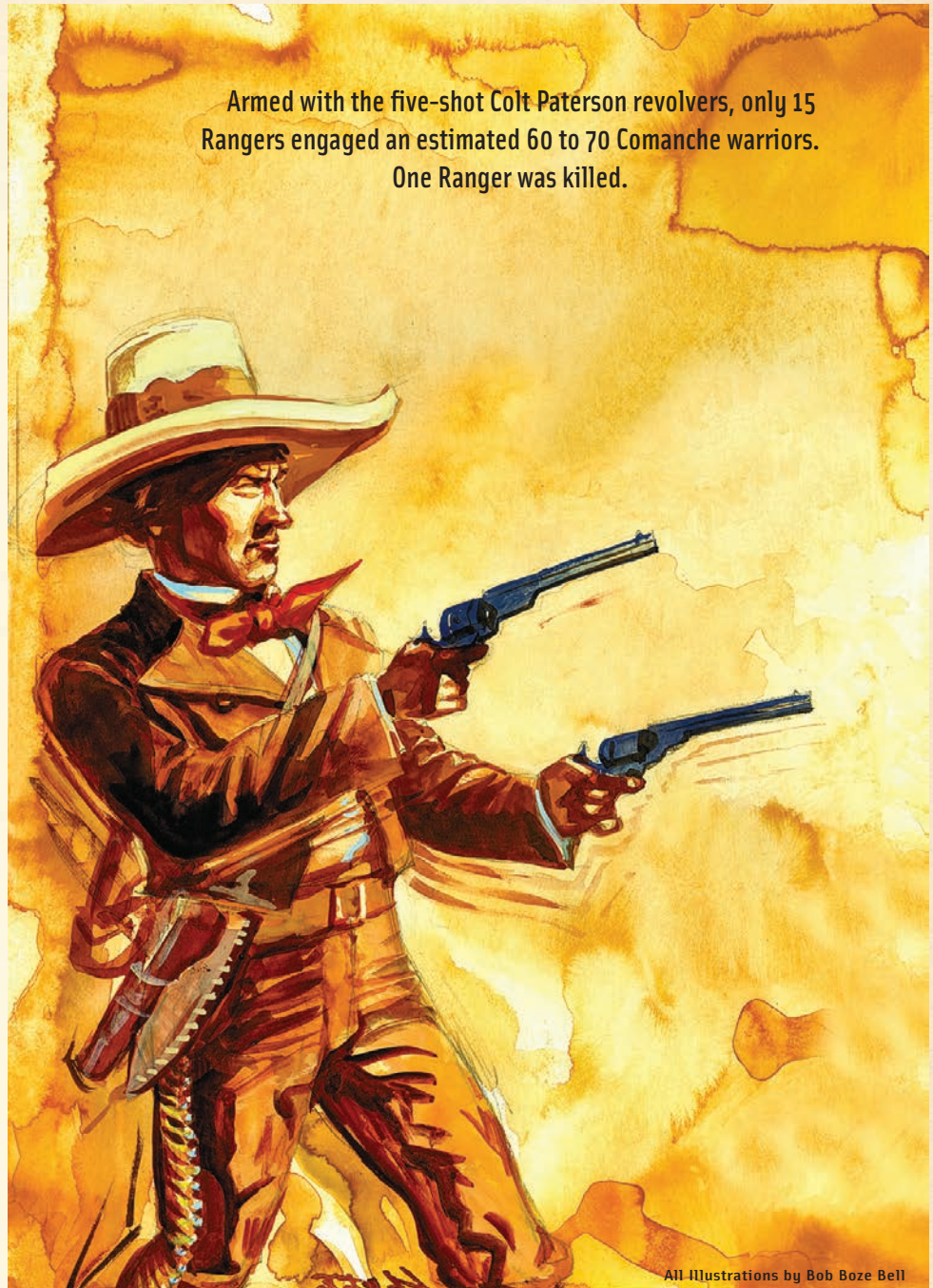
Jesse Billingsley had previously commanded Company B of Colonel Edward Bureson's regiment, and was wounded at the celebrated Battle of San Jacinto. But Billingsley's Volunteers was not the only Texas militia group racing toward San Antonio. On September 18, some 200 volunteers and a small band of Texas Rangers engaged elements of Woll's army at the Battle of Saldado Creek. Although Samuel Walker missed the fight, the Texas forces celebrated a small victory. That, along with the approach of more Texas militia, forced General Woll to retreat from San Antonio, across the Rio Grande.

Two months later, in November 1842, Brigadier General Alexander Somervell, operating under broad discretionary powers from Governor Sam Houston, organized his First Brigade of Texas Militia to undertake a punitive expedition against Mexican commands in South Texas. Muster rolls indicate S.H. Walker was the first of 77 privates who enlisted in Captain Ewen Cameron's Company A. The force would eventually consist of some 750 officers and men. On November 13, Somervell sent the first elements of the Texas army out of San Antonio to the Medina River, where they camped for two weeks until reinforcements arrived.

THE MIER EXPEDITION

As the Somervell Expedition moved across South Texas, the group captured Laredo and moved past Guerrero, then downriver toward the town of Mier. During the march, Somervell experienced many problems, the most serious involved a general lack of discipline among the troops. Many soldiers refused to follow orders, as a result, the safety of the army was in question. When reports of larger concentrations of the

Armed with the five-shot Colt Paterson revolvers, only 15 Rangers engaged an estimated 60 to 70 Comanche warriors. One Ranger was killed.



All Illustrations by Bob Boze Bell

Mexican army were approaching from the south, Somervell elected to take the Texas army back to San Antonio.

Many of the officers agreed that an invasion of Mexico was ill advised and marched back to San Antonio as ordered. But almost 300 men, including Private Sam Walker, elected to invade Mexico under the command of Colonel William S. Fisher. The invasion would take place at Mier.

A few days later, Walker and Patrick H. Lusk were captured while on patrol. During the Battle of Mier, which finally took place on December 25, 1842, 10 of the 261 Texans who

crossed the river were killed. The remainder were captured and began a torturous ordeal at the hands of the Mexicans. Within a few days, Mexican authorities denied them status as prisoners of war. As a result, the Texans were forced to march to a prison near Mexico City in chains. Brutal treatment by the guards, poor rations, and a lack of medical treatment was only the beginning of their nightmare.

During the almost two years of captivity, over a hundred of the Texans attempted escape. Only 26 were successful, including Samuel

Walker. Eighty-two of the prisoners were killed during captivity. Those caught escaping were taught powerful lessons. At one point, a group of Texans at Hacienda Salado were forced to pick from a jar of beans. A white bean meant survival; those who drew a black bean met their death before a firing squad. Seventeen black beans were dealt. Seventeen Rangers fell. The remaining 136 Texans were finally released on September 16, 1844, and ordered to walk back to Texas.

Samuel Walker spent seven months in captivity, avoided the firing squad when he drew a white bean, and escaped on July 30, 1843. Walker and his two companions finally reached Tampico two weeks later. Walker arrived in New Orleans in September 1843, and booked passage to Galveston. He was back on Texas soil by year's end.

THE PRIVATE AND THE PATERSON

After the defeat at Mier and other failed military ventures, substantial funding for Texas troops was curtailed. As a result, the defense of Texas against Indians and Mexicans fell largely to the various militias and to small groups of Texas Rangers. About the time Sam Walker was arriving in New Orleans, even the Rangers had been reduced to a single company commanded by Captain John Coffee Hays. The command consisted of only 25 men.

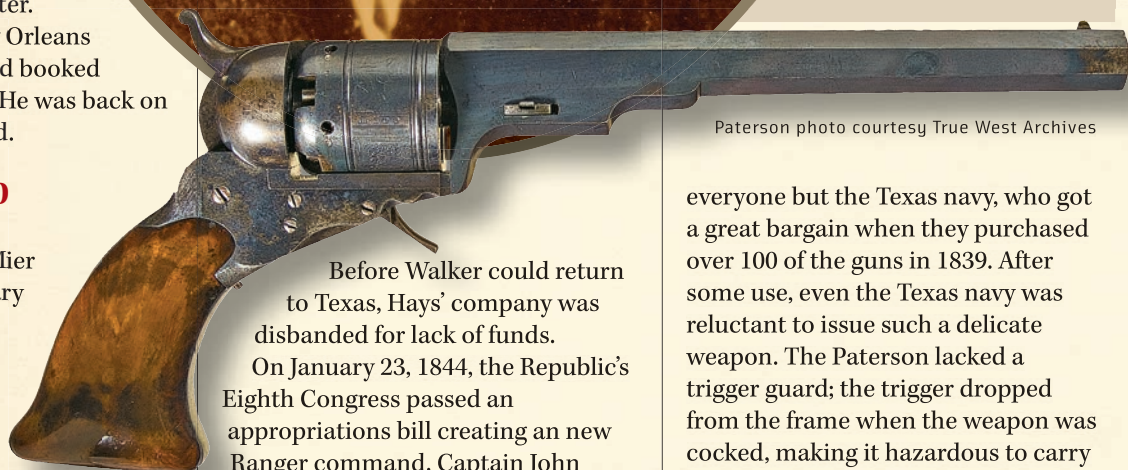


“Texas Luck.” Hays was informed about some unused revolvers, originally purchased for the Texas navy. A few had been issued, but the rest were packed in a government warehouse. These revolvers were among the first Paterson Colts, a five-shot, .36 caliber weapon made by Sam Colt in New Jersey.

Colt's new revolvers were unwanted by

John Coffee Hays acquired a batch of Colt Paterson revolvers for use in the Southwest Division. The weapon proved deadly in the hands of the Rangers against Comanches and Mexican bandits.

Courtesy Panhandle Plains Historical Museum



Paterson photo courtesy True West Archives

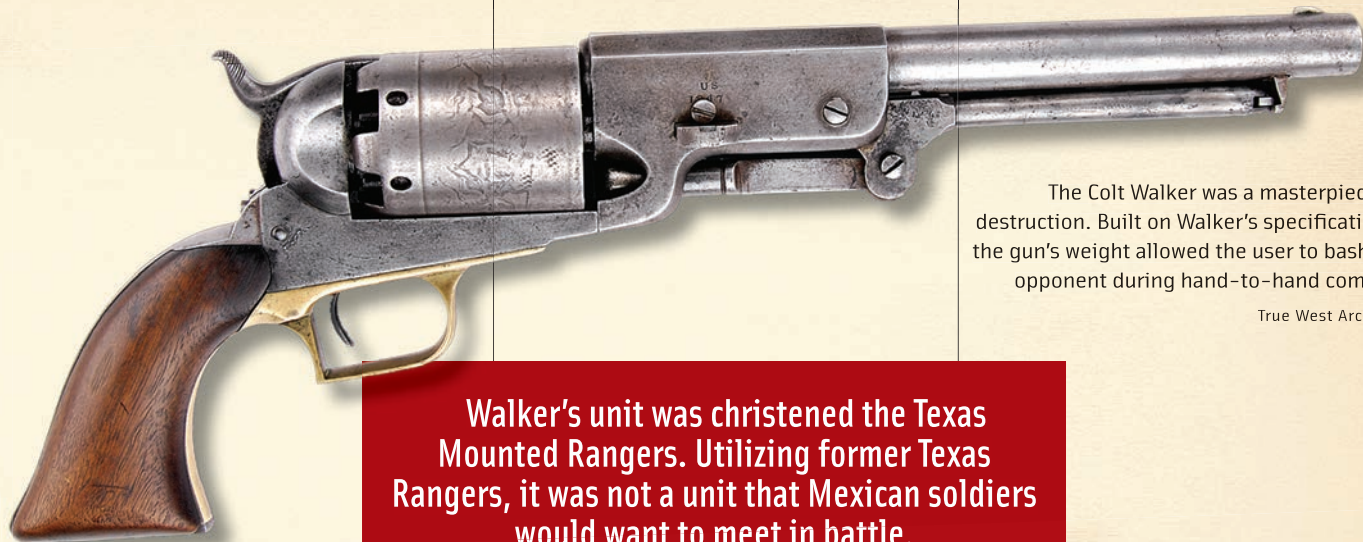
Before Walker could return to Texas, Hays' company was disbanded for lack of funds.

On January 23, 1844, the Republic's Eighth Congress passed an appropriations bill creating a new Ranger command. Captain John Hays was to lead the group, initially ordered to patrol the “Western and South-Western Frontier.” The force would consist of some forty enlisted men. Funding prevented enlistment of more than two to four months.

During his visit to the capitol at Washington-on-the-Brazos, John Hays experienced what some call

everyone but the Texas navy, who got a great bargain when they purchased over 100 of the guns in 1839. After some use, even the Texas navy was reluctant to issue such a delicate weapon. The Paterson lacked a trigger guard; the trigger dropped from the frame when the weapon was cocked, making it hazardous to carry and fire effectively. Captain Hays had a better opinion of the gun. When he returned to organize his Texas Rangers in 1844, he brought the Colt Patersons with him.

Lieutenant Ben McCulloch had already begun enlisting Rangers when Hays arrived with the weapons. Private Sam Walker, anxious to exact



The Colt Walker was a masterpiece of destruction. Built on Walker's specifications, the gun's weight allowed the user to bash his opponent during hand-to-hand combat.

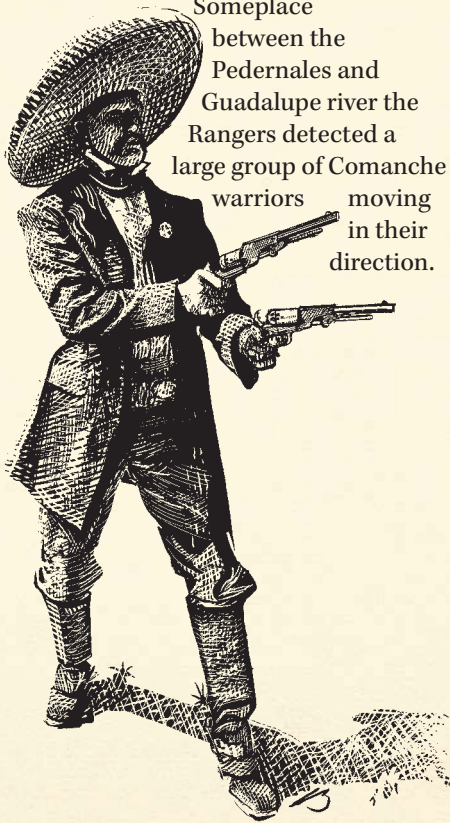
True West Archives

Walker's unit was christened the Texas Mounted Rangers. Utilizing former Texas Rangers, it was not a unit that Mexican soldiers would want to meet in battle.

revenge on Mexico, joined the Texas Rangers in February 1844.

As long as the state provided the funds, a Ranger company could be raised to serve and patrol the frontier. In early June 1844, Captain Hays led a fifteen man patrol, which included Sam Walker, north of San Antonio to confirm stories of raiding Indians in the area. The patrol found signs of Indians, but none were encountered until the Rangers turned south.

Someplace between the Pedernales and Guadalupe river the Rangers detected a large group of Comanche warriors moving in their direction.



Near one of the numerous spring-fed creeks in the area, called Walker's Creek, the Comanches attempted to bait the Rangers. Hays, whose men were now armed with the five-shot Colt revolvers, decided to find out just what the pistol was capable of in actual combat. With only 15 men, Hays led an attack against an estimated 60 to 70 Comanches. Hays later wrote that, "The fight, which was a moving one, continued to the distance of about thirteen miles—being desperately contested by both parties." One Ranger was killed during the fight, and four wounded, with Comanche casualties estimated at fifty killed or wounded, including Chief Yellow Wolf.

Hays, in his official reports, credited the "five-shot repeating pistols" with the victory. "Had it not been for them, I doubt what the consequences would have been. I cannot recommend these arms too highly." During the fight, Sam Walker and R.A. Gillespie were separated from their command, and both suffered wounds from an Indian lance. According to Hays' report, both Rangers were "wounded badly." Returning to San Antonio, Walker was left in the care of a Mrs. W.H. Jacques, who nursed him back into fighting shape.

THE TEXAS MOUNTED RANGERS

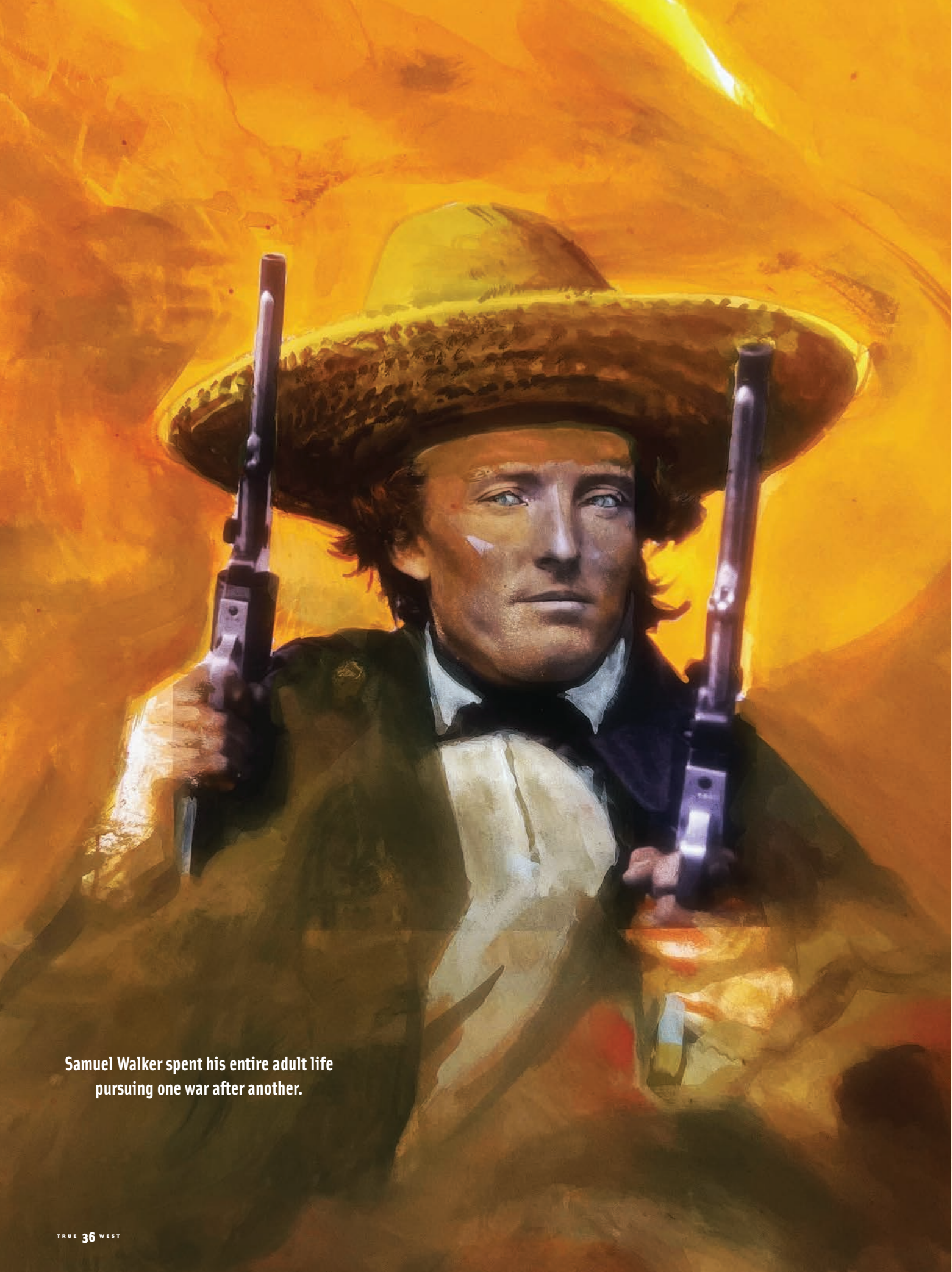
By the end of 1844, the Rangers were again short of funding. In

February 1845, new appropriations were voted through and the ranger command expanded to include smaller companies raised in Travis, Bexar, Milam, Roberts, Goliad, and Refugio counties. Captain Hays resigned on August 12 and was succeeded by R.A. Gillespie. Captain Gillespie and his forty-three man company, including Private Sam Walker, were discharged on September 28, 1845, some three months after Texas became a state.

A few days before discharge, Gillespie began forming a company of mounted volunteers, named the Texas Mounted Rangers. The group was made up of San Antonio volunteers, mustered into federal service on September 28. Sam Walker, now 28, eagerly joined, again as a private.

As the end of Samuel Walker's term of enlistment in the Texas Mounted Rangers approached, he finally closed the book on being a private soldier. Walker arranged a meeting with General Zachary Taylor, who was quartered at Corpus Christi. Walker, hungry for action, offered his services to the United States Army, which was preparing to go to war with Mexico.

Samuel Walker's chances of joining Taylor's army were good. He had served in Florida and Alabama; he had known Lieutenant George Meade, now under Taylor's command; and most importantly, he knew the approaching battlegrounds well from



Samuel Walker spent his entire adult life pursuing one war after another.

his service and escape during the Mier Expedition.

Sam Walker was accepted on April 21, 1846, and was authorized to raise the first company of scouts for Zachary Taylor's army. With a total complement of 93 officers and men, many of whom were veterans of the Mier and Somervell expeditions, Captain Samuel Walker's unit was christened the Texas Mounted Rangers. Utilizing former Texas Rangers and veterans of the Mier Expedition, it was not a unit that Mexican soldiers would want to meet in battle.

During the first months of hostilities in the Mexican War, Samuel Walker became a national hero and a living legend. After his reported death and a daring mission to Fort Brown behind enemy lines in 1846, the city of New Orleans presented Walker with a "magnificent horse" named Tornado.

After American victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de Palma in early May 1846, the Mexican army retreated across the Rio Grande. The Mexicans were handed more defeat on the west coast and in New Mexico. Although the U.S. expected the Mexican army to beg for mercy, the war continued. As a result, the Army broadened efforts to invade Mexico. While troops were moved into South Texas, three mounted scout regiments were raised. Colonel John Hays, George T. Wood, and William C. Young commanded the units. Many of Walker's former scouts were absorbed into service.

On June 24, Samuel Walker was elected a brevet lieutenant colonel by the troops of the First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen, and was second in command to John Hays. He joined the group when his own term of enlistment ended on July 16. Six days later, Walker was elected lieutenant colonel in the Texas volunteer command; he also accepted a regular army appointment as a captain in the First U.S. Mounted Rifles. His appointment was delayed until the First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen was mustered out of federal service on October 2, 1846.

THE BIG GUN

After Walker's enlistment expired, he visited the northeastern states to personally recruit men for Company C, U.S. Mounted Rifles. Because of Walker's notoriety, Samuel Colt wrote to him while the former Ranger was in New York. The two men met in late November 1846. Walker was interested in acquiring weapons for his new command, while Colt, whose company had failed, wanted to convince the Army to buy his guns.

Walker and Colt entered into an agreement in January 1847, which satisfied both their desires. Walker suggested valuable alterations to the original revolvers, which he came to know well as a Ranger. Within a month, Samuel Walker had been given authority by the government to purchase 220 of the new revolvers and proceeded to Newport Barracks to recruit and train his new command. In April 1847, Walker and Company C of the Mounted Rifles shipped out for Vera Cruz, Mexico, without receiving their 1847 Army Pistols, better known as the "Walker Colts." Finally, on June 26, the Army took delivery of the guns, which were shipped to Vera Cruz to await Walker's men.

The gun was a masterpiece of destruction. Each weapon held six shots, and came with a custom tool and reloading kit. Fitting Walker's specifications, and lessons learned in the Rangers, the gun was large enough and strong enough to withstand close-quarters combat. The weight alone enabled the user to pummel their opponent to death when the chambers were spent. Unfortunately, the Walker Colts didn't reach the Mounted Rifles in time.

THE END OF THE MYTH

Captain Samuel Walker was now fighting in the army of Winfield Scott, in a much more savage and destructive war than Zachary Taylor's South Texas campaign. General Scott was fighting his way uphill from Vera Cruz, toward Mexico City. It was a tough, bloody war.

Captain Walker's command, consisting of some 250 men, took the

chore of keeping the supply roads open and forcing Santa Anna's guerrillas to run for their lives. They were successful on both fronts, striking fear with hit-and-run tactics and declaring to "take no prisoners."

On October 9, 1847, Company C still had not received their Walker Colts, but Sam Walker received a pair of presentation pistols from Sam Colt himself. Four days later, during action against guerrillas in Huamantla, Mexico, Captain Walker was shot and killed in action. Some accounts claimed he was lanced to death, but nevertheless, a valiant warrior and a legend among the Texas Rangers had fallen. Sam Walker's body was brought back to the United States and buried in San Antonio.

Samuel Walker spent his entire adult life pursuing one war after another. He went to war voluntarily in Alabama, Florida, and several times in Texas and Mexico. He finished his life on the battlefield, attacking Mexican troops directly commanded by Texas' greatest enemy, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. It is doubtful Sam Walker would have wanted it any other way.



Allen G. Hatley, a retired Texas lawman, is the author of *Texas Constables*. This is his second article for *True West*.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

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

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Wild Turkey, and Not the Drinkin' Kind

The actual bird was a favorite of pioneers.

A mention of wild turkey often takes one's thoughts to a bottle of whiskey, but not this time. This is all about the actual bird itself and the pioneers' experiences with it. Most people had good experiences with the wild bird, but some did not. Jack and Jim were two English gentlemen who lived in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1872. The gents were working on Sheppard's Island, when Jack saw a large black bird flying overhead. He exclaimed, "Ello. Wots there ere, Jim?" He asked Jim to get his gun, an English Stubbs Twist. Jack took aim and shot the bird down.



These five hunters, somewhere in the Dakotas, pose with their dogs and the game they shot c. 1890. At top is a color lithograph c.1872 depicting a wild turkey.

Library of Congress

He was very excited to take his 16-pound bird to town and show it off. He was proud to show it to his wife, Nancy, too, and asked her to contact some local ladies to teach her how to cook it American-style. With their assistance, Nancy brought the cooked bird to the table, and the diners were excited. Though the "perfume" coming from the bird was peculiar, that did not stop

everyone from eating it, except for Nancy, who chose beef. As they were eating, a friend of Jack's came in, and they offered him some turkey. The man said, "No thankee, Jack. I'm not a bit hungry for turkey, spechly if it's that turkey you had on your shoulder this morning." He proceeded to tell Jack that it wasn't a turkey that he'd killed, but rather a turkey buzzard! Later that day,

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

Genuine S. Hawken
Classic Plains Rifle
Made in the USA

HAWKEN SHOP
ST. LOUIS

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

WHERE SPIRITS GATHER

BENSON 1880 ARIZONA
ZEARING'S MERCANTILE
WALLACE AND IRIS ZEARING PROP.
COUNTRY STORE DISPLAY
CIVIL WAR RELICS

CURTOS - RELICS - GIFTS

**ANTIQUES, OLD-TIME CANDY
& MEMORABILIA**

In historic downtown
BENSON, ARIZONA.

Open Thursday ~ Saturday
from 10AM ~ 5PM

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

everyone except wise Nancy was sick from eating it. *The Missouri Democrat* noted, "If any one desires to engage in a fight, just let him say 'turkey' to Jack or Jim, and they can have a fight instanter."

Despite that incident, actual wild turkeys were regarded better than farm-raised. H.C. Bowers, the manager of the Hotel Portland in Oregon recalled, "A wild turkey is a far more excellent table bird than a domestic turkey; in fact, there is no comparison... in short, the true and genuinely patriotic Thanksgiving roast is the body of a wild turkey." He also noted that the "barnyard" did not have the flavor or texture of the wild bird because these birds ate wild berries, seeds and nuts, fragrant grasses, pungent buds and roamed the wilderness. He felt that wild turkeys should be bred and served on menus side-by-side with wild duck. He recommended wrapping the bird in buttered paper, roasting it on a rotating spit until almost done, and then unwrapping it and roasting a little longer to create a golden skin.

Other hotels, like the Coates, St. James, Pacific, and Hotel Brunswick in Kansas City, Missouri, offered wild turkey on their Christmas menus. They all served it with chestnut dressing, except the Pacific, which used oysters. The Brunswick's was served with sweet potatoes, and the Pacific's turkey came with cranberry sauce. Wild turkeys are rarely on menus today, but you can still make the stuffing that was so popular when they were served.



CORN BREAD

2 c. butter, melted • ½ c. celery, minced
1 small onion, minced • 1 c. chopped and peeled chestnuts, boiled and blanched
1 tbsp. salt • 1 tsp. paprika • 1 ¼ c. parsley, minced • 4 cups stale bread, broken into pieces • 2 eggs, lightly beaten

Melt the butter in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add celery, onion, chestnuts, salt and paprika to the pan and cook until the vegetables are soft.

Combine with the three remaining ingredients and stuff into the turkey just before roasting.



Recipe adapted from *Muscatine Daily News Tribune*, Muscatine, Iowa, December 24, 1902.

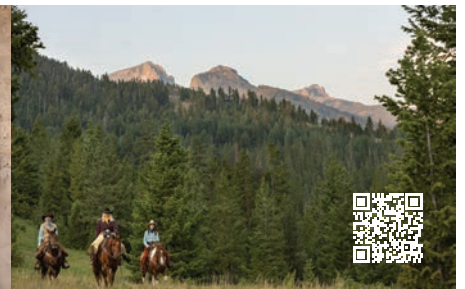
Sherry Monahan kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit SherryMonahan.com to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.



TRUE RANCH COLLECTION

HISTORIC DUDE RANCHES
ACROSS THE AMERICAN WEST

www.trueranchcollection.com



WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE

JESSE JAMES BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM
816-736-8500
JESSEJAMESMUSEUM.ORG

MISSOURI located in KEARNEY MISSOURI visit CLAY mo.com

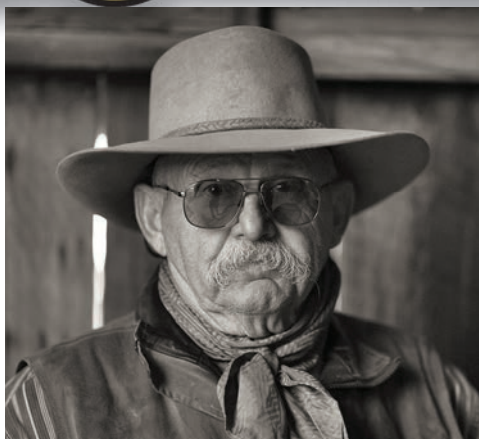
BEST *of the* WEST

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE



Martin Black
COURTESY JAY DUSARD

O U R 2 0 2 5



J A Y D U S A R D

GO WEST!

True West's editors' favorites reflect the many wonderful facets that create the real and imagined West we all love and cherish.

For two decades, *True West* magazine's editors have celebrated their Western favorites. The men and women behind the Best of the West winners are the backbone of the Western United States and on the frontlines of keeping our heritage and culture alive for all of us to enjoy.

A man who has had a great influence on my life—and my spirited passion for everything Western—is this year's True Westerner of the Year, Jay Dusard. Jay is an American original, a man who for nearly six decades single-handedly helped reshape Western photography with his mastery of the large-format camera and passion for the people and landscape of the West. I first met Jay through my father, Jeb Rosebrook. They both taught at the Orme School of Arizona's annual Fine Arts Festival. Jay taught photography, and Jeb taught creative writing. They were friends for

50 years. Jay and I later worked together on articles for *Camera & Darkroom*, *Arizona Highways* and *True West*. He is a friend and mentor and someone who always encouraged me to see beyond the horizon. We are honored at *True West* to name him our True Westerner of the Year. Just pick up any book on the American cowboy published since Jay's groundbreaking *The North American Cowboy* was published in 1983, and you will quickly realize that he defined a genre that has many imitators but no equals.

So, enjoy this year's Best of the West and begin making plans for your next Western adventure, additions to your Old West collection, wardrobe and library. Be ready to be surprised, awed and amazed in ways you can't imagine on your next road trip across the West.

Stuart Rosebrook is the executive director of Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona, and an editor-at-large for *True West*. He believes that when traveling across the West one should always take time for a photo-op and to enjoy a great vista.

BY STEVE FRIESEN

ART AND COLLECTIBLES

AND THINGS THAT MAKE US WESTERN

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

Every year thousands of auctions are held in the United States. They range from small estate auctions to auctions run by large companies with national reputations and scope to eBay, which is a different thing altogether. That's a lot

Roy Rogers' silver-and-gold-decorated parade chaps brought \$184,500 at January's Old West Auction.

Courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction



Edward Bohlin's personal silver-mounted gun belt with Colt Single-Action Army revolvers sold for \$307,500. They took top dollar at Lebel's Old West Auction in January.

Courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Auction

to choose from. Selecting auctions to include in *True West's* "Collecting the West" column is less daunting. The magazine's title provides the direction. We only include auctions with authentic exceptional offerings from the true West. Those would be the art, firearms, clothing, horse gear, Western movie memorabilia, and other items that capture the stories and spirit of the American West.

This past year the auctions that met those criteria did not disappoint, and

offered some standout items. The merger of Brian Lebel's Old West Auctions with Morphy Auctions started 2024 with a huge show of firearms and Western artifacts in Las Vegas, creating an event not to be missed. The accompanying auction did not disappoint, offering choice pieces like Edward Bohlin's personal silver-mounted gun belt with Colt Single-Action Army revolvers and Roy Rogers' silver-and-gold-decorated parade chaps. The June Lebel/Morphy Auction in Santa Fe doubled down with several silver-mounted parade saddles, including a Disney-themed saddle made by Bohlin. Among a nice assortment of spurs at that auction was a silver overlaid pair made by Idaho's Qualey Brothers in 1920.

Firearms are the specialty at Rock Island Auction Company, which always has a nice selection of weapons associated with the West. The American West met the Australian west in *Quigley Down Under*, starring Tom Selleck. Rock Island offered one of three rifles created for the movie. Another rare find at the auction



Bohlin's Disney saddle, made for Walt Disney's friend Justin Dart, included an image of Micky Mouse wearing a cowboy hat. The top bid for it at Lebel's Santa Fe was \$307,500.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions



A pair of silver overlaid spurs made by the Qualey Brothers, sons of a Norwegian blacksmith, sold for \$25,830 at the June Lebel Auction.

Courtesy Morphy Auctions

was a Merwin, Hulbert and Company 3rd Model Army revolver presented by Theodore Roosevelt to his hunting guide.

As might be expected, a piece by Charles Russell drew the top bid at the Charles Russell Museum's annual art auction. The painting titled *The War Party* was based on his experiences among the Blackfeet in Montana. Twelve hundred miles to the south, *Carmelita*, a portrait by Nicolai Fechin, and *Summer in the Mountains* by Berger Sandzen were among the top sellers at the Scottsdale Art Auction.

In 2024 these and other auctions provided a nice range of artifacts for collectors of the West. Their due diligence also ensured the quality, authenticity and connoisseurship that we have come to expect out here in the true West.



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

Best Western Museum

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

The beautiful design of this building and its outdoor sculpture gallery offer just a taste of what you will experience inside this state-of-the-art museum filled with paintings, sculptures, cowboy gear and ranch paraphernalia, including the Abe Hays Spirit of the West Collection. Western Spirit recently acquired the Eddie Basha Collection of Western American fine art and a new wing will be built to exhibit it.

scottsdalemuseumwest.org

Readers' Choice

Desert Caballeros, Wickenburg, AZ

Best Western Art Collection

Museum of Western Art, Kerrville, TX
"Shermalee & Lou, The Mack Cowboys" runs from January 25 - March 15, 2025.

museumofwesternart.com

Readers' Choice

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX

Best American Indian Collection

Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN

eiteljorg.org

Readers' Choice

Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

Best Western Art Collector

Tom Petrie, Petrie Institute of Western American Art, Denver Art Museum, CO

DenverArtMuseum.org

Readers' Choice

Myron R. Diebel (Wickenburg, AZ)

Best Western History Collector

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

Founded in 1997, the Colorado museum was created by founder



Tom Selleck's Shiloh-Sharp rifle used in *Quigley Down Under* sold for \$105,750 at the Rock Island Auction Company's final sale of 2023.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company

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

MuseumOfTheMountainWest.org

Readers' Choice

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

Best Pioneer History Collection

Old Cowtown Museum, Wichita, KS

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

OldCowtown.org

Readers' Choice

Legacy of the Plains Museum, Gering, NE

Best Old West Collectibles Auction

Morphy Auctions, Denver, PA

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

morphyauctions.com

Readers' Choice

Richmond Auctions, Greenville, SC

Best Western Collectibles Gallery

C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT

Readers' Choice

Cisco's Gallery, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Best Old West Art Auction

Scottsdale Art Auction, Scottsdale, AZ

Led by robust results in a variety of different collecting categories, Scottsdale Art Auction boasted a 97 percent sell-through rate and set several world auction records during its two-day sale, April 12-13. Both historic and contemporary Western art achieved high results over the 406-lot auction, which achieved a strong \$10,479,549 overall. The Scottsdale Art Auction is currently accepting consignments and will hold its next auction on April 11-12, 2025.

ScottsdaleArtAuction.com

Readers' Choice

Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX

Best Old West Firearms Auction

Amoskeag Auction Company, Manchester, NH

amoskeagauction.com

Readers' Choice

Rock Island Auctions, Rock Island, IL

Best Historic Firearms Museum

Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, NE

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

furtrade.org

Readers' Choice

Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, NV

Best Treasure Hunting Device

Garrett Metal Detectors, TX

Founded in 1964, the family-owned company remains a leader in the metal detector marketplace. The

SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

APRIL 11th & 12th, 2025



CHECKIN' THE HERD

11" x 15" WATERCOLOR
EST: \$25,000 - 35,000

EDWARD BOREIN
(1872 - 1945)

AUCTIONING OVER 400 WORKS OF IMPORTANT AMERICAN,
WESTERN, WILDLIFE AND SPORTING ART

STILL ONLY **17%** BUYER'S PREMIUM!

UPCOMING AUCTION APRIL 11TH - 12TH, 2025

COLOR CATALOGUE AVAILABLE \$40

For more information please call (480) 945-0225 or visit www.scottsdaleartauction.com

SA SCOTTSDALE
ART AUCTION



One of several Russell pieces offered at the Charles Russell Museum's annual auction in March, *The War Party* sold to the top bidder for \$2,570,000.

Courtesy C.M. Russell Museum

company's philosophy is to make the best metal detectors, sell them at a fair and reasonable price, and place customer service and satisfaction at the top of their priorities. For the everyday consumer, its Sport Division offers amateur and professional

detectorists one of the most highly regarded product lines manufactured today.

Garrett.com

Readers' Choice
Electroscopes by Thomas, PA

Best Western Painter

Frederic Remington

Readers' Choice

Maynard Dixon

Best Western Painter (Living)

Andy Thomas, Carthage, MO

Many call Andy Thomas the "Storyteller" and if you have ever had a chance to view his work you just might agree. He tells many stories with his action-filled Western art and is bringing the cowboys back to life. In the past, Andy has painted many subjects from American history—a picnic by a river, kids playing sports to a brutal bear fight. All of his paintings end up telling you,

★ VISIT ★
SIKESTON

Enjoy fun events, great restaurants and attractions. Call **888-309-6591** or go to **sikeston.net/tourism** for more information.

St. Patrick's Day Festival March 15
Hot Air Balloon Festival June 20-21
Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Aug 6-9

SIKESTON
TOURISM
★ tourism@sikeston.net ★



Balloon Glow, Tethered Rides & More! June 20-21

MISSOURI
VisitMo.com



Summer 2025!

COMING SOON



the viewer, some kind of story of their lives. We just never know what he will present to us next.

Readers' Choice
Sherry Blanchard Stuart

Best Western Art Gallery

Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

The Legacy Gallery represents over one hundred nationally known artists and offers the finest in representational and impressionistic art. The Legacy Gallery has specialized in paintings and sculptures in a wide variety of subject matter, including Western, figurative, wildlife, still-life and landscape. In addition, the Legacy Gallery offers works by 19th- and 20th-century artists, including Olaf Wieghorst, Charles M. Russell, Olaf C. Seltzer, Joseph H. Sharp, Frederic Remington and Taos Founders.
legacygallery.com

Arthur Merrifield led Theodore Roosevelt on his first hunts in the West. The Merwin, Hulbert and Company 3rd Model Army revolver presented to him by Roosevelt fetched \$164,500 at the Rock Island Auction Company's sale.

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company

Readers' Choice
Ed Mell Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

Best Western Art Museum Gallery
Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA

The Autry Museum of the American West brings together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. Located in beautiful Griffith Park, the Autry features unique galleries filled with

paintings, sculptures, film memorabilia, photographs, historic firearms and so much more, all related to the American West.
theautry.org

Readers' Choice
Museum of Northwest Colorado, Craig, CO

WESTERN WEAR

Best Western Bootmaker

Old Gringo, Fort Worth, TX
Old Gringo, founded in 2000, is a renowned boot manufacturer combining traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design. Handcrafted in Mexico, their boots feature intricate detailing, premium leathers and bold styles, blending Western heritage with modern fashion. Known for quality and



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

Celebrating A Decade of Dust & Dreams in 2025
See how we're making history in the next 10 years!
3830 N. Marshall Way | Scottsdale, AZ | westernspirit.org

innovation, Old Gringo is a favorite among boot enthusiasts worldwide.

oldgringoboots.com

Readers' Choice

Tecovas, Austin, TX

Best Western Hatmaker

**Catalena Hatters,
Bryan, TX**

Catalena Hatters is renowned for crafting the finest handmade custom felt hats in the world. Celebrated by industry professionals and hat connoisseurs alike, the hats reflect unmatched quality, craftsmanship and attention to detail. Catalena Hatters continues to set the gold standard for timeless style and exceptional custom hatmaking.

catalenahatters.com



Old Gringo Boots

Readers' Choice

Knudsen Hat Co/Golden Gate Western Wear, Richmond, CA

Best Western Clothing Maker

**Miller International (Cinch Brand),
Denver, CO**

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

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

cinchjeans.com

Readers' Choice

Recollections, Hawks, MI

Best Western Clothing Maker

**Frontier by Lawrence Scott,
Los Angeles, CA**

frontierls.com

Readers' Choice

Michael J. Guli Designs, Bellvue, CO

FORT CONCHO

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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

Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day
February 23, 2025

Frontier Day
April 26, 2025

American Plains Artists Show
June 19 - August 3, 2025

National Cowboy Day
July 26, 2025

Archaeology Fair
September 20, 2025

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

Christmas at Old Fort Concho
December 5-7, 2025

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

VOTED

Celebrating our
10 Year Anniversary
in 2024!

Best Steaks in a 200-mile Radius!

at
Wyoming's Oldest Bar
It's not a slogan, it's a fact.

Reserve Now
307.836.2008

Historic Hartville, Wyoming
WYOMINGSOLDESTBAR.COM

MINERS AND STOCKMEN'S
STEAKHOUSE & SPIRITS



Nicolai Fechin's portrait *Carmelita*, gathered \$292,500 at the April Scottsdale Art Auction.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction

OLD WEST PRESERVATION

Best Preservation of a Historic Western Building

Fort Smith National Historic Site (Hanging Judge Parker's Courthouse), Fort Smith, AR

Fort Smith National Historic Site brings frontier justice to life at Judge

Isaac "Hanging Judge" Parker's courthouse. Explore the gallows, jail cells, and exhibits detailing law and order in the Wild West. This historic landmark captures the struggles of outlaws and marshals, offering a vivid glimpse into America's untamed past. discoverfortsmith.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie, WY/Jesse James Farm & Museum, Kearney, MO

Best Historic Cemetery of the West

Boot Hill, Dodge City, KS

Readers' Choice

Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

Best Preserved Historic Fort of the West

Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX

Readers' Choice

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, La Junta, CO

Best Architecturally Preserved Western Town

Tombstone, AZ

Readers' Choice

Silverton, CO



An impressionistic capture of *Summer in the Mountains* by Berger Sandzen sold for \$280,800 at the Scottsdale Art Auction.

Courtesy Scottsdale Art Auction

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

THE HISTORIC BULLOCK HOTEL

DEADWOOD'S
FIRST

**Main Street Historic Rooms
with modern amenities**

BULLY'S

Breakfast Served Late Daily

DEADWOOD'S
BEST

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

BY KEN AMOROSANO

FIREARMS

COLT WALKER 47

THE LEGENDARY HANDGUN THAT REALLY WON THE WEST

To understand the significance of the Colt Walker 47, one must first pay homage to the Colt 1836 Paterson.

U.S. War Department officials reportedly were favorably impressed with the 1836 Paterson. It was Colt's first commercial repeating revolver and marked a significant milestone in the evolution of firearms.

Designed by Samuel Colt, this single-action, cap-and-ball revolver featured a five-shot cylinder and was available in several calibers, with .28 and .36 being the most common.

Its sleek, streamlined design included an integrated folding trigger that only appeared when the hammer was cocked, a novel feature that provided a cleaner profile but also required greater manual dexterity to operate.

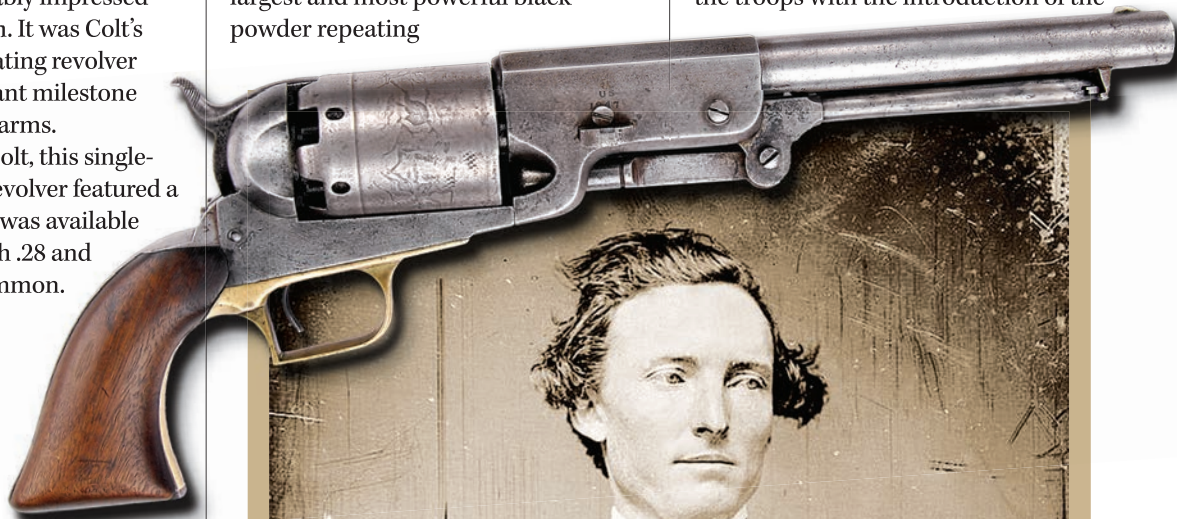
Lightweight and portable, the Colt Paterson was particularly valued by Texas Rangers and other frontier forces for its capability to deliver multiple shots without reloading. However, it had limitations—loading the cylinder was complex, requiring disassembly, which proved inconvenient in high-stress situations.

When the Mexican War began in 1846, Capt. Samuel H. Walker, U.S. Army, traveled east, looked up Sam Colt, and collaborated on the design of a new, more powerful revolver. Samuel Walker, who had experienced firsthand the inadequacies of existing firearms in high-stakes engagements, sought to

create a powerful and reliable handgun that could be used effectively on horseback.

The result was the 1847 Walker, the largest and most powerful black powder repeating

handgun ever made. Samuel Walker carried two of his namesake revolvers in the Mexican–American War, and the imbalance between the enemy and the troops with the introduction of the



When the Mexican War began in 1846, Capt. Samuel H. Walker, U.S. Army, traveled east, looked up Sam Colt, and collaborated on the design of a new, more powerful revolver.

All images courtesy True West Archives



One of the defining attributes of the Colt Walker is its .44 caliber ball, which provided for superior stopping power.

superior stopping power. The revolver's cylinder can hold six chambers, giving it a notable edge in firepower compared to single-shot pistols of the period. This capacity for rapid firing was highly advantageous in combat, especially for mounted units who could reload infrequently during an engagement.

Black Powder Mechanism

The Colt Walker is a black-powder, cap-and-ball revolver, meaning it requires gunpowder and a percussion cap to fire each shot. The loading process was labor-intensive, with each chamber needing to be individually loaded with powder, a bullet and a cap. While cumbersome, this system allowed for quick reloading compared to single-shot weapons of the era.

Range and Power

The Walker's large caliber and heavy charge of black powder made it one of the most powerful handguns of its time, capable of firing a bullet with enough force to be lethal at distances of up to 100 yards. The power behind each shot made it a formidable weapon on the battlefield and was particularly suited to the close quarters mounted combat often encountered by the Texas Rangers.

Reliability and Durability

While the Colt Walker was powerful, it was not without flaws. The revolver's oversized cylinder was prone to accidental ruptures, and its loading lever tended to drop during firing due to inadequate lock mechanisms. These flaws were addressed in later Colt models, but they are notable as part of the Walker's design legacy. Nevertheless, for the Texas Rangers, the revolver's power outweighed its drawbacks, cementing its reputation as a rugged, powerful sidearm for the frontier.



Samuel Colt's 1836 Paterson was Colt's first commercially successful repeating revolver. This single-action, cap-and-ball firearm featured a five-shot cylinder and was highly valued by Texas Rangers for its ability to fire multiple shots without reloading.

Size and Weight

The Colt Walker stands out as a large, heavy handgun, weighing approximately 4.5 pounds unloaded and measuring around 15 inches in overall length. This hefty design contributes to its stability but also makes it a challenging weapon to wield. The gun's size and weight reflect the desire for a firearm that packed significant power;

however, these dimensions also meant it was primarily used by cavalry rather than infantry or foot soldiers.

Caliber and Capacity

One of the defining attributes of the Colt Walker is its caliber. It uses a .44 caliber bullet, which was considerably larger than those in many contemporary revolvers, providing

powerful Colt Walker, changed the direction of armed conflict out West forever.

This single-action, black-powder revolver is often considered one of the most iconic and powerful handguns of its era, with a design that merged innovative engineering and the rugged needs of the 19th-century frontier.

Legacy and Influence

The Colt Walker's design influenced future revolvers, leading directly to the more reliable Colt Dragoon series. Today, the Colt Walker is celebrated not only as a functional weapon but also as a symbol of American ingenuity and frontier resilience. Collectors and historians value this firearm for its place in history as a gun that shaped the firearms industry and transformed the nature of combat on the Western frontier. Its rarity and connection to the legendary Texas Rangers continue to fuel its allure, making it a prized artifact among firearm enthusiasts.



Ken Amorosano is the Publisher of *True West*. He has decades of experience in the history and functionality of Old West firearms as an avid Single Action Shooting and Cowboy Mounted shooting competitor and marketing professional. Notably, he produced and edited three official annual catalogs for Colt's Manufacturing Company in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and enjoys his personal collection of original Colt and Winchester firearms.



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

Best Gunleather Artisan

Mernickle Holsters, Pampa, TX

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

mernickleholsters.com

Readers' Choice

Tie: John Bianchi Gunleather/
Old West Reproductions



Best Cowboy Action Pistol

**Cimarron Firearms
Arizona Ranger**

Cimarron's Arizona Ranger Competition SA is the ultimate "competition-ready" peacemaker-style revolver. Featuring wide sights, slim checkered grips, and precision-tuned action, it offers superior fit, smoother performance, and a crisp trigger pull. Enhanced with Cimarron's U.S.-made hammer, springs and parts for reliability, each revolver proudly bears "Arizona Ranger" engraved on the barrel.

cimarron-firearms.com

Readers' Choice

Taylor & Co. - Smoke Wagon



Cimarron Firearms
Arizona Ranger SA

Best Cowboy Rifle

Uberti 1860 Henry Rifle

Uberti's 1860 Henry Rifle faithfully recreates the iconic Civil War-era firearm, revered for its historic design, fast handling and accuracy. Available in brass or steel receivers, it's chambered in modern .44/40 or .45 Colt. Featuring walnut stocks and optional carbine models, it's a favorite for N-SSA competitions and collectors alike.

uberti-usa.com

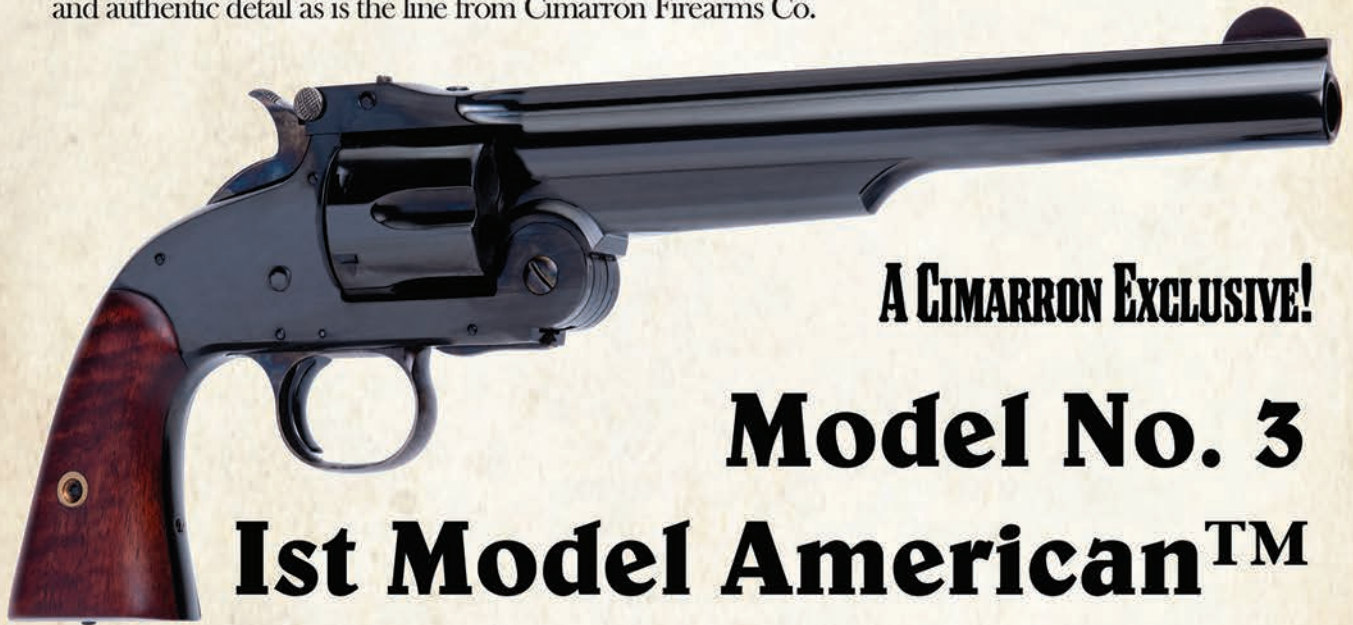
Readers' Choice

Cimarron 1866 Yellowboy "Pawnee" Carbine



THE GREATEST GUNS ON EARTH!

Cimarron is recognized as the leader in quality and authenticity in replica firearms. For the past 40 years, Cimarron has worked continuously to perfect the authentic detail, fit, finish and function of our line of frontier firearms. There is no other firearm that is near equal in value, strength, reliability, and authentic detail as is the line from Cimarron Firearms Co.



A CIMARRON EXCLUSIVE!

Model No. 3

1st Model American™

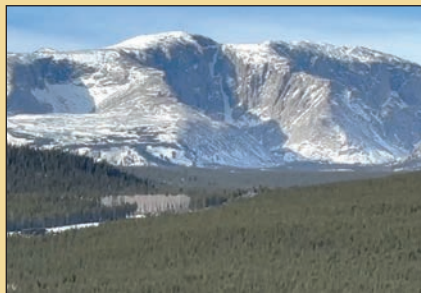
No corners were cut in reproducing this Cimarron replica. It's as close to the original as possible, yet it is capable of handling modern factory smokeless ammunition in such popular cowboy rounds as .45 Colt, 44-40, 44 S&W Russian and .44 Special. Cimarron's Model No. 3, 1st Model American™ is available in the traditional 8-inch or a shorter 5-inch barrel, and features such details as the early 1st Model frame and grip, the correct-style case colored top latch, trigger guard and hammer. Grips are period, two-piece walnut and the sixgun is offered in blued finish or nickel (both with the color cased parts as described). Civilian or military models are available. Military revolvers are martially marked with the U.S. markings, inspector stamps and a grip cartouche. With original No. 3, 1st Model Americans fetching prices in the four and five-figure range, here's an affordable replica smokewagon fit for today's Old West action or target shooter, living history buff, or vintage arms enthusiast. Tell your dealer, "I want a Cimarron!"

ROAM

A Western
Winter
Wonderland



BUFFALO WYOMING



VISITBUFFALOWY.COM



Best Action Shotgun

EMF Company Hartford SxS Shotgun

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

emf-company.com

Readers' Choice

CZ Hammer Coach Gun

Best Single Shot Rifle

1874 Quigley

The Shiloh Sharps Quigley Rifle is an iconic firearm inspired by the movie *Quigley Down Under*. Renowned for its precision and craftsmanship, this .45-110 caliber single-shot rifle features a heavy octagonal barrel, walnut stock and period-accurate detailing. It's a favorite among collectors, marksmen and fans of the legendary Western classic.

shilohrifle.com

Readers' Choice

Taylor's & Co. Highwall Rifle

Best Commemorative Rifle

Cimarron Firearms 1876 Texas Ranger Presidio Short Rifle

Cimarron is first to introduce an exact copy of the original 1876 Texas Ranger Presidio short rifle. This unique piece of history is offered in .50-95 caliber with a 20" octagon barrel, carbine butt stock, saddle ring and a Henry-type ladder rear sight. "Texas Rangers Co. E - Para muerte de diablos - Presido Del Norte - Texas, 1883" engraved on the sideplate, roughly translates to "For death of devils."

cimarron-firearms.com

Readers' Choice

Henry Border Patrol Commemorative

Best Firearm Kit

The Hawken Shop Hawken Rifle Kit

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

thehawkenshop.com

Readers' Choice

Dixie Gun Works Harpers Ferry Piston Kit

Best New Cowboy Firearms

Taurus Deputy

Heritage Badlander Shotgun Series

Heritage Lever Action Series



Voted “Best Western Museum” by *True West* magazine.

DESERT CABALLEROS
WESTERN MUSEUM
WICKENBURG, ARIZONA

Free admission for kids 17 and under!



Museum Hours: Monday – Saturday:
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

21 N. Frontier Street | Wickenburg, AZ 85390

(928) 684-2272 | westernmuseum.org

Pictured: Joe Beeler's *Thanks for the Rain* on the Museum campus



Smithsonian
Affiliate



Town of Wickenburg

EDITED BY STUART ROSEBROOK

WESTERN BOOKS THEN AND NOW

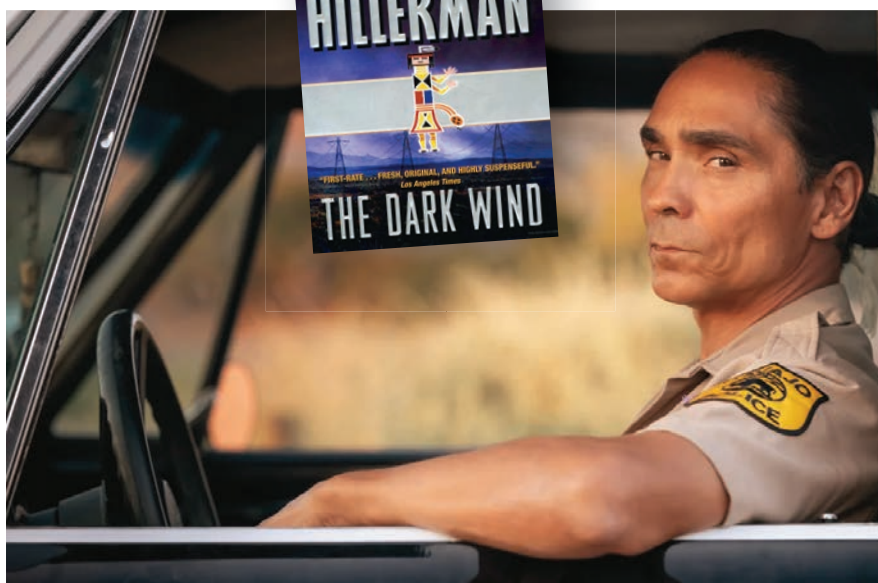
THE STATE OF WESTERN HISTORY AND FICTION PUBLISHING
IN 2024 IS ONE OF GRIT
AND DETERMINATION.

In 2013, I received a call from my friend Allen Barra who said there was an opportunity at *True West*: Western Books editor. I thanked him and called Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. The rest is history and ever since I have had the pleasure of managing the Western Books department for *True West* magazine. Pre-COVID, I was receiving well over 600 books a year for review. Fiction, nonfiction, biography, environmental, autobiography, military, essay, reprints, self-published, ancient, natural, cultural, you name the topic, I was receiving hard copy books, advanced reader copies, even bound final drafts for review. Authors and publicists have reached out to me at every one of my emails, social media accounts and phone numbers. What a wild ride it has been. And while I have stepped aside as the editor of *True West*, with my new position as executive director of Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona, I will continue as books and travel editor, with the new title of editor-at-large.

This past October, I was one of three keynote speakers at the Ozark Creative

Writers Conference in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The wonderful gathering of authors, like the annual Western Writers

Conference I attended in Tulsa, Oklahoma, earlier in the year in June, was affirming, promising and hopeful.



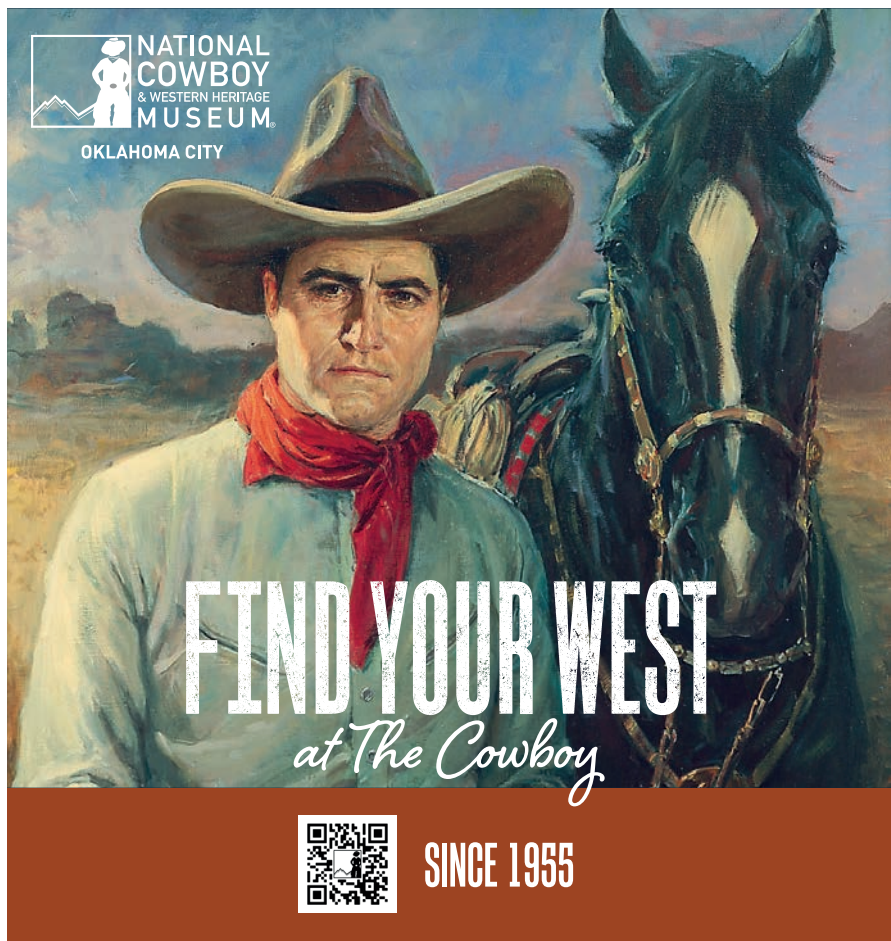
Thanks to the success of *Yellowstone* and *Dark Winds*, below, a slew of new Western novels—Old, Traditional and Modern, have been published utilizing the basic themes and production to achieve almost a cottage industry around the themes popularized on television.

Yellowstone Courtesy Warner Bros./
Dark Winds Courtesy AMC/Stalwart Productions

Writers, regardless of the monumental changes that have occurred in the Western genre writing marketplace, were hopeful at both gatherings, knowing that no matter how hard it is to make a buck from publishing, they will soldier on to tell their story. But, from my desk, 12 years since I posted my first bylined review in *TW*, I believe we, as a community of Western authors, readers, publishers and editors, are at one of the most important crossroads in the history of the Western, both fiction and nonfiction.


Fewer and fewer Western books are being published and even fewer are reaching my mailbox. Authors and historians must pull together. Publishers who believe in the Western fiction and nonfiction genres need to fight for their authors and take chances on new authors. With most publishers going to print-on-demand, the bottom line has been reduced across the industry, but the three most important factors to success in Western writing is not necessarily on the shoulders of creative authors: I believe good research and good storytelling are happening every day, but what is lacking: publishers, customers, bookstores and author income. How will Western writers overcome these daunting challenges? Time will tell, but we must advocate and support the genre. In the short term, it will mean more mergers of publishers; it will mean fewer imprints; it will mean fewer opportunities to be reviewed in print or to be paid for writing. In the long run, though, it will mean authors and the few publishers still in the game of Westerns, will need to expand the mediums they use to communicate their message, stories and books. Podcasts, audio books, YouTube, print-on-demand and self-publishing are all on the table as profit-generators in Western publishing.

In 2024, the Western has held its own in the headwind of change, with the most successful genre being modern Western mystery-fiction, which is also reflected in the popularity of modern Western drama on television and streaming networks. (Craig Johnson's *Longmire* and Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* have had the most success,



NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
OKLAHOMA CITY

FIND YOUR WEST
at The Cowboy



SINCE 1955

Durango Cowboy Gathering
OCTOBER 1-5, 2025



TRUE WEST BEST WEST
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

BEST GATHERING TO ATTEND IN 2025



MEMBER INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Follow us on Facebook and Join in the Fun!
Tickets and information at DurangoCowboyGathering.org

A RARE COLLECTION OF WANTED POSTERS FROM THE AMERICAN WEST



WANTED!

WANTED POSTERS OF THE OLD WEST

30 STORIES BEHIND THE CRIMES

AND MARTIN RIDGTON

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE OR GIFT SHOP

(800) 821-3874
FARCOUNTRYPRESS.COM

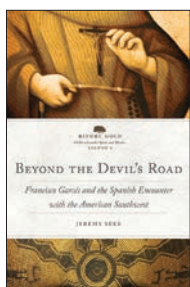
FARCOUNTRY PRESS



**When Montana
Outraced the East**

*The Reign of Western
Thoroughbreds, 1886–1900*
By Catharine Melin-Moser

\$34.95 HARDCOVER 9780806195315



**Beyond the
Devil's Road**

*Francisco Garcés and the
Spanish Encounter with the
American Southwest*
By Jeremy Beer

\$39.95 HARDCOVER 9780806194578

Vol. 8 in *The Before Gold: California
under Spain and Mexico Series*



The Bone Picker

Native Stories, Alternate Histories
By Devon A. Mihesuah

\$19.95 PAPERBACK 9780806194677



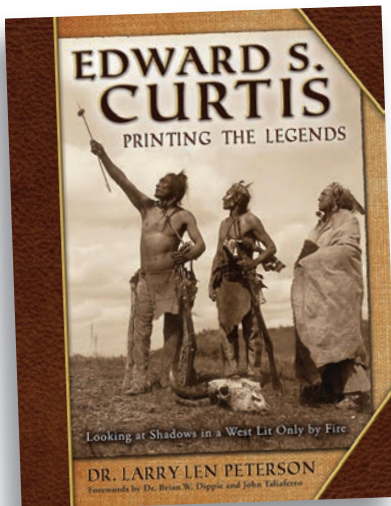
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. WWW.OU.EDU/EOO

but they are not alone. I love Tony Hillerman's *Dark Wind* and C.J. Box's *Joe Pickett*, but the latter did not catch on with audiences.) In traditional Western fiction, Wolfpack and Kensington are two publishers significantly contributing to the mass market genre, and fortunately for us, they are maintaining a good share of the market for traditional Western novels. But, if Larry McMurtry was writing today, would any major New York publisher even take a second look at *Lonesome Dove*? More than likely, the answer would be no, because they aren't publishing literary Westerns. We just have to hope a new generation of editors and publishers will reenergize the classic American-born genre, the Western.

Looking back at 2024, here are my picks for the Best of the West in Western books and publishing:

**BEST AUTHOR AND HISTORICAL
NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR**

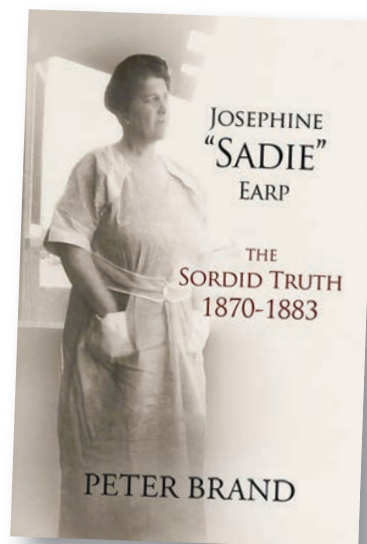
Award-winning Western author and collector Dr. Larry Len Peterson, who is well-known for his beautiful Western art books has published what will undoubtedly be considered the finest book ever published on the photographer: *Edward S. Curtis: Printing the Legends, Looking at Shadows in a West Lit Only by Fire* (Sweetgrass Books). 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.

Readers' Choice

Paul Haddad's *Inventing Paradise: The Power Brokers who Created the Dream of Los Angeles* (Santa Monica Press)



BEST BIOGRAPHY

For writers and researchers of the "Earp Family Saga," Australian historian Peter Brand's *Josephine "Sadie" Earp: The Sordid Truth 1870-1883* (Independently Published) is the most important book published on any of the Earp women in the past decade. Brand's reputation for research precedes him, and his scholarship is recognized worldwide. *The Sordid Truth* is a must read for any Western historian and lover of the Old West. We all await Peter Brand's latest revelation on the infamous and notorious characters of Tombstone.

Readers' Choice

Deb Goodrich's *From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis* (TwoDot)

**BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOK
PUBLISHER**

**Sweetgrass Books, a division of
Farcountry Press**

For many years, Farcountry Press has been a leader among Western regional publishers. Farcountry's imprint Sweetgrass Books is one of the

finest book publishers in the country and has filled a niche that few academic publishers do anymore: create beautiful coffee table art history books.

Readers' Choice

TwoDot, Lanham, MD

BEST UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

For over six decades, the University of Nebraska Press and its imprint Bison Books have been on the forefront of Western history—and fiction—publishing. Best known for their role in developing strong academic and popular authors, Nebraska continues to be a leader nationally of the genre.
nebraskapress.unl.edu

Readers' Choice

The University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma

BEST HISTORICAL WESTERN NOVELIST AND NOVEL

Bloody Joe's Last Dance: A Classic Western Series (Bloody Joe Mannion) by Peter Brandvold (Wolfpack Publishing) is just what lovers of great Western novels want: straight up, classic Old West action like Max Brand, Louis L'Amour and Elmore Leonard served up for decades.

Readers' Choice

Loren D. Estleman's *Iron Star: A Novel (Forge)*

BEST WESTERN FICTION PRESS

Pinnacle Books, New York, NY

For over two decades, the Western mass market books division was the domain of one Gary Goldstein. As of this past summer, the master editor of the American Western has hung up his editing spurs, but his legacy lives on in the successful development of a strong legacy of authors and deep backlist that

will keep readers coming back to Pinnacle for many years to come.
kensingtonbooks.com

Readers' Choice

Wolfpack Publishing, Las Vegas, NV

BEST WESTERN HISTORY BOOKSTORE

Cactus Book Shop, San Angelo, TX

For the second year in a row, the San Angelo landmark Cactus Book Shop is our best Western bookstore in the country. Cactus is famous for the best and largest selection of Elmer Kelton books in the country. If you are looking for Texana, Western Americana and West Texas history, this is a bucket list bookstore for you.
cactusbookshop.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Powell's Books, Portland, OR, and The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Scottsdale, AZ



The Palace Restaurant and Saloon



Founded in 1874, the Palace is Arizona's oldest, continuously operated bar, located on the town square along Whiskey Row.

Voted "Best Historic Saloon of the West" by *True West* magazine!



Come visit us at:
The Palace Restaurant and Saloon
120 S. Montezuma St.
Prescott, Arizona
928-541-1996



BY HENRY C. PARKE

WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

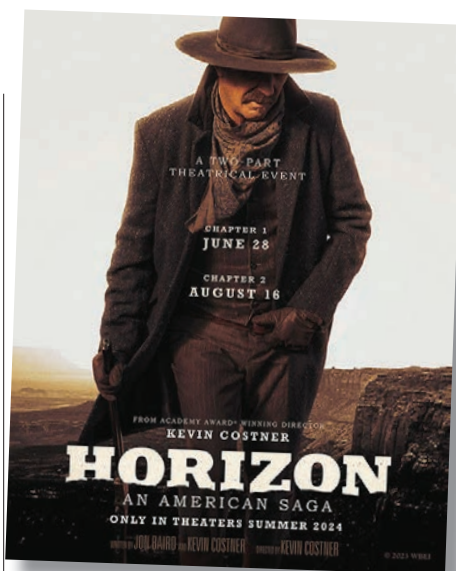
THE PASSION PROJECTS OF THE MODERN WESTERN

A YEAR OF UNDERRATED EXCELLENCE

I saw two Westerns in theaters in 2024: *Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1* in Los Angeles, and *The Thicket* in New York City. There was one other person in the theatre for *Horizon*, and I was alone for *Thicket*. I'm guessing the traditional Western audience assumes *The Thicket*, with its dwarf hero and lesbian villain, is too gimmicky, and the mainstream audience thinks the traditional epic *Horizon* will be too old-fashioned. It's a pity, because they are both excellent films and excellent Westerns, made with great talent and great passion. In fact, if there is one unifying factor among many of the best Westerns of the year, it is that they are all passion projects, many the result of years of work.

As has been discussed thoroughly in these pages, Kevin Costner spent years planning and financing *Horizon*, and even more than with *Dances with Wolves* and *Open Range*, he put his reputation and personal fortune on the line. It has not received nearly the reception it deserves, and while we'll clearly get to stream Chapter 2, the fates of Chapters 3 and 4 remain in doubt.

Thicket star and producer Peter Dinklage recalls, "I read Joe Lansdale's book, and it was so cinematic. COVID hit this [project] hard and blocked us for a couple years." The theme of a youth hiring a lawman/bounty hunter to bring a villain to justice, or in this case rescue his sister, has been overworked since *True Grit*. What's fresh is the quality of writing, and a role worthy of Dinklage's



vast talent but limited stature. "The older I get, I want them all to be passion projects, to get me out the door." To bring something new to the familiar character of the evil kidnapper, they've changed Cutthroat Bill into a woman, and remarkably, the gravel-throated, face-scarred Juliet Lewis seems as real as the snow they struggle through.

Three-time Oscar nominee Viggo Mortensen had already starred in three Westerns—*Young Guns 2*, *Appaloosa* and *Hidalgo*—and has now written, directed and plays second lead in *The Dead Don't Hurt*. Here he's a Danish immigrant who falls for a woman (Vickie Krieps) so independent that her idol since childhood is Joan of Arc. The Civil War begins, and she's not proud, but furious when he enlists for the Union, leaving her to run their farm alone. Mortensen based her character on his mother. "The

idea was to not simply have a woman play the leading role in a Western, but to have her lead the way in our story by virtue of her fiercely uncompromising nature."

Mario Van Peebles wrote, directed and stars in *Outlaw Posse*, not a sequel, but a follow-up to 1993's *Posse*, both with a substantially Black cast and crew. "When I did the first one, I had my dad [Melvin Van Peebles] with me...and then the next one, I have my son. I think culture can be healing. You know, some of us watch Fox News, and some watch MSNBC, but we might all go see this fun-ass crazy Western." Although the film loses its footing a bit when the preaching starts, there's a lot to like here, including Van Peebles giving M. Emmet Walsh his final role, just as *Posse* gave Woody Strode his second-to-last.

In *Place of Bones*, farm widow Heather Graham and daughter Brielle Robillard foolishly drag the wounded Corin Nemec to their isolated cabin and, you guessed it, he's an outlaw with saddlebags full of loot, and his gang is gunning for him. From the predictable setup, the film grows in interest with memorable performances and surprising story turns, especially toward the end.

Three Westerns made by non-Americans are *not* closely based on, but inspired by, little-known events in the history of the American West. From Germany comes *The Forgotten Winchester* suggested by the 2014 discovery of an 1873 Winchester found leaning against a tree in Grand Basin

National Park, probably for more than a century. From England, *Last Flamingo of the Red Summer Sunset* was triggered by the story of Ishi, the so-called “last wild Indian,” who in 1911 made himself known; he was the last Yahi, all of whom were thought to have been killed in the 19th century. *Taken From Rio Bravo*, an American-made film, is Russian-born actor/producer and three-time Mr. Universe Alexander Nevsky’s tribute to Ivan Turchaninov, a Russian Cossack who came to the United States in 1856, enlisted in the Union Army when the Civil War broke out and attained the rank of brigadier general.

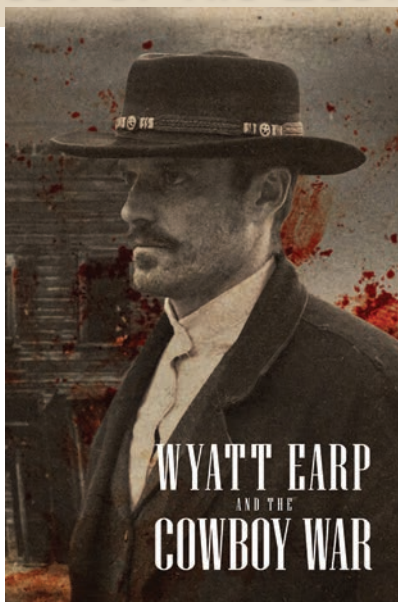
Though the history is unreliable, *The Ballad of Davy Crockett* is an unexpectedly strong little film, detailing a rarely dramatized period of our history, and the conflicts between the very lives of the Colonists and the business interests of the British. Colm Meany, the most familiar actor, makes a hateful yet understandable villain.

Starring Emily Brett Rickards, and *Wynona Earp*’s Tom Rozon, Canadian-filmed *Calamity Jane*, also with jumbled history, is elegantly written, acted and directed. With the F-word removed it would be a tough and strong family-appropriate Western.

Joe Crist is so gleefully bloody in a cartoonish way that it’s hard to be sure if it’s a faith-based Western comedy, or a parody of one—a *Touched by an Angel* in the Old West.

With the cost of filmstock, always the priciest item on low-budget films, replaced by dirt-cheap digital recording, student-made and amateur-made Westerns that would have once been 10 or 20 minutes long are now YouTube features: the Aussie import *Bullet or Rope* boasts a budget of \$1. With sufficiently lowered expectations, some have merit: *Buried on Shine Mountain* is a slacker *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, and in the amusing *Death After Dusk*, nine bounty hunters track the same psycho in a one-horse town.

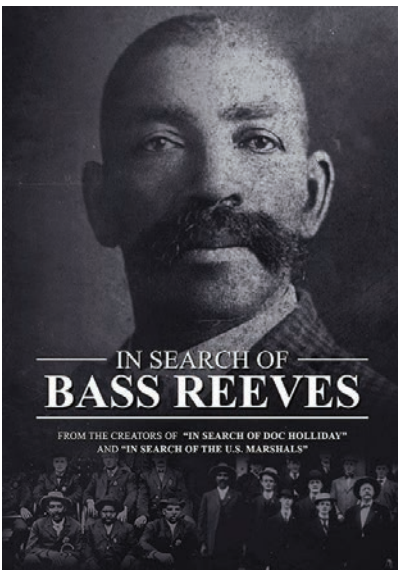
Among the foreign Westerns is Russia’s *Zoloto Umalty*. Set in 1917, when a shipment from the St. Petersburg gold-fields is stolen, members of the nomadic Tungus tribe are accused. Alas, the



Russians appear to be having the same problems with Westerns that we are. Posted online from Volgodonsk: “Yesterday with my husband, at the evening screening, 20:00, we went to see this film. We were alone in the hall. Empty.”

Taylor Sheridan has driven the quality Western revival for several years, but in 2024, his only presence was the belated Part 2 of *Yellowstone*’s season five. Happily, more series are in the works.

And for the first year in recent memory, there was not a single Western TV-movie. Two impressive new limited series are *Elkhorn* and *Wyatt Earp and the Cowboy War*. In the interest of transparency, *True West* publishers Bob Boze Bell and Ken Amorosano received producer credits for *Wyatt Earp* for contributions made in the development stages



of the project. It’s a global hit for Netflix, a six-episode telling of the OK Corral gunfight that is like no other. Slyly narrated by Ed Harris, it looks at the events in the context of national politics and international business—not only Wells Fargo, but President Chester A. Arthur, railroad magnate J. Pierpont Morgan and the Rothschild banking family figure prominently.

The INSP drama *Elkhorn* stars Mason Beals as 25-year-old Theodore Roosevelt, a rising New York politician who, in one day lost his wife and his mother. Distraught, he abandoned his career, headed west to deal with the loss, and created a new life for himself as a rancher. A second season is coming, and INSP continues to focus on Westerns, with other original programming like *Wild West Chronicles*, *The Tall Tales of Jim Bridger* and the contemporary Western police drama *Blue Ridge*.

One of the big streaming hits of the year, Amazon’s post-apocalyptic *Fallout* stars *Justified*’s Walton Goggins. He plays a cowboy movie star in the candy-coated flashbacks of the 1950s, and the same man, as a 200-year-old noseless ghoulish bounty hunter in the later story. It’s entertaining sci-fi, but if you watch it hoping for a real payoff to the cowboy setup, you’ll be disappointed: this isn’t season one of *Westworld*, even though the same folks made it.

And after 14 seasons, *Blue Bloods* was cancelled. Admittedly that’s a police show, not a Western, but it means Tom Selleck is at large. Isn’t it time someone got him and Sam Elliot back together?

MOVIES

Best Western Movie

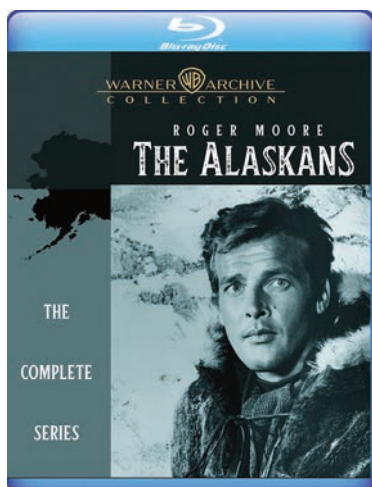
Editors’ Choice

Horizon: An American Saga—Chapter 1 (New Line Cinema-Warner Brothers)

A marvelous first quarter of Kevin Costner’s epic of the settling of the American West

Readers’ Choice

The Thicket (Tubi)



Best Western Documentary

Editors' Choice

In Search of Bass Reeves (Knox Robinson Films)

The true story of the man who went from slavery to become one of the nation's finest lawmen

Readers' Choice

The Wolf in the Chute (Riders Up Productions)



Best TV Western Series

Editors' Choice

Wyatt Earp and the Cowboy War (Netflix)

History's most famous gunfight, and its reverberations around the globe

Readers' Choice

Blue Ridge (INSP)

Best Western to Stream

Editors' Choice

Black Creek (Cynthia Rothrock Productions)

Readers' Choice

Calamity Jane (Tubi)

Best Blu-Ray Western Movie

Editors' Choice

Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid (Criterion)

Readers' Choice

Navajo Joe (Kino Lorber)

Best Western Movie Collection

Editors' Choice

When Cowboys Were King, Volume 2 (VCI Entertainment)

Sparkling prints of a Hoot Gibson, a Johnny Mack Brown, and two Buck Jones B-Westerns from the 1930s will have you reliving your grandpa's childhood matinees!

Best TV DVD

Editors' Choice

The Alaskans (Warner Archive Collection)

It's like finding a lost season of *Maverick*. In 1959, before he'd been sainted or bonded, Roger Moore travelled to the frozen north of Burbank to star in the long-forgotten Warner Brothers Western series.

Best Silent Western

Editors' Choice

Buster Keaton in *Go West!* (Alpha Video)

Best Foreign Western

Editors' Choice

Australia: *Mayall Creek Day of Justice*

The true story of the trial of eight white men accused of slaughtering 30 Aboriginals in 1830s Colonial Australia

Readers' Choice

Japan: *Golden Kamuy*

BLACK CREEK

One of the completely unexpected, dizzy delights of the year, *Black Creek*, comes from "The Queen of Martial Arts Films," Cynthia Rothrock, who starred in her first in Hong Kong in 1985, and 70 films later decided to make a Western. "My inspiration came from *Yellowstone* because I just loved the gritty darkness of it." She's loaded the cast with several generations of martial arts champions. She shot at the Mescal Movie Set near Tucson. Rothrock co-wrote and co-produced the film, made most of the costumes and stars as the sheriff's sister, who vows revenge against the outlaw gang that wiped out her family.

"We started two years ago with the Kickstarter program. We did this movie in 14 days, for about \$425,000. One of our top Kickstarter incentives was they could be in a fight scene or have a line in the movie. We had people from Greece, England, Australia, coming just to do this."

While it's a surprisingly elegant production, with strong art direction, costuming, and night-for-night photography, even one of its stars, the greatest kickboxer in history, suspected it might not be based on actual events. "Don [The Dragon] Wilson said to me, 'Cynthia, how could everybody in the Old West know martial arts?' I said, 'Because the Chinese came there for the gold rush. They taught it.' He goes, 'Oh, okay.' I'm very proud of it. I'm hoping that someone says, wow, look what she did for two weeks of shooting and this money. If we give her a million and a half and 20 days of shooting, what can she pull off?"

—H.C.P.

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

In an ever changing world, Rapid City has stood the test of time. Rooted in traditions that span centuries, this is the place where the hustle takes a break and the serene terrain of the Black Hills and Badlands whisper to those willing to listen. These landscapes will tell you the secrets they've been sharing for generations.

Reconnect with the spirit of Americana in Rapid City, South Dakota, where the quintessential small town lives on.



It's Real.

RAPID CITY 

VISITRAPIDCITY.COM

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

HERITAGE TRAVEL

THE AMERICAN WEST IN ALL ITS GLORY

OUR ANNUAL FAVORITES LIST CELEBRATES DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.

Along blue highways to endless vistas, starry nights to warming sunrises, a trip across the American West—in winter, spring, summer or fall—is sure to inspire the traveler willing to leave the road most traveled for the unexpected experiences waiting beyond the horizon.

Why does the West continue to inspire people? Is it the land, the culture, the work, the art, the literature, the mythology? I believe it is all of it wrapped into one, a sense of place that can't be defined by borders or time. I've traveled thousands of miles back and forth across the vast region, and I can tell you without a doubt I know when I'm back in the West. The sky, the sun, the air, the space, the smell and the Western vista beyond the edge of my eyes all envelop my senses and remind me of why I love it.

At *True West*, we hope that our Best of the West inspires you to envelop yourself in the West and make it your destination of choice this year and for many years afterward. Revisit your favorite places and also go where you've never gone before. I did that this year, including a trip to all-time favorites, Death Valley and the Sierra Nevada, and seven days rafting on the Salmon River in Idaho. They call it "the river-of-no-return," but I will be returning again and again. And, I encourage you to, too.

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

Prescott, AZ

The original Territorial capital of Arizona, Prescott celebrates its heritage throughout the year at local museums, hotels and restaurants. The mile-high city has mild winters with plenty of indoor and outdoor activities, including the popular Historic Downtown Prescott Walking Tours, the Annual Prescott Chamber Christmas Parade titled "A Hometown Christmas," the Annual Courthouse Christmas Lighting and Sharlot Hall's Annual Frontier Christmas, "The Spirit of Christmas Past Visits Prescott." If you stay for the summer, don't miss Frontier Days, the Frontier Days Rodeo Parade and the World's Oldest Rodeo every Fourth of July. visit-prescott.com

Readers' Choice

Bandera, TX

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

Cody, WY

From the great outdoors to museums, Cody is one of the West's



Cowboy Cinching Up, SMS Ranch, Spur, Texas, 1939

Russell Lee, Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections

All Images Courtesy the Library of Congress Unless Otherwise Noted

most Western towns in which one can live like an Old West cowboy. Start at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, then head downtown to tour, shop, eat and drink. Don't miss the Cody Nite Rodeo, Irma Hotel Gunfights, Old Trail Town and trail-riding at one of the local stables. Hang your hat at Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel downtown or contact the Cody Chamber of Commerce for information on booking a once-in-a-lifetime cowboy experience at a local historic guest ranch.

codychamber.org

Readers' Choice

Pendleton, OR



A Miner's Cabin, Sierra Nevada, 1866

Best Old West Gunfighter Town

Deadwood, SD

The epicenter of the Gold Rush of 1874-76 that transformed the Black Hills, Deadwood was founded to supply the rush of miners everything they needed to survive: supplies, saloons and soiled doves. Visitors who walk the streets of Deadwood today should start at the visitors center in the restored railroad station for a map of the city, directions to local museums, daily events, gunfight reenactments, historic sites and the Mt. Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried near each other.

deadwood.com

Readers' Choice

Tombstone, AZ

Best Preserved Pioneer Town Recreated

Old Cowtown, Wichita, KS

Wichita's Old Cowtown Museum is one of the premier living history centers in the state of Kansas. Dedicated to recreating the atmosphere of the frontier town's Wild West past when hundreds of thousands of cattle flowed into the city's stockyards off the Chisholm Trail, Cowtown reconnects visitors with history through artifacts in its 10,000-piece permanent collection. Cowtown's history programming recounts the story of Wichita's transformation from a frontier settlement to a modern city. Docents and staff bring Wichita's past to life for visitors of all ages through hands-on daily activities, special

events and living history programs.
oldcowtown.org

Readers' Choice

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE

Best Old West Art Town

Casper, WY

The Casper Arts Guild was founded in 1924 and supports artists throughout the Cowboy State. The city regularly has a popular art walk in the summer months in its downtown gallery district. Casper is also home to The Nicolaysen Art Museum & Discovery Center, an outstanding museum with exhibits



Umapine, Chief of the Cayuse, Oregon, 1913

Photo by Joseph Kossuth Dixon

Best Historic Town Tour

Rapid City Trolley Tour, Rapid City, SD

The City View Trolley tour starts off at The Journey Museum and takes passengers past some of Rapid City’s iconic attractions. Listen to an audio tour with historical facts about what you’re seeing along the way. The tour also includes a 30-minute stop around the peaceful grounds of the Chapel in the Hills.

visitrapidcity.com

Readers’ Choice

Cody Trolley Tour, Cody, WY

Best Promotion of a Historic Place

Dodge City, KS

Take a trolley ride tour of Dodge City to discover the thrill of the Old West in the “Queen of the Cowtowns” at the Boot Hill Museum, Gunfighters Wax Museum, Trail of Fame, Home of Stone and Kansas Heritage Center. Every summer gunfighter reenactors hold thrilling events along “Front Street” at the Boot Hill Museum.

visitdodgecity.org

Readers’ Choice

Tombstone, AZ

Best Old West Town to Live In

Abilene, KS

A quintessential all-American city, Abilene provides everything an Old West history lover would want: historic community, excellent museums and culture, a heritage railroad, annual Western-themed events and access to Kansas’s wide-open country.

abilenekansas.org

Readers’ Choice

Virginia City/Nevada City, MT

and activities for all ages. Every June the museum hosts the NIC Fest, a three-day celebration of art and culture.

visitcasper.com

Readers’ Choice

Toppenish, WA

Best Town for Historic Entertainment

Abilene, KS (Old Abilene Town)

After a tour of Old Abilene Town’s historic buildings and “downtown” storefronts and attending the Old West gunfighters show, don’t miss the Can-Can Girls, who kick up their heels on the Alamo Stage every Saturday night from late June to late August.

oldabilenecowtown.com

Readers’ Choice

Durango, CO

Best Living History Farm Museum

Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, TX

A little slice of paradise for lovers of the Old West, Enchanted Springs Ranch in Boerne, Texas, is everything you would want in a rentable Western ranch experience. Enchanted Springs has room for up to a thousand guests for your special occasions. Don’t miss a tour of the Back 40 and the farm’s herd of heritage longhorns and exotic animals.

enchantedspringsranch.com

Readers’ Choice

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Museums, Olathe, KS

DISCOVER
SAN ANGELO

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

DISCOVER SAN ANGELO'S

Creative Side

Have A Nice Day

Plan

your trip today at DiscoverSanAngelo.com





Photographer John K. Hillers on Grand Canyon Ledge, 1872

Photo by James Fennemore

Stuhr Museum
Your story is our history

Scan the QR code to learn more!

STUHR MUSEUM
Sharing the collective human experience of community building along the Platte River Valley.
3133 W US Hwy 34 | Grand Island, NE
(308) 385-5316 | stuhrmuseum.org

VISIT US YEAR-ROUND!
Indoor exhibits and exterior viewing of historic structures available all year.
Railroad Town open May through mid-September.

Best Historic Railroad of the West
Georgetown Loop Railroad, Georgetown, CO

Built in 1884, Colorado's Georgetown Loop Railroad is one of the engineering wonders of the Rocky Mountain state's historic narrow-gauge rail lines. Passengers of all ages will enjoy the thrill of riding on historic rolling stock pulled by a steam-driven locomotive across the new High Bridge.

Guests can choose from a variety of special train packages, mine tours and gold-panning opportunities offered throughout the year.
georgetownlooprr.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO/
Nevada Northern Railroad, Ely, NV

Best "Who Slept Here" Hotel

The Occidental Hotel, Buffalo, WY

Visitors to Buffalo, Wyoming, should consider spending the night and dining at the Occidental Hotel, where Owen Wister may have written part of his famous novel, *The Virginian*. Famous former guests of the historic hotel include Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Theodore Roosevelt, Calamity Jane, Tom Horn, Buffalo Bill Cody and Ernest Hemingway. While in town, visit the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum's

Experience Prescott

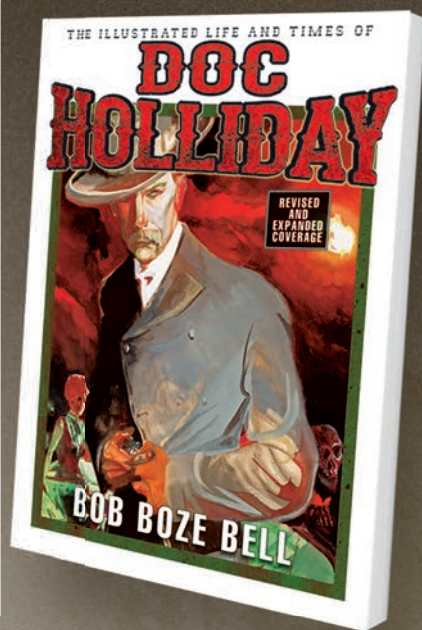
True West. Real Adventure.



**Experience Prescott-
One of Arizona's Most Beautiful &
Historic Destinations.**

Prescott's perfect weather provides an average temperature of 70 degrees, with four beautiful and distinct seasons, breathtaking landscapes complete with granite mountains, lakes, streams, and rolling meadows filled with wildlife. It's a destination for everyone! Visit experienceprescott.com for more details.

THE AMERICAN WEST'S MOST BELOVED GUNSLINGER



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

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

\$19.95
ORDER TODAY!



TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM

exhibits that chronicle local history, including the Johnson County War.

Just outside town is the TA Ranch, a historic guest ranch that was the site of a major conflict during the cattle war. Don't miss Longmire Days every July in celebration of writer Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire mystery novels and television series set in Big Horn Country.

occidentalwyoming.com

Readers' Choice

Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

Best Dude Ranch of the West

Rancho de los Caballeros, Wickenburg, AZ

Since 1948 Wickenburg's Rancho de los Caballeros has been one of the West's premier dude ranches.

Readers' Choice

Rowse's I+I Ranch, Burwell, NE

H.E. Klamers Curio Store, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 1909



Best Heritage Hotel

Bullock Hotel, Deadwood, SD

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

historicbullock.com

Readers' Choice

The Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

Best Heritage Bed & Breakfast

Historic Grand Canyon Hotel, Williams, AZ

If you're a fan of the Old West, historic railroads, Route 66 and the breathtaking Grand Canyon, the Historic Grand Canyon Hotel is the perfect place to stay in northern Arizona. Established in 1891, this boutique lodge has been beautifully restored, offering a scenic and memorable experience for guests.

thegrandcanyonhotel.com

Readers' Choice

Old Central Firehouse Bed & Brew, San Angelo, TX

THE PONIES HAVE CHANGED,
The Spirit is the Same



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

PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

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



JESSE JAMES HOME

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





Best Historic Saloon of the West

The Palace, Prescott, AZ

Famously rebuilt in 1901, The Place is Arizona's oldest operating saloon. In 1996, the Palace permanently added a restaurant, which is well-known for its cowboy cuisine, Old West dining atmosphere and 19th-century frontier reenactors. The Palace also has a great display of historical artifacts from the Old West and a mural dedicated to the Western film *Junior Bonner*, which was filmed in the bar and just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

whiskeyrowpalace.com

Readers' Choice

Miner's & Stockmen's Steakhouse & Spirits, Hartville, WY

Best Historic Restaurant

Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon, Pendleton, OR

Whether you are in town for the Pendleton Round-Up or just visiting the historic Oregon community of Pendleton, you have to have at least one meal in the historic Hamley Steakhouse & Saloon. Next door to the 1905 Hamley Western Store and Saddle Shop, the restaurant and saloon serve the best Western fare and drinks in unforgettable Old West atmosphere.

hamley.com

Readers' Choice

Big Nose Kate's, Tombstone, AZ

Sylvester Rawding Family, Sod House, north of Sargent, Custer County, Nebraska, 1886

Photo by Solomon Butcher

Best Chuckwagon Cook-Off

Llano River Chuckwagon Cook Off, Llano, TX

Do you love the best-of-the-best chuckwagon chefs facing off against each other? If you do, then you want to put the Llano River Chuckwagon Cook Off on your bucket list and make plans to attend and then stay a few days exploring Texas's beautiful Hill Country. Founded in 2005, the cook off will be held this year April 3-5, 2025.

llanochuckwagoncookoff.com

Readers' Choice

Chandler Chuckwagon Cook Off, Chandler, AZ

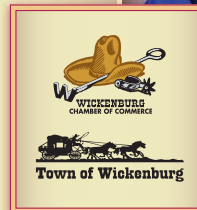
76TH ANNUAL GOLD RUSH DAYS & SENIOR PRO RODEO FEB 14-16, 2025

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



Wickenburg
LET'S RIDE

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



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

Photos: upper right, Seth Joel; others Craig W. Cutler Fine Art

Old Timers Spriggs, Lamb and Dillon Placer Mining, Rockerville, South Dakota, 1889

Photo by John C.H. Grabill

Best Chuckwagon Show & Supper

Bar D Chuckwagon Suppers, Durango, CO

Since 1969, the Bar D Chuckwagon Suppers has been feeding guests great Western fare and entertaining them with boot-stomping Western music. If that is not enough, they have an entire Western-themed village with a short-line train, blacksmith shop, Western art gallery and activities for the young and old alike.

bardchuckwagon.com

Readers' Choice

Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show, Rapid City, SD



2356. "Gold Dust." Placer mining at Rockerville, Dak. - Old timers, Spriggs, Lamb and Dillon at work. Photo and copyright by Grabill, 1889.

**WHERE HISTORY LIVES ON...
In Cody, Wyoming**



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

Relax in the **Silver Saddle Saloon!**

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

Visit us and stay awhile!

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



Cowboy in Saddle Shop, Alpine, Texas, 1939
Russell Lee, Courtesy NYPL

Best Heritage Guest Ranch

Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera, TX

From hayrides to trail rides, from fishing to music, dancing and stargazing, the Mayan Dude Ranch's Western hospitality has something for everyone looking for a fun, Old West getaway. When you and your family aren't out having fun, you will find yourselves enjoying Western ranch barbecue and Mexican food. Swimming, sports and kids'



10+ Museums & Historic Sites

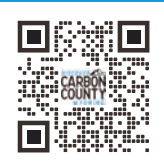
DISCOVER 
CARBON COUNTY
WYOMING

ADVENTURE. OUT.
wyomingcarboncounty.com

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

Sponsored by the Carbon County Visitors' Council

Start planning your outdoor escape!





Cavalryman, Midway Geyser Basin,
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 1903

Photo by Frances Benjamin Johnson

fiestas are fun activities you will also enjoy at the Mayan Dude Ranch.
mayanranch.com

Readers' Choice

Kay El Bar Guest Ranch,
Wickenburg, AZ

Best Cowboy Poetry Gathering

**Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering,
Durango, CO**

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

durangocowboypetrygathering.org

Readers' Choice

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering,
Prescott, AZ

Best Cowboy Music Gathering

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

The gathering, celebrating 25 years, features a weekend of great events, including a wagon train and trail ride from Jacksboro, trappings show, cowboy poetry, cowboy music, a youth poetry contest, youth fiddle

"ALL ABOARD!"

The Far-Famed Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park

A partnership of

History Colorado

and
Historic Rail
Adventures

**COME SEE US!
2024 SEASON
OPEN NOW**

A Train for all Seasons & Occasions

GeorgetownLoopRR.com

888-456-6777

Loading Hay for Cattle, Dangberg Ranch, Douglas County, Nevada, 1940

Arthur Rothstein, Courtesy NYPL Digital Collections



Sunday—with enough action in every 30-minute show to ensure you leave believing you were there on that fateful day in 1876. djjd.org

Readers' Choice

Little Big Horn Battlefield, Crow Agency, MT

Best Old West Renactment Group

Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the “Official Old West Ambassadors” of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on

Days offer a thrill-a-minute mounted reenactment of the failed James-Younger Gang robbery of Northfield’s First National Bank on September 7, 1876. The three-day event includes programming for all ages, but the highlights every day are the Raid Reenactments—two on Friday, four on Saturday and two on

competition, youth chuck wagon cook-off, Texas Trail of Fame, Cowboy Church, cowboy gospel concert and Western swing dances.

redsteagallcowboygathering.com

Readers' Choice

Cochise County Poetry & Music Gathering, Cochise County, AZ

Best Old West Mounted Renactment

Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN

Held the first weekend after Labor Day every September in Northfield, Minnesota, the Defeat of Jesse James

Step away from it all...

Your next adventure awaits in Cochise County, Arizona, where history sits on every corner. Explore historic towns, indulge in international cuisine, and revel under star-studded skies.

ARIZONA
VisitArizona.com

Explore COCHISE

37TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE™

NINE FESTIVE WEEKENDS
FEBRUARY 1
MARCH 30
 SAT., SUN., PRES DAY • 10AM-6PM

EXPLORE OUR 50 ACRE MEDIEVAL AMUSEMENT PARK!
 16 STAGES OF MUSIC & COMEDY • FOOD & DRINK • JOUSTING TOURNAMENTS
 THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

SAVE WITH DISCOUNT TICKETS AT:
 GUINNESS DELTA Budweiser Basha's FOOD CITY

TICKETS, DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO
ARIZONA.RENFESTINFO.com

Whiskey Row, participate in reenactment events and parades throughout Arizona, donating all profits to locally based charities.
 prescottregulators.org

Readers' Choice

Six Guns and Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX

Best Wild West Show

Deadwood Alive, Deadwood SD

Historic Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the premiere Old West cities to visit in the Western United States. With its historic past in the Black Hills Gold Rush, Deadwood has been North Hills' destination for opportunity and entertainment since its hardscrabble founding in 1876. From the end of May to late September, the professional reenactment group, Deadwood Alive, puts on three free Main Street Shootouts during the day and the Trial of Jack McCall in the evening, Monday through Saturday.
 deadwood.com / deadwoodalive.com

Readers' Choice

OK Corral, Tombstone, AZ

Best Historic Western Rodeo

The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ

Since 1888, the Prescott Frontier Days rodeo has been held over the Fourth of July weekend. The World's Oldest Rodeo will celebrate its 138th annual performance with eight shows from June 30 to July 6, 2025. In conjunction with the rodeo, the always popular annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 5.
 The 2025 theme of the WOR will honor the women of Rodeo.
 worldsoldestrodeo.com

Readers' Choice

TIE: Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY/Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton, OR

Concordia Cemetery
 HISTORY TO DIE FOR...

• Visit one of Texas' Most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Rangers and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the State.

• Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.

• Veterans from the Mexican-American War through recent conflicts, as well as The World's Tallest Man." Permanent residents.

• Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia, and visit the American Victims of Gringos' Curve Massacre.

JANUARY 11, 2025, 11 AM: Gringos' Curve Memorial Commemoration of US Miners Massacred by Pancho Villa's Villistas, Masonic Cemetery.

JANUARY 25, 2025, 2 PM: 25 year Time Capsule opening. Meditation Garden, Buffalo Soldiers' Gate entrance, Stevens Street.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 26, 2025, 10 AM: Honoring 300 Veterans from all US wars. Meditation Garden, Buffalo Soldiers entrance, Stevens street.

AUGUST 16, 2025, 6 PM: Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin meets. 6 Guns & Shady Ladies will reenact the 130th anniversary of his demise in El Paso. Murder or Self-Defense? 3700 Yandell.

OCTOBER 4, 2025, 6 PM: Sundown Walk With the Spirits of Concordia.

OCTOBER 25, 2025, 2-8 PM: Dia De Los Muertos Festival featuring cultural altars, foods, entertainment and more.

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

Best Preserved Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail, MO, KS, NE, WY, ID, WA, OR

From Independence, Missouri, to Portland, Oregon, follow the Oregon National Historic Trail. An immersive, cultural experience, whether you do it all at once or in pieces over many years, traveling the length and breadth of the Oregon National Historic Trail is a lifetime adventure. The National Park Service site is the place to start planning your adventure across the country.
nps.gov

Readers' Choice

Chisholm Trail

Best Preservation Effort of the West

Moss Mansion Museum, Billings, MT

Step back in time into the Moss Mansion Museum, a showcase for the best of early 20th-century American architecture. Constructed by original owner Preston Boyd Moss, the mansion is showcase of Moss's entrepreneurship and Billings, Montana, culture. Visit and discover one of the best preserved and architecturally significant homes in the Big Sky State.

mossmansion.com

Readers' Choice

Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan, WY



Roman Catholic Church, Zuni, New Mexico, 1868

Photo by Timothy O'Sullivan

Rowse's 1+1 Ranch
Burwell, Nebraska

GINNY WORTHINGTON

EXPERIENCE A REAL
WORKING CATTLE RANCH

Reserve your spot now for 2025

1plus1ranch.com (308)346-5530 tammy@1plus1ranch.com

Picture Yourself

Here

Or Here

Or Here

Visit Nebraska's
Landmark Country.

NEBRASKA'S LANDMARK COUNTRY
Scottsbluff · Gering

800-788-9475 | NebraskaMonumentCountry.com

BY STUART ROSEBROOK



THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA

THE SMALL TOWNS OF THE AMERICAN WEST ARE WHERE YOU WILL DISCOVER THE PEOPLE AND PLACES DEDICATED TO PRESERVING OUR WESTERN HERITAGE AND WAY OF LIFE.

I was raised in the suburbs of one of the nation's most Western cities, Los Angeles, but I spent my summers learning to ride on a cattle ranch outside of Prescott, Arizona. Later, I began driving cross-country for college and since then have driven over 20,000 miles across our great country, leaving the interstates behind whenever I can. As I tell my children, it's from the smaller highways winding from town to town, many times with hundreds of miles in between, that you can see America from the ground up. We don't have the grand cross-country trains like we once did to watch the landscape go by from a dome car, but we can actually see and stop and visit the West better than ever on its thousands of miles of scenic highways.

I am a huge fan of Western small towns and their historic districts, local diners, cozy hotels and cultural sites. One will never forget the first time driving east-to-west as the air dries up, the morning sun burns your face and the

endless Eastern forests give way to an endless vista of plains and prairie that shimmer beyond the horizon. You can smell the West in the air. You know you're home when you step out of the car and feel that Western breeze across your smiling face.

Paraphrasing the author Edward Abbey, be sure to stop your car, feel the sun on your face, set a spell, put your toes in the sand. Make unplanned stops at local historic sites and take a hike. Pull over to read the historical marker, take a chance on a small-town museum and camp in a national forest campground just outside of town. Grill your dinner on an open fire, watch the sunset and kick back while the stars and moon shine in the night sky.

Visit our 2025 Top Ten Towns this year. Make plans to explore, to relax, to immerse yourself in the history and heritage of the communities, their past and their present.

Take a deep breath. You are in the West.

Deadwood South Dakota

Notorious from the day it was founded in 1876, Deadwood has had an international reputation as one of the Wild West's most notorious cities. Today, after films and television have made the city even more famous, Deadwood is a year-round destination for fans of the Old West. Built during the famous Black Hills Gold Rush that sparked the Great Sioux War and the infamous Battle of Little Bighorn, Deadwood is a place where the visitor will feel enveloped in the past as they walk the streets of the city on the National Historic Register. From the Bullock Hotel to the Number 10 Saloon, from the Adams Museum to the Mt. Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried side-by-side, the past comes alive around every corner. The city's visitor center will help provide directions and details on how to enjoy your stay in the town



and the Black Hills—a wonderful area to visit and immerse yourself in local history for a week.

If you go in the summertime, festivals abound, from Wild Bill Days to '76 Days, one of the top rodeo

Journey Museum and Wind Cave National Park.

Near Deadwood is the beautiful, scenic Spearfish Canyon, which is a great day trip. Keep going north to visit the nearby communities of Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis.

While in Deadwood make sure to



Deadwood, South Dakota

Courtesy South Dakota Office of Tourism/
Historic Photo Courtesy Library of Congress

and Western parade celebrations held every July. South of Deadwood, tour the historic town of Lead, then drive farther into the hills to visit Keystone, Custer State Park, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, the Crazy Horse Memorial, Rapid City's

make time to enjoy the many fine restaurants and shops, Wild West saloons, entertaining mine tours and the city's newest museum, the Brothel Deadwood.

So what are you waiting for? Pack your bags and make your reservations to visit Deadwood, *True West's* number one True Western Town for 2025.

deadwood.com





San Angelo Texas

Is the late-Western author Elmer Kelton responsible for making San Angelo famous worldwide? Well, maybe not completely, but he sure helped by setting many of his famous novels in his beloved, adopted West Texas town. Today, if you are a fan of the seven-time Spur Award-winning author, make sure to visit San Angelo's Cactus Book Shop, which is not only one of the best Western history and fiction bookstores, it is the largest purveyor of Elmer Kelton in the country.

Survival on the Texas frontier depended on water, hard work and grit, and San Angelo was built next to the Concho River and Fort Concho. In 1867, the strategic U.S. Army outpost opened during the post-Civil War conflict with the Southern Plains tribes. Fort Concho served its purpose effectively until it was closed in 1889. The City of San Angelo operates the historic landmark, museum and the staffing and preservation of 23 fort buildings. Walk in the footsteps of soldiers and their families who lived at the fort and tour Officers Row and Quarters, the Enlisted Men's Barracks, Post Headquarters, Hospital, School House and Chapel. Fort Concho is also the site of numerous annual living history events, including

Fort Concho, San Angelo, Texas
Courtesy San Angelo CVB

Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day in February and Fort Concho Frontier Day in April.

Visitors to the city of San Angelo will discover a vibrant economic center for the area's oil and farm industries, with over 120,000 residents in the greater metro region. When visiting, take time to tour the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo State Park, San Angelo Nature Center and Angelo State University.

Since 1932, one of the biggest and most popular events of the year in the West Texas city is the San Angelo Rodeo and Stock Show, which runs February 1-16, 2025. The San Angelo

Rodeo and Midway will be held at the Foster Communications Coliseum on April 4-20, with the rodeo parade on April 5.

discoversanangelo.com

Prescott Arizona



The mile-high Arizona city is known as "everyone's hometown,"

and over the decades it has become one of the most beloved cities in the Grand Canyon State. The original territorial capital of the state is also the Yavapai County seat and is one of the best places to experience the state's colorful history.

Start at Sharlot Hall Museum, a four-acre living history center that has one of the finest collections of territorial buildings in Arizona, including the Territorial Governor's Mansion, the Sharlot Hall Building, the Fremont and Bashford houses and Fort Misery. Enjoy the Lawler Exhibit Center's "Prehistory of the Central Highlands," which provides visitors with a primer on the natural and cultural history of the region before the arrival of Europeans. Every September, the museum hosts the world-class Phoenix Indian Art Market.



Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott, Arizona

Courtesy Stuart Rosebrook

THE
ORIGINAL
Adventure



ESTD  1872

*Dodge
City*



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

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

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

..... VISITDODGECITY.ORG/LEGENDS

1 - 8 0 0 - O L D - W E S T  

From Sharlot Hall Museum, walk down Gurley Street to the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza and Prescott's popular historic district. Solon Borglum's Rough Rider statue, also known as the Buckey O'Neill monument, was dedicated in 1907 and is one of the most recognized landmarks in the city and the state.

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

Prescott is a great city for history lovers, and visitors should not miss Prescott's Western Heritage Center on Whiskey Row (Montezuma Street, across from the Courthouse), the Museum of Indigenous People's beautiful collections of Indian art and artifacts, and the Phippen Museum, which has one of the finest Western art collections in the West

If you've never been to Prescott and you love a great rodeo and parade, then book your hotel rooms now for the World's Oldest Rodeo. The city's most famous annual event, the rodeo has been held every Fourth of July since 1888. In 2025, Prescott Frontier Days will honor the women of rodeo and celebrate its 138th anniversary with eight shows, June 30 to July 6. The annual Prescott Frontier Days Parade will be held on Saturday morning, July 5.

Prescott, also known as Christmas City, hosts public festivals and parades on and around the Courthouse Plaza throughout the year including the popular annual Courthouse Lighting held the first Saturday of every December. Following the lighting ceremony, Sharlot Hall Museum hosts Frontier Christmas, where visitors can step back in time and enjoy an old-fashioned holiday celebration. The city's chamber also hosts a one-day Christmas Village & Christkindl

Market on West Goodwin Street on December 15. On New Year's Eve, thousands pack Whiskey Row for the now famous annual Boot Drop countdown at 10 p.m. and midnight. prescott.org/experienceprescott.com

Cody Wyoming

Is there a more Western town than Cody, Wyoming? Well, it does have a lot of competition across the United States, but few towns symbolize the West as much as Cody. With William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's assistance and his name, the city was founded and built to attract the railroad to deliver tourists near the east entrance of Yellowstone.

Visitors return to Cody year after year—in all seasons—to explore the Western destination and visit Yellowstone, just as its founders envisioned. Magnificent natural wonders, historic sites and world-class museums abound in town and in the surrounding area.

Looking to relax and stay a few days—or a week? Enjoy the Historic Irma Hotel founded by Buffalo Bill Cody in downtown Cody or book a long stay at a nearby guest ranch or lodge where you can enjoy world-class guided horse adventures, fly fishing, hiking and nature photography. Walk through the historic downtown district and visit the town's interesting shops, restaurants and saloons, including the Irma Hotel's Victorian-era bar.

If you have not been to Cody before, you will discover it is home to one of the world's greatest museums, the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. It is not one but five museums: Buffalo Bill, Plains Indian, Cody Firearms, Draper Natural History and Whitney Western Art. Guests can also visit the

McCracken Research Library, but researchers must make an appointment to do research in the archives.

Don't miss the 1890s Old Trail Town, an outdoor park with the largest collection of frontier buildings in Wyoming. It also has 100 historic



Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming

Courtesy BBCW

horse-drawn vehicles and a mountain man memorial.

If you love a good rodeo, the Cody Stampede Rodeo and Cody Nite Rodeo is one not to miss. The annual Stampede will celebrate its 106th anniversary July 1-4, and the 87th Night Rodeo is held every summer night, June through August.

codychamber.com

Tombstone Arizona



Book your trip to Tombstone this year and immerse yourself in legendary Cochise County.

Tombstone is an iconic Western town that should be on the bucket list of anyone who loves the Old West.

"The town too tough to die" is popular for those who want to walk where history happened. The historic district is where the Earps and Clantons fought and died for control of the mining boomtown. A trip to Tombstone would not be complete

THE BEST OF THE WEST IN TOMBSTONE



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

**LIVE MUSIC,
GREAT FOOD &
NEVER ENDING FUN**

12 Draft Beers on Tap
Over-Stuffed Corned Beef Reubens
Head down the spiral staircase
and visit the Shaft!

Open Daily • (520) 457-3107
www.BigNoseKatesTombstone.com
417 E Allen Street



Enjoy a Wide Variety of
**FAMILY
FRIENDLY
MENU ITEMS**
and
**DAILY CHEF
SPECIALS**

Or go for the
Ultimate Experience...

**DEATH BY
CHOCOLATE**

Open Daily
8am - 8pm

(520) 457-3405
www.TheLonghornRestaurant.com
501 E. Allen St



**YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR EVERYTHING
HARLEY-DAVIDSON® AND MOTORCLOTHES®**

OPEN DAILY!

(520) 457-1482 - 526 E ALLEN ST



*Style & Quality at
Reasonable Prices*

**A Uniquely
Different
LADIES
SHOP**

We carry a wide range of
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
not found anywhere else!

Open Daily 10am - 5pm
First Friday of the Month 10am - 6pm

(520) 457-2562 • 406 E. Allen Street
www.TheShadyLadysCloset.com



Book Your Next Stay at
www.russhousetombstone.com

131 S 5th St





Tombstone, Arizona
 Courtesy Cochise County Office of Tourism

motels and bed and breakfasts, include the Larian Motel, The Tombstone Grand Hotel, Trail Rider's Inn and Virgil's Corner Bed & Breakfast. Just outside of town is the Tombstone Monument Ranch, a historic working cattle ranch where guests relax in rooms and buildings rebuilt to look like 1880s Tombstone. Guests will learn the basics of

without touring the O.K. Corral, the Bird Cage Theatre, Gunfighter Hall of Fame, Big Nose Kate's Saloon, the Crystal Palace, C.S. Fly's, Rose Tree Museum, Good Enough Mine Underground Tour, and The Tombstone Epitaph Museum.

Visitors have many choices for lodging when planning a visit to the historic mining camp. Popular local

cowboying, work cattle and even take a trail ride into town.

Visitors to Tombstone should definitely consider booking a long weekend to visit all the nearby historic sites, including Fort Bowie National Monument, Willcox and Bisbee. The city is famous for its annual festivals which begin every March with the Annual Tombstone Wild West Days, followed by Wyatt

Earp Days in May and Doc Holli-DAYS in August. Tombstone's annual festivals culminate with its oldest event, Helldorado Days, which is held the third weekend of every October.

tombstone-chamber.com

Sheridan Wyoming

Situated in the Tongue River Valley of northern

Wyoming just south of the Montana border and just east of the Bighorn Mountains, Sheridan was founded by John D. Loucks in 1882 and named after Army Gen. Phil Sheridan. Cattle and coal were soon being shipped to the East on the railroad, which arrived in 1892. Entertainer and entrepreneur Buffalo Bill Cody invested in the Sheridan Inn, now a fully restored and popular historic



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

One of True West Magazine's "Top 10 Western Towns"



The Mint Bar, Sheridan, Wyoming
Courtesy Sheridan CVB

hotel. While staying in the historic city, visitors can explore the scenic Bighorn Mountains, explore the Little Bighorn country of Montana and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

Sheridan's downtown includes a vibrant entertainment, shopping and restaurant district, including the famous Mint Bar and King's Saddlery, King's Ropes and the Don King Museum. The Sheridan County and

Bozeman Trail museums provide great introductions to local history. Schedule extra time to take a short drive to the community of Big Horn and spend time visiting the Brinton Museum and its world-class Western art exhibits.

sheridanwyoming.org

Abilene Kansas

If you love Old West history, cowboys and cattle drives, President Dwight D.

Eisenhower and the very best of small-town Midwestern America, then you will love Abilene, Kansas. The eastern Kansas town was founded in 1857, but it was the arrival of the Kansas Pacific Railway in 1867 that brought fame and fortune to the frontier burg. Soon the cattle drives from Texas transformed the newly



minted railhead at the end of the Chisholm Trail, and its fame spread from coast to coast. Old Abilene Town is dedicated to promoting and preserving the heritage of the "wickedest and wildest" cowtown of the Sunflower State.



Historic Abilene, Kansas
True West Archives

Visitors to Old Abilene Town will be regaled by reenactors in period costumes, gunfighter shows, stage-coach and steam engine rides. The Gunsmoke Trail city boasts other great museums not to be missed: the



Come Discover the Sonoran Desert in the TOWN OF CAVE CREEK

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



For more information visit CaveCreekAZ.gov

Dickinson County Heritage Center, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home and the Historic Seelye Mansion. While staying in town, don't miss a chance to ride on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. Heritage rail enthusiasts will love the historic short line, which operates from the 1887 Rock Island Depot. Inside the depot is a museum to enjoy and learn about local rail history. Abilene is also famous for the World's

Largest Belt Buckle, a well-noted roadside attraction dedicated in 2022. abilenekansas.org

Bandera Texas

The Texas Hill Country's self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World" is one of the nation's best places to hang your hat, put up your boots and immerse yourself in everything Western. Visitors flock to Bandera every year for Cowboy Mardi Gras, the Fourth of July Rodeo celebration and The Bandera Pro Rodeo held Labor Day weekend. The city is home to over 30 historic sites and the local chamber can provide self-guided tour information. The Frontier Times Museum was founded by editor Marvin Hunter Sr. in 1933 and is a great place to learn about local history.



The downtown district is very walkable, with a vibrant entertainment, restaurant and shopping district. From June 21 to August 2, 2025, the Smithsonian Institute will present "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," a Museum on Main Street Exhibition. Local dude ranches welcome guests to learn to ride and enjoy the Western lifestyle, while local clubs and dance halls celebrate the cowboy way of life throughout the year.

banderacowboycapital.com

Dodge City Kansas

Cattle, cowboys and railroads made Dodge City, Kansas, famous in the late 1870s. Like its sister Kansas cowtown to the east, Abilene, Dodge City earned national notoriety as a wide-open wicked



Bandera Parade
Courtesy Bandera County CVB

Kick Back in
Wild Wyoming

Vee Bar Guest Ranch
Centennial, WY

Snowy Range Scenic Byway

VISIT
LARAMIE
Adventure Awaits

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



Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, Kansas
Courtesy Dodge City CVB

cattle town beginning in 1875, when the railhead opened for Texas cattlemen's herds to be driven up to the new "Queen of the Cownowns." Today, Dodge City is a name synonymous with the West, a Hollywood favorite made especially famous by CBS television's *Gunsmoke*. A tour of the city should begin at the Visitor Information Center for an orientation and guide to the local sites. Take the Historic Trolley Tour (Memorial Weekend to Labor Day), pick up a map of the Dodge City Trail of Fame

and visit the internationally acclaimed Boot Hill Museum.

Boot Hill is known for its outstanding exhibits on frontier Kansas history, firearms, gambling, buffalo hunters and the Wild West era of cattle drives. Visitors to the museum will enjoy walking amongst the historical interpreters and watching gunfight reenactments on Front Street and the Variety Show in the Boot Hill's Long Branch Saloon. While in Dodge City, don't miss a visit to the Gunfighters Wax Museum, and the Wild West Heritage Foundation's Buffalo and Longhorn exhibit.

visitdodgecity.org

Grapevine Texas

While Texas is known for its wide-open Western spaces, big modern cities and



famous small towns, the suburban city of Grapevine has carved out a historic niche from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex that will surprise and gladden the hearts of Old West fans. The city has invested a great deal in its vibrant, walkable downtown, with its restaurants, shops and nighttime entertainment as well as its ever-popular Grapevine Vintage Railroad.

grapevinechamber.org



Grapevine Vintage Railroad
Courtesy Grapevine Vintage Railroad

DEADWOOD

Discover the REAL story

DEADWOOD HISTORY

Dive into history at the Adams Museum, Days of '76 Museum, and The Brothel Deadwood.

DEADWOOD ALIVE

Enjoy free shootout reenactments and entertaining shows that encompass the ways of the wild west!

MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY

Journey to the graves of Deadwood's celebrated figures, including Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane.

DeadwoodHistory.com

DeadwoodAlive.com

CityofDeadwood.com

VISIT



MUSKOGEE

Step Back in Time in Muskogee, Oklahoma - One of True West's "TOP TOWNS WHERE HISTORY LIVES"



Top Towns to Experience Cowboy Culture

Amarillo, TX: The unofficial capital of the Texas Panhandle, Amarillo is a gateway to Palo Duro Canyon State Park and home to the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum and the Big Texan restaurant.

Casper, WY: An important crossroad on the national overland trail, Casper is home to two important museums: Fort Caspar Museum and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. It's also well known for hosting the College National Finals Rodeo, scheduled this year for June 9-15, 2025.

Cave Creek, AZ: World headquarters for *True West* magazine, Cave Creek is a city of cowboys and artists, hippies and bikers, tourists and retirees. It's known for its art galleries, restaurants, shops and bars. Creekers host some of the state's favorite annual events, including Cave Creek Rodeo Days, March 22-23 and March 27-30, 2025.

Elko, NV: Home of the Western Folklife Center and the internationally acclaimed National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 27-February 1, 2025, Elko also offers visitors the Northeastern Nevada Museum and the California Trail Interpretive Center.

Great Falls, MT: The historic Missouri River city celebrates the life of a Western artist every day of the year at the C.M. Russell Museum.

Laramie, WY: The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming is a mecca for Western historians. The downtown historic district is entertaining for all ages, and the nearby Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site should not be missed. Laramie Jubilee Days is one of the best rodeos in the nation, July 5-13, 2025.

Pendleton, OR: Internationally acclaimed for the Pendleton Round-Up, the city is host to Hamley's & Co. saddlery, the Pendleton Woolen Mills, Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame Museum, Heritage Station Museum and Tamastslit Cultural Institute.

Wickenburg, AZ: The self-proclaimed dude ranch capital of Arizona, the welcoming, historic town of Wickenburg is home to the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, the Hassayampa River Preserve and the always popular Gold Rush Days, February 14-16, 2025.

Top Towns Where History is Happening Now

Andrews, TX: The West Texas town of Andrews sits just north of Midland and Odessa and southwest of Lubbock. Well known for its Fourth of July celebration, going on 54 years, Andrews is a family-friendly place to stay, relax and explore the area.

Rapid City, SD: Home to the world-class Journey Museum and Learning Center, Rapid City has a highly walkable downtown, with an excellent combination of history, culture and entertainment. The second-largest city in the state is the perfect place to make your vacation headquarters when visiting the Black Hills region.

Buffalo, WY: To experience this gateway city for Wyoming adventures, stay downtown at The Occidental Hotel, walk the historic streets, sample the local fare and entertainment and learn about local history at the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum

Coffeyville, KS: An important railroad town, Coffeyville sits just north of the Oklahoma border. Its fate and fame in Old West lore begins and ends with the failed Dalton Gang Raid. Visit the Dalton Defenders and Coffeyville Museum to discover the full story.

Kernville, CA: Located along the Kern River in Kern County, Kernville is a destination for heritage travelers who love Gold Rush and Old West history, as well as river rafters and outdoor enthusiasts visiting the southern Sierra Nevada and Sequoia National Park.

Leadville, CO: At 10,152 feet, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in America. Stay and enjoy the beautiful mountain town's historic atmosphere, clean air, local museums and ride on the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad.

Miles City, MT: Cowboy up! Miles City celebrates its Western heritage 365 days of the year. Put on your bucket list the world-famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, May 15-18, 2025.

St. Joseph, MO: Stay in the historic downtown district and discover the city's role in the building of a nation at the Pony Express Museum, the Pattee House Museum and the Jesse James Home Museum.

The Dalles, OR: Located on the beautiful banks of the Columbia River, the historic community of The Dalles is a wonderful town from which visitors can immerse themselves in Oregon history and explore the scenic Columbia River Gorge.

Williams, AZ: A favorite of Western travelers in the Southwest, Williams is the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon." Stay and enjoy the historic Route 66 District's entertainment and shopping district, and book in advance a round-trip on the Grand Canyon Railway to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

Top Towns Where History Lives

Bartlesville, OK: The world-class Woolaroc Museum of Western art and history, is a must-see. Many consider it the Hearst Castle of Oklahoma.



VISIT
Abilene
 KANSAS

True West Magazine's

Top 10 Western Town &

Best Town for Historic Entertainment

Request a **Visitors Guide** at www.AbileneKansas.org



As seen on Yellowstone

TRUE WEST

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

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

- ★ HEAVY ROLL RIM DESIGN
- ★ MICROWAVE SAFE

As always . . . MADE IN THE USA

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

Box 441 • Roysce City 75189
 Ph: 888-636-7922 Fax: 972-635-2059
 e-mail: truwesthome@aol.com
WWW.TRUEWESTHOME.COM

37th ARIZONA COWBOY POETS

GATHERING

MUSIC · POETRY · STORIES



Voted Best Cowboy Poets Gathering by True West Magazine Readers

40+ Musicians, Poets & Storytellers for a 3-Day Event

AUGUST 7, 8 & 9, 2025

AZCowboyPoets.org ·

Yavapai College · Prescott, AZ

CITY OF PRESCOTT
Unleashed America

JIM & LINDA LEE
 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

DOUGLAS & GLENROCK



Railroad Museum

Historic Depot
Rail Cars to Explore
Model Train



State Fairgrounds

Wyoming State Fair Rodeos Special Events



Western History
American Indian Artifacts
Fascinating Exhibits

Pioneer Museum

Beautiful, expansive landscapes
along the pioneer trails corridor



WYOMING
CONVERSECOUNTYTOURISM.COM

Belle Fourche, SD: The ranching capital of western South Dakota, just north of the Black Hills, is home to the Tri-State Museum.

Bisbee, AZ: Book a weekend at the Copper Queen Hotel and relax in the history-soaked border city best known for its mining past and artist colony present.

Chino Valley, AZ: Relax in one of the oldest ranching and farm communities in Arizona and visit the Chino Valley Historical Society's recently opened Cooper Ag Museum.

Douglas, WY: Visit the historic Oregon trail site just outside of town and tour the Pioneer Memorial Museum and Fort Fetterman State Historic Site.

Durango, CO: Book a long weekend in this beautiful, historic mountain town and take a ride on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

El Paso, TX: The historic border city of West Texas welcomes you to stay and explore its past in its local museums and its present in its vibrant Downtown Arts District.

Fort Smith, AR: One of the great gateway cities to the West, encourages visitors to come, stay and discover its great national legacy at the U.S. Marshals National Museum and Fort Smith National Historic Monument.

Jerome, AZ: One of Arizona's famous copper towns, the hillside town has become one of the most popular artist communities and tourist destinations in the state.

Kingman, AZ: Get your kicks on Route 66 in the northern Arizona ranching, mining and railroad town, where *TW*'s very own Bob Boze Bell grew up.

Lubbock, TX: Home of Buddy Holly and the Red Raiders of Texas Tech University, this vibrant West Texas city is known as "Hub City" and is famous for its museums, arts district and local wines.

Muskogee, OK: Discover Oklahoma's rich history in the historic city once patrolled by Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves and made famous by Hall of Fame Country singer Merle Haggard.

Northfield, MN: The quiet of the town known for cows, colleges and contentment was broken by the James and Younger gang on September 7, 1876. The town still celebrates the event every year.

Placerville, CA: Visitors to this major California gold-country destination should tour the city and Hangtown's Gold Bug Park.

Rawlins, WY: The Union Pacific Railroad town is home to the Wyoming Frontier Prison and Carbon County Museum.

Scottsbluff/Gering, NE: A must stop for travelers following the great overland trails, who should schedule time to tour nearby Scotts Bluff National Monument and the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering.

Toppenish, WA: Visitors should not miss a tour of the Yakama Nation Cultural Center and Northern Pacific Railway Museum.

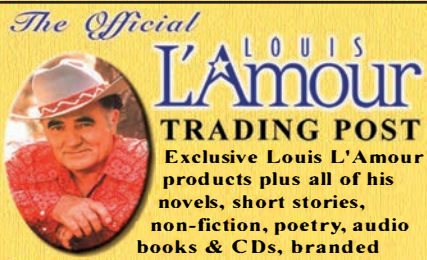
Virginia City, NV: The historic Comstock Lode mining camp is a virtual Victorian-era heritage center. The trolley tour is a great introduction to all of the city's sites.

Wallace, ID: Located in the richest silver district in American history, historic Wallace is in the Silver Valley of Shoshone County in Idaho's northern panhandle.

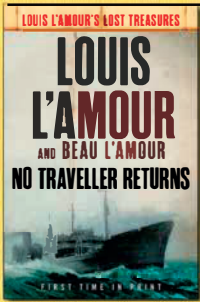
Winnemucca, NV: The city was a key stop on the California Trail and Transcontinental Railroad. Learn more about the city's history at the Northern Nevada Museum.



TRADING POST



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



LOUIS L'AMOUR'S LOST TREASURES
LOUIS L'AMOUR
 AND BEAU L'AMOUR
NO TRAVELLER RETURNS

\$23.80
Hardcover

Fate is a Ship ... a tanker west-bound on the eve of WWII. Aboard, thirty-three officers and crew. A deadly mixture of personalities made all the more explosive by the dangerous nature of their cargo.
1-800-532-9610

LONGHORNS HEAD TO TAIL STORE



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

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

CATALENA HATTERS

*Fits Right.
 Looks Right.
 Feels Right*



The Gus



Telescope

800-976-7818

www.catalenahats.com

Classic Gunfights

Three books you have to have to know the truth about Standup Gunfights.

SOFTCOVER ONLY
 VOL. I: \$19.95
 VOL. II: \$19.95
 VOL. III: \$19.95
 *Plus S & H

TRUE WEST
 ORDER TODAY! Visit our store: TrueWestMagazine.com

GOLDEN GATE WESTERN WEAR

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

Quigley

Doc Holliday

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

A FOND FAREWELL TO *TRUE WEST*



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.

On the first of October I retired my "Ask the Marshall," column and "True West Blogs." It is a sad day for me but, to quote James Michener's *French Mountain Man*, Pasquinel, "Only the mountains are forever."

In 1999 Bob Boze Bell purchased *True West* magazine in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and moved it to Cave Creek, Arizona. He asked me to come on board and to write a column. He had already selected a name, "Ask the Marshall." That's always the hardest part. I had no idea at the time it was going to be such a rewarding experience. This would be a dream job for any Old West history college professor. As my Texas native-father would say, "It sure beats working for a living."

First, I want to tell all my readers it has been an honor and a pleasure to answer your questions the past 25 years. I always tried to email the answers to you before I sent them to my editor because it might be a month or two before they appeared in the magazine, and you have had money riding on the answer. Besides, if you are like me, you wanted an answer now and not a few weeks from now.

I had had the opportunity to become friends with the most brilliant minds on Western history.

Sometimes it required some exhaustive research, and luck, to find an answer. Also, I was lucky to have quite a few colleagues who were happy to share their knowledge. I'm mighty grateful. Over the years, many like Bob DeArment, Fred Nolan, Bob Utey, Leon Metz and Joe Rosa have crossed that Jordan River. Gone but certainly not forgotten. I call them my "Go to Guys and Gals."

The past 40 years have seen the rise of a new generation of writers relying more on courthouse records, documents and newspapers, rather than the tales of bewhiskered old-timers.

"A Pack of Lies Authenticated by A Long Gray Beard" wrote John Myers Myers, referring to these so-called eyewitnesses to history.

Every one of us has been guilty of being snookered by those old white-whiskered yarnspinners and fabricators who passed off old yarns as truth. These were exacerbated by early 20th-century writers and authors who interviewed them and never let the truth get in the way of a good story, sure screwed things up for those of us who have to separate fact from fiction.

Among this new breed of writers are Roy Young, John Boessenecker, Casey Tefertiller, Peter Brand, Dr. Gary Roberts, Mark Gardner, Larry Ball and Jeff Broome. I know I've left out many others, but I wrote this off the top of my head.

To my good friends and colleagues, Bob Boze Bell, Stuart Rosebrook, Mark Boardman, Carole Compton, Mariah George, Phil Spangenberg, Sherry Monahan, Beth Deveny, Lucinda Amorosano, Ken Amorosano, and the rest of the gang at *True West* magazine,

Oh what a ride we've had.

Editors Note: *Before he rides off into the sunset, we asked Marshall to choose some of his favorites from the past two decades. In 2025, we'll honor our dear friend Mr. Trimble by running these favorites that he knows you will love.*

What kind of poker was Wild Bill Hickok playing at the time he was shot?

James Summerlin
Lawrenceville, GA

Nobody seems to know what particular poker game they were playing at the Number 10 Saloon in Deadwood that day.

Joe Rosa, Hickok's late biographer, never saw it written anywhere. The late Bob DeArment, author of *Knights of the Green Cloth*, said, "I've never seen a reference to the particular poker game Bill was playing at the time, and I don't think anyone else has either. From things I have read by students of poker history, five-card stud and draw were the games played in the West." So it may have been one of those. I doubt if anyone thought it was very important at the time.



Wild Bill plays cards as his assassin, Jack McCall, approaches with pistol drawn.

Illustration by Bob Boze Bell

Who was the gunfighter Matt Dillon shot at the opening scene of *Gunsmoke*?

James Mendez
Red Rock, AZ

Arvo Ojala, an expert on guns and the quick draw, was the one gunned down during the black-and-white

ATTENTION READERS

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

days. Ojala said the royalties paid for several new Cadillacs, so the money was good while it lasted.

In Season 12, 1966-1967, *Gunsmoke* went to color. Blackie Storm became the man in black who faced off against Matt Dillon every Saturday night. Blackie, whose real name was Kenneth Stevens, was an ex-rodeo cowboy who was “discovered” by Robert Mitchum while filming *The Lusty Men*. Blackie, who stood 5 feet 7 inches, used to say, “I had a heck of a time slowing my draw so Arness, who stood six feet seven, could gun me down.”

Based on sets, characters, clothing, firearms and treatment of horses, which Western movies are considered the best?

Tim Daley
Union Grove, WI

If you asked 10 different Western film aficionados, you would likely get 10 different answers, so here are mine.

1. *The Searchers* (1956)
2. *Shane* (1953)
3. *Monte Walsh* (1970)
4. *Dances with Wolves* (1990)
5. *High Noon* (1953)
6. *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1947)
7. *Ride the High Country* (1962)
8. *Red River* (1948)
9. *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969)
10. *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962)
11. *Lonesome Dove* (1989) was a miniseries. It's based on a true story with a great cast, and everything in the movie is authentic. It's one of a kind.



Courtesy Warner Bros.

Big Nose Kate's Saloon & Restaurant <i>BigNoseKate.com</i>	p. 81	Longhorn's Head to Tail <i>TexasLonghorn.com</i>	p. 93
Bishop, CA <i>BishopVisitor.com</i>	p. 54	Louis L'Amour Trading Post <i>LouisLAmour.com</i>	p. 93
Bishop Mules Days <i>MuleDays.org</i>	p. 54	Medora, ND <i>MedoraND.com</i>	p. 83
Buffalo Arms Co. <i>BuffaloArms.com</i>	p. 86	Morphy Auctions/Lebel's Old West Show & Auction <i>MorphyAuctions.com</i>	p. 5
Bullock Hotel <i>HistoricBullock.com</i>	p. 91	Museum of the Big Bend <i>MuseumoftheBigBend.com</i>	p. 77
Castaneda Hotel <i>CastanedaHotel.org</i>	p. 90	Museum of Western Art <i>MuseumofWesternArt.com</i>	p. 85
Carbon County, WY <i>WyomingCarbonCounty.com</i>	p. 73	Muskogee, OK <i>VisitMuskogee.com</i>	p. 79
Catalena Hatters <i>CatalenaHats.com</i>	p. 93	National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum <i>NationalCowboyMuseum.org</i>	p. 77
Cimarron Firearms <i>Cimarron-Firearms.com</i>	p. 61	North Dakota State Tourism <i>NDTourism.com</i>	p. IFC
Cinch Brand Western Wear <i>CinchJeans.com</i>	p. BC	Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum <i>PanhandlePlains.org</i>	p. 53
Clay County, MO <i>VisitClayMO.com</i>	p. 61	Payson Book Festival <i>PaysonBookFestival.org</i>	p. 53
Cody, WY <i>CodyYellowstone.org</i>	p. 71	Pinedale, WY <i>VisitPinedale.org</i>	p. 53
Coffeyville, KS <i>VisitCoffeyville.com</i>	p. 84	Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NM <i>PlazaHotelLVNM.com</i>	p. 90
Conejos County Tourism <i>ConejosVacation.com</i>	p. 76	Prescott, AZ <i>Visit-Prescott.com</i>	p. 4
Converse County, W <i>ConverseCountyTourism.com</i>	p. 18	Russ House B&B, Tombstone <i>RussHouseTombstone.com</i>	p. 81
Deadwood History <i>DeadwoodHistory.com</i>	p. 55	Scottsbluff/Gering, NE <i>VisitScottsbluff.com</i>	p. 60
Deadwood, SD <i>Deadwood.com</i>	p. 55	Shady Lady's Closet, Tombstone <i>ShadyLadysCloset.com</i>	p. 81
Electroscopes by Thomas <i>Electroscopes.com</i>	p. 93	Sheridan, WY <i>SheridanWyoming.org</i>	p. 2
FarCountry Press <i>FarCountryPress.com</i>	p. 53	Southeast Montana <i>SoutheastMontana.com</i>	p. 3
Georgetown Loop Railroad <i>GeorgetownLoopRR.com</i>	p. 75	Strater Hotel <i>Strater.com</i>	p. 79
Golden Gate Western Wear <i>GoldenGateWesternWear.com</i>	p. 93	Tesoro Cultural Center <i>TesoroCulturalCenter.org</i>	p. 89
Green River Rendezvous <i>VisitPinedale.org</i>	p. 53	The Longhorn Restaurant, Tombstone <i>TheLonghornRestaurant.com</i>	p. 81
Hassayampa Inn, Prescott <i>HassayampaInn.com</i>	p. 89	The Occidental Hotel <i>OccidentalWyoming.com</i>	p. 76
Historic Eyewear Co <i>HistoricEyewearCompany.com</i>	p. 93	Town of Cave Creek <i>CaveCreek.org</i>	p. 82
Jerome, AZ <i>JeromeChamber.com</i>	p. 63	True Ranch Collection <i>TrueRanchCollection.com</i>	p. 87
John Bianchi's Frontier Gunleather <i>FrontierGunleather.com</i>	p. 78	Uberti-USA <i>Uberti-USA.com</i>	p. 19
Johnson County, WY <i>JohnsonCountyWY.com</i>	p. 72	Wyatt Earp (1869-1870) The Lost Photograph & the Disturbing Truth <i>FrontierShadows.com</i>	p. 13
La Posada Hotel <i>LaPosada.org</i>	p. 90	Wyoming State Historical Society <i>WYSHS.org</i>	p. 78
Laramie, WY <i>VisitLaramie.org</i>	p. 74		
Legal Tender Saloon <i>LegalTenderLamy.com</i>	p. 90		

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

My favorite Old West town in the world is Cimarron, New Mexico. Back in the '70s, my wife, Mary Lou, and I visited the area annually.

I love history because I lived through much of it. I was born five days after D-Day. When I was a child, our history was recent. My parents were born near the end of Western expansion, so the tales were fresh. All my family were gun owners and hunters, so I was familiar with all the guns of the day, including family guns from the 1700s. My grandfolds were involved in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans, the War for Texas Independence, the war in 1860 against Northern Aggression, World War II. My sixth great grandfather, William Prather, a former colonel under Jackson, rounded up and armed locals in Southeast Texas and defeated the Fredonian army in 1838. I am not certain of the date.

I learned the most about history from my family.

For my money, the best firearms ever are the Winchester line of firearms beginning with the original Henry rifle when Oliver owned the New Haven Arms Company. The line starts with the 1866, and includes 1873, 1886, 1887, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1895, 1897, Model 71, Model 61, Model 70.

I wish I had kept that model 1886 50EX with factory case colored frame that I had to sell long ago, along with other great guns, to expand my company.

The best Western is *Monte Walsh* (1970) starring Lee Marvin as Monte and Jack Palance as Chet Rollins. Jeanne Moreau played Monte's gorgeous sporting lady friend. The movie was outfitted correctly. It was set in Wyoming following a true event in history, a great blizzard. Mama Cass sings the theme song. Back then I thought that was nuts! Now I see that it was genius.

My hero in history is Gen. George S. Patton, U.S. Army, 1885-1945, the greatest warrior of the Greatest Generation.

The best town in the West that lives up to being Western is Cody, Wyoming.

My essential for a road trip is a good road map on paper. I like to see the surroundings. Printed maps are great teachers. GPS will get you there, but you won't see how this country is connected.

The best Old West firearm ever made was the Peacemaker by Colt. It remains the most popular today.

The most useful Old West firearm ever made was the 1873 Winchester carbine or rifle. Typical shooters in those days were better than the best few of today. My



Photo Courtesy: Mike Harvey

MIKE HARVEY

Mike Harvey is the owner and founder of Cimarron Firearms Co. and the proprietor of Texas Jack Wild West Outfitter in Fredericksburg, Texas. In 1979 Mike and his wife, Mary Lou, opened a muzzle loading shop and sporting goods store in Houston, Texas, known as "Bigfoot." Around this time, he ordered plans for a Hawken rifle from a museum and built his first replica from scratch. By 1984 Mike had bought out Allen Firearms. Seeking to diversify their stock, Mike began selling replica Old-West firearms, starting with percussion replicas, but soon included cartridge firearms. His Cimarron Firearms Co. is considered one of the most important Old West firearms replica manufacturers and dealers in the U.S and beyond. The rest is history!

grandfather was one of them. Their eyes when young were unbelievable, and accuracy came naturally. No practice required. A '73 rifle could be used to defend against a grizzly when you could hit him in the eye while running.

If I could go back in time to repair history, I would arrange a cease-fire, followed by negotiations before the Battle of Gettysburg.

The most important Old West invention ever was toilet paper. It was after 1950 before I used it. It was amazing how long Sears and Roebuck catalogs would last.

The best way to explore history is to read then travel.

History has taught me how a person should and should not live their life; the importance of truth, the evil in lies; that there is no higher gift from our Creator than the gift of life; and how to make a living doing something I enjoy thoroughly.



T H E L E G E N D A R Y

Shiloh Sharps®

R I F L E C O M P A N Y



NO OVERSEAS PARTS. NO OUTSOURCED MANUFACTURING,
100% AMERICAN MADE BY A VETERAN-OWNED COMPANY,
RIGHT HERE IN BIG TIMBER, MONTANA.



— Est. 1976 —

P.O. BOX 279 ~ BIG TIMBER, MONTANA 59011 ~ 406-932-4266 OR 406-932-4454 ~ FAX 406-932-5627

WWW.SHILOHRIFLE.COM



CINCH

19 96

AUTHENTIC TRADEMARK

CINCH DENIM

AMERICAN WESTERN BRAND



CINCH

Lead, Don't Follow.

