

## NONFICTION

**PAUL ASHDOWN and EDWARD CAUDILL**

*Imagining Wild Bill: James Butler Hickok in War, Media, and Memory*

Southern Illinois University Press  
Paperback, 253 pages, \$26.50  
SIUPress.com

James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok has been the subject of myriad biographies and other alleged factual accounts – not to mention depictions in movies and novels – and authors Paul Ashdown and Edward Caudill examine most of them in this spirited, frank and engaging look at how Hickok has been depicted and mythologized before and after he was shot dead in 1876. “Hickok is best understood not as a historical figure in his own right,” the authors say, “but as a myth contrived in the mass media.” *Imagining Wild Bill* is often a fun read, but the scholarship and insights Ashdown and Caudill have provided make this an important addition to anyone interested in this Western icon.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**MAX BACA with CRAIG HARRIS**  
*Crossing Borders: My Journey in Music*

University of New Mexico Press  
Paperback, 184 pages, \$19.95  
UNMPress.com

This is a rather informal memoir by Albuquerque, New Mexico, native Max Baca, one of the great bajo sexto players. (For the innocent among us, the bajo sexto is a 12-string instrument shaped like a guitar but tuned an octave lower.) Baca tells the tale in his own words – childhood, family, friends and music. Born in 1967, Baca’s musical life began early. Before he was 10, his dad bought him a pawn-shop bass guitar. Pop said they had three gigs in a week, and little Max had better be ready. Baca did mostly Tex-Mex and conjunto music (conjunto refers to a small musical group, usually accordion, bajo sexto, drums and bass), although there was almost nothing he wouldn’t try. He became close friends with accordionist Flaco Jimenez, and over the years

played with Peter Rowan, the Texas Tornados, the Beach Boys, Rolling Stones, Dolly Parton and more. *Crossing Borders* is an interesting and easy read, and a good contribution to the history of Tex-Mex and conjunto music.

– Ralph Estes

**SANDY BARNARD**

*George Armstrong Custer: A Military Life*

South Dakota Historical Society Press  
Paperback, 210 pages, \$14.95  
SDHSPress.com

Another Custer book? While there has been a lot of ink spilled on the man’s life and death, Sandy Barnard has produced a valuable addition to the list of Custer biographies. This slender, well-written volume has a narrow focus on his military career, tracing it from West Point through the Civil War, the Plains Wars, to the end at Little Big Horn. Barnard, a prolific scholar, reaches the cautious conclusion that his subject was a flawed but fundamentally decent fellow asked to do unsavory things in the national interest. One of the most valuable aspects of this book is its approachability for readers new to the material. The author identifies scholarly points of dispute and debunks conspiracy theories that nonspecialists would overlook. His research is deep, his prose fluid, and his subject matter still endlessly fascinating.

– David C. Beyreis

**J. BRADFORD BOWERS**

*Bound by Steel & Stone: The Colorado-Kansas Railway and the Frontier of Enterprise in Colorado, 1890-1960*

Timberline Books/University Press of Colorado  
Hardcover, 285 pages, \$45  
UPColorado.com

The Colorado-Kansas Railway’s founders conceived the grandiose scheme of running trains and electricity lines from Pueblo, Colorado, eastward down the Arkansas River and into western Kansas. Instead, the short line ran 23 miles northwest to local quarries in the foothills of the Rockies and survived by hauling sandstone construction blocks and firebrick clay to its interface

in Pueblo with the Santa Fe and other mainline railroads. The little outfit struggled along with one secondhand coal-fired locomotive, one passenger car and 15 assorted freight cars. The Colorado-Kansas stayed in business as long as it did due to the management skills of Irma MacDaniel. She began as secretary for the lawyer who represented the railroad at its founding and ended as the president of the line overseeing its dissolution. J. Bradford Bower’s comprehensive research, well written and supported by pertinent maps and illustrations, makes *Bound by Steel & Stone* an important addition to the history of America’s railroads.

– Robert Lee Murphy

**DON BULLIS**

*No Manure on Main Street: An Historian’s Diary of Western Movies*

Rio Grande Books  
Paperback, 459 pages, \$32.95  
RioGrandeBooks.com

Don Bullis isn’t a film critic/historian, but a Western historian who doesn’t hide his opinions. That’s what makes this book an atypical filmography. As Ollie Reed Jr., a former newspaper film critic, notes in his introduction: “It’s like sitting at a table across from Don ... chewing on what you both like about Westerns and what you never will agree on.” Bullis tackles roughly 220 Western theatrical movies, radio shows and TV productions, so don’t expect a comprehensive study. *Winchester ’73* is mentioned in passing. TV’s *Gunsmoke* is included; *The Virginian* isn’t. An early John Wayne programmer, *The Star Packer*, is here, but no *Cimarron* (1931), the first Western to win a Best Picture Oscar. Bullis doesn’t like *The Searchers*, so he’ll win over WWA member Kirk Ellis. Scratch that. Bullis doesn’t mention director Budd Boetticher’s *Ride Lonesome* and “lost interest after the first fifteen minutes” of *Comanche Station*. Dear Don: Avoid Boetticher protégé Kirk Ellis. The book is all in good fun, but *Big Jake*, Don, is not better than *Rio Bravo*. However, you’re 100 percent right about *Lonely are the Brave*.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**BRYAN BURROUGH, CHRIS  
TOMLINSON and JASON  
STANFORD**

*Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an  
American Myth*

Penguin Press  
Hardcover, 386 pages, \$32  
Penguin.com

The authors of this entertainingly jocular reappraisal of Texas' founding myth, all self-described "proud Texans," refer to their work as "historiography" – "a history of the history." The book divides into two equal-length sections: a standard revisionist recounting of the events leading up to March 6, 1836, drawn from the work of scholars Andrew Torget and Paul D. Lack (nonrevisionist WWA authors Paul Andrew Hutton and William Groneman III are also cited as sources); and a vastly more engaging account of the subsequent philosophical battles over the Alamo's legacy, including the current dilemma over just what to do with "Alamohead" Phil Collins's dubious multimillion-dollar collection of "authentic" memorabilia. John Wayne and his bloated (and largely fanciful) epic figure prominently, but so do such vividly rendered figures as Clara Driscoll and Adina de Zavala, whose 1920s rivalry over the Alamo's preservation serves as a necessary reminder that the culture wars over history are hardly a 21<sup>st</sup> Century invention.

– Kirk Ellis

**RALPH ESTES**

*Aces and Eights: Poker in the Old West*

TwoDot Books  
Paperback, 224 pages, \$18.95  
TwoDotBooks.com

Ralph Estes knows poker, having played it "for over 25 years in casinos, living rooms, garages and bars." Here, he tells the story of the game in the West, including the lies, legends and exaggerations as well as facts as they can best be determined. All the frontier's gunfighting gamblers (Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Luke Short, John Wesley Hardin, Doc Holliday) and sassy poker gals (Lottie Deno, Doña Tules, Amanda Payne, Madame Moustache, Belle Siddons) are here. As colorful as those Old West characters are, I was more intrigued by the later chapters in the book in which Estes gets into the development of the game in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century due to the influence of Texas-

born criminal and casino owner Benny Binion and wandering professional poker players such as Doyle Brunson, T.J. Cloutier, Johnny Moss, Sailor Roberts and Amarillo Slim. Also valuable are the book's appendices, which detail card games played in the Old West, modern poker games and how people cheat at poker.

– Ollie Reed Jr.

**SCOTT EYMAN**

*20<sup>th</sup> Century-Fox: Darryl F. Zanuck and  
the Creation of the Modern Film Studio*

Running Press  
Hardcover, 336 pages, \$28  
RunningPress.com

Scott Eyman – best known for his engaging looks at Hollywood icons (John Wayne, John Ford) – turns his attention to producer Darryl F. Zanuck, who helped make 20<sup>th</sup> Century-Fox a Hollywood force. Zanuck's moviemaking instincts helped improve scripts, sharpen editing and create memorable motion pictures, including *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940). Unlike many producers, Zanuck wasn't always chasing a buck. He found Walter Van Tilburg Clark's Western novel *The Ox-Bow Incident* "too bitter and sunless" to become a hit movie. But when William A. Wellman wanted to direct it, Zanuck said, "It won't make a dime, but I want my name on it." He was right. The 1943 release was a box-office failure, but it was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar and today is generally regarded as a Western classic. Other classic Westerns at Fox included *The Gunfighter* (1950), though Zanuck hated star Gregory Peck's mustache; and *My Darling Clementine* (1946), director John Ford's factually challenged O.K. Corral story but a cinematic masterpiece.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**GLENN FRANKEL**

*Shooting Midnight Cowboy: Art, Sex,  
Liberation and the Making of a Dark  
Classic*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Hardcover, 415 pages, \$30  
Macmillan.com

Glenn Frankel carved a niche for himself with his best-selling production histories of *The Searchers* and *High Noon*, books that combined accounts of on-set experience with insightful historical and literary context. His page-turning chronicle of the making of *Midnight Cowboy* (regarded by many critics as

a "neo-Western") betters the previous books in both its wealth of new detail and expert organization. Exhaustively researched and energetically written, *Shooting Midnight Cowboy* benefits tremendously from interviews with the groundbreaking movie's surviving principals, including producer Jerome Hellman, who died before its publication. Frankel's admirable perspicuity pays off in a number of bombshell revelations, including the hidden history of the Oscar-winning movie's "X" rating. Best of all, Frankel restores James Leo Herlihy, author of the original novel, to a rightful place of prominence alongside director John Schlesinger and screenwriter Waldo Salt. Whether or not you care for *Midnight Cowboy* – and opinions in 1969 were as divided as they remain now – this book will prompt most readers to fire up that DVD or Blu-ray one more time.

– Kirk Ellis

**PETER HILLER**

*The Life and Times of Jo Mora: Iconic  
Artist of the American West*

Gibbs Smith  
Hardcover, 320 pages, \$30  
Gibbs-Smith.com

Joseph Jacinto "Jo" Mora (1876-1947) might be one of the most underappreciated artists/illustrators/authors of the American West. Probably best known to *Roundup* readers as the author of *Trail Dust and Saddle Leather* (1946), Mora was accomplished in many fields – painter, sculptor, cartographer, muralist, cartoonist and architect. The artist-author also captured the traditions of the Californios and spent 2½ years with the Navajos and Hopi. Peter Hiller, Mora's champion and the leading scholar on the versatile artist, chronicles Mora's life and artwork. Hiller uses much of Mora's own writings and art to tell a complete story, and this handsome volume illustrates the accomplishments and versatility of a dynamic artist.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**CHRISTY LESKOVAR**

*East of the East Side*

Sweetgrass Books  
Hardcover, 452 pages, \$25  
SweetgrassBooks.com

Christy Leskovar has penned an interesting and well-researched story of the life journeys taken by her forebears. Her grandfather Anton Leskovar, an

Austrian concert musician, performed in the opera halls of Europe and receives much of her attention. He happened to be in Paris at the start of World War I, and with France and Austria at war, he found himself behind enemy lines. Now a refugee, he emigrated to the United States, took advantage of his opportunities, and eventually came to own a car dealership in Montana. The author dipped deeply into European and American historical sources to craft this fine book.

– Lynn Bueling

**J.R. JORDAN**

***Robert Wise: The Motion Pictures (Revised Edition)***

BearManor Media  
Paperback, 480 pages, \$35  
BearManorMedia.com

J.R. Jordan's thoughtful, thorough and engaging examination of the films of Oscar-winning director Robert Wise makes clear that Wise was a filmmaker whose work refuses to be pigeon-holed. In a career that spanned more than five decades, Wise is not often mentioned with contemporaries like Alfred Hitchcock, John Ford and William Wyler, yet he directed remarkable and enduring films in nearly every genre including science fiction (*The Day the Earth Stood Still*), noir (*The Set-Up*), horror (*The Haunting*), musical (*West Side Story*), war (*The Sand Pebbles*) and Western (*Blood on the Moon*). Jordan assesses Wise's work with detailed synopses of each film, production background and interviews with actors, technicians and others who worked with him.

– Thomas D. Clagett

**ROBERT NEHLS with STEPHEN COOMBS**

***The Frank Smith Story: I Always Wanted to Build Things***

Sweetgrass Books  
Paperback, 320 pages, \$19.95  
SweetgrassBooks.com

This book recounts observations and recollections of events from Frank Smith's life. Coming from humble beginnings in Saskatchewan, he slowly built a solid reputation and business as an inventor and builder of heavy equipment in the logging and heavy mining industries. Colored pictures attest to the huge scale he worked in, such as his 180-ton lowboy flatbed trailer. Smith's TowHaul business received United States National Small Business Exporter of the Year recognition in 2004. Success stories such as this always find an appreciative audience.

– Lynn Bueling

**SHARON O'TOOLE (author) and MARTHA ANN KENNEDY (illustrator)**

***An Alphabet of Place: The Little Snake River Valley***

Independently published  
Paperback, 52 pages, \$14

After reading Alison Townsend's "An Alphabet of Here: A Wisconsin Prairie Sampler" in *Kenyon Review*, rancher-author-poet Sharon O'Toole decided to capture her home's valley along the Colorado-Wyoming line between Steamboat Springs and Rawlins. Illustrated by Coloradoan Martha Ann Kennedy, *An Alphabet of Place* provides a history, sometimes personal, of the valley from antelopes to buzzworms, aka rattlesnakes (that's the zzzzz for Z). Heartfelt and informative.

– Johnny D. Boggs



***Union Pacific***

Kino Lorber  
Blu-ray, \$24.95  
KinoLorber.com

"My name's John Ford. I make Westerns. I don't think there's anyone in this room who knows more about what the American public wants than Cecil B. DeMille, but I don't like you, C.B. I don't like what you stand for, and I don't like

what you've been saying here tonight."

Ford's statement, made at the infamous 1950 Directors Guild of America meeting where DeMille tried to force the members into a loyalty oath, further immortalized Ford but tarnished forever the image of DeMille, arguably the most famous filmmaker in the world since his 1914 Western *The Squaw Man*, which established Paramount Pictures.

So completely identified with the biblical epic, DeMille's Westerns, like *The Plainsman* (1936) and *North West Mounted Police* (1940), filled with spectacle and melodrama, tend to be shuttled aside. Each was a major hit in its time, and each had an enormous canvas, but as DeMille embraced the historical scope of his Western tales, he didn't do the same with his characters intimacies; everything is played big and for the back of the theater.

*Union Pacific*, made in 1939 and newly released by Kino Lorber, is a perfect example of a DeMille Western, with its enormous story, scenes jammed with extras and absolute clarity of character motivations. Nuance is not part of the formula as the film, based on a novel by Ernest Haycox, dramatizes the building of the Union Pacific railroad westward, and the attempts to sabotage it before reaching Promontory Summit, Utah.

Joel McCrea is stalwart as the trouble-shooter rooting out the villains, while Barbara Stanwyck, a DeMille favorite, struggles with an Irish accent, but her appeal never falters. Robert Preston steals the film as a rascal of a gambler, and Brian Donlevy and Anthony Quinn provide the sneering villainy.

McCrea beats one of Donlevy's gunman for shooting a Cheyenne warrior for sport, but all hell breaks loose when the Cheyennes, played by Navajo riders, attack and derail a train in an amazing scene that is beautifully staged. The Cheyennes are understandably enraged, but they are still the "red devils" of dozens of inferior Westerns, so DeMille's choices must be seen with a proper perspective.

Earlier, there is a brief moment of the Cheyennes watching a train pass by, their horses rearing at the locomotive bringing an end to their way of life. Spectacle be damned, here DeMille shows his humanity.

The release features commentary and trailers.

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**C. Courtney Joyner writes in many formats, including screenplays, fiction and nonfiction. E-mail him at [olcourt@yahoo.com](mailto:olcourt@yahoo.com).**

**RICHARD F. SELCER**

*Fort Worth Stories*

University of North Texas Press  
Hardcover, 335 pages, \$24.95  
UNTPress.unt.edu

In his 30<sup>th</sup> book, the author of *Hell's Half Acre* and other excellent Western histories returns to his hometown roots with this entertaining and enlightening collection of short accounts of historical personalities and events in Fort Worth, Texas. Some of the characters, like gunman "Longhair Jim" Courtright, might be well known to Texana buffs, but most of the stories aren't. Richard F. Selcer corrects the myths, and while his history is spot-on, he often tells these stories with wit and his tongue firmly in cheek.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**ELEANOR HERZ SWENT**

*One Shot for Gold: Developing a Modern Mine in Northern California*

University of Nevada Press  
Hardcover, 228 pages, \$45  
UNPress.nevada.edu

The usual view of gold mining in California is one that took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, mining gold

remains important to the present day, especially with the benefits of modern technology. Eleanor Herz Swent is an award-winning mining historian who served as a research interviewer and editor in the University of California, Berkeley's Oral History Center. In recounting the story of the Homestake Mining Company extracting gold from a Northern California mine, she utilizes numerous personal recollections of engineers, geologists, miners, business executives, secretaries and many other people from three counties involved in creating a mine that not only was ecofriendly but also improved the local economy through jobs and community service. No less than 327 permits from all levels of government were required to start the mining operation on a 20-year lease. When the mine closed in 2005, Homestake had made a healthy profit and had kept its promise to restore the environment through nature reserves and parks. Swent guides the reader through the intricacies of mining technology, technical expertise and bureaucratic requirements. It's a story worth reading that reminds one not only of the old saying that gold is where you

find it, but also when.

– Abraham Hoffman

**CAROL SHIVELY and ROGER ANDERSON**

*A Ranger's Guide to Yellowstone Day Hikes (Updated Edition)*

Farcountry Press  
Paperback, 286 pages, \$21.95  
FarcountryPress.com

Retired park rangers Carol Shively and Roger Anderson take readers on 34 day hikes through Yellowstone National Park in this updated 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. The book is aimed for all types of Yellowstone enthusiasts, for those hearty enough for a strenuous challenge to the armchair variety who would rather marvel at the book's beautiful photography. Includes tips for bear watchers and bicyclists, maps, notes and five new hikes.

**CASSANDRA TATE**

*Unsettled Ground: The Whitman Massacre and Its Shifting Legacy in the American West*

Sasquatch Books  
Hardcover, 284 pages, \$24.95  
SasquatchBooks.com

**MUST READS...**

*New Release!*

"Exciting, fast-moving tales of the Texas frontier." *Texas Rancher*

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With ***NUECES GRIT: TEXANS ANSWER THE CALL***, author **MARK GREATHOUSE** continues to set pages ablaze with Texas Ranger Luke Dunn's epic exploits delivering justice across the Nueces Strip of the mid-1800s. Grit... action...passion to stir your western soul. Saddle up and enjoy the ride. Visit Tumbleweed Sagas on Facebook. Buy all the Sagas online in Print, eAudio, and eBook. [www.DefiancePress.com](http://www.DefiancePress.com)





Cassandra Tate offers a modern perspective of the Whitman Massacre that utterly demolishes long-held views of Marcus Whitman as a symbolic hero and Narcissa as his dedicated wife. As reinterpreted by Tate, the sources reveal them as failed missionaries, unprepared for the labor of converting Cayuse Indians to a Protestant culture requiring abandonment of their Native heritage and taking up farming and other white people's occupations. Narcissa gave up teaching Native children and was depressed by her isolated life. Marcus failed to convert a single Indian and instead welcomed thousands of westbound migrants. The final straws for the Cayuse were the dispossession of their ancestral lands and a measles epidemic that decimated them. In recent years, the alleged heroism of the Whitmans has come under fire, and Tate's research argues for the removal of Whitman monuments. This book is strongly recommended for its well-written narrative and the strength of its arguments that the Whitmans have for too long been inaccurately depicted as to who they were and what they did or failed to do.

— Abraham Hoffman

**TERRY C. TREADWELL**

*Outlaws of the Wild West*

Frontline Books

Hardcover, 277 pages, \$34.95

PenAndSwordBooks.com

Thirty-eight short segments depict the lives of men and women outlaws of the Old West, many of whom are iconic lawbreakers readily identifiable to post Civil War history buffs. The others are of lesser notoriety but equally ruthless, conniving and fearless. Surprisingly, the author's bibliography consists of five books and no other references, which leads one to question if he depended too heavily on three of them: Art T. Burton's *Black Gun, Silver Star*, Eugene Cunningham's *Triggernometry*; and Leon Claire Metz's *The Shooters*, all cited sources. Quality proofreading is sorely lacking, which is disruptive; also troubling are nonsequential facts in the "Curly Bill" Brocius chapter related to the Earp brothers' Tombstone events. It is an interesting presentation but, on this subject, readers might want to stick with Burton, Cunningham and Metz.

— Stan "Tex" Banash

**MATT VINCENT**

*Wild Times & True Tales from the High Plains: Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado*

PlainView Publishing

Paperback, 174 pages, \$14.95

If you like your history in short bites, this book is for you. Matt Vincent succeeds in entertaining and informing readers with 17 well-crafted stories. His stories about people and events intertwine with factors of lawlessness, Indian encounters, gold, epidemics, wheat farming and more. Vincent brings the skill of past writing experiences to his work. He was at one time named one of Colorado's best feature writers. He has also written for journals such as *Bassmaster*, *Field & Stream* and *Outdoor Life*. Photography and museum work add to his resume. The book is a good read.

— Lynn Bueling

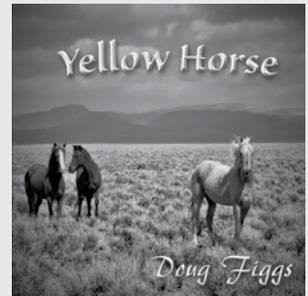
**DOUG FIGGS**

*Yellow Horse*

Slash DC Music, \$15

DougFiggs.com

Lemitar, New Mexico's Doug Figgs is a farrier, so horses are never far from his head and his heart. Figgs is also one of the finest Western singer-songwriters



working to-day, so horses are never far from his music either.

"El Caballo del Fuego," a song about a horse "red like the color of fire," composed by Figgs, Floyd Beard and Mariam Funke, won the 2021 Wrangler Award, presented by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, for Original Western Composition.

That brings us to a horse of a different color. "Yellow Horse" is the title track of Figgs's latest CD. The song, written by Figgs, is inspired by photographer Verne Wood's famous 1945 photograph of a wild palomino stallion in Wyoming's Red Desert.

*So, he stands alert while others graze  
Like he's the only one who cares*

And then there's Figgs's "The Grulla Mare," about a horse "tough like iron, soft as a gentle rain."

Figgs wrote or co-wrote 11 of the 12 songs on this CD. Every one is a winner, but not every one is about horses.

"Sacramentos," by Figgs and Wrangler-winning poet Deanna McCall, is about the mountains in southern New Mexico, where there are –

*White sands stretching out below  
As the setting sun paints a red-orange glow*

**KRISTYN HARRIS**

*A Place to Land*

Krystyn Harris, \$20

KrystynHarris.com

Texas recording artist Krystyn Harris has a voice so special, she could sing an airline schedule and make you glad you heard it.

This 12-track offering, a mix of covers and songs written or cowritten by Harris, won the 2021 Wrangler for Traditional Western Album.

I very much enjoyed her versions of Corb Lund's "Cows Around," Michael Martin Murphey's "Wildfire" and Stuart Hamblen's "Texas Plains."

But my favorites are Harris's "Musician Standard Time," about the grueling life of a touring performer, and "Old Soul," a song Harris and Randy Huston wrote about someone who sounds a lot like me, someone who doesn't keep up with what is, but keeps up with what was.



## THORNTON WAITE

*Attacking the Union Pacific: The Truth and the Legend Behind the 1867 Cheyenne Indian Raid at Plum Creek, Nebraska*

South Platte Press  
Paperback, 120 pages, \$24.75  
SouthPlattePress.com

In 1867, at Plum Creek, Nebraska, Northern Cheyennes achieved a spectacular victory over the iron horse. First, they tore down telegraph lines. Dispatched in the dark, the repair crew's handcar crashed into ties laid on the rails. The Indians killed one of the workers and scalped William Thompson, who played dead during his ordeal. The warrior, however, dropped the scalp, and Thompson recovered it. Then, a Union Pacific train derailed where the Indians had pried rails loose. The engineer and fireman were killed. The Cheyennes looted the freight cars, decorating their ponies' tails with bolts of cloth. The Army's Pawnee Scouts pursued and defeated the raiders, collecting 15 scalps. Thompson took his scalp to Omaha where a doctor tried to reattach it. The scalp is in the possession of the Omaha Public Library. A monument erected in 1940 marks the spot of the Plum Creek

Raid near Lexington, Nebraska.

— Robert Lee Murphy

## DAVID A. WOLFF

*The Savior of Deadwood: James K. P. Miller on the Gold Frontier*

South Dakota Historical Society Press  
Hardcover, 364 pages, \$29.95  
SDHSPress.com

Most books about Deadwood, South Dakota, concentrate on its lawlessness and legendary characters, the likes of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. But in *The Savior of Deadwood*, David A. Wolff follows the life of James Miller, an early Deadwood grocer who became a major promoter, working to make Deadwood the predominant mercantile center of the northern Black Hills. Wolff uses Miller's life as a framework for the history of Deadwood as it emerged from raucous gold camp to permanent community, rebuilding from a devastating fire, recovering from a ravaging flood, as well as enduring economic downturns and railroad snubs. Miller worked to not only keep Deadwood alive but to make it thrive. *The Savior of Deadwood* is good solid history of this Old West town.

— Bill Markley

## FICTION

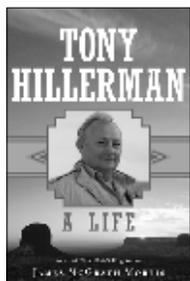
### JAMES LEE BURKE

*Another Kind of Eden*

Simon & Schuster  
Hardcover, 250 pages, \$27  
SimonAndSchuster.com

James Lee Burke's latest book begins and ends with a hobo jumping on a freight train. Between those two events, Burke packs a powerful story set in 1960s Colorado that exhibits his mastery of blending reality and mysticism. The reader will wonder how much Aaron Holland Broussard really experiences and how much he dreams in fitful sleep. Burke likes to challenge the reader. Is Broussard/Burke playing with our minds here? After all, the central character is an aspiring novelist who says, "There is no more grand moment in a writer's life than typing the first sentence of a new book." The author makes the story so real that readers will keep mulling it over. But it still bothered me when he put horns on Angus cattle.

— Lynn Bueling

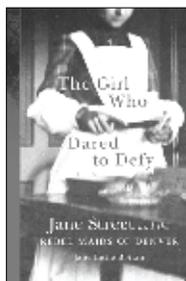


### Tony Hillerman

*A Life*

By James McGrath Morris

\$29.95 HARDCOVER | 9780806175980



### Girl Who Dared to Defy

*Jane Street and the Rebel*

*Maids of Denver*

By Jane Little Botkin

\$32.95 HARDCOVER | 9780806168494



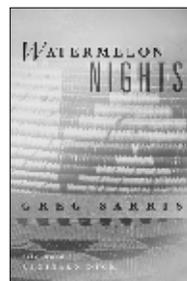
### Unknown No More

*Recovering Sanora Babb*

Edited by Joanne Dearcopp and  
Christine Hill Smith

Foreword by David M. Wrobel

\$26.95 | 9780806169361

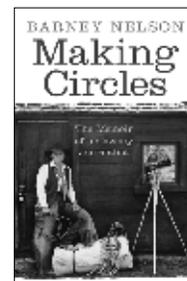


### Watermelon Nights

By Greg Sarris

Afterword by Reginald Dyck

\$26.95 PAPERBACK | 9780806169378

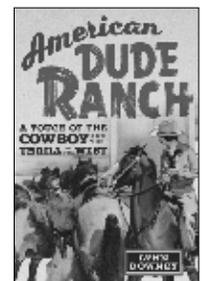


### Making Circles

*The Memoir of a Cowboy Journalist*

By Barney Nelson

\$26.95 PAPERBACK | 9780806168456



### American Dude Ranch

*A Touch of the Cowboy and*

*the Thrill of the West*

By Lynn Downey

\$24.95 PAPERBACK | 9780806180229

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**J. HOOLIHAN CLAYTON**

*Commendable Discretion: A Detective Novel of the Old West*

Dog Soldier Press  
Paperback, 349 pages, \$15.95  
DogSoldierPress.com

In this first novel, we find careful historical research blended with a moving fictional approach to the history of the West. Exploring the aftermath of the battle at the Greasy Grass, J. Hoolihan Clayton deals with the possibility of white warriors among the attacking Lakota and Cheyenne. Based on Major Marcus Reno’s account of seeing white men among warriors that defeated George Armstrong Custer’s troops, President Ulysses S. Grant sends an agent on a secret mission to uncover the truth. That mission is the focus of this memorable tale as he interviews veterans, visits the battle site and gathers information leading him to Sitting Bull and the Hunkpapa. A skilled exposition, this combination of detective work and Old West attitudes is worthy of special attention.

– Vernon Schmid

**JOHN NEELY DAVIS**

*Rule of the High Plains: A Frank Rule Western Collection*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 289 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Besides being an engaging Western, *Rule of the High Plains* is a unique novel on several levels. Frontiersman Frank Rule decides to move his family to the Texas Panhandle, seeking a better, more profitable life for them. Instead, a small group of renegade Indians turns the Rule family’s wilderness travel into a bloody mess, and Rule reaches his destination a shattered man, half-crazy from the spirits that pester him. He’s a heartless fighter when trouble arrives, but he’s also there to help when friends and neighbors face hard times. John Neely Davis has broken his novel into sections that could almost stand alone as short stories, but when strung together, they become a tale of the life of a sometimes fierce, sometimes gentle man who simply wants to live a useful, and occasionally peaceful, life.

– Greg Hunt

**EUGENE J. DiCESARIS**

*Clayton Sharp: Messenger of Warning*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 214 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Wounded by a posse, Clayton Sharp is left with Mormon pioneers and falls for Annie Kimball, then tries to reform his gang members. Eugene J. DiCesaris’s story is somewhat hard to follow. The story keeps bouncing between time and characters. For example, is Sharp an outlaw or a hero? Is the story about him or General Custer, who appears in several chapters? I found myself being confused at times, even at the end. In addition, the author combines multiple plots, which leads to confusion.

– Lowell F. Volk

**WILLIAM EPPS**

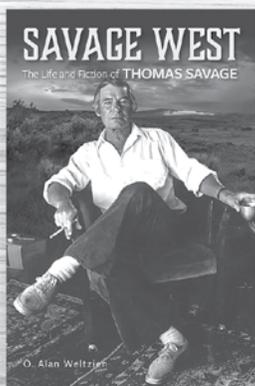
*Law of the Gun*

CreateSpace  
Paperback, 332 pages, \$13.99  
Amazon.com

*Revenge of the Gun*

CreateSpace  
Paperback, 304 pages, \$13.99  
Amazon.com

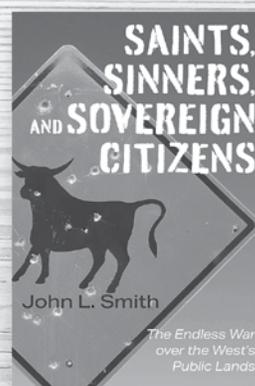
## New Books from the American West



**Savage West**  
cloth 978-1-948908-86-3  
e-book 978-1-948908-87-0  
\$40.00



**This Here is Devil's Work**  
cloth 978-1-64779-004-2  
e-book 978-1-64779-005-9  
\$28.95



**Saints, Sinners, and Sovereign Citizens**  
cloth 978-1-948908-90-0  
e-book 978-1-948908-91-7  
\$39.95

**NEVADA** [www.unpress.nevada.edu](http://www.unpress.nevada.edu)

In the first book of William Epps's "Bill Terrell Western" series, Bill Terrell and Curtis Wallace, who grew up in Georgia, go to Texas, where they meet Captain Keith McRae, a former Texas Ranger who is putting together a cattle drive to Ogallala, Nebraska. The two young men sign on, not knowing what awaits them – such as former enemies of the Ranger coming after the cattle and troubles between Curtis and Orville Nash. The second book finds Terrell married and becoming sheriff in Ogallala and Curtis starting a horse ranch and feedlot in partnership with McRae and others from the cattle drive. But there's no peace when Nash returns and kidnaps Terrell's wife. The two books tie together well with lots of action. The only drawback is that the print is a little small, leaving a vast white space in the borders.

– Lowell F. Volk

### JOHN HANSEN

#### *Badger Creek*

Summit Creek Press  
Paperback, 214 pages, \$9.95

In the tradition of Walt Longmire and Joe Pickett, John Hansen's Sheriff Andy Yarnell wrestles with his job and family responsibilities in a remote Montana county where everyone knows everyone, or at least everyone thinks so. Yarnell's personal history makes his work problematic, and the Badger Creek incident is just the beginning of a series of murders. John Hansen weaves a credible tale of modern crime and punishment and an intriguing view of a modern Western community.

– Vernon Schmid

### SCOTT G. HIBBARD

#### *Beyond the Rio Gila*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 371 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Mormons are escaping the United States in 1846 for Mexico, where they hope not to be persecuted. Dragoons, barely educated, hardly trained and at a loss for why they are going off to fight the Mexicans, are charged with persuading (sometimes called recruiting) the Mormons to become their comrades-in-arms. This unlikely convergence results from the U.S. government's idea to ask the Mormons to form a battalion to march off against the Mexicans. Scott Hibbard has given that plot line a dense-

ly packed, thoroughly researched and yet accessible (sometimes humorous) treatment. Hibbard creates two characters who hold your attention and grab your sympathy – two pregnant women – and several historical characters. My great-great grandfather signed up for the Mormon Battalion and marched, essentially in a circle, to San Diego and back. Everyone in the family thought him crazy. Hibbard's book does not dissuade. Yet it does help you understand.

– Edward Massey

### GREG HUNT

#### *Downriver South: A Ridge Parkman Western*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 253 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Marshal Ridge Parkman returns to western Missouri after the Civil War with plans to relax and visit with friends and family. But fans of Greg Hunt's long-running series about Parkman know that the lawman rarely gets a chance to rest. Before long, Parkman is on a riverboat that will take him to "Natchez Under the Hill" – and nobody ever gets any rest in Natchez, unless they're dead. Hunt's career spans 40 years and, as always, he delivers a smooth, enjoyable story. As a Southerner and a Westerner, Hunt excels here in this Southern-Western.

– Johnny D. Boggs

### BRANDON HOBSON

#### *The Removed*

Ecco Press  
Paperback, 280 pages, \$26.99  
HarperCollins.com

Shot and killed by police, Ray-Ray Echota anchors this tale of grief, Alzheimer's, drug addiction and a young woman's search for love. The boundary between reality and mysticism is often blurred, as a family struggles with the Cherokee's place between life and death, a place called the Darkening Land. The author is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and brings his personal tribal knowledge of the traditions, legends and mythology to this work of fiction. An interesting read worthy of your time.

– Vernon Schmid

### CRAIG JOHNSON

#### *Daughter of the Morning Star*

Viking

Hardcover, 336 pages, \$28  
PenguinRandomHouse.com

Jaya Long is a Native American 16-year-old basketball phenom – and the hope of the Lame Deer Morning Stars girls team. With her playing, there's a chance to win the Wyoming state championship. There's a problem. Jaya is also angry, undisciplined and the victim of threatening notes. Last year her sister became one of the missing Native women, and it seems Jaya might be next. It's up to Absaroka County sheriff Walt Longmire to get to the bottom of this mystery, both to discover what happened to Jeanie and save Jaya from the same fate. Oh, and make sure the basketball team wins. It isn't going to be easy; you can count on that. This is another exciting Longmire story that brings attention to the real plague of missing Native women. Read this novel for the great story, but remember its true life basis.

– Carol Crigger

### MARK EDWARD LANGLEY

#### *When Silence Screams: An Arthur Nakai Mystery*

Independently published  
Paperback, 277 pages, \$15.95  
MarkEdwardLangley.com

Fiction authors are writing and publishing stories about the many missing and murdered women in this country. Mark Edward Langley plots his story around Indigenous women, who all too often are overlooked by authorities when they go missing. In this exciting, action-driven novel, Arthur Nakai, a Navajo, ex-Marine and newly minted private investigator, is pitted against a merciless sex trafficker and a killer who gets off on torturing the girls he kidnaps. But the killer has made a mistake and taken the wrong girl. April Manygoats will not go quietly to her death. The many graphic descriptions of depraved sexual acts are disturbing, but this is an important story meant to draw attention to a deplorable reality.

– Carol Crigger

### PRESTON LEWIS

#### *Rio Bonito: Three Rivers Trilogy - Book Two*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 336 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Preston Lewis drops fictional rancher Wes Bracken and his family into the

Lincoln County War story, delivering vivid descriptions of the greed, corruption and violence between warring factions. Bracken tries to remain neutral but is forced to take up the fight when his ranch and loved ones are attacked. The dialogue throughout is taut and colorful, and the depiction of William "Billy the Kid" Bonney as a charming, congenially unscrupulous knave is particularly enjoyable. A gritty, satisfying read.

— Micki Fuhrman

**DEANNA DICKINSON McCALL**  
*The Okies' Daughters*

White Bird Publications  
Paperback, 266 pages, \$20  
DeannaDickinsonMcCall.com

A 45<sup>th</sup> high school reunion is the catalyst for this journey into the past of six women who are the daughters of "Okies," families displaced by the Dust Bowl who migrated to California in search of jobs. Their stories are told via a series of vignettes and through alternating viewpoints. Each girl's childhood reveals dark family secrets destined to influence the way they live the rest of their lives. Over the years, the girls

remain close friends in a world centered around ranch life, rodeos and horses. There are many moments certain to stir nostalgic memories for readers. It's clear that the author is familiar with the community she writes about, lending authenticity to a saga that reads like a cross between memoir and fiction. However, a stronger narrative arc and thorough editing would have greatly benefited the book and potentially avoided the need for a denouement that felt a bit contrived, tying up each individual story with a nod to rural values and lessons learned in what some may view as too neat a package.

— Pat Wahler

**JOHN D. NESBITT**  
*Silver Grass*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 246 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Award-winning author John D. Nesbitt's newest Western novel takes place on the open range, east of Wyoming's Laramie Mountains. Seventeen-year-old orphan Wilsey Grant is searching for his place in life. On his journey, Wilsey has a chance encounter with penniless

drifter Walter Finn outside the small village of Silver Grass. Shortly after the two arrive in town, Walter is murdered. He was just a tramp scrounging for meals and washing dishes in the town's only hotel. Why would someone want to kill a harmless vagrant? This is a time of turmoil on the plains as large ranchers struggle to maintain control of the grazing land against the encroachment of settlers moving west. Wilsey finds himself in the middle of a range war between a bigger-than-life cattle baron and the Silver Grass townspeople. Perhaps as interesting as the plot is the narrative. The dialogue between the characters is as genuine as the windy plains of Wyoming. Happily, the ending of the book leaves an opening for a sequel. We need more of Wilsey Grant.

— John Neely Davis

**RICK O'SHEA and MICHAEL W. SHURGOT**

*Green River Saga*  
Sunstone Press  
Paperback, 175 Pages, \$18.95  
SunstonePress.com

The authors of *Green River Saga* describe their novel as historical fiction. In

# RICK O'SHEA AND MICHAEL W. SHURGOT

**Green River, Wyoming 1866.** Sheriff James Talbot, aided by Irish/Cheyenne Civil War veteran and gunslinger Johnny Redfeather, struggles to maintain peace between cattle baron Brent Tompkin and Chief Running Bear's Southern Cheyenne Tribe. Jeremiah Staggart, a Civil War deserter driven nearly mad by the murder of his family in 1863, arrives in Green River seeking solace. In the final battle at Reiser Canyon the fate of Running Bear's Tribe, Johnny Redfeather, and Jeremiah's search for redemption and his lost family collide.

"O'Shea and Shurgot illuminate their story with wonderful details of life on the frontier. "On a rickety chair beside the doors sat a tall, thin man wearing a greasy, lop-sided top hat, a dirty, white cotton shirt, a red bandanna and a string of beans around his neck, leather pants and old boots so worn that Staggart wondered what kept them on the man's feet."... The characters are well drawn and embellished with significant backstory. For those looking for a quick read about violence and injustice in the Old West."

- Kirkus Review

*Pacific Northwest Writer's Association  
Nancy Pearl Award Nominee*

## GREEN RIVER SAGA

A NOVEL



Rick O'Shea AND Michael W. Shurgot

Available in print from bookstores and Amazon.com, and E-book from Amazon.com

fact, it is not so much historical fiction as a psychological study of the three main protagonists, Sheriff Jim Talbot, Confederate deserter Jeremiah Staggart and Irish-Apache Johnny Redfeather. The plot itself is the standard good-white-men-versus-bad-white-men-versus-Indians conflict of hundreds of Westerns. While the authors do a good job of delving into the psyches of the main characters, most of the others are mere sketches. I wish there had been a deeper explanation of why Brent Tompkins, the main villain of the story, hates Indians so vehemently. The reader never learns why. He just does. The authors' claims to have meticulously researched the location of the novel, the area around Green River, Wyoming, at that time part of Dakota Territory, rings true. The landscape is beautifully described. However, on the opposite end, the story falls victim to one of my pet peeves. The authors clearly know little about horses, as exemplified by their placing numbers of stallions in one small corral. That's a great way to end up with no corral and stallions all over the range.

— James J. Griffin

**LeROY A. PETERS**  
*Chosen Path: Edge of the World Series: Book 1*

DS Productions  
Paperback, 140 pages, \$6.99

In *Chosen Path*, the author draws an imaginative storyline set in the days of slavery. A young slave girl is beaten and raped by the son of the local sheriff. Her brother avenges the evil deed but fears the repercussions and takes to the road. His escape and new life point to the West, where he comes under the wing of a mountain man who teaches him the trapping trade. LeRoy A. Peters packs a lot of story into this novella length book; more are promised.

— Lynn Bueling

**CHUCK PINNELL**  
*The Irish Singer: The Untold Story of the West's Most Celebrated Outlaw: A Novel*

Sunstone Press  
Paperback, 280 pages, \$22.95  
SunstonePress.com

This novel is an innovative origin story of Billy the Kid, aka Henry McCarty, aka William H. Bonney. The author employs a solid foundation of research

to depict The Kid and the Lincoln County War. The narrative is a mixing of screenplay present-tense and narrative third-person limited point of view. A surprisingly large cast of characters populates a vividly depicted southeastern New Mexico. An empathetic narrative about the outlaw is a tough sell for this reviewer, but the author manages to infuse his fictive Kid with a humanity that kept the pages turning. The book includes a reading guide.

— Tom Carpenter

**HAZEL RUMNEY** (editor)  
*Fire Mountain and Other Survival Stories*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 287 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Five Star Publishing presents a departure from its recent anthology releases in this survival-themed quartet of novellas by Western heavyweights Michael Zimmer, Johnny D. Boggs, Larry D. Sweazy and Matthew P. Mayo. In Sweazy's *The Buffalo Trace*, a teen girl intent on joining the Indiana Territorial Rangers struggles to convince the male recruits and officers she can ride and fight with the toughest of them. Boggs's

“Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write.”

—ANNIE PROULX

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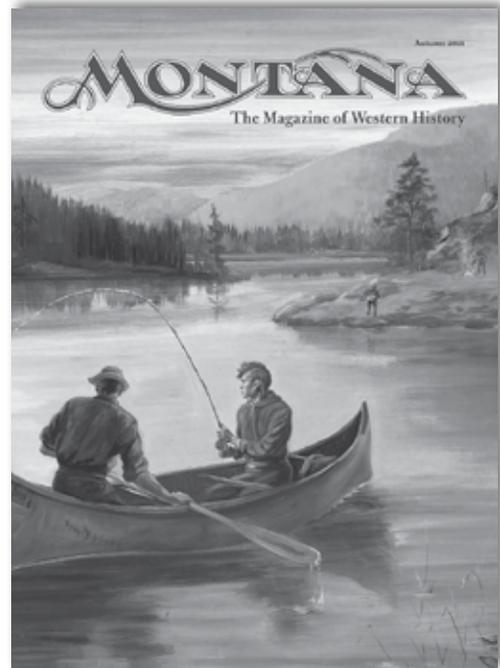
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Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.  
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*Two Old Comanches* charms and entertains as POW escapees Flea and Skunk Bush swim, walk, ride and stumble across Florida, hoping to return to their tribal land. In the title story, a mule driver pushes his team over a burning mountain with a maniacal killer hot on his heels. (Zimmer drops in an asterisk mid-story, referencing an earlier work, that readers may find puzzling.) *Bloodline*, by Mayo, delivers knife-edge, suspenseful storytelling, as a starving half-breed boy is on the run from his only family, a disgustingly mean grandfather who will pursue to the death. Hazel Rumney edits with her usual keen insight, and David Morrell's introduction sets it all up nicely. Great reading.

– Micki Fuhrman

**SHELDON RUSSELL**

*A Particular Madness*

Cennan Books of Cynren Press  
 Hardcover, 296 pages, \$29.50  
 Cynren.com

Fresh from his recent Spur Award for a historical novel, Sheldon Russell offers another he classifies as a psychological novel. Set in Oklahoma, *A Particular Madness* centers on a brilliant but troubled young man who finds himself thwarted in an intense quest for knowledge. For instance, his plan to major in English meets with a skeptical “odd choice for a farm boy.” To him, English was about stories that he could rearrange to make sense in his troubled mind. Russell renders his characterizations well, leaving the outcome in doubt for his readers until the end.

– Lynn Bueling

**ANNE SCHROEDER**

*The Caballero's Son*

Five Star Publishing  
 Hardcover, 273 pages, \$25.95  
 Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

*The Caballero's Son* is set in the California gold rush at the time when Americans invade – and I use this word advisedly – land held by Mexicans, which they in turn have taken from the Spanish, who took it from the Indians. Conflict, heart-rendingly brutal, may shift a reader's idea of the Western expansion. But this is also a romance. One that will be tested. I didn't find Miguelito a sympathetic character, regardless of the horrific life he was compelled to lead. The disregard of pain and casual cruelty – although apparently a realistic sign of the times – wore on me as a reader. Suffering, even in fictional depiction sometimes takes a strong stomach. Excellent writing, deep research, and strong characters make the book most worthy of your time.

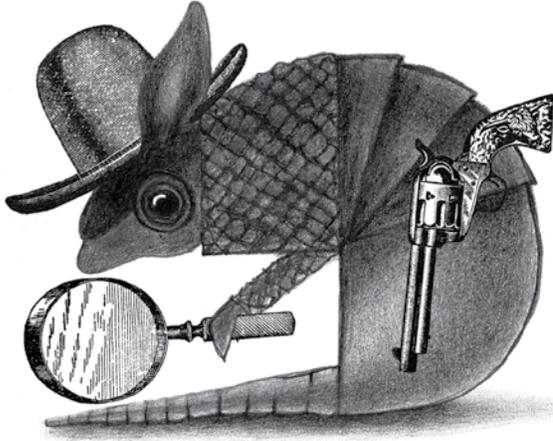
– Carol Crigger

**LOWELL F. VOLK**

*Mystery on Benchmark*

Wheatmark  
 Paperback, 190 pages, \$12.95  
 Wheatmark.com

Lowell F. Volk can be counted on to provide an entertaining book and now adds another title to his growing list. A murder mystery set in Colorado hinges on a sheriff and a forest ranger investigating the circumstances of a missing person. Was his



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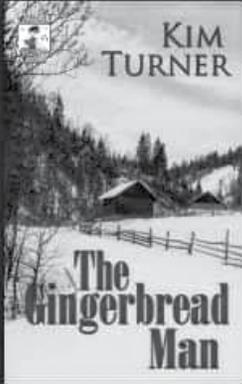
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## Christmas Brings Romance




**Kim Turner**  
*It's all about a cowboy & the woman he loves*

**Nicole McCaffrey**  
*Love, Laughter, Adventure*

[kimturnerwrites.com](http://kimturnerwrites.com)
[nicolemccaffrey.blogspot.com](http://nicolemccaffrey.blogspot.com)

looking into his land investment a factor in his disappearance? Add to the mix the discovery of an unidentified body, plus a missing piece of evidence that eludes them until the conclusion. Well-crafted dialogue moves the story.

– Lynn Bueling

### JAMES WADE

#### *River, Sing Out*

Blackstone

Hardcover, 273 pages, \$27.99

BlackstonePublishing.com

Just because something is familiar, doesn't mean it won't be engaging. The cast is familiar: teenage boy abused and ready to run, runs into an older, attractive woman, who has something that doesn't belong to her. The rightful owner is tough, mean and capable of building a plot. Woman is on the run, and soon the boy has joined up with her. He is in love, of course, and boy and woman take off into the East Texas wilderness, each trying to protect the other. James Wade is a capable writer, even if he slides into some purple prose. Even the title is a warning of bad prose ahead when we need more action. It's an irritant soon forgotten. This is a quick and pleasing ride.

– Thomas Cobb

### JULIE WESTON

#### *Miners' Moon: A Nellie Burns and Moonshine Mystery*

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 230 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Nellie Burns, acting as Sheriff Charlie Asteguigoiri's police photographer, is called to north Idaho to investigate bootleggers running rampant. Soon Nellie and the sheriff are caught in conflicts with union and mine management issues, all mixed up with complicit town officials, which makes them targets. A deliberate explosion of lethal force in the Gem mine turns their situation murderous. A well-depicted experience of being underground in the mines with, as author Julie Weston says, "The weight of the mountain above," might give you shudders. Scenes of being trapped in cave-ins are horrific. Lots of action will keep you turning pages. There's even a madame with a heart of gold. And of course, Moonshine the dog makes an appearance. It's always a plus to see Moonshine, and he's a hero in this story.

– Carol Crigger

### JAMES C. WILSON

#### *Taos Gothic: A Fernando Lopez Mystery*

White Bird Publications

Paperback, 205 pages, \$18.99

WhiteBirdPublications.com

A house with ghosts – or so it's said – and a woman disappears from a room in the Mabel Dodge Luhan house in Taos, New Mexico, where Willa Cather stayed to write *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, her most famous book. Private investigator Fernando Lopez, a former Santa Fe police detective, is hired by the woman's wife to find Kate Isaacs. Circumstances are a bit odd. A ransom

is demanded, but it's not for nearly as much as the women could pay. And a woman at a party Kate attended the night she disappeared is found dead. Is Kate dead or alive? It's up to Lopez to discover what's going on, but it won't be easy. Well-depicted characters people the book, and if police procedure seems to be lacking at times, the story moves along well with many twists and turns and great action.

– Carol Crigger

### REAVIS Z. WORTHAM

#### *Laying Bones: A Texas Red River Mystery*

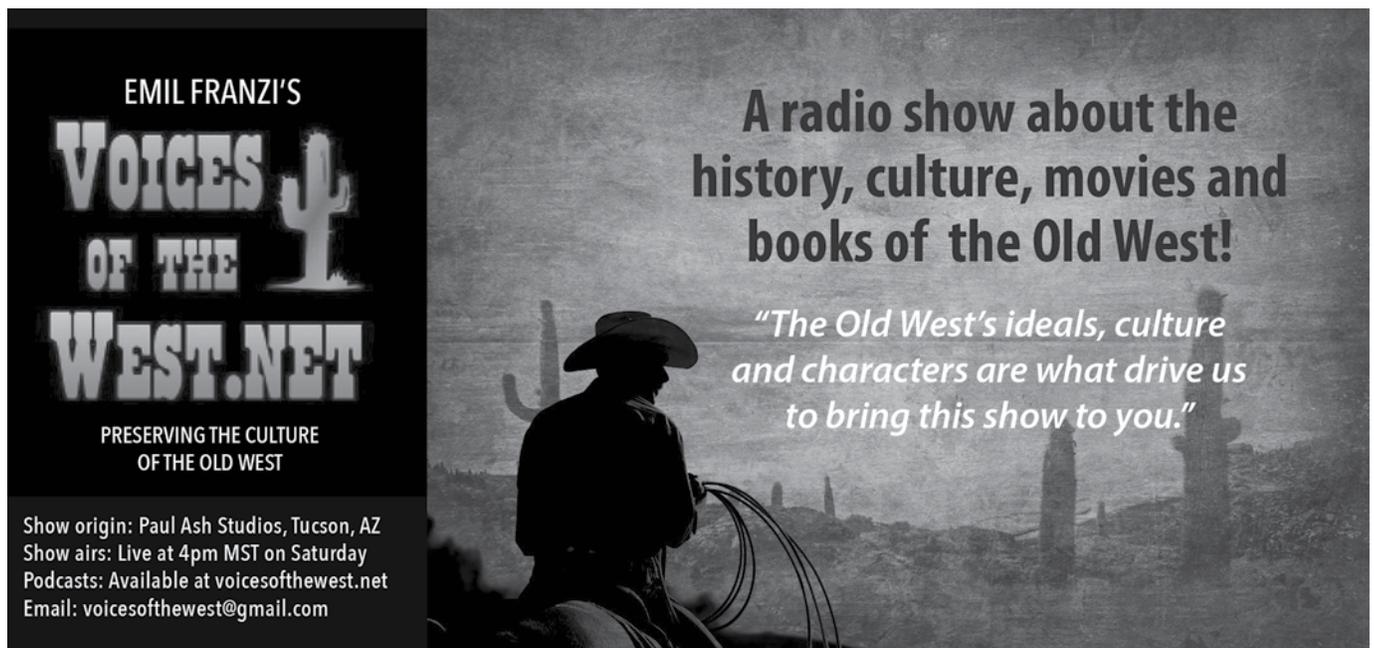
Poisoned Pen Press

Paperback, 368 pages, \$15.99

SourceBooks.com

It's the late 1960s, and plenty of people in Lamar County seem to like their liquor and their gambling – no matter that both are illegal in that part of Texas. When the big winner in a craps game ends up dead in his submerged pickup, old Constable Ned Parker doesn't buy the coroner's accidental drowning verdict. After that, the hunt is on. Reavis Z. Wortham's characters are complex and genuine, whether it's 14-year-old Top Parker, who narrates much of the story, or old lawmen like Ned and polite, unflappable retired ranger Mr. Tom Bell. They act real, they talk real – it's easy for readers to slip right into the story and want to stay awhile.

– Loyd Uglow



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# JUVENILE

**S.J. DAHLSTROM**

*Cow Boyhood: The Adventures of Wilder Good, #7*

Paul Dry Books

Paperback, 176 pages, \$9.95

PaulDryBooks.com

In the seventh installment of the “Wilder Good Adventure” series, the young protagonist is a teenager and off on a two-day cattle drive with his grandfather and his papa’s old friend Red Guffey. The trio survives a frightening storm, with their little burro “Rabbit” taking the brunt of a lightning bolt (never fear, Rabbit lives!), a mouse and rattlesnake-infested bunkhouse trailer dubbed “tornado bait” and a roving bull buffalo that scatters their herd. Wilder comes to terms with the fact that his hero grandpa is not able to do what he used to, and their roles of teacher and student are fast reversing. Same superb writing I’ve come to expect from S.J. Dahlstrom. I loved Wilder’s Last Will and Testament at the end (written on the journey in case he didn’t make it).

– Rocky Gibbons

**JAMES J. GRIFFIN**

*A Ranger Never Quits*

Painted Pony Books

Paperback, 143 pages, \$9.99

PaintedPonyBooks.com

If your reading crosshairs are aimed straight at traditional Western fiction, take a look at *A Ranger Never Quits*, the 11<sup>th</sup> installment of James J. Griffin’s “Lone Star Ranger” series. Rough young Texas Ranger Nate Stewart thinks he is just stopping back at his hometown of San Saba to complete the paperwork that will make his best friend, Hoot Harrison, his ranching partner. Plus, he hopes to be at the ranch when Hoot’s wife delivers their first baby (Nate is to be the godfather). But Nate’s return to Ranger work is unexpectedly delayed when a range war-type battle breaks out in and around San Saba as quickly as a prairie fire on a windy August day. Blood will spill, and the chances are good that some of it will belong to Nate. Griffin, a seasoned Western author, prides himself in “portraying strong heroes with good character and moral values,” a quality I admire in novels, and in people.

– Greg Hunt

**CAROLE LINDSTROM** (author) and **MICHAELA GOADE** (illustrator)

*We are Water Protectors*

Roaring Brook Press

Hardcover, 37 pages, \$17.99

MacKids.com

Inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016, author Carole Lindstrom, enrolled with the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, rallies children to protect the world’s water in this beautifully written and brilliantly illustrated (by Tlinget/Haida artist Michaela Goade) book for ages 3-6. An Anishinaabe prophecy tells of two paths humanity can take, one natural and one with a “black snake” that many Native Americans say symbolizes oil pipelines. “The river’s rhythm runs through my veins,” Lindstrom writes. “Runs through my people’s veins.” And she often repeats: “We stand/With our songs/And our drums. We are still here.” Winner of the Association of Library Service to Children’s Caldecott Medal for distinguished American picture book for children.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**JOYCE SIBLERUD SCHMAUTZ**

(author) and

**KADYN SCHMAUTZ PAYA**

(Illustrator)

*Who Built the Road, Daddy? The Story of Going-to-the-Sun Road*

FarCountry Press

Paperback, 24 pages, \$12.95

FarCountryPress.com

The author and illustrator are third- and fourth-generation Montanans, as well as a mother and daughter team embarking on their writing journey with their debut children’s book. The story of the construction of the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park is told in charming rhyme and pictures, by way of a dad explaining details to his young son while they hike in the area. The book is dedicated to the author’s uncles, who helped build the road.

– Rocky Gibbons

## BOOK NOTES

**JOHNNY D. BOGGS**

*Sports on Film*

ABC-CLIO

Hardcover, 220 pages, \$63

ABC-CLIO.com

Spur-winning novelist Johnny D. Boggs turns to his sports journalism background – he was a reporter and editor in the highly competitive Dallas-Fort Worth newspaper market from 1984 to 1998 – in the latest of ABC-CLIO’s “Hollywood History” series, which compares Hollywood’s version of history to documented history. (Other titles in the series include looks at movies about the Civil War, World War II, Cold War, Vietnam War and the American West.) This volume examines eight sports films, starting with *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950) and ending with *Ford v Ferrari* (2019). Rodeo makes an appearance, too, with director Sam Peckinpah’s *Junior Bonner* (1972), scripted by the late Jeb Rosebrook, a WWA member.

**CHRISTINA M. SELBY**

*New Mexico Family Outdoor Adventure: An All-Ages Guide to Hiking, Camping, and Getting Outside*

University of New Mexico Press

Paperback, 169 pages, \$21.95

UNMPress.com

Santa Fe, New Mexico-based writer-photographer-naturalist Christina M. Shelby showcases outdoor excursions of all sorts in the Land of Enchantment. Part of the University of New Mexico Press’s “Southwest Adventure Series” (which includes Roger Naylor’s *Arizona’s Scenic Roads and Hikes: Unforgettable Journeys*), Shelby’s book is geared toward weekend excursions for grandparents, parents and children, from birdwatching to climbing, camping to float trips. New Mexico is the nation’s fifth-largest state, so there’s a lot of ground to cover, but the book is divided into regions, making it easy to navigate. Outdoor recreation, Shelby points out, is a \$9 billion industry in New Mexico, “providing nearly unlimited options for how to spend your time in the outdoors.”

## Book Review Policy

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