

## Book about 1972 flood brings back painful memories

**MERLYN JANET MAGNER.**

*Come Into the Water: A Survivor's Story.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press. Trade Paperback, 160 pages, \$18.95, [www.sdshspress.com](http://www.sdshspress.com).

**By Bill Markley**

On June 9, 1972, 252 men, women and children died in the Rapid City Flood. Merlyn Magner's book is one person's account of the loss of her family, her own near-death in the floodwaters and her search for life's meaning afterward.

Johnny Boggs requested that I provide a personal follow-up to Candy Moulton's October 2011 *Roundup* review of *Come Into the Water: A Survivor's Story*. Magner's book is good, but it was hard for me to read. My wife, Liz, and friends, Bruce and Kay Huxford, also endured and survived the Rapid City Flood.

Liz was working a summer job at a souvenir shop in Keystone, a small town in the Black Hills on the way to Mount Rushmore. She and other college students were renting rooms in an elderly couple's house. Sitting on the front porch watching the storm, they heard a loud rumble as the upstream bridge went out with the swiftly rising stream. The old man said, "Grab what you need. We need to get out of here!" The couple, Liz and her roommates scrambled up steep slopes to escape the fast-rising water. Liz turned to see a car with people in it swept away.

Liz and her companions made it to an old mine shaft and spent the night huddled in its entrance. The next day, the souvenir shop was the only building standing large enough to serve as a morgue.

Bruce and Kay Huxford were living in Rapid City on high ground. A member of the Rapid City Reserve Police Squad, Bruce was called up to help evacuate people from the rising Rapid Creek. In one instance, he knocked on a door to tell the people to leave. They told him to check the house next door as an older woman lived there alone. Bruce didn't reach her house; the raging water had already swept it away.

Bruce had recurring nightmares, remembering all the people hanging onto tree limbs and rooftops out in the flood pleading for help. There was no way to reach them that night.

After Bruce left home, Kay and a friend decided to see what the strange orange glow was on the western horizon. They drove down a steep incline, stopping at the bottom of the hill at a stop sign. Hearing a loud continuous roar and wondering what it could be, Kay turned on the car's high light beams, revealing that the swollen stream had risen up to just the other side of the sign. If they had proceeded on, they would have driven into the torrent. They backed up, turned around and went straight home. Later, Kay learned that the glow was burning propane tanks and other debris being carried down the swollen stream.

In 2001, Bruce died of a stroke. Kay has read *Come Into the Water* and relates to Merlyn Magner's sense of loss and search for meaning in life. She highly recommends the book. Liz, on the other hand, does not care to read it.

I thought it was a good book, but hard for me to read, because on June 9, 1972, 252 men, women and children died in the Rapid City Flood.



## POETRY

**RED SHUTTLEWORTH.** *Johnny Ringo.* Riverhouse Lit. Trade Paperback, 74 pages, No Price Listed.

"It is 1850. Mary gives you/brief breast./Martin gives you suck of pistol./Your eyes are ice-blue./Your name is John."

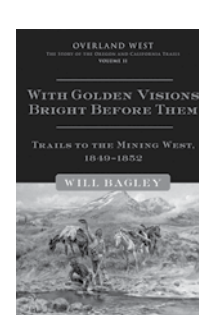
Red Shuttleworth, a two-time Spur-winning poet, delivers again in this epic narrative poem about the legendary outlaw of Tombstone fame. Edgy but everlasting, brutal but beautiful, *Johnny Ringo* might be Shuttleworth's masterpiece. If he wasn't already there, this poem certainly should put him alongside Jane Candia Coleman, N. Scott Momaday, Larry D. Thomas and Paul Zarzyski as masters of the Western poem.

— Johnny D. Boggs

## NONFICTION

**WILL BAGLEY.** *With Golden Visions Bright Before Them: Trails to the Mining West 1849-1852.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 480 pages, \$45, [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

If you've ever wondered what it was like to follow the overland trails west



to the California gold fields, this is the book that will answer your curiosity. The author draws from hundreds of journals, diaries, letters, reminiscences and other

records of those who made the trip, enriched by original research and information from secondary sources.

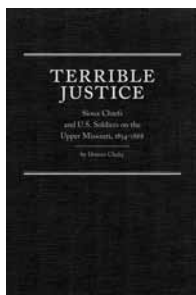
Compelling narrative weaves together brief excerpts from the firsthand accounts, arranged both chronologically and thematically, painting a vivid picture of day-to-day life as well as

addressing broader themes. Will Bagley relates how the mass migration affected Indian tribes along the trail as well as the people who settled the region prior to the discovery of gold. There are stories, of course, of hardships and hunger, and reports of heroes who offered help along the way and others who hindered fellow travelers at every opportunity.

While it is the well-chosen accounts of the Argonauts that make the book, the reader will appreciate the author's skillful writing, which creates a fast-paced, powerful account of a pivotal period in westward migration.

— Rod Miller

**DOREEN CHAKY.** *Terrible Justice: Sioux Chiefs and U.S. Soldiers on the Upper Missouri, 1854-1868.* Arthur H.



Clark. Hardcover, 408 pages, \$39.95, www.oupres.com.

Doreen Chaky's *Terrible Justice* outlines the discord between the white and Indian cultures on the Northern

Plains during the 1800s. Complicating factors weighed heavily in the unrest. Indians, represented by many tribes, displayed no unifying structure. The Lakota, Dakota and Nakota seldom spoke with one voice and further subdivided into smaller groups.

Fortune-seekers coveted traditional Indian lands, causing clashes that prompted the U.S. government to send men and establish forts. The country, entangled in the Civil War, furnished poor quality of manpower to the West, men who often thought "extermination" was the best solution.

Chaky writes of hardships endured both by pursued and pursuers, corruption in governmental affairs, shortages of supplies, harsh weather, illness and more. Her book draws on many resources and will serve as a primer for readers wanting a detailed picture of the period.

— Lynn D. Bueling

**JON T. COLEMAN.** *Here Lies Hugh Glass: A Mountain Man, A Bear, and the Rise of the American Nation.* Hill and Wang. Hardcover, 252 pages, \$28, www.fsgbooks.com.

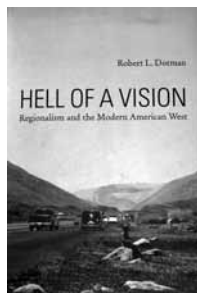
If you're looking for a biography of mountain man Hugh Glass, you won't find it here. After all, Jon Coleman concedes it's difficult to write one about a man who left behind one written letter. Instead, Coleman tackles Glass through the lens of pop culture, with some historical context.

Glass earned his place in history when a grizzly mauled him in 1823 and his companions (including a young Jim Bridger) left him behind to die. Instead, Glass crawled and staggered 200 miles, living on bugs, snakes and dead animals, and a thirst for revenge. That Herculean feat inspired John G. Neihardt's epic poem *The Song of Hugh Glass* (1915), Frederick Manfred's superb novel *Lord Grizzly* (1954) and an interesting but far from great movie starring Richard Harris as the *Man in the Wilderness* (1974).

The book runs from history to hilarity, and professors be warned. Coleman says he's writing "to see how much I can get away with in the company of somber academics."

— Johnny D. Boggs

**ROBERT L. DORMAN.** *Hell of a Vision: Regionalism and the Modern American West.* University of Arizona Press. Hardcover, 256 pages, \$40, www.uapress.arizona.edu.



Oklahoma City University professor Robert L. Dorman examines the many ways the modern West has been defined in this intriguing study of Western regionalism. The mythic national West of sturdy White Anglo-Saxon Protestants, typified

by Frederick Jackson Turner's famous essay, Owen Wister's *The Virginian*, and the art of Frederic Remington, contrasts with the Native and Hispanic versions of the West that offer counter-

points to the national view.

Then there's the West as defined by watershed, by lack of water, the geographic West, the West as seen by environmentalists from John Wesley Powell to Wallace Stegner. Dorman discusses the interpretations of novelists as diverse as Mary Austin and Larry McMurtry, the politics of the Sagebrush Rebellion, the influence of the Urban West and many other points of view. Dorman demonstrates that the West is a place defined by its many answers and, as the title says, it's a hell of a vision.

— Abraham Hoffman

**JAMES GARNER and JON WINOKUR.** *The Garner Files: A Memoir.* Simon & Schuster. Hardcover, eBook, 273 pages, \$25.99, \$12.99, www.simonandschuster.com.

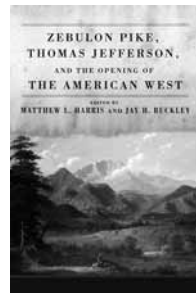
The Oklahoma native (born James Scott Bumgarner) skyrocketed to stardom as gambler Bret Maverick when the TV series *Maverick* turned the Western genre on its ear. Years later, he turned the private eye genre on its ear, too, with *The Rockford Files*.

Garner writes candidly about growing up in the Depression and Dust Bowl, his service in Korea (two Purple Hearts) and his feuds (and triumphs) with Hollywood studios.

He also speaks openly about his Westerns, good and bad. To wit: *Hour of the Gun* ("I agreed to do it without seeing the script."); *Duel at Diablo* (co-star Sidney Poitier "was a little afraid of" horses); *Support Your Local Sheriff* (he came up with the title); *A Man Called Sledge* ("Sludge."); *One Little Indian* ("I've done some things I'm not proud of. This is one of them.").

— Johnny D. Boggs

**MATTHEW L. HARRIS and JAY H. BUCKLEY** (editors). *Zebulon Pike, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West.*



University of Oklahoma Press. Cloth, 256 pages,

\$29.95. [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

Had there been a bicentennial celebration commemorating Zebulon Pike's two momentous explorations to the West of 1805-1807, this book would have been an outstanding contribution to its success. As it were, by the time 2005 rolled around most Americans had apparently forgotten – if they ever knew in the first place – about Pike's outstanding contributions to the country's history. Not to worry. Matthew Harris's and Jay Buckley's book, including their contributions as well as works from James P. Ronda, John Logan Allen, Jared Orsi, Leo E. Oliva and William E. Foley, was well worth the wait.

This book is the first in many years to present the varied and complex aspects of Pike's difficult and laborious second journey, which carried him from Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis, westward across the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains, southward to Santa Fe, southward again to Chihuahua, then northward and eastward across Texas and Louisiana to Natchitoches. It was a journey full of adventure and hardships. But it was one of intrigue as well. Pike's relationship with the nefarious plot of General James Wilkinson and former Vice President Aaron Burr to separate the lower Mississippi River valley region from the United States and align it with Spain is to this day a murky issue and one that might never be fully understood.

The authors of the eight essays in this book present the entire gamut of Pike's second expedition, including a comparison of his mission with several other Thomas Jefferson-inspired explorations of the period, scientific and cartographic accomplishments, the mission's effect on the environment, relationships with Indians and the Spanish and the Wilkinson-Burr intrigue.

*Zebulon Pike, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West* represents a major milestone in the documentation of an exploration that arguably stands on a par with the more widely known Lewis and Clark Expedition. It presents the latest in Pike scholarship

by well-qualified historians who should be lauded for making this significant contribution to Western history.

– James A. Crutchfield

**PATRICK HEARTY and JOSEPH HATCH.** *The Pony Express Stations in Utah*. Self-published. Paperback, 79 pages, \$10.

Although compact in size, this book is big in information. A brief introduction to the Pony Express era precedes a detailed account of each of Utah's 26 stations, following the route from east to west. Elevation and GPS coordinates are included. Patrick Hearty's text tells about each station, giving its history, alternative names, buildings, station keepers, conflicts over precise location, quotations from historical references and other information.

Photographs of station sites, ruins and monuments by Joseph Hatch offer a sense of place, along with historical paintings, drawings and photos. A map traces the route and locates the stations.

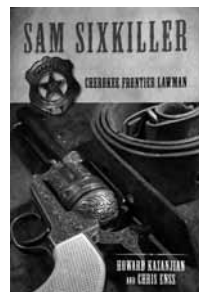
Hearty and Hatch, each well-versed and long experienced in Pony Express history, have made a book that will be of interest and lasting value to historians, history buffs, travelers, and the merely curious.

– Rod Miller

**HOWARD KAZANJIAN and CHRIS ENSS.** *Sam Sixkiller: Cherokee Frontier Lawman*. Two Dot. Trade Paperback, 161 pages, \$14.95, [www.globepequot.com](http://www.globepequot.com).

Howard Kazanjian and Chris Enss have given us a long overdue book on the life and career of the great Cherokee lawman, Sam Sixkiller. Cherokee history, dating back to the 1820s, is covered, giving us events leading up to the notorious Trail of

Tears and providing family background for Sam. His parents, Redbird Sixkiller and Pamela, were among those removed to the West.



Details about the establishment of the Cherokee police, known as the Lighthorse, are also provided. Sam Sixkiller was among the first of the Lighthorsemen. When the Civil War interrupted life in the Cherokee Nation, Sam joined the rebels. But he soon deserted to join the Union forces because he feared facing his father, a Union soldier.

After the war, Sam served as high sheriff of Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation, but was accused of misconduct. He had killed a man who was part of a group of rowdies shooting up Tahlequah. A trial failed to come up with a verdict, so the National Council took up the case. Sam was exonerated, but he was angry at having been put through all that. He quit his job and went to Muskogee.

Muskogee was a rough railroad town, and Sam became Captain of the Indian Police. The agency for the Five Civilized Tribes was in Muskogee. In addition, he was hired as a special agent for the railroad. Sixkiller tracked down numerous murderers, bootleggers and other offenders while serving in those capacities.

Kazanjian and Enss have done a remarkable job researching a subject that has been little written about and too much ignored over the years. Their sources include numerous newspapers of the time, arrest records and, of course, books and magazine articles. Anyone who has the slightest interest in the career or the life of Sam Sixkiller, of the Cherokee Nation during its Indian Territory days or of outlaws and lawmen of the time, should read this book.

– Robert J. Conley

**MICHAEL E. LaSALLE.** *Emigrants on the Overland Trail: The Wagon Trains*



*of 1848*. Truman State University Press. Trade Paperback, 514 pages, \$40, [www.tsup.truman.edu](http://www.tsup.truman.edu).

If you are in need of a reference book that gives a

complete picture of overland travel during a single period of time, *Emigrants on the Overland Trail* is exactly the type of book you should obtain. Michael LaSalle has carefully researched the wagon trains that went west from St. Joseph, Council Bluffs and Independence in 1848. His narrative follows the travelers as they crossed streams and rivers, traversed prairie and plains, negotiated mountain passes and dealt with the people they encountered on the trail, which included fellow travelers and Indians from many tribes.

Relying on diaries, journals, letters and reminiscences, this is a day-by-day, mile-by-mile review that provides intricate detail about traveling the trails to Oregon and California in that pivotal year before the great gold rush to California. LaSalle's personal travels on the trail give him good perspective to the landscape, and that is a valuable insight for putting the historic travelers in context.

– Candy Moulton

**RUSSELL M. LAWSON.** *Frontier Naturalist: Jean Louis Berlandier and the Exploration of Northern Mexico and Texas.* University of New Mexico Press. Hardcover, 262 pages, \$45, www.unmpress.com.

Born in France, Jean Louis Berlandier came to Mexico in the 1820s as a botanist, but he was much more than that. He was a naturalist in several scientific fields. Berlandier was skilled as a journalist, meteorologist, chemist, ethnologist, artist, cartographer and in other areas. In 1826, he joined the Mexican Boundary Commission to explore northern Mexico and Texas, mapping the topography and gathering specimens of flora and fauna. Berlandier spent the next quarter century on such expeditions, collecting and recording plants and animals, meeting Native tribesmen and reporting on the economic and political conditions in the region. His work, in French and Spanish, is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution and at Harvard and Yale.

Russell Lawson meticulously traces the journeys undertaken by Berlandier.

The reader becomes almost a participant in the dangers and hardships Berlandier experienced in dealing with swollen rivers, drought, swamps, mosquitoes and rattlesnakes. The historical maps are interesting to look at but impossible to read, and the inclusion of modern maps would have been useful. Nevertheless, reading this book reveals a man who made invaluable contributions to the natural sciences.

– Abraham Hoffman

**RICHARD E. LINGENFELTER.** *Bonanzas & Borrascas, Gold Lust and Silver Sharks, 1848-1884 and Bonanzas & Borrascas, Copper Kings and Stock Frenzies, 1885-1918.* Arthur H. Clark. Hardcover, 1,048 pages, \$72, www.oupres.com.

An excellent set of books for anyone who wants an overview of the financing of the mining industry in the West – and how the mineral resources of the West increased the capital of the California and then Eastern financial markets. It is more a history of finances rather than actual mining. It is also a sordid tale of lust and greed in which managers in the know manipulated the markets, amassing fortunes on the backs of unsuspecting stockholders.

It is the tale of so-called heroes such as John Charles Fremont, who defrauded innocent pioneers and stole their land and mining claims. It is the tale of not only buying seats in legislatures but also of buying whole legislatures. Finally, it is the tale of driving the likes of President Ulysses Grant into poverty through mining stock speculation.

These two volumes become mind numbing as time and time again sharks and wolves devour the unsuspecting and sometimes turn on their own kind.

– Bill Markley

**MATTHEW P. MAYO.** *Haunted Old West: Phantom Cowboys, Spirit-Filled Saloons, Mystical Mine Camps, and Spectral Indians.* Globe Pequot. Trade Paperback, 239 pages, \$14.95, www.globepequot.com.

A sleepless night spent in a haunted Irish hotel fascinated Matthew P.



Mayo enough to set him on the trail of identifying similar hair-raising sites in the Old West. He includes stories that could unsettle spook-prone readers or interest thrill-seeking

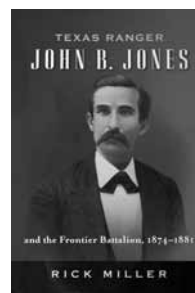
travelers enough so they'd visit and experience the phenomena themselves.

The specter of a murdered miner with a hatchet buried in his forehead wanders about his claim, music plays in an abandoned saloon and a rocking chair persists in relocating itself to a window where a woman always sat. Mayo features 28 stories set in brothels, ghost towns, battlefields, mansions and much more to acquaint readers with the world of the paranormal in the Old West.

– Lynn D. Bueling

**RICK MILLER.** *Texas Ranger John B. Jones and the Frontier Battalion, 1874-1881.* University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 399 pages, \$29.95, http://untpress.unt.edu.

The Texas Rangers have lived a storied existence since their inception, and author Rick Miller has given us a detailed account of the first years of the Rangers' Frontier Battalion. Created in 1874 to stem Indian raids, Mexican bandits crossing the Rio Grande, cattle rustlers and other lawless elements, the



battalion became a viable force under the able leadership of John B. Jones.

Jones did not look the part. He was said to be of small stature and frail health, but appearances aside,

he established high standards for the men in the battalion as well as a successful course of operations. To ensure his directives were being followed, he frequently traveled the state to witness local conditions first hand. Perceived as performing well, the *Houston Telegram*

in December 1877 called him “the bulwark of the border and the terror of the frontier foragers.”

Problems he faced during his tenure included dealing with inadequate budgets, divisiveness within the ranks, petty feuds with small town police forces and the challenge of supplying his men in the field with healthy diets. Unfortunately, his health failed, and he died in 1881 at age 46.

Miller’s biography of John B. Jones reads well and is supported by hundreds of footnotes gleaned from a large bibliography.

– Lynn D. Bueling

**ROBIN L. MURRAY** and **JOSEPH K. HEUMANN**. *Gunfight at the Eco-Corral: Western Cinema and the Environment*. University of Oklahoma Press. Trade Paperback, 260 pages, \$24.95, [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

*Shane*, the classic movie voted best all-time Western by WWA members, has an environmental statement? Some Gene Autry programmers delivered “powerful” messages about ecology? And you thought Westerns were strictly shoot-em-ups!

Film historians Robin Murray and Joseph Heumann try to point out that many Westerns, from *Tumbleweeds* to *Rango*, weren’t just about white hats versus black hats, but about our environment. Sometimes, they deliver intriguing arguments, as in their essays on the underappreciated 1956 revisionist Western *The Last Hunt* – which truly did have an environmental message about the slaughter of buffalo – or *Riders of the Whistling Pines*, a pro-DDT, 1949 quickie starring Autry as a forest ranger. Others seem such a stretch you’ll scratch your head.

Their writing style is academic, often boring, but *Gunfight at the Eco-Corral* does make you look at certain Western films in a different way.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**KAY MOORE**. *The Great Bicycle Experiment: The Army’s Historic Black Bicycle Corps, 1896-97*. Mountain Press Publishing. Trade Paperback, 86 pages, \$12. [www.mountain-press.com](http://www.mountain-press.com).

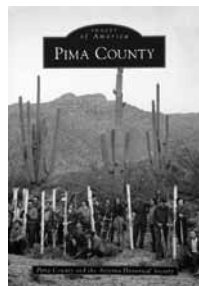
With an illustrious history that spanned more than 200 years, the Army cannot be faulted for its over-land transportation experiments during the 1800s – the successful one in 1856 when camels were brought to the Southwest, only to become victims of politics 10 years later; and military use of messengers and scouts on primitive bicycles in 1896 that the War Department ended in early 1898.

In this quick read, Kay Moore describes the bicycle concept proposed by Lieutenant James Moss – the short-range trial run, a longer trek to Yellowstone National Park and the 1,900-mile round-trip adventure from Fort Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri. The latter tested the human endurance of 20 specially selected black members of the 25th Infantry Regiment (re-designated as the 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps) and their machines against nature on an arduous journey across mountains, plains, rivers and streams. The idea, while unaccepted at the time, might be considered the forerunner of the importance the Army attached to the motorcycle and Jeep in succeeding decades.

Moore also relates the fate of the Buffalo Soldiers who participated in the experiment, wrapping their story into a tight package that recounts a rare piece of Army history.

– Stan “Tex” Banash

### **PIMA COUNTY** and **ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**. *Images of America: Pima County*. Arcadia. Paperback, 128 pages, \$21.99, [www.arcadia.com](http://www.arcadia.com).



The image of the Saguaro Ski Club at the foot of the Santa Pima County Catalina Mountains amid saguaros with members displaying their skis and snowshoes is worth the price of the book alone. More than 200 images illustrate this pictorial history of Pima County, which covers more than 9,000 square miles. Besides Tucson, the county is home to many smaller towns,

parks, conservation areas, wildlife refuges and Indian reservations.

The county stands as a cultural crossroads shaped by Indians, Spanish conquistadors, Mexican and American settlers. It shares borders with Mexico and the Tohono O’odham and Pascua Yaqui tribes. The area came under American jurisdiction in 1854 with the Gadsden Purchase. Waves of new immigrants, including Chinese, blacks, Anglos, Mormons, Jews and many more, formed a unique mosaic of southern Arizona.

Before long, these new settlers were looking for recreation and parks, and places like Sabino Canyon and Mount Lemmon attracted residents and became the inception of the tourism industry. Pima County became a place to work and play. The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan seeks to protect the heritage and the land. All this and more is documented in the captions and vintage photographs, most of which were provided by the Arizona Historical Society.

– Jane Eppinga

**MARK T. SMOKOV**. *He Rode with Butch and Sundance: The Story of Harvey “Kid Curry” Logan*. University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 440 pages, \$39.96, <http://untpress.unt.edu>.

Despite the book’s title, there is relatively little here about Butch Cassidy



and the Sundance Kid. Harvey Logan, better known as Kid Curry, was part of the loosely knit Hole-in-the-Wall gang, and he was one of the men in the famous

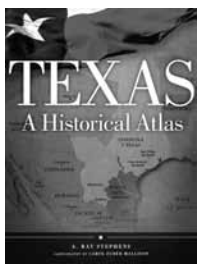
“Fort Worth Five” photograph taken on November 21, 1900, after which Butch and Sundance departed for South America. That said, Mark T. Smokov has written a meticulously researched biography that cuts Logan down to size. Far from a romanticized outlaw, Logan was a career criminal who associated with others of his kind. They rustled cattle, stole horses, killed people, robbed banks and trains, and

consorted with prostitutes, and most of them died violently.

Smokov faced difficult challenges in writing this book. Logan and his partners in crime used multiple aliases, resulting in misidentifications and, for many writers on Western criminals, factual errors. Smokov separates fact from fiction and exaggeration, and he offers what might be the definitive account of a notorious criminal who died on June 9, 1904, regardless of what people have claimed about his escaping that last, fatal posse.

— Abraham Hoffman

**RAY STEPHENS.** *Texas: A Historical Atlas.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, Paperback, 448 pages, \$39.95, \$29.95, www.oupres.com.



This work should be on every bookshelf of those interested in history of the country, especially Texas and the development of the Southwest. It is well documented and concise to the point of providing the student with all the history of Texas in capsule form so as not to miss anything important that happened in all of the years that became the history of Texas. The extent of the work covers geological makeup, the people and the ages of development.

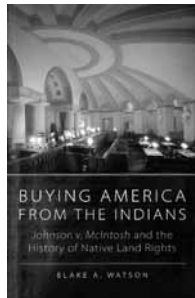
From the period when white Europeans first encountered the natives of the region to annexation by the United States, the story of Texas is so well documented it will seize the interest of even those readers who are not history buffs.

Although presented as an historical atlas, it reads like a very good novel. All Texans should take their hats off to Ray Stephens and cartographer Carol Zuber-Mallison.

— Max Oliver

**BLAKE A. WATSON.** *Buying America from the Indians: Johnson v. McIntosh and the History of Native Land Rights.* University of Oklahoma Press. Cloth, 456 pages, \$45, www.oupres.com.

Chief Justice John Marshall is often held up as a hero in American history, but he's a villain in Blake A. Watson's account. In 1823, Marshall invoked the doctrine of "discovery" to disallow the sale of lands to private citizens by the Piankeshaw



Indians, then of southern Illinois. Discovery meant that land rights belonged only to the conquerors – a convenient doctrine for a country convinced of its manifest destiny. It provided, if one were needed, a rationale for the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

Watson shows there were many instances, particularly in New England, where settlers recognized Indian rights and purchased land, and he argues that, even so long after the fact, the doctrine of discovery ought to be formally repudiated.

— John Mort

**ROBERT N. WATT.** *Apache Tactics 1830-86.* Osprey. Paperback, 64 pages, \$18.95, www.ospreypublishing.com.

Rich with maps, diagrams, illustrations and photographs, this concise volume offers insight into how relatively small numbers of Apache fighters fended off and often defeated much larger forces of American and Mexican soldiers over decades of fighting.



The author, a lecturer at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, covers the ground with knowledge based on extensive study of documentary evidence as well as visits to the sites of many violent encounters. Beginning with a brief treatment of Apache culture and their homeland, the book spends most of its pages exploring battlefield strategies and tactics, ending with an explanation of how

various bands were finally restrained, primarily through the Army's employment of Apache scouts from other bands.

— Rod Miller

## FICTION

**MARLEY BRANT.** *In the Shadow.* Incarnat Books. Trade Paperback, 525 pages, \$19.95, www.marleybrant.com.

Marley Brant turns in a work of historical fiction featuring Bob Younger, youngest member of the infamous Younger Brothers. Drawing on research from her earlier books about the James-Younger gang, she says, "*In the Shadow* is the way it might have been ..."

Bob Younger finds himself unable to escape a life of crime because of perceived connection and allegiance to his brother, Cole Younger. The unsettled times of the Kansas-Missouri Border War and the Civil War provide the backdrop to the story. Brant's book offers several hours of enjoyable reading.

— Lynn D. Bueling

**BRETT COGBURN.** *The Devil's Hoofprints.* High Hill Press. Trade Paperback, 261 pages, \$16.95, www.highhillpress.com.

Sodbusters. Lawmen. Codgers. Gunfighters. Indians. Cowboys. Mountain men. Soldiers. Pioneers. Ghosts. Brett Cogburn covers the Old West from end to end in this book of short stories.

As with any collection, each reader will be drawn to personal favorites, but each story is well crafted with well-rounded characters, interesting situations and revealing conflicts. Of particular note is "Hard and Fast," featuring a young cowboy on his first trail drive being dragged into manhood through a series of unfortunate circumstances, including a reluctant faceoff with another drover who bullies him mercilessly. "Pony for Sarah" offers up an unexpected answer to a young girl's wish for a pony of her own – O. Henry himself would appreciate the story's conclusion.

Throughout the book, Cogburn treats familiar subjects with freshness

and originality, spinning engaging tales true to the Western tradition but told in his own distinctive voice.

– Rod Miller

**C.K. CRIGGER.** *Three Seconds to Thunder.* Oak Tree Press. Trade Paperback, 229 pages, \$14.95, [www.oaktreebooks.com](http://www.oaktreebooks.com).

China Bohannon is no china doll. A two-footed mule toting a bag of nails more appropriately describes Miss Bohannon. Not one to leave things well enough alone, China inserts herself into her Uncle Monk's and his business partner Gratton's private investigative service. Her sidekick, Nimble, all 20 pounds of fur and bark, is just as much an investigator as her owner is, only the dog doesn't know it.

Set in eastern Washington, circa 1896, nothing seems to be going right in China's life. While China's fighting with a new fangled typewriter, Gratton Doyle (the love of her life) is clueless as to her affections even after China and her confounded dog (his words) save his life.

China is a woman ahead of her time. Her adventures take readers through thick and thin, mountains, lakes and raging fires. And I felt like I was there when the rain finally cooled the parched earth.

– Sandy Whiting

**IVAN DOIG.** *The Bartender's Tale.* Riverhead Books. Hardcover, 387 pages, \$26.95. [www.riverheadbooks.com](http://www.riverheadbooks.com).

If you grew up in a little rural town where any nightlife centered on the local bar, *The Bartender's Tale* is likely to resonate with you. Set in Gros Ventre, Montana, in the summer of 1960, the story is a coming-of-age tale revolving around 12-year-old Russell "Rusty" Harry. During this momentous summer, the boy finally learns what happened to his mother who abandoned both he and his father a few months after Rusty's birth. Rusty lived with an aunt in Arizona until he was 6. Then his father, Tom, came for him.

The pair becomes a cohesive family, with Rusty spending many hours in the

back room of the Medicine Lodge saloon. Through a vent into the bar, he's able to overhear many of the conversations between his father as he tends bar (the best darn bartender in Montana – he receives the plaque to prove it), and the customers who share their stories, confess their sins, and remind Tom of the old days. If some of what he hears puts skewed ideas into Rusty's head, all will become clear in the end, when the failure of an upstream dirt dam nearly wipes Gros Ventre and the Medicine Lodge out of existence.

This is a wonderful story of the relationship between a boy and his father. A refreshing change from the dysfunction we read about so often. The friendships Rusty makes on his own (you'll love Zoe) also seem real and different and sweet. A flawed character, Tom Harry still is the perfect father to this boy.

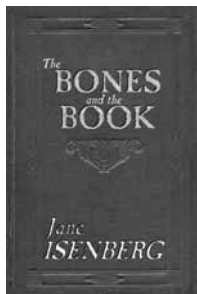
Ivan Doig readers expect superlative writing to stir their emotions. *The Bartender's Tale* exceeds these expectations.

– C.K. Crigger

**JANE ISENBERG.** *The Bones and the Book.* Oconee Spirit Press. Trade Paperback, 253 pages, \$14.95, [www.oconeespiritpress.com](http://www.oconeespiritpress.com).

Middle-aged Rachel Mazursky finds herself widowed and without funds after her husband Harry is killed by debris dislodged by a Seattle temblor. She takes on a project offered by a University of Washington professor, the translation of a diary written in Yiddish and found in Seattle's underground streets with what seem to be the writer's bones. As Rachel translates, we discover all about the life of a young Orthodox Jewish Ukrainian immigrant from the 19th Century, as well as a connection to 1960s Seattle's highest Jewish echelon.

This is a fascinating story using a hidden manuscript and an unknown corpse. It delves into the history of Victorian Seattle with a connection



to the Yukon gold rush and details the lives of poor, Jewish immigrants. Written with dual protagonists – Aliza, the immigrant, and Rachel, the 1960s heroine – the reader is treated to a taste of both historical periods in a mystery sure to keep you turning the pages.

– C.K. Crigger

**LINDA JACOBS.** *Jackson Hole Journey.* Camel Press. Trade Paperback, 328 pages, \$15.95, [www.camelpress.com](http://www.camelpress.com).

Each character is there for a reason in Linda Jacobs's *Jackson Hole Journey*, including the earthquakes, landslides, towering mountains and the steam and mystery of Yellowstone that engage the men and women of this vast Wyoming landscape. Jacobs takes us to a guest ranch in 1925 where we meet a family finding its way through legacy and innovation. With historical detail woven in with care, we discover Francesca, a young woman on a journey of her own. Mix in two very different brothers, involved parents, a potential partner with affairs of his own heart to tend to and you have a story that makes a reader think: "This is how it must have been. I wish I could have been there." A captivating page turner that lets us all know why Linda Jacobs is an award-winning writer."

– Jane Kirkpatrick

**WILLIAM JENSEN.** *Adder in the Path.* Belle Isle Books. Trade Paperback, 252 pages, \$16.95, [www.Belleislebooks.com](http://www.Belleislebooks.com).

Set against the backdrop of the Mormon unrest in northern Missouri in the 1830s, this novel does a good job of putting the reader into the era that pitted the early members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with the old settlers of Missouri. The author portrays such individuals important in the early years of the Church, like Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon and particularly Orrin Porter Rockwell, quite clearly. And the historical context of the Mormon conflict is also well done.

If the author had stuck to that story, the novel would be more fulfilling. However, the attempt to set this real historical conflict in a novelization with two

unrelated families falls flat. Young Jake Devine is hunting with his dog Rufe as the story opens, and we quickly meet his abusive father and downtrodden mother. But then the story shifts to Jenny Evans; her father, John, a teacher; and her mother, Agnes, who has become a Mormon fanatic. The Evans family follows the Mormon faith to Kirkland, Ohio, and ultimately to northern Missouri, where they are involved in the significant events of the conflict there in the 1830s.

One frustration with this storyline is that Jake Devine and his family disappear from the book for more than a hundred pages. By the time they are back in the story and Jake meets Jenny Evans, it is hard to recall who he is. While the history of the Mormon conflict is well done, there are other historical inconsistencies (for example, a reference to the Cherokee Trail of Tears in 1830 predates that trail by eight years). The conclusion appeared contrived rather than well plotted, even though the final battle is firmly grounded in history.

— Candy Moulton

**JANICE M. LADENDORF.** *Heart of a Falcon.* Whiskey Creek Press. Trade Paperback, eBook, 356 pages, \$16.95, \$6.99, www.whiskeycreekpress.com.

Fourteen-year-old Lisbet McTavish travels from the West Virginia



foothills to Pittsburgh with her father, before embarking on a journey to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma in the early 1830s. It's an historical epic full of adventures involving

runaway slaves and Indians, but it's mostly about a girl's quest for a silver mustang. Lisbet, you see, loves horses.

Which should come as no surprise, since author Janice Ladendorf is a horse trainer whose previous titles include *Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers* and *A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse*, the latter

a memoir told from the horse's point of view.

**DALE LOVIN.** *The Mirror in the River.* Sunstone Press. Trade Paperback, 258 pages, \$24.95, www.sunstonepress.com.

For retired FBI agent Brad Walker, the rivers in the wild country of Colorado have always been able to give him solace. However, when Walker goes to a familiar spot on the river to do some fly-fishing, he witnesses events that just do not seem right. Upon further investigation, the former lawman unearths a tangled web of human trafficking that leads from Colorado straight to Washington, D.C.

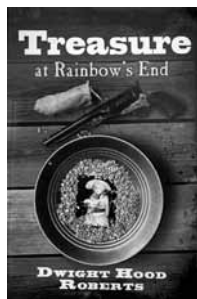
It's always fun to read a book that an author put so much energy into, and Dale Lovin has certainly done that here.

— John Melvin

**KIMBERLY PATTERSON.** *Red Rock.* Kimberly Martinez. Trade Paperback, 303 pages, \$12.08 Amazon price.

Kimberly Patterson's *Red Rock* is a fast, fun read that is full of adventure and has plenty of twists and turns. Rachel Hunter is a young woman who is struggling with the stresses of looking after her ill mother when her family stumbles upon a fortune on their journey to the town of Red Rock. Their new fortune offers the Hunter's a new start in a new town, but not everything is as it appears in this little Western town.

— John Melvin



**DWIGHT HOOD ROBERTS.**

*Treasure at Rainbow's End.* Self-published. Trade Paperback, 297 pages, \$12, dwighthoodroberts.com.

Dwight Hood Roberts writes a fast-paced story containing action, adventure, romance, violence and gold.

To clear up the plot's mystery, readers must hang on until the end.

**TERRI SEDMAK.** *Heartland – On the Side of Angels.* Vivid Publishing.

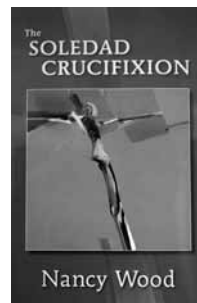
Trade Paperback, 523 pages, Amazon price \$25.95. www.terrisedmak.com.

While the title might sound like a romance Western, there is plenty of shooting and action to keep the pages turning. When a member of the Alliance is murdered in cold blood, all leads point to one man. But getting any charges to stick on him is harder than anyone imagined. This is a great book with an ending that will catch you by surprise.

— John Melvin

**NANCY WOOD.** *The Soledad Crucifixion.* University of New Mexico Press. Trade Paperback, 327 pages, \$21.95, www.unmpress.com.

The book opens on a cold day in 1897 in the remote New Mexican



village of Camposanto. On a rough cross hangs Father Lorenzo Soledad, crucified and breathing his last. Below him, awaiting his death, the villagers gather.

They are not an unruly bunch, or violent, or anything but sympathetic. One by one, they speak to the dying priest and remind him of their past interactions.

What we wait for the novel to explain to us, the reader, is why Father Lorenzo is being crucified. His choice? The villagers' choice?

This is a literary novel, with mystical, often lyrical writing, which takes the reader into the psyche of the sometimes wise-sometimes not, primitive people of the Southwest. One warning: with so many point-of-view changes, you might need to stay on your toes to keep up with the various characters.

— C.K. Crigger

## JUVENILE

**MELODY CUATE.** *Journey to Plum Creek.* Texas Tech University Press. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$17.95, www.ttpress.org.

Fourth-grade teacher Melodie Cuate,



who has won Western Heritage Wrangler Awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for her titles *Journey to San Jacinto* and *Journey to Gonzales*, takes youngsters back into history once again. This time history teacher Mr. Barrington's magic trunk sweeps Hannah, Nick and Jackie into an 1840 Comanche raid on Victoria, Texas. The two girls are taken captive while young Nick becomes a part of a rescuing group of Texas Rangers.

Another great book for a young adult reader who also likes history.

– Candy Moulton

**KAY MILLER.** *Jews of the Wild West: A Multicultural True Story.* Paint Horse Press. Paperback, 30 pages, \$9.95, [www.jewsgowest.com](http://www.jewsgowest.com).

Aimed at younger readers, this book focuses primarily on the Staab



and Ilfeld families, who left Germany in the mid-1800s and settled in the Southwest,

primarily in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

It's informative and richly illustrated.

**S.D. NELSON.** *Greet the Dawn: The Lakota Way.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press. Hardcover, 40 pages, \$18.95, [www.sdshpress.com](http://www.sdshpress.com).

Spur-winning author and illustrator S.D. Nelson, a member of the Standing



Rock Lakota tribe, shows children how the Lakota people "greet the dawn," the perfect way to

not only begin the day but to resume the Lakota way of living in balance.

The story is warm, the message important and Nelson's images, inspired by Indian pictographs and ledger art, are pleasing. *Greet the Dawn* is a rich book for boys and girls learning to read, or parents reading to their children.

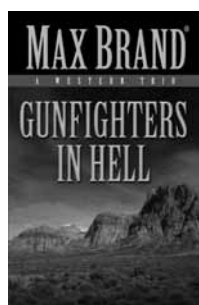
– Johnny D. Boggs

## BOOK NOTES

**JOHNNY D. BOGGS.** *And There I'll Be a Soldier.* Five Star. Hardcover, 254 pages, \$25.95, [www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar](http://www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar).

A Civil War coming-of-age novel about two teen-agers, Missourian Caleb Cole and Texan Ryan McCalla, whom fate brings together at the battles of Shiloh and Corinth, and a young Mississippi girl named Grace Dehner, who meets both during the savagery that engulfed the war-torn South.

**MAX BRAND.** *Gunfighters in Hell.* Five Star. Hardcover, 194 pages,



\$25.95, [www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar](http://www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar).

Restored versions of three of the prolific writer's tales from the 1930s: "Gunless Gunman," "The Fighting Coward"

and "Gunfighters in Hell."

**CLIFF BURNS.** *The Last Hunt.* Black Dog Press. Trade Paperback, 212 pages, \$14.95.

After accidentally shooting a Missouri lawman, aging gunfighter Frank Seaver is on the run when he winds up in Montana. There, he is persuaded to help hunt a mountain lion terrorizing the Yellowstone region.

**WALTER R. ECHO-HAWK.** *In the Courts of the Conqueror: The 10 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided.* Fulcrum. Trade Paperback, \$24.95, [www.fulcrum-books.com](http://www.fulcrum-books.com).

The book about 10 Supreme Court cases and their legacy has been reissued in trade paperback.

**LARRY W. GREENLY.** *Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot.* Junebug Books. Hardcover, \$19.95, [www.newsouthbooks.com](http://www.newsouthbooks.com).

It's not a Western, but Larry W. Greenly's young-adult biography of this forgotten hero – who flew against the Germans for the Lafayette Flying Corps

– promises to educate and entertain readers young and old.

**ZANE GREY.** *Silvermane: A Western Quartet.* Five Star. Hardcover, 188 pages, \$25.95, [www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar](http://www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar).

Four restored stories, most from the 1920s and 1930s, written by one of the best-known Western writers today, more than 70 years after his death. The title story focuses on two Mormon mustangers after a wild stallion. This collection includes an introduction by Jon Tuska.



**RUTH McLAUGHLIN.** *Bound Like Grass: A Memoir from the Western High Plains.* University of Oklahoma Press. Trade Paperback, 184 pages, \$16.95, [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

The winner of the Montana Book Award, Ruth McLaughlin's memoir of life on an isolated wheat and cattle farm, originally published in 2010, has been reprinted as a trade paperback.

**DAVID J. MURRAH.** *C.C. Slaughter: Rancher, Banker, Baptist.* University of Oklahoma Press. Trade Paperback, 198 pages, \$19.95, [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

This biography of one of Texas's most famous ranchers, originally published in 1981 by the University of Texas Press, examines the life of a man who made his brand on more than just cattle. Although Slaughter was one of the first West Texans to use barbed wire and windmills, and introduced new cattle breeds, he also helped found banks, Dallas's Baylor Hospital and was a major supporter of Baylor University.

**JOHN D. NESBITT.** *Field Work.* RR Productions. Trade Paperback, eBook, 183 pages, \$7.95, \$1.99, [www.johndnesbitt.com](http://www.johndnesbitt.com).

Seven previously published short stories and novellas from the three-time Spur winner can be found in this anthology. All of the mystery/noir works are set in rural California between 1964 and 1970.