

## FICTION

### C.J. BOX

#### *Wolf Pack: A Joe Pickett Novel*

G.P. Putnam's Sons  
Hardcover, 384 pages, \$27  
Penguin.com

Three people (and a dog) are murdered in Arizona. We don't know why, only that the scene is marked by its viciousness. Meanwhile, Joe Pickett, who has been reinstated as a Wyoming game warden, is communicating with his counterpart in another district. It seems wildlife, weakened from the winter, are being chased by drones until they die. But when the game wardens try to trace who is doing it, they run up against the Department of Justice and the FBI. Being told to stop investigating does not go over well. And meanwhile, the wolf pack gathers. This fast-moving story, maybe the best of the Joe Pickett novels, is edge-of-your-seat exciting, the characters are well-developed, the scene setting is on point, and the conclusion is completely fitting.

– Carol Crigger

### JAMES CLAY

#### *Devil's Due*

Self-published  
Trade paperback, 117 pages, \$4.99  
Amazon.com

Rance Dehner, James Clay's straight-shooting Old West detective, is back in action. This time Dehner arrives in a town called Devil's Due, where Beau Rawlins rules the roost and Dehner finds himself trying to stop a range war between cattlemen and nesters. Yep, it's a plot as old as Westerns, but Clay writes with an easy style, is adept at describing gunfights and the climax proves to be quite a shocker. Fans of Clay's series, or fans of old-fashioned Westerns, will enjoy the ride.

### ROBERT J. CONLEY

#### *Plastic Indian: A Collection of Stories and Other Writings*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Trade paperback, 158 pages, \$19.95  
OUPress.com

Before his death in 2014, Owen Wis-

ter Award recipient Robert J. Conley won three Spur Awards, was chosen Oklahoma Writer of the Year and was inducted into the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Western Writers Hall of Fame in 2015. His widow, Evelyn L. Conley, has collected speeches, unpublished short stories and a short play that reveal the Cherokee historian, novelist and raconteur at his finest. Some of the stories are contemporary – “Plastic Indian” is hilarious – while a few are historical. All showcase Conley's matter-of-fact prose and his ability to often blend comedy, pathos, longing and understanding.

### CAROL WRIGHT CRIGGER

#### *Five Days, Five Dead*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 282 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

China Bohannon is one tough lady. Feminine and proper, she is resourceful and independent. Though the other operatives at the Doyle & Howe Detective Agency consider China an office fixture, she proves her mettle in investigating kidnapping and murder, the .32 in her pocket and faithful dog, Nimble, close by. While the male detectives are away, China wrestles with the baffling disappearance of a woman whose sister appears alternately fearful, suspicious and unconcerned. When the kidnapper demands ransom, China and her partners, after they return, must decide whether the perpetrator will exchange the hostage for money or whether he intends other, perhaps deadly, results. An intriguing, light murder mystery, if murder can be called light.

– Harlan Hague

### JAMES D. CROWNOVER

#### *Sheep Pen Cañon*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 324 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Award-winner James Crownover writes dialogue with the best of them. It's clear, crisp, spot-on and delightful. *Sheep Pen Cañon*, however, jumps from scene to scene without using a clutch. It feels more like an event mishmash, the writing style taking leaps of faith. How

can the main character ride out in the middle of the night, traveling for less than an hour, then track down the bad guys? In the dark? And who exactly is the ghostly “Bigfoot”? That mystery is never solved clearly. Despite the glitches and head-scratchers in this story, Crownover's story is interesting.

– Melody Groves

### BUCK EDWARDS

#### *Shootout at Lost River*

Self-published  
Paperback, 197 pages, \$10  
Amazon.com

No. 6 in the Marshal Boone Crowe series set in Wyoming, *Shootout at Lost River* is a traditional mix of gunfighters, lawmen, cowboys, miners, rustlers, ranchers and standard bad guys.

### W. MICHAEL FARMER

#### *The Last Warrior*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 380 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Michael Farmer brings the voice of the Mescalero Apache to life. The story of Yellow Boy, a character throughout this series, reveals turn-of-last-century Apache faced with changing life styles. It tells of determined ignorance from autocratic government overseers, but also the determination of the Apache to maintain their way of life and their dignity. Farmer's attention to land as a character, drawn with insightful clarity, puts the reader *there*. My only criticism is the pace. Yellow Boy is precise in his thoughts, actions and deeds. He rarely changes speeds, which makes the reading a bit plodding. A chase scene near the end perks things up.

– Melody Groves

### MARCUS GALLOWAY

#### *Snake Oil: It All Comes Around*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 264 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Professor Henry Whiteoak will keep you wondering if he is an outlaw, killer, hero, snake-oil salesman or all of them. The story will keep you guessing as bounty hunters and lawmen hunt Whiteoak, who is hiding in plain

sight. Whiteoak saves the life of Dylan Garviss, who was wounded robbing the Broker and Exchange building. Feeling obligated, Dylan, an old friend and Danielle, who has known Whiteoak a long time, try to protect the professor and his colorful wagon. Whiteoak becomes devastated when he hears that he killed an innocent child in one of his robberies and pursues the truth to find out how the child died. This novel keeps your interest.

– Lowell F. Volk

**CHARLOTTE HINGER**  
*The Healer's Daughter*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 405 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Steal away to freedom, to own land, to have the law work for you instead of against you. "Steal away to Nicodemus" and have it all. Bethany Herbert, a young black woman, does just that. Weary of caring for a mentally ill white woman, Bethany knows if she doesn't leave while her health allows, she will die in the South. Unfortunately for her and other Southern transplants, the promised land of Nicodemus, Kansas, turns into nothing more than caves dug into the hills, but it is home. With many mouths to feed and not even old leather to boil, survival the first winter is iffy. With grit and determination, the small band of former slaves build a life of freedom. Charlotte Hinger has delivered a compelling story of endurance and backbone.

– Sandy Whiting

**BONNIE HOBBS**  
*Mollyfar*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 393 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Intent on surviving at any cost, teenager Molly, through no fault of her own, finds herself in a back-alley crib. Enter Wade Devlin, a boy Molly's age whose bitter father sends his only son to the girl in order to "make him a man." Instantly smitten, he decides to wed the beautiful girl, but Molly puts him off. Miss Heeshi, an older "lady of the night," rescues Molly from starvation during a hard winter, and Heeshi's home-saloon becomes a refuge where women can pursue their dreams of marriage or simply survive in a safe place. The story circles around too much with

many side stories thrown in, and gratuitous sex is sprinkled throughout.

– Sandy Whiting

**JIM JONES**  
*The Lights of Cimarrón*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 306 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Tommy Stallings becomes sheriff of Colfax County, New Mexico after the former sheriff retires. Stallings inherits the problem of outlaws, who are brutally killing ranchers and their hands while stealing their livestock. Being new to the job, Stallings turns to the former sheriff for help and advice on how to capture the outlaws – and to clear him after being framed of taking a bribe. Jim Jones does an excellent job showing the humanistic side of Stallings as he learns and grows.

– Lowell F. Volk

**LINELL JEPPSEN and JEB ROSEBROOK**  
*No Man's Land*

Wolfpack Publishing  
Trade paperback, 196 pages, \$8.99  
WolfpackPublishing.com

Weary Civil War veteran Jack Ballard drifts into a Texas community and rides right into a searing drought, a land feud, romance, hard cases, fistfights and gunfights. Linell Jeppsen, best known for her science-fiction and fantasy fiction, and screenwriter-novelist Jeb Rosebrook, who died last summer, deliver a plot as old as dirt, and while this novel won't score as high as *Junior Bonner*, Rosebrook's masterpiece screenplay, the easy writing style will satisfy fans of traditional Westerns.

**MICHAEL MCGARRITY**  
*Residue: A Kevin Kerney Novel*

W.W. Norton & Company  
Hardcover, 384 pages, \$25.95  
WWNorton.com

You can always depend on a Michael McGarrity novel to start off with a bang, and this one is no exception. When the skeleton of a young woman is discovered, a journal written by the former owner of the burial property leads authorities toward retired police chief Kevin Kerney. The catch is that the woman has been dead 45 years and any witnesses are few and far between. Filled with bad guys and a few good guys, the story is a twisty

page-turner that will keep your attention riveted. However, I found a great deal of suspension of disbelief necessary. Forty-five years and people are supposed to remember what happened on such-and-such a night? Really?

– Carol Crigger

**DAVID C. NOONAN**  
*The Man From Misery*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 268 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

After shooting a 12-year-old girl who is about to be burned to death, Emmet Honeycut is disdained by the town even after he is found not guilty of murder. Saved by Major Kingston, Honeycut's former commander, Honeycut is asked to help Kingston recover his niece, who has been kidnapped to be sold as a slave. That is when the adventure begins that will keep you wondering what will happen next. An entertaining Western with several surprises.

– Lowell F. Volk

**H. LEE PRATT**  
*Meghan's Song*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 367 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

This novel answers the call for expanding the Western genre. A movie company comes to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the mid-1920s to shoot a film starring a local girl who made good in Hollywood. Meghan, the star's married sister, working at a dude ranch, falls for the handsome young director, and the star-crossed drama begins. Add a beautiful Italian woman who also has designs on the director but is also an enforcer for her ruthless uncle who has financed the movie. Meanwhile, a federal agent arrives to investigate an illicit whiskey trade, perhaps implicating Meghan. Suspense builds as a landslide threatens to wipe out the crew that is filming in the backcountry.

– Harlan Hague

**J.M. MITCHELL**  
*Killing Godiva's Horse*

Prairie Plum Press  
Paperback, 441 pages, \$16.95  
PrairiePlumPress.com

Ranger Jack Chastain of the National Park Service is an intriguing and welcome series protagonist. Truly refreshing, this novel contains plots that

involve Western lands rebellion, Kenya, rhino horn poachers, and life in New Mexico. Perhaps those elements make this book unwieldy, but bless J.M. Mitchell for trying. He has taken on a big, international, action-packed plot and it works.

– Edward Massey

**KATHLEEN MORRIS**

*The Lily of the West*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 341 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Inspired by her find of the final resting place of Mary Katherine Haroney in Prescott, Arizona, Kathleen Morris wrote her first historical novel. An orphaned young Kate left her home in Davenport, Iowa, stowed away on a Mississippi riverboat, and forged her way across the American frontier. This novel of Kate's life, written in first person, is based on historical research, letters and the author's excellent imagination. I was moved to tears many times by the story of Kate's love for Doc Holliday and impressed by the vivid detail with which the author painted the story of star-crossed lovers. A new take on the O.K. Corral, from a woman's point of view.

– Linda Jacobs

**JOHN W. RAVAGE**

*Black Star over Hollywood*

Xlibris  
Trade paperback, 228 pages, \$19.99  
Xlibris.com

John Ravage has written extensively on African Americans in the West. This time, Ravage takes the topic for a wild fictional romp through post-Depression era Hollywood. Ted Masters, a gifted dancer/musician from Memphis, Tennessee, leaves the "colored-only" theaters behind (at the advice of Moms Mabley) and heads for Tinsel Town, where he is swept into a vortex of movie moguls in their own minds, all bent on making him Hollywood's first black singing/dancing cowboy. Film buffs will enjoy the behind-camera descriptions and wacky only-in-Hollywood hijinks. There are a lot of characters to keep track of, but *Black Star* serves up a heap of entertainment, along with a reminder of the prejudices suffered by minorities on and offscreen.

– Micki Fuhrman

**DUSTY RICHARDS**

*Zekial*

Trice Press  
Trade Paperback, 251 pages, \$12.99  
OghmaCreative.com

This adventure story is an accurate account of life in the early 1800s. The late Dusty Richards touches on the hard life that the people who lived in the West had to endure just to survive. In this roller-coaster ride, you will grow to hate Grissum McCord for his selfish ways as he hurts others in his quest to recapture Tilly, a runaway slave taken from him by Zekial. Likewise you will develop a strong relationship with Zekial Broome for his protection of Tilly and keeping her safe from McCord. Don't bypass this one.

– Lowell F. Volk



**OLLIE REED JR.**

**W.C. JAMESON**

*In a Large and Lonesome Land*

Alpha Wolf Records, \$14  
JohnDNesbitt.com

This CD – 11 songs and a poem – combines the talents of author, singer-songwriter and past WWA president W.C. Jameson with those of former WWA board member

John D. Nesbitt, a Spur winner for novels and short story.

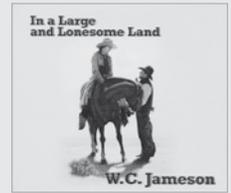
Jameson arranged all the songs and lends his fine voice to the singing and the reciting. But it is Nesbitt, breaking new trails, who wrote the lyrics and the poem. What's apparent is that Nesbitt handles words as beautifully in songwriting as he does in fiction.

This is from "Lone Winter":

*How the dreams died and withered in the grip of despair  
A shroud on the heart without candle or prayer.*

The root of despair here is lost love, and love or the losing of it provides the topic for most of the album's offerings, including my favorites – "Lonesome Jim" and "Old Rope Corral."

*I relax in the company of two faithful horses  
Munching oats in the old rope corral  
Well, the hope never dies that we'll find love again  
Though the future we cannot foretell.*



**THE COWBOY WAY**

*Go West*

Cowboy Way Music, \$15  
CowboyWayMusic.com

Summed up by the title song, this 13-selection CD, the second by the New Mexico trio of Mariam Funke and Spur-winning songwriters Doug Figgs and Jim Jones, is a theme album about the various circumstances that sent people into the American West.

Some sought refuge from poverty and oppression in Scotland ("It's a Cowboy I Will Be," written by Jones, and "What Price Freedom" by Jones and Michael Coy) or from doomed love in Ireland ("My Irish Flower" by Figgs).

Some were seeking quick riches ("Fool's Gold" by Jones) or peace after war ("Goin' Home" by Figgs).

Some, like the Georgia farm boy in Figgs's "I Make My Living in the Saddle," were just looking for a better way of life.

*I'm out here pushing cows  
I sure don't miss that mule and plow  
History you can sing along with.*

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**E-mail Ollie at [oredjr@gmail.com](mailto:oredjr@gmail.com) and send CDs to him at P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, NM 87048.**



## GRETCHEN SKIVINGTON

### *Echevarria*

Center for Basque Studies Press  
Paperback, 246 pages, \$20  
UNR.edu/basque-studies/cbs-press

An insider's view of Basque culture in Nevada, *Echevarria* is a complex novel with disparate characters: young Basque girls and broad-hipped women, hard-boiled Basque men – both businessmen and herders; Chinese, Mexican, Shoshone, Paiute. Told over a century in decade increments – beginning in 1902, the one constant element is the connection to the Echevarria Basque Hotel Saloon and Restaurante. In this first novel, Gretchen Skivington displays a unique blending of narrative as she incorporates newspaper clippings, images carved upon trees by Basque herders, poetry and playwright scripting.

– Candy Moulton

## RICHARD S. WHEELER

### *No Name*

CreateSpace  
Trade paperback, 328 pages, \$20  
Amazon.com

In 1880s Montana, a drifter finds himself in the wrong town, barely escapes getting hanged and decides to stick around to figure out just what the heck is going on and how he can turn the tables on the bad guys, who are plentiful. This sounds like a traditional Western. But how many horse operas are set in a town called Throatlatch that is transformed into New Dawn once the railroad arrives? Or has a female character named Carolina Clemson? Or a hero called No Name. It's more Akira

Kurosawa than Zane Grey, told splendidly by six-time Spur winner Richard S. Wheeler, who died February 24.

## ETHAN J. WOLFE

### *Comanche Sunrise: A Youngblood Brothers Western*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 307 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

When a grieving Comanche warrior, now living on the reservation, takes to the warpath against the hated Texans, Judge Isaac Parker sends two brothers – Jack Youngblood, a federal marshal, and Emmet Youngblood, the reservation's police chief – to catch the warrior. Ethan Wolfe might want to buy a few good history and geography books before he tackles another novel like this. While Larry McMurry never let history get in the way of his stories, Wolfe is no McMurry, although Wolfe has an easy-to-read style. Indiscriminate fans of traditional Westerns might not object, but readers would be better off seeking out one of the late Douglas C. Jones's brilliant novels such as *Gone the Dreams and Dancing, Season of Yellow Leaf, Winding Stair* or *The Search for Temperance Moon*.

## NONFICTION

### SALLY HARPER BATES (editor)

#### *Facing West – Voices of Western Women*

Arizona Cowboy Connection  
Paperback, 208 pages, \$15  
ArizonaCowboyConnection.com

This is a valuable American treasure, a collection of articles, short stories

and poems by 51 women, including first-time writers and award-winning authors. Common themes include love of God, country, family, friendship and hard work. Amy Hale Auker writes, "There is no cowboy glamor around here, no slim waisted jeans or bling on my shirt. I haven't had a shower in six days." Betty Burlingham recounts the birth of a child – after her water broke, waiting for a livestock delivery and making coffee for the driver before heading to the hospital. There are funny stories like beheading a rattlesnake when he threatens your kids (Roni Harper). Later, that serpent became a tasty dinner. Savor each story, each poem. Be transported to the authors' worlds. It's a history we should cherish and pass down to future generations.

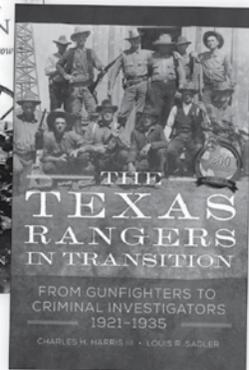
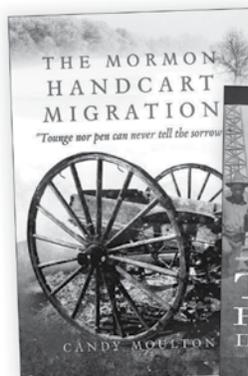
– Denise F. McAllister

## THOMAS C. BICKNELL and CHUCK PARSONS

### *Ben Thompson: Portrait of a Gunfighter*

University of North Texas Press  
Hardcover, 665 pages, \$34.95  
UNTPress.unt.edu

A Texas journalist called Ben Thompson "perfectly fearless," and Bat Masterson said that "it is doubtful if in his time there was another man living who equaled him with a pistol in a life and death struggle." Thomas C. Bicknell, who has studied and written about Thompson for years, has teamed with Chuck Parsons, a renown historian of Texas and gunfighters, to produce a monumental biography of the gunman – the first book-length study of Thompson since Floyd B. Streeter's *Ben Thomp-*



### THE MORMON HANDCART MIGRATION

"Toungue nor pen can never tell the sorrow"

By Candy Moulton  
\$29.95 HARDCOVER · 296 PAGES  
32 B&W ILLUS.

In 1856 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints employed a new means of getting converts to Great Salt Lake City who could not afford the journey otherwise. They began using handcarts, thus initiating a five-year experiment that has become a legend in the annals of Mormon and North American migration. Now, Candy Moulton tells of their successes, travails, and tragedies in an epic retelling of a legendary story.

### THE TEXAS RANGERS IN TRANSITION

From Gunfighters to Criminal  
Investigators, 1921-1935

By Charles H. Harris III  
\$34.95 HARDCOVER · 656 PAGES  
25 B&W ILLUS.

Newly rich in oil money, and all the trouble it could buy, Texas in the years following World War I underwent momentous changes—and those changes propelled the transformation of the state's storied Rangers. Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler explore this important but relatively neglected period in the Texas Rangers' history in this book, a sequel to their award-winning *The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade, 1910-1920*.



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son, *Man with a Gun* (1957). The authors follow Thompson's often deadly life – and his relationships with a who's-who of Western figures (Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Wild Bill Hickok and John Wesley Hardin, to name a few) – from his service with the Confederacy and Mexico Emperor Maximilian to his life as gambler, gunman and lawman to his murder at age 40 in 1884 at the Vaudeville Theatre in San Antonio, Texas.

**BRENDA CLEM BLACK**

*Black & Kiddo: A True Story of Dust, Determination, and Cowboy Dreams*

Et Alia Press  
Trade paperback, 330 pages, \$17.95  
EtAliaPress.com

A daughter-in-law tells the story of her husband's parents and their unique love story. For sure, there were troubles and tragedies to endure, but this marriage of a singing cowboy with a feisty woman might be compared to his wedding present to her: a Pueblo wedding vase with two spouts connected by braided handle. Apt country-music narratives introduce the chapters. Their letters to each other, plus diary entries about their daily lives, enrich the story and make the total package an easy, enjoyable read.

– Lynn Bueling

**DENISE I. BOSSY** (editor)

*The Yamasee Indians: From Florida to South Carolina*

University of Nebraska Press  
Hardcover, 348 pages, \$75  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

For years, about the only history books dealing with the Yamasee Indians traversed the 1715-1754 war between European settlers and the Yamasees – a war, editor Denise Bossy writes – “that nearly destroyed South Carolina.” Bossy has put together a collection of academic essays by leading scholars that approaches the Yamasees as a people and does not just tell about the war that takes their name. Their history and identity are complex, and this anthology is an important addition to American Indian studies.

**DON BULLIS**

*New Mexico Historical Chronology: From the Beginning ...*

Rio Grande Books  
Hardcover, paperback, 1,028 pages,  
\$68.95, \$58.95  
RioGrandeBooks.com

Don Bullis starts his chronology with the discovery of dinosaur bones that date to 200 million years ago and doesn't rein in until 2017. In between, this hefty volume, a natural companion to two earlier Bullis tomes, *New Mexico Historical Encyclopedia* and *New Mexico Historical Biographies*, touches on significant dates in the lives of colorful New Mexico figures such as Kit Carson, Billy the Kid, Elfego Baca and rancher/author Agnes Morley Cleaveland and also on intriguing incidents such as the mysterious 1947 crash that would become known as The Roswell Incident. The discovery of obscure facts, however, makes this book as much fun for the general reader as it is a valuable asset to serious students of the American West. How many of you knew that Glenn Strange, who portrayed Sam the bartender in the *GunsMoke* TV series, was born in Weed, New Mexico? Heck, how many of you knew there is a Weed, New Mexico?

– Ollie Reed Jr.

**TOM CLAVIN**

*Wild Bill: The True Story of the American Frontier's First Gunfighter*

St. Martin's Press  
Hardcover, 283 pages, \$29.95  
us.macmillan.com/smp/

This historian's approach offers a unique insight into the character of James Butler Hickok. A child of an abolitionist Illinois farm family, he was brought to public attention in a magazine article that gave birth to numerous dime novels and fictionalized biographies. The result was his public persona was elevated to mythic proportions. Hickok's life as a crack shot, a spy and scout for the Union Army, an effective lawman, a successful gambler, a terrible actor and a lifelong womanizer are documented. Tom Clavin's research also reveals Hickok's insecurities and his decline as eyesight and natural defenses failed, resulting in his assassination. This is a historical biography worth reading.

– Vernon Schmid

**DANIEL DAVIS**

*Across the Continent: The Union Pacific Photographs of Andrew J. Russell*

University of Utah Press  
Paperback, 195 pages, \$24.95  
UofUPress.com

Andrew J. Russell is best known for

the iconic photograph celebrating the driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869. Daniel Davis's book is a biography of Russell, but also a history of photography in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and an account of the building of the first transcontinental railroad. During the Civil War, he photographed the Union's military railroad and captured images of carnage on the battlefields. After the war, Russell became official photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad, which used his photos to entice investors. Russell's photographs are featured prominently in the book, but, for comparison purposes, photos taken by his competitors and comrades are also included. The volume contains a comprehensive “Catalog of Russell's Union Pacific Photographs.” Invaluable for researchers and delightful reading for lovers of Western lore.

– Robert Lee Murphy

**F. ANDREW DOWDY** (editor)

*Wanderer on the American Frontier: The Travels of John Maley, 1808-1813*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 244 pages, \$27  
OUPress.com

The first half of John Maley's journal surfaced in 2012. Its second half had long resided at Yale. A firsthand account of the West so soon after the Louisiana Purchase would seem priceless, but hold on: the poorly educated Maley wrote poorly. As it turns out, the first half of his journal is much superior to the second half. Seeking business opportunities, Maley went up the Wabash River in search of gold, to Missouri's lead mines near St. Genevieve, and to Missouri's crown jewel, Big Spring. The second half details Maley's trip up the Red River into southern Oklahoma, but the account is riddled with errors and might be somewhat fictionalized. Still, Dowdy's incisive scholarship points out Maley's flaws and gives us a startling look at the pristine frontier.

– John Mort

**MARY BUDD FLITNER**

*My Ranch, Too: A Wyoming Memoir*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 232 pages, \$24.95  
OUPress.com

This author made me remember my own winter chores when she wrote, “I have on all the warm clothes I own

and still it won't be enough." Short of money but long on grit, she and her husband drove their herd to the hay stacks they'd purchased when they couldn't afford the trucking expense to bring it home. Mary Budd Flitner's well-written memoir gives many examples of her and Stan's tough, shrewd will to thrive in a harsh world and maintain the life her great-grandfather started with intention to pass it on to the next generation. The book is well worth a few hours of armchair time.

— Lynn Bueling

**MICHAEL J. HIGHTOWER**  
*1889: The Boomer Movement, The Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City*

University of Oklahoma Press  
 Trade paperback, 328 pages, \$24.95  
 OUPress.com

Independent historian Michael J. Hightower does more than chronicle Oklahoma's first land run in 1889, when what had been part of Indian Territory was opened to white settlement. He explains how the land rushes came to be, starting with the relocation of Southeastern Indian tribes and continuing with Indians' feuds with white cattlemen who leased pastures for

grazing. Hightower also paints a portrait of political maneuvering long before he gets into the Boomers and Sooners (both names for settlers who tried to claim homesteads before lands were officially available). Hightower calls his book "a story far more nuanced than a century-plus of mythmaking has conditioned us to accept," and it's certainly an important addition to the history of Oklahoma and the West.

**DOUG HOCKING**  
*The Black Legend: George Bascom, Cochise, and the Start of the Apache Wars*

TwoDot Books  
 Hardcover, 373 pages, \$24.95  
 GlobePequot.com

Was open confrontation between the Army and the Apaches in the American Southwest inevitable? It probably was. But it took one spark to actually ignite the conflict, and Lieutenant George Bascom, in his zeal to accomplish his assigned mission, has long been saddled with the blame for starting the 25-year war between the two forces. In his well-researched book, Doug Hocking explores the facts, myths, and participants involved in the flashpoint incident that came to be known as the "Bascom

Affair" in a reasoned, professional manner. Some readers might not totally agree with Hocking's conclusions, but this book is a must read for anyone interested in the complete story of the Apache Wars.

— Rod Timanus

**JEAN JOHNSON**  
*Grit and Gold: The Death Valley Jayhawkers of 1849*

University of Nevada Press  
 Hardcover, 272 pages, \$34.95  
 UNevadaPress.com

The story of the Jayhawkers' journey through Death Valley illustrates the dilemma of overlanders in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century who reached California's Sierra Nevada too late in the season, the folly of believing tales and the risks of breaking new trail. Jean Johnson, likely the foremost authority on early Death Valley, has written a meticulously researched volume, based largely on diaries and reminiscences, fragments of which are often inserted into the narrative. While useful, the general reader might find disruptive these frequent insertions and occasional parenthetical identification of sources. Johnson has gone to great lengths in personally going onsite to identify places mentioned in primary sources and the

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trails the Jayhawkers followed. Photographs and excellent maps enrich the narrative. Today's trail enthusiasts will find the volume a useful source.

– Harlan Hague

### PRISCILLA LONG

*The Writer's Portable Mentor: A Guide to Art, Craft, and the Writing Life, 2nd Edition*

University of New Mexico Press  
Trade paperback, 340 pages, \$24.95  
UNMPress.com

If you suffer from writer's block, try Priscilla Long's exercises such as journal-keeping and making lists of great words. She describes common structures, accompanying these with brilliant examples such as Lee Zacharias's "two-strand," non-fiction meditation on her morose father, "Buzzards." Long then takes a deep dive into mechanics, showing how to punctuate and the most common ways to organize a paragraph. Her guide to sentence construction is almost revelatory in its description of compound-complex sentences and the use of fragments and phrases. Her unusual meditation on the types of adverbial phrases (manner, comparison, place, time, cause, condition, purpose, and result) will improve anyone's prose. Long concludes with informed, humble chapters on the writing life that may even lift you out of depression.

– John Mort

### JOHN D. McDERMOTT, R. ELI PAUL and SANDRA J. LOWRY

*All Because of a Mormon Cow: Historical Accounts of the Grattan Massacre, 1854-1855*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 222 pages, \$29.95  
OUPress.com

At first impression, this book might seem to be of interest mainly to specialists, but it contains a fascinating example of how messy the historical record can get. The editors offer a succinct account of Lieutenant John Grattan's disastrous meeting with Lakotas regarding a cow that had strayed from a Mormon wagon train into an Indian village. The meeting turned deadly and ended with the deaths of Grattan, an interpreter and 29 soldiers. The event became known as the "Grattan Massacre." After the summary, the editors offer 80 expertly annotated accounts given by eyewitnesses, newspaper stories and government reports as to what happened. The accounts take on an eerie *Rashomon* quality as the stories contradict each other, exaggerate, and perpetuate errors. The book offers a case study in the pitfalls awaiting anyone doing research on a volatile topic and encountering primary sources that tell dramatically different versions.

– Abraham Hoffman

### LEE CLARK MITCHELL

*Late Westerns: The Persistence of a Genre*

University of Nebraska Press  
Hardcover, 318 pages, \$55  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Primarily about films, *Late Westerns* suggests that terms such as "neo-Western" and "post-Western" are meaningless in an evolving genre that has been "neo" and "post" all along. Despite its title, the book begins with an interesting analysis of 1955's *Bad Day at Black Rock*, demonstrating how

APRIL 2019



C. COURTNEY JOYNER

### *The Appaloosa*

Kino Lorber  
Blu-ray, \$29.95,  
KinoLorber.com

Mention Marlon Brando and thoughts and references either go to the landmark firsts of *A Streetcar Named Desire* or



*On the Waterfront* or the later work surrounding *The Godfather*. What rarely enters the conversation are the actor's roles during the 1960s, sometimes *One-Eyed Jacks*, but rarely his "Universal period" of *A Countess from Hong Kong*, *Bedtime Story* (a personal favorite of Brando's) or *The Appaloosa*.

Kino Studio Classics has released *The Appaloosa* (1966) on Blu-ray in a visually stunning new version that demands renewed appreciation of the work of its star, director Sidney J. Furie and especially cinematographer Russell Metty.

Adapted by James Bridges (*Urban Cowboy*) and Roland Kibbee (*Valdez is Coming*) from Robert McLeod's book, the story is a deceptively simple one of how manly pride can corrupt judgment and burn away common sense. It all starts simply enough. Trini (Anjanette Comer) falsely accuses Fletcher (Brando) of accosting her in a church, knowing that Chuy (John Saxon), who bought Trini when she was 15, will try to kill Fletcher. That will give her a chance to escape him. But the attempt fails, and Chuy is humiliated, starting a violent battle of wills between the two men over pride, the woman and Fletcher's beautiful horse.

Brando seems too mannered at first but finds the all-too-human faults that drive Fletcher in his quest to take back his stolen Appaloosa and kill Chuy if he has to. Saxon is Brando's equal in all their scenes, and their arm-wrestling match over a scorpion is a great moment. Comer projects frailty and strength as Trini, but all three actors are supported wonderfully by Emilio Fernandez, Frank Silvera, Rafael Campos and the glorious Miriam Colon.

It is how these performances are captured by Metty's camera that draws us in. Universal's star cinematographer since the 1950s, Metty's work veered from genius (*Touch of Evil*, *Spartacus*) to the ordinary (*Madigan*). By the time of *The Appaloosa*, Metty had established the "house style" for Universal in the 1960s, with every inch of the frame brightly lit, but working with Sidney J. Furie, Metty opts for dappled sunlight and shadows for the interiors and a beautiful pallet of color for the mountain locations.

*The Appaloosa* has often been shuttled aside as part of Brando's "wasted period" but has never deserved that neglect. It's a beautiful film ripe for rediscovery.

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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).

it disrupted the genre at the time. The book then transitions to recent films by comparing Elmore Leonard's 1953 short story, "Three-Ten to Yuma," to the 1957 and 2007 films, showing how each adaptation shifted the genre. Other chapters explore disruptive films such as *Lone Star*, *Brokeback Mountain* and *No Country for Old Men*. Numerous references to authors, screenwriters and cinematographers (in addition to directors) are welcome. But readers might have trouble accepting *A History of Violence* as a Western.

– David Morrell

### TODD ALLIN MORMAN

#### *Many Nations Under Many Gods: Public Land Management and American Indian Sacred Sites*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 258 pages, \$39.95  
OUPress.com

Todd Allin Morman exposes the injustice dealt to American Indians for more than 150 years concerning the protection – or the lack thereof – of sacred and cultural sites. He offers as example a series of controversies involving the Hopi and the San Francisco Peaks in Arizona, Cave Rock and the Washoe Tribe on the Nevada-California border, the Blackfeet and Badger-Two Medicine in Montana and several others. Recent litigation has provided some mixed successes regarding these issues. Consultation and negotiation have resulted in some compromises and a greater understanding among non-Indians of the importance of sacred sites. However, Morman charges that Supreme Court decisions made up until the present day reveal the ignorance of treaties protecting Indian sites. This powerfully written, well-documented work surely will cause teachers, attorneys, politicians and – let's hope – judges to rethink their views on the ongoing discrimination against American Indians.

– Abraham Hoffman

### DAWN NELSON

#### *Family Tree Recipes: Cooking with Cowgirl Uncorked, Volume IV*

Gray Dog Press  
Spiral bound, 129 pages, price not listed  
GrayDogPress.com

You know you're not in for a typical cookbook when the author's introduction says that the genesis for this volume was "a mishap with a bottle of apple

moonshine and a batch of cookies." Dawn Nelson provides recipes for mainstays "Cowboy Biscuits" and "Lemon Pound Cake" and off-the-wall items such as "Smashed Grasshopper Pie," "Roast Road Kill Chicken" and "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound Cookies." Short "Western Facts" are sprinkled throughout for those who don't cook or prefer to sip "Dandelion Wine" while reading about the "Healing Power of Alcohol."

### ROBERT NOTT

#### *The Films of Budd Boetticher*

McFarland & Company  
Paperback, 192 pages, \$39.95  
McFarlandBooks.com

Robert Nott, a diligent writer of several books focusing on Western film stars such as Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea and Audie Murphy, as well as a superb biography of John Garfield, has written a new book on the work of iconic Western director Budd Boetticher. Boetticher made a series of hard, clean, Western masterpieces starring Randolph Scott in the 1950s. Boetticher also led a remarkable life filled with adventures worthy of his films. Nott examines these films and that life with care and authority, brings a few of Boetticher's whoppers back down to real life and makes clear that Boetticher's place in the pantheon of great Western directors is justified. Unfortunately, many of Boetticher's other films failed to contain magic, and a reader might be excused for skimming the sections on dogs like *Killer Shark* and *The Wolf Hunters* in order to concentrate on the unforgettable pictures Boetticher made with Scott from 1956 to 1960.

– Jim Beaver

### BILL O'NEAL

#### *John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King*

Eakin Press  
Trade paperback, 164 pages, \$19.95  
Eakin Press

The state historian of Texas traces the life and times of one of the West's most famous cattle barons: John Chisum, likely known to most Americans as the subject of a 1970 hit – and highly fictionalized – John Wayne Western or to history buffs as a figure in New Mexico's Lincoln County War. But Chisum had made a name for himself long before Billy the Kid entered his life, and Bill O'Neal gives readers his typical just-

the-facts, no-nonsense approach. Few biographies have been published about Chisum, so O'Neal's slim but thorough narrative fills the bill, although there are far too many spelling errors.

### JAMES E. SHEROW

#### *The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 338 pages, \$29.95  
OUPress.com

Finally, a book about Abilene, Kansas, the cattle industry and the Chisholm Trail in which the only Hickok mentioned is S.A., a San Antonio sheepherder. In this detailed and fascinating account, James E. Sherow, a history professor at Kansas State University, focuses not on cowboys and violence, but on the business elements, with a healthy dose of ecology and weather, in detailing how McCoy's vision and stockyards helped transform wind-blown prairie into a business hub and an American legend.

– Johnny D. Boggs

### JOHN DARRIN TENNEY

#### *Baseball in Territorial Arizona: A History, 1863-1912*

McFarland & Company  
Trade paperback, 190 pages, \$29.95  
McFarlandBooks.com

John Darrin Tenney chronicles America's Pastime, Arizona-style – games, clubs, cities, stadiums and a few players – in this uneven narrative. Tenney spends a whole chapter debating the merits of a story that had members of the Boston Red Stockings serving as ringers for a Prescott team in 1876 before concluding that it was all a ruse. Then in the second paragraph of the next chapter notes that "the heralded Boston Red Stockings assisted the Champions of Prescott ...." Too often he comes across as a fan and not a historian. Still, readers might find a few nuggets, and the book well illustrates how baseball helped induce civic pride.

– Johnny D. Boggs

### STEPHANY WILKES

#### *Raw Material: Working Wool in the West*

Oregon State University Press  
Trade paperback, 312 pages, \$18.95  
OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

Reviewing a book that awakens boyhood memories of working with sheep is a welcomed read. It doesn't disappoint. Stephany Wilkes earned certification as a sheep shearer and brings her

experiences of learning the craft to life with rough-and-tumble examples. Her education started with a beginners' knitting class where she discovered little domestic wool yarn was available. Why? To find the answer, she immersed herself in the wool industry, from production to the marketing of finished products. Horatio Alger stories come to mind with people of humble beginnings rising to the top.

– Lynn Bueling

**WILLIAM F. WILLINGHAM**  
*Grit and Ink: An Oregon Family's Adventures in Newspapering, 1908-2018*

Oregon State University Press  
 Trade paperback, 224 pages, \$19.95  
 OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

The lifeblood of small-town America is its local newspaper. In *Grit and Ink*, William F. Willingham offers a rich historical saga through which to view the tumultuous times in the Pacific Northwest during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and beyond by profiling the Aldrich, Forrester, Bedford and Brown families and the newspapers they owned. Their individual stories are enormously compelling for historians and general readers. It all began in 1904, when recent college graduate Edwin Burton Aldrich joined the *East Oregonian* newspaper in Pendleton as a reporter. During the '20s, the paper looked downriver 300 miles to buy the *Astoria Budget* in the budding seaport. Eventually, newspapers in nine other locations in Oregon and Washington were acquired by the EO Media Group. Willingham, a native of Pendleton and respected historian, presents a view both intimate and panoramic.

– Larry Len Peterson

**PLAYS**

**RED SHUTTLEWORTH**

*1960: Trinidad, California; 1961: Beach, North Dakota; 1962: St. Regis, Montana; 1963: Prescott, Arizona; 1964: Burns, Oregon; 1965: Thermopolis, Wyoming; 1966: Wheeler, Washington; 1967: Wendover, Utah; 1968: Cozad, Nebraska; 1969: Gregory, South Dakota*

Bunchgrass Press  
 Chapbooks, no prices listed  
 PoetRedshuttleWorth.blogspot.com

Red Shuttleworth's "Americana West" series of 100 short plays and monologues set in small Western towns

has reached the 1960s when times are a-changing ... where teenage girls recreate the *Enola Gay's* A-bomb run, drunk on Coca-Cola in an old Utah airplane hanger ... where a routine checkup in South Dakota leads to blows between an old doctor and his older patient ... where a bus driver plays cop and interrogates a punk teenager about a possible murder during a Montana snowstorm ... where an aging prostitute re-examines her life in Washington ... and where an Oregon bartender learns from a patron the peculiarities about the Widow Collins. A collection filled with humor, pathos and dry Western wit.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**JUVENILE**

**S.J. DAHLSTROM**  
*Black Rock Brothers*

Paul Dry Books  
 Trade paperback, 210 pages, \$9.95  
 PaulDryBooks.com

Thirteen-year-old Wilder Good lives in rural Colorado. He accidentally breaks an Indian lance point that has been in his family for generations. Wilder dreams of returning the broken pieces of the lance point to Black Rock Bluffs, a mountain where obsidian can be found. He makes a list of 11 essential items needed for his quest. His parents allow him to go only if he takes his friends, Big and Corndog, along. Corndog is a foster kid who is obsessed with Boy Scouts. Big is the pastor's son in the church they attend. This family-friendly story is about kids who use their wilderness skills to achieve a difficult goal. An excellent book for middle-aged readers.

– Candace Simar

**M.L. HERRING and JUDITH L. LI**  
*Ellie's Strand: Exploring the Edge of the Pacific*

Oregon State University Press  
 Paperback, 112 pages, \$17.95  
 OSUPress.OregonState.edu

In this sequel to *Ellie's Log* and *Ricky's Atlas*, Ellie and her friend Ricky join other volunteers on a stretch of Oregon coast for a one-day beach cleanup. In addition to making new friends and picking up garbage, the pair learns amazing facts about marine flora and fauna. They collect treasures like agates and a bottle which floated all the way

from Japan, and they discover evidence of an ocean in need of its own global-scale cleanup. With charming drawings, the book emphasizes ocean conservation and environmental issues.

– Rocky Gibbons

**BOOK NOTES**

**ANTHONY ANELLA and MARK C. CHILDS**

*Imagine a City that Remembers: The Albuquerque Rephotography Project*

University of New Mexico Press  
 Paperback, 162 pages, \$34.95  
 UNMPress.com

Expanding on a series first published in the now-defunct *Albuquerque* (New Mexico) *Tribune* in 1998 and 1999, authors Anthony Anella and Mark C. Childs use historic and contemporary photographs in an attempt "to foster respect for Albuquerque's natural and cultural heritage ...." The essays and photographs were displayed in an exhibit, *Never Say Good-Bye: The Albuquerque Rephotographic Survey Project*, at the Albuquerque Museum in 2000.

**AMY ESSINGTON**

*The Integration of the Pacific Coast League: Race and Baseball on the West Coast*

University of Nebraska Press  
 Trade paperback, 161 pages, \$19.95  
 NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Most baseball desegregation books study Jackie Robinson and 1947, when integration began in the major leagues. Focusing on the years 1948 to 1952 – but going as far back as the early 1900s – Amy Essington details the policies, teams and players during the integration of the minor-league Pacific Coast League, the first league, minor or major, in which every team had "a player of color on its roster during the regular season."

**FRANK LESLIE**

*Death Wilds a Henry .44*

Five Star Publishing  
 Hardcover, 318 pages, \$25.95  
 Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Two more novellas from prolific Peter Brandvold, writing under his Frank Leslie pen name, that feature his fast-shooting, sexually active hero Mike Sartain, known as The Revenger. For fans of edgy, shoot-'em-ups.