

A note on reviews

Most book reviews in this issue are condensed versions of reviews of current WWA members' books published in *Roundup* between October 2018 and June 2019. Staff reviewers include: Stan "Tex" Banash, Johnny D. Boggs, Jim Beaver, Irene Bennett Brown, Lynn Bueling, Tom Carpenter, Thomas D. Claggett, Carol Crigger, James A. Crutchfield, Kirk Ellis, Glenn Frankel, Micki Fuhrman, James J. Griffin, William Groneman III, Melody Groves, Harlan Hague, Charlotte Hinger, Doug Hocking, Abraham Hoffman, Linda Jacobs, Gregory Lalire, Gail L. Jenner, Gregory Lalire, Jean A. Lukesh, Bill Markley, Milana Marsenich, Edward Massey, Matthew P. Mayo, Denise F. McAllister, Ann McCord, Monty McCord, Robert D. McKee, Phil Mills Jr., David Morrell, James McGrath Morris, John Mort, Candy Moulton, Robert Lee Murphy, Larry Len Peterson, Richard Prosch, Ollie Reed Jr., Don Reeves, Vicky J. Rose, Stuart Rosebrook, Sandra K. Sagala, Nancy B. Samuelson, Vernon Schmid, Anne Schroeder, Cowboy Mike Searles, Candace Simar, Deanne Stillman, Larry D. Sweazy, Rod Timanus, Loyd Uglow, Cynthia Vannoy, Lori Van Pelt, Lowell F. Volk, Sandy Whiting, R.G. Yoho, Michael Zimmer and the late Randy Lee Eickhoff.

PLAYS

RED SHUTTLEWORTH

1930: Long Creek, Oregon; 1931: Red Desert, Wyoming; 1932: Modena, Utah; 1933: Elberton, Washington; 1934: Rulo, Nebraska; 1935: Strool, South Dakota; 1936: Carrizosa, New Mexico; 1937: Hoxie, Kansas; 1938: Hominy, Oklahoma; 1939: Palisade, Nevada; 1940: Bryan, Texas; 1941: Sunbeam, Colorado; 1942: Boise, Idaho; 1943: Kief, North Dakota; 1944: San Francisco, California; 1945: Glentana, Montana; 1946: Springerville, Arizona; 1947: Wagontire, Oregon; 1948: Hulett, Wyoming; 1949: Garrison, Utah; 1950: Adrian, Washington; 1951: Lincoln, Nebraska; 1952: Blunt, South Dakota; 1953: Socorro, New Mexico; 1954: Ulysses, Kansas; 1955: Vici, Oklahoma; 1956: Ely, Nevada; 1957: Weatherford, Texas; 1958: Sterling, Colorado; 1959: Bruneau, Idaho; 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; 1970: Wagon Mound, New Mexico; 1971: Liberal,

Kansas; 1972: Hobart, Oklahoma; 1973: Gerlach, Nevada; 1974: Plainview, Texas; 1975: Glenwood Springs, Colorado; 1976: Rattlesnake Station, Idaho; 1977: Devils Den, California; 1978: Hettinger, North Dakota; 1979: Missoula, Montana

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 presents readers with an Osage Indian confronting the president of a failing bank during the Great Depression to a middle-aged divorcee walking around Liberal, Kansas, in an astronaut suit in the 1970s. Filled with humor, pathos and dry Western wit, these plays range from theater of the absurd to touching portraits of small-town America – a grim, honest look at the West told through a poet's voice.

JUVENILE

FRANCIE M. BERG

Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains: The Last Great Hunts and Saving the Buffalo

Dakota Buttes Visitors Council
Hardcover, 256 pages, \$34.95
HettingerND.com

The winner of this year's Spur for best juvenile nonfiction is a superb achievement. It covers everything about buffalo you can imagine and some things you hadn't even imagined – from the development stages of a buffalo bull's horns, to the uses Plains Indians made of different parts of a buffalo's body, to how a buffalo bull would fare in showdowns with Mexican fighting bulls.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Taos Lightning

Center Point Large Print
Hardcover, 316 pages, \$34.95
CenterPointLargePrint.com

When teenager Evan Kendrick's dad is injured after betting his home on winning a cross-country race from Galveston to New England, Evan is forced to ride 1,800 miles on his father's ornery mustang. With quirky characters and a course rooted deep in American history, Johnny D. Boggs proves he's a master of

dialog and setting in the 2019 Spur winner for juvenile fiction.

KARI BOVÉE

Girl With a Gun: An Annie Oakley Mystery

SparkPress
Trade Paperback, 329 pages, \$16.94
GoSparkPress.com

Annie Oakley joins Buffalo Bill's Wild West show after competing against Frank Butler, the show's star. To her dismay, she isn't welcomed by everyone, soon making almost as many enemies as friends. But when her roommate/assistant is murdered, circumstances beg that she investigate. The story moves well and will hold your interest to the end, especially all you Annie Oakley fans.

S.J. DAHLSTROM

Black Rock Brothers

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

Thirteen-year-old Wilder Good 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. This family-friendly story is about kids who use their wilderness skills to achieve a difficult goal. An excellent book for middle-aged readers.

JONI FRANKS (author)
RAQUEL RODRIGUEZ
(illustrator)

Corky Tails: Tales of a Tailless Dog Named Sagebrush: Sagebrush and the Butterfly Creek Flood

Xlibris
Paperback, 54 pages, \$24.99
Xlibris.com

Tiny fairy people called Shuns – a married couple named Acorn and Rainbow and their baby, Termite – are in danger from a terrible storm and flooded Butterfly Creek. Luckily, Sagebrush, the lovable talking Corgi puppy, and his brave and capable human, Young Miss, engage in search and rescue. Attractive illustrations and thoughtful action fulfill the message that "all lives matter."

ALLEN MORRIS JONES

(author and illustrator)

Montana for Kids, The Story of Our State

Bangtail Press

Hardcover, paperback, 48 pages, \$19.95, \$12.59

BangtailPress.com

In this year's Spur winner for illustrated children's book, Montana's great history comes to life, not just for readers who live in Montana, but also for those who visit Montana, want to learn about Montana or simply love Montana. Here are the first peoples, when horses came, bison, Lewis & Clark, mountain men, Indian wars, steamboats, miners, the railroad, homesteaders, vigilantes and ranchers.

JOHN D. NESBITT

Castle Butte

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 257 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Alden Clare is left to care for both family land – on the verge of foreclosure – and their ailing, alcoholic father. Alden's girlfriend takes up with his best friend. Then Cash and Alden's ne'er-do-well brother, Grant, join a rough gang. When Cash and Grant are murdered, Alden is drawn into the mystery. John D. Nesbitt's lean, vivid prose delivers an engrossing, exciting tale.

POETRY

DEANNA DICKINSON

McCALL

I'll Ride Thru It

Self-published

Audio CD, \$17 (includes shipping and handling)

DeannaDickinsonMcCall.com

Backed by musicians Randy Huston and Jim Jones, Deanna Dickinson McCall praises stockmen, ranch women, horses, cowboys and all things Western in this collection of 14 original poems. Ranchers, ranch women and fans of cowboy poetry will likely nod with approval and understanding.

JOHN D. NESBITT

Rangeland and Prairie: Western Poems

RR Productions

Paperback, 23 pages, price not listed

The poems in John D. Nesbitt's chapbook offer rediscoveries of forgot-

ten familiars, layers of truths, humor and love, often with twists that amuse and surprise. Nesbitt's Spur Award-winning poem, "Prairie Center," is an honest, spot-on depiction of the cycles of life and death and love and loss in a quintessential Western landscape, written by someone who knows it, and of it, intimately.

RED SHUTTLEWORTH

Homeward

Blue Horse Press

Trade paperback, 64 pages, \$12

BlueHorsePress.com

Red Shuttleworth's slim volume of poems ranges from haiku-like verse to longer monologues and plays from his 20th Century playwriting project. In one poem, he finds "A platoon of old guys sits the cafe counter..." and in another, he finds "A deadfall bar, sawdust floor, pine planks across greasy, grimy wood barrels." This book gives this award-winning poet a leg up on future recognition.

FICTION

G.K. AALBORG

River of Porcupines

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 218 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Young trapper Garth Cameron is no stranger to women, but the chaste Metis beauty Ilona Baptiste is the object of more than Garth's affection. Rival trapper Louis Savard would gladly break any man in two who would challenge his claim to Ilona. When Savard kidnaps her, Garth and veteran woodsman Rene strike deep into the Rockies after them.

AUSTIN MYSTERY WRITERS (GALE ALBRIGHT, editor)

Lone Star Mystery Writers: 14 Texas

Tales of Crime

Wildside Press

Trade paperback, 187 pages, \$12.99

WildsidePress.com

The theme for this anthology is "any crime, any era – as long as it's set in Texas." There are but a few stories that qualify as truly Western. Among them are Larry D. Sweazy's excellent "Point Blank, Texas," a sparse, gritty short story that was named a 2018 Spur Award finalist.

MATTHEW BAUGH (editor)

The Lone Ranger and Tonto: Frontier Justice

Moonstone Books

Trade paperback, 307 pages, \$19.95

MoonstoneBooks.com

In the hands of these 12 Western writing pros (including a clutch of Spur winners), the sequel to *The Lone Ranger Chronicles* packs some serious storytelling punch. We follow the imagined, off-screen adventures of The Masked Man and Tonto from the time they are still hale and hearty all the way to post-retirement.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS

MacKinnon

Center Point Large Print

Hardcover, 500 pages, \$34.95

CenterPointLargePrint.com

Double-crossed and wounded by his partners after a robbery, saddle tramp Sam MacKinnon begins a quest for vengeance – but that plan gets sidetracked when he comes across a teenage girl and her two younger siblings stranded in the New Mexico desert. This novel was inspired by *Paso Por Aquí*, Eugene Manlove Rhodes's classic novella that became the 1948 Western movie *Four Faces West*.

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. This fast-moving story is edge-of-your-seat exciting.

IRENE BENNETT BROWN

Miss Royal's Mules

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 233 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

In the Flint Hills of Kansas in 1900, Jocelyn Belle Royal needs a job. Her mother died when she was young, her father recently passed away, and she just lost the farm she had once saved. Finding herself destitute and determined to buy back the farm, she joins a mule drive. Irene Bennett Brown's writing is kind, generous, suspenseful and adventurous.

CHRISTINE CARBO

A Sharp Solitude

Atria Books
Trade paperback, 356 pages, \$16
SimonAndSchuster.com

Fans of C.J. Box and Craig Johnson will love Christine Carbo's suspense novels set in Glacier National Park. *A Sharp Solitude* features a female FBI agent investigating the murder of a journalist. The agent's motives become conflicted when the suspect – who has disappeared in the mountains – turns out to be the father of her daughter.

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. While the male detectives are away, China wrestles with the baffling disappearance of a woman whose sister appears alternately fearful, suspicious and unconcerned.

C.K. CRIGGER

Hometown Homicide

Black Opal Books
Trade paperback, 257 pages, \$14.99
BlackOpalBooks.com

An attention grabber from start to finish. C.K. Crigger's personal knowledge of the region enhances the story of a combat medic returning to her hometown. When murder and mayhem upset the calm of the community, the recovering medic finds herself at the center of deadly events.

C.K. CRIGGER

The Woman Who Built a Bridge

Wolfpack Publishing
Paperback, 294 pages, \$8.99
WolfpackPublishing.com

The 2019 Spur winner for romance novel is a different sort of historical romance, and the heroine is a decidedly different sort of woman. No shrinking violet, enterprising January Schutt is a woman bent on making her own way. She wants to be left alone, not drawn into the political struggles facing others in the small valley where she has settled.

ELIZABETH CROOK

The Which Way Tree

Little, Brown and Company
Hardcover, 279 pages, \$26
LittleBrown.com

A former slave is killed saving her daughter and stepson from a panther in the Texas Hill Country of the 1860s, sending the daughter, who has been mauled, on a relentless quest for vengeance. In less capable hands, this could have been a routine adventure story, but Spur winner Elizabeth Crook gives *The Which Way Tree* a literary flair by letting the brother, Benjamin, tell the story in a series of letters to a judge.

BARRY WARD

Coyotes & Cattle

Barry Ward Music, \$15
BarryWardMusic.com



The lyrics in Ward's "The Light at the End of the Trail," the final song in this 13-cut CD, lay out the theme of this album in case you hadn't caught on before.

*But it's the light at the end of the trail
That's the light that will lead you home*



OLLIE REED JR.

This CD is mostly about going home – or wanting to. In some cases, not surprising because Ward is a man of deep religious faith, it's the heavenly home. Ward sings about that in "... End of the Trail," his song "Saddle Up," the traditional "Wayfaring Stranger" and "Wake Up Dancing," written by Gary Duffey, Angie Russell and John Colgin. I'm partial to "Saddle Up."

*Saddle up my pony, boys, I want to ride away
To the sky, where the nights will turn to day
I'm going to meet my boy there
We are going to ride away*

Ward is a Kansas rancher and farmer, a fact that shows up vividly in the title track and in "That Old Barn," both written by Ward and both about visiting places you wish were still home.

"Coyotes & Cattle" is my favorite track on this solid CD, the song that touches me most deeply. It tells of a man stopping by his abandoned ranch before heading back to the nursing home in town. He has come to hear some familiar and much-missed sounds from his younger days.

*The coyotes began with an amen chorus
The cattle they joined in, of course*
For true West, that's better than the Sons of the Pioneers.

Musical note

You might have read previously in *Roundup* about WWA poets **Karla K. Morton** and **Alan Birkelbach** and their efforts to visit and write poems about many of this country's national parks.

Now, they have written a song, "Go Around," which supports the preservation and protection of the parks.

New Mexico artist Lisa Carver wrote the music and provides the vocals for the song, which is available on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon, Google Play, Tidal, Deezer and more.



Lisa Carver



Karla K. Morton and Alan Birkelbach

E-mail Ollie at oreedjr@gmail.com and send CDs to him at P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, N.M. 87048.

JUNI FISHER

The Girls From Centro

Pen-L Publishing
Hardcover, trade paperback, 300
pages, \$24.95, \$15.95
Pen-L.com



With the publication of her debut novel, we find out that award-winning singer-songwriter Juni Fisher is also skilled and venturesome at writing fiction. *The Girls From Centro* is about women from Nogales, Mexico, crossing the border into Arizona in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Certainly it's a timely topic, but what makes this novel important is the impressive technique Fisher displays in writing it. Rather than the linear narrative you'd expect from a rookie novelist, Fisher moves her story back and forth across the border and through the years as she braids together the stories of a mother who crossed into Arizona with her infant daughter in 1948 and a mother who slipped across the border with three daughters in 1971. Fisher's novel is gripping, harsh, unsettling, unpredictable and beautifully written.

— Ollie Reed Jr.

JAMES D. CROWNOVER

If These Walls Could Talk

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 317 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Two mid-teen boys, Demps and Coop, are sent to live in an old cabin located far away from all other humans while the influenza epidemic of 1918 rages. Bored stiffer than starched underwear in subzero weather, the boys resort to reading old newspapers that have been plastered to the walls, noting who was murdered, where, when and supposedly why. But nothing is ever what it appears to be.

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. Despite the glitches and head-scratchers in this story, Crownover's story is interesting.

JOHN NEELY DAVIS

The Chapman Legacy

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 374 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

The Chapman men are a tough bunch, a family of fighters. This book tells their story from the late 1800s to the latter part of the 20th Century. The Chapman men will be confronted with the actions of a soulless, brazen killer, the horrors of war and the utter cruelty visited upon one of them in a Korean POW camp.

PATRICK DEAREN

Apache Lament

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 274 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Ranger Company A, made up of eight men – each with his own dark secret – pursues a small band of free-ranging Mescalero Apaches who have been raiding and killing white settlers. As they travel, conflicts develop among the Rangers. The book is full of twists that will keep you guessing what is going to happen next.

LOREN D. ESTLEMAN

Wild Justice: A Page Murdock Novel

Forge Books
Hardcover, 224 pages, \$26.99
us.macmillan.com/TorForge

Wild Justice, Loren D. Estleman's 13th Page Murdock novel, is a road trip that winds through the history and landscape of the West, all the while capturing the hearts and minds of the men and women who set out to make it their home.

SAM FADALA

Death Stalks Apache Oro

Sundown Press
Trade paperback, 307 pages, \$14.99
SundownPress.com

Arizona Ranger John Briggs is sent to Apache Oro to find the killer of the women who lived at the Citadel. This story will keep you guessing as Briggs

interviews the men of Apache Oro searching for information and a lead to the killer's identity.

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.

W. MICHAEL FARMER

Knight of the Tiger

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 349 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Henry Fountain (whose father Albert Fountain was murdered), now going by the name Henry Grace, becomes a medical doctor, returns to Las Cruces, New Mexico and opens a practice. However, within days, longtime acquaintance Pancho Villa needs help and Henry, feeling a sense of obligation, rushes to aid Villa, who is determined to return Mexico to the rightful ruler – himself.

ANDREW J. FENADY

The Christmas Trespassers

Pinnacle
Mass-market paperback, 374 pages, \$7.99
KensingtonBooks.com

Originally released as *The Runaways* by Berkley Books in 1999, Owen Wister Award recipient Andrew J. Fenady's novel has been reissued under a new title with three bonus short stories told by Fenady's "Wise Old Man of the West."

W. MICHAEL GEAR

Flight of the Hawk: The Plains

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 275 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

This novel, part two in a series, is set around the time of the War of 1812 and among the fur trappers and Indians. John Tylor, having been accused of treason for taking part in the Aaron Burr conspiracy, has fled into the wilderness. He is being pursued by Fenway McKeever, one of the vilest villains to grace the pages of a novel.

JON GOSCH

Deep Fire Rise

Latah Books
Trade paperback, 219 pages, \$16.50
LatahBooks.com

The day Mount St. Helens blew (May 18, 1980) is a historical event that will remain in memory as long as those of us close enough to be covered in ash live. Jon Gosch has written a vivid and compelling story of the characters who lived around the volcano: the foolhardy, the criminals, the unbelievers and those with a strong sense of duty, all of whom have a place in history.

JAMES J. GRIFFIN

Tough Month for a Ranger

Fire Star Press
Trade paperback, 274 pages, \$14.99
FireStarPress.com

Packed full of action, this novel gives “trials and tribulations” a new definition. This modern-day tale of a Texas Ranger, and all that happens in a single month, reminds readers of the stories of Royal Canadian Mounted Police who “always get their man.” As a Western, it’s refreshing to see it set in the modern day.

HARLAN HAGUE

Home to Wyoming

Graycatbird Books
Trade paperback, 245 pages, \$14.75

Laced with historical Wyoming moments, Harlan Hague’s tale of pioneering in the early West is a sequel to *A Place for Mei Lin*, his 2017 Will Rogers Medallion winner for Western romance. Settling on a small ranch, a tough former gunfighter and his Chinese spouse merge culture and unrelenting fortitude to become significant leaders in Jackson Hole.

SCOTT HARRIS

Battle on the Plateau

Dusty Saddle Publishing
Paperback, 238 pages, \$8.99
ScottHarrisWest.com

Taking characters from his previous books, Scott Harris places them in Arizona’s Grand Canyon in a story that chugs along nicely.

SUSAN HENDERSON

The Flicker of Old Dreams

Harper Collins
Trade paperback, 299 pages, \$15.99
HarperCollins.com

Mary Crampton’s clearest memory as a child was the day her small Montana town’s star athlete died in an accident at the grain elevator. The town blamed Robert, the victim’s younger brother, and, as time wore on, the incident tore the town apart. Now Robert is back to care for his dying mother and Mary is attracted to him, although he’s still ostracized by the locals.

ANNE HILLERMAN

The Tale Teller: A Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito Novel

Harper Collins
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$26.99
HarperCollins.com

AUGUST 2019

Bend of the River

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

Years ago, at the Scottsdale, Arizona, convention, I sat on a panel about the future of Westerns. There was the usual doom and gloom and starts of debates that carried on into the bar, but I’d brought up the subject



of the popularity of Western comic books. Miles Swarthout jabbed me, of course, saying, “Well, I guess we should all start boning up on Superman!” A voice out of the audience said, “That’s not such a bad idea.”

The voice was Bill Gulick’s.

Bill was one of the first people I met at the WWA and was always interested in new ways to bring readers to the

genre. Comics, television, movies, brilliant novels and works of nonfiction were all part of Bill’s history. Bill thought comic books were a great way to encourage young readers, having had his own *The Hallelujah Trail* adapted as a comic when the Burt Lancaster/John Sturges epic comedy was released. For television, he had written several pilots but also episodes of *Hotel de Paree* starring Earl Holliman and directed by Andy McLaglen.

It was the sale of *Bend of the Snake* to Universal in 1952 that, Bill said, “changed my writing life,” when it was made by Anthony Mann into *Bend of the River*. Kino Lorber has just released this Technicolor follow-up to *Winchester ’73* for the first time on Blu-ray. The most visually sumptuous of the Mann/Stewart films, *Bend of the River* still has that streak of human darkness that marked all their collaborations. It’s not as brutal as *The Man from Laramie* or *The Naked Spur*, but its canvas is broader and its settler characters more inviting.

James Stewart is the man with the past trying to find a better life by escorting a wagon train through Oregon, only to run up against corruption in Portland that has to be settled with a shootout. Lori Nelson and Jay C. Flippen are the fine folks, Julie Adams and Rock Hudson epitomize new-money and grinning Arthur Kennedy threatens to smear blood across all of them.

Recommending *Bend of the River* is like telling someone to read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We’ve all seen it. We all love it. But this classic Western, written by one of the kind giants of the WWA, has never looked as beautiful as it does in this release.

C. Courtney Joyner writes in many formats, including screenplays, fiction and nonfiction. E-mail him at olcourt@yahoo.com.



C. COURTNEY JOYNER

ANDREW J. FENADY

The Mustangers

Pinnacle

Mass-market paperback, 344 pages, \$7.99

KensingtonBooks.com

Ex-rodeo champion and World War I veteran Ben Smith returns home during the Great Depression, where he runs into old pals and makes new friends – and a few enemies. Smith

takes a rancher's young son under his wing, and both are caught up in a fight to save a herd of wild mustangs from the slaughterhouse. Owen Wister Award recipient Andrew J. Fenady has written one of his finest and most touching novels. As a Hollywood producer and screenwriter, Fenady sprinkles in entertaining cameos by John Wayne, Will Rogers, Humphrey Bogart, Tom Mix and others. But I'm not sure about this bit part of a "not so sober" cattleman named Johnny D. Boggs. Another "The Wise Old Man of the West" short story is included.

– Johnny D. Boggs

Joe Leaphorn is back on the job. Bored with not only retirement, but also his recovery after being shot in the head, Leaphorn takes a consulting job for a museum. A box of artifacts from an anonymous donor is missing some items and the museum wants to know what happened.

CHARLOTTE HINGER

The Healer's Daughter

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 405 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Bethany Herbert, a young black woman, leaves the South for the promised land of Nicodemus, Kansas, where a small band of former slaves builds a life of freedom. A compelling story of endurance and backbone.

JAMES HITT

Bodie

Black Horse

Hardcover, 160 pages, \$18.43

BHWesterns.com

Engaged to the attractive daughter of the wealthiest man in the town, Josh Thorn is a lawyer with a bright future in the town of Bodie, California. But when an equally attractive prostitute is beaten, raped and dares to fight back against a wealthy and powerful man, Josh is faced with a thorny decision. This book is the kind of Western that every traditional novelist seeks to pen.

JANE ISENBERG

Murder in the Melting Pot

Oconee Spirit Press

Trade Paperback, 207 pages, \$14.95

OconeeSpirit.com

Accused of committing a crime of which she is innocent, Miranda Breitner moves, 20 years later, to the Yakima Valley and starts a bed and breakfast. All goes well until one of the crew certifying the grape harvest as kosher is murdered. With crooked cops and other forces plaguing the valley, Miranda needs to step in before her B&B goes broke.

EASY JACKSON

A Bad Place To Die

Pinnacle

Mass-market paperback, 346 pages, \$7.99

KensingtonBooks.com

While heading west, Tennessee Smith, thinking she is going to be a missionary, finds out that she signed papers to be a mail-order bride. After her husband dies on their wedding night, she is saddled with a ranch and three stepsons who constantly get into trouble. It is a good, well-written read, light and suspenseful.

LINELL JEPPESEN 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. The easy writing style will satisfy fans of traditional Westerns.

CRAIG JOHNSON

Depth of Winter

Viking

Hardcover, 287 pages, \$28

PenguinRandomHouse.com

Cady, Walt Longmire's daughter, has been taken by Walt's arch enemy, Tomás Bidarte, leader of one of Mexico's most dangerous cartels. With Cady hidden away somewhere in Mexico and soon to go on the auction block, Walt follows. He's determined to rescue her as he dodges the U.S. border patrol, FBI, Mexican authorities and everyone else who is dead set against him.

JIM JONES

The Lights of Cimarrón

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 306 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

When Tommy Stallings becomes sheriff of Colfax County, New Mexico, he must track outlaws who are brutally killing ranchers and stealing livestock. Being new to the job, Stallings turns to a former sheriff for help in dealing with the murderous rustlers and in clearing himself of an accusation of bribery.

BETH KANELL

The Long Shadow: The Winds of Freedom, Book One

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 300 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Beth Kanell has mastered the craft of writing. What raises *The Long Shadow*, a Spur finalist for historical novel, above a merely entertaining tale is its strong story line, sense of place, historical references, literary virtuosity and the strategic interposition of the unexpected.

MARK EDWARD LANGLEY

Path of the Dead: An Arthur Nakai Mystery

Blackstone Publishers

Hardcover, 207 pages, \$24.99

BlackstonePublishing.com

Arthur Nakai, an ex-Marine whose job was to hunt smugglers of both drugs and humans on the Mexican border, has retired to a quiet life. Or so he thinks. When his wife Sharon, a TV reporter, is kidnapped by a serial killer, he'll have to draw on all his former skills to save her.

MILANA MARSENICH

The Swan Keeper

Open Books
Paperback, 256 pages, \$15.99
Open-bks.com

It's 1928. In the craggy Mission Mountains of Montana, someone is killing the majestic swans, just as they killed Lilly's father. Strange images blur 11-year-old Lilly's recollection. Winter, timidity and self-doubt erode her sanity until she sees her mother and sister drawn into danger and enlists a friend to help prove her theory.

EDWARD MASSEY

Fugitive Sheriff

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 373 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Fugitive Sheriff opens with the murder of Luke Willford Simms, sheriff of Summit County in Utah Territory. His son, Deputy John Willford Simms, determined to bring the killer to justice, pins on his father's badge. A gripping, historically accurate tale of a stalwart man's search for justice in a turbulent time of politics and greed.

MATTHEW P. MAYO

Timberline

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 200 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

A high-country train wreck turns into a blizzard-bound train wreck for Roamer as a gang of gunmen absconds not only with a safe full of valuables but also with a mysterious young woman. They head into the high country with big, bold Roamer on their heels. Mayo tells the story with authority. And he knows how to spin a tale.

TERRENCE McCAULEY

Where the Bullets Fly

Pinnacle
Mass-market paperback, 345 pages, \$7.99
KensingtonBooks.com

Set in late 1880s Montana, *Where the Bullets Fly* kicks off a series about Aaron Mackey, a complicated and sometimes just plain nasty sheriff, and his black deputy. Imagine a spaghetti Western with flawed characters and nonstop action. Or Rooster Cogburn, without the eye patch and a whole lot meaner.

ROBERT D. MCKEE

Gypsy Rock

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 290 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Wyoming in 1892 may be booming, but the rules are set by those with the money to buy. Some say that period, give or take a decade, determined the economic and social structure of Wyoming for the next hundred years. Robert D. McKee's story captures the era with witty dialogue and charm.

ROD MILLER

Father unto Many Sons

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 265 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Readers weary of familiar tales in Western literature can always count on Rod Miller to break a fresh trail. *Father unto Many Sons* does that splendidly. With an almost Shakespearean flair (the title is from Henry VI, Part 3), Miller introduces us to the Pate and Lewis families, both bound for new territories.

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.

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.

JOHN MORT

Down Along the Piney

University of Notre Dame Press
Trade paperback, 200 pages, \$20
undpress.nd.edu

This fourth collection of short stories by John Mort brings to mind the work of Flannery O'Connor's broken characters. The struggle, bewilderment and fragility of the folks "down along the Piney" in the Ozarks is reflective of human experiences that provide an image of all of us.

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 his former commander, Major Kingston, Honeycut is asked to help Kingston recover his niece, who has been kidnapped to be sold as a slave.

ELLEN NOTBOHM

The River by Starlight

She Writes Press
Trade paperback, 344 pages, \$16.95
SheWritesPress.com

Ellen Notbohm's exquisite prose shines in this historical novel, a Spur finalist this year for best traditional novel and a Spur winner for best first novel. It's about a vibrant heroic woman whose brains and ambition would have led to prosperity and self-fulfillment in another era. Instead, she is victimized by an unenlightened medical profession.

TRACIE PETERSON and KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE

Out of the Ashes

Bethany House
Hardcover, 356 pages, \$22.99
BakerPublishingGroup.com

Out of the Ashes, a 2019 Spur finalist for romance, is a story of redemption. Having survived the Syrian Revolt of 1925, Jean-Michel Langelier has been left devastated by the horrors of war and the loss of a woman who was forced to marry a powerful but abusive man. When he and his sister Collette are invited to visit Curry, Alaska, he reluctantly agrees.

LISA PRESTON

The Clincher: A Horseshoer Mystery

Skyhorse Publishing
Hardcover, 254 pages, \$24.99
SkyhorsePublishing.com

When Patsy-Lynn Harper is murdered on the afternoon horseshoer Rainy Dale shoes Patsy's prize stud, Rainy becomes the chief suspect. A comparative new-

comer to her small Oregon town, Rainy is an easy mark. Especially since someone seems determined to set her up.

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 and heads for Tinsel Town, where he is swept into a vortex of movie moguls, all bent on making him Hollywood’s first black singing/dancing cowboy.

ERIC RED

Hanging Fire

Pinnacle

Mass-market paperback, 308 pages, \$7.99

KensingtonBooks.com

Can we say hyperbole? *Hanging Fire* needs no exclamation marks. This teeth-grinding, bare-knuckling, swash-buckling adventure keeps readers turning pages long into the night. Yes, it’s over the top in violence and gore. Yes, there are scenes that are not only improbable, but impossible. Yes, it’s a terrific read.

HAZEL RUMNEY (editor)

Contention and Other Frontier Stories

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 345 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Seventeen stories from a wide selection of writers with perceived and fascinating outlooks on the Old West. Baseball, cowardice, cannibalism, malice and revenge are coupled with blistering heat and high plains blizzards.

ANNE SCHROEDER

Walk the Promise Road: A Novel of the Oregon Trail

Prairie Rose Publications

Trade paperback, 265 pages, \$15.99

PrairieRosePublications.com

Mary Rodgers loses her mother, father and brother to the flu. Not wanting to be left alone in her parents’ empty house, Mary convinces her cousin, Philip – who is about to leave on a wagon train for Oregon – to take her along. Since two single people travel-

ing together would be improper, they pose as a married couple. That secret becomes a heavy burden when Mary falls for the trail guide.

BRAD SMITH

The Return of Kid Cooper

Arcade Publishing

Hardcover, 228 pages, \$24.99

SkyhorsePublishing.com

Fresh from serving 25 years in a Montana prison for killing a dishonest Indian agent, Nate Cooper, now considered an old man for his ancient cowboy ways in an age of horseless carriages, is a classic example of the flawed hero. After revenging a young boy brutalized by a former guard, Cooper returns to his old stamping grounds.

CHARLIE STEEL

Applejack & Bat Masterson: Trinidad’s Law

Condor Publishing

Trade paperback, 139 pages, \$12.95

CondorPublishingInc.com

After leaving the family’s failing Colorado ranch, Jack Martin, aka Applejack, encounters an injured gunslinger, who teaches him how to shoot and survive. Young Jack rides into Trinidad, Colorado, where he is hired as Bat Masterson’s deputy, falls for a fetching young woman and realizes the only way to take her hand in marriage is by becoming a wealthy rancher.

TOM TATUM

Telluride Top of the World

Outskirts Press

Trade paperback, 304 pages, \$15.95

OutskirtsPress.com

In this adult novel, Cooper Stuart learns that protecting the family ranch near Telluride, Colorado, in the 1970s might be much harder than it was for his ancestors in the 19th Century. Now the enemies are subtler but no less dangerous cocaine-using developers and bankers, along with uranium interests and speculators in the budding ski industry.

LOWELL F. VOLK

Lukas Yates and the Roses

Covenant Books

Trade paperback, 259 pages, \$17.95

CovenantBooks.com

Lowell F. Volk is obviously passionate about writing. This story tells of chance meetings, hope, tragedies and romance. After the Civil War, two displaced Southern families set out

to build new lives in Colorado. Inexperienced travelers, they wind up in a precarious situation when Lukas Yates, also displaced, rides to the rescue.

MARK WARREN

Born to the Badge

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 257 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

In Mark Warren’s pages, the young Wyatt Earp confirms his calling – law enforcement – in Wichita and Dodge. Wyatt is soft-spoken and low-key until crossed by miscreants, all Texans and all bad. The resulting fireworks only add to his notoriety and the respect in which he is held. The ending promises another volume.

L.J. WASHBURN (editor)

The Untamed West

The Western Fictioneers

Trade paperback, 565 pages, \$22.99

WesternFictioneers.com

Western, mystery, romance and historical author L.J. Washburn edits *The Untamed West*, the third anthology of Western Fictioneers. “Byrd’s Luck” by Jeffrey J. Mariotte, a 2019 Spur finalist for short fiction, opens the anthology. Other standouts include “Earthly Riches” by McKendree Long and “A Deadly Decision at Adobe Wells” by Big Jim Williams.

GINA WELBORN and BECCA WHITHAM

The Kitchen Marriage

Zebra

Mass-market paperback, 352 pages, \$7.99

Kensingtonbooks.com

In this Spur finalist for romance, Zoe de Fleur, a French immigrant, finds herself fired from her job in New York, and, unable to read or write in English, responds to an advertisement that Nico, a young lad who has befriended her, lets her think is a request for a cook. She and Nico travel west, where she discovers she has answered the call for a mail-order bride.

C.M. WENDELBOE

Seeking Justice: A Tucker Ashley Western Adventure

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 235 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Tucker Ashley uses his formidable tracking skills in searching for Justice Cauthier, a violent, bloodthirsty killer

who has a score to settle with Tucker. Tucker's skill in tracking is matched by Justice's knack for evasion, and the pace of the pursuit varies from slow and methodical to breakneck.

C.M. WENDELBOE

The Marshal and the Sinister Still: A Nelson Lane Frontier Mystery

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 259 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

U.S. Marshal Nelson Lane is called in to aid local law enforcement when an American Indian girl goes missing from the Wind River reservation. Supposing her a runaway, Nelson agrees, but soon runs into murder, bootlegging – this is set during Prohibition – and human trafficking. Good dialogue and strong pacing fuel the plot.

CHARLES G. WEST

No Justice in Hell

Pinnacle
Mass-Market paperback, 309 pages, \$7.99
KensingtonBooks.com

The task for John Hawk was simple enough. Go find his friend Chief Walking Owl, convince him to return his Blackfoot tribe to the reservation and then report back to Fort Ellis. With mixed results, the veteran Army scout starts back. Then he meets Bertie, Blossom and JoJo, three women who would change his focus and his entire trip. A Spur finalist for original mass-market paperback.

JULIE WESTON

Moonscape: A Nellie Burns and Moonshine Mystery

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 250 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

In the third mystery about Nellie Burns and her dog, Moonshine, dead bodies are turning up, there's a strange religious cult, craggy lava fields and ominous caves to navigate, and an ensemble of quirky characters. It's the early 1920s, and Burns, a field photographer, is adventurous, a natural sleuth and speaks her mind.

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 get-

ting 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, it's more Akira Kurosawa than Zane Grey, told splendidly by Western Writers Hall of Fame inductee Richard S. Wheeler.

G.R. WILLIAMSON

Hell Bound: A Peyton Bonner Novel

Indian Head Publishing
Trade paperback, 229 pages, \$14.95

G.R. Williamson has certainly given life to a great Western character in the mysterious traveling gambler, Peyton Bonner. The book was an excellent read, except for the author's references to Jack Daniels, Whitman Samplers and Coxe's Army, which didn't yet exist.

REAVIS Z. WORTHAM

Hawke's War

Pinnacle
Mass-Market paperback, 422 pages, \$9.99
KensingtonBooks.com

This Spur Award winner could have been taken directly from today's headlines. This engaging and exciting story starts with a sniper attack on four hikers in the Big Bend National Park in West Texas. And the reader is immediately launched into a thrilling and emotional roller-coaster ride of spellbinding adventure.

MICHAEL ZIMMER

Hard Ride Across Texas

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 346 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Gage Pardell sets out to seek justice for the harm done his sister by Henry Kalb – and kills Henry. A classic blood-feud tale forms the structure of the story, with enough money to allow relentless hired hands to carry it out. Gage doesn't lay in wait to take down the bounty hunters. He runs – and rides into a hornets' nest of trouble.

NONFICTION

**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

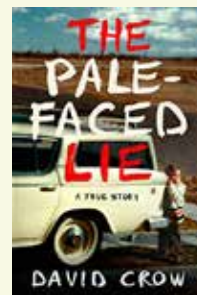
Thomas C. Bicknell, who has studied and written about Thompson for years,

DAVID CROW

The Pale-Faced Lie: A True Story

Sandra Jonas Publishing House
Hardcover, 345 pages, \$28
SandraJonasPublishing.com

David Crow grew up on the Navajo Nation in a dysfunctional family, with a mentally ill mother and a physically abusive father who between frequent beatings



reminded David that his Cherokee heritage made him superior to the Navajos. Crow's father was a minor official in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Crow was a wild child, doing poorly in school and pulling off cruel pranks on innocent people. The family moved to New Mexico and North Carolina and Washington, D.C., making David's education difficult due to his dyslexia and poor eyesight. Insensitive teachers told him he had no chance of a decent future. Somehow Crow survived all this negative luggage and after many years came to forgive the people who had made his life so difficult.

– Abraham Hoffman

has teamed with Chuck Parsons, a renowned historian of Texas and gunfighters, to produce a monumental biography of the gunman – the first book-length study of Thompson since Floyd B. Streetner's *Ben Thompson, Man with a Gun* (1957).

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, a singing cowboy and a feisty woman, and their unique love story. Their letters to each other, plus diary entries about their daily lives, enrich the story and make the total package an easy, enjoyable read.

BOB BOZE BELL

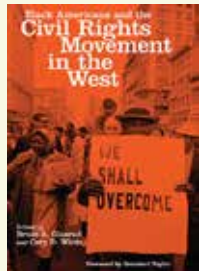
The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok, The First Gunfighter

BRUCE A. GLASRU and
CARY D. WINTZ (editors)

Black Americans and the Civil Rights Movement in the West

University of Oklahoma Press
Paperback, 296 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

In this important anthology,



18 historians writing 16 articles (two are co-authored) examine the struggle of African Americans for civil rights in the Western

states, defined as the states west of the Mississippi River. Blacks suffered and endured both *de jure* and *de facto* segregation in education, housing, occupations and voting rights in Western states. Levels of discrimination vary widely from one state to another, but it is nonetheless shocking to read of the lengths some localities went to in keeping African Americans from purchasing decent homes and attending schools. The articles expand the civil rights movement to include efforts prior to the famous *Brown v. Topeka* 1954 Supreme Court decision, some authors tracing the origins of the movement to the late 19th Century.

— Abraham Hoffman

Two Roads West
Paperback, 112 pages, \$24.95
TwoRoadsWest.com

True West magazine's editor fills the life and times of the "Prince of the Pistoleers" with rare photographs and his own art, plus a fact-filled, fun narrative delivered with style, humor and attitude.

JOHN BRANCH

The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West

W.W. Norton & Co.
Hardcover, 288 pages, \$26.95
WWNorton.com

This intimate and unflinching account of the Wright family of Utah's attempt to sustain their ranching heritage in changing times benefits tremendously from *New York Times* reporter-at-large

John Branch's ability to capture the lyricism of the American West and the hard realities of modern "cowboy" living. A Spur finalist for contemporary nonfiction.

GEORGE BRANDSBERG

The Deadly Snow: A Cold War Memoir

Cedartip Company
Trade paperback, 404 pages, \$14.50
CedarTip.com

This fascinating book documents the Mitchell family, who were raising sheep near Sundance, Wyoming, in April 1959, and the health problems they and their livestock encountered after a "purple snow fall." The Mitchells believe it was radiation fallout from government testing of atomic bombs. The government denied responsibility, but George Brandsberg makes a strong case that there was a government cover-up.

JULIA BRICKLIN

Polly Pry: The Woman Who Wrote the West

TwoDot Books
Hardcover, 206 pages, \$24.95
GlobePequot.com

Polly Pry (Leonel Ross Campbell), first female journalist for the *Denver Post*, was adventurous, outspoken and perhaps a creator of fake news. Did she really travel to Paris and Moscow or interview Pancho Villa in Mexico? Julia Bricklin put in thorough work on this 2019 Spur finalist for biography, neatly giving readers an entertaining glimpse into what made Campbell tick.

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 touches on significant dates in the lives of colorful New Mexico figures such as Kit Carson and Billy the Kid and intriguing incidents such as the mysterious 1947 crash that would become known as The Roswell Incident.

MARTY CAMPBELL

Arizona Family Field Trips

Dry Fly Publishing
Trade paperback, 260 pages, \$16.95
MartyCampbellFieldTrips.com

The fifth edition of this guide to the author's favorite family destinations in Arizona, first published in 1999, includes valuable information on parks, trails, campgrounds, museums, ghost towns, lakes and other points of interest.

FRANCISCO CANTÚ

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border

Riverhead Books
Hardcover, 256 pages, \$26
PenguinRandomHouse.com

Son of a park ranger in Texas's Guadalupe Mountains and a four-year Border Patrol veteran, Francisco Cantú brings unique insight to this beautifully written account of immigration and backlash. A deserved double Spur winner for contemporary nonfiction and first nonfiction book.

ROBERT A. CLARK (editor, introduction)

The Killing of Chief Crazy Horse

Bison Books
Trade paperback, 103 pages, \$19.95
BisonBooks.com

This classic is back in print 30 years after its original publication with a new introduction by Robert A. Clark. The book provides annotated accounts of the Lakota leader's death from He Dog, Crazy Horse's longtime friend; William Garnett, a guide and interpreter; and Valentine McGillycuddy, the medical officer.

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'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. Tom Clavin's research also reveals Hickok's insecurities and his decline as eyesight and natural defenses failed.

GREGORY CROUCH

The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle over the Greatest Riches in the American West

Scribner
Hardcover, 466 pages, \$30
SimonAndSchuster.com

Gregory Crouch's fascinating account of John Mackay, "the Bonanza King," is a sweeping narrative of Nevada's Comstock Lode, providing insight into New York City and Virginia City and the latter's cast of characters as well as 19th Century engineering, technology and social conditions. A Spur finalist for historical nonfiction.

JIM DeFELICE

West Like Lightning: The Brief, Legendary Ride of the Pony Express

William Morrow
Hardcover, 357 pages, \$27.99
HarperCollins.com

William Russell, Alexander Majors and William Waddell's Pony Express flashed in the historic spotlight for only 18 months, April 1860-October 1861, but Jim DeFelice smoothly delivers all the truths, myths and uncertainties about the enterprise in this Spur finalist for historical nonfiction.

CHRIS ENSS

Principles of Posse Management-Lessons From the Old West for Today's Leaders

TwoDot Press
Paperback, 180 pages, \$16.95
GlobePequot.com

Chris Enss masterfully intertwines stories of Old West outlaw chasing posses with management principles still relevant today. Included are more than 30 photos of lawmen and outlaws.

CHRIS ENSS and HOWARD KAZANJIAN

Cowboys, Creatures, and Classics: The Story of Republic Pictures

Hardcover, 264 pages \$35
Lyons Press
LyonsPress.com

Spur finalist Chris Enss and film producer Howard Kazanjian document Republic Studio's up-and-down history in this handsomely illustrated book. It lacks depth, but casual film buffs will enjoy it.

W. MICHAEL FARMER

Apacheria: True Stories of Apache Culture 1860-1920

TwoDot
Paperback, 216 pages, \$18.95
Rowman.com

W. Michael Farmer displays a wonderful appreciation and sympathy for

Apache culture, focusing on the Chiricahuas and Mescaleros. He covers the latter half of the 19th Century and early 20th Century. This is an excellent resource for a first-time student of Apache history and culture.

JOHN FARKIS

The Making of Tombstone: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Modern Western

McFarland & Company
Paperback, 250 pages, \$39.95
McFarlandBooks.com

John Farkis takes readers behind the scenes of the making of a movie that is not a "Classic Modern Western" by any means but certainly a cult favorite.

FORREST FENN and CARLEEN MILBURN

Leon Gaspard: The Call of Distant Places

The TIA Collection/Fenn Archive
Hardcover, 411 pages, \$125
OldSantaFeTradingCo.com

Forrest Fenn and Carleen Milburn tell the story of artist Leon Gaspard and his wife Evelyn Adell, who settled in the thriving art community of Taos, New Mexico, in 1924 in this beautifully conceived book filled with color reproductions of the artist's works, all revealing Gaspard's incredible life, art and legacy.

DENNIS HERRICK

Esteban: The African Slave Who Explored America

University of New Mexico Press
Hardcover, 282 pages, \$39.95
UNMPress.com

Despite the lack of primary sources, Dennis Herrick has written a book that, if not quite biography, offers a fresh perspective on one of the most elusive men in early American history. One of the four survivors of the disastrous Narvaez expedition of 1528, Esteban traveled from Florida across today's southern states and into Mexico during an eight-year trek.

DOUG HOCKING

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

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

In his well-researched book, Doug Hocking explores in a reasoned and professional manner the facts, myths and participants involved in the flashpoint incident, known as the "Bascom Affair," blamed for starting the American Army's

25-year war with the Apaches.

THOMAS D. ISERN

Pacing Dakota

North Dakota State University Press
Hardcover, 264 pages, \$29.95
NDSUPress.org

Tom Isern presents a collection of essays in this volume that reflects on the history and culture of the Great Plains. A historian teaching at North Dakota State University who ranges widely in his Ford F-150, he relates his observations through writing and a public radio program *Plains Folk*.

GAIL L. JENNER

One Room: Schools and Schoolteachers in the Pioneer West

TwoDot Books
Trade paperback, 160 pages, \$22
GlobePequot.com

At one time, almost every child not taught at home was educated in a small, often isolated, one-room school. *One Room* illustrates how much our educational system has changed in 100-plus years. Stories range from Nebraska blizzards in which children perished to glorious days of small classes and individual attention.

BRYAN L. JONES

North of the Platte, South of the Niobrara: A Little Further Into the Nebraska Sand Hills

Stephen F. Austin State University Press
Trade paperback, 232 pages, \$22.95
SFASU.edu/sfapress

Bryan L. Jones presents an absorbing book about the residents, especially ranch families, who live, work and interact in the Nebraska Sand Hills area.

VALERIE SHERER MATHES and PHIL BRIGANDI

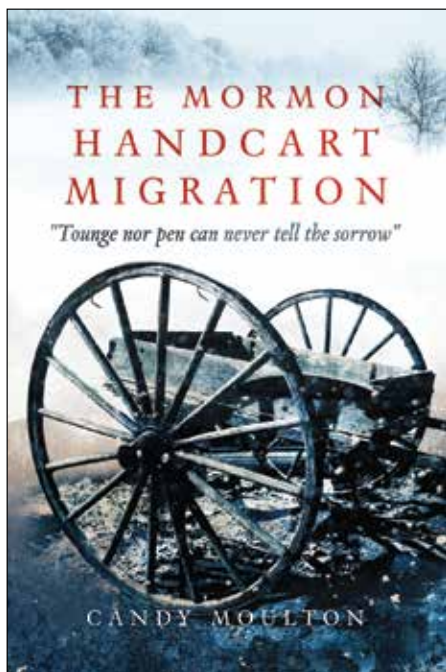
Reservations, Removal, and Reform: The Mission Indian Agents of Southern California, 1878-1903

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 344 pages, \$36.95
OUPress.com

The tribes of Southern California were peaceful people, many having converted to the Catholic religion, adopting agriculture, and wearing white people's clothing. Their biggest problem was dealing with white settlers who coveted their land and water rights and were untroubled by trespassing or filing fraudulent claims on Indian land.

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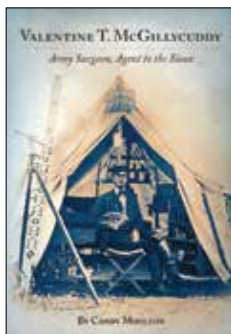


The Mormon Handcart Migration

“Tounge nor pen can never tell the sorrow”

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JOHN D. McDERMOTT, R. ELI PAUL and SANDRA J. LOWRY (editors)

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

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. After the summary, the editors offer 80 expertly annotated accounts that take on an eerie *Rashomon* quality as the stories contradict each other, exaggerate and perpetuate errors.

DAWN NELSON

Family Tree Recipes: Cooking with Cowgirl Uncorked, Volume IV

Gray Dog Press
Spiral bound, 129 pages, price not listed

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." Recipes range from "Cowboy Biscuits" to "Smashed Grasshopper Pie."

MARK J. NELSON

White Hat: The Military Career of Captain William Philo Clark

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University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 280 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

Since Lieutenant William Philo Clark wore a white hat, the Indian scouts he commanded in the mid-1870's gave him the name "White Hat." This 2019 Spur winner for biography details Clark's military service from West Point to his adventures on the Great Plains and his duties at Army headquarters.

ROBERT NOTT

The Films of Budd Boetticher

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

Robert Nott explores the work of iconic Western director Budd Boetticher, whose life was filled with adventures worthy of his films. Nott makes clear that Boetticher's place in the pantheon of great Western directors is justified.

BILL O'NEAL

John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King

Eakin Press
Trade paperback, 164 pages, \$19.95
EakinPress.com

The state historian of Texas traces the life and times of one of the West's most famous cattle barons: John Chisum. Bill O'Neal gives readers his typical just-the-facts, no-nonsense approach. But there are far too many spelling errors.

HEIDI J. OSSELAER

Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 294 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

In this fascinating, yet totally maddening, account of fairness and justice gone awry amid the public hysteria surrounding World War I, Heidi Osselaer examines the Power shootout facts to paint a chilling portrait of skewed American values of the time. Everyone involved in the events that transpired that fateful morning in early 20th Century Arizona, and especially the aftermath, should be considered a victim of this needless, violent confrontation.

BRENDEN W. RENSINK

Native but Foreign: Indigenous Immigrants and Refugees in the North American Borderlands

Texas A&M University Press
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$40
TAMUPress.com

A clearly written, imaginatively researched and thought-provoking account of indigenous people encountering borders and living in borderland, sometimes even bisected by the international boundary. The 2019 Spur winner for historical nonfiction will be of use not just to academicians but to the subjects of his research.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS

Joe De Yong: A Life in the West

Alamar Media
Hardcover, 320 pages, \$50
AlamarMedia.com

He was born in Missouri, became a cowboy and eventually moved to Montana and became an artist – and he wasn't Charles M. Russell. William Reynolds details the life, times and multiple careers of Joe De Yong (1894-1975), a protégé of Russell who made movies with Tom Mix and served as a historical consultant on many Western films.

JEB ROSEBROOK

Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971

BearManor Media
Hardcover, trade paperback, 230 pages, \$35, \$25
BearManorMedia.com

Screenwriter Jeb Rosebrook's memoir tells the charming and often revealing story behind the movie *Junior Bonner*, a Steve McQueen/Sam Peckinpah classic. Numerous photographs.

KERMIT SCHWEIDEL

Folly Cove: A Smuggler's Tale of the Pot Rebellion

Cinco Puntos Press
Trade paperback, 266 pages, \$16.95
CincoPuntos.com

Kermit Schweidel ran a successful ad agency in Dallas and then, midcareer, returned to his hometown of El Paso, Texas, and became embroiled in one of the biggest pot heists of the 1970s. This witty, engaging Spur finalist for contemporary nonfiction book recounts the amazing episode, weaving in the voices of the border rats who signed on – a kind of *Oceans 11* of marijuana smuggling set against the turbulent context of the era's foreign and domestic wars.

W.K. STRATTON

The Wild Bunch: Sam Peckinpah, a Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Film

Bloomsbury
Hardcover, 352 pages, \$28
Bloomsbury.com

The Wild Bunch, the defining movie of director Sam Peckinpah's career is considered among the best – if not the best – Western movie ever made. W.K. Stratton chronicles the film's turbulent history, how it started as an idea formed by a Hollywood stuntman and wound up polarizing movie critics and moviegoers when first released in 1969. Insightful and engaging.

ROBERT N. WATT

"I Will Not Surrender the Hair of a Horse's Tail": The Victorio Campaign 1879

Casemate Publishers
Hardcover, 328 pages, \$49.95
CasematePublishers.com

This is a scholarly, extensively researched book that too often meanders off topic into areas of explanation only included to convince the reader of the author's opinion as to how and why this military action has been overlooked by other historians through the years. In fact, this is more of an intriguing title in search of a book than a chronicle of the Victorio campaign during the Apache Wars.

JOSHUA WHEELER

Acid West: Essays

FSG Originals
Trade paperback, 416 pages, \$17
FSGOriginals.com

Alamogordo, New Mexico-based Joshua Wheeler's debut book, a Spur finalist in contemporary nonfiction, is a gorgeously crafted meditation on some of the more bizarre corners of his home turf, by turns hilarious and disturbing, and always thought provoking. Subjects range from cattle bleached white by the world's first nuclear blast at Trinity to the annual UFO festival in Roswell.

Reviews and listings

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