

Editor's Note: What's one person's Shakespeare can be another person's slop. Any review is merely one person's opinion, so in the sense of fair play, Roundup introduces Take 2 – one book, two opinions – to run in the August and February issues. Books are chosen at random, but reviewers are sought out for their expertise. To kick things off, we start with a “Weird Western” anthology, reviewed by C. Courtney Joyner and Jeffrey J. Mariotte, WWA members well-versed in the horror and Western genres.

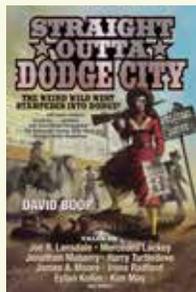
DAVID BOOP

Straight Outta Dodge City

Baen Books

Trade paperback, 258 pages, \$16

Baen.com



The potent mix of horror and Westerns boils over in editor David Boop's newest anthology of Weird Western tales. Boop has previously brought us two fine volumes of Westerns that follow the supernatural trail, but this collection may be his best yet with a killer line-up of authors. Spur winner Joe R. Lansdale's excellent “The Hoodoo Man and the Midnight Train” is a first-

person telling of a kid's encounters with dark powers, while Harry Turtledove opts for a lighter, eccentric tone with “Junior and Me.” Horror icon Jonathan Maberry's “Ghost Men of Sunrise Mesa” unfolds as if told around a campfire. Capturing that feeling is something every author in this collection does perfectly.

– C. Courtney Joyner

This latest Weird Western anthology from editor David Boop kicks off with the strongest story of the bunch, a tale of hoodoo men and a terrifying train by Spur Award winner Joe R. Lansdale, an accomplished master of this particular subgenre. Solid entries by Harry Turtledove, James A. Moore, Mercedes Lackey and a host of others bring nightmarish scenarios to the page, involving vampires, gunfighter ghosts, Sasquatch, a magical rabbi and more, before wrapping up with Jonathan Maberry's twisted tribute to a film favorite. In “Rara Lupus,” Julie Frost delivers a truly unexpected twist on werewolves. Another run past a copy editor would've helped, but nevertheless, lots of fun reads that you might want to tackle with the lights on.

– Jeffrey J. Mariotte

FICTION

JUDY ALTER

So Far from Paradise

Alter Ego Press

eBook, \$3.99

Amazon.com

2005 Owen Wister Award recipient Judy Alter is known for writing historically accurate fiction from the Western women's point of view – from her Spur-winning “Sue Ellen Learns to Dance” (short fiction, 1998) and *Mattie* (Western novel, 1988) to exceptional tales for younger readers such as *After Pa Was Shot* and her “Maggie and Devildust” series. In *So Far from Paradise*, Alter chronicles the North Texas frontier of Indian raids, cowboys and ranch life as Cassie Belden Stewart looks back on her life. Originally serialized in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in 1986 as part of the Texas sesquicentennial celebration, Alter's short novel is now available as an eBook to entertain and educate readers of all ages.

– Johnny D. Boggs

C.J. BOX

Long Range

G.P. Putnam's Sons

Hardcover, 368 pages, \$28

PenguinRandomHouse.com

A not-exactly-beloved judge's wife is killed at long range by a bullet meant for her husband. Except, *was* he the target? There's a new sheriff in Wyoming's Saddlestring District, and he seems to be an idiot. The judge would rather rely on game warden Joe Pickett to find the murderer. Good thing Joe has his wife, Marybeth, and good friend Nate to help. Joe, called away from a deadly bear mauling, will face a crack shot in the exciting final moments. A few side plots don't add a lot to the central story, although each is interesting. The one with Nate and his abducted family deserves a novel of its own. Be assured, a C.J. Box novel will always keep you turning the pages.

– Carol Crigger

BRETT COGBURN

Red Ruckus: A Morgan Clyde Western: Book Three

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 264 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

There is no substitute for a strong, believable villain in a fast-paced Western. In *Red Ruckus*, Brett Cogburn gives us two: Lot Ingram and Ma Moon. Morgan Clyde has returned to Eufaula, Indian Territory, as a railroad policeman sent to investigate rumors of corruption among federal deputy marshals. The dramatic vectors of Clyde, Lot and Ma Moon intersect amid a cast of well-drawn and interesting supporting characters and against the backdrop of the harsh reality of the Indian Territory.

– Tom Carpenter

ARIEL GORE (editor)

Santa Fe Noir

Akashic Books

Trade paperback, 258 pages, \$15.99

AkashicBooks.com

If you picture Santa Fe, New Mexico, only as a sunny, vibrant, colorful Southwest arts mecca, this anthology will shred that image with feral claws. These stories are mean, nasty, disheartening, unsettling – everything *noir* should be. Excepting one involving a game warden, they're not overtly Western, and Western purists may find some language and sexual situations off-putting. For *noir*-ists, it'll likely depend on your preferred James – Cain or Ellroy. But if you like your *noir* sans gloves (with a sprinkling of the supernatural), this book might be right up your dark alley. Once you've read it, "The City Different" will mean something altogether different. Don't be too surprised if you hear a voice in your head murmuring, "Forget it, Jake ... it's Santa Fe."

– J.R. Sanders

MARK GREATHOUSE

Nueces Reprise

Defiance Press

Trade paperback, 280 pages, \$16.95

DefiancePress.com

Reading *Nueces Reprise* is like reading one of the Jim Hatfield stories from the old *Texas Rangers* pulp magazine, except the story resembles a Hatfield tale on steroids, and R-rated. The hero, Texas Ranger Captain Luke Dunn has a wife, Elisa, with twins on the way. Luke is torn between loyalty to his wife and ranch and duty to the Rangers. When duty calls, Luke heads out on the trail of a crooked Indian agent, while revenge-seeking outlaw Carlos Perez trails Luke. A fifth-generation Texan, Greathouse does a good job describing the Nueces Strip landscape. A prologue sets the location beautifully, but some historical inaccuracies mar the story. Still, *Nueces Reprise* is a diamond in the rough. A little cutting and polishing would make it shine.

– James J. Griffin

MARK C. JACKSON

The Great Texas Dance: The Tales of Zebadiah Creed: Book Two

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 297 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Readers are whisked along on a fast-paced adventure set against the backdrop of the Texas Revolution. Picking up where the last novel ended, the tale begins with the final hours of the Alamo, where young Zeb barely avoids becoming a victim of the fatal assault when he is asked to deliver an urgent message to General Sam Houston for reinforcements. From there, Zeb witnesses firsthand the sacrifices made by the Texans as he narrowly escapes the massacre at Goliad and Houston's victory at San Jacinto. Despite a storyline that seems to put Zeb at the center of many of the major conflicts in the waning days of the revolution, this is not a set-'em-up-and-knock-'em-down book. Zeb's travels come off as realistic and plausible, and subplots keep the story lively and entertaining.

– Michael Zimmer

MARK EDWARD LANGLEY

Death Waits in the Dark

Blackstone Publishing

Trade paperback, 206 pages, \$15.99

BlackstonePublishing.com

The story begins with the murder of teenage brothers, the two sons of Arthur Nakai's old girlfriend Margaret. The boys were shot sniper-style at night, and Margaret asks Arthur, a former lieutenant of a special forces platoon in Afghanistan, to assist the Navajo police. At first the murders seem meaningless, and, as the investigation continues, Arthur comes to realize members of his old platoon may be involved. Mark Edward Langley has developed a well-thought-out plot regarding the oil and gas industry, especially on tribal lands, and the dangers of PTSD in America's returning warriors. Thought-provoking, this is a page-turner sure to rouse the reader's emotions.

– Carol Crigger

TOM LYLE and MARTY BRICKEY

Chickasaw Adventures: The Complete Collection

Chickasaw Press

Paperback, 248 pages, \$24.95

ChickasawPress.com

The 12 tales in this graphic novel revolve around a teenager named Johnny, who possesses the power to time travel to important moments in Chickasaw history. The graphic novel combines seven comic books the Chickasaw Nation produced in 2004-2005 to help

educate Chickasaw youth about their culture and history with five previously unreleased stories. With hardly any set-up, the tale jumps right into the main narrative. Most stories are enjoyable and informative, highlighted by the detailed art of Tom Lyle, best known for his work on *Spider-Man* for Marvel Comics and *Robin* for DC Comics. A glossary of Chickasaw words and phrases and brief histories give readers a better understanding of the time periods covered. This is a quality graphic novel and an excellent work of art.

– Kellen Cutsforth

EDWARD MASSEY

Founding Sheriff

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 336 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

With *Founding Sheriff*, author Edward Massey continues his popular High Mountain Sheriff series. It's 1865 in Summit County, Utah Territory, and Sheriff Luke Willford Simms is called to investigate the murder of a young woman by Fisk Scales, her husband of three months. At first, Scales, who attempted his getaway in Grandma's buggy, does not appear to be bright and is easily captured by Simms. But when the legal process begins, Scales is exceptionally adroit at delaying what surely is his fate. This incident is a continuing thread and is wrapped in the growing pains of Utah before its 1896 admittance into the Union. Massey skillfully exposes the reader to the problems of being a lawman in a growing and yet-to-be tamed territory. But then the quandary — will Scales outwit the system or get what he deserves: five live rounds and one blank from 15 paces?

– John Neely Davis

VONN MCKEE

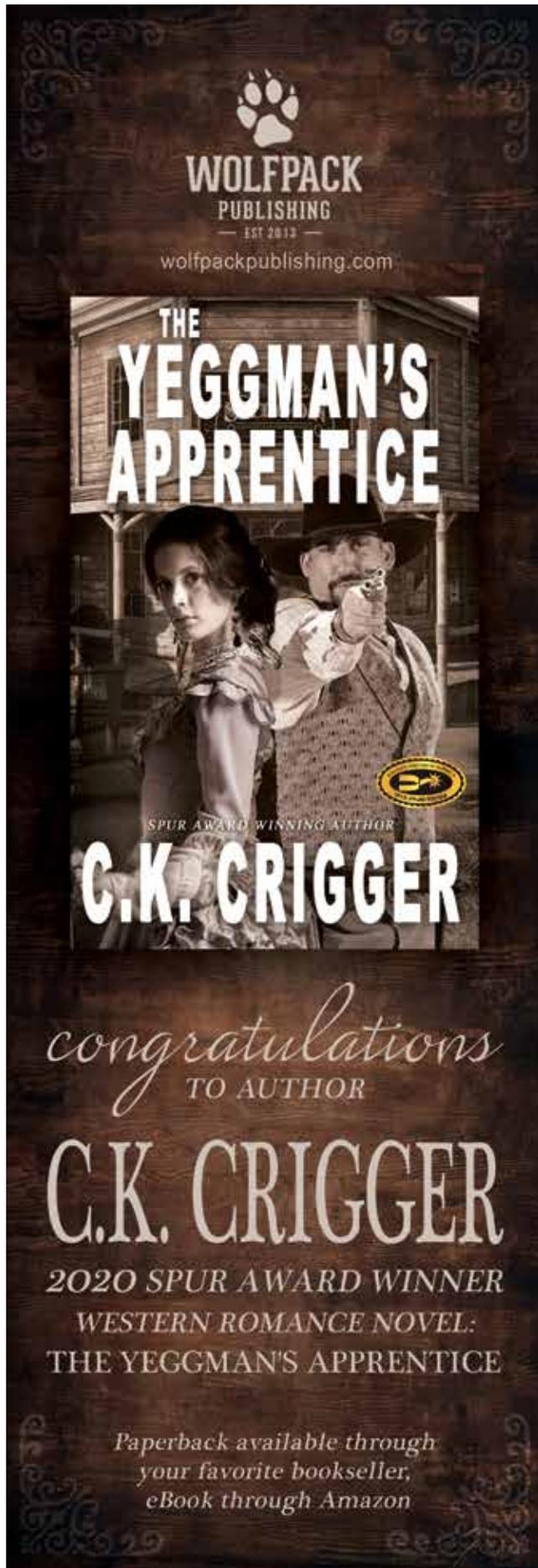
Comanche Winter and Other Stories of the West

Wolfpack Publishing

Trade paperback, 139 pages, \$7.99

WolfpackPublishing.com

A famous soprano meets a frontier sheriff ... a different spin on the gunfighter-comes-home saga ... a circus troupe tackles a gang of renegades ... a lousy student has to take charge at a Texas schoolhouse during a Comanche raid ... and one of Aesop's fables reimagined as a Western. Vonn McKee proves she's a master of imagination



and language in this collection of eight short stories, some new, a few – like her Spur finalist “The Songbird of Seville” – previously published. McKee, pen name for singer-songwriter Micki Fuhrman, delivers a wide array of stories with only one thing in common: Readers can never accurately guess where McKee is taking them. So just enjoy the ride.

– Johnny D. Boggs

PINKIE PARANYA

St. Louis Sam and the Desperados

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 345 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Pinkie Paranya, an experienced writer in various forms, adds one more novel to her list. A young brother and sister take off across the country in pursuit of a treacherous uncle they blame for causing their father to commit suicide. To compound their grief, they learn their uncle gained control of all their legal rights, including their guardianship and potential inheritance. This state of affairs, they decide, shall not stand. Paranya does an admirable job in leading readers through the hurdles the siblings encounter while seeking retribution.

– Lynn Bueling

LARRY SWEAZY

The Return of the Wolf: A Josiah Wolf, Texas Ranger Novel

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 304 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Northern Texas, along the Red River, is the setting. Ranger Josiah Wolf has convinced himself that if he resumes the farming life he quit years back, his days will return to the predictability he craves and allow him to focus on raising his young son in a safe haven. Isn't that what home represents? But, no. When those whom Wolf considered trustworthy reveal their true colors, Wolf must rely on all the rangers skills he has ever acquired. What a fun read, start to end. Left me wanting the “next chapter” of the Wolf saga.

– Sandy Whiting

ASHLEY E. SWEENEY

Answer Creek: A Novel

She Writes Press

Trade paperback, 326 pages, \$16.95

SheWritesPress.com

Most of us are familiar with the tragedy of the Donner Party, marooned for months in the Sierras by massive amounts of snow. We know, when they had consumed the last of their animals, there was nothing to eat but boiled leather. And then that was gone. But *Answer Creek* is about much more than just the end of that 1846 journey. The players had first to survive mud, drought, desert, rivers, Indians and each other before they ever got that far. This is their story. The same scenes play out over and over, suitable in a book where oxen might travel only a few miles a day. So well researched, we know that Ada's broken boots are a major point. The book is written in present tense, which kept drawing me out of what is a most excellent story.

– Carol Crigger

JAMES WADE

All Things Left Wild

Blackstone Publishing

Hardcover, 336 pages, \$27.95

BlackstonePublishing.com

With shades of Patrick deWitt's *The Sisters Brothers*, siblings Caleb (young, idealistic) and Shelby (mean-spirited) murder a rancher's son in a botched robbery and strike out across the harsh Southwest backcountry. They stumble into a charismatic but psychotic guerilla leader and are absorbed into his army. Meanwhile, the grieving rancher, more poet than cowboy, trails the brothers and is nearly killed before meeting up with a tough, beautiful black woman who saves his life more than once. This is James Wade's first novel and, while the plot and writing are engaging, the descriptions frequently run rampant (unlike deWitt's sparse narrative), making it an enjoyable but sometimes ponderous read. The story comes down to a face-off between the rancher and Caleb – two decent characters whom the reader roots for – which I found to be a refreshing, unique premise.

– Micki Fuhrman

C.M. WENDELBOE

When the Gold Dust Died in Deadwood: A Tucker Ashley Western Adventure

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 238 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

"You're not about money, Tucker Ashley. You have some convoluted sense of justice. Some odd moral code." With Tucker Ashley, C.M. Wendelboe has created a flawed and engaging hero. Who is killing miners panning for gold on their small claims along Deadwood Gulch? It wasn't a question in Tucker Ashley's mind when he joined his friend Jack to work a claim panning for gold after spending two years in prison. It is one thing to know who is behind the crime; it's a different matter to live long enough to prove it. And therein lies the tale. The reader will quickly recognize the influence of the author's long career in law enforcement as well as his extensive research into the grim and grimy historical period. Both qualities enrich a worthwhile read.

– Tom Carpenter

ETHAN J. WOLFE

Baker's Dozen

Five Star Publishing

Hardcover, 265 pages, \$25.95

Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

U.S. Secret Service agent Murphy is trying to settle down with his new wife, Kai, when he gets a request from President Chester Arthur to help find a killer of seven people in New York, which is causing a decline in the stock market. Murphy and Melvin Knoop, a forensic researcher, try to determine what these seven people have in common. Their quest to resolve the mystery takes many turns. Ethan J. Wolfe has a unique way of combining Murphy's personal life with his work, resulting in an easy, entertaining read.

– Lowell F. Volk

JUVENILE

PHIL MILLS JR. (author) and **JEANNE CONWAY** (illustrator)
Bandit the Cow Dog

Mascot Books

Hardcover, 30 pages, \$16.95

MascotBooks.com

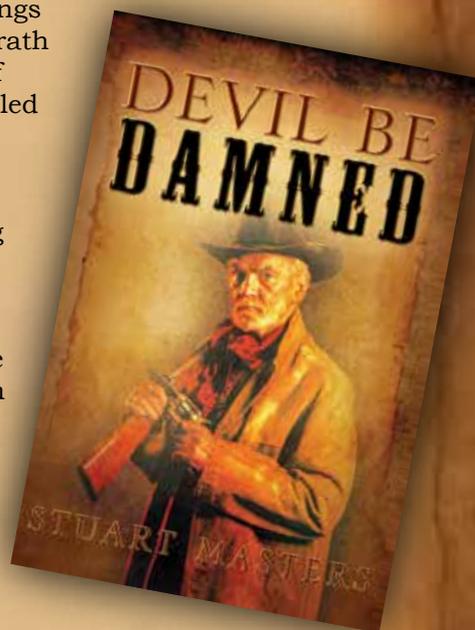
DEVIL BE DAMNED

YOUNG TOBY GRIMES is aware that vengeance belongs to the Lord. But he grows impatient waiting for the wrath of God to appear and sets out to seek the only kind of judgment he knows is appropriate for the one who killed his mother. DEATH!

Determination to **DELIVER HIS OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE** and to keep a promise he made to his dying mother sends him onward into the path of a murderous gunslinger.

In this epic drama set in the old West, anger and hate drives our young hero to decisions that will affect him for the rest of his life . . . if he can live through it all.

Books can be purchased directly from his webpage at <https://outskirtspress.com/devilbedamned> or by visiting [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).



When Mary and Princess, her Yorkie, come to visit Mary's grandparents' ranch in Wyoming, the young girl learns all about ranch work. More importantly, with help from the retired cow dog Bandit, an Australian shepherd even if "he wasn't really from Australia," Mary learns to own up to her own mistakes. Like most of Phil Mills Jr.'s books for beginning readers, *Bandit the Cow Dog* teaches right and wrong and offers a glimpse into the Western lifestyle for children from the cities. Jeanne Conway's illustrations are vibrant and fun.

– Johnny D. Boggs

KAREN MIREAU

All Their Yesterdays

Azalea Art Press
Paperback, 268 pages, \$17.95
AzaleaArtPress.blogspot.com

All Their Yesterdays is an imaginative and entertaining combination of fact, fiction, fantasy and autobiography – something for every reader. Young Carrie Oyler is growing up in the early 1900s in Utah's canyon country in what is now Capitol Reef National Park. A dedicated daughter and sister, Carrie can't help but dream of a world outside

her own limited one, made worse when she falls in love with a young Paiute and is called to help rescue him after an unjust banishment. The time travel certainly serves to enhance, and by the book's end all the elements of history, fiction, spiritualism, mysticism, romance and self-discovery come together in a delicious blend. The sequel, *All Their Tomorrows*, is set for release in November.

– Rocky Gibbons

POETRY

JAMI MACARTY

The Minuses: Poems

The Center for Literary Publishing at Colorado State University
Paperback, 92 pages, \$16.95
UPColorado.com

Jami Macarty's collection of free verse invites attention to ecological and feminist issues. In "Territory of Men," she takes notice of a male bobblehead on a car dash, and in "Family," we're told of the battered woman with "face so swollen her daughters could not recognize her." In the Sonoran Desert,

her ecological ear listens to the "Coyote's yip emitted at the fringe." Macarty acknowledges the influences found in her reading, traveling and conversing with others that enabled her to deliver this uninhibited collection.

– Lynn Bueling

SEAN PRENTISS

Crosscut: Poems

University of New Mexico Press
Trade paperback, 120 pages, \$18.95
UNMPress.com

Crosscut takes readers into backcountry, reclaiming overgrown trails and misguided souls. Tool names and terminology of the forest become familiar to the reader and stop just shy of forming blisters. Sean Prentiss's writing is very real, but *Crosscut* is more than commentary on trail maintenance in the wilderness done by a group of troubled youth. *Crosscut* is about saving oneself in an unfamiliar and often harsh environment and holding onto this reprogramming when returned to civilization. These poems go much deeper than ax work and shovels. Perhaps we all need to pause for a "tool count" on occasion.

– Betty McCarthy

BOBBY R. WOODALL

CLEARWATER

Mercer's Manor

BOBBY R. WOODALL

Bobby R. Woodall

I am from Chickasha, Oklahoma, but live in Columbus, IN My novels have no profanity nor graphic sex. I am a MARINE, therefore I know both, but I am a CHRISTIAN first! SEMPER FI

amazon.com/author/bobbyrwoodall

NONFICTION

STEVE A. ANDERSON (editor)
*William F. Tolmie at Fort Nisqually:
Letters, 1850-1853*

Washington State University Press
Paperback, 302 pages, \$34.95
WSUPress.wsu.edu

Dr. William Tolmie first arrived at Fort Nisqually in 1843 to manage the Hudson's Bay Company's important fur post located on Puget Sound in the Oregon country. The huge fort and its environs eventually included more than 250 square miles and managed 10,000 head of cattle, 12,000 head of sheep and 600 oxen and horses, not to mention scores of laborers, clerks and other employees. Editor Steve A. Anderson has selected nearly 350 of Tolmie's hand-written letters – personally discovered in 2006 in the HBC archives in Winnipeg, Manitoba – produced during the climactic years of the fort's operations. This work is an outstanding contribution to the life and times of one of the Northwest's most important posts, operated by one of the most influential fur companies in North American history.

– James A. Crutchfield

JEFF ANTONELIS-LAPP
*Tahoma and its People: A Natural History
of Mount Rainier National Park*

Washington State University Press
Trade paperback, 266 pages, \$27.95
WSUPress.wsu.edu

Having just completed the quixotic quest of visiting all 62 of America's national parks, I was excited to read *Tahoma and its People*. Jeff Antonelis-Lapp gains immediate attention with his light and accessible style, bringing us along with him to his campsite, introducing us to flora, fauna and scientific phenomenon which he names with enviable ease – lupine, marbled murrelet, salmonberry, hoary marmot, lahar and lenticular cloud – and reminding us along the way that what makes a thing sacred is also our human interaction. He refers to Mount Rainier by its native name, *Tahoma*, as he describes ancient stories, archeological sites and spear points. He has the chops, a degree in science education and *in situ*, having hiked every park-mapped trail, as well as the 80-mile trail of the Yakama people that ascends the Cascade Mountains into Mount Rainier. I was sorry to reach the end of this fascinating read, dog-eared

almost every other page, inking thick with marginalia. This is a *must-read* for those in love with this earth.

– karla k. morton

MONETTE BEBOW-REINHARD
*Civil War and Bloody Peace: Following
Orders*

Self-published
Paperback, 483 pages, \$19.99
Amazon.com

The author's 20-year pursuit of a distant uncle, Henry Bertrand, is a significant piece of work. One of thousands of German immigrants who became combatants in the Civil War, Bertrand served 18 years through four enlistments as a provost guard and infantry noncommissioned officer. He served in all of the Army of the Potomac's battles, then in Kansas pursuing Indians and with General George Crook's Little Big Horn expedition. After retirement and the loss of his wife, Bertrand was impoverished and living on a \$25 monthly pension. The government denied a \$1 monthly raise driving him deeper into poverty. Finally, he hanged himself when he was 75. Even though the work could use some serious editing, it is a remarkable historical record.

– Vernon Schmid

MICHELLE COOKE
*Protecting Our People: Chickasaw Law
Enforcement in Indian Territory*

Chickasaw Press
Hardcover, 129 pages, \$29.95
ChickasawPress.com

Constables, sheriffs, U.S. marshals, Light Horse Police and U.S. Indian Police all played a part in law enforcement in the Chickasaw Nation. Michelle Cooke provides a pictorial history of Chickasaw hardscrabble law enforcement with biographical notes of lawmen who served the people. Putting their lives on the line between the lawful and lawless, the Chickasaw lawmen served with courage, triumph and, frequently, tragedy.

– Vernon Schmid

THOMAS R. COX
*The Other Oregon: People, Environment,
and History East of the Cascades*

Oregon State University Press
Paperback, 432 pages, \$29.95
OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

Central and eastern Oregon have the sort of scenery that keeps postcard

companies in business. Iconic landscapes such as Crater Lake, the Three Sisters Mountains and Wallowa Lake are a testimony to that. Yet the region is much more, as expertly pointed out by eastern Oregon native Thomas R. Cox. *The Other Oregon* is a panoramic, sprawling story that draws on the fields of environmental history, cultural and physical geography and natural resource management. But it is also intimate as Cox explores the rich and often tragic history of its American Indian tribes and numerous stories of the rise of such luminaries as longtime University of Montana professor William Kittredge, Governor Tom McCall and Prineville's Les Schwab, who made a fortune selling tires throughout the West. This publication is for everyone who wants to learn more about the good, the nice and the beautiful of this Pacific wonderland.

– Larry Len Peterson

CHARLES A. EASTMAN
(OHIYESA)
The Soul of the Indian: An Interpretation

Bison Books
Paperback, 120 pages, \$18.95
BisonBooks.com

Copyrighted in 1911, just 21 years beyond the Wounded Knee Massacre, Dr. Charles Eastman wrote in defense of his Indian religious and cultural heritage. As he writes, "Long before I ever heard of Christ, or saw a white man, I had learned from an untutored woman the essence of morality." He earned a university education and became a medical doctor schooled in the sciences but still retained the wisdom and ideals of his ancestors. A slim volume, *The Soul of the Indian* showcases his insights as well as his fluency in the English language as evidenced by his beautifully written sentences.

– Lynn Bueling

LAURA EMERSON
*The Delegates of 1849: Life Stories of the
Originators of California's Reputation as
a Bold and Independent State*

Self-published
Paperback, 316 pages, \$15
Amazon.com

Defeated in war, Mexico acknowledged the loss of its northern territory of California to the United States by treaty in 1848. The victorious Americans moved quickly to advance the status of the province to statehood. Histories have been

written about the convention that met in Monterey in 1849 to write California's constitution. Biographies have been written about the men who met and drafted the document. *The Delegates of 1849* is the first attempt to compile sketches of all of the delegates in one volume. Each chapter tells about the life of a delegate, mostly on his residence in California but also including his life elsewhere. A concluding chapter on the convention itself would have been useful, particularly noting the part played by the major figures in the gathering. The book's use as a reference suffers from an absence of footnotes and a complete bibliography, but this is a good general read for California history enthusiasts.

— Harlan Hague

CHERYL FAIR

Joe Quigley, Alaska Pioneer: Beyond the Gold Rush

McFarland & Company
Trade paperback, 194 pages, \$39.95
McFarlandBooks.com

In this impeccably researched, biographical masterpiece, readers can step back in Alaska gold-mining history and dig in the hard permafrost alongside

noted pioneer Joe Quigley — before, during and after the Klondike Gold Rush. Cheryl Fair brings her great-great uncle to life on every page while at the same time chronicling his established place in Alaska history. The devil is in the details, and the author has not kept from us any letters, personal stories, memorabilia or photographs surrounding Joe Quigley's life in the turn-of-the-20th-Century Alaska wilderness. Thus we know Joe's moods, his struggles, his loves and his losses. We have a front row seat to the struggles for pioneers to survive personally and financially, as well as finding out exactly what it took to mine gold in the Far North. This title does not disappoint history buffs.

— Joanne Sundell

GINGER GAFFNEY

Half Broke: A Memoir

W.W. Norton & Company
Hardcover, 256 pages, \$25.95
WWNorton.com

In the early pages of this captivating book, well-regarded horse trainer Ginger Gaffney describes horses as practicing “emotional camouflage,” responding to and mimicking “the inside

of a person” near them in order to protect themselves. After a desperate phone call for assistance, she visits an alternative prison ranch in New Mexico, where those who attempt to reform outside the walls of formal incarceration learn ranching and other life skills. A herd of murderous horses roams the ranch, and the residents make harrowing sprints to the pastures just to deliver hay. Gaffney deduces that the animals are mirroring the damaged, fearful behaviors of the prisoners, and she takes on the arduous task of healing and training both. Intertwined are memories of Gaffney's youth (she did not speak until she was 6 years old), her struggles with personal identity and her lifelong connection with horses. Her extraordinary ability to read the silent language of the horse made her an unlikely, and sometimes unwilling, miracle worker for a group of broken men and women. An inspiring, beautifully written book.

— Micki Fuhrman

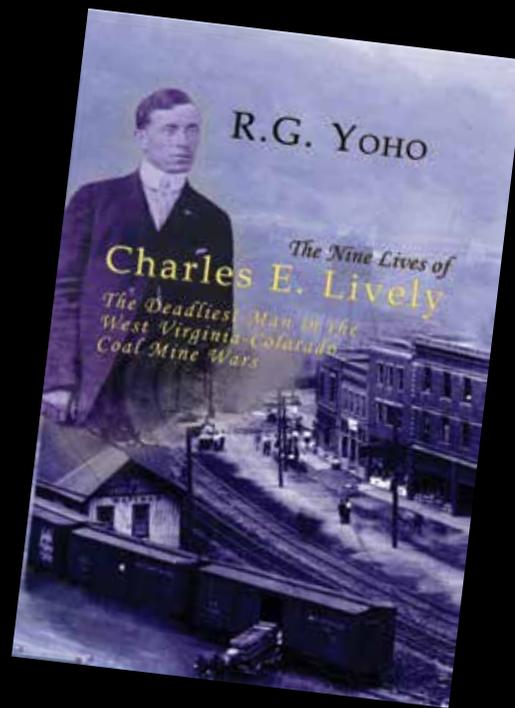
JEROME A. GREENE

January Moon: The Northern Cheyenne Breakout from Fort Robinson, 1878-1879

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 320 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

Now Available from Author

R.G. YOHO



WWW.RGYOHO.COM
ORDER THROUGH AMAZON.COM

Retired as a research historian for the National Park Service, Jerome Greene retains his ability to ferret out facts and reconstruct a historical event for the interested yet uninformed reader. Here he outlines the breakout staged by Cheyenne from their barrack prison at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and their ensuing escape under the unfortunate bright moonlight that doomed many of them. Given our general knowledge of the plight of the Indians in this country, you can guess the outcome, but Greene paints the story with effective prose that pulls the reader forward. *January Moon* will be a useful addition to many a bookshelf.

– Lynn Bueling

STEPHEN HARRIGAN

Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas

University of Texas Press
Hardcover, 944 pages, \$35
UTPress.utexas.edu

State histories all too often fall into a predictable pattern: hardy Anglo pioneers forcibly dislodge savage native peoples and establish Euro-American civilization in a raw land. Stephen Harrigan upends this self-congratulatory trope in his inquisitive, inclusive and compulsively readable history of the Lone Star State. Beginning with the faint traces of prehistoric life reflected in West Texas rock art, he meticulously follows (often by car and on foot) subsequent arrivals as they clash and mingle, leaving their mark on politics, society and culture. In contrast to the triumphalist male-dominated narratives of previous historians, particularly T.R. Fehrenbach, Harrigan acknowledges racism and bigotry and pays careful attention to the decisive contributions of women and ethnic groups to Texas history and to the state's evolution as a distinctively multicultural society. Stephen F. Austin, Juan Seguin, Davy Crockett, Cynthia Ann Parker, Sul Ross, Sam Houston, Elisabet Ney, Lyndon Johnson, Barbara Jordon, George Bush, Willie Nelson and Selena Quintanilla are just a few of the vibrant characters whose stories flesh out this lushly illustrated volume. In the end, Harrigan makes a compelling argument for Texas exceptionalism rooted in the blood of its Alamo martyrs and in the state's unique birth as an independent republic. But he also reminds us that today's Texas owes as much to the Vietnamese American

who waits tables in a bustling Houston restaurant as it does to the men and women – Anglo, Hispanic, American Indian, African American, German, Czech and innumerable others who preceded them. In the process, Harrigan sets a new standard for state history.

– Bruce J. Dinges

KAREN R. JONES

Calamity: The Many Lives of Calamity Jane

Yale University Press
Hardcover, 303 pages, \$28
YaleBooks.com

In her later years, Martha Jane Canary, better known as Calamity Jane, earned money as a speaker at 10-cent freak museums and roamed the West, selling a ghost-written autobiography that claimed she had been a scout for Custer, an Indian fighter, a Pony Express rider and the apprehender of Wild Bill Hickok's killer, none of which were true. This detailed study compares Calamity Jane's bogus autobiography with other untruths about her as well as the facts. A legend created by Eastern journalists and dime novelists, Calamity Jane initially attracted attention as a hard-drinking, cussing, cigar-smoking, tobacco-chewing woman who dressed as a man. If not for her alcoholism, she might have achieved the theatrical success of Annie Oakley. Instead she died at 47, looking twice her age. This volume also examines her legacy in popular culture, particularly a 1953 Doris Day musical, *Calamity Jane*, addressing the gender complexity of Jane's persona. Numerous photographs illustrate her physical decline.

– David Morrell

JIM KRISTOFIC

Reservation Restless

University of New Mexico Press
Hardcover, 208 pages, \$27.95
UNMPress.com

He was a *bilagáana* (white boy) on the Navajo Nation who walked the Female Pollen Mountain amid the desert morning glory that tossed like white tissue paper. Have you ever walked through a rainbow? Can you? You'll find rhetorical questions on life and living and poetic nature in Jim Kristofic's memoir. Kristofic adds little asterisk paragraphs, like footnotes, that are glimpses into the other world of the Navajo. Some of these could have been embedded

into the stories, and some are. We meet his only friend as a kid as they go on a quest after a mountain lion, not with gun or even a camera, not knowing what they'd do if they found it. Kristofic turns the hunt into a vision of story and idea and why humans seek, how they learn, why they travel. This is the way to write a memoir, by fixing it within the bigger scope of life. If you like the puzzles of nature's humanity, rich in vibrant timbres, you'll not regret adding this to your library.

– Monette Bebow-Reinhard

BILL LEVY

Lawman: A Companion to the Classic TV Western Series

BearManor Media
Hardcover, trade paperback, 225 pages, \$35, \$25
BearManorMedia.com

Lawman was a superior Western half-hour television series produced by Warner Bros. for four seasons from 1958 to 1962. Adapted from Harry Whittington's 1958 novel, *Trouble Rides Tall*, the series was about the tough, middle-aged marshal (John Russell) of Laramie and the inexperienced, young deputy (Peter Brown) learning from him. In the second and later seasons, a female saloon owner (Peggy Castle) joined the impressive cast. The series featured an exceptional array of talented Western writers: Ric Hardman (*Gunman's Walk*, 26 scripts), Clair Huffaker (*The Comancheros*, 18 scripts), Richard Matheson (master of many genres, including Westerns, six scripts) and Burt Kennedy (*The Tall T*, wrote three scripts and directed four episodes). This companion to the series (DVDs are available from Warner Archive) provides an informative background and detailed notes for all 156 episodes, along with numerous photos and an extensive index.

– David Morrell

BOBBIE MALONE and BILL C. MALONE

Nashville's Songwriting Sweethearts: The Boudleaux and Felice Bryant Story

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

In 1945, swing-band fiddler Boudleaux Bryant strode across the lobby of Milwaukee's Schroeder Hotel heading for the water fountain. He really wanted something stronger but was making an effort to control a heavy drinking

problem. A dark-haired elevator girl noticed him. Matilda Scaduto, later nicknamed “Felice,” was stunned. *This* was the man who had come to her in a dream years before – the man she was destined to marry. She rushed over and jokingly offered to pay for his drink at the fountain. Five days later, they were married. Not only were they lifelong sweethearts who settled in Nashville as it exploded into “Music City,” but they became legends for their star-building hit songs: “Bye Bye Love,” “All I Have to Do Is Dream,” “Love Hurts,” “Rocky Top” – 6,000 in all, with 900 of them recorded. *Nashville’s Songwriting Sweethearts* packs the sweeping love story and phenomenal career of Nashville’s first dedicated songwriters into 150 pages, plus an appendix of their most popular lyrics. The writing feels unpolished at times, but that doesn’t mar the captivating story of two inexhaustible creatives who wrote the soundtrack of 1950s and ’60s American pop/country music.

– Micki Fuhrman

CHUCK PARSONS

Texas Ranger Lee Hall: From the Red River to the Rio Grande

University of North Texas Press
Hardcover, 432 pages, \$29.95
UNTPress.unt.edu

For readers, researchers, historians and fans of the Texas Rangers organization, a new book by Chuck Parsons is always a reason to take notice. Parsons, renowned author of Ranger biographies featuring Captain C.B. McKinney, John B. Armstrong and N.O. Reynolds, to name a few, knows the territory well. In his latest endeavor, Parsons dives into the life of Ranger Lee Hall, and the early years of the Texas Rangers Special State Troops. Hall interacted with all of the storied Texas Rangers like Leander McNelly and John B. Armstrong and criminals of the time including John Wesley Hardin and King Fisher. Smaller incidents like solving a stagecoach robbery with solid detective work demonstrate Hall’s natural abilities in the law enforcement field. Well-written and researched in detail, with the only flaw being a mediocre index that is heavy on names and short on concepts. The index does not assist the reader in finding such basic terms like the Frontier Battalion and the Texas Rangers Special State Troops, among many other missed opportunities. Researchers and historians

will find the lack of terms in the shallow index frustrating in an otherwise stellar effort by Parsons.

– Larry D. Sweazy

JAMES PRATT

Sabotaged: Dreams of Utopia in Texas

Bison Books
Hardcover, 307 pages, \$34.95
BisonBooks.com

This thoroughly researched, complex study tells the story of a failed attempt to establish La Réunion, a utopian community on the banks of the Trinity River across from the village of Dallas in the mid-1850s. Dozens of French followers of socialist philosopher Charles Fourier were brought to Texas under the management of an incompetent would-be empresario, Victor Considerant. He ultimately stole their money and abandoned them to the destructive elements of the sometimes-extreme Texas climate, wild animals, strange vermin and hostile politics. Fascinating to anyone interested in Dallas/Texas history, James Pratt’s prose is often confusing (maps and charts would help), with people hard to keep straight. The tragedy of this failed enterprise is wincingly painful to read, but many of these hearty but hapless idealists ultimately integrated with the local population and brought skills and talents to what would become the city of Dallas. Pratt’s account is embellished with imaginative detailing of personal gestures and actions; it ultimately satisfies more than it doesn’t.

– Clay Reynolds

MICHAEL VINSON

Bluffing Texas Style: The Arsons, Forgeries, and High Stakes Poker Capers of Rare Book Dealer Johnny Jenkins

University of Oklahoma Press
Paperback, 229 pages, \$21.95
OUPress.com

The title and subtitle tell it all in this intriguing biography of Johnny Jenkins (1940-1989), a scholar, bookseller, forger, arsonist and gambler who couldn’t resist crossing the line when it came to dishonesty and braggadocio. An author of creditable books on Texas history and an important bookseller, Jenkins’s success in these areas failed to match his ego. He forged valuable Texas documents and abetted in the theft of them from Texas archives. He embellished his experience with exaggerations and lies.

Addicted to playing poker, plagued by angry purchasers of forgeries, owing millions to casinos – he shot himself at age 49, leaving a legacy of drama and controversy. Readers will find this biography a fascinating page-turner.

– Abraham Hoffman

W. RAYMOND WOOD and

MICHAEL M. CASLER (transcribers and annotators)

Fort Union and Fort William: Letter Book and Journal, 1833-1835

South Dakota Historical Society Press
Paperback, 131 pages, \$29.95
SDSHPress.com

For hardcore history buffs, it doesn’t get much better than locating a fresh trove of primary source material on a favorite subject. That’s what makes this book such a pleasant discovery. American Fur Company’s Fort Union and Missouri Fur Company’s Fort William were located near the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in current far-west North Dakota. Situated a mere three miles apart by horseback, the posts competed fiercely with each other for the native trade in furs and bison robes. Although probably not something a casual reader would enjoy, for scholars, *Fort Union and Fort William* contains the kind of firsthand information on the day-to-day operation of a trading post that brings history alive.

– Michael Zimmer