

## FICTION

**AMY HALE AUKER**

*Ordinary Skin: Essays from Willow Springs*

Texas Tech University Press  
Hardcover, 182 pages, \$24.95  
TTUPress.org

Amy Hale Auker has a way with words. She brings the skills with sound and imagery and insight learned as a poet to her prose, making the act of reading enjoyable in and of itself. These essays capture the author's musings about hiking, camping, birds and their nests, intermittent pond creatures, plants, animals and whatever else captures her fancy. Most entries, to my satisfaction, deal with going horseback after cattle on the Arizona ranch she calls home. Many of the essays come to no certain conclusion – as if the author drifted away, lost in thought, allowing the reader to do the same.

– Rod Miller

**SUE BOGGIO and MARE PEARL**  
*Long Night Moon*

University of New Mexico Press  
Trade paperback, 312 pages, \$24.95  
UNMPress.com

Unexpected fatherhood thrusts Santiago “Santi” Silva through a door he didn’t know existed until that fateful moment when Rosalinda, the mother of a 3-year-old boy, shows up at his family’s New Mexico ranch. Santi’s life quickly resembles a tornado’s aftermath after he is called back from a blossoming career in San Francisco. Having discovered the identity of the child’s grandma, Rosalinda’s current boyfriend brews a plot to extort money from said grandma. Twists and turns worthy of any country highway mountain pass abound. The plot speeds along at a good pace. Detracting to the speed are the multiple “players” who have confusing back histories and the addition of plot items thrown in that seem to have been added for appearance’s sake. Sometimes, less is better.

– Sandy Whiting

**BOB BRILL**

*Lancer: Hero of the West: The Santa Fe Affair*

Brill Productions/CreateSpace  
Trade paperback, 182 pages, \$11.99  
BobBrillBooks.com

In this installment of the Lancer series, the hero is hired to find and rescue Burnie Kane and Burnie’s little half-Chinese son Robert. The assignment takes Lancer to the KKK-controlled town of El Macho, New Mexico Territory, where he faces off against the brutal Romo brothers, who simply execute anyone they don’t like. Things really start popping for Lancer when Robert’s grandfather, a Chinese warlord, arrives with a small private army to fetch his grandson.

**JIRI CERNIK**

*The Shots at Iron Mountain: A Story of Two Men – Tom Horn and Geronimo*

Dorrance Publishing Company  
Trade paperback, 199 pages, \$16  
DorrancePublishing.com

Jiri Cernik uses broad brush strokes to depict Tom Horn, his work among the Apaches and Geronimo and the events in Wyoming involving the death of a 14-year-old shepherd’s son, Willie Nickell. This is fiction, and the author has relied heavily on the historical record, while adding his own interpretations. While Horn was involved with Geronimo, and this book has periodic interludes related to that story line, it would have been stronger to separate the Arizona events from the Wyoming events. They have no direct connection and the bounce back and forth slowed the narrative.

**JAMES D. CROWNOVER**

*The Ox That Gored*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 331 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

James Crowover takes you on adventures into the Indian Territory through the eyes of Deputy U.S. Marshal Lee Stowell and his posse in the late 1800s. With warrants in hand

from Judge Isaac C. Parker, Stowell and his posse leave Fort Sill to go after white criminals in the Indian Territory. The danger and adventures they encounter searching for wanted men is informative about lawmen of the West. The book keeps you wondering what’s the next obstacle they will find. This is fun to read and educational on how criminals were apprehended in the 1880s.

– Lowell F. Volk

**B.J. DANIELS**

*Cowboy’s Legacy*

Harlequin  
Mass-market paperback, 384 pages,  
\$7.99  
HQBooks.com

Romance novels are not always about overpowering leading men, women with heaving bosoms and a lot of shedding of clothing. For example, consider *New York Times* best-selling author B.J. Daniels’s *Cowboy’s Legacy*. The main characters are drawn to one another after one of them is almost killed. True devotion is tested in a time of crisis with everyone remaining fully dressed. *Cowboy’s Legacy* is the continuing saga of the Cahill family. In the third installment, we find that Sheriff Flint Cahill’s love, Maggie Thompson, has been abducted just as they were planning to start their lives together. The main suspect is Cahill’s ex-wife, who continues to carry a torch for him but won’t cooperate with authorities. With time running out, Maggie and Flint have to rely on each other in order to make it out alive. Fans of Daniels’s work will not be disappointed in this imaginative and thrilling love story.

**SCOTT HARRIS**

*Coyote Courage*

Scott Harris  
Trade paperback, 130 pages, \$10  
Harris52.com

This Brock Clemons Western starts out a little slow but once it gets past the background information, it picks up and becomes interesting. Clemons, a stranger, rides into Dry Springs needing money to buy supplies so he can con-

tinue his quest to find his father. After getting a lead from Huck, a 12-year-old boy who runs the livery, Clemons finds work with Ray Hinton at the mercantile. When outlaws try to take merchandise without paying he steps in and stops them, starting an adventure to rid the town of the outlaws. The book is an easy read once the story gets going and will keep you interested in what happens next.

— Lowell F. Volk

**BOB HERZBERG**

*The Outlaws Hennessey*

Solstice Publishing  
Paperback, 260 pages, \$3.99  
SolsticePublishing.com.

Jed Tully and Ty Brody plan to rob a greedy merchant's store. Wait! They find the place already robbed and that greedy so-and-so murdered. That Hennessey gang did it. You guessed it, Jed and Ty are blamed for the robbery, wanted for murder and forced to ride with those Hennesseys to save their hides. You'll have to read it to see if they are able to put an end to the gang

once and for all. Bob Herzberg writes a lot of books on film history, mysteries and some Westerns. This one meanders once in a while but moves fast.

— Edward Massey

**D. LÁSZLÓ CONHAIM**

*Comanche Captive*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 224 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

When does a captive stop being a captive? In this tale of a white woman versus the Indians versus the U.S. military, either all will lose or all will win. At the heart of this story is a mother's love for her child, who is part Comanche. After her "rescue," she strives to return to him regardless of the cost. In a Gordian knot of various Indian tribes, Army units and forts, the woman, Laura Little, and Captain Scott Renald, fight each other and then alongside each other to keep him from being court-martialed and for her to find and keep her son. At times it is devilishly hard to keep the players straight.

— Melody Groves

**JAMES D. CROWNOVER**

*Tales of the Last Frontier*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 314 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Chock full of colorful stories of Tularosa Basin 19<sup>th</sup> Century life, *Tales of the Last Frontier* gives fascinating insights into everyday people doing everyday jobs. Award-winning James D. Crowover aimed to give voice to people whose lives are generally overlooked. To that, he has done an outstanding job in this last of the Five Trails West series. At times hard to decipher due to his overuse of dialect, the general idea is clear. His characters are drawn clearly and cleverly with tidbits of forgotten facts tossed in. Cattle drives, avenging Indians, a curious yet hilarious Mexican cattle breed, a desert rescue and a story of slavery fill the pages with yarns that not only educate but entertain. Crowover's writing is strong with carefully crafted story lines.

— Melody Groves

**THE BEST IN NEW. CONTEMPORARY WESTERNS**

**DOUBLE WIDE**  
by LEO W. BANKS

A disgraced baseball star turns detective when a catcher's severed hand is left on his doorstep in the dry, Arizona desert.

*"Great writing...each sentence is edged with grit and humor."* — James Sallis, *Hammitt* and *Grand Prix de Littérature Policière*. award-winning author of *DRIVE*

**DEAD MAN'S BADGE**  
by ROBERT E. DUNN

Career criminal Longview Moody assumes his dead, twin brother's identity as the new Chief of Police of a dusty Texas town that's being terrorized by a Mexican drug cartel.

*"Brutal, vivid, and unforgettable...a modern-day western morality tale in crime-novel wrapping with a blood-red bow. This one will haunt you."* — Lee Goldberg, #1 *NY Times* bestselling author

**OUTSIDE THE LAW**  
by PHILLIP THOMPSON

There's a new badge in the land of western crime fiction and it's pinned on a man who can stand tall alongside Raylan Givens, Walt Longmire, and Jesse Stone.

*"A winner in the tradition of JUSTIFIED and WALKING TALL"* — Reed Farrel Coleman, *NY Times* Bestselling author of *ROBERT B. PARKER'S HANGMAN'S SONNET*

**BRASH BOOKS** WE PUBLISH THE BEST CRIME NOVELS IN EXISTENCE.®  
www.brash-books.com

Available in trade paperback, ebook, and audiobook editions.

# WESTERN MUSIC

## W. MICHAEL FARMER

*Blood of the Devil, The Life and Times of Yellow Boy, Mescalero Apache Book Two*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 372 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

It took courage to publish this densely packed, scholarly, 140,000-ish word work of fiction. The reader gets his money's worth in Apache culture, language, characters and stories tracing the life and times of Yellow Boy. The narrative vehicle is the autobiography of an Apache boy from 1860 to 1951. He befriends, fights and loves friends, foes and women, including witches, shape-shifters and multiple wives. It takes a bit of concentration to keep everyone and everything straight. Thirteen pages of reference material covering Apache and Spanish language, as well as characters and geography, help us.

– Edward Massey

## FRANK LESLIE

*Revenger*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 279 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

*Revenger* is a “Western Duo” about Mike Sartain, known as the Revenger, who induces revenge on those who have done harm for people who are unable to seek revenge for themselves. The two stories follow the same thin plot throughout the book. As Sartain rides into towns he is almost always met by men trying to kill him, but he kills five or six men instead. When he is not killing men who are trying to kill him, he is making love to every woman he meets. The author writes about surroundings – in a building or outside – in vivid detail. The book's repetitive, though, and it's easy to figure out what is going to happen.

– Lowell F. Volk

## MATTHEW P. MAYO

*Stranded, A Story of Frontier Survival*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 244 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

A true heart-tugging page-turner, *Stranded* is based on a true account of 14-year-old Janey Riker, left alone in 1849 at the base of the Rocky Mountains. Traveling westward from Missouri with her pa and two brothers, she stays back at camp while they hunt buffalo. They never return. Facing a harsh winter alone, Janey pushes back despair while relying on the things her father taught her back in Missouri. The cold brings frostbite, wolves, bears and gnawing hunger. She learns to depend on herself. Comforted by writing in her diary, she survives long enough to be found by Salish Indians. Vivid descriptions and scintillating details round out this gripping tale of survival, fear and hope.

– Melody Groves

## RANDI A. SAMUELSON-BROWN

*The Beaten Territory*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 338 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

## JIM WILSON

*White Rose*

Buscadero Productions, \$17  
SheriffJimWilson.com

Jim Wilson's 12-cut collection of covers by the likes of Guy Clark, Chuck Pyle, Merle Haggard, Hank Cochran and



OLLIE REED JR.

Hayes Carll takes me happily back to the Deep South honky-tonk music of my youth. I grew up in Natchez, Mississippi, a river town 90 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I've still got family in Mississippi, Louisiana and in Houston, places close to my heart, places slapped around this past summer by Hurricane Harvey.

So it was with bittersweet nostalgia that I listened to this CD just before, during and after Harvey. Carll's lyrics, from the intoxicating song “Beaumont,” about going from Beaumont to Houston “with a white rose in my hand,” took on a poignancy after Harvey that I had not felt when listening to it before the hurricane. But I could not help but smile from the inside out hearing Wilson sing about liking crawfish and liking rice, liking “girls that treats me nice” in “Baton Rouge,” written by Clark and J.C. Crowley.

With cuts such as Haggard's “Everybody's Had the Blues” and Cochran's “Don't You Ever Get Tired of Hurting Me,” Wilson, a Texan, steps away from his usual cowboy songs. But he brings me back to the places and the music that – even after all these years – feed my soul and vibrate in my bones. The CD goes good with beer, too.

## JUDY JAMES

*Christmas in My Hometown*

J Spur Productions, \$19.29  
JudyJames.com

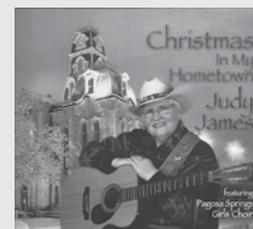
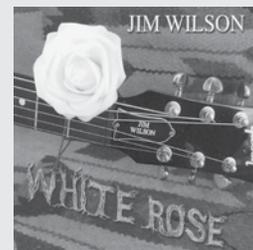
This 13-track album came out a year ago, past deadline for the December 2016 *Roundup*, so I figured I'd single it out for this holiday season.

It's exactly the kind of Western Christmas CD I like, including a few holiday standards but focusing on songs with special appeal to Western music fans, selections such as the title cut by David John, “Christmas Cowboy Style” by Michael Martin Murphey and Rob Quist and, my favorite, “Corn, Water, and Wood” by Carol Ashford Elliott and Wendy Waldman.

James, host of the Western music radio program *Cowboy Jubilee* (JudyJamesRadio.com), has a voice as clear and pleasing as silver bells, and the inclusion of the Pagosa Springs (Colorado) Girls Choir on “Corn, Water, and Wood” and “Do You Hear What I Hear?” is a special treat.

\*\*\*

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



This tale of the Denver demimonde in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century is harsh, gritty and unforgiving. And hard to read. Annie Ryan has known no life outside of prostitution. She raised her two daughters in the trade and also lured in the teenage daughter of her late sister, dead from the emotional toll of whoredom. Drug and alcohol abuse, betrayal, lies, distrust, treachery and violence are all part of daily life at Ryan's saloon – specializing in horizontal refreshments – and while Annie often harps on the importance of family, familial relationships serve no beneficial purpose for these people. A well-written and engaging first novel.

– Rod Miller

**MIKE J. SPARROW**

*Native: Manifest Destiny, Book One*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 494 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

First in a planned trilogy, *Native* tells of a young Lakota man's attempts to fend off the encroachment of trappers, the military, settlers and the U.S.

government. While the story involves much action, the narrative repeatedly bogs down owing to the author's overuse of past-tense being verbs and the past-perfect tense.

– Rod Miller

**PAT STOLTEY**

*Wishing Caswell Dead*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 230 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

The story opens with the discovery of Caswell Proud's body propped against a tree in the Illinois woods. Obviously murdered, his throat has been cut. Who has done it? Authorities, though lacking on the frontier, aren't overly concerned because Caswell richly deserved to die. Everyone in the small village of Sangamon is suspect, but especially his 14-year-old half-sister, Jo Mae. She is pregnant, Caswell having sold her body to nearly everyone in town from the time she was big enough to be used. The novel is filled with flawed characters, only a couple who have generosity of spirit and deserve sympathy. Caswell

may not even be the worst of the lot. Readers will have to decide for themselves in this rock-solid, riveting tale.

– Carol Crigger

**SUSAN MAY WARREN**

*A Matter of Trust*

Revell  
Trade paperback, 336 pages, \$14.99  
RevellBooks.com

The Peak Rescue team is on the job again in this contemporary romance. This time the story centers on Gage Watson, who must rescue a U.S. senator's brother – and do so with the beautiful senator in tow. The wayward brother proves his ability on the mountain, and the senator shows that she can keep up with the rescuer, too.

**JOHN T. WAYNE**

*Blood Once Spilled: The Gaslight Boys*

Mockingbird Lane Press  
Trade paperback, 300 pages, \$20  
MockingbirdLanePress.com

John T. Wayne has penned a tale of Southerners trying to bring order to their lives after the Civil War. The protagonist returns from the war only to find the land

he expects to claim in danger of being lost to carpetbaggers. A turnabout of the story shows him working in league with his pre-war detractors as they try to protect their rightful possessions. Mix in a wife with a little voodoo and you have another in Wayne's series of "Gaslight Boys" novels.

– Lynn Bueling

## HOWARD WEINSTEIN

### *Galloway's Gamble*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 313 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

James and Jake Galloway certainly live a colorful life growing up in Serenity Falls, Texas. Their mother, a respectable woman, happens to run a saloon and brothel that are more like a rescue mission – her "doves" must attend morning Bible classes before servicing clients in the evenings. Through the years, James and Jake experience a variety of adventures reminiscent of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Huckleberry Finn* and *Blazing Saddles* before returning to join their mother and an eclectic crowd of citizens in a final, all-in gamble against villainous bankers, plantation owners and cattle barons intent on foreclosure and destruction. The characterization is solid, and readers will bond with the main players by book's end.

– Loyd Uglow

## KAREN WILLS

### *River with No Bridge*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Karen Wills writes from her home in Northwest Montana about Montana, this time Butte, in a style slow and so detailed at first it strikes one as wordy. Persistence is rewarded by a story and writing that starts to charm. That charm is remarkable because the story is one trial after another for poor Nora Flanagan, who emigrates from Ireland to prejudiced Boston with a drunken father who dies. She continues on to Butte to a husband who dies, a lodger who seduces and abandons her, a job in a brothel and an out-of-wedlock son who self-righteously estranges himself from her. It is the involvement in Nora's life that charms and keeps one going. The reader doesn't know how she kept on going through all of her challenges, but if she did, we can too.

– Edward Massey

## SUMNER WILSON

### *A House of Men*

Five Star Publishing  
Hardcover, 283 pages, \$25.95  
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

A feud between ranching cousins that began in childhood simmers for years until it leads to tragedy that touches both families. Steel Fixx blames Honus Rust for the death of Fixx's daughter, who had married Rust's son. Fixx removes his grandchildren from Rust's house and takes them home with him. Rust vows to recover them. Rust is arrogant and cares little for the feelings of others, even in his own family.

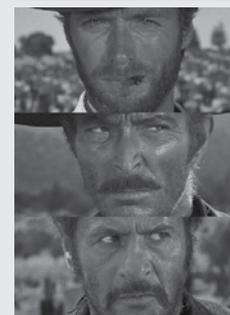
## *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

Blu-ray, \$29.95; DVD, \$19.95  
Kino Lorber  
KinoLorber.com

Few films have seen their resurrection through the home market be as consistent, or as complicated, as Sergio Leone's third installment in his adventures of The Man with No Name. *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* has been released on DVD in the United States more than five times. The "Extended Cut," released in 2002, included scenes that were in the original Italian version but removed for the U.S. release in 1967.



C. COURTNEY JOYNER



Newly dubbed by Clint Eastwood and Eli Wallach, as no English version of the scenes had ever previously existed, this material had actually been a bonus feature on the 1998 DVD but in silent form only and had never been inserted into an English release of the film until the extended cut.

The extended version also restored the much-needed Lee Van Cleef sequence in which he meets with the soldiers before Eastwood and Wallach are captured, scenes of Wallach recruiting his gang and some not-so-needed additional time with Wallach wandering the desert.

As in the reconstruction of Sam Peckinpah's *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* or Orson Welles's *Touch of Evil*, Leone's epic now exists in multiple versions with histories behind each. Like Peckinpah's and Welles's films, the inclusion of cut scenes gives *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* a new, and different, editorial rhythm that not everyone favors. It's not what we're used to, and it feels off. Also, not everything trimmed was United Artists' random butchering, but choices made in conjunction with the producer.

All this cinematic dissection ultimately boils down to: Which version to watch?

Kino Lorber has supplied the perfect answer with its new two-disc edition of *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. Recognizing all of the changes and debate around the film, Kino has included the extended cut and the traditional release. The extras from all versions are numerous, with new commentary by historian Tim Lucas and archived MGM commentaries by critics Richard Schickel and Sir Christopher Frayling. Multiple featurettes include original interviews with Eastwood and Wallach, a detailed account of the restoration and an examination of the astonishing Ennio Morricone score.

Some reviews have argued the color of the prints is too yellow, an adjustment made so that old visual elements would match with the new. Even if noticed, Leone's epic looks glorious.

\*\*\*

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

Stimulated by alcohol and an incipient mental instability, Rust fans the flames and outrage leads to outrage. Fixx is not blameless as he responds in kind to Rust's violence against his family and property. Tension builds to an explosive end that will leave you turning pages rapidly.

—Harlan Hague

## NONFICTION

**KEVIN BRIANTON**

*Hollywood Divided: The 1950 Screen Directors Guild Meeting and the Impact of the Blacklist*

University Press of Kentucky  
Hardcover, 156 pages, \$45  
KentuckyPress.com.

When legend becomes fact, print the facts. Finally! On October 22, 1950, during the height of the Red Scare, Screen Directors Guild members met to vote on the dismissal of guild president Joseph L. Mankiewicz, a strong opponent of an anticommunist loyalty oath. The meeting, remembered for actions

and speeches by Cecil B. DeMille (*The Squaw Man, The Plainsman*), George Stevens (*Shane, Giant*) and John Ford (*Stagecoach, The Searchers*), has become a mythical moment for Hollywood and First Amendment rights. But much of this history has been misremembered, misinterpreted and actually made up. Relying on a stenographer's transcripts from that meeting, Kevin Brianton explains what really happened at the Beverly Hills Hotel and why. One of the best and most important Hollywood histories to come out in years.

—Johnny D. Boggs

**MATTHEW CARTER and ANDREW PATRICK NELSON** (editors)

*Refocus: The Films of Delmar Daves*

Edinburgh University Press  
Trade paperback, 240 pages, \$29.95  
EUPPublishing.com

Although he wrote and directed many genres, Delmar Daves (1904-1977) is best remembered for his Westerns. No surprise, perhaps, since one of his first movie jobs was as a prop boy for *The Covered Wagon* (1923). While not all of his attempts hold up, many remain

powerful and entertaining — *Broken Arrow* (1950), *3:10 to Yuma* (1957), *Cowboy* (1958). Matthew Carter and Andrew Patrick Nelson have compiled 10 essays, five of which focus on Daves's Westerns. There is a lot of good information and intriguing analysis but too much repetition, and the academic prose won't appeal to many readers.

**MICHAEL LYNN CREWS**

*Books Are Made Out of Books: A Guide to Cormac McCarthy's Literary Influences*

University of Texas Press  
Hardcover, 332 pages, \$35  
UTexasPress.com

This book is not for the casual reader. Or even for fans of Cormac McCarthy, which I am. Combing newly available archives, the author uses early drafts of McCarthy's novels, notes, correspondence and other original material to explore the writer's inspiration and influences, as well as allusions to the works of philosophers, artists and writers. Demonstrated are similarities in theme, phraseology, sounds and other arcane comparisons. So detailed is the work, one almost expects to be enlightened to

**NEW FROM AUTHOR  
LYNN ELDRIDGE**

**Lynn Eldridge**

**Desire in Deadwood**  
A Novel

**AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR  
FAVORITE BOOKSTORE  
AND AMAZON.COM.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
LYNN'S PEN ON FACEBOOK**

the fact that McCarthy uses the same 26 letters of the alphabet in his writing as, say, Herman Melville. “Scholarship” seems to be the driving force behind this work, which will probably prove a valuable reference for scholars studying McCarthy.

– Rod Miller

**ROBERTO CURTI**  
*Tonino Valerii: The Films*

McFarland  
Paperback, 226 pages, \$39.95  
McFarlandPub.com

As a director of Italy’s spaghetti Westerns, Tonino Valerii is overshadowed by a couple of Sergios – Leone and Corbucci. Yet Valerii, who died last year, had a successful run between 1966 and 1977 – “episodic,” Italian film historian Roberto Curti notes, “consistent in quality but numerically small ... almost all commercially successful.” Curti puts Valerii’s life and his films, which include *The Price of Power* and *My Name is Nobody*, in perspective. Foreword by noted film scholar Sir Christopher Frayling.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**ROBERT K. DeARMENT**  
*Man-Hunters of the Old West*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 344 pages, \$29.95  
OUPress.com

During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, jurisdictional and other limitations restricted county sheriffs and U.S. marshals from pursuing offenders beyond borders. Criminals were often elusive until banking and stagecoach companies, cattlemen’s associations, and the railroads rose to fill the void by employing “noteworthy man-hunters ... gun-handly fighting men and detectives” to arrest them. With unlimited jurisdiction and a network of law enforcement operatives, man-hunters had an edge in tracking lawbreakers. Robert K. DeArment, a master at reporting on significant characters of the Old West, writes about eight of the most successful and fearless, describing how each operated, their exploits, and various tactics used to capture an assortment of felons. The best known man-hunter is Charlie A. Siringo, who gained notoriety for chasing Jesse James in addition to Butch

Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Law enforcement icons of the Old West may consume headlines and notoriety, but these man-hunters made immeasurable contributions to frontier justice as only DeArment can report.

– Stan “Tex” Banash

**BRANDI DENISON**  
*Ute Land Religion in the American West, 1879-2009*

University of Nebraska Press  
Hardcover, 305 pages, \$55  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Don’t be misled by the academic-sounding title of this book. Brandi Denison has written a provocative case study of the dispossession of the Ute tribe from western Colorado in the 1880s. Her focus is a broad one, taking in the broken promises of treaties, the controversial Meeker Massacre of September 1873, and the distinctions between history and public memory in how whites have viewed these events and how Utes remember them. Whites acknowledge the spiritual values of the Ute Land Religion while overlooking how the Utes lost their lands. Denison describes the way two Ute women, Chipeta and She-towitch, are seen as a Pocahontas role in rescuing Meeker women from captivity. The history of these episodes, presented as a revisionist corrective to long-held stereotypes and misperceptions of the past, make this book a fascinating tale that connects past and present in surprising ways.

– Abraham Hoffman

**KATHERINE ELLINGHAUS**  
*Blood Will Tell: Native Americans and Assimilation Policy*

University of Nebraska Press  
Hardcover, 202 pages, \$40  
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Solidly researched based on archives and published studies, Katherine Ellinghaus’s book offers a powerful indictment on federal government policies that were racist, inconsistent, and insensitive regarding the status of American Indians after passage of the Dawes Act in 1887. In determining who could be enrolled as tribal members or entitled to allotments, federal bureaucrats based eligibility on bloodlines.

Indians had to be “full-blood”; “mixed-blood” Indians were ineligible because the infusion of “white blood” excluded them as being more educated and assimilated. Bureaucrats held a stereotyped view of mixed-bloods as corrupt, devious, and not “real” Indians because they didn’t live on reservations or didn’t “look” like Indians. Ellinghaus focuses on the Chippewa/Anishinaabeg, Arapaho, the Five Tribes, the Eastern Cherokee, Cheyenne, and Lakota. The 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, often considered as a victory for Indian rights, nonetheless was influenced by the blood theory. The chapter on Virginia Indians getting classified as “colored” by a fanatically racist bureaucrat in the 1920s is particularly chilling. Ellinghaus succeeds in informing readers that assimilation policy was far more complex than a general view would suggest.

– Abraham Hoffman

**CHRIS ENSS**  
*The Pinks: The First Women Detectives, Operatives, and Spies with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency*

TwoDot  
Trade paperback, 169 pages, \$16.95  
Rowman.com

Enough about Allan Pinkerton and other early American spies. Chris Enss, the prolific writer of brief histories often about women, provides a straightforward look at some of Pinkerton’s unheralded operatives. Pinkerton, founder of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, was the first to hire women detectives. Most of the stories here revolve around Kate Warne – “one of the Pinkerton Agency’s most competent detectives,” Pinkerton bragged – who gets credit for saving Abraham Lincoln’s life. This is an easy-to-read primer, but reading it leads one to wish that someone would tackle a full-fledged, in-depth, book-length biography of Warne.

**MARSHA V. GALLAGHER** (editor)  
*Travels in North America, 1832-1834, A Concise Edition of the Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 573 pages, \$34.95  
OUPress.com

Prince Maximilian traveled across the United States and ascended the Missouri River as far as what is today western

Montana conducting a broad scientific survey of the country. It was a grueling journey up a narrow, shallow channel by steamboat and flatboat in 1832-33. Along the way he collected flora and fauna and ethnographic and economic information on the Indian tribes he met and on the fur trade. He saw the world with the eyes of an educated child – everything was new and wonderful and so he noted details others overlooked. His accounts of Indians are fascinating, catching them in a transitional era when manufactured goods were just becoming available to them.

– Doug Hocking

**BRADLEY FOLSOM**

*Arredondo: Last Spanish Ruler of Texas and Northeastern New Spain*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 324 pages, \$34.95  
OUPress.com

Arredondo came to prominence in 1811 with his brutal subjugation of the breakaway province of Nuevo Santander. Arredondo was a military man, never a reformer, but showed some feel for

administration by allowing Indians and mestizos a measure of local authority. However, Folsom wastes no words portraying Arredondo’s sensitive side. He was a ruthless defender of New Spain who routinely employed torture and public hangings. His victory in Texas’s bloodiest battle, the Battle of Medina (1813), pushed back intrusions from the United States and decimated the cause of revolution. Still, by 1821, Arredondo’s disciple, Santa Anna, had become the new president of an independent Mexico. Fascinating reading that fills a gap for students of early Texas and of the Mexican Revolution.

– John Mort

**WILLIAM HAZELGROVE**

*Forging a President: How the Wild West Created Theodore Roosevelt*

Regnery History  
Hardcover, 267 pages, \$29.99  
RegneryHistory.com

Despite a premise offering great potential (that the American West helped create Theodore Roosevelt), this book is a major disappointment. The lack

of independent research by William Hazelgrove (whose sources are but a few previously published books) is one of many problems with this text. One blatant mistake is the author’s referral to the former President as “Teddy.” Theodore *refused* to be addressed by that name, stating it was the name of a boy, not a man. The truth goes much deeper. His first wife, Alice, called him that, and her sudden death left an emotional scar he did his best to bury, including the name Teddy. Inexplicably, Hazelgrove fabricates dialogue between Theodore and others while no record of such utterances is offered as proof. Additionally, there are no photographs to illustrate the narrative, which is inexcusable.

– Michael F. Blake

**DOUGLAS C. McCHRISTIAN**

*Regular Army O! Soldiering on the Western Frontier, 1865–1891*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Hardcover, 762 pages, \$45  
OUPress.com

The appellation “definitive work” probably gets thrown around more than

# The Final Word On The Lincoln County War

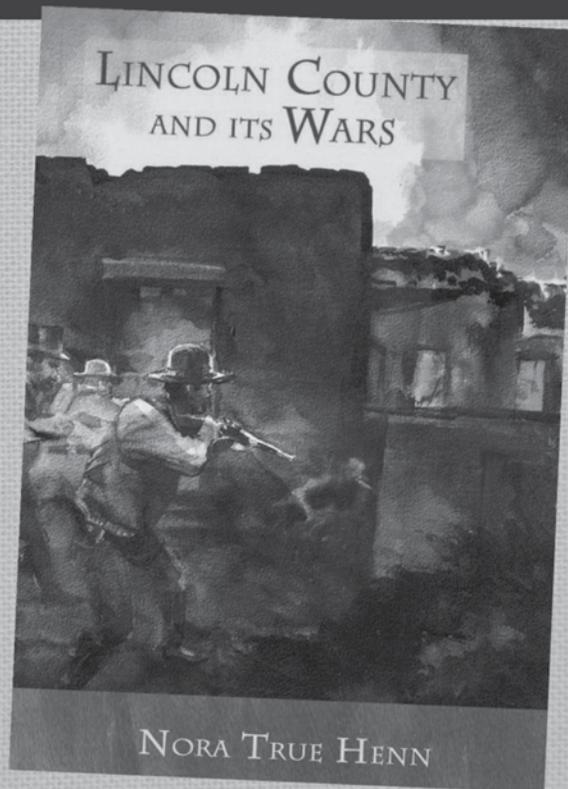
“This is, without the slightest doubt, the definitely, the final word on the Lincoln County wars and all the men who fought them.”

—Frederick Nolan  
*Lincoln County War Historian*

“Nora True Henn spent forty years in Lincoln, New Mexico researching the Lincoln County War. Her archive was the envy of all. When she passed in 2011, she bequeathed her home and her extensive archives and library to the Henn-Johnson Foundation in Lincoln. Her unparalleled research is published here for the first time.”

—Herb Marsh  
*Henn-Johnson Archives Foundation*  
[hennjohnsonarchives.org](http://hennjohnsonarchives.org)

Available on Amazon



merited. Not so with *Regular Army O!* If your purpose is to understand a soldier's lot in life on the Western frontier in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, this is your resource. Written in a comfortable style with touches of humor, McChristian examines the soldier's experience from enlistment to discharge, detailing daily life from reveille to tattoo. The portrait he paints suggests "O!" might stand for "ordeal." Meticulously compiled and referenced from original sources, the book is a treasure-trove drawn from correspondence, journals, newspapers and personal anecdotes. In my research, I've encountered sources bemoaning the fact George Custer's ill-fated 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was outgunned by the Lakotas and their allies armed with repeating rifles. McChristian enumerates the grains of powder that explain why.

– Paul Colt

#### MARK THOMAS MCGEE

*Katzman, Nicholson, Corman: Shaping Hollywood's Future*

BearManor Media  
Trade paperback, 332 pages, \$22.95  
BearManorMedia.com

Sam Katzman, James Nicholson and Roger Corman helped transform moviemaking with low-budget films in the 1950s and '60s aimed at teens. To give you an idea about their reputations, Katzman, who started his career in the 1930s, was called "The King of Crap." Although Katzman (*Jesse James vs. the Daltons*) and Corman (*The Shooting*) produced a number of Westerns, Mark McGee focuses on better-known "crap": juvenile-delinquent, science fiction, horror and rock'n'roll cheapies like *Rock Around the Clock*, *I Was a Teenage Werewolf* and *The Little Shop of Horrors*. The book lacks depth and focus but serves as a fine primer for film buffs.

#### GREGORY F. MICHNO

*The Three Battles of Sand Creek: in Blood, in Court, and as the End of History*

Savas Beatie  
Hardcover, 233 pages, \$29.95  
SavasBeatie.com

"Sand Creek" and "Massacre" are inextricably linked, but Gregory Michno shows that history is in the eye

of the beholder. Some of the Cheyenne were indeed peaceful, but others had been harassing settlers all through 1864. There was no dramatic, cinematic charge into camp; there were, however, many atrocities against women and children. Some Indians were slaughtered; others put up a stiff, organized resistance. Finally, the chief villain of the piece, Colonel John Chivington, was not exactly a monster, and the commander back at Fort Lyon, Edward Wynkoop, was a sworn enemy who testified against him. Michno's second battle concerns the three hearings that followed the action, all of them biased; his third is the postmodernist impossibility of knowing anything for sure.

– John Mort

#### BILL NEAL

*Death on the Lonely Llano Estacado: The Assassination of J.W. Jarrott, a Forgotten Hero*

University of North Texas Press  
Hardcover, 210 Pages, \$24.95  
UNTPress.unt.edu

Add another victim to the deadly reputation of "Deacon" Jim Miller. In *Death on the Lonely Llano Estacado*, cold-case historian Bill Neal not only builds a circumstantial case against Miller but also against the prominent ranching family that hired the killer of South Plains homesteader J.W. Jarrott. Neal develops his case with the precision of a prosecuting attorney, which he was for 20 years in West Texas, and conveys his findings with the skill of a novelist. Behind Jarrott's murder is a tale of land fraud and resistance to change between 1901 and 1903 when the South Plains began the evolution from a ranching economy to today's farm economy. In *Death on the Lonely Llano Estacado*, Neal blows the dust off the obscure 1902 murder and illustrates how elusive justice could be in the Old West.

– Preston Lewis

**ANDREW PATRICK NELSON**  
*Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980*

University of Oklahoma Press  
Trade paperback, 249 pages, \$19.95  
OUPress.com

1969 is considered a pinnacle year for Western films because of *Butch Cas-*

*sidey and the Sundance Kid*, *True Grit* and *The Wild Bunch*. The argument goes that the first two summarized the classical tradition while *The Wild Bunch* tore it all apart and established a new approach that future Westerns had to confront. With a few exceptions (the argument continues), it has been downhill since then. Andrew Patrick Nelson's excellent analysis of Hollywood Westerns between *The Wild Bunch* and the box-office failure of *Heaven's Gate* in 1980 ably demonstrates that there were plenty of impressive Westerns released in that period and that only a few of them were in the so-called debunking "revisionistic" category typified by *Little Big Man*. Nelson is particularly stimulating in his discussion of the later Westerns of John Wayne. His first chapter has a university-press tone. After that, it's smooth riding. Have a pad and pencil handy because you'll be writing down a lot of titles. Essential reading for fans of Western films.

– David Morrell

#### HAROLD N. POMAINVILLE

*Henry Hathaway: The Lives of a Hollywood Director*

Rowman & Littlefield  
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$95  
Rowman.com

Henry Hathaway (1898-1985) never gained the accolades of fellow directors John Ford, Howard Hawks, Anthony Mann or Sam Peckinpah. But over a long career (1932-1975), he directed many entertaining Westerns – *Rawhide* (1951) rarely gets its due – not to mention the well-regarded *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer* (1935), *Kiss of Death* (1947) and *Call Northside 777* (1948). Hathaway never earned an Academy Award nomination but directed John Wayne to his Oscar-winning performance in *True Grit* (1969). Harold N. Pomainville has written an overdue and insightful look at the life and films of a director described as a "madman" (Jeremy Slate) and a "paranoiac" (Gregory Peck). *True Grit's* Kim Darby said: "I hate him." The price tag will turn off most readers, but Pomainville's book paints a clear portrait of a director who could be, as Earl Holliman said, "terribly tough" or "tender and caring." Most actors might debate the latter.

– Johnny D. Boggs

**BOOK REVIEWS** (continued on page 35)

**ALAN K. RODE**

**Michael Curtiz: A Life in Film**

University Press of Kentucky  
Hardcover, 642 pages, \$50  
KentuckyPress.com

Michael Curtiz was a legendary workhorse director for Warner Bros., brilliant in just about any genre: crime, war, horror, pirate, romance, comedy, musical, Western. In the latter category, he directed *Dodge City*, *Virginia City* and *Santa Fe Trail* with Errol Flynn, *The Boy from Oklahoma* with Will Rogers Jr., *The Proud Rebel* with Alan Ladd, *The Hangman* with Robert Taylor and *The Comancheros* with John Wayne (Curtiz was so ill with cancer that Wayne directed much of that film). Curtiz's greatest achievement is *Casablanca*, with other notable titles including *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *The Sea Hawk*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Mildred Pierce*, *The Breaking Point*

and *White Christmas*. This biography (the first about Curtiz) is thorough and vastly entertaining, with numerous hilarious examples of Hungarian immigrant Curtiz's mangled English. "Bring on the empty horses!" he shouts before an action scene. Numerous photographs.

– David Morrell

**ROBERT SINGER and GARY D. RHODES** (editors)

**Refocus: The Films of Budd Boetticher**

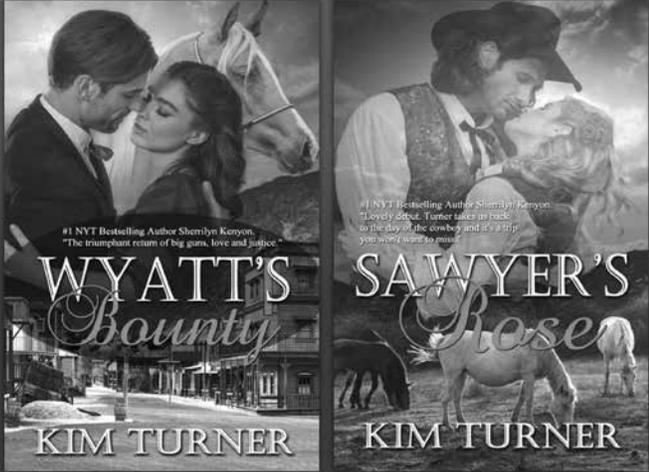
Edinburgh University Press  
Hardcover, 259 pages, \$110  
EUPPublishing.com

Budd Boetticher was a competent journeyman director of movies and television in the 1950s and '60s. But he has one important claim to fame: the six "Ranown" Westerns he made between 1956 and 1960 starring Randolph Scott, the handsome, stoical matinee

idol who looked like a block of granite and sometimes acted like one. These modestly budgeted movies were models of gritty realism, terse storytelling and psychological complexity that made a lasting impression on Sergio Leone, Sam Peckinpah and Clint Eastwood. The basic plotline was always the same – a man whose wife has been killed seeks vengeance on those involved. Some of the outlaws, haunted by their deed, seek a break from their past. But redemption is rare – the only certainty is death. Outside of his 1989 autobiography, this is the first full book on Boetticher, but its relentlessly academic style (and breathtaking price) will make it slow-going for all but his most devoted fans. Still, like others in the *Refocus* series, it's a valuable contribution on a significant but overlooked filmmaker.

– Glenn Frankel

**KimTurnerWrites.com**  
*It's all about a cowboy & the woman he loves...*

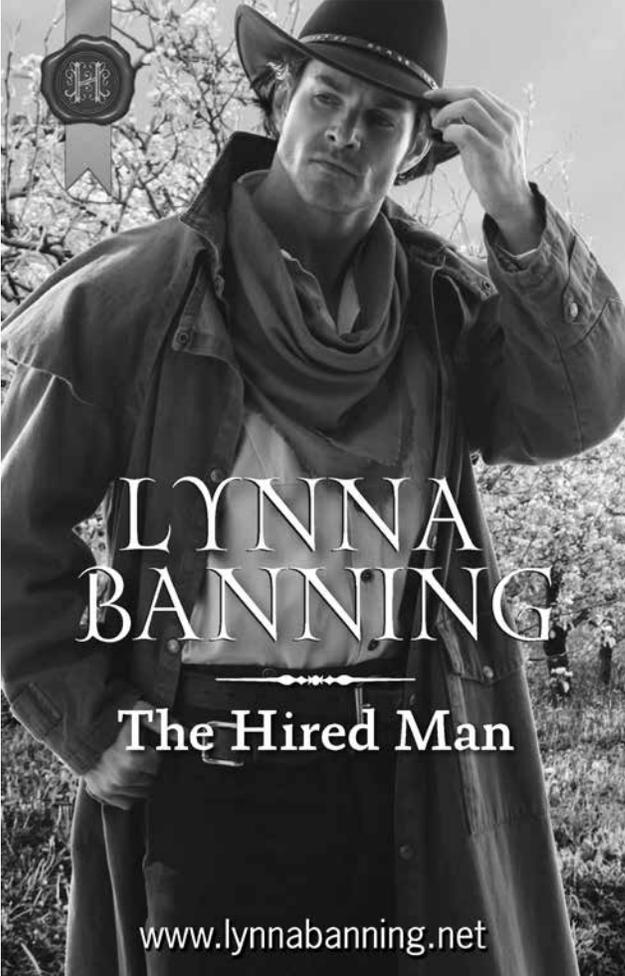


**WYATT'S Bounty**  
KIM TURNER

**SAWYER'S Rose**  
KIM TURNER

Discover  
THE MCCADES OF CHEYENNE

Print & eBook at Major Online Booksellers



**LYNNA BANNING**

**The Hired Man**

www.lynnabanning.net