

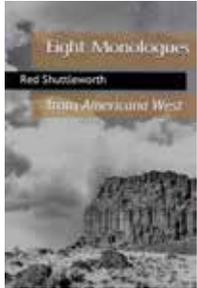
PLAYS

RED SHUTTLEWORTH

Eight Monologues from Americana West

Humanitas Media Publishing
Trade paperback, 60 pages, \$14.99
HumanitasMedia.com

On June 21, 2019, at Old Tucson Studios during the WWA convention in Tucson, Arizona, eight monologues from Red Shuttleworth's "Americana West" series made their world premiere, directed by Emmy Award winner and WWA past president Kirk Ellis. Robert Nott (1919: *Tinnie, New Mexico*), Mark C. Jackson (1929:



Cherry, Arizona), Chris Enss (1961: *Beach, North Dakota*), Carol Markstrom (1971: *Liberal, Kansas*), Kellen Cutsforth (1974: *Plainview, Texas*), Micki Fuhrman (1976: *Rattlesnake Station, Idaho*), Johnny D. Boggs (1978: *Hettinger, North Dakota*) and Sheila Ellis (1994: *Shoshone, California*) made up the cast. These short pieces, originally published as individual chapbooks, have been collected in a handsome volume. The eight monologues are, as *True West* magazine editor Stuart Rosebrook says, "akin to James Joyce's Ireland; a land where the common folk never forget the humor of the human condition while living, loving, and dying." "The characters," Kirk Ellis noted, "are American dreamers who find their respective Western myths tested, challenged and sometimes broken by Western reality." Shuttleworth, a master of language, understands the strengths and flaws of Westerners.

Reviews and listings

To submit a book for possible review, mail one copy to Editor, Roundup Magazine, 10 Dovela Road, Santa Fe, NM 87508 as soon as available. Professional advance reading copies are also accepted. "In the Chute" is an advance listing of forthcoming books. Information should be emailed to roundupwwa@aol.com at least six months before publication.

JUVENILE

SANDRA DALLAS

Someplace to Call Home

Sleeping Bear Press
Hardcover, 240 pages, \$15.95
SleepingBearPress.com

Multiple Spur Award-winning author Sandra Dallas has penned a book reminiscent of *The Grapes of Wrath* although intended for younger readers. She features three young displaced people in 1933 who wander about in the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl while experiencing suspicion and hostility. They are viewed as outsiders that students of today might associate with emigrants in their midst. A touching moment in the story occurs at bedtime when they sing songs of the day and the youngest of the trio wishfully and often asks for "Happy Days Are Here Again." Adults might enjoy reading it, too.

– Lynn Bueling

ELIZA WHEELER

Home in the Woods

Nancy Paulsen Books
Hardcover, 38 pages, \$17.99
Penguin.com/kids

After the death of her father during the Great Depression, a 6-year-old girl and her impoverished family are evicted from their home and forced to move into a tar-paper shack in the woods of northern Wisconsin, learning to survive through hard work. Their favorite game is General Store – where "We can buy anything we want!" Based on stories author/illustrator Eliza Wheeler heard from her grandmother, *Home in the Woods* is poignant, charming and educational, aimed for children ages 5-8. But moms and dads who want to read this aloud to their little ones at bedtime, be warned: It's hard to get through the ending without something catching in your throat.

– Johnny D. Boggs

NONFICTION

THOMAS G. ALEXANDER

Brigham Young and the Expansion of the Mormon Faith

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 392 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

Thank God for the Mormons (having been born one, I can say that). For Mormons have given us an entirely separate way and reason to write about the Old West. Reading this book, even for someone inclined to love this stuff, is like pearl diving. Therein lies the problem: No one has enough air to go down into this text and survive. Every page is loaded with deep, dramatic stuff, but it is written so you never find the drama and heart and struggle. Here is an example: "Although church leaders discussed such topics as murders and massacres, another matter seriously affecting the church in the 1860s was differences of opinion over church doctrine." Wow! How much more drama can you hide in 26 words? It's an extraordinary book. The reader will have to be extraordinary, too.

– Edward Massey

SARA N. BEAM, EMILY DIAL-DRIVER, RILLA ASKEW and JULIET EVUSA (editors)

Voices from the Heartland: Volume II

University of Oklahoma Press
Trade paperback, 236 pages, \$24.95
OUPress.com

The well-edited volume of essays reveals the women's unique perspectives on life which provides fascinating reading. Grouped into different categories, the reader can find plenty of appealing viewpoints within the pages. Take for instance the woman who wants to reduce incarceration, or the one who became the youngest lawyer ever hired by the Department of Justice, one who struggles with an unwanted pregnancy and subsequent abortion. As the preface states: "You'll read their stories here as they want them told"

– Lynn Bueling

PETER BRAND

Doc Holliday's Nemesis: The Story of Johnny Tyler & Tombstone's Gamblers' War

Self-published
Paperback, 343 pages, \$30
TombstoneVendetta.com

"Why Johnny Tyler! Madcap," Val Kilmer's Doc Holliday exclaimed in the 1993 movie *Tombstone*. While Johnny Tyler may have been a bit hasty and reckless, his extensive and interesting gambling career is brought to life through Peter Brand's book. The Missourian traipsed across the west to California and Nevada where he scratched a living at faro tables and billiard halls. An unfortunate stay was in Tombstone, Arizona, where Tyler survived a brush with Holliday. The day and night intrigue Tyler experienced between competing gambling houses offers a tense setting. Being beaten and knocked down a staircase by Wyatt Earp convinced him to find his entertainment elsewhere. Moving to Leadville, Colorado, in 1882 was another poor choice for Tyler as Holliday showed up there only months later.

— Monty McCord

ADA DEER

Making a Difference: My Fight for Native Rights and Social Justice

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 118 pages, \$26.95
OUPress.com

Many children born and raised on Indian reservations remain trapped by destructive social and political realities. Few use that experience as a launching pad for a lifetime of advocacy for their people. Ada Deer is one of those exceptions. From her childhood on Wisconsin's Menominee reservation to the leadership of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, her life as a fierce advocate for Indian Rights illustrates a depth of commitment to her people and indeed the cause of justice for all.

— Vernon Schmid

KRISTIN DENHAM (editor)

Northwest Voices: Language and Culture in the Pacific Northwest

Oregon State University Press
Trade paperback, 224 pages, \$22.95
OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

The editor of *Northwest Voices* has pulled together an array of essays written by contributors knowledgeable in the Pacific Northwest's unique linguistic heritage. They posit an amazing number of influences the region has had on the English language and have written essays about the region's linguistic diversity, the origins and use of place names, and efforts being made to revive indigenous languages.

— Lynn Bueling

BRIAN PATRICK DUGGAN

General Custer, Libbie Custer and Their Dogs: A Passion for Hounds, from the Civil War to Little Bighorn

McFarland & Company
Paperback, 361 pages, \$45
McFarlandBooks.com

We might know the wartime exploits of George Armstrong Custer, but what about his relationship with canines? From early family life to West Point to the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Custer was sometimes surrounded by as many as 50 dogs. His wife, Libbie, was not a dog person, although she did grow to love them during her marriage to Custer. Brian Patrick Duggan, a dog aficionado who has judged and showed dogs, deserves a blue ribbon for phenomenal research. After seven years of investigation in 21 states and the United Kingdom, his finished project is worthy to be a library reference book on the subject. The historical images alone are a treasure. The foreword by Paul L. Hedren says it all: "This is Custer up close and personal ... the focus is the private, married, family man." And all the dogs he loved.

— Denise F. McAllister

RICHARD EDWARDS, JACOB K. FRIEFELD and REBECCA S. WINGO

Homesteading the Plains: Toward a New History

University of Nebraska Press
Trade paperback, 272 pages, \$19.95
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Homesteading the Plains is a scholarly evaluation of the 1862 Homestead Act. It investigates the myths and false assumptions long considered fact in academia. Though not easy reading, this book would be helpful to those writing about the 19th Century or trying to understand its history. While I ex-

pected a rehash of former publications, I was pleasantly surprised to learn new insights about this important episode in American history.

— Candace Simar

RICHARD and SHIRLEY CUSHING FLINT

A Most Splendid Company: The Coronado Expedition in Global Perspective

University of New Mexico Press
Hardcover, 450 pages, \$95
UNMPress.com

With this in-depth book, the husband-and-wife research team of Richard and Shirley Flint provide new details for Spain's largest expedition in 1540–42 north of Mexico. They also describe the unfamiliar European world of the 16th Century and its obsessive belief in a land route to the riches of Asia through the Americas. *A Most Splendid Company* ends with three pages of conclusions that explain the European and Christian culture of that time and debunk the many centuries-old myths about Coronado and the expedition. Careful genealogical research also identifies for the first time hundreds of Europeans and Mexican Indians who accompanied Coronado. Like all Flint books, this book shows precise care in researching historical detail.

— Dennis Herrick

JOHN GIFFORD

Red Dirt Country

University of Oklahoma Press
Trade paperback, 214 pages, \$19.95
OUPress.com

The author's backyard provides a laboratory for the study of riparian wildlife and natural phenomenon. His essays help us understand that the natural world is all around us and pulls readers into his world of acute observation. This collection of nature writing is a compelling work that belongs in the creative nonfiction library of naturalists, bird watchers and environmentalists. Bottom line: There is no need to seek out Walden's Pond when we have our own backyards in which to study nature.

— Vernon Schmid

JODY EDWARD GINN

East Texas Troubles: The Allred Rangers' Cleanup of San Augustine

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 210 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

A small town in 1930s Texas was terrorized by a ruthless, blood-thirsty gang for 10 years. White and black citizens alike lived under constant threat from the McClanahan-Burleson gang who used Jim Crow regulations, murder in the town square, Ma Ferguson's corrupt Special Ranger commissions, anything it took to extort, intimidate and rob anyone they wanted. That all changed with the election of James V. Allred who sent a squad of Texas Rangers to clean up San Augustine County. This action heralded a new era for the Texas Rangers, and the author has done an outstanding job telling the story of law enforcement practiced by the Rangers. Rooted in deep research and good writing, this volume of mostly unknown and previously unwritten Texas Ranger history is a must read for anyone interested in the organization. It provides a relevant, hard look at racism, and the necessity of an impartial outfit like the Texas Rangers to bring peace and justice to citizens who deserve it. Includes a foreword by Owen Wister Award recipient Robert M. Utley.

— Larry D. Sweazy

AARON GOINGS, BRIAN BARNES and ROGER SNIDER
The Red Coast: Radicalism and Anti-Radicalism in Southwest Washington

Oregon State University Press
 Paperback, 236 pages, \$24.95
 OSUPress.oregonstate.edu

The authors make no pretense at objectivity as they trace the neglected history of radicalism in the logging camps, sawmills and docks in southwestern Washington from the late 19th Century through World War II. Efforts by the Socialists, Industrial Workers of the World (or Wobblies) and Communists to organize unions met with violent resistance from employers, manufacturers and business owners who wrecked union halls, ran union men out of town, and beat up and on occasion murdered union organizers. Local newspapers sided with conservative interests and blamed the radicals for the violence actually caused by the “law and order” anti-radical forces. Workers in the lumber and maritime industries found low wages intolerable, and their struggle for better wages and working conditions lasted for decades. This is a

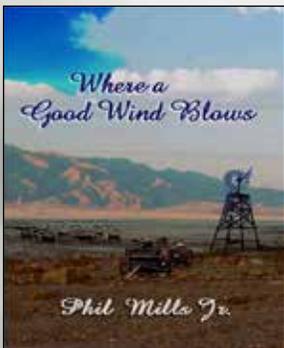
powerful book that rescues labor activism in southwestern Washington state from obscurity and tells the workers' side of the story.

— Abraham Hoffman

BRIAN HANNAN
The Gunslingers of '69: Western Movies' Greatest Year

McFarland & Company
 Paperback, 300 pages, \$39.95
 McFarlandBooks.com

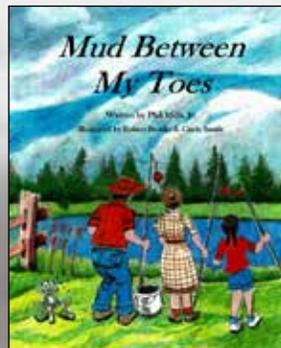
Instead of a survey spanning decades of Western films, Brian Hannan focuses on 1969 as the greatest year in the production of Western movies. In this one year *The Wild Bunch*, *True Grit* and other films Hannan considers masterpieces appeared on the silver screen. So did a number of mediocre Western movies. Hannan evaluates some 40 Western films, providing plot summaries, judging their quality or lack thereof, and discussing the careers of actors and actresses who starred in the films. The book is generously illustrated with posters advertising the pictures. Readers who delight in spotting typos and grammatical errors will find at least a dozen, including “bag guys” (p. 57) and “the 1950” (p. 214). When Iron Eyes Cody



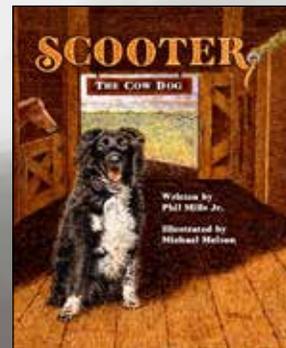
Where a Good Wind Blows
 (Paperback & Audiobook)



Where a Good Wind Blows
 (Hardback/Large Print)



Mud Between My Toes
 (Hardback/Color)



Scooter: The Cow Dog
 (Paperback/Black & White)



Phil Mills, Jr.
 Award Winning Author



Coming Soon
 Where the Wildflowers Dance
 June 2020 – Five Star/Cengage
 Bandit: The Cow Dog
 February 2020 – Mascot Books

www.philmillsjr.com

phil@philmillsjr.com

died in 1999, he was revealed to be the son of Italian immigrants and not an American Indian as Hannan states (p. 214).

– Abraham Hoffman

PETER H. HASSRICK (editor) with **MARIE WATKINS, SARAH E. BOEHME, KELIN MICHAEL** and **KAREN B. McWHORTER**
The Life & Art of Joseph Henry Sharp

Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Paperback, 145 pages, \$25
OUPress.com

Peter Hassrick, who died in October, and his colleagues present a commendable volume about the life of the Western artist Joseph Henry Sharp that is at once informative, interesting and beautifully done. A goodly amount of biographical narrative plus the inclusion of many photographs and examples of the artist's work fill the pages. His work is well represented at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and has been made more complete with Forrest Fenn's gift of Sharp's papers and the cabin he named the "Absarokee Hut." The book is a great addition to my collection.

– Lynn Bueling

CHUCK HORNUNG and **B. LEE CHARLTON**
Trail of Shadows: The Unsolved Murders of Prohibition Agents Dale Kearney and Ray Sutton

McFarland & Company
Paperback, 245 pages, 39.95
McFarlandBooks.com

Trail of Shadows is set in Colorado in the waning years of Prohibition (1920-33) as well as at the start of The Great Depression. This backdrop serves the story of the murder of two prohibition agents, Dale Kearney and Ray Sutton, with a dose of desperation that never leaves the well-organized narrative. These murders, committed six months apart, have remained unsolved. Written with the intent of solving the crimes, the authors make a solid, thought-provoking case to back up their claims and ultimate solution. Entertaining and informative, this book should appeal to true-crime readers and historians alike.

– Larry D. Sweazy

SANDRA MUSE ISAACS
Eastern Cherokee Stories

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 318 pages, \$39.95
OUPress.com

With careful documentation the author reveals the literary essence of the stories that tell Cherokees who they are. Focusing on the remnant that evaded the governmental efforts to remove them, this branch of the nation remained in the mountains of Appalachia. Sandra Muse Isaacs's research included numerous sources, both academic and tribal storytellers, including late WWA member Robert J. Conley. Focusing on the oral tradition that remains alive and well, she helps us understand the strength and resilience of the Cherokees.

– Vernon Schmid

Deadwood: The Movie

HBO
Blu-ray \$19.98, DVD \$9.96
Shop.HBO.com



"They're trying to resurrect a genre corpse!"

Hollywood legend has it that that was the industry-wide feeling when HBO announced it was committing major money to produce its own Western series. The year was 2004, and Westerns were once again declared dead by the powers-that-be, and original programming for cable networks was being approached with extreme caution. Given this dynamic, what sane exec would take a chance on a Western about a South Dakota rail-stop filled with historical characters whose tongues were as filthy as their muddy boots?

David Milch's *Deadwood* would win eight Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe before its cancellation after three seasons because of a forecast of raising the cast salaries would pile on more expense to the expensive show. *Deadwood*, which opened the flood gates for original series programming for cable and streaming, returned this year in a two-hour conclusion to the series with all the primary cast back in form, some even more effective than they were in the original episodes more than a



decade ago.

Milch's script takes up 10 years after the final episode, as South Dakota has won its statehood, but the residents of *Deadwood* aren't celebrating their new identity. Instead, they're confronting the past in old loves and enemies, facing a future with a marriage and a birth and, finally, finding peace in death.

Tim Olyphant's Sheriff Seth Bullock and Ian McShane's Al Swearenger continue to be the center of the *Deadwood* universe, but times and people have changed and now both must deal with the deep corruption of Gerald McRaney's senator, whose personal greed brings murder with it. The years between the end of the original series and now have served Olyphant well, as taking on the mantle of Elmore Leonard's Raylan Givens has seasoned him and he no longer comes across as boyish. But all the performances are fine, with an especially glorious turn by Robin Wiegart as Calamity Jane.

Milch's sense of character, place and certainly language, never falters as he weaves these lives together in a perfect dramatic tapestry. The last moments, accompanied by a lovely version of "Waltzing Matilda" is moving, without being mawkish.

Beautifully photographed and directed with purpose, *Deadwood: The Movie* isn't simply a story wrap-up. It's an emotional farewell to a Western that succeeded despite the naysayers.

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

WESTERN MUSIC



OLLIE REED JR.

I am writing this shortly after attending the 2019 International Western Music Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in November. It was a good time to visit with IWMA and WWA friends, including Jim Jones and Jon Chandler, who, like myself, are members of both organizations.

And, as it happens, Jones and Chandler have new CDs.



JIM JONES

Favorites

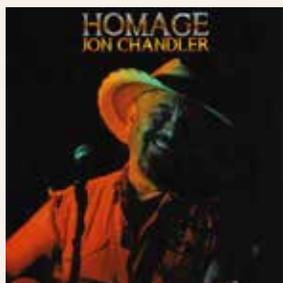
Jim Jones, \$12.97
JimJonesWestern.com

In his liner notes for this 14-cut album, Jones writes that he was going to put out a greatest hits CD until he realized he didn't have any

hits. Those of us who have for years been listening to Jones perform would argue that he has lots of them.

This collection is made up of his personal favorite songs, but it also includes some of mine – “Rustler’s Moon”; “Smoke of the Brandin’ Fire,” written with Allan Chapman; “These Cowboy Boots,” written by Chapman; and “Long May You Ride,” Jones’s stirring ode to the fading cowboy way of life.

Jones’s Spur-winning songs “Halfway Down the Devil’s Road,” written with Chapman, and “Texas is Burnin’” are here, too.



JON CHANDLER

Homage

Arroyo Records/Coastal Bend Music, \$20 CD (includes shipping), \$15 digital download
JonChandler.com

Chandler is also a Spur-winning songwriter. All you need do is read his “Last Word” piece (Page 47) in this issue to know he understands

that art.

But this 10-track CD, subtitled “An appreciation of the songwriter’s craft,” is all about great songs written by others – Mike Blakely (“Slow Falling Rain”), Greg Brown (“Early”), Tony Joe White (“Billy”), Willie Nelson (“I Still Can’t Believe You’re Gone”).

Most are not what you would call Western. But Chandler has a voice so deep and smooth he makes ordering chicken-fried steak sound like a serenade. Anything he sings seems like the best thing you ever heard.

My pick here is Stan Jones’s “Ride Away,” the theme to the great John Ford Western *The Searchers*. Roundup editor Johnny D. Boggs, a fan, like me, of that classic film, said Chandler “nailed” the song. Well, yes. He did.

“Put an amen to it.”

RENEE LAEGREID and SHANNON SMITH

Women in the Writings of Mari Sandoz: Sandoz Studies, Volume 1

University of Nebraska Press
Paperback, 168 pages, \$30
NebraskaPress.unl.edu

Mari Sandoz wrote historical novels and short stories set in the unique bleakness and beauty of the Sandhills area of Nebraska. Her characters were vivid, unexpected and sometimes shocking, and were portrayed with honesty, non-sentimentality and without judgment. *Women in the Writings of Mari Sandoz* delves into Sandoz’s female characters. Though geared toward academia, this book is of interest to a more general reader as well. My favorite part was the examination of Sandoz’s 1961 book, *What the Sioux Taught Me*. Sandoz grew up near the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota and observed their culture first hand. *Women in the Writings of Mari Sandoz* prompts me to read more books by Mari Sandoz. Perhaps this is what the authors intended.

– Candace Simar

RANDY KREHBIEL

Tulsa 1921

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 328 pages, \$29.95
OUPress.com

It is a pleasure for old newspaper hacks like myself to encounter the work of real journalists. Randy Krehbiel, an old-school reporter, lays bare appalling facts behind the 1921 Tulsa race riot. A black man, arrested for assaulting a white woman, prompted black citizens concerned with lynching to confront law enforcement and an explosive situation erupted. Within 24 hours thousands of black homes and businesses were pilfered and systematically burned. More than 300 individuals, primarily blacks, were killed. Investigations laid the blame on law enforcement’s unleashing of armed whites and blacks in a shooting war. It was later revealed the young man stepped on the girl’s foot. She overreacted. Both quietly left Tulsa never to be heard from again. After 95 years, the city still wrestles with the aftermath, searching for mass graves and trying to pay reparations to survivors and descendants.

– Vernon Schmid

HAROLD LEICH

Alone on the Colorado

The University of Utah Press
Trade paperback, 188 pages, \$19.95
UofUPress.com

Promoting Harold Leich’s book as the tale of a float trip down the Colorado River seems to miss the boat. While it’s true Leich’s 1933 journey – first in a collapsible rubber kayak, then in a punt of his own design – is the heart of the volume, its soul lies within the almost lyrical prose he uses to chronicle both the trip and the personal journey that prompted him to challenge the river. Here is a man capable of witnessing the beauty of the land and its everyday people – from hobos to railroad workers – and bringing them to life in text. River runners will enjoy Leich’s observations of the sport in its infancy. Others will appreciate that those descrip-

tions seldom distract from the larger story – of wildlife encountered, violent storms and wind-swept vistas. Leich’s account of the obstacles he faces after his boat is destroyed mid-journey by the Colorado’s violent waters, forcing him to make his way barefoot and without supplies through an unpopulated desert, reveal the character of the man. *Alone on the Colorado* is a journey worth taking.

– Michael Zimmer

ROGER NAYLOR

Arizona State Parks: A Guide to Amazing Places in the Grand Canyon State

University of New Mexico Press
Paperback, 160 pages, \$21.95
UNMPress.com

What fun this prolific travel writer must have on his adventures. It shows in his vivid comprehensive writing style, exuberant descriptions and wonderful photos. Arizona is home to more than 25 state parks, each unique unto itself. This guide is split into three state sections – Northern, Southern and Western, with each park reviewed in detail, including history, admission fees, popular events, nearby attractions, and even

sidebar “Fast Facts.” Two of the state parks in this book are close to my heart: Oracle State Park, since I grew up in nearby Mammoth and rode horses in this area long before it became a state park, and the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial, where my cousin Joe Thurston gave his life in 2013. I recently made it to the memorial for the first time, and even though it was a poignant visit and I was only able to hike part of the seven-mile trail, I came to an understanding of the grueling conditions facing these wildland firefighters and was able to reflect and pay my respects.

– Rachelle “Rocky” Gibbons

DARYL W. PALMER

Becoming Willa Cather: Creation and Career

University of Nevada Press
Hardcover, 264 pages, \$39.95
UNPress.nevada.edu

Daryl Palmer firmly places Willa Cather in the pantheon of great Western writers like Bret Harte and Owen Wister, arguing that, unlike her male counterparts, Cather broadened our view of the West to include women and immigrants. While

previous critics and scholars trace her success to her Nebraska roots, Palmer focuses primarily on Cather’s early short stories, poetry, and journalism, making the case that her “near obsession with imaginative trial and error” paved the way for her later successful novels *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark* and *My Antonia*. Because his focus is on the early writings of the “girl from Red Cloud,” only the last two chapters are dedicated to her best-known works, and her Southwest classic, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, is omitted. Nevertheless, Palmer successfully charts how Cather put “her own distinctive stamp on the American West.”

– Heidi J. Osselaer

CYNTHIA CULVER PRESCOTT

Pioneer Mother Monuments: Constructing Cultural Memory

University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover, 389 pages, \$39.95
OUPress.com

In her latest scholarly book, Cynthia Culver Prescott discusses far more than just statues of historic pioneer women



Carol Markstrom

Award-Winning Western Singer-Songwriter

- 2019 Silver Arrow Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Native American Music Industry, Spirit Wind Records
- 2018 Desert Rose: Country and Western CD of the Year, Rural Roots Music Commission
- 2017 and 2015 Western Female Vocalist of the Year: Academy of Western Artists
- 2017 Crossing Borders: Original Western CD of the Year, Rural Roots Music Commission

Carol Markstrom has a very unique and beautiful voice. She's different, and that's what makes her special. She spent a lot of time putting this CD together. For me it's some of her best work yet. – Bob Everhart, President, National Traditional Country Music Association for Country Music News International

www.carolmarkstrommusic.com

placed across America. Noting that landscape sculptures of men far outnumber those of women in the United States and that pioneer women were far less often portrayed, she details a vast array of such frontier and modern-era sculptures, marking their locations on maps, grouping them by historical time periods, and discussing their art styles, artists, relevance to place and historic significance. Beyond that, she also describes how cultural shifts, stereotypes, reinterpretation and other historical events have changed the look and form of some of the sculptures and modified their place in history over time. Containing numerous photos, maps, narrative descriptions and in-depth explanations, this book not only examines most of America's mother/women monuments but also uses them to explain imagery, visual analysis, iconic figures, cultural memory, and changes in historic interpretation – something that is relevant today in view of the many Civil War sculptures recently removed from America's landscape.

– Jean A. Lukesh

MARK SUBLETTE

Maynard Dixon's American West: Along the Distant Mesa

Just Me Publishing
Hardcover, 524 pages, \$95
MedicineManGallery.com

In 1891, painter/sculptor/illustrator Frederic Remington replied to a letter from an aspiring artist who sought advice: "I hardly know what to tell you – I do not 'teach' and unused to giving advice – the only advice I could give you is to never take anyone's advice, which is my rule." The young artist was Maynard Dixon, who in the years to come did his own thing, too, creating memorable images of the American West with his unique palette and vision. Mark Sublette, owner of Tucson, Arizona-based Medicine Man Gallery – which houses a museum dedicated to Dixon – has put together a breathtakingly beautiful biography and *raisonné* of Dixon. A must for Dixon fans and art scholars. Includes an introduction by Tricia Loscher, assistant museum director at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West in Scottsdale, Arizona.

– Johnny D. Boggs

STEPHEN TRIMBLE (editor)

The Capitol Reef Reader

The University of Utah Press
Trade paperback, 352 pages, \$19.95
UofUPress.com

How do you review a book like this except to describe its content? The writing varies. The subjects of the 53 pieces in this reader are organized into nine parts. Every way of looking at or experiencing Capitol Reef (Utah) is explored. Despite some unfortunate words, like "practicable," the editor harnesses some great writers (as well as unknown and not so great) to the task of providing the reader an experience. The words, however, suffer in comparison to the images. This is not a picture book; the use of pictures adds to (and in some instances could supplant) about 100,000 words. I recommend going to Capitol Reef, but if you can't, this book will be second best. If you can, this book is a must read. It wasn't written as a travel guide, but use it that way.

– Edward Massey

ROY B. YOUNG, GARY L. ROBERTS and CASEY TEFERTILLER (editors)

A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told

University of North Texas Press
Hardcover, 861 pages, \$45
UNTPress.unt.edu.

This hefty tome is a brilliant compendium of articles on the legendary Wyatt Earp. Beside the editors, you'll recognize the herd of authors within as the principal Earp researchers of our time. More than 60 articles and book excerpts cover a chronology of Earp's life, including early researchers, myths and mythmakers. The authors concentrated on documented material and not suppositions for this work. An added bonus are stories of the important figures during his life, the coverage by Hollywood and Earp's relationships with actors William S. Hart and Tom Mix. Gary Roberts wraps the book with an epilogue on Earp, frontier violence and history. I have many favorite Earp books, but if you want only one, this is it.

– Monty McCord

FICTION

JAMES D. BEST

No Peace (Steve Dancy Tales Book 7)

Queen Beach Publishing
Trade paperback, 217 pages, \$12.99
JamesDBest.blogspot.com

Now a married man, Steve Dancy hopes that his life will become one of normal, marital bliss. But if you've read any of the author's work, then you'll know it isn't likely to happen, especially when Dancy's friend, Jeff Sharp, appears on the scene. This author pens a riveting story, every page brimming with action and suspense.

– R. G. Yoho

MIKE BLAKELY

A Sinister Splendor

Forge Books
Hardcover, 448 pages, \$29.99
US.Macmillan.com

After long being an admirer of Mike Blakely's performing and songwriting, I eagerly awaited the opportunity to read his novel of the Mexican-American War. *Sinister Splendor* certainly doesn't disappoint. Blakely does a masterful job of injecting life into historical characters, causing them to leap off the page. You can now count me as a fan of more than just his music.

– R. G. Yoho

MARY CLEARMAN BLEW

Sweep Out the Ashes

Bison Books
Trade paperback, 266 pages, \$19.95
NebraskaPress.unl.edu/bison

This is a mystery and a love story. Diana, self-effacing and insecure, searches for her father and her childhood. Her quest is inextricably linked to a search for meaning in her own life. Leaving Seattle, where she was raised by two great-aunts, she takes a teaching post at a college in Versailles, Montana, where she hopes to find leads to the father she never knew. There she becomes entangled with Jake, a handsome free spirit who moves in and out of her life until circumstances begin to push them together. The measured pace of the narrative, evocative and thoughtful, masks the cauldron of emotion that boils just below the surface. A foreboding suspense builds gradually, then evaporates to a satisfactory end. Well-crafted, vivid description and scene-setting.

– Harlan Hague

DAVID BOOP (editor)

Straight Outta Deadwood

Baen Books
Paperback, 265 pages, \$16
Baen.com

For readers of the weird Wild West, this collection will entertain. Seventeen highly awarded writers (most from the science-fiction/fantasy genres) spin tales of vampire bounty hunters, a wendigo on the loose in Deadwood, a grim shamanistic plague doctor and gun-toting summoners and shape-shifters. Spur finalist Jeffrey J. Mariotte's "Sunlight and Silver" finds a photographer who specializes in capturing images of the beloved deceased (posed ever so naturally) in a town where his subjects come back to life. Some scenes are not for the squeamish, and *Straight Outta Deadwood* isn't perhaps the best bedtime read, but there's plenty of well-written and fun, if dark, storytelling.

—Micki Fuhrman

HARPER COURTLAND

Indiscretions Along Virtue Avenue: Confessions of Sadie Orchard

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 260 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Sadie Orchard was a real person, a colorful and recklessly bold woman who made a name for herself – several names, actually – in late 1800s New Mexico Territory. Born a farm girl in Iowa, she affected a British accent and worked her way “up” through the prostitution industry, eventually owning opulent brothels in several burgeoning mine towns. Sadie changed monikers nearly as often as pantaloons and was known for her tough business dealings. A cast of bawdy characters helps propel the story, along with numerous real-life locations and historical events. The author, a former news reporter, balances careful research with lively storytelling, although the novel does come to an awkward halt. An engaging read.

—Micki Fuhrman

RUSTY DAVIS

Spirit Walker: A Cheyenne Saga

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

Rusty Davis takes you on a journey with the Northern Cheyenne as they are

taken from their home land to a reservation in Oklahoma and their journey back to Tongue River, Montana. The story is told through the eyes of the Cheyenne, showing their suffering, determination and belief in the protection of the spirits in their religion. It is a heartwarming story that gives readers plenty to ponder, leaving them sympathetic to the American Indians.

—Lowell F. Volk

SAM FADALA

The Last Ride of Shadow Briggs

Sundown Press
Trade paperback, 233 pages, \$12.99
SundownPress.com

A young man desperately seeks to unravel an incident in the life of Shadow Briggs, a retired Arizona Ranger who came out of retirement to solve a murder many years before. Although the book moves rather slowly at times, Sam Fadala has crafted a well-written tale with a somewhat unexpected ending.

—R. G. Yoho

SCOTT HARRIS

They Shouldn't A' Killed Her: CAZ, Vigilante Hunter, Book 6

Dusty Saddle Publishing
Trade paperback, 158 pages, \$5.99

A prostitute's life is never easy, whether it's the 19th or 21st Century, and even harder along San Francisco's infamous Barbary Coast. Good people are being tortured and killed. Fearless vigilante hunter Caz (no last name) comes to the daring rescue – guns blazing and men (Grizzly and Rockhouse) backing his play. For readers who search for simple plots and straightforward dialogue, where good overpowers evil, this is the ticket.

—Melody Groves

MALCOLM L. HOTZMAN

Sheriff Mark Stone: The Three Stones

Outlaws Publishing
Trade paperback, 264 pages, price not listed
OutlawsPublishing.com

Pine Tree's Sheriff Mark Stone pursues his girlfriend's kidnapper, Dak Waters, over rough Utah terrain, desperate to save his girl from a bleak future. Earlier, Waters rode into town, demanded money from the town's madam and also the richest rancher in

the area. Unfortunately, Waters has to contend with Mark Stone and his two brothers. The Utah setting is refreshing with a nod to the Mormons. The characters are fairly predictable as is the outcome. And the brother aspect is a nice touch, but it isn't used enough. The story rides along smoothly with the reader rooting for a good ending. However, more of a larger-than-life struggle on both sides would have been perfect.

GREG HUNT

Backtrail

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

Marshal Ridge Parkman is sent into the Colorado Rockies after a low-down cutthroat, but after being seriously injured in a gunfight, the aging lawman finds himself being nursed back to health by Hattie O'Shea, a strong-willed, practical woman. But, well, there are other bad guys Parkman needs to bring to justice first, so Parkman finds himself dealing with quirky frontiersmen and nasty ne'er-do-wells. Greg Hunt has plenty of experience writing solid, easy-to-read traditional Westerns, and *Backtrail* delivers with well-rounded characters, crackerjack action, smooth dialogue and one dang good horse.

—Johnny D. Boggs

SEAN LYNCH

Cottonmouth

Pinnacle
Mass-market paperback, 378 pages, \$7.99
KensingtonBooks.com

Cottonmouth is a fast action novel full of adventure as Marshal Samuel Pritchard, aka Smoking Joe Atherton, goes against bounty hunters looking to collect \$10,000 for killing him. The novel is hard to put down and will keep you wondering what's next (who put up the money and why?). Sean Lynch has done an excellent job in keeping the story interesting with lots of action. If you like stories with lots of excitement, this is a book you will want to read.

—Lowell F. Volk

LEE MARTIN

Fast Ride to Boot Hill: The Legend of Ben Hawks

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 216 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Former Texas Ranger Ben Hawks is on a quest for vengeance, pursuing Brian Avery, who killed Hawks's fiancée during a stagecoach holdup. But Hawks doesn't know what Avery looks like. His adventures include several scrapes in a novel full of surprises. Entertaining and hard to put down.

– Lowell F. Volk

KEVIN MCCARTHY

Wolves of Eden

W.W. Norton & Company
Hardcover, 352 pages, \$25.95
WWNorton.com

Set in 1866 Dakota Territory, *Wolves of Eden* is the story of four damaged Civil War veterans. The likeable inebriate, Lieutenant Molloy, and his orderly, the relentless Corporal Kohn, are assigned to investigate the murders of a sutler and his wife. Meanwhile, Irish brothers Thomas and Michael O'Driscoll, failing as farm laborers in Ohio, re-enlist in the Army and are assigned to Fort Phil Kearney. The novel is written in two alternating points of view: a chapter in third-person, present-tense of Molloy and Kohn's investigation, followed by a chapter in first-person, past-tense of Michael telling his and his brother's story. This device provides a compelling perspective on the gradual merging of these four men's lives. Known for his thrillers set in Ireland in the 1920s, Kevin McCarthy's first foray into historical American fiction is well-researched, taking the reader to a beautiful, often terrifying place populated with sympathetic characters caught in America's violent, yet inexorable Western expansion.

– Robert D. McKee

ANN PARKER

Mortal Music: A Silver Rush Mystery

Poisoned Pen Press
Hardcover, 448 pages, \$26.99
SourceBooks.com

The seventh of Ann Parker's "Silver Rush Mysteries" finds Inez Stannert in 1880s San Francisco. Inez is treating her ward, an unappreciative Antonia, to an evening of opera when the opportunity arises for Inez to play the concert piano on stage at the Grand Opera House. Overheard by the prima donna, Theia Carrington Drake, Inez is hired to accompany the star for the rest of her concert series. While good for Inez's music store's bottom line, the short-term

job turns sour as tempers flare and jealousy blooms. When a murder is covered up, Inez and private detective Wolter de Bruijn set out to make things right. The plot is enthralling. The action puts the reader right on scene, and the characters are well depicted. Inez and company are certain to keep you turning the pages.

– Carol Crigger

LISA PRESTON

Dead Blow: A Horseshoer Mystery

Arcade CrimeWise Publishing
Hardcover, 266 pages, \$24.99
ArcadePub.com

Rainy Dale, a professional farrier and amateur sleuth in rural Oregon, again shows off her girl swagger and crime-solving smarts in this follow-up to *The Clincher*. Author Lisa Preston writes of horses, ranch life and small-town cow-folk with a deep, easy familiarity. While the multiple-murder plot entertains with plenty of switchbacks and blind curves, Preston's offhanded, unusual writing voice is the real star. Heroine Rainy Dale's candor and unpretentious charm will leave her branded on readers' hearts for sequels to come.

– Micki Fuhrman

HAZEL RUMNEY (editor)

Hobnail and other Frontier Stories

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 385 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/Fivestar

This is a collection of 17 stories, each written by a different author. The stories vary all over the place with most of them concerning "bad guys." If one story doesn't suit you, the next one just might. Some of the reads are fun, some sad, some, well, gross and depressing. With few exceptions, most all are an easy fast read. The collection includes stories by several Spur winners and Spur finalists and an introduction by *New York Times* bestselling nonfiction author Tom Clavin.

– Sandy Whiting

SHELDON RUSSELL

A Forgotten Evil

Cynren Press
Trade paperback, 273 pages, \$17
Cynren.com

Award-winning author Sheldon Russell offers a sensitive portrayal of youth set adrift in the wake of the Civil War. Two friends leave Ohio to join General

Sheridan's cavalry in Kansas, but separate after one's old foot injury hampers him. The other continues to his goal and finds himself assigned to Custer's cavalry and future involvement in the Washita attack. A young lady survivor of an ambush joins up with the injured boy and eventually all three unite to eventually find themselves in personal danger near a well-known battle. The author is in firm control of the English language and uses it to tell a good story.

– Lynn Bueling

LARRY D. SWEAZY

The Lost are the Last to Die

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 332 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/Fivestar

This follow-up to Larry D. Sweazy's 2016 thriller *A Thousand Falling Crows* continues the saga of former Texas Ranger Sonny Burton. After losing a right arm to Bonnie Parker gunfire, Sonny retires but soon realizes that being a Ranger is a life and not a job. He is pulled back into a manhunt when his longtime nemeses Billy Bunson breaks out of prison and takes the warden's wife captive. Bunson flees across Texas. Burton and his son Jesse follow the outlaw's trail of crime as it circles back to Huntsville, the scene of his earlier escape. The fast-paced and suspenseful novel moves seamlessly between flashbacks and the present.

– John Neely Davis

DONNA M. VESELY

Cry of a Cactus Wren

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 291 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/Fivestar

Dominica, living alone in an abandoned village in the shadow of the Guadalupe Mountains, is determined to survive. Enter the gunman, the same man who rescued her when she was still a child. He has returned to once again save her life. Their journey to safety is fraught with perils. The plot, and therefore the novel, would have been better had there not been a multitude of players who didn't seem to contribute to the two main characters' trek to safety. Long, descriptive, "over the top" sentences were also an issue.

– Sandy Whiting

STONE WALLACE

Johnny Scarface

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 288 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Johnny Scarface takes you on an adventure with Chance Gamble, who retires from being a witness seeker and gets married. But he returns to his old life when he is persuaded to help locate a young Comanche who goes on a killing spree as he seeks revenge for being disfigured. The story starts out slow but is well written and an easy read, and my interest grew wondering what was going to happen next.

— Lowell F. Volk

MARK WARREN

Promised Land: Wyatt Earp: An American Odyssey, Book 3

Five Star Publishing
Hardcover, 348 pages, \$25.95
Gale.Cengage.com/FiveStar

Much has been documented about Wyatt Earp's career, but in *Promised Land*, Mark Warren delves into the lawman's character. Woven with clarity and colorful prose, Warren leads readers on an odyssey to 1879 Tombstone where we feel the desert dust and hear spurs jangling as Wyatt and his band of brothers stride down the street in their iconic, black greatcoats. An accomplished researcher, Warren is ever-faithful to the facts while reverently imagining thoughts and dialogue for these historical figures. Warren blogs, "This is why I waited 60 years to write about a fearless man. It took me that long to understand what made Wyatt Earp tick." Readers will learn more intimately about Earp's code of straightforward behavior, thanks to Warren's artistry and dedication.

— Denise F. McAllister

J. COURTNEY WHITE

The Sun: A Mystery

Early Hour Press
Trade paperback, 346 pages, \$12.99
JCourtneyWhite.com

In 2008, Bryce Miller, a Boston cancer doctor, inherits The Sun, a 140,000-acre ranch in northern New Mexico, from an uncle she hardly knew. Bryce visits the ranch with the intention of selling fast, and there are lots of people wanting to buy – a developer bent on building

golf courses; an oil and gas company with fracking in its plans; a conservation outfit that doesn't like cattle; and an ultra-rich tycoon with undisclosed plans for the place. It looks as if Bryce will soon be back in Massachusetts. But murder and attempts on Bryce's life complicate things. White, a Santa Fe resident, has written nonfiction delving into the land-use debate, so he knows the landscape, the stakes, the people and the politics. He also knows how to build and sustain suspense which makes this book a pleasure to read.

— Ollie Reed Jr.

JOE YOGERST

Nemesis: A Novel of Old California

Blank Slate Press
Trade paperback, 394 pages, \$16.95
AmphoraePublishing.com

Set in San Diego in 1888, *Nemesis's* heart lies in *noir*, probably San Francisco, 1938. Here we have a good, old-fashioned crime thriller set in a seamy and violent section of town. The villain (who identifies himself as Nemesis) gets to be a point-of-view character along with the heroes – creating a sort of complicity in the reader with the killer as he seeks revenge for past atrocities. Intensely inventive, unexpected twists create action on every page. From time to time the pall-mall pace has to struggle to shine through the writing, replete with anachronisms, point of view changes and awkward familiarities. Yet Joe Yogerst writes confidently, and his historical postscript is enchanting and as riveting as the novel.

— Edward Massey

BOOK NOTES

JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Buckskin, Bloomers, and Me

Center Point Large Print
Hardcover, 288 pages, \$34.95
CenterPointLargePrint.com

Call this one *Some Like It Hot in the Baseball West*. A teenage boy, whose name is never revealed, learns that his stepmother and a local judge have murdered his pa – and now they're out to kill him, too. So the boy tries to escape by playing in drag for the Kansas City National Bloomer Girls baseball team, which is barnstorming across the

West in 1906. Turns out, the boy isn't the only male on the team, or the only one hiding out from killers. Released simultaneously as an audiobook from Blackstone.

C.J. HADLEY

Tales from Out There: Raw and Real Cowboy Stories from the Middle of Nowhere

Range Conservation Foundation/*Range* magazine
Hardcover, 160 pages, \$48
RangeMagazine.com

Spur Award-winning author Lori Van Pelt's essay "Retirement of the Windmill" is included in this coffee-table-size hardcover that features photographs of the West, some by Larry Angier. Other contributors include Waddie Mitchell, Peggy Godfrey, Ed Hanks, Red Cloud Wolverson and Carolyn Dufferena.

RIO NUEVO PUBLISHERS

Navajo Code Talker Manual

Rio Nuevo Publishers
Hardcover, 17 pages, \$14.95
RioNuevoPublishers.com

Inspired by World War II Marine field manuals and featuring more than 10 custom die-cut pages to conceal and reveal information, this interactive book includes a history of the Navajo Code Talkers – 29 Navajo Marines who adapted their language into a code that the Germans and Japanese never could break. Also included is a lesson on learning and using the code and a four-page foldout of the original Code Talker dictionary.

THOMAS F. VOIGHT

(compiler)

Stand in the Light: Native Voices

Illuminated by Edward S. Curtis

Rio Nuevo Publishers
Hardcover, 184 pages, \$16.95
RioNuevo.com

Colorado resident Thomas F. Voight, who with his wife, Diane, owns Wintercount American Indian Fine Art Publishing Company and Stardancer Trading Company, has compiled songs, prayers and philosophies from eight American Indian tribes, pairing these with photos by Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952), often with a quote from the great Western photographer and ethnologist.