

NONFICTION

MARC H. ABRAMS. *Sioux War Dispatches. Reports from the Field, 1876-1877.* Westholme. Hardcover, 448 pages, \$35, www.westholmepublishing.com.

First-hand accounts, primarily from civilian newspaper reporters and military personnel, make for an often riveting, you-are-there storytelling approach. If you're interested in the Little Big Horn, or even 19th Century journalism, this book is a great resource, and even better reading.

BOB ALEXANDER. *Rawhide Ranger, Ira Aten: Enforcing Law on the Texas Frontier.* University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 532 pages, \$38.95, <http://untpress.unt.edu/>.

A spirited biography of Ira Aten (1862-1953), Texas Ranger, county sheriff, division manager at the XIT ranch and a prosperous farmer, rancher and businessman in California's Imperial Valley. Bob Alexander diligently dug into published and archival sources to recreate Aten's life and times.

STEPHEN B. ARMSTRONG. *Andrew V. McLaglen: The Life and Hollywood Career.* McFarland & Co. Paperback, 288 pages, \$45, www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Covering a career as diverse as director Andrew V. McLaglen's is no easy task, but Stephen B. Armstrong's new biography does a more than credible job. This new biography is filled with fascinating anecdotes, covers McLaglen's feature films and lists every TV episode McLaglen helmed, from *Gunsmoke* to *Perry Mason*, and later TV films like *Dirty Dozen: The Next Mission*.

T. LINDSAY BAKER. *Gangster Tour of Texas.* Texas A&M University Press. Trade Paperback, 330 pages, \$29.95, www.tamupress.com.

Distilled accounts of Texas gangsters, dating from World War I into the 1950s, are colorful, but also scrupulously researched. *Gangster Tour* is necessarily narrow in scope, but otherwise it couldn't be any better.

PAUL D. BERKOWITZ. *The Case of the Indian Trader: Billy Malone and the National Park Service Investigation at Hubbell Trading Post.* University of New Mexico Press. Hardcover, 354 pages, \$34.95, Trade Paperback, \$24.95, www.unmpress.com.

This scrupulously documented volume tells the unsettling story of a National Park Service investigation gone bad and the agency's attempts to cover up its inept handling of the case.

MARY CLEARMAN BLEW. *This Is Not the Ivy League: A Memoir.* University of Nebraska Press. Hardcover, eBook,

224 pages, \$24.95, \$14.97, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

Blew chronicles her struggle to breach the traditional roles expected of her in order to finish her education and pursue a career.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS. *Jesse James and the Movies.* McFarland & Company. Paperback, 269 pages, \$38, www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Johnny D. Boggs discusses how Hollywood has dealt with outlaw Jesse James from silent movies to sound. For movie buffs, or those interested in the legendary outlaw, this volume is a must.

BOBBY BRIDGER. *Where the Tall Grass Grows: Becoming Indigenous and the Mythological Legacy of the American West.* Fulcrum Publishing. Trade Paperback, 408 pages, \$29.95, www.fulcrumbooks.com.

Provocative, digressive and at times frustrating, this book examines the connections between American Indians and non-Indians in political, mythological and theatrical contexts, and, despite too many errors, is important for its dedication in arguing for corrections in the historical record that until recently left American Indians out of its mainstream.

MYLA VICENTI CARPIO. *Indigenous Albuquerque.* Texas Tech University Press. Hardcover, 200 pages, \$39.95, www.ttpress.org.

A look at the dilemmas facing the 30,000 Indians living in New Mexico's largest city, and the 12 tribes (mostly Pueblo) living within a 50-mile radius.

DOROTHY CAVE. *God's Warrior: Father Albert Braun, 1889-1983: Last of the Frontier Priests.* Sunstone Press. Trade Paperback, 574 pages, \$32.95. www.sunstonepress.com.

An astonishing journey that touched and transformed the lives of Mescalero Apaches, combat soldiers of both World Wars, members of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, POWs in Japanese prison camps, residents of a Mexican-American *barrio* in south Phoenix and countless others. Dorothy Cave has written a gem of a biography rich in history and aptly told.

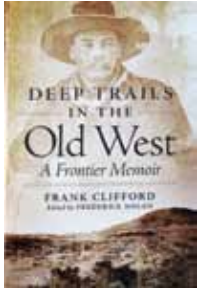
FREDERIC CAIRE CHILES. *Justinian Caire and Santa Cruz Island: The Rise and Fall of a California Dynasty.* The Arthur H. Clark Company. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

A fascinating account of family hopes and bitterness. In 1869 Justinian Caire purchased a portion of Santa Cruz Island, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of California. Before long he owned the entire island, which became the base for his vineyards and cattle and sheep ranches, but in the decades after his death in 1887, everything fell apart.

JAN CLEERE. *Levi's & Lace.* Rio Nuevo Publishers. Trade Paperback, 180 pages, \$14.95, www.rionuevo.com.

Fascinating accounts of many women who might not have made the pages of the encyclopedia, but, in their own way, changed the history of those they served.

FRANK CLIFFORD (edited by **FREDERICK NOLAN**). *Deep Trails in the Old West: A Frontier Memoir.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 317 pages, \$29.95, www.oupres.com.



An engrossing look at a cowboy and drifter who knew Billy the Kid, Clay Allison and Charlie Siringo. A great eyewitness account, edited by master historian Frederick Nolan.

GAYDELL COLLIER. *Just Beyond Harmony.* High Plains Press. Trade Paperback, 251 pages, \$17.95, www.highplainspress.com.

"Harmony" is a community, of sorts, along Wyoming's Laramie River where the author and her young family, transplanted easterners, lived in the 1960s, pursuing old-fashioned values. The book is a celebration, and, while tempered with recognition of the hard times, their rough edges are, perhaps, smoothed out a bit by the passage of time.

DOUGLAS R. CUBBISON. *Burgoyne and the Saratoga Campaign: His Papers.* Arthur H. Clark. Hardcover, 408 pages, \$45, www.oupres.com.

The Revolutionary War historian analyzes the leadership of General John Burgoyne, whose loss to American Patriots in 1777 proved to be one of the war's major turning points.

DON CUSIC. *The Cowboy in Country Music: An Historical Survey with Artist Profiles.* McFarland & Co. Paperback, 250 pages, \$45, www.mcfarlandpub.com.



The history of what has become country music and its sub-genres from its folk and hillbilly roots, to singing cowboy movies to the influence of recordings, radio, television, concert tours and festivals.

DAVID DARY. *Stories of Old-Time Oklahoma.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 288 pages, \$24.95, www.oupres.com.

A lively, entertaining book drawing on his Oklahoma Centennial year newspaper articles covering the early 19th Century to the recent past.

DAVID M. DELO. *The Heroic Journey of Albert Bierstadt: Artist-Priest of the West.* Kingfisher Books. Hardcover, 406 pages, \$18 (1445 Porter Court, # 105, Delta, CO 81416, daviddelo18@gmail.com).

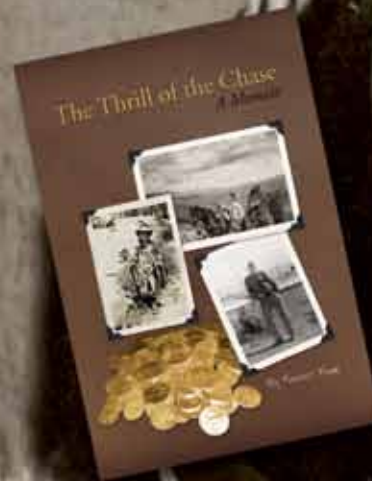
BOOK REVIEWS (continued on page 16)

Co-winner of Indie Award and two-time Wrangler Award winner

FORREST FENN

*Photo and an excerpt from the
"Looking for Lewis and Clark" chapter.*

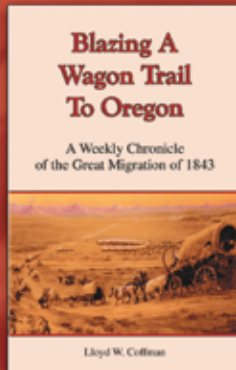
Well, the first night we couldn't get the dumb fire started, and we had already used up most of our matches, so we wisely wadded the map and hoped we would be forgiven that one small foible. It worked, and as the fire crackled and our horses wandered off, we ate our three candy bars and talked long into the night.



202 Galisteo St Santa Fe, NM
505.988.4226



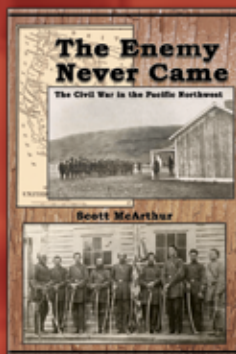
NEW in 2012 from Caxton Press



Blazing a Wagon Trail to Oregon
A Weekly Chronicle of the Great Migration of 1843
 by Lloyd W. Coffman

This is the story of a group of American pioneers who set out to move their families from the settled frontier in Missouri to the far Pacific shore. Times were tough in 1843, and they had heard of a lush new land existing in a place called Oregon. Although a new life seemed to await them just over the horizon, none of them suspected how formidable that horizon really was. Diaries, letters home, and later reminiscences tell their story beginning in Independence, Missouri to its conclusion six months later in Oregon. In effect, readers themselves become vicarious members of the train.

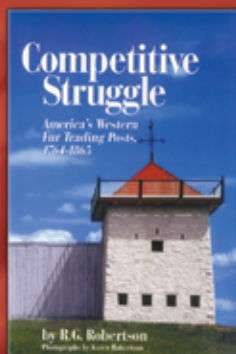
184 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • maps, illustrations \$15.95 paperback • 978-0-87004-511-0



The Enemy Never Came
The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest
 by Scott McArthur

The Enemy Never Came examines the lives of the volunteer soldiers who battled Native American renegades and of the settlers who were deeply affected by the war. Pacific NW pioneers soon chose sides. Others attempted to ignore the entire issue of the War between the States. Because communication with the rest of the nation was slow during the early years of the war, the early settlers of what is now Oregon, Washington and Idaho concentrated on controlling the restive Native Americans whose land and society had been overwhelmed by white settlers.

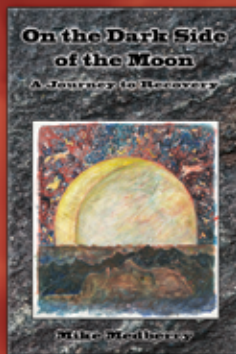
350 pp. • 6 x 9 • photos, maps, illustrations \$18.95 paperback • 978-0-87004-512-7



Competitive Struggle
America's Western Fur Trading Posts, 1764-1865
 by R.G. Robertson

Competitive Struggle recounts the 101-year history of America's western fur trade. From the founding of Saint Louis in 1764 through 1865, the demand for beaver pelts and buffalo robes spawned a competitive fervor that enveloped mountain men, fur trading companies, national governments, and Native Americans alike. The book includes a series of easy-to-read flowcharts showing the evolution of the various fur companies, as well as extensive end notes, an index, a glossary of terms, and a list of modern-day trading post replicas and their photographs.

332 pp. • 6 x 9 • photos, index, biblio, glossary \$18.95 paper • 978-0-87004-510-3



On the Dark Side of the Moon
A Journey to Recovery
 by Mike Medberry

In the spring of 2000, Mike Medberry suffered a stroke in the remote wilderness of Craters of the Moon in Idaho. He was rescued after nearly a full day of lying alone. About the same time, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt came to the Craters of the Moon to support protecting three-quarters of a million acres as a unique national monument, a conservation effort in which Medberry himself had already been personally involved. This story interweaves Medberry's own struggle to speak, walk and think with the struggle to protect this brutal, lava-bound, but for him gentle landscape.

150 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • photos, maps, index \$14.95 paperback • 978-0-87004-513-4

Available through University of Nebraska Press
 Visit www.nebraskapress.unl.edu
 or UNP c/o Longleaf Services, Inc. 1-800-848-6224

NONFICTION MARKET



Commercial, Academic Presses Finding Success in the West

By Abraham Hoffman

Writing in the August 2011 *Roundup*, Candy Moulton reflected on changes in Western fiction and nonfiction writing. “Perhaps the biggest change I’ve seen in my years as editor is the shift from fiction to nonfiction,” she said. “In the 1990s the majority of the books we reviewed were fiction, now it seems that I get far more nonfiction titles for review than novels.”

It would seem that Western history has become a fertile field for publishers, subject to some limitations on topics and marketability.

Nonfiction Western writing seems to fall into two sometimes overlapping categories. Academic historians tend to have their books published by university presses. Once the home of topics that were frequently arcane and intended for specialists, university presses have been compelled through restricted budgets to cast wider nets in hopes of making a profit from their publications. University presses are usually the first place an academic historian gets his/her dissertation published, and the lessons learned in distinguishing a dissertation from a marketable book might well determine whether the author will be writing subsequent books. Sometimes a university press hits the jackpot with a best-seller, but academic historians don’t depend on royalties to make a living.

Kevin Fernlund, executive director of the Western History Association, says he sends his manuscripts to university presses because he writes for an academic audience.

The marketplace, however, is calling for university presses to look for manuscripts that as books will show up in the black. John Byram, director of the University of New Mexico Press, finds opportunities for writers of Western history. “The entire publishing indus-

try is in a time of transition – due to a variety of technological and audience identification challenges – but vivid, engaging, regional narratives will continue to be in demand,” he notes. “For example, environmental history, biography and borderlands studies remain particularly sought-after topics for Western nonfiction manuscripts. The international marketplace for book-length works about the American West continues to be unexpectedly active, both for original works in English and for licensing translations.”

Byram also sees opportunities in niche marketing. “‘Micro-regional’ projects have become increasingly viable as affordable self-publishing and eBook venues have provided the means for savvy authors to reach readers directly beyond the transitional publishing avenues.” He predicts that “the current book marketplace may seem a bit chaotic, but there are opportunities!”

Journal of the West provides a forum for both academic and commercial books on Western history. The magazine publishes some three dozen reviews per issue, most of the books coming off university presses but also from commercial publishers. Authors of articles include both academic and independent writers. “What’s generally worked best for me is to find a topic with a Western focus, with a long history and with modern relevance,” Managing Editor Steven Danver says. “That’s what took me personally into the study of water in the West. Urbanization is another such topic, as is just about anything in ethnic history.” However, he observes that “topics of nostalgic relevance can be popular as well, such as our upcoming *Journal of the West* issue on the Civil War in the West. Homesteading, the Gold Rush, etc., also work well.”

A major difference in submitting a

book-length manuscript to an academic or commercial publisher is that university presses will consider manuscripts directly from an author rather than through an agent. Although this practice avoids “over the transom and into the slush pile” rejection, authors need to be vigilant in the contracts with university presses. Advance royalties are seldom granted, and copyeditors are an endangered species.

Literary agent Jim Donovan advises authors with a strong topic to seek a New York publisher, because that’s where the money is. He finds resurgence in American West nonfiction, but the topics must be marketable. Thus books on Billy the Kid, Jesse James, the OK Corral, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, famous battles and events, all find a ready market as a wide readership likes the Western icons – as long as the book offers a fresh angle.

And you never know what may hit the jackpot. Donovan cites S.C. Gwynne’s *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, published by Scribner’s in 2011, as an example of publishers looking for more manuscripts on American Indians. Gwynne’s subtitle breaks the rule about length, but it grabs the reader’s attention. *Summer Moon* is available in hardback, paperback, Kindle, MP3CD, Audiobook and Audible Audio Edition (unabridged) and is on Amazon’s list of top 100 books.

Aspiring nonfiction writers, however, are cautioned by Donovan to “Write lively! Write as a novel but don’t make anything up.”

BOOK REVIEWS (from page 13)

Limited-edition printing, creative nonfiction, examines the life and career of the noted artist. The author will sign every copy sold.

ROBERT K. DeARMENT. *Assault on the Deadwood Stage: Road Agents and Shotgun Messengers.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 272 pages, \$24.95, www.oupres.com.

Traveling in the 1870s on the Deadwood Stage was an adventure regardless of route or time of year. Rolling through rough country, the stage was the primary transportation link to and from the Black Hills gold fields so the robbers knew there was great likelihood that a stick-up could net real riches. Robert DeArment shows in dramatic detail how for two years gangs of robbers ruled the road.

DAVE DeWITT and LOIS MANNO. *Chile Trivia: Weird, Wacky Factoids for Curious Chileheads.* Sunbelt Media. Trade Paperback, 158 pages, \$15.95, www.sunbeltmedia.net.

The "Pope of Peppers" is at it again. Dave DeWitt's latest book takes nonfiction to a whole new level. Included is every bit of trivia anyone could ask for about the heat-inducing fruit.

ROLAND DICKEY and POLLY POWERS STRAMM (authors) and ROBERT M. PEACKCOCK (photographer). *Mr. Dickey's Barbecue Cookbook.* Pelican. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$29.95, www.pelicanpub.com.

Barbecue lover Roland Dickey, whose family restaurant chain has more than 200 locations across the U.S., teams up with journalist Polly Powers Stramm and shares tips on making Texas-style BBQ.

KELLY M. DIXON, JULIE M. SCHABLITSKY and SHANNON A. NOVAK (editors). *An Archaeology of Desperation: Exploring the Donner Party's Alder Creek Camp.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 390 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

A team of a dozen specialists investigated the tragedy from an interdisciplinary approach, starting with an excavation of the site in 2003-04. The team included historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and other experts. Although the book's title seems to restrict their scope to the Alder Creek camp where George and Jacob Donner and their families suffered in the harsh winter of 1846-47, the larger group at Lake camp is also discussed.

GLEN SAMPLE ELY. *Where the West Begins: Debating Texas Identity.* Texas Tech University Press. Hardcover, 226 pages, \$34.95, www.tupress.org.

Is Texas Southern or Western? That question is at the heart of this examination of the Lone Star State's history, geography, climate, and culture. The author's argument is that Texas is, in most respects, two states, divided along the 100th Meridian.

RICHARD V. FRANCAVIGLIA. *Go East Young Man: Imagining the American West as the Orient.* Utah State University Press. Hardcover, 350 pages, \$36.95, www.USUPress.org.

Professor Richard V. Francaviglia explores America's fascination with the Orient. Explorers and travelers into the American West described it in terms of Oriental experiences and travelogues.

RON FRANSCCELL. *The Crime Buff's Guide to the Outlaw Rockies.* Globe Pequot Press. Trade Paperback, 240 pages, \$14.95, www.globepequot.com.

If ever you've felt an overwhelming desire to stand *exactly* where Alfred Packer is said to have dined on his camp mates, this is the book for you, with GPS coordinates for the locations of all kinds of nefarious incidents, right down to where the bodies are buried.

GENE K. GARRISON. *There's Something about Cave Creek: It's the People.* Lulu. Trade Paperback, 166 pages, \$18, www.lulu.com.

Sedona writer and artist Garrison recalls some of the characters she wrote about for *Arizona Magazine* and the *Carefree Express* during the 1970s and early '80s, real characters.

JEROME A. GREENE. *Indian War Veterans: Memories of Army Life and Campaigns in the West, 1864-1898.* Savas Beatie. Trade Paperback, 387 pages, \$24.95, www.savasbeatie.com.

An excellent collection of accounts by, primarily, enlisted men during the Indian wars. First published in 2007, this important book will prove invaluable for anyone interested in military life during the Indian wars.

WILLIAM GRONEMAN III. *September 11: A Memoir.* Goldminds. Trade Paperback, eBook, 201 pages, \$19.99, \$2.99, www.goldminds.com.

Like hundreds of other men and women who served in FDNY, Bill Groneman's greatest need/desire on September 11, 2011, was to respond to what became Ground Zero of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. *September 11* is a very personal account, not easy to read, but it is important to recognize that people with all types of hopes, dreams, desires and intentions lost a bit of themselves that day.

STEVEN W. HACKEL. *Alta California: Peoples in Motion, Identities in Formation, 1769-1850.* Huntington Library Press. Hardcover, 368 pages, \$55, www.huntington.org/hlp.aspx.

Though quite scholarly, this book presents a story that deals with Indian and settler identity, the Spanish conquest of Alta California, and it outlines the influences and impacts on identity in the Spanish Borderlands. *Alta California* has a lot of detail for fiction writers who set their stories in this early place and period, ranging from the importance of music to gunplay at the Missions.

JOYCE HARTMAN. *The Marlows of Wild Horse Creek.* eBook, \$1.99, www.amazon.com.

The story of the real family behind the 1965 movie *The Sons of Katie Elder* details the life of Martha Marlow, who brought up plenty of children while fighting fires, blizzards and accusations of rustling and murder before her own death in Colorado at age 84.

THOMAS J. HARVEY. *Rainbow Bridge to Monument Valley: Making the Modern Old West.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 237 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

Thomas J. Harvey traces Monument Valley and Rainbow Bridge from their origins as sacred Navajo places to their use in advertising. He can be dry, but is compelling on Zane Grey, John Ford and Glen Canyon. Harvey delivers an uncomplimentary portrait of Grey, detailing his sexual habits. He also shows how Grey, in *Heritage of the Desert* and other novels, portrayed Monument Valley as a place of redemption for weak urban men. Ford is treated with equal complexity as a patriot whose films provided a kind of American creation myth. Finally, Harvey shows why the Sierra Club supported the Glen Canyon Dam project.

PAUL L. HEDREN. *After Custer: Loss and Transformation in Sioux Country.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 254 pages, \$24.95, www.oupres.com.

What happened after George Custer's command was defeated in 1876 by mostly Lakotas and Cheyennes defending their village and way of life – and how the United States' response to that bicentennial year calamity transformed that country, for better or worse, is informative and thought provoking, making it the perfect postscript to the story of the Little Big Horn battle.

HISTORIC WALLACE PRESERVATION SOCIETY. *Images of America: The Silver Valley.* Arcadia. Trade Paperback, 128 pages, \$21.99.

The historic silver mining town of Wallace, Idaho, is represented in this book, although there are also photographs of other Idaho towns including Kellogg, Mullan, Silverton, Osburn, Smeltonville, Pinehurst and Kingston.

LINDA L. HOLLAND. *Images of America: Cooke City.* Arcadia. Paperback, 128 pages, \$21.99, www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Nestled beneath the soaring mountains northeast of Yellowstone National Park, along Soda Butte Creek, a mining camp flourished. Once part of the Crow Indian reservation, in April 1882, Cooke City became one of the most promising mining sites in Montana. Chronicled throughout each chapter of this book, the legend and the people of Cooke City come alive in vivid vintage photographs.

W.C. JAMESON. *Treasure Hunter.* Seven Oaks Publishing. Trade Paperback, 203 pages, \$14.95. www.sevenoakspublishingco.com.

The hunt is on! But keep the details safely tucked into code for which only you know the cipher. This is a fun read for

all those adventurers who have dreamed of finding buried treasure!

CLAY JENKINSON. *The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer in the Wilderness.* The Dakota Institute Press of the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation. Trade Paperback, 441 pages, \$19.95, www.fortmandan.com.

Heavily researched events of Meriwether Lewis's life, distinguishing Lewis, the patrician scientist, from William Clark, the more pragmatic organizer of men.

CLAY S. JENKINSON. *A Free and Hardy Life: Theodore Roosevelt's Sojourn in the American West.* The Dakota Institute Press of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation, distributed by University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 176 pages, \$45.

The historical vignettes on each page let us meet Teddy Roosevelt in a unique entertaining way, with wonderful sepia-tone photographs enhancing each story.

NEAL B. KEATING. *Iroquois Art, Power, and History.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 348 pages, \$55, www.oupres.com.

How the art changed over the years and the ways in which the art of the people reflecting Iroquois history and cultural changes.

RICHARD KLUGER. *The Bitter Waters of Medicine Creek: A Tragic Clash Between White and Native America.* Alfred A. Knopf. Hardcover, 352 pages, \$28.95, www.randomhouse.com.

The ramifications are felt to this day from the one-sided 1854 Medicine Creek treaty, when everything came down to two men, the Indian called Leschi, and the newly appointed governor of Washington Territory, Isaac I. Stevens. An important look at the past.

LOUIS KRAFT. *Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road from Sand Creek.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 334 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

This engaging, intelligent and well-researched biography is even-handed, showing the dark side of an early champion of Indian rights. One of the best biographies of a Western figure to come out in years.

MARY B. KURTZ. *At Home in the Elk River Valley: Reflections on Family, Place and the West.* Dog Ear Publishing. Trade Paperback, 205 pages, \$14.95, www.dogearpublishing.net.

Two dozen essays on the ranching life near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, arranged by the seasons of the year.

JON LAUCK, JOHN MILLER and DON SIMMONS JR. (editors). *The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press. Trade Paperback, 392 pages, \$19.95, www.sdshspress.com.

The 12 essays range from immigrant politics, which is very good, to war and peace, which is not so good.

DEBORAH and JON LAWRENCE. *Violent Encounters, Interviews on Western Massacres.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 336 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

Takes you behind the factual nonfiction narrative, probing into the thinking of people who write the nonfiction. Engaging.

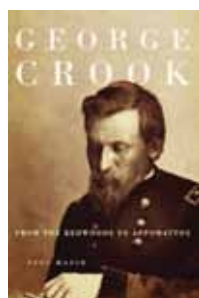
JAMES N. LEIKER and RAMON POWERS. *The Northern Cheyenne Exodus: In History and Memory.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 272 pages, \$34.94, www.oupres.com.

The title encapsulates the substance of this engaging and distinctive retelling of the 1878-79 flight of the Northern Cheyennes from Indian Territory to their traditional homelands in Montana.

JOSEPH LUTHER. *Camp Verde: Texas Frontier Defense.* The History Press. Trade Paperback, 190 pages, \$19.95, www.historypress.het.

A history of the military outpost in Texas, which served as a base for Robert E. Lee's 2nd Cavalry as well as the Army's legendary "Camel Experiment." Richly illustrated for an unheralded fort.

PAUL MAGID. *George Crook: From the Redwoods to Appomattox.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 408 pages, \$39.95, www.oupres.com.



One of the West's most fascinating and consequential soldiers gets an exhaustive new treatment, the first of two volumes, which takes Crook's story from childhood through the Civil War. Magid has Crook's pulse.

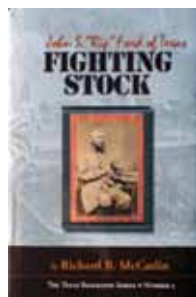
MERLYN JANET MAGNER. *Come Into the Water: A Survivor's Story.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press. Trade Paperback, 160 pages, \$18.95, www.sdshspress.com.

With 235 victims, the Rapid City flood of 1972 was a cataclysmic natural disaster. This is the story of how one young woman survived and managed to finally find some measure of peace and understanding.

BILL MARKLEY. *American Pilgrim: A Post-September 11th Bus Trip and Other Tales of the Road.* iUniverse. Paperback, 205 pages, \$15.95, www.iuniverse.com.

An entertaining account of a round-trip bus ride between Pierre, South Dakota, and Blacksburg, Virginia, just weeks after the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

RICHARD B. McCASLIN. *Fighting Stock: John S. "Rip" Ford of Texas.* TCU Press. Hardcover, 391 pages, \$29.95, www.prs.tcu.edu.



Reliable and insightful look at the early-day Texas Ranger, soldier, statesman, historian, journalist and one colorful character.

GREGORY F. MICHNO. *Dakota Dawn: The Decisive First Week of the Sioux Uprising, August 17-24, 1862.* Savas Beatie. Hardcover, 442 pages, \$32.95, www.savas-beatie.com.

This books shows the gray areas: white farmers who befriended starving Indians; agents who fought for Indians; crooked traders; Indians who farmed; Indians who betrayed their own; mixed bloods; mixed marriages; and Indians who hid whites as the massacre advanced.

EUGENE ARUNDEL MILLER. *Railroad 1869 Along the Historic Union Pacific In Utah to Promontory; Railroad 1869 Along the Historic Union Pacific Through Nebraska; Railroad 1869 Along the Historic Union Pacific Through Wyoming.* Antelope-Press. Paperback, 131 pages, 195 pages, 202 pages, \$14.95 each, www.antelope-press.com.

Well-illustrated, informative histories that also serve as a travel guide on what you'll see today. Great resource material for history and train buffs.

SAMUEL W. MITCHAM JR. *Richard Taylor and the Red River Campaign of 1864.* Pelican. Hardcover, 384 pages, \$26.95, www.pelicanpub.com.

Extensively researched, pro-Southern analysis of one of the Confederacy's surprising late-war victories, with much information of some "Western" Civil War battles: Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Camden.

DAVID MOGEN. *Honyocker Dreams: Montana Memories.* University of Nebraska Press. Hardcover, 248 pages, \$21.95, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

The author explores his family's origins in the Hi-line area of Montana.

DONALD W. MOORE. *Custer's Ghosts, Custer's Gold.* Upton and Sons. Trade paperback, 190 pages, \$45, <http://shop.uptonbooks.com>.

Is the Little Big Horn haunted? Donald W. Moore digs deeply and presents solid arguments related to ghosts and gold.

ROBERT MORGAN. *Lions of the West: Heroes and Villains of the Westward Expansion.* Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. Hardcover, 497 pages, \$29.95, www.algonquinbooks.com.

Profiles of 10 men who influenced Westward expansion in the first half of the 19th Century.

DAVID MORRELL and HANK WAGNER (editors). *Thrillers: 100 Must-Reads.* Oceanview Publishing. Trade Paperback, 378 pages, \$17, www.oceanviewpub.com.

This finalist in the Edgar and Anthony awards competition lets some of the top thriller writers at work today examine some of the top works of suspense ever written.

MARILYN ANN MOSS. *Raoul Walsh: The True Adventures of Hollywood's Legendary Director.* University Press of Kentucky. Cloth, 470 pages, \$40, www.kentuckypress.com.

If there's a director deserving great analysis, Raoul Walsh (1887-1980) is it – and this excellent work is what a Hollywood book should be: insightful, detailed, and with an even balance of film criticism and fun facts.

BILL NEAL. *Vengeance is Mine: The Scandalous Love Triangle that Triggered the Boyce-Sneed Feud.* University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 306 pages, \$24.95, <http://untpress.unt.edu/>.

Sometimes the bad guy wins, sort of. Three pioneer Texas families became embroiled in a scandal that captured national attention in 1912-13. The scandal included sex, murders, and at least six controversial court trials.

REID L. NELSON (with contributions by Thomas G. Alexander and Jan Shipp). *In the Whirlpool: The Pre-Manifesto Letters of President Wilford Woodruff to the William Atkin Family, 1885-1890.* Arthur H. Clark Company. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$29.95, www.oupres.com.

When Congress moved against polygamist Mormons in the 1880s, more than a thousand men were jailed and others went into hiding, including Wilford Woodruff, who took refuge with the family of William Atkin. Woodruff was not just any Mormon; he would become president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1887. These letters were written during his years in hiding and they depict a man “in the midst of a whirlpool.”

LANCE NEWMAN (editor). *The Grand Canyon Reader.* University of California Press. Trade Paperback, 238 pages, \$19.95, www.ucpress.edu.

You'll find the expected environmental and outdoor essayists in this anthology – John Muir, Edward Abbey, Barry Lopez, Wallace Stegner, Terry Tempest Williams and John McPhee, for example – but you'll find the unexpected as well.

ROBERT P. PALAZZO. *Railroads of Death Valley.* Arcadia Publishing. Paperback, 128 pages, \$21.99, www.arcadiapublishing.com.

This book also includes railroads in Nevada and areas of California that connected with Death Valley mining camps and towns.

ROBERT B. PICKERING (editor). *Peace Medals: Negotiating Power in Early America.* Gilcrease Museum. Hardcover, 128 pages, \$19.95, www.oupres.com.

Peace medals were an important element in economic and political relations between Native Americans and French, Spanish, British and U.S. representatives. The medals recog-

nized authority and power in recipients, and white men used them to secure trade and political advantages.

JANET WILLIAMS POLLARD and LOUIS GWIN. *Harsh Country, Hard Times.* Texas A&M University Press. Hardcover, 250 pages, \$35, www.tamupress.com.

This biography of Clayton Wheat Williams gives some insight into the oil-and-gas business that shaped the Trans-Pecos region.

MARC RASMUSSEN. *Six: A Football Coach's Journey to a National Record.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press. Trade Paperback, 155 pages, \$16.95, www.sdspress.com.

Compelling story of the Claremont, South Dakota, six-man football team, and the coach that led them to a national record.

RICHARD C. RATTENBURY. *Arena Legacy: The Heritage of American Rodeo.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 432 pages, \$54, www.oupres.com.

This large format book takes rodeo from its beginnings in 1869 in Colorado, to national prominence in the 1960s.

PHYLISS SCHMIDT. *The West as I Lived It: Stories by Ed Lemmon.* State Publishing. Paperback, 395 pages, \$50.

George Edward Lemmon wrote a series of articles for the *Bell Fourche* (South Dakota) *Bee* in the 1930s and 1940s. Phyliss Schmidt has compiled the original weekly “Developing the West” columns Lemmon published between 1932 and 1936.

PAUL SCHULLERY. *Old Yellowstone Days.* University of New Mexico Press. Trade paperback, 256 pages, \$24.95, www.unmpres.com.

This reprint of Paul Schullery's seminal work is updated with new material, new photographs and a new introduction.

RICHARD F. SELCER and KEVIN S. FOSTER. *Written in Blood: the History of Fort Worth's Fallen Lawmen, Volume 2, 1910-1928.* University of North Texas Press. Trade Paperback, 440 pages, \$19.95, www.unt.edu/untpress.

The authors are adept at portraying everyday police work as it shifted from the frontier of their first volume (1861-1909) to motorcycles, telephones, forensics and media scrutiny.

JOHN L. SIMONS and ROBERT MERRILL. *Peckinpah's Tragic Westerns: A Critical Study.* McFarland. Paperback, 222 pages, \$40, www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Do we really need another book about this sometimes brilliant filmmaker? Sure. But probably not this dull book, which is for Sam Peckinpah die-hards, who would do better watching *Ride the High Country*.

KRISTINA L. SOUTHWELL and JOHN R. LOVETT. *Life at the Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Agency: The Photographs of Annette Ross Hume.* University of Oklahoma Press.

Hardcover, 256 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.

Her work as a photographer will entice you to contemplate life at the Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita Agency.

RICK STEBER. *Caught in the Crosshairs: A True Eastern Oregon Mystery.* Bonanza Publishing. Trade Paperback, 219 pages, \$15.00. www.ricksteber.com

In 1994, a young man in the mountains of eastern Oregon was shot to death, and no one has been charged, largely due to the chief investigator having made every mistake in the book – sometimes in defiance of common sense. This tragedy, under the influence of Steber’s stark writing, is enough to make your blood boil.

FREDERICK H. SWANSON. *The Bitterroot and Mr. Brandborg: Clearcutting and the Struggle for Sustainable Forestry in the Northern Rockies.* Hardback, 408 pages, \$39.95, www.uofupress.com.

During Guy M. Brandborg’s 40-years with the Forest Service, he believed his primary duty was to local citizens and their communities, not to lumber corporations, and sought to manage the Bitterroot’s majestic forests to benefit ranchers, farmers, sportsmen and timbermen.

KAREN HOLLIDAY TANNER and JOHN D. TANNER JR. *The Bronco Bill Gang.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, \$29.95, www.oupres.com

A detailed account of the Bronco Bill Gang of train robbers in the Southwest in the waning years of the 19th Century, their crimes, pursuit, capture, imprisonment and lives after crime.

BRIAN TAVES. *Thomas Ince: Hollywood’s Independent Pioneer.* University Press of Kentucky. Hardcover, 367 pages, \$39.95, www.kentuckypress.com.

This book sweeps away the misinformation to present an insightful and vivid biography of a “whirlwind of nervous energy” who produced and/or directed some 800 films by age 42.

DANIEL TYLER. *W.D. Farr: Cowboy in the Boardroom.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 312 pages, \$29.95, www.oupres.com.

Chronicles the life and accomplishments of one of Western agriculture’s most influential personalities.

FREDERIC C. WAGNER III. *Participants in the Battle of the Little Big Horn: A Biographical Dictionary of Sioux, Cheyenne and United States Military Personnel.* McFarland. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$75, www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Probably the most complete data of the people who took part in what is arguably the West’s most famous battle.

RICHARD WHITE. *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America.* W.W. Norton. Hardcover and eBook, 660 pages, \$35, \$17.99, www.wwnorton.com.

Focusing on the financing and operations of the transcon-

tinental railroads and branch lines, Richard White harshly criticizes the entrepreneurs and politicians who were deeply involved in corrupt practices, describing in detail just how badly the railroads were run.

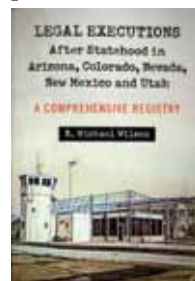
CHARLES WILKINSON. *The People are Dancing Again: The History of the Siletz Tribe of Western Oregon.* University of Washington Press. Hardcover, 576 pages, \$35, www.washington.edu/uwpress/.

The author has an underlying sense of what makes history, and better, what makes a good telling of a cultural story.

G.R. WILLIAMSON. *Frontier Gambling: The Games, the Gamblers & the Great Gambling Halls of the Old West.* Indian Head. Trade Paperback, 294 pages.

Well-illustrated and insightful look at the gamblers, the tools of their trade, the gambling halls and their “tricks.” It might not help you win at the blackjack tables next year at the WWA convention in Las Vegas, but it’s a must if you’re writing about gamblers and gambling halls in the Old West.

R. MICHAEL WILSON. *Legal Executions After Statehood in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.* McFarland & Company. Trade Paperback, 393 pages, \$95. www.mcfarlandpub.com.



Diligently compiled accounts of 324 people legally executed for capital crimes, arranged by state, and chronologically within each state.

SALLY ZANJANI and CARRIE TOWNLEY PORTER. *Helen J. Stewart, First Lady of Las Vegas.* Stephens Press. Hardcover, 211 pages, \$22.95, www.stephenspress.com.

stephenspress.com.

Before the Las Vegas everyone knows, there was the Las Vegas Valley, a remote region where Helen J. Stewart was a friend to the Southern Paiutes, knowledgeable in Indian basketry, a supporter of woman suffrage and a devoted mother. Sympathetic, well-researched biography.

JUVENILE

JUDY ARCHIBALD. *The Mutt and the Mustang.* Pet Pals Publishing. Hardcover, 26 pages, \$16.95, www.judyspetpals.com.

This book draws from the true story of Kody, a dog who lives in Western Colorado, and finds himself too small to do tasks that can be undertaken by the much larger German Shepherd, Cheyenne. The message in this book: Something old has value and something small can be special.

DON BLEVINS. *Bold Women in Texas History.* Mountain Press. Trade Paperback, 138 pages, \$12, www.mountainpress.com.

Nothing Off-Limits in Juvenile Literature

By Nancy Plain

To get a feeling for the latest trends in juvenile literature, I asked around – editors, a publisher, WWA writers and my savvy local librarian, who has tracked the reading choices of two generations of kids.

So first, ignore the doomsayers. Western juvenile literature is alive and well. In February, the *New York Times* reviewed two Western children's books: *The Case of the Deadly Desperadoes*, by Caroline Lawrence, and *Best Shot in the West*, by Patricia McKissack and Frederick McKissack Jr. Writer and WWA member Bill Markley reports that at last October's South Dakota Book Fest, the "vast majority" of the people who stopped at the WWA booth expressed special interest in Western books for young people. Teachers and librarians told Markley that "they couldn't get enough Westerns for their kids to read." WWA members at the Southern Independent Booksellers Association also heard about a growing demand for Westerns. And my librarian friend, Pat Kent, has noticed that while the popularity of Westerns has declined in past years in the East, she now sees a renewed interest. Her children are reading more Western adventure and are checking out stories of real-life characters – outlaws, lawmen, cowboys, adventurous women.

The market for juvenile fiction in general continues to be strong, according to award-winning writers Ron Reis and Mike Kearby. Kearby notes "the edgy writing style" of many authors, and he stresses that topics that were off limits a decade ago are now commonplace. "No student is immune to struggles [involving] depression, suicide, drug abuse and bullying," Mike says, and young people want to read about characters whose situations and emotions resemble their own.

Yet the consensus among everyone I contacted is that there is no single "hot trend" now. Realism, mystery, science fiction and fantasy all are selling. But Kearby notes that even in fantasy – "wizards, vampires, zombies, even zombie cowboys" –writers find a way to reflect children's lives. Many different themes are also showing up in graphic novels, which are increasingly popular. A book's form shouldn't matter, Kearby says. "What is important is that [children] read and enjoy what they read."

Although the market for nonfiction is smaller, Markley says that after Westerns, what teachers and librarians want most is nonfiction that offers good role models for boys and girls. (Long live the book report!) Other supporters of nonfiction are children with particular interests, as well as gift-buying adults.

JUVENILE MARKET



But the biggest news in children's books, as with adults', is the growing market for eBooks. Michelle Bisson, publisher at Marshall Cavendish, says, "In many ways, eBooks have expanded the market" as backlists in fiction and nonfiction are being resurrected electronically. As e-readers become more affordable, she says, juvenile eBook sales are surging.

The news is not all favorable, though. Children's nonfiction publisher Chelsea House, Reis says, is shrinking its editorial staff and abandoning print altogether in favor of books that are "born digital."

eBooks notwithstanding, publishers are still producing print. Michelle Bisson advises writers to "write what you love," but be sure to study publishers' websites and guidelines before submitting a proposal. For example, her company publishes nonfiction in series form, so she will turn down an idea for a single title. And, affirms Pat Kent, "Kids will always read books. Real books, the kind in the library with the crinkly plastic covers." Watching the crowd at her checkout desk, I am reassured.

Whether you are interested in cattlemen, pilots or politicians, this is a good book for you to read. In addition to the 11 biographies of remarkable women, it imparts a good deal of slightly obscure Texas history. Don Blevins has done a masterful job just in the selection of the women in this book, which includes a source list and an index.

IRENE BENNETT BROWN. *Before the Lark*. Texas Tech University Press. Trade Paperback, 208 pages, \$18.95, <http://ttupress.org/>.

Twelve-year-old Jocelyn Belle Royal flees Kansas City in 1888 with her grandmother to work a Kansas farm her father abandoned. Brown tells a heartfelt story, full of rich characters, with a fine mix of compassion, gumption and humor. This Spur-winning YA novel has been reissued as part of Texas Tech University Press's Windword Books for Young Readers.

MARY BROOKE CASAD (author) and BENJAMIN VINCENT (illustrator). *Bluebonnet at the Ocean Star Museum*. Pelican. Hardcover, 32 pages, \$16.99, www.pelicanpub.com.

Dallas author Mary Brooke Casad and acclaimed illustrator Benjamin Vincent team up for the latest adventure for that armadillo named Bluebonnet, who finds herself exploring (after secretly joining a school group) the Ocean Star Museum in Galveston, Texas. Her tour guide? A knowledgeable pelican named Red.

MELANIE CHRISMER (author) and DAVID HARRINGTON (illustrator). *Chachalaca Chiquita*. Pelican. Hardcover, 32 pages, \$16.99.

Desert bird Chachalaca Chiquita and her friends find themselves in an updated – Southwestern – spin on Chicken Little. Perfect reading, especially if you're trying to teach your young ones some Spanish.

MARY CASANOVA (author) and ART HOYT (illustrator). *The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town.* Farrar Straus Giroux. Hardcover, 40 pages, \$16.99, <http://us.macmillan.com/FSG.aspx>.

When Dirk Yeller comes to town looking for a way to stop his itchin' and twitchin' and jumpin' and rattlin'... he makes people nervous and they send him from one location to another. You'll want to read this book to a youngster.

MIKE KEARBY (author) and MACK WHITE (illustrator). *Texas Tales Illustrated: The Revolution.* TCU Press. Paperback, 32 pages, \$6.95, www.prs.tcu.edu.

A graphic novel of the Texas Revolution, geared toward the middle school reader.

BRYAN LANGDO. *Tornado Slim and the Magic Cowboy Hat.* Marshall Cavendish. Hardcover, 30 pages, \$17.99, www.marshallcavendish.com.



Tornado Slim's encounter with a wily coyote gives Slim a special hat. Bryan Langdo's tale will have children trying their hats out on fires, floods, tornadoes and everything else – hoping to corral them all with a little magic. The 2012 Spur winner for Storyteller (illustrated children's book).

DONNA LOVE (writer) and CHRISTINA WEBB (illustrator). *The Wild Life of Elk.* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Paperback, \$12, www.mountain-press.com.

A great, informative read for children of all ages, this well-illustrated book tells youngsters how elk live and survive, how Indians used them, and the challenges these magnificent animals face today.

RALPH GALEANO. *Lost Mountain Stallion.* Treble Heart. Trade Paperback, 160 pages, \$8.99, www.trebleheartbooks.com.

What better way to entice youngsters into reading than a book with a mysterious stallion, a brood of mares and a seemingly inaccessible maze of canyons? Stir into this a cast of characters including a teen girl who takes chances that put both her and her beloved horse in mortal danger. A good quick read for the young or young at heart.

SHERRY GARLAND (author) and JUDITH HIERSTEIN (illustrator). *Voices of the Dust Bowl.* Pelican. Hardcover, 35 pages, \$16.99, www.pelicanpub.com.

Sixteen narrative profiles – Indian, farmers, women, young and old – bring the harsh Dust Bowl of the 1930s to vivid life. A detailed historical note shows the impact of the disaster on the entire country. A glossary and bibliography should help young readers understand what happened, and why.

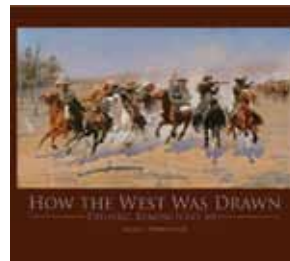
TROY HOWELL. *The Dragon of Cripple Creek.* Amulet Books. Hardcover, 385 pages, \$16.95, www.abramsbooks.com/amulet.html.

A contemporary fantasy set in the Colorado Rockies, *Dragon* describes the odyssey of 12-year-old Kat Graham as she deals with great loss – her mother is in a coma – as well as with her family's sudden poverty. This book is a shimmering brew of sadness and joy.

CATHERINE WEYERHAEUSER MORLEY. *Where Do Mountains Come From, Momma?* Mountain Press. Hardcover, 30 pages, \$12, www.mountain-press.com.

This is a good introduction to Earth Science for budding geologists, with illustrations certain to catch the eye of beginning readers. The book includes one-paragraph descriptions of six mountains, including Wyoming's Grand Teton and Washington's St. Helens.

LINDA L. OSMUNDSON. *How the West Was Drawn: Frederic Remington's Art.* Pelican. Hardcover, 28 pages, \$16.99, www.pelicanpub.com.



Fort Collins, Colorado's Linda L. Osmundson follows her Spur Award Finalist book on Charles Russell's art with this biography/art study on New York-born Frederic Remington. "I paint for boys," Remington once said, "boys from ten to seventy." Richly illustrated by some of the

artist's greatest works.

NANCY OSWALD. *Rescue in Poverty Gulch.* Filter Press. Trade Paperback, 180 pages, \$8.95, www.filterpressbooks.com.

Ahh, to be young again, and have a four-legged best friend to accompany me to school and keep all of my secrets safe.

Difficult to decide who causes the most mischief: Donkey Maude or her two-legged companion, Ruby. A great selection for the young or young at heart.

PAMELA RINEY-KEHRBERG. *Always Plenty to Do: Growing Up on a Farm in the Long Ago.* Texas Tech University Press. Hardcover, 144 pages, \$21.95, www.ttupress.org

This slim book is a story of childhood on farms in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Drawn from primary sources from the Great Plains and Midwest, this reveals what farm children saw, heard, tasted and did. And of course there are stories of childhood games and play times, where little girls used corncobs like Lincoln Logs and old crates or boxes became a play kitchen.

CAROL MATTHEWS REY (author) and ELDON LUX (illustrator). *Iris Wall, Cracker Cowgirl.* Pelican. Hardcover, 28 pages, \$16.99, www.pelicanpub.com.

Western Novels Growing, Branching Out

By Larry D. Sweazy

Divining the state of a specific genre market in today's world is akin to reading tea leaves blindfolded, with your arms tied behind your back. Is the Golden Age of the Western gone forever, never to return? Hard to say. For a sampling of the health of today's market, some of the top voices working in the Western fiction market offered their opinions and predictions for the future.

Says Faith Black, an editor for the Berkley line of Westerns: "I think the Western market is in a really good place right now. I've seen increased sales across many of our Western series in the past year or so, and I don't see any reason why this can't continue. This has allowed us to branch out a bit with our Westerns, and try a few new things. In 2012, in addition to all of our fantastic ongoing series, we also have a paranormal Western (*Dust of the Damned*) from Peter Brandvold as well as two new Westerns in trade from debut authors which we have high hopes for (*The Black Hills* by Rod Thompson and *Wide Open* by Larry Bjornson)."

Gary Goldstein, editor at Kensington, also sees encouraging signs in the market. "I can say that we have indeed seen some growth, especially in the Johnstone program. But also among other authors as well – Dusty Richards, Johnny D. Boggs, Max McCoy and, surprisingly, our Zane Grey reissues did very nicely. Why the sudden resurgence, I know not. I suppose it doesn't hurt that Kensington's one of the few re-

maining players for Westerns, especially now that Dorchester is gone. (Which, for the record, I was not at all happy to see – when any publisher goes, it's bad for the entire business). As for eBook Westerns, we have seen some growth. Not as much as in other categories, especially romance, but there has been some upward movement."

There are other markets, such as university presses, that are continuing to publish Western fiction as well as the New York mass market publishers. Barbara Brannon from Texas Tech University says, "At Texas Tech University Press, we're pleased to see a growing diversity of approaches in Western fiction – with fine, acclaimed, novels by authors such as Tim Z. Hernandez, Karl H. Schlesier and Susan Cummins Miller. We're also publishing award-winning Western novels for children and young adults."

And with the rise of eBooks, there is the small press to consider, which also publishes print books. Jeana Thompson of Oak Tree Press continues to see positive growth and interest in the genre, too. "Several years ago, we noticed an increase in Western novel queries. So, we kicked it around to see if Oak Tree Press could put a new spin on a classic. The result is our Wild Oaks imprint – a line which crosses or combines traditional genres, so long as the driving element is the Western era. We're delighted with readers' response to Wild Oaks novels, and have a half-dozen or so on the 2012 lists."

FICTION MARKET



Louella Turner of High Hill Press, a new start-up publisher that is loyal to the Western genre, sees opportunities for writers in the small press. "Our Western division has been successful, and we've been fortunate to have some well-known writers send us manuscripts and stories. If all goes well, by the end of 2012 we will have published another 40 books, half of them being Westerns."

Adds Larry Yoder, retired Macmillan sales rep, and bookseller at The Bookies in Denver: "Westerns continue to be a challenge to sell. You have to overcome the bias that is widely held by readers outside the genre, but the current crop of Western movies and TV shows, have driven some interest."

About the rise of eBooks, literary agent Cherry Weiner says: "Westerns and books of the West have been around forever, and I don't think they will ever go away. With e-publishing, I think there is a chance that new, or smaller, publishers might actually build on this. E-publishing has not surpassed the printed book yet, but it is growing, and readers are taking chances, and reading categories that they have never read before."

Loren D. Estleman once said, "Genres don't die." Whether you agree or disagree, there are plenty of people with their finger on the pulse of the genre that see some brightness on the horizon.

Informative biography (for all ages) about Iris Pollock Wall growing up in rural Florida in the 1930s, raising horses, competing in rodeos and combing the scrub and swamps for horses. In 2006, Wall was honored as Woman of the Year in Agriculture by the state's agriculture commissioner. A good look at the West in the Southeast.

CANDACE SIMAR. *Birdie: Book Three of the Abercrombie Trail Series.* North Star Press of St. Cloud. Trade Paperback, eBook, 320 pages, \$14.95, \$7.95.

Birdie is a fascinating look at the struggles of recent Norwegian immigrants working toward a better life in America. This year's Spur winner for Best Juvenile Fiction.

KEVIN STRAUSS (author) and DAVID HARRINGTON (illustrator). *Pecos Bill Invents the Ten-Gallon Hat.* Pelican. Hardcover, 28 pages, \$16.99, www.pelicanpub.com.

Whimsical take on Pecos Bill and cowboy hats is wonderfully illustrated. A sure delight for younger cowboys, *Pecos Bill Invents the Ten-Gallon Hat* would make John B. Stetson proud.

CAT URBIGKIT. *The Guardian Team: On the Job with Rena and Roo.* Boyds Mills Press. Hardcover, 32 pages, \$16.95, www.boydsmillspress.com.



Western Wyoming sheep rancher Cat Urbigkit uses photographs taken over the course of a year to illustrate this true story about the bond of a wild burro named Roo and a dog named Rena as these two guardian animals grow up. Highly recommend as a book to share with children.

MARY DODSON WADE (author) and BILL FARN-SWORTH (illustrator). *Henrietta King, Loving the Land.* Bright Sky Press. Hardcover, 23 pages, \$16.95, www.brightskypress.com.

Henrietta King is a true icon of Texas and the West. Her story is told in a fashion that will capture the interest of youths from 5 to 7 and beyond, the story of the world-famous king Ranch, which she made happen

FICTION

TOM ALBERTI. *The Horseman and the Cowgirls.* Shakalo Press. Trade Paperback, 319 pages, \$15.95, www.shakalopress.com.

Tom Blandini's back and yet again plagued with seemingly insurmountable obstacles from the very beginning in this sequel to *The Horseman*. It's a fun read with plenty of action and romance.

JOHN A. ARAGON. *Billy the Kid's Last Ride.* Sunstone Press. Trade Paperback, 274 pages, \$22.95, www.sunstonepress.com.

Española, New Mexico, native John A. Aragon takes a different approach to the Billy the Kid story, sending Billy and his Apache lover, Tzoeh, across the border. There, they hope to live in peace, but, well, this being a Billy the Kid novel, you know that's not gonna happen.

THOMAS FOX AVERILL. *Rode.* University of New Mexico Press. Hardcover, 224 pages, \$24.95, www.unmpress.com.

The spirit of the frontier comes to life in Thomas Fox Averill's artful re-imagining of the ballad of the Tennessee Stud. With his hypnotic prose and sharp ear for the border idiom, Averill delivers a compelling story that opens a window into heart and soul of the American people.

DON BENDELL. *Strongheart.* Berkley. Mass Market Paperback, 210 pages, \$6.99, www.us.penguin.com.

The hero of this tale, Joshua Strongheart, is a mixed-blood Lakota-white man who rides a horse – a gift from a dying outlaw he shot – that has a nose like a bloodhound.

JAMES D. BEST. *Murder at Thumb Butte: A Steve Dancy Tale.* Wheatmark. Trade Paperback, 228 pages, \$12.95, www.wheatmark.com.

Steve Dancy is a shopkeeper—more with a gun and with a mind for justice. This tale finds him interested in Thomas Edison's new discoveries in the use of electric power. A well-plotted mystery, as well as a terrific Old West story.

MICHELLE BLACK. *Séance in Sepia.* Five Star. Hardback, 322 pages, \$25.95. www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Set in the late 1800s, the drama unfolds both in and out of the courtroom. Did a young architect murder his wife and then kill his best friend? What will the jury decide? Guilty or not? Michelle Black has blended a tale of past tragedy with a current day blooming romance, and does a nice job of it.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS. *West Texas Kill.* Pinnacle. Mass Market Paperback, eBook, 306 pages, \$6.99, \$3.93, www.kensingtonbooks.com.

This edgy Western, full of comic touches, *noirish* characters and a Sam Peckinpah-inspired body count, forces a Texas Ranger to team up with his murderous prisoner and stop a rogue band of Texas Rangers bent on mayhem and destruction. Winner of the 2012 Spur Award in the Best Original Mass Market Novel category.

MAX BRAND. *Train's Trust.* Five Star. Hardcover, 252 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

This action-packed novel was first serialized in 1924 in Street and Smith's *Western Story Magazine* under Brand's George Owen Baxter pen name.

PETER BRANDVOLD. *Dust of the Damned.* Berkley Books. Trade Paperback, 352 pages, \$15, www.us.penguin.com.

Even the Old West is no longer safe from the vampire invasion. But there is still a hope for the future of mankind, and that hope is ghoulish-hunter Uriah Zane. It's a powerhouse of a novel. Be sure to leave the lights on.

BILL BROOKS. *Blood Storm.* Five Star. Hardcover, 341 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

A criminal conspiracy hatched in the backrooms of Deadwood orders the killing of prostitutes in the employ of a madam who refuses to pay tribute, but the enterprise is doomed the moment the wronged escort wrangler requests help from a frontier detective agency. Well-written with plenty of twists and turns.

JAMES LEE BURKE. *Feast Day of Fools.* Simon & Schuster. Hardcover, 480 pages, \$26.99, www.simonandschuster.com.

In this modern-day Western set along the turbulent U.S.-Mexico border, an aging Texas sheriff wrestles with his demons as he tries to maintain order in a violent world of

drug traffickers and arms dealers. *Feast Day of Fools* succeeds as both a page-turning thriller and an elegant rumination on the human condition.

JASON H. CAMPBELL. *Tex's Bloody Ground.* Publish America. Trade Paperback, 203 pages, \$24.95, www.publishamerica.com.

A sharpshooting young Kentuckian on a trusty Appaloosa named Blue takes the trail to adventure in this old-fashioned Western. This one needed some more editing.

STAN CORLISS. *The Line Rider Reckoning.* Bluebird Publishing. Hardcover, 298 pages, Price Not Listed, www.bluebirdbookpub.com.

Veteran country-Western singer/songwriter Stan Corliss tries strumming up a different kind of tune in his first novel. Jim Carson, one of Hollywood's last B-movie singing cowboy heroes of the 1950s, tries to find the right direction in a strange, new world: the 21st Century. Corliss's knowledge of 1950s Hollywood and old movies is apparent.

AL CARTY. *Brothers of Tierra Buena.* Writers Amuse Me Publishing. Trade Paperback, eBook, 175 pages, \$11.99, \$6.99, www.WritersAMuseMe.com.

Mustering out of the Army of the West after being wounded, Jeff Bledsoe and Howard Branch take a notion to see the Pacific Ocean. An enjoyable adventure featuring a couple good ol' boys.

MICHAEL CHANDLER and LOAHNA CHANDLER. *Kincade's Mystery.* Wagonmaster Books. Hardcover, 326 pages, \$23.

In this fifth entry in the Chandler's "Kincade" series, you'll find a connection to San Francisco's Chinatown (and both the highest and the lowest of its inhabitants) all the way to the dregs of Mexican banditos in the Southwest. The book drifts between rootin' tootin' gritty Western and romance, although the story holds the reader's attention nicely.

KENT CONWELL. *Reckoning at Dead Apache Springs.* Avalon Books. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

It's never nice when a Minié ball wipes out your memory – and it's still worse when your memory starts to come back and you discover that you used to ride with a gang of bank robbers. The action scenes are guided by the sure hand of a longtime pro, and when the *Reckoning* comes, it'll gratify.

STACEY COVERSTONE. *A Haunted Twist of Fate.* Five Star. Hardcover, 280 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Chicago girl Shay Brennan is strangely drawn to the Black Hills of South Dakota where, on impulse, she buys the old Buckhorn saloon. A fun story with engaging characters, plenty of action.

R. BENTLEY DAVIES. *Walkers Creek.* Lulu. Trade Paperback, 197 pages, \$12.37, www.lulu.com.

Emily Nixon is not a woman to cross and is willing to do whatever it takes to keep her ranch running. *Walkers Creek* is full of mystery that keeps the reader guessing until the end. A quick and enjoyable read.

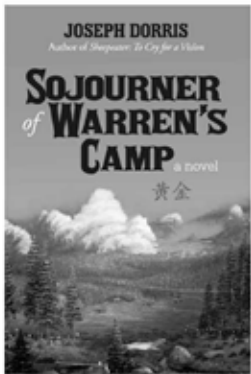
MICHAEL DEARMIN. *The Time Has Not Yet Come.* Avalon Books. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

One heck of an adventure that will grab your attention and keep you turning the page. Michael Dearmin has a unique storytelling talent and an equally unique mastery of the English language. A heck of a good read.

JOSEPH DORRIS. *Sojourner of Warren's Camp.* iUniverse. Trade Paperback, eBook, \$18.95, \$3.99, www.iUniverse.com.
Coming-of-age story about a 14-year-old boy set in a gold camp in 1871 Idaho Territory.

PHYLLIS DE LA GARZA. *Hell Horse Winter of the Apache Kid.* Silk Label Books. Trade Paperback, 219 pages, \$9.99, www.silklabelbooks.com.

Haunting historical novel about a woman who is driven off her family ranch by her murderous brother-in-law, then joins the Apaches and is pursued by assorted killers.

	<p>SOJOURNER OF WARREN'S CAMP</p> <p>A novel by Joseph Dorris \$18.95 paperback, 306 pages ISBN 978-1-4620-6347-5</p> <p>Warren, Idaho, much a ghost town today, was a roaring placer camp in 1862 and divided into two towns, Washington and Richmond, reflecting Civil War sentiments. Add to this the Chinese miners flooding in and the ghostlike Sheepeater Indians along the Salmon River, Warren's Camp witnessed the making of Idaho.</p> <p>Intent on finding a lost quartz ledge and becoming "lucky rich," young Samuel Chambers arrives in Warren's Camp only to find the country and thieves intent on killing him. Samuel is befriended by a Chinese youth who wants to learn about <i>Ahmelicah</i>, and Samuel learns not everyone favors the Chinese.</p> <p>Based on historical pioneers and the Salmon River geography, <i>Sojourner</i> is Joseph Dorris's second novel in the Sheepeater Indian series, which will culminate in the 1879 Sheepeater War.</p> <p>Available from iUniverse, 1663 Liberty Drive, Ste. 300, Bloomington, IN 47403; any online bookstore; or the author at www.pinnacle5minerals.com (719) 685-4479.</p>
--	--

JOHN DUNCKLEE. *Apache Tears.* Western Trail Blazer. Trade Paperback, eBook, 180 pages, \$10.95, \$2.99, <http://westerntrailblazer.com/>.

As an Apache child of 6, Kaetin is stolen into slavery and lives for the day he is old enough to wreak revenge upon his Papago captor. But after winning his freedom, he finds that revenge was not as liberating as he thought it would be. The author shows that he knows his history.

WAYNE D. DUNDEE. *Dismal River.* Oak Tree Press. Trade Paperback, eBook, 221 pages, \$14.95, \$5.95, www.oaktreepress.com.

Mystery writer and *Hardboiled Magazine* founder Wayne D. Dundee shows he can spin a Western tale, too. A rollicking, old-fashioned Western adventure.

PHIL DUNLAP. *Cotton's Law.* Berkley Books. Mass Market Paperback, 288 pages, \$6.99, www.us.penguin.com

Veteran writer Phil Dunlap hits the mark again with the continuing adventures of Sheriff Cotton Burke and his disreputable deputy sidekick, Memphis Jack Stump.

PHIL DUNLAP. *Cotton's War.* Berkley. Mass Market Paperback, 263 pages, \$5.99, www.us.penguin.com.

You'll find plenty of page-turning action in *Cotton's War*. What separates this novel from the pack is layer upon layer of intriguing subplots, parallel storylines and a cast of characters that diverges from the norm.

JANE EPPINGA. *La Malinche.* Floricanto Press. Trade Paperback, 265 pages, \$24.95, www.floricantopress.com.

Jane Eppinga brings to life the clash between Spaniards bent on conquering the new world in quest of gold, and the Aztecs already in possession of this vast land. An erudite, meticulously researched tale sure to capture your imagination, though not without a sense of horror at humanity's past.

W. MICHAEL FARMER. *Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright: the Betrayals of Pancho Villa.* Sundowners (Treble Heart Books). Trade Paperback, eBook, 582 pages, \$19.99, \$9.99, www.trebleheartbooks.com.

Tiger, Tiger concludes the Vanishing Trilogy, which seems also to be called the Hombrecito's Legacy trilogy. W. Michael Farmer beautifully describes the desert, and his research is impressive. But *Tiger, Tiger* is pointlessly complicated – by nothing more profound than plot.

KAREN CASEY FITZJERRELL. *The Dividing Season.* WKMA. Trade Paperback, 292 pages, \$12.95, www.karencaseyfitzjerrell.com.

Karen Casey Fitzjerrell's stunning debut novel captures an extraordinary time in the life of a Texas woman of the early 20th Century. In beautiful prose, that is at times almost poetic, she details a difficult turning-point season in the life of rancher Nell Miggins. A colorful cast of characters surrounds Nell as she searches out where her heart will lead her.

ZANE GREY. *War Comes to the Big Bend.* Five Star. Hardcover, 400 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar/.

The First World War. The Big Bend country of Washington. Zane Grey made sure to add in a full dose of American patriotism in almost every page, and teeters dangerously close to the edge of jingoism. Still, it is a great book that only a master storyteller could have produced.

JAMES J. GRIFFIN. *Ride for Redemption.* Condor Publishing. Trade Paperback, 126 pages, \$12.95, www.condorpublishinginc.com.

James J. Griffin always writes squeaky-clean stories about his hero, Texas Ranger Cody Havlicek, who doesn't smoke, drink, curse or chase women, but you won't find them lacking shoot-outs, fist-fighting or action.

J.L. GUIN. *Drover's Vendetta.* CreateSpace. Trade Paperback, eBook, 164 pages, \$7.49, \$2.99, wwwcreatespace.com.

An original tale mixed with elements of classic Westerns makes for a good read.

TOM HARDY. *Slow Moving Dreams.* TCU Press. Trade Paperback, 173 pages, \$22.95. www.prs.tcu.edu.

The novel starts out with a bang with a "who done the dastardly deed" plot but that fizzles until the last chapter as three stories vie for a plot with none of them succeeding in outdoing the others. Good writing and flow, but the plot connections needed work.

STEPHEN HARRIGAN. *Remember Ben Clayton.* Alfred A. Knopf. Hardcover, 368 pages. \$26.96, www.randomhouse.com.

A grief-stricken West Texas rancher's efforts to memorialize his son killed on a World War I battlefield provide the backdrop for Stephen Harrington's haunting story of loss and remembrance. In unpredictable and moving ways, readers are drawn into a journey of discovery. The 2012 Spur winner for Best Western Long Novel.

EDWARD LOUIS HENRY, *Shinin' Times! One Trapper's Personal Chronicle of the American Rocky Mountain Fur Trade, 1828-1833.* Christopher Matthews Publishing. Paperback, 599 pages, \$23.95, www.christophermatthewspub.com

If you want to learn about the fur trade's glory years, but you don't want to read a dry historical tome, this novel is for you. The author describes the hardships of trapping beaver, tribal relations, the sights, sounds, smells and feel of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, and events such as the annual rendezvous and the mountaineers' Pierre's Hole fight with the Gros Ventre.

JOE HENRY. *Lime Creek.* Random House. Hardcover, 142 pages, \$20, www.randomhouse.com.

Songwriter Joe Henry's first novel certainly won't appeal to every reader. His slim but complex storytelling approach weaves in the struggles of a Wyoming ranch family, a harsh

environment and family relationships. A 2012 Spur Finalist for Best Western Short Novel.

TAMMY HINTON. *Unbridled.* Roots and Branches (AWOC Publishing). Trade Paperback, 179 pages, \$13.95, www.awoc.com.

Always a determined woman, as a young mother Sarah Cannon struggles to raise her children on the windswept prairies. The author has imparted an excellent sense of the loneliness and danger inherent on the frontier, and with great sensitivity, she explains the kinship this woman feels toward her Indian neighbors in a country at war with Indians.

W. HOCK HOCHHEIM. *Be Bad Now.* Lauric Press. Trade Paperback, 291 pages; *My Gun is My Passport.* Lauric Press. Trade Paperback, 363 pages, www.lauricpress.com.

For W. Hock Hochheim's adventure, thriller, crime, Western novels, think James Bond meets John Wayne. Hochheim is a former Army and Texas police investigator, an ex-private eye and owner/operator of an international combatives training company.

DENZEL HOLMES. *Last Race Sunday.* Sundowners. Trade Paperback, 293 pages, \$13.99, www.trebleheartbooks.com.

This mystery/Western crossover is both taut and expansive, depending on the needs of the story. Denzel Holmes has the sure handle on period flavor of someone who has lived nigh to it. But by no stretch has he failed to do his book homework either, and the conflict between sinful devotees of horse racing and sober folks who read their Bibles closely is as carefully documented as it is flavorfully described.

L.P. HOLMES. *Desert Steel.* Five Star. Hardcover, 198 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

This action-packed novel from a Spur Award winner was first serialized in *Ranch Romances* in 1945.

ALAN C. HUFFINES. *Killed By Indians 1871.* Texas Wesleyan University Press. Hardcover, 208 pages, \$30.

Based on actual events in Texas history, this short novel recounts a slave's struggles to rescue family members taken by Kiowa raiders. The book is decidedly one-sided and totally unsympathetic in its portrayal of all things Indian. This might be somewhat understandable given the nature of the story, but it does result in a simplistic depiction of a complex, chaotic period of Western history. A 2012 Spur finalist.

DOUGLAS C. JONES. *Elkhorn Tavern.* New American Library. Trade Paperback, \$15, us.penguin.com.

Reprint of Douglas C. Jones's brilliant 1980 novel that brings Civil War Arkansas to life.

JIM JONES. *Colorado Moon.* CreateSpace. Trade Paperback, 329 pages, \$9.95, www.createpace.com.

Jared Delaney is determined to take a herd of cattle from New Mexico to the Colorado mines, as dangers multiply.

Alternating chapters about the trail herd and ranch women ramp up tension until they come together in a satisfying conclusion.

NEVADA K. JONES. *Journey to Genoa.* Authorhouse. Trade Paperback, eBook, 430 pages, \$29.95, \$7.69, www.authorhouse.com.

A gritty look at the Mormon movement and the California gold rush when Latter Day Saints sailed from Wales to America.

CAMERON JUDD. *The Long Hunt.* Signet. Mass Market Paperback, 282 pages, \$6.99, www.us.penguin.com.

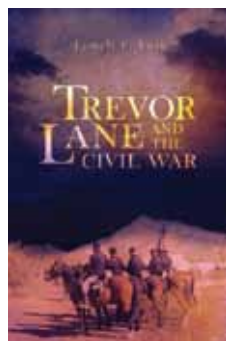
Renowned tracker Crawford Fain is asked by the Reverend Eben Bledsoe to find his daughter, who was taken by Indians. Memorable side stories make *The Long Hunt* an enjoyable read from the get-go.

MIKE KEARBY. *A Hundred Miles to Water.* Goldminds. Hardcover, 267 pages, \$19.99, www.goldmindspub.com.

Journal entries are the focal point for telling this tale of a blood feud between two Texas frontier families. An enjoyable read.

B.A. KELLY. *Blessings, Bullets and Bad Bad Men.* Oak Tree Press. Trade Paperback, 202 pages, \$12.95, \$5.95, www.oaktreebooks.com.

Jim Blessing gets drunk one night and wakes up married to a beautiful seniorita, who then has a real problem on her hands. A fast-paced, well-plotted story with likable characters.



A new release by Author Lowell F. Volk "Trevor Lane and the Civil War" scheduled to be released around May or June 2012 is book three in a series of five books about the Civil War and the west.

Check out all three books on Lowell's web site

<http://lowellvolk.tateauthor.com> where you can see write ups on the books as well as events where the author will be for signings. The site will also connect you with the location where they may be purchased or where you can contact the author for additional information.

Books by Lowell F. Volk

"The Taylors' Civil War"

"Luke Taylor Westward Bound"

"Trevor Lane and the Civil War"

<http://lowellvolk.tateauthor.com>

JIM KENNISON. *Heartbreak Trail to Pueblo.* Avalon. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

Naïve schoolteacher Matt Addison is on the trail of three ugly men who murdered his parents, with Matt's naiveté having an almost mournful appeal.

S.J. KING. *Bad River.* Cheyenne Crossing Press. Trade Paperback, 166 pages, \$12.95.

This believable novel switches between two brothers, one a gunfighter who works mostly on the side of the law, and the other one a rancher building a good spread.

GEORGE RICHARD KNIGHT. *West by Bullwhip.* Ithaca Press. Trade Paperback, 358 pages, \$22, www.ithacapress.com.

Together with his dog, Thor, and his trusty bullwhip, young Jack sets about making a name for himself in the Wild West. Shifting tenses plus stilted dialogue prove difficult for a reader to ignore, but there is great attention to detail on the vagaries of the Western expansion.

ROBERT KRESGE. *Painted Women.* ABQ Press. Trade Paperback, eBook, 294 pages, \$15.95, \$2.99, www.abqpress.com.

A marshal and a schoolteacher struggle to find out who killed the newest "lady" at the Hog Ranch.

JON LAND. *Strong Vengeance.* Forge. Hardcover, 352 pages, \$24.99. www.us.macmillan.com/Forge.aspx

Jon Land writes a rip-roarer of a thriller, and his heroine, Caitlin Strong is definitely a force to reckon with.

STEVEN LAW. *Yuma Gold.* Berkley. Mass Market Paperback, 240 pages, \$6.99, www.us.penguin.com.

Ben Ruby walked out of the Yuma prison with an old Indian legend to help him find a gold treasure buried deep beneath the desert in a sunken Spanish galleon. A captivating and inspiring tale.

FRANK W. LEWIS. *All Across: Bents Fort to Galveston – 1837.* Texas. Western Tales. Trade Paperback, eBook, 238 pages, \$17.95, \$6.99, www.rumpah.com.

A story about a life and death journey across Texas.

FRANK W. LEWIS. *The Gold Rush: 1847-1849.* Western Tales Publishing. Trade Paperback, eBook, 494 pages, \$23.99, \$7.69, www.rumpah.com.

A long novel, in parts scholarly, in parts raw with sex, danger and death, this is a detailed look at California's gold rush.

HELENA LINN. *Summer and Sagebrush.* Seven Cross Lazy L Productions. Hardcover.

The hardship and struggle of ranching in Wyoming's high country. Wyoming ranch woman Helena Linn accurately portrays the lifestyle.

BARBARA MARRIOTT. *Contact Creede! A Novel of Old Colorado.* Fireship Press. Trade Paperback, 238 pages, \$19.95, www.fireshippress.com.

A broke Boston socialite heads west in search of her father, who abandoned her 20 years ago, but instead discovers a murder mystery and all sorts of historical characters.

MICHAEL McGARRITY. *Hard Country.* Dutton. Hardcover, 607 pages, \$28.95, us.penguin.com.

This massive, ambitious, lively gaited novel is the first in a planned trilogy by the critically acclaimed author of the Kevin Kerney mystery series, covering New Mexico from 1875 to 1918.

JOHN McLAUGHLIN. *In the Shadow of the Mountain.* Trade Paperback, \$12.95, www.johnmclaughlinbooks.com.

A Vietnam veteran hopes to find peace in New Mexico's Gila Wilderness but instead winds up neck deep in violence, murder and deceit.

ROD MILLER. *The Assassination of Governor Boggs.* Bonneville Books. Trade Paperback, 211 pages, \$14.99.

An innovative novel with depthful characterizations and a flawless reconstruction of the mystery of the assassination of a Missouri governor who was a virulent anti-Mormon.

"What a hang on to your seat read! With greed taking the forefront, Double Crossing will keep you turning the pages. Mystery and suspense along the railroad of yesterday..."
- Matilda, Coffee Time Romance

"Vivid historical fiction mixed with murder, suspense and a lovely dash of romance makes Double Crossing an out of the ballpark hit!"
- April P., Romancing the Book

**WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA
SPUR AWARD WINNER!
2012 BEST FIRST NOVEL**

For More Information Please Visit -
www.megmims.com
www.astraeapress.com

MEG MIMS. *Double Crossing.* Astrea Press. Trade Paperback, 257 pages, \$13.99, www.astraeapress.com.

Always feisty, Lily Granville's safe world ends with a bang when her father is shot and Lily glimpses the murderer fleeing from the house. Determined to find her father's killer, Lily is in for the transcontinental train trip of a lifetime, not to mention a burgeoning romance. This fast-paced book, the 2012 Spur winner for Best First Novel, will keep you highly involved and turning the pages.

JOHN MORT. *Goat Boy of the Ozarks.* Stockton Lake Publishers. Trade Paperback, 297 pages, \$13.95.

This Southern literary novel is well-written, with great insight into a boy's progression into manhood, and language that captures the nature of the setting.

ROBERT NEAL. *Collinstown.* Sundowners: A Division of Treble Heart Books. Trade Paperback, 287 pages, \$13.50, www.trebleheartbooks.com.

Multiple issues of racial conflict fuel this gut-grabbing tale of a south Texas settlement on the eve of Secession.

JOHN D. NESBITT. *Gather My Horses.* Dorchester. Trade Paperback, 247 pages, \$14, www.dorchesterpub.com.

Spur winner John D. Nesbitt doesn't write traditional novels or routine shoot-em-ups. This is an emotional story, full of believable people with rich detail and a sense of purpose. It's a fresh look that makes an old story new and alive.

TEMPE O'KUN. *Sixes Wild: Manifest Destiny.* Sofawolf Press. Trade Paperback.

Six Shooter, a female gunslinger, has inherited a pair of six guns imbued with the previous owner's skill.

WAYNE D. OVERHOLSER. *Fighting Man: A Western Duo.* Five Star. Hardcover, 182 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar/.

Western Writers Hall of Fame inductee Wayne D. Overholser's *Fighting Man* is back again.

LAURAN PAINE. *Lightning Strike.* Five Star. Hardcover, 232 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Lightning Strike is a wonderful trail drive novel that only a master storyteller could create.

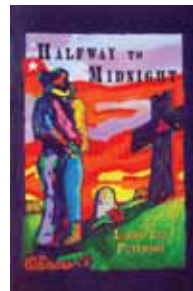
ANN PARKER. *Mercury's Rise.* Poisoned Pen Press. Hardcover, 378 pages, \$24.95, www.poisonedpenpress.com.

Fascinating, well-researched historical mystery about the 1880s tourist trade that never gets in the way of a slam-bang story.

CHEROKEE PARKS. *Jake Laughlin's Second Bath in the Same Year.* Sarah Book Publishing. Trade paperback, 130 pages, \$8.95. www.sarahbookpublishing.com.

What it took to make Jake Laughlin take a bath.

LARRY LEN PETERSON. *Halfway to Midnight.* Tumbleweed Reflections. Hardcover, 274 pages, \$29.95, www.mountain-press.com.



The author, probably best known for nonfiction works about Charles M. Russell and other Montana artists, turns to fiction in this blend of Western, thriller and maybe even science fiction.

PETE PETERSON. *Bloodbath at Picture Rock.* Publish America. Trade Paperback, 204 pages, \$24.95, www.publishamerica.com.

Aptly named manhunter Trace Savage is back for another mystery/Western crossover with graphic violence and risqué encounters.

JOHN PUTNAM. *Hangtown Creek: A Tale of the California Gold Rush.* iUniverse. Trade Paperback and eBook, 226 pages, \$15.95, \$3.43, www.iuniverse.com.

Fleeing her past and two ruthless killers, Maggie Magee arrives in a rough, male-dominated California gold camp. The author's love of California's gold country is obvious.

JOHN W. RAVAGE. *Grandpa Ben and His Pirates.* CreateSpace. Trade Paperback, 550 pages, \$18.95, www.create-space.com.

In this historical novel set in 1777, Benjamin Franklin and his grandkids troupe to Paris to meet an array of characters.

DUSTY RICHARDS. *Between Hell and Texas.* Pinnacle Books. Mass Market Paperback, 412 pages, \$6.99, www.kensingtonbooks.com.



Fed up with a Texas feud, Chet Byrnes makes Arizona the family's new home, somewhere between Hell and Texas. A Spur finalist in the original mass-market paperback category.

JULIA ROBB. *Scalp Mountain.* Kindle original eBook, 274 pages, \$2.99, www.amazon.com.

This is a violent, visceral novel, capturing the hatred for Indians settlers felt, and the brutality of all men. Think Alan LeMay, and stir in the dour lyricism of Cormac McCarthy.

DWIGHT HOOD ROBERTS. *Treasure at El Dorado.* Dorrance. Trade Paperback, eBook, 200 pages, \$22, \$9.99, www.dorrancebookstore.com.

A young cowboy saves a miner, falls in love and goes against one wretched band of outlaw brothers in this traditional Western.

LUCIA ST. CLAIR ROBSON. *Light a Distant Fire.* Books in Motion. Audiobook, 19 CDs, \$34.99; download, \$14.95, www.booksinmotion.com.

Two-time Spur winner Lucia St. Clair Robson's 1988 historical novel, which fictionalizes the Second Seminole War.

L.W. ROGERS. *Superstition Trail.* Avalon Books. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

If you don't mind things like Bryce Canyon being in Arizona Territory and wrong guns for the period, then you might enjoy this book.

JENNY SHANK. *The Ringer.* The Permanent Press. Hardcover, 351 pages, \$29, www.thepermanentpress.com.

Set predominately in contemporary Denver, *The Ringer* is about family, redemption and baseball. A moving story, expertly told, about the struggles in the contemporary urban West. Expect more great fiction from this new writer.

RICHARD SHAPIRO. *Tobacco Brown.* Ataraxia Library. Hardcover, 588 pages, \$29.95, www.tobaccobrownanovel.com.

Mentally ill Barney Kadesh concocts a Civil War hero, Tobacco Brown, who speaks to him.

JOHN M. SHARPE. *Hobbs and the Kid.* Avalon Books. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

Drop a precocious, obnoxious, rich-kid orphan from Boston into the lap of a grumpy buffalo soldier sergeant in the desert Southwest and the stage is set for adventure. John M. Sharpe paints a vivid picture of the Old West.

MART SHAUGHNESSY. *Palomino Days.* Western Trail Blazer. Trade Paperback, eBook, 268 pages, \$11.95, \$3.99, www.westerntrailblazer.com.

Interesting and moving nicely, this Western/time-travel crossover is smoothly done.

STEPHEN B. SMART. *Whispers of the Greybull.* High Mule Publishing. Trade Paperback, 310 pages, \$16.95, www.authorstephenbsmart.com.

In 1937 a recent college graduate goes to work for a huge ranch in Meeteetse, Wyoming, where the owners are facing hard times.

COTTON SMITH. *Shadows.* Books In Motion. Audiobook, 12 CDs, \$34.99, www.booksinmotion.com.

When eight upper society women are kidnapped, the Denver police lure former detective-turned-dude-ranch-owner Rone Chato out of retirement for help.

RICHARD DEAN STARR (editor). *More Tales of Zorro.* Moonstone. Trade Paperback, 240 pages, \$16.95, www.moonstonebooks.com.

Sixteen new yarns about California's masked champion of justice.

S.J. STEWART. *The Untarnished Badge.* Hardcover, 192 pages, \$23.95, www.avalonbooks.com.

A deputy U.S. Marshal is called to a Colorado community to take on a cabal of ne'er-do-wells who run the town, led by a greedy banker in this traditional Western.

ED STOWERS. *Ride a Lonely Wind.* Lauric Press. Trade Paperback and eBook, 266 pages, \$15.95, \$9.99, www.lauricpress.com.

A strong-willed woman and ex-soldier join forces in the Texas Panhandle, fighting Comanches and bad guys and each other.

GERALD LANE SUMMERS. *Mobley's Law.* Telemachus Press. eBook and Trade Paperback, 99 cents, \$5.98, www.moblymeadows.com.

A U.S. circuit judge tries to prevent another civil war in 1873 when Texas Governor Edmund Davis refuses to relinquish his office after being defeated at the polls.

GLENDON SWARTHOUT. *The Shootist. Bison Books* (University of Nebraska Press). Trade Paperback, eBook, 248 pages, \$16.95, \$9.99, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

This reprint includes an introduction by Miles Hood Swarthout, who wrote the screenplay for the film and tours the country giving presentations about the making of the movie and the writing of the novel by his father.

LARRY D. SWEAZY. *The Cougar's Prey.* Berkley. Mass Market Paperback, 304 pages, \$6.99, www.us.penguin.com.

In the fourth title in the Josiah Wolfe series, shootouts, a cattle stampede and murders abound.

ROD THOMPSON. *The Black Hills.* Berkley Books. Trade Paperback, 376 pages, \$15, www.us.penguin.com.

This action-packed yarn not only brings the young hero into contact with a cast of vile varmints needing to be taught their lessons, but also the love of his life.

STEPHEN L. TURNER. *Up from the Ashes: A Western Quest Series Novel.* Sunstone Press. Trade Paperback, 175 pages, \$19.95.

A wild ride, with chance meetings ranging from Jesse and Frank James to Jesse Chisholm.

BETTY WEBB. *Desert Wind.* Poisoned Pen Press. Hardcover, 250 pages, \$24.95, www.poisonedpenpress.com.

In this riveting seventh mystery featuring Arizona P.I. Lena Jones, her business partner is arrested and, ominously, does not ask for her help.

RUTH BURKETT WEEKS. *Soldiers from the Mist.* High Hill Press. Trade Paperback, 269 pages, \$17.95, www.highhillpress.com.

This often-lyrical debut novel is part ghost story, part romance, part historical fiction.

A Brave New Future for Poetry

By Rod Miller

Simplified self-publishing. Do-it-yourself eBooks. Small-run digital printing. Desktop production. A dearth of full-service publishers and the rise of limited-service small presses. It's unlikely authors have encountered so much change since the invention of movable type. Poets are no exception. But, accustomed as they are to narrow distribution, self-promotion, hand-selling, and low volumes, poets might adapt more easily.

"I believe poetry is one genre that may move pretty quickly and successfully into nontraditional methods of publishing," says Nancy Curtis, publisher and editor at High Plains Press. "Online and digital methods of publishing are great for poets. It's one more way to get published."

For Curtis, it all represents opportunity. "I've always believed that poetry is best sold eyeball to eyeball. Poets determine sales through readings and performances and connections. And now we have new technologies for connecting with readers – YouTube videos, Facebook, websites, blogs and the like."

Retired administrative law judge Bette Wolf Duncan of Iowa writes in

the cowboy poetry tradition and knows the importance of eyeball-to-eyeball encounters and performances. But, "if the adherents of cowboy poetry expect to broaden their base, they will have to broaden their appeal" through better writing. The best poetry, she says, "is a form of music written for the reader."

While public performance will continue to be important, and Duncan uses computer technology to create small chapbooks for sale at cowboy poetry gatherings where she appears, she looks to online marketing to expand her audience. "I do sell books over the internet, and internet sales account for most of my book sales."

Robert Roripaugh, creative writing professor at the University of Wyoming for 35 years and the state's Poet Laureate from 1995 through 2002, sees a bright future for Western poets amid all the change. "We are now moving into a period when poets and poetry are receiving more attention in a variety of old and new ways," he says. "There is a healthy range of Western poetry and concepts of its style, tone, language and purpose. The current popularity of traditional cowboy poems is an example of increased interest, which also benefits other

POETRY MARKET



kinds of Western poetry. I think Western poets and their work will continue to move into the mainstream of American poetry and be more fairly recognized and represented in anthologies, textbooks, literary histories and studies of American literature as a whole."

Perhaps greater acceptance will result from growing opportunities for publication. But, Curtis says, even with all the change, "Many poets still find it most fulfilling to hold a *book* of their poems. And many poets would like to see their books available in bookstores and not just digitally." So, High Plains Press will continue to publish the old-fashioned way. "I love finding good poetry, helping the poet hone it, and bringing it to readers in an attractive format. I'll probably keep publishing occasional books of poetry for the love of it."

Come what may, Roripaugh is confident that poetry goes on: "As long as there are humans, there will be poetry in one form or another."

MAXIMILIAN WERNER. *Crooked Creek.* Torrey House Press. Trade Paperback, 178 pages, \$15.95, www.toreeyhouse.com.

In this edgy, poetic first novel, a tormented family tries to escape its past of stealing and selling Indian antiquities. It's beautifully written, but sometimes difficult to read.

RICHARD S. WHEELER. *The First Dance.* Forge. Hardcover, 349 pages, \$26.99, <http://us.macmillan.com/Forge.aspx>.

Montana novelist Richard S. Wheeler turns to the history of the Métis and their early settlements as Dirk Skye, mixed-blood son of Barnaby Skye (who was the subject of dozens of Wheeler novels) weds a Métis girl.

RICHARD S. WHEELER. *The Richest Hill on Earth.* Forge. Hardcover, 352 pages, \$25.95, www.us.macmillan.com/Forge.aspx.

A large dose of nonfiction mixed in with a bit of gritty fiction. Richard S. Wheeler, always renowned for his impeccable research, relates the details of the great mining days of Butte, Montana.

BOB WOOD. *Sage.* Sunbury Press. Trade Paperback, 334 pages, \$17.95, www.sunburypress.com.

Gone to sea and shipwrecked off the coast of Okinawa, the Arizona half-Chiricahua Apache hero of this yarn just hauls off and goes hobnobbing with the great ones of the world.

JIM WOOLARD. *Colorado Sam.* Goldminds. Trade Paperback, 235 pages, \$15.95, www.goldmindspub.com.

Spur-winner Jim Woolard leaves his familiar stamping grounds of frontier Ohio for the 1890s of St. Louis's water-front and Colorado's ranching and mining country to treat us to an ugly, huge mastiff named Sam and a hero deathly afraid of dogs.

WILLARD WYMAN. *Blue Heaven.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 194 pages, \$21.95, www.oupres.com.



With this novel the author attempts to recapture the mountain magic that made his award-winning debut novel, *High Country*, so uniquely enjoyable by bringing back basically the same story.

STEVEN YOUNT. *Death on the Trail.* BookLocker. Trade Paperback, eBook, 176 pages, \$15.95, \$4.99, www.booklocker.com.

A former deputy U.S. marshal is forced to pin on a badge again in 1868 New Mexico. The tale has possibilities, but this one needed more editing.

MICHAEL ZIMMER. *Beneath a Hunter's Moon.* Hardcover, 272 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Beneath a Hunter's Moon tells of a West many have heard of but with which few are familiar, set among the *métis* of the of the Red River plains and buffalo ranges of the north. Intrigue, jealousy, strife, romance and violence challenge a well-drawn cast of characters over the course of a hunting season on the high plains.

MICHAEL ZIMMER. *City of Rocks.* Five Star. Hardcover, 200 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar/.

A richly imagined and fast-paced story should appeal to Western and non-Western fans alike.

POETRY

PATRICIA FROLANDER. *Married into It.* High Plains Press. Trade Paperback, 80 pages, \$12.95, www.highplainspress.com.

Reading these poems is a journey into the heart of a woman who left the city to be rebirthed on the land. "She'll never last" the neighbors clucked, "Too much city."

Pat Frolander wasn't a rancher when she and husband Dick moved to his family's homesteaded land. Heck, she wasn't a poet then, either. But the land got into her soul, and comes out through her writing voice.

This gracefully written book won the 2012 Western Heritage Wrangler Award for poetry from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

TWYLA M. HANSEN and LINDA M. HASSELSTROM. *Dirt Song: A Plains Duet.* The Backwaters Press. Paperback, 162 pages, \$16, www.thebackwaterspress.org.

Two voices. Similar. Unique. Nebraska. South Dakota. Backwaters Press presents the twin writing talent of Twyla M. Hansen and Linda M. Hasselstrom in their new collection of poetry: *Dirt Song*.

Hansen lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, but writes of rural life, of early walks in late October, of eating shredded wheat and green apples, of great horned owls, wild turkeys and swallows. She's profound, but also pokes fun, as in "Swiss Cheese."

Linda Hasselstrom, recipient of a Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for her earlier book of poetry, *Bitter Creek Junction*, also draws inspiration from the land, particularly South Dakota, where she spent much of her life. She writes of May days and sharing poetry with students in reservation schools, of "Cleaning the Stove," "Chin Hairs" and making Thanksgiving pie.

There is inspiration and much more in this collection of poetry.

ROD MILLER. *Things a Cowboy Sees and Other Poems.* Port Yonder Press. Trade Paperback, 96 pages, \$9.95, www.portyonderpress.com.

"It can be argued," Rod Miller writes in his introduction to this collection of cowboy poetry, "... that cowboy poetry today is more a performance art than a literary art."

Yet Miller displays literary breadth and humor in this collection divided into sections: Horses and Hosses, Life Out West, The Rodeo Road, Roundups and Trail Drives and Making a Hand.

Real quickly, cowboy poetry can get really old. But not so in this inspired collection that includes the 2012 Spur Award winner for Best Western Poem, "Tabula Rasa."

TIMOTHY MURPHY. *Hunter's Log.* The Dakota Institute Press of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation. Trade Paperback, 110 pages, \$19.95, www.oupres.com.



The tight, well-crafted poems in this collection chronicle the writer's experiences tramping the fields and flyways of the Northern Plains. Hunting companions, shotguns, dogs, ducks and pheasants provide entrée to reflections on nature, religion, life and death.

TIMOTHY MURPHY. *Mortal Stakes / Faint Thunder.* The Dakota Institute Press of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation. Trade Paperback, 160 pages, \$14.95, www.oupres.com.

Actually two collections of poetry, *Mortal Stakes* and *Faint Thunder*, this book was published because the poet "is not much known or read in North Dakota," and deserves the recognition in his home country he enjoys elsewhere.

Murphy writes much of hunting and dogs, much of religion, much of agriculture, and much of the challenge of being homosexual on the high plains. Written mostly in rhyme, Murphy's poems are tight, concise and economical.