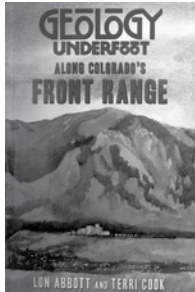


NONFICTION

LON ABBOTT and TERRI COOK. *Geology Underfoot Along Colorado's Front Range.* Mountain Press. Soft cover, 338 pages, \$24, www.mountain-press.com.

Lon Abbott and Terri Cook present a well-grounded text featuring a number of geological sites on Colorado's front range. Printed on high-quality gloss paper and liberally illustrated with color photos and detailed drawings, this book should earn a respected place as an informative study of the area.



Arranged in 21 chapters, each features a well-known location such as Pike's Peak, Trail Ridge Road, Garden of the Gods, Royal Gorge, etc. The authors have included a glossary, sources of more information and an index. A valuable aid to the weekend geologist wanting help in finding his or her way to a particular site can be found in the detailed "Getting There" sections.

Abbott, a geologist, and Cook, a freelance science writer, pass along their knowledge of Colorado's geologic history and diversity in an interesting and readable format.

– Lynn D. Bueling

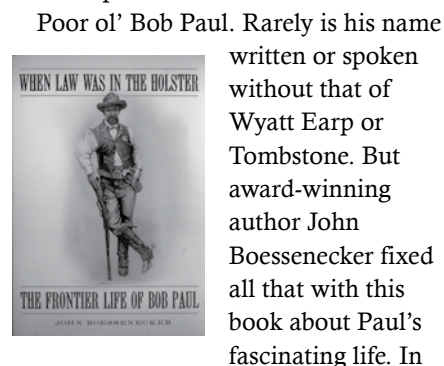
JOHN "J. DUB" BLACK. *Tales from Toadsuck.* iUniverse. Paperback, 271 pages, \$20.95, www.iuniverse.com.

In his autobiography, John Black recalls the day he watched his mother being taken, screaming and fighting, to a mental institution, only to have his alcoholic father abandon him that same day. As a 10-year old, he needed help and rode his bike most of a day to an aunt and uncle who gave him a loving home for the next four years. Here he gained the confidence to defend himself, accept responsibility and participate

in youthful pranks such as leading a heifer up a narrow stairway to a church belfry on Halloween. His story ends a bit abruptly as he travels from Arkansas to Arizona to visit his mother with the promise to return. Sequel?

– Lynn D. Bueling

JOHN BOESSENECKER. *When Law Was in the Holster – The Frontier Life of Bob Paul.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 484 pages, \$34.95, www.oupres.com.



Poor ol' Bob Paul. Rarely is his name written or spoken without that of Wyatt Earp or Tombstone. But award-winning author John Boessenecker fixed all that with this book about Paul's fascinating life. In fact, it reads more like a classic novel with Paul whaling on the high seas; mining in the California gold fields; serving as a constable; a deputy sheriff; sheriff of Calaveras County, California; sheriff of Pima County, Arizona; a Wells Fargo shotgun messenger; and a railroad detective. President Benjamin Harrison even appointed Paul the U.S. marshal for Arizona Territory.

Although his name is rarely found on a list of famous Old West lawmen, he spent more time wearing a badge than did the Earps. Boessenecker has filled a gap in lawman history with this ace-high volume.

– Monty McCord

CLIFFORD R. CALDWELL and RON DeLORD. *Texas Lawmen, 1900-1940: More of the Good & the Bad.* History Press. Paperback, 528 pages, \$29.99, www.historypress.net.

Clifford R. Caldwell and Ron DeLord's sequel to their *Texas Lawmen, 1835-1900: The Good & the Bad* offers a continuation of the earlier work in documenting the deaths of hundreds of

Texans who died in the line of duty or who otherwise met death prematurely. The main difference is that this book deals with a period in which lawmen traded horses for automobiles and utilized new technologies such as modern weapons and communicating by telephone. The chapters cover county and municipal agencies, Texas Rangers, state, federal and other agencies and the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Each account tells a tragic story and, taken together with its predecessor, this book provides numerous suggestions for Western novelists in search of plot ideas.

– Abraham Hoffman

WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL. *Speculators in Empire: Iroquoia and the 1786 Treaty of Fort Stanwix.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 278 pages, \$39.95, www.oupres.com.

In this detailed narrative, William J. Campbell traces the events leading to the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and its aftermath as British North America became embroiled in the American Revolution. Great Britain followed a policy of negotiation with the Iroquois Confederacy as each side sought to control its possessions while enhancing its claims.

William Johnson, Britain's superintendent of Indian affairs, carefully balanced the policies of Iroquois and British, holding a series of Grand Councils that culminated in the treaty, revising the Proclamation of 1763 in hopes of keeping Native territory separate from colonial settlement. In the end, neither the British nor the Iroquois could control the events that made the treaty obsolete shortly after it was approved.

Campbell tells much of this history from the Native perspective, revising earlier accounts about the significance of the treaty. The contemporary maps in the book look interesting, but the book would have benefited from a modern map showing places that might be unfamiliar to readers.

– Abraham Hoffman

GAIL WAECHTER CORKILL and SHARON E. HUNT. *Images of America; Empire Ranch.* Arcadia. Trade paperback, 125 pages, \$21.99, www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Carved out of the rugged landscape of southern Arizona, the Empire Ranch started as a homestead and has survived well over a century as a cattle ranch. This is a book primarily of photographs, and there are some dandies, beginning with a 1880s-era photo of the headquarters with dozens of cattle and horses grazing nearby.

Photographs of the family members who called the Empire home include women on horses, with their children and checking the herds. There are images of Empire kids working, playing, roping and riding everything from horses and Hereford bulls to the family dog! A final section depicts the men working on the ranch: branding, roping, riding, sorting cattle.

You might have seen this ranch, even if you have never been to southern Arizona. It was a setting for the classic Western film *Red River* and other Hollywood productions, including *Duel in*

the Sun (1946), *Oklahoma!* (1955), *3:10 to Yuma* (1957) and *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (1957). Episodes of the television shows *Gunsmoke* (1955-1975) and *Bonanza* (1959-1973) also had scenes filmed on the Empire Ranch, and there are photographs in this book of some of those film productions and the actors involved in them, including John Wayne, Anthony Quinn and Burt Lancaster.

In 1988, the ranch was involved in a land swap that put it under control of the Bureau of Land Management. At that time, it was designated as the Empire-Cienega Resource Conservation Area. Further protection was provided in 2000 when it was designated as the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. But cattle ranching operations continue under lease to the Tomlinson family of the Vera Earl Ranch in Sonoita, Arizona.

– Candy Moulton

JAMES DONOVAN. *The Blood of Heroes: The 13-Day Struggle for the Alamo – and the Sacrifice that Forged a Nation.* Little, Brown and Co. Hardcover, 500

pages, \$29.99, www.hachettebookgroup.com.

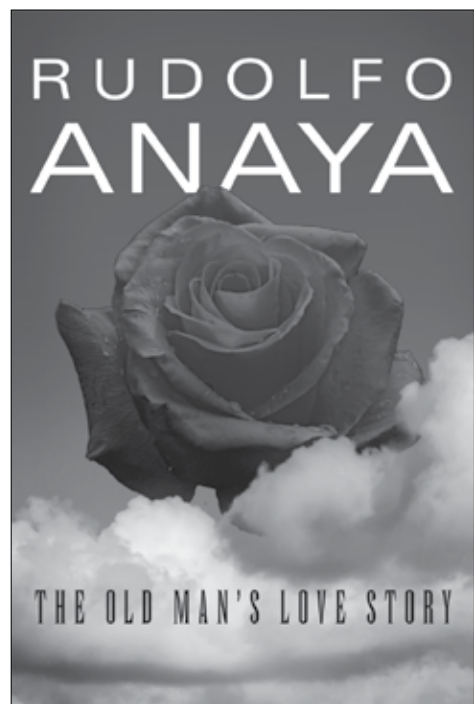
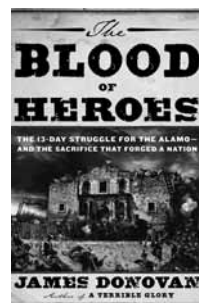
With the style of a historical novelist but the meticulous research methods of an accomplished historian, James Donovan tackles the story of the Alamo and the Texas Revolution of 1836.

As he did with his Spur finalist book about George Custer and the Little Big Horn, *A Terrible Glory*, Donovan manages to make a familiar tale fresh and captivating.

Even those who disagree with some of Donovan’s findings – Did David Crockett die fighting or was he executed? Did Moses Rose really escape the Alamo? Was William Travis’s “line in the sand” fact or fiction? – will be hard-pressed to find much fault in his persuasive logic.

– Johnny D. Boggs

ROBERTA KEY HALDANE. *Gold-Mining Boomtown: People of White Oaks,*



THE OLD MAN'S LOVE STORY

By Rudolfo Anaya

\$19.95 HARDCOVER · 176 PAGES

“There was an old man who dwelt in the land of New Mexico, and he lost his wife.” From that opening line, this tender novella is at once universal and deeply personal. The nameless narrator, a writer, shares his most intimate thoughts about his wife, their life together, and her death. But just as death is inseparable from life, his wife seems still to be with him. Her memory and words permeate his days. In *The Old Man’s Love Story*, master storyteller Rudolfo Anaya crafts the tale of a lifelong love that ultimately transcends death.

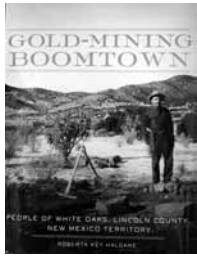
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Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory. Arthur H. Clark. Hardcover, 331 pages, \$45, www.oupress.com.

The discovery of gold in 1879 brought many people to White Oaks,



including Lew Wallace, Emerson Hough, Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid. Roberta Key Haldane profiles more than 40 families who settled in the town during

its boom years, from Jewish merchants and Chinese laborers to Susan McSween Barber, the “Cattle Queen of New Mexico.”

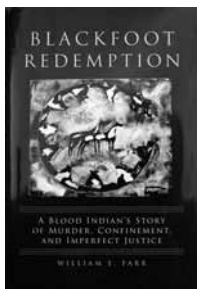
This richly illustrated, oversized book won the 2012 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award in the Nonfiction History-New Mexico category. It has also been selected as one of the New Mexico Centennial projects.

PETER EIDENBACH. *An Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps, 1550-1941.* University of New Mexico Press. Hardcover, 184 pages, \$45, www.unmpress.com.



Compiled by Peter Eidenbach, an archaeologist and historian, this handsome volume includes 150 color plates, including maps from the colonial era that have been held in special collections with limited public access. A great source for researchers, which will also look beautiful on a coffee table.

WILLIAM E. FARR. *Blackfoot Redemption: A Blood Indian's Story of Murder, Confinement, and Imperfect*



Justice. University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 344 pages, \$29.95, www.oupress.com.

As the subtitle suggests, this book is an account of a Blood Indian,

Spopee, convicted, perhaps wrongly, of murder in Montana in 1880.

Sentenced to hang, Spopee's sentence was commuted by President James A. Garfield. After confinement in federal prison in Michigan, officials decided Spopee was insane and sent him to a federal asylum in Washington, D.C., where he “was forgotten, triply removed and estranged — by language, place, and time.” For more than three decades, he languished there, lost in a bureaucratic system. When finally “discovered” decades later, Spopee's case was taken up by various officials, resulting in his pardon and release by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914.

The author wondered, when contemplating this book, if “telling Spopee's individual story [would] inform a larger, tribal story.” Farr certainly succeeds. His well-written, fascinating story compares Spopee's treatment to the fate of the Blackfoot, Piegan, Blood and other related tribes in the changing world of northern Montana and Canada.

— Rod Miller

CARMEN GOLDTHWAITE. *Texas Dames: Sassy and Savvy Women Throughout Lone Star History.* The History Press.



Trade Paperback, 160 pages, \$19.99, www.historypress.com

This compilation of some of Texas's most important women makes for interesting reading, even if you're not

Texan. Here are stories that bridge racial lines, societal, political and even gender lines. This book is about gritty women willing to get their hands dirty. They worked hard to build a decent life in a new land for their families and all who came after them.

A review meant for the pages of *Roundup* hardly gives enough space to do more than give a bare introduction to these women. Beginning with Angelina of the Hasinai, a whiz at learning new languages, who translated for the earliest Spanish explorers, to crack-shot Sally Scull, fighting for the Confederacy

with her gun and her wits, to America's first female anesthesiologist, Dr. Claudia Potter, you'll be fascinated.

Fortunately, there's an excellent chapter-by-chapter list of reference works to help those who want to learn more.

— C.K. Crigger

VICTORIA K. HASKINS. *Matrons and Maids: Regulating Indian Domestic Service in Tucson 1914-1934.* University of Arizona Press. Hardcover, 231 pages, \$50, www.uapress.arizona.edu.

From 1914 to 1934, the Office of Indian Affairs, later the Bureau of Indian Affairs, hired four women for the position of “Outing Matron” to place young Indian girls and women from the San Xavier Reservation to work as domestics in Tucson.

They included Minnie Estabrook, 1914-1915; Janette Woodruff, 1915-1929; Libbie Light, 1929-1932; and Gracie Taylor, 1932-1934.

In addition, the duties of an outing matron included providing the employer and worker with a statement as to their relative obligations. They were also on call if the Indian girls got in trouble with the law, got sick or required any kind of intervention. The Tucson outing matrons saw themselves as monitors of the young women's morals. They were the persons that families contacted when they had to get a message to the domestic.

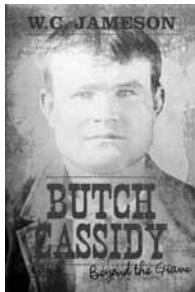
Fortunately, the outing matrons left personal narratives and reports. Estabrook had excellent ideas, but she constantly fought with the Indian services director. Woodruff was also quite progressive but she was more subtle and lasted longer. Light was close to retirement when she took the position of outing matron and she hoped to retire with full benefits from the Indian Service. Gracie Taylor was deeply disappointed in the position considering herself to be just a messenger.

If there is a criticism of this excellent, albeit expensive book, it is that there

are no photographs except for the front cover. There is an excellent bibliography and index.

– Jane Eppinga

W.C. JAMESON. *Butch Cassidy:*



Beyond the Grave. Taylor Trade Publishing. Hardcover, 189 pages, \$22.95, www.rowman.com.

There's no shortage of Old West outlaws who supposedly outlived

their demise — Billy the Kid and Jesse James among them. Prominent on that list is Butch Cassidy, seen alive and well after being killed in Bolivia, and again after dying of old age decades later in the state of Washington.

This book examines the life of Robert LeRoy Parker, the Utah cowboy better known as Butch Cassidy, as well as the controversies surrounding his death.

W.C. Jameson's account throughout seems overly tentative, hedging on virtually every detail in an attempt to present all sides of every story. While this holds true as he examines the circumstances surrounding the reported killing of the outlaw in South America and return to the West after that death, there is little doubt where his sympathies lie. The author seems dismissive of much of the information about the shootout in San Vicente where many believe Cassidy died, and less demanding of the evidence that indicates he did not.

All in all, it's an interesting and informative, if ultimately inconclusive, read that paints a comprehensive picture of the popular bandit's life and deaths.

– Rod Miller

CLAY S. JENKINSON. *For the Love of North Dakota and other Essays: Sundays with Clay in the Bismarck Tribune.* The Dakota Institute Press. Trade Paperback, 364 pages, \$18.95, www.fortmandan.com.

One of several hats Clay Jenkinson wears in North Dakota is that of a weekly columnist for the Sunday *Bismarck Tribune*. For this volume he has

selected a number of those essays that attest to his love for the state.

He tackles a wide-range of topics. One week he is climbing Bullion Butte in the badlands, in another he's expressing concern for the rapid oil-patch development in the state, and in still another taking a 17-day hike along the Little Missouri River "to

declare war on the insane pace of our lives, my life."

In one memorable passage, he declares, "If there is a heaven, the day begins with the sound of the Meadowlark."

– Lynn D. Bueling

JOHN WAYNE ENTERPRISES.

John Wayne: The Legend and the Man. Powerhouse Books. Hardcover, 272 pages, \$45, www.powerhousebooks.com.

Fans of John Wayne will welcome this eye-catching, coffee-table-sized photographic biography. Vivid, often candid images (many in splendid color) show this iconic Western actor in both his personal and professional life.

Patricia Bosworth provides a short, informative biographical essay. Ron Howard's memories of Wayne on the set of *The Shootist* are revealing about Wayne's personality and professionalism. Martin Scorsese's brief assessment of Wayne's career is worth reading several times.

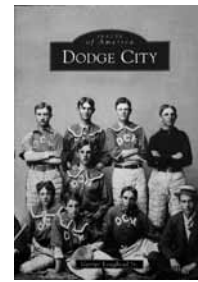
Wayne died in 1979 but continues to rank at the top of film-actor popularity polls, especially because of his Westerns. These charismatic photographs of Wayne at home and at work demonstrate why.

– David Morrell

GEORGE LAUGHEAD JR. *Dodge City.* Arcadia. Paperback, 127 pages, \$21.99, www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Contrary to popular belief, Dodge City, Kansas, did not exist only between the years of 1872, when buffalo hides were king, to 1886, when the era of the

long trail drives ended its reign as queen city of the cow-towns. Dodge City native George Laughead Jr., president of the Ford County Historical Society, chronicles the city with photographs, from the town's founding through the middle 1900s, when Dodge City also witnessed the Dust Bowl, World War II and the world premiere of the Warner Bros. hit Western movie, *Dodge City*, in 1939.



HARRIS M. LENTZ III. *Television Westerns Episode Guide: All United States Series, 1949-1996.* McFarland. Paperback, 568 pages, \$39, www.mcfarlandpub.com.

The first episode I looked up was from the 1967-68 season of *Death Valley Days*, "The Informer Who Cried," just to see if Harris M. Lentz III got it right.

He didn't.

Like many sources, Lentz confuses "The Informer Who Cried" – about the outlaw who betrayed Sam Bass – with "Lost Sheep in Trinidad" – about the legend of Sister Blandina (Mariette Hartley) assisting Billy the Kid.

The only reason I know that, of course, is because I was researching a book about Billy the Kid in film and TV. And you can't fault one often-repeated error in a massive book that chronicles every TV Western from *Adventures of Briscoe County Jr.* to *Zorro and Son*.

This is strictly an episode guide, usually – but not always – containing the original airdate, plot synopsis and guest stars.

Despite some inconsistencies, and that occasional error, it's overall a handy reference for TV historians and Western fans.

– Johnny D. Boggs

VERNON O. MAYES and BARBARA BAYLESS LACY. *Nanise' A Navajo Herbal: One Hundred Plants from the Navajo Reservation.* Five Star Publications. Trade Paperback, 154 pages, \$19.95, www.FiveStarPublications.com.

If you have a fondness for the Navajo, have visited their reservation

or want to know more about the flora that thrives in an arid land of more than 25,000 square miles in parts of three states, this might be the book for you.

The authors provide details for 100 plants of more than 1,500 flowering species, including ferns, horsetails and conifers, found on the Navajo Nation and originally described in a limited manner over several centuries by explorers, missionaries, traders and soldiers.

Respecting the wishes of those tribal members who believe that plant knowledge is sacred and not for public dissemination, the authors provide no new information. They do, however, spell out each selected plant's everyday use whether for ceremonial, medicinal or household purposes. Accompanying black-and-white and color illustrations assist the reader in botanical identifications.

Plant use continues to be part of the religion and fabric of Navajo life, and those who seek *Nanise'*, the Navajo word for "vegetation," will find this book a handy reference tool.

— Stan "Tex" Banash

LARRY McMURTRY. *Custer*. Simon & Schuster. Hardcover, 192 pages, \$35, www.simonandschuster.com.

It seems only natural that Pulitzer- and Oscar-winner Larry McMurtry would turn to George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of the Little Big Horn. After all, who hasn't?

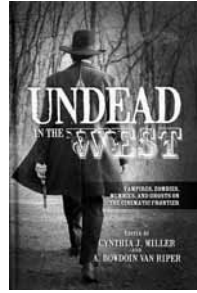
McMurtry's one of the most talented (not to mention prolific) writers ever to tackle the West or any other subject (his memoir *Books* is one of his best works in years), but in *Custer*, McMurtry fails.

Although he succeeds when he puts personal insights in this slim narrative, his history isn't just sloppy, it's downright wrong. Besides, even McMurtry writes that if you want to know about the Battle of the Little Big Horn, read Evan S. Connell's *Son of the Morning Star*, Robert M. Utley's *Cavalier in Buckskin*, James Donovan's *A Terrible Glory* or Nathaniel Philbrick's *The Last Stand*.

Good advice.

— Johnny D. Boggs

CYNTHIA J. MILLER and A. BOWDOIN VAN RIPER (editors).



Undead in the West: Vampires, Zombies, Mummies and Ghosts on the Cinematic Frontier. Scarecrow. Hardcover, eBook, 288 pages, \$65, \$37.04, www.rowman.com.

Since the first movie cowboys rode out from Gower Gulch, Western and horror have always been pals in the saddle. *Undead in the West* is a superior collection of essays that examine this subgenre, focusing on the 1950s onward.

Of the older films, Edward Dien's *Curse of the Undead*, starring Michael Pate as a suave vampire, gets particular attention, and there's a good chapter on *Billy the Kid Vs. Dracula* that goes into production background about this dubiously famous film. One does wish the authors gave director William Beaudine credit for his great silent work, instead of being branded a simple hack for this effort.

The motif of death and resurrection is examined in the works of Sergio Leone, and a thoughtful, critical eye is also cast on Clint Eastwood's tribute to his mentor, *High Plains Drifter*.

Other chapters focus on more recent efforts like Kathryn Bigelow's *Near Dark* and the *From Dusk 'Til Dawn* trilogy. These films have had staying power with their audiences, but are still connected to horror-Westerns from decades past, which is just the point of this thoughtful movie book.

— C. Courtney Joyner

ROD MILLER. *Go West: The Risk & The Reward*. Range Conservation Foundation & Range Magazine. Hardcover, 128 pages, \$32, www.rangemagazine.com.

A short narrative history focusing on the expansion of America into the West and a collection of diary and journal entries, as well as literary quotes, set the context for this full-color photographic book.

Published by the Range Conserva-

tion Foundation with editorial work by *Range Magazine* editor C.J. Hadley, the focus, understandably, is on the Great Basin and the Buckaroo traditions of Nevada, Oregon and California. There are also images of other ranches and landscapes across the West that enhance the text.

— Candy Moulton

DAVID MORRELL. *John Wayne: The Westerns*. MEI. eBook, 99 cents, <http://davidmorrell.net/stories>.

John Wayne. The name still conjures political reaction and cinematic fascination. He left an indelible mark, particularly with his Western films. In this excellent e-essay, author David Morrell (*First Blood*) presents a thorough and evenhanded consideration of Wayne and his Westerns, from *The Big Trail* (1930) to *The Shootist* (1976). He's precise about the narrative problems in *The Searchers*, insightful regarding the remarkable emotional range Wayne demonstrates in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and mystified at the meaning critics find in *Rio Bravo*.

While also examining Wayne's drinking (16 martinis before a Thanksgiving dinner), smoking (five packs a day on *The Alamo*) and expertise as a chess player, Morrell allows us to appreciate and understand how Wayne, "an undeniable phenomenon," helped create that unique film category: John Wayne Westerns.

— Tom Claggett

JAMES E. POTTER. *Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the Civil War, 1861-1867*. University of Nebraska Press. Trade Paperback, 375 pages, \$29.95. www.bisonbooks.com.

One company of the 1st Nebraska Regiment, organized at the outbreak of the Civil War, was composed of a "hardy, intelligent, robust body of men, inured to labor, acquainted with the geography of the country, and familiar with fire arms,"



according to Robert W. Furnas, editor of the *Nebraska Advertiser*. He went on to say that they were young, single men without steady occupation and therefore the agricultural, mechanical and other businesses would be “little interfered with.”

As in all wars, the economic concerns govern much of what we think and do. James Potter deftly incorporates that in this thorough history of the Nebraska Territory’s participation in the war.

Noteworthy is that some 3,000 Nebraskans out of a sparse population of only 28,841 served in the U.S. Army, while several residents, sympathetic to the Confederacy, left the territory to serve in Southern units.

In this thoroughly researched work, the author ably connects economic, political and social issues to the vicissitudes of war.

Often overlooked by Civil War historians, actions west of the Mississippi had significant impact on what was happening in the east. Potter is to be commended for helping us remember that the war in the West affected lives, families, communities and the future of the region.

– Vernon Schmid

RICHARD L. SAUNDERS (editor). *Dale Morgan and the Mormons: Collected Works, Part 1, 1939-1951*. Arthur H. Clark. Cloth, 515 pages, \$45, www.oupres.com.

Will Bagley, editor of the *Kingdom in the West: The Mormons and the American Frontier* series, of which this book is the 14th volume, writes in the foreword, “The historians who taught me the craft almost universally had the highest regard for Dale Morgan and his legacy – some of them would have elevated him to sainthood if it had been in their power.” Best known for his work on the fur trade and overland trails, Morgan had a lifelong interest in the history of his childhood faith. While he did not complete his intended masterwork on the subject, this volume collects much of his work in the field.

In his day, Mormon history was insular and most of what was written told what the writer wished had happened,

rather than what did happen. In battling that attitude, Morgan said he would have preferred writing where “you do not have to put up with modern ideas of how old timers, including God, should have acted.”

The editor says Morgan’s failure as a historian was “to look for larger contexts in favor of looking at immediate details,” and there is evidence of that here — while the book includes much of interest to the history buff, the material occasionally bogs down in minutiae.

– Rod Miller

MARY L. SCHEER. *Women and the Texas Revolution*. University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 244 pages, \$24.95, <http://untpress.unt.edu>.

Books examining historical subjects run the gamut from bubbling enthusiasms that barely scratch the surface to arid, academic dissertations based on exhaustive research of original sources and littered with copious references. In this collection of essays exploring the effect the Texas Revolution had on women, the bar falls closer to academia than enthusiasm.

Early chapters focusing on Native American, Hispanic, Anglo and African-American women are thought provoking but almost emotionless. Later chapters on women who survived the Alamo, the Runaway Scrape and the Battle of San Jacinto are somewhat livelier. The last chapter praises early-day women who fought to preserve symbols of Texas’s past while decrying their sentimentality, which just about sums it up – desiccated facts with little passion. While this book should be on the shelf of every serious researcher of the women of the Texas Revolution, the casual reader might find it too dry to digest.

– Vicky Rose

BRUCE A. GLASRU and HAROLD J. WEISS JR. (editors). *Tracking the Texas Rangers: The Nineteenth Century*. University of North Texas Press. Hardcover, 384 pages, \$29.95, <http://untpress.unt.edu>.

This anthology of previously published articles from various authors is a

welcome addition to the already massive volume of modern Texas Ranger reference material. With subjects that mirror the work of Walter Prescott Webb, Mike Cox, Robert M. Utley and others, this book offers a fresh, unabashed look at the origins of the Texas Ranger organization, and onward as it hurdled toward the 20th Century, evolving in fits and struggles, into a more formal law enforcement outfit.

Formatted chronologically, the anthology begins with the uncertain and unorganized start of the Texas Rangers, through the battles with Mexicans, Comanche and Kiowa; conflicts with fence cutters; tracking down outlaws; and settling feuds. All of the expected major events are touched on: the Cortina Wars; the creation of the Frontier Battalion; and both the capture and death of John Wesley Hardin. Standout articles include “*Los Diablos Tejanos*” by Stephen L. Moore, “Capturing the Grand Mogul (John Wesley Hardin)” by Leon Metz and “The Great Comanche Raid of 1840” by Donaly E. Brice.

An introduction, offering updated and concise views and facts from the editors, adds to the depth of understanding to the collection of articles. Also included: A thorough notes section at the end of each article, a bibliography that offers a wealth of resources and a very well-written, and highly usable index that completes, and complements, the volume.

Overall, this honest, perfectly crafted book is a valued resource for anyone interested in the history of Texas, the taming of the West, and the Texas Rangers organization, warts and all.

– Larry D. Sweazy

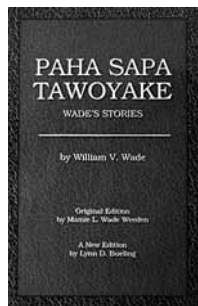
BONNIE REYNOLDS MCKINNEY. *In the Shadows of the Carmens: Afield with a Naturalist in the Northern Mexican Mountains*. Texas Tech University Press. Hardcover, eBook, 240 pages, \$39.95, \$19.95, www.ttupress.org.

Bonnie McKinney and her husband moved to the Maderas del Carmen in Coahuila, just over the Rio Grande from West Texas, in 2001 to manage a conservation project. She introduces readers to the region’s biodiversity in a book that combines history with ecology.

VERNON SCHMID. *Cherokee Mounted Rifles Muster Rolls and Commentary.* CreateSpace. Trade Paperback, pages not numbered, \$9.95, www.create-space.com.

A compendium, with brief commentary, on the Cherokee Confederate units commanded by the famed John Drew (1st Cherokee Volunteers) and Stand Watie (1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles) and other lesser-known units. A handy guide for Civil War historians, novelists and genealogists.

WILLIAM WADE. *Paha Sapa Tawoyake.* Republished by Lynn D.



Buebling. Trade Paperback, 138 pages, \$14.95.

William Wade lived life on the frontier in Dakota Territory and later wrote about it, recounting events as he saw and lived

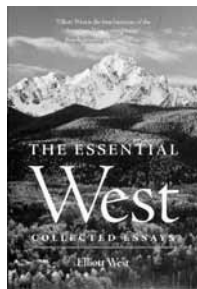
them. Wade encountered Old West notables including George and Tom Custer, Sitting Bull, Rain In The Face and Calamity Jane.

Wade can tell a good-humored yarn as well as tales of violence. Life was fragile; as an example, Wade recounts the time he was stalking elk along the Missouri River when he heard shots and war whoops. He hid, then backtracked. Later he discovered Lakota warriors had ambushed and killed two Arikara scouts working for the Army out of Fort Rice; if Wade had been a few minutes earlier, it could have been him attacked. Thanks to Lynn Buebling for bringing William Wade's story back in print.

– Bill Markley

ELLIOT WEST. *The Essential West, Collected Essays.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, 328 pages, \$29.95, <http://www.oup.com>.

This is an excellent book for anyone who wants to delve into scholarly discussions of the Old West. Through 14 essays, Spur-winning author Elliot West explores a wide variety of Western themes grouped under the headings: Conquest, Families, and Myth.



failure. West's topics range from the success of the Cheyenne due to horses and guns, to what it was like crossing the prairies as a child in a wagon train.

West leaves no subject untouched: race, bison, Mormons and even Gus and Call in *Lonesome Dove*. My favorite essays are "Wired to the World," where West explains how the telegraph was instrumental in expanding settlement of the west; and "Jesse James, Borderman," which delves into how James meant different things to different people during different eras.

– Bill Markley

FICTION

STEVE BARTHOLOMEW. *The Woodcutter.* Trade Paperback, 313 pages, no price given, www.chargedbarticle.org.

While not labeled a large-print book, the oversized type and extra line spacing make this novel's heft considerably less than the page count suggests. The Woodcutter of the title is Paiute holy man Wovoka, and the story is set in Nevada as he originates the Ghost Dance movement that would be adopted by numerous tribes and lead to the infamous massacre at Wounded Knee.

But all that is but a backdrop. The real story here concerns a corrupt Indian agent, stolen silver, a newspaper reporter who becomes a reluctant crusader for truth and right, and a female telegraph operator who challenges and inspires him.

Despite the shortcomings that often accompany self-published books, the author has created an engaging, interesting and well-told story.

– Rod Miller

In "Lewis and Clark," West looks into why Lewis and Clark's expedition had a good chance for success while the contemporary Mungo Park expedition in Africa

RAY BILDERBACK. *Lawman's Dilemma: A Reuben Braddock Western.* Xlibris. Trade Paperback, 194 pages, \$15.59, www.Xlibris.com.

A U.S. marshal, Reuben Bilderback, conscientiously answers the call of the lawman at the expense of building a life for himself.

EUNICE BOEVE. *Crossed Trails.* Whiskey Creek Press. Trade Paperback, 338 pages, \$16.95, www.whiskeycreekpress.com.

In this sequel to her *Ride a Shadowed Trail*, Montana-bred Eunice Boeve finds her character Joshua Ryder in the spring of 1876 with a herd of longhorns bound for the author's home state.

Josh continues to enlarge as a true Western personality and is joined by a passel of others like Jessie Martin of Virginia City, who reflects, "she should have shot Ed [her late son-in-law] herself and had thought of it a great lot of times." Then there's Ed's son Eli: no one liked Eli "but they all pretended to like him, except the dog and the children."

Josh, extraordinarily, reads books, by writers like Sam Clemens. Too bad Josh couldn't have read *Crossed Trails*. He would have enjoyed it.

– Robert Pohle

BRETT COGBURN. *Panhandle.* Pinnacle. Mass Market Paperback, 394 pages, \$6.99, www.kensingtonbooks.com.

It is a pleasure to read a book about cowboys by a writer who knows cowboys – like cowboy ways, cowboy lingo, what cowboys do and how they do it. In *Panhandle*, Brett Cogburn gets it right, and not just when it comes to cowboys. This well-written novel offers up a cast of complex characters in complicated relationships far removed from the simplistic caricatures so common in traditional Westerns.

The conflicts among the characters weave through trail drives and horse races, ranching and romance as they watch the West they love, with its open range, freedom and opportunity, give way to fences, stockmen's associations and settlements. Add to all that the fact

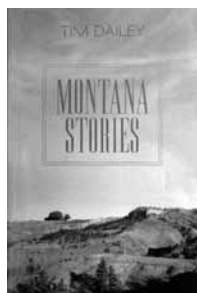
that the author did not feel obligated to overload these pages with gunplay or drench the story in bloodshed – the amount and nature of the violence in the book adds to its sense of realism.

Panhandle will prove well worth the reader's investment in time and money and exceed all expectations for a debut novel.

– Rod Miller

TIM DAILEY. *Montana Stories.* iUniverse. Trade Paperback, 170 pages, \$13.95, www.iuniverse.com.

Tim Dailey writes a tale of a contemporary cowboy as only one who



has experienced the life can tell it. The author says it is a fictionalized story of his life in Montana, and to carry the story forward he imagines his main character as

“Hank,” a man who leaves South Dakota to search out a new life elsewhere. He lands in Montana where, in addition to a suitcase, he carries a wounded spirit. Employment on a ranch owned by a warm couple in the Missouri Breaks of eastern Montana grounds him and gives him the motivation to heal, both spiritually and emotionally.

And, of course, what's a happy man without a true love whom he finds in a beautiful, redheaded girl.

– Lynn D. Bueling

PATRICK DEAREN. *To Hell or the Pecos.* TCU Press. Trade Paperback, 199 pages, \$22.95, www.prs.tcu.edu.



Tom Rowden is a man ridden by guilt because he not only failed to save his wife, but he actually killed her in the midst of an Indian attack 20 years

earlier. Now, as his life runs out, he must revisit the scene and make a final atonement. His plans are changed when he

becomes involved in helping three young cowboys rescue their boss's daughter when Mexican bandits kidnap her.

This is a story filled with action that immediately draws the reader in. But Dearen's excellent characterizations hold your attention. There's Tom, with his angst and his sometimes wandering mind; Jess, scared, but determined to rescue Liz Anne, no matter what; Gabe, who goes along because it seems right, then regrets it; Dee, the youngster, who just wants to be part of a family; and Sorrels, an irritant who comes close to being murdered because of it.

Topnotch writing and story telling.

– C.K. Crigger

PETER R. DECKER. *Saving the West.* Western Slope Press. Trade Paperback, 285 pages, \$14.95, www.westernslopepress.com.

John Marlow, fourth-generation Colorado rancher, loses the Diamond J to the bank, who sells it to a conservation organization, who sells it to a New York investment banker, who employs the former owner as manager. But Marlow clashes with the new owner's accountant – who thinks a competent ranch manager ought to be able to control the weather, feed costs, cattle prices and all manner of other variables that affect ranch operations - who fires him. And that leads to the novel's climax, involving Marlow, the ranch owner, a meeting of the conservation organization he chairs, and the Durango and Silverton Railroad.

The book is an insightful commentary about the challenges of modern-day ranching, the sometimes-competing interests of conservation and raising cattle, and the lament of a cowboy who finds himself awash in the changing tide of a world that is passing him by.

It's a well-told story, even though the dialogue often reads more like short speeches or an exchange of talking points rather than real conversation.

– Rod Miller

RALPH ESTES. *The Autobiography of Billy the Kid.* Black Rose Writing. Trade paperback, 123 pages, \$14.95, www.blackrosewriting.com.

Everybody knows Billy the Kid.



But Ralph Estes knows him better. According to Estes, as a teenager, he interviewed Henry Carter of Wichita, Kansas, who claimed to be *the* Billy of fame. And yes, Pat Garrett did

indeed shoot Billy. It was just ... he didn't kill him.

Estes takes the reader through Billy's life, focusing on New Mexico's turning point of lawlessness and corruption: the Lincoln County War. It was also a turning point for Billy. The way he tells it, while he wasn't a totally innocent bystander during the shooting, he did take sides and stole cattle and horses along the way. But, he makes it clear, he sure as shootin' didn't kill as many men as was credited him. Yep, he says, he killed a few, but only those that needed it.

The Lincoln County War is a confusing mess of who's on whose side, which politician was bought and by whom. The “House” (the stranglehold on the area) aided and abetted by the infamous Santa Fe “Ring,” made conducting business in the southern part of the state oh-so-easy. Along comes naïve Englishman John Tunstall, who opens a business opposing James Dolan's store. Lawyer Alexander McSween sides with Tunstall and as they say in the movies, all hell breaks loose. And our Billy is right square in the middle, taking Tunstall's side.

The Autobiography of Billy the Kid should be required reading for anyone remotely interested in the Old West, Billy in particular. The best part is it sorts out who's who and gives depth and character to William Bonney – more than is shown on the silver screen and in other books. This book will have you rooting for Billy and booing Lew Wallace. This is Billy's side ... and well done!

– Melody Groves

JAMES J. GRIFFIN. *Fight for Freedom: A Texas Ranger Jim Blawczyk Story.* CreateSpace. Trade Paperback, eBook, 299 pages, \$15.95, \$2.99, wwwcreatespace.com.

After a somewhat slow start, *Fight for Freedom* turns into a page-turner. A group of Texas Rangers, hand-picked by Lieutenant Jim Blawczyk, is assigned the dubious task of protecting a wagon train of freemen and former slaves as they journey across Texas toward their dream of starting their own community, aptly named Freedom.

There is plenty of action and adventure throughout Griffin's latest addition to his Texas Ranger series. Griffin's historical passion for the Rangers really shines through in this well-written book.

— John Melvin

BOB HERZBERG. *Quantrill's Gold.* Trade Paperback. Solstice Publishing. 135 pages. No price listed. www.solsticepublishing.com

Set along the Missouri-Kansas border, this is a familiar tale of a gold bullion shipment buried by William Quantrill's raiders between Lone Jack and Independence. The characters are bent on recovering the treasure. The result is murder and betrayal.

A key figure is a female Pinkerton agent who, with a former outlaw, confronts various individuals, including an ex-Quantrill guerilla seeking the treasure. The Pinkerton and two other women also have eyes for that former outlaw, adding more tension to the story.

— Vernon Schmid

BRUCE HOLBERT. *Lonesome Animals: A Novel.* Counterpoint. Hardcover, 272 pages, \$24, www.counterpointpress.com.

To categorize this fine novel merely as a Western/mystery crossover is to pigeonhole it too snugly, because

it crosses other boundaries: literary, moral, religious, mythic — you name 'em.

Former lawman Russell Strawl hunts a serial killer through the rocky farmland and desert brush near the Okanogan Mountains in 1930s Washington State. Author Bruce Holbert is on the track of even more elusive things in this story where one character manages “to turn murder into art and philosophy and religion all at once.”

Inspired by Holbert's own great grandfather, Strawl is a legend but no hero, and the other members of Strawl's family are equally sideways.

“It's crazy people that make the most sense,” says Strawl to daughter Dot.

Be warned: If you are troubled by explicit violence, this is a book that you won't like. But if you like good writing, this is a book that you will.

— Robert Pohle

DENZEL HOLMES. *Big Cypress.* Treble Heart Books. Trade paperback, 350 pages, \$13.99, www.trebleheartbooks.com.

One man with attitude versus a corrupt sheriff and an ever-increasing band of ruthless outlaws creates a messy storm of shooting, deception and love. Denzel Holmes's *Big Cypress* follows deputy Curly Smith, whose questionable reputation as an attitude-wielding Civil War draft dodger, sets him at odds with most of the town.

With the help of two deputies, Smith exposes the sheriff's corruption and graft. Town honchos elevate Smith officially as the temporary sheriff. He hires more deputies, convinces the town's fathers to fund them, and goes after ruthless cattle rustlers willing to kill anyone in their path.

After a long series of riding out of town in search of the outlaws, finding some of them, arresting a few, encountering more, riding into and out of town again and again, the tale's end is

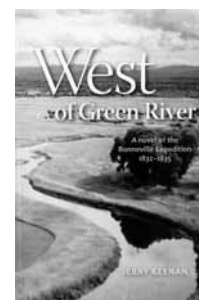
in sight with the slaying of the gang. But before Smith can settle into married life, the rest of the rustlers appear. A major shootout with the remaining outlaws and deputies puts citizens in harm's way. And just when it's all over for sure, another outlaw appears looking for revenge.

Big Cypress is set directly after the Civil War in Texas bayou country. Realistic dialogue and more accurate historical events thrown in would've made this novel sing.

— Melody Groves

JERRY KEENAN. *West of Green River: A Novel of the Bonneville Expedition 1832-1835.* Owl Canyon Press. Trade Paperback, 258 pages, \$16.95. www.owlcanyonpress.com.

The title of this book is a tip-off, being more suited to a nonfiction work than a novel. The book is the true account of the Bonneville expedition,



which was undertaken to renew the tentative hold the United States held over the Pacific Northwest territories and the boundaries claimed by the British. In truth, the expedition seems to have been set up by the war department to spy on the British.

Some fictitious characters are inserted into the story to change what is an interesting chronicle of Captain Benjamin Bonneville's real journey into a novel. Stylistically, the book reads more as narrative nonfiction. Not a bad thing in itself, but odd for a novel, making it a little difficult to connect with the characters. The information packed into this novel sheds light onto a lesser-known expedition, which both the historical foreword and afterward help clarify.

— C.K. Crigger

P. MORREALE. *Hot Paints.* Silk Label Books. Trade Paperback, 232 pages, \$14.99, www.silklabelbooks.com.

Steed Wilson is as an investigator for the Arizona HorseLife Insurance Company. For the past three years, he

has been desperately trying to find his missing wife, who vanished without



a trace. Just when he gets a lead, he receives an assignment to investigate and, he hopes, find a pair of heavily insured paint horses that are presumed stolen. Steed enlists the help of a tracker named Charlie Tall, a full-blooded Apache who adds humorous pronouncements and sharp witticisms to the story.

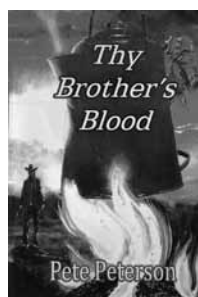
As Steed and Charlie follow leads, they are confronted by a mobster named Danny the Croc. Soon, bodies begin turning up, and the investigations into the whereabouts of stolen paint horses and Steed's missing wife turn dangerous.

This is the third (and most thrilling) in P. Morreale's Steed Wilson mystery series. (P. Morreale is the pen name of Western novelist Phyllis de la Garza.)

— Richard Lapidus

PETE PETERSON. *Thy Brother's Blood.* Melange Books. Trade Paperback, 244 pages, \$15.95, www.melange-books.com.

Will and Joshua are both sons of Gulf Coast Texas rancher Jacob Standard, but Will is free and white



while Josh is black and a slave. The twisting trails they track through the Civil War and the troubles that follow it, lead Will into Shelby's Iron Brigade, and Josh into leadership of a bandit gang, among other hazards.

Historical folks from Charlie Goodnight to Stand Watie have cameos, and Peterson, who is of Confederate and Cherokee descent, sketches evocatively from history throughout his novel.

Some readers might be troubled (as this one was) to read a slave's inner dialogue in which she reflects how she and her fellow slaves are "well cared for

here, had a place, a home" and were "treated decent."

— Robert Pohle

DUSTY RICHARDS. *Blue Roan Colt.* Cactus Country at High Hill Press. Trade Paperback, eBook, 191 pages, \$15.95, www.highhillpress.com.

Haunted by visions and the echoes of gunfire from serving four years in the Army during World War II, Staff Sergeant Mark Shaw is discharged and makes his way back home to the high desert country of Phoenix, Arizona.

He teams up with an Indian, "Dirty Shirt" Jones, and they set out to capture wild mustangs. Needing a place to headquarter the horses they've caught, Mark goes in search of someone to finance buying an abandoned ranch he has heard about. He approaches Sam Cline, a banker, who buys the ranch and makes Mark a partner and foreman over the operation.

Mark gathers a crew, and they begin rounding up and branding the maverick cattle on the place. By selling the cattle, saving only the prime stock, Mark's bank account grows beyond his expectations. He finds himself thrust into the role of cattle rancher, horse wrangler, rodeo bull rider and securing sets for western movie filmmakers.

Contracted to furnish rodeo stock, he becomes more involved in bull riding. At one rodeo, he meets Julia Wright. After dating for several months, they get engaged. Finally at peace with himself and his family, Mark no longer has flashback images, nor does he hear echoes from the machine guns of WWII.

— Jeanie Horn

JIM SATTERFIELD. *The River's Song.* Amazon Encore. Trade Paperback, eBook, 222 pages, \$14.95, \$3.99, www.amazon.com/encore.

Deputy U.S. Marshal X. Biedler doesn't give up easily. When he sets out across Montana on the trail of Bill Dawkins, he is scouting for a cavalry detail, continues the chase in the company of a green lieutenant and finally finds himself alone in the pursuit. Which is, to his way of thinking, the

ideal situation. The man he is after eludes him with hard riding, trickery and the timely arrival of a rivers steamer, outwitting his pursuers even as he helps them avoid ambush, returns their stolen horses, and supplies them with food, confusing Biedler's hard-and-fast notions of right and wrong.

For his part, Dawkins is distracted in his escape by loyalty to his prospecting partners, concern for the safety of his pursuers, an attack by an angry bear and the ministrations of a beautiful physician who heals his wounds. Satterfield's skill with story and way with words in this debut novel lifts it above the ordinary into the realm of extraordinary.

— Rod Miller

JUVENILE

ELIZABETH W. DAVIDSON.

Cheery: The True Adventures of a Chiricahua Leopard Frog. Little Five Star. Paperback, 39 pages, \$15.95, www.CheeryAFrogsTale.com.

What's it like to be a Chiricahua Leopard Frog? With colorful language and attractive illustrations, Elizabeth Davidson takes Cheery from the tadpole stage to winter hibernation and describes both the pleasures and dangers of a frog's life. An "Author's Note" explains that this type of frog is a "Threatened Species" in the United States and that many other species of amphibians are in serious decline worldwide. This picture book entertains while teaching about frogs in their environment. It also contains a teachers' curriculum guide.

— Nancy Plain

BARBARA HAY. *The Bulldoggers Club: The Tale of the Ill-Gotten Catfish.*



The RoadRunner Press. Hardcover, 106 pages, \$16.95, www.TheRoadRunnerPress.com.

Dru Winterhalter and his three best friends all live on ranches near Bootleg, Oklahoma, "a little town no

bigger than an oil spot.” Because the boys are “serious about rodeo,” they form the Bulldoggers Club, named after the famous African-American-Cherokee steer wrestler, Bill Pickett. The other thing the Bulldoggers are serious about is fishing.

But when Dru lands the biggest catfish ever seen in Bootleg, the trouble begins. He can’t tell anyone that the fish was caught in witchy Nurse Blanchett’s pond, so he cooks up a lie. That whopper leads to another lie, then another, until Dru is in danger of losing not only his friends but also his self-respect.

“The best way out of trouble is always through it,” says Dru’s dad. Dru finds a way to get through it in this expertly written, funny, middle-grade book. It’s the first in a series, and young readers will look forward to more Bulldogger adventures.

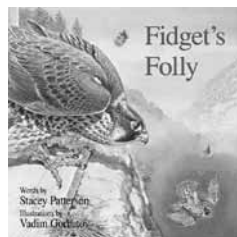
– Nancy Plain

CONRAD J. STORAD and LYNDA EXLEY (authors) and MICHAEL HAGELBERG (illustrator). *Arizona Way Out West & Wacky.* Five Star Publications. Paperback, 111 pages, \$11.95, www.azwow.com.

This activity book blends humor with history and plenty of fun facts. Perfect for long road trips to keep the little ones occupied.

STACEY PATTERSON (author) and VADIM GORBATOV (illustrators). *Fidget’s Folly.* Mountain Press. Hardcover, 36 pages, \$18. www.mountain-press.com.

This book for young readers (or those being read to) combines a tale of conservation, companionship and the great outdoors. Fidget is one of two peregrine



falcons rescued with her falcon brother Echo. Fidget had already flown from the ledge where the people who rescued her had placed her. She had already frolicked on the wind, and wanted Echo to join her riding the air currents. But Echo was not a good peregrine flier and

on his first flight from the box that served as a nest, he landed ingloriously on a ledge, leaving Fidget alone in the box.

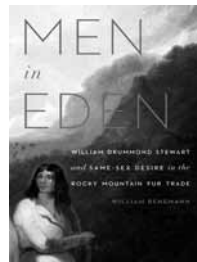
The next morning, when she did not see her brother on the ledge where he had perched the night before, Fidget flew from the box soaring along a rugged canyon, seeking but not seeing her feathered brother. Finally she had to find a place to land since she realized it was too late to return to their home nest.

This is a story of exploration and survival, of seeking new experiences and of being grateful for “family.” Parents should be aware, however, peregrine falcons are predators and this book makes that very clear in the final action Fidget uses to prove she was a “master of the sky.”

– Candy Moulton

BOOK NOTES

WILLIAM BENEMANN. *Men in Eden: William Drummond Stewart and Same-Sex Desire in the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade.* University of Nebraska Press. Trade Paperback, 342 pages, \$29.95, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.



William Benemann traces the travels of William Drummond Stewart, a Scottish nobleman who discovered the openness of homosexuality in the Rocky Mountains of the 1830s and 1840s.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS. *Summer of the Star.* Five Star. Hardcover, 234 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Coming-of-age novel about a teen-age drover caught in the middle of a feud between Texas cowboys and the citizens of Ellsworth, Kansas, in 1873.

MAX BRAND. *Red Hawk’s Trail.* Five Star. Hardcover, 268 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Frederick Faust, best known among Western fans as Max Brand, had this novel published under the pseudonym George Owen Baxter as a six-part serial in *Western Story Magazine* in 1925. Faust’s original text has been restored.

VINE DELORIA JR. *Indians of the Pacific Northwest: From the Coming of the White Man to the Present Day.* Fulcrum. Trade Paperback, \$21.95, www.fulcrum-books.com.

VINE DELORIA JR. *The Metaphysics of Modern Existence.* Fulcrum. Trade Paperback, \$21.95, www.fulcrum-books.com.

Two books by one of the most influential Indian/religious writers have been reissued.

ADAM DUNCAN HARRIS (editor). *Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct.* University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover, Paperback, 352 pages, \$49.95, \$29.95, www.oupres.com.

Adam Duncan Harris, curator of the National Museum of Wildlife Art’s traveling exhibit on wildlife artist Robert Kuhn (1920-2007), introduces readers to the man and teacher who spent his life sketching and painting animals.

RAY HOGAN. *Against the Law: A Western Duo.* Five Star. Hardcover, 176 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Two long short stories, “One More Hill to Hell” and “Against the Law,” from the prolific Western novelist.

L.P. HOLMES. *Once in the Saddle.* Five Star. Hardcover, 206 pages, \$25.95, www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar.

Restored version of Spur-winning author L.P. Holmes’s novel, originally published as “Redwood Country” as a four-part serial in *Ranch Romances* in 1951-52.

BILL O’NEAL. *The Johnson-Sims Feud: Romeo and Juliet, West Texas Style.* University of North Texas Press. Trade Paperback, 208 pages, \$14.95, <http://untpress.unt.edu>.

Reprint of the 2010 hardcover release about the last “traditional” Texas feud.

Flashbacks reveal the man's story. His young wife died of a fever many years ago. After nearly expiring from a snakebite himself, he lived with an Indian tribe and befriended its leader, Nushino (Victor Bottenbley); but when white men attacked the Indians, Bolivar was expelled from the tribe. He settled in El Idilio and became a recluse, virtually his only close friend being Rubicondo (Hugo Weaving), an itinerant dentist. After Bolivar warns that the bereaved mother is likely to attack any human who crosses her path, the old man agrees to join in a hunt for the animal. Although filmgoers seeking overt action may be disappointed, the right audience will appreciate this gentle and quite beautiful saga of courage and integrity. The peaceful life of a reclusive man, living in South America on the edge of the Amazon jungle, is shaken when he must battle a grief-stricken jaguar, whose cubs have been killed by poachers. There are no critic reviews yet for *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories*. Keep checking Rotten Tomatoes for updates! *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories* Quotes. Luis Agalla (Mayor): "It says knock you idiot!"