Saddlebag Newsletter

October 2025

Pam Potter, Editor

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A supplement to the WWHA *Journal*

Available On-Line via
www.wildwesthistory.org

Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHA. Previously posted Saddlebag newsletters will be found by date further down this section in the list of available newsletters. All earlier information will be retained for reference.

If you have Wild West news, please contact the editor at the e-mail address shown at the top of the Saddlebag page. We reserve the right to include or not include any materials submitted to us.

Our **YouTube** page: https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos is now monetized so WWHA gets paid for views**. Please subscribe, watch and like our videos, and you are contributing to WWHA. It is free. We now have over 9000 subscribers.**

WWHA welcomes the following new "Gunfighters" and thank them for their support.

David Lawrence, Hamilton, MT
John C. Baldwin, Riverview, FL
Bradley Singer, Frederick, MD

From the Taos News, September 21, 2025

The historic site **Carson House & Museum**, where frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson lived in Taos, has been awarded $750,000 in federal funding, Kit Carson House Inc. organization announced Friday (Aug. 29). The award requires a 100 percent match (of $750,000) and will support the rehabilitation and preservation of one of New Mexico's most significant historic landmarks.

The National Park Service awarded the money through the Save America's Treasures Grant Program, administered by the agency's State, Tribal, Local, Plans and Grants division.

"This award is a tremendous honor and a testament to the national importance of the Carson House & Museum," board president Martin Jagers said in the release. "With these funds, we can ensure that this historic adobe home and museum will be preserved for future generations, while continuing to explore our complex history."

The Carson House, built in 1825, is a designated National Historic Landmark and a cornerstone of New Mexico cultural heritage. As the former home of frontiersman Kit Carson and his wife Maria Josefa Jaramillo, the adobe residence is a surviving example of early 19th-century architecture in Northern New Mexico. The museum preserves artifacts, documents and exhibits that examine Carson's life and the broader history of the Southwest.

The Save America's Treasures Grant Program was established by Congress in 1998 to preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey the nation's heritage. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts, the program has awarded over $300 million to more than 1,300 projects nationwide.

"This grant affirms the cultural and historic value of the Carson House," Jagers said. "We are deeply grateful for this support, and we look forward to working closely with the National Park Service and our community to carry out this critical preservation work."

For more information about the Carson House and Museum and support for the project, visit **kitcarsonhouse.org**.

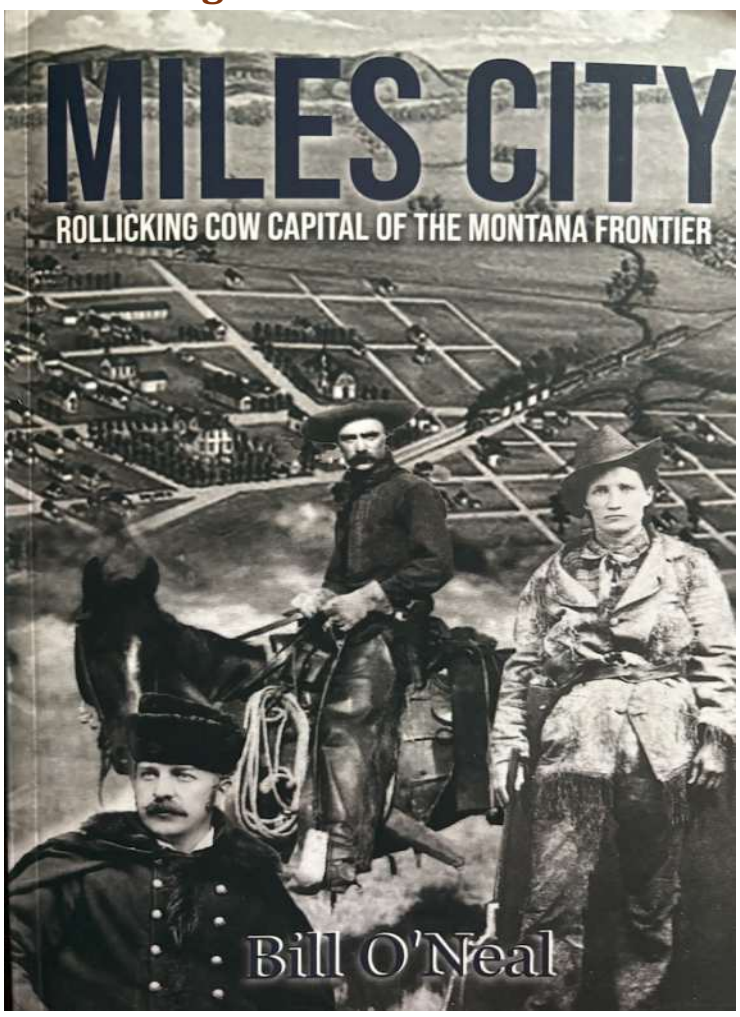
THE CARSON HOUSE
& MUSEUM

‘

Bill O’neal’s story about the making of his new book

MILES CITY

ROLLICKING COW CAMP OF THE MONTANA FRONTIER



I've just returned from 5 days in Miles City, Montana, promoting my new book, *Miles City, Rollicking Cow Capital of the Montana Frontier*. I first visited Miles City and its superb museum, The Range Riders Museum, in 1995, when Karon and I were working on the book that was published in 1997 by Eakin Press, *Historic Ranches of the Old West*. I never could get this wonderful old town out of my mind, so two years ago I spent a week in Miles City with a bucket list of research sources and photos to acquire. Billy Huckaby of the Wild Horse Media Group, used to rodeo as a young man in Miles City, and he told me, "You write it and I'll publish it." I told Billy that I would go to Miles City for a PR visit. The book was released week before last and I flew to Montana to promote it. I was in Miles City the last day of August and the first four days of September. There was an evening program at the Range Riders Museum and one at the Public Library, which is the oldest Carnegie Library in Montana. I had a wonderful reunion with history friends I had made two years ago on my research trip. I placed the book in other museums and at the Miles City Saddlery, which has evolved into a magnificent Western Wear shop.

Miles City started as a recreation center for the 700 troopers of Fort Keogh, which was established in 1876 in the wake of the Custer Massacre. Gen. Nelson A. Miles led winter campaigns, while his soldiers let off steam in the saloons and parlor houses of nearby Miles City. There wasn't much gunplay, since the troopers could not take their firearms off the

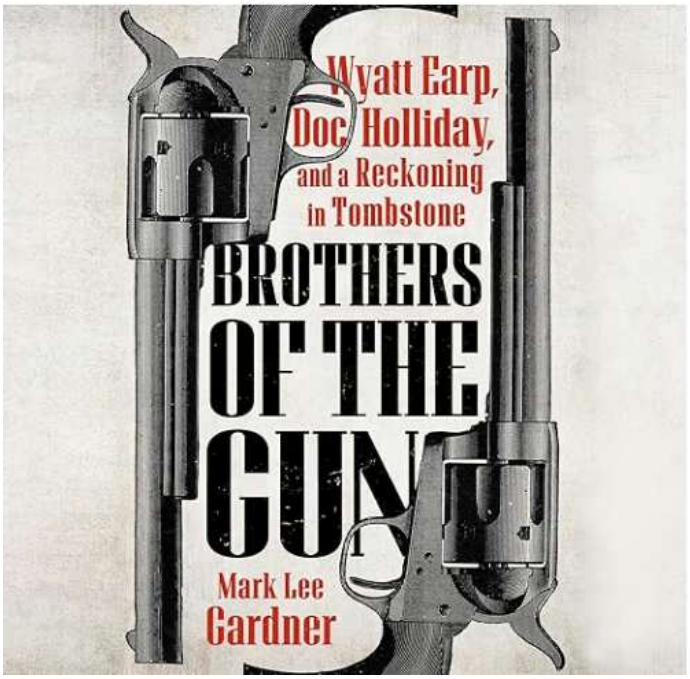
fort premises, but there were drunken brawls EVERY night. And there were a few shootings, one lynching, and one throat cutting, enough to allow me to include a chapter on "Frontier Violence."

There were enough officers and officers wives to convert Fort Keogh into a "party fort," while Miles City became a "party town." With the arrival of a railroad in 1881 Miles City became an important cattle town (600,000 head of cattle were driven up from Texas within 3 years), and the Texas drovers brought the cowboy culture with them. Later the fort was converted to a remount station and Miles City became a horse town, and today a truly wild arena event, "The World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale," doubles the size of the town each May.

So I bought a Range Riders Museum cap, joined the Museum as a member, and wrote a long overdue book on this fascinating Western town. I would love to present a program on this wolf howl of a frontier community at the 2026 meeting of the WWHA.

Bill O'Neal

Anybody know where this photo is? Sent in by Casey Tefertiller who is off on a research trip.



Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: October 1, 2025

Brothers of the Gun: Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and a Reckoning in Tombstone.
By Mark Lee Gardner
Nov. 2025. 336p. illus. Dutton, $35 (9780593471890); e-book (9780593471913). 978

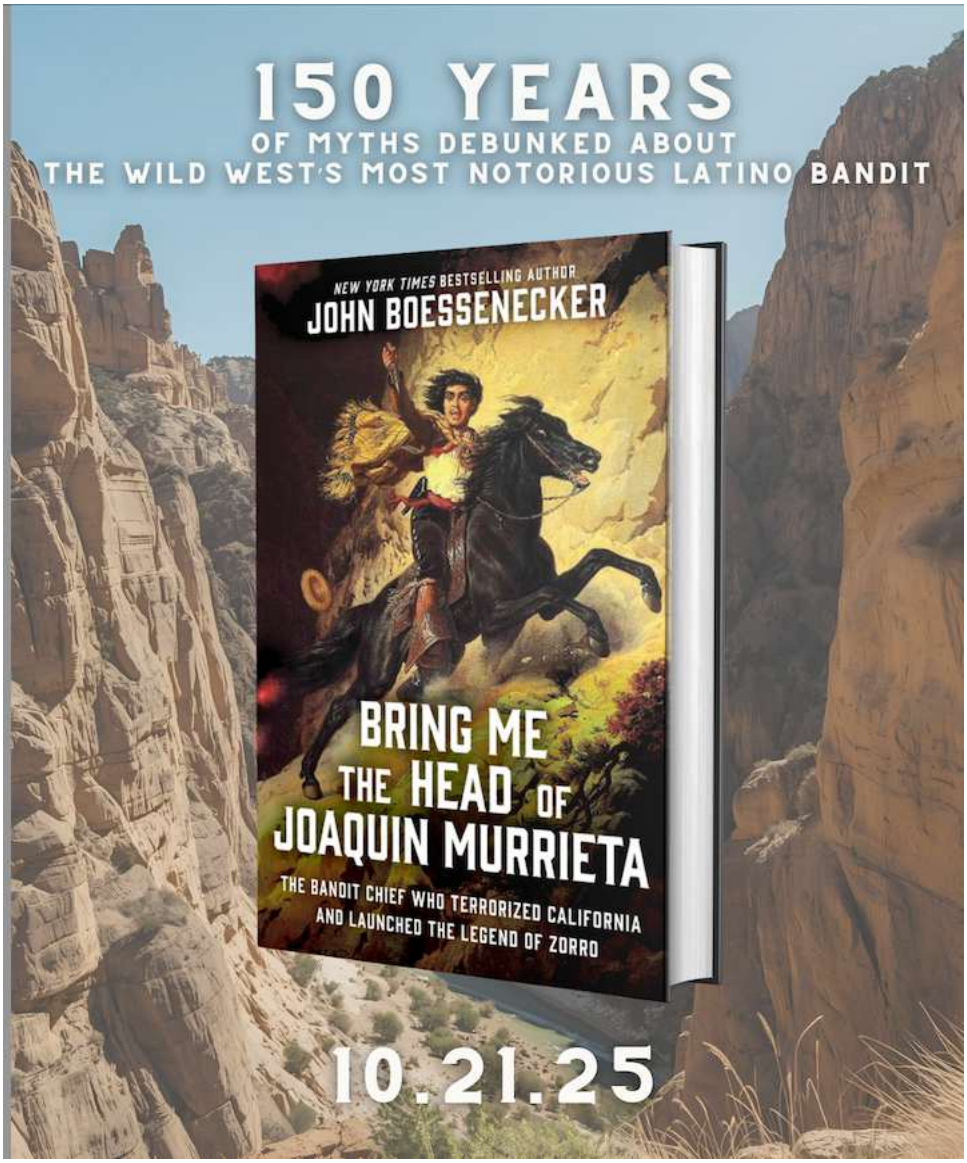
The famous October 1881 gunfight at the O.K. Corral lasted for about thirty seconds. It was over almost before it had even started, and yet it, the town in which it took place (Tombstone), and some of its participants (marshal Wyatt Earp and his close friend Doc Holliday) have become legendary. In his new book, Gardner (*Shot All to Hell*, 2013) separates fact from historical fiction and presents the reader with these two men as they actually were. Based on seemingly exhaustive research into the historical record, the book shows us an Earp and Holliday we haven't seen before: not bigger-than-life legends, but real men who lived in a real, vividly-realized time period. They became friends when Doc saved Wyatt's life in Dodge City, and they traveled together, fought together, and gambled together. Their story in the years leading up to the brief shoot-out that catapulted them into legend is a Wild West saga as exciting as anything you'll read in the pages of a novel or see on-screen. A must-read for fans of the history of the American West.

—*David Pitt*

The audio book will be narrated by Western actor Bruce Boxleitner who has actually played Wyatt Earp.

Our President, Paul Marquez, attended the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA)Annual convention in Pueblo, Colorado the week of September 7 and set up our table. He was very impressed by the organization.

New book by John Boessenecker



Murrieta's story is one for the ages. Fiercely compelling and epically woven, *Bring Me the Head of Joaquin Murrieta* details the bloody saga of the Latino outlaw. In myth, he embarked on a noble career as a rebel, fighting against injustice in the rough-and-tumble Wild West. However, though the "Robin Hood of El Dorado" remains a folk hero to many, his extraordinarily dramatic and violent saga has been obscured by layers upon layers of legend—until now.

Through meticulous research and never-before-told stories of the bloody trail Murrieta and his band left in their wake, *Bring Me the Head of Joaquin Murrieta* chronicles their infamous escapades in this brilliant examination of the American story. Award-winning author and definitive Wild West historian John Boessenecker tells the story of Murrieta's sensational exploits and paints an absolutely gripping portrait of the California Gold Rush.

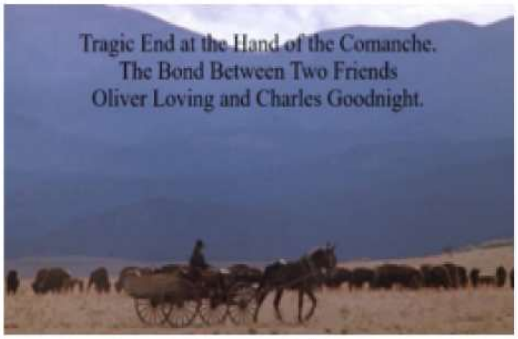
John has two book talks scheduled: Oct. 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. -- Book Passage, Ferry Building, San Francisco, CA

Nov. 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. -- Homestead Museum, 15415 Don Julian Rd, City of Industry, CA

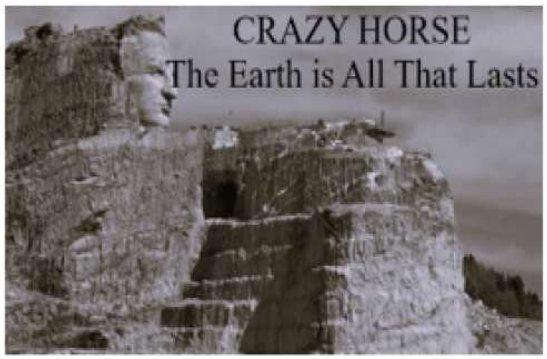
THE QUANAH PARKER COLLECTION at the National Ranching Heritage Center's Macy Gallery, opened on September 12, 2025 and will run for three years. This collection represents the Commanche, Apache, Sioux and Cheyenne peoples. It is the legacy of the last of the chief of the Quahada, Commanche. The Commanche artifacts are some of Quanah's personal items that belonged to him and some of his wives. Buckskin clothing and weapons are featured in the collection. Photos and an interactive tipi will help interpret the collection. You can visit the collection at3121 4th street, Lubbock TX 79409 ranchhc@ttu.edu (806) 742 0498

WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
YOUTUBE
October 2025, Every Friday After 3:00PM

Oct 3

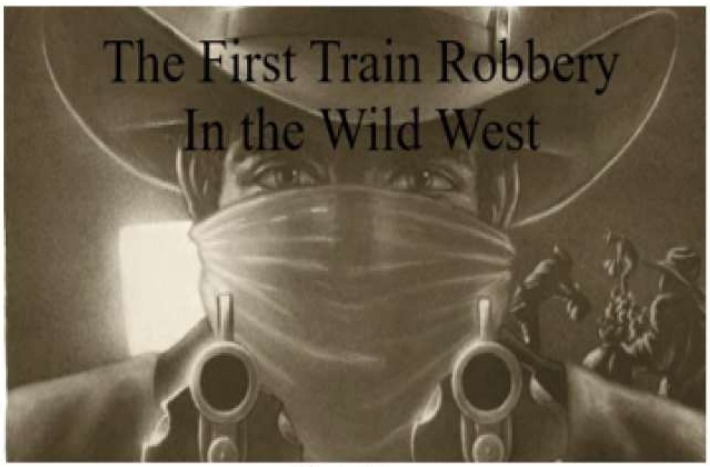


Oct 10



Oct 17

Oct 24



Oct 31

The Billy the Kid's Coalition folks had their big weekend gathering in Lincoln September 20-21. It was a full house enhanced by the town's many DCA run Museums, field trips, a panel discussion and book signings as well as a delicious BBQ being part of their agenda. Headquarters was at the Ellis House, one of the most historic of sites before and after the LCW. Folks from as far away as Australia and England registered for the event way ahead of time and were obviously taken in by the charm, the natural beauty of the emerald green hills surrounding the town and our New Mexico History. Individuals drove from Colorado, Texas and other regions of the country. Fort Sumner, Stinking Spring, and a grand tour of Lincoln were part of the adventure. An historic marker was set in place for the iconic Ellis House (Store) and the grand adventure was exciting and unique. Some WWHA members were there (Roy Young, Tim Hagaman (sp), and Josh Slatten were some that come to mind.) *Members of the Panel* were Roy Young discussing Frank Stewart and the capture of Billy at Stinking Spring; Lynda A. Sánchez, long time resident of Lincoln, answering questions that were partly legend and from the viewpoint of the Hispanics; David Thomas spoke about the trials and his many works on the topic and John Lemay reminded us about Billy and some of the tall tales emerging from that history. His book on Ash Upson also gave credence to his role during those days. Authors signed their books and many were sold. One of the special things one noticed right away with this organization—*there were many younger people who were so excited about our Western History!* That gives me hope for the future. We need to encourage more adventure and more exciting venues with on-site field trips. Hands on and back to basics! The smell of the place, the ancestors and their descendants and the clearing of gun smoke and fear all played important roles in that turbulent past now enjoyed by individuals who will continue the research and the adventure. Lynda A. Sánchez (Lincoln, New Mexico)

WWHA is looking for someone to take on this project.
This is an elite group expecting deep knowledge—to bring in new members and educate the public, need to expand with access to more BASIC information, perhaps via the YouTube Channel with series of short educational videos **(5 minutes max w/ images and narration, no interviews)** such as the following:

- What is the Wild West?
- Wyatt Earp
- Doc Holliday
- Billy the Kid
- Gunfight at the OK Corral
- Silver Boomtowns of the West
- The Iron Horse
- The Golden Spike
- Yellowstone
- Custer's Last Stand
- Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid
- The Mormon Trail
- The Great Westerns

These topics were submitted by WWHA member Victoria Wilcox. There are many more possibilities.
Interested? Contact Pam Potter: spiritwind2@hotmail.com

In the original myth, the Headless Horseman is the spirit of a German soldier who was killed during the Battle of The White Plains in 1776 and left his head on the battlefield. He was buried in Sleepy Hollow and appears on Halloween night to avenge his death and reclaim his head.