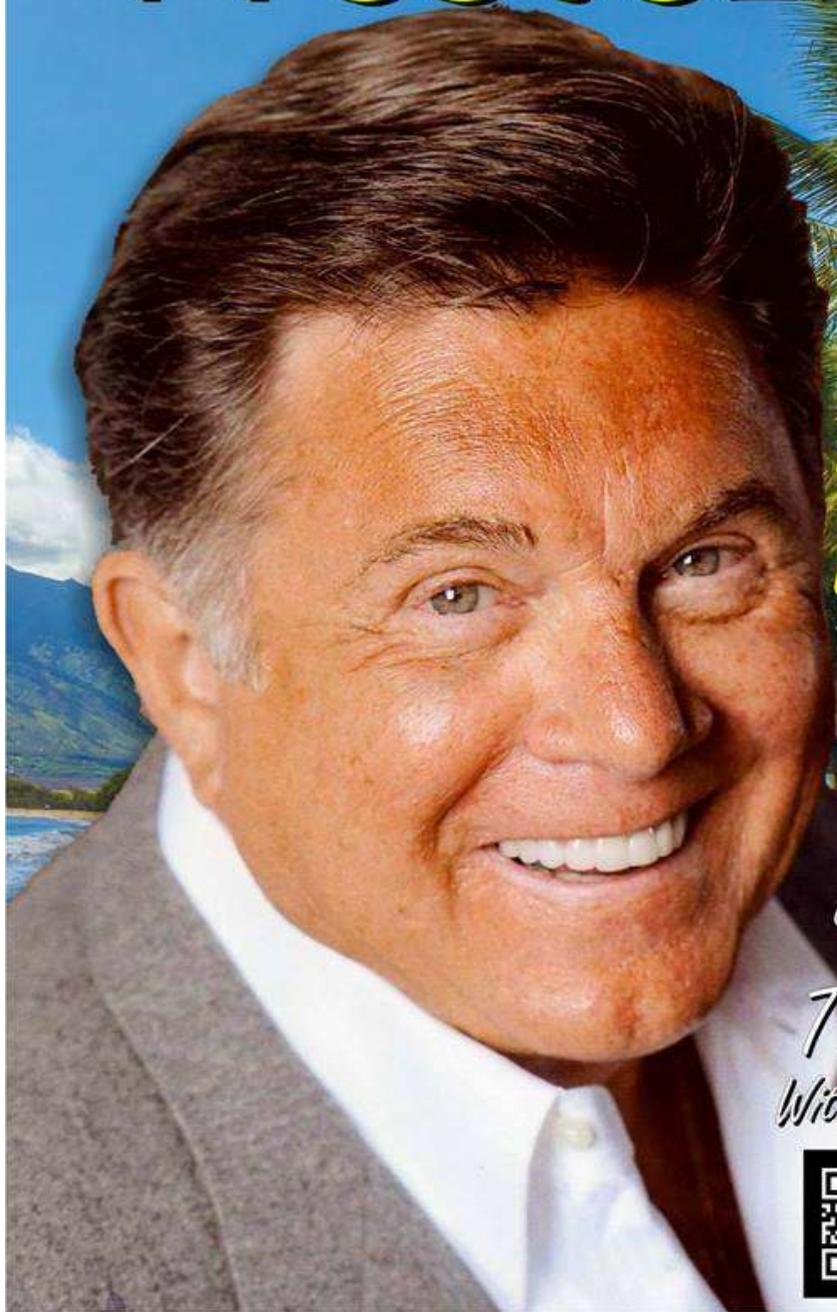


THE OUTLAWS ECHO PRESENTS

*The Best of Western Culture*  
**Westerner**

NOVEMBER 2017



*ALOHA From  
Larry Manetti*

*Past, Present  
and Future  
With Psychic  
Craig Hamilton Parker*

*The Long Ride  
With Bruce Boxleitner*



# THE WESTERNER©

Published Periodically by Dusty Saddle Publishing Partnership™

FALL 2017

SPONSORED IN PART BY MATTEL, IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO  
KEEP THE WESTERNER© FREE FOR OUR READERS.



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Indoor weather is here, for most of the northern part of the United States, and the *Westerner*© has some great new articles to warm you on those cold nights. For everyone living in a warmer climate, and our friends Down Under, we'll be thinking of you on those snowy days. Adjust your beach chair and make sure you have enough sunscreen.

The November *Westerner*© is proud to present features on the terrific actors Bruce Boxleitner and Larry Manetti. Most

people who were around in the 1980s will remember the hit television show *Magnum, P.I.* Larry was fresh off success with *Baa Baa Black Sheep* when the producers picked him to join a strong cast of characters on this Hawaii-based detective series.

Larry was a popular figure in many hit sitcoms of the 1970s and 1980s. The loss of John Hillerman on November 9 gives our interview a poignant and timely atmosphere. The actor has also been involved with television as a producer and writer and is now handling promotion for the famed *Gunsmoke* author, Jim Byrnes. We had a good deal to talk about and the answers might surprise you.

Bruce Boxleitner was a standout television star in the 1980s and 1990s with two megahit series, *The Scarecrow* and *Mrs. King and Babylon 5*. Handsome and talented, Bruce hit the screen in the 1970s with such renowned westerns as *Gunsmoke* and *How the West Was Won*. He then was cast in one of the most iconic movies of the time, Walt Disney's *Tron*.

We had a great interview with the actor about his early success in Westerns, his friendship with James Arness, and riding the back lots of the great cowboy shows of the time. Readers might be surprised

to learn that Bruce still rides and keeps a hand in the Western world in real life. I think you'll like the interesting interview with this terrific star of television and film.

Psychic Craig Hamilton-Parker has come out with his predictions for 2018 and stopped to discuss the future with the Westerner©. Those readers who can't get enough of the other side will love this month's special with Mr. Hamilton-Parker. This is an article that is timely and one that you'll be discussing with friends well into the new year!

We have the highly successful writer Paul L. Thompson, who lets us in on some of the secrets of his award-winning Westerns. Mr. Thompson has been the subject of many of your e-mails, and we thought it time that we put him together with our audience.

We've also included some of our regulars who you've come to love. Highly regarded author Fred Staff brings us another edition of his widely read History Corner. Paranormal writer Gary Vasey talks about another interesting subject from the other side.

All in all, November's issue is one that you won't want to miss. We'd like to have your feedback on articles from this and past issues, as well as ideas for the future. Keep reading the Westerner© and support our sponsors so that we can

continue to bring you great content at no charge.

Best to all!

BB

Please write us at [dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com) with your comments and opinions.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

We agree with all of you who wrote about the Halloween Special. Thanks for helping us make it the hottest selling issue in our brief history. Here are a few of the e-mails we received:

Dear Editors:

I just finished the article on the Warrens with Tony Spera. Man, I got the chills just reading it.

When I finished, I watched *The Conjuring* for the third time, but this time felt like I was part of the action. The detail you added to the story of the Warrens made them more personable to me. I enjoyed reading about Ed's background in art, as I am an art teacher in a middle school in Missouri.

I'm sorry to learn that Mr. Spera's museum is temporarily closed. I'm coming back east for the holidays and would have loved to make a visit. I've always been interested in the paranormal and think your magazine did a great job on this article and others in the Halloween edition.

Thanks for continuing to bring such good content for free. If you would, thank Mr. Spera for taking the time to provide the material for the article. It was really good!

Margerie K., Joplin, MO

Dear Editor,

I'm a big fan of paranormal movies and books, and love the *Conjuring* I and II. Your article on the Warrens was terrific.

As a fan, the in-depth information helps me to understand their motivation. Sometimes I wonder why people get into ghosts and such; and, after reading the article, I think I have a better understanding.

Thanks also for all of the great pictures. I especially liked the pictures of Annabelle and didn't realize she was a Raggedy Ann doll. Did anything strange happen when you were there?

Would it be possible to interview Lorraine Warren also? I'd be really interested in more on this subject.

Dr. Ken Z., Grand Junction, CO

*We'd also like to thank Tony Spera for spending the time to bring us our most popular article to date. We're overwhelmed by your response and hope to do more in the future.*

*Unfortunately, due to health issues, an interview with Lorraine Warren isn't possible. We'll continue to keep in touch with Tony and, for those of you traveling to the northeast, check out his website for times and dates of special presentations.*

*I don't want to give away anything that might have happened when we actually met Annabelle, but it was worth the trip!*

*BB*

Dear Sirs,

I live in Manhattan and didn't know the Merchant's House existed. After reading your article, I bought a ticket and went to see this fantastic hidden treasure of our city first hand.

I want to encourage anyone visiting Manhattan to include a tour on their schedule. Visiting this place was like traveling back one-hundred years in time. You know, it makes you think how much of the history of this city has been lost to new development.

I hope that Mr. Bellov, and his associates, will continue to preserve this place for future generations. As far as their being ghosts, I didn't see any.

What I did see was a treasure of New York City history that was totally worth the price of admission.

Sincerely,

G. Novacek, New York, NY

*Dear G,*

*I can tell you that Mr. Anthony Bellov is totally committed to preserving New York City's Merchant House Museum.*

*We want to thank him for sharing this rare historical treasure with us in last month's issue. We loved the ghost stories, but the real value of this place is its ability to bring our past alive.*

*It would be a travesty to lose such a wonderful and enchanted place. Real enchantment, not the kind they make up in movies.*

*BB*

Dear Westerner Editor:

After reading your article on Salem, my wife and I decided to take the kids for a first-hand look.

Not only were you right about the atmosphere this time of year, but the history was fascinating. We live in Dartmouth, NH and the ride was well worth it (even with three kids 6-13 in the back of the van).

We visited the Witch Museum and enjoyed the presentation. Sometimes people don't understand the persecution others went through simply because they're different.

We also visited the waterfront and the House of Seven Gables. It was a great trip so thanks for the suggestion.

Bill H., Dartmouth, NH

*Bill,*

*Salem is one of my favorites too!*

*BB*

Dear Westerner,

You guys were crazy great last month. I never expected an issue like that.

First, let me thank you for reprinting the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. I loved that story as a kid and can't forget the Disney version. I think I still have a VHS of it somewhere in a drawer around here.

Next, I loved the article on Sleepy Hollow. I never knew there was no such town name until 1996. I always thought there was such a town and always wanted to visit to see that bridge.

It sounds like a great place to visit and I'm envious of those people who can visit around Halloween. This time of year is my favorite and I would love to spend a few days in Sleepy Hollow.

Maybe next year. Anyway, thanks for the great article!

Samantha L., Greensboro, NC

*Dear Samantha,*

*Thank you for the great feedback. As far as Sleepy Hollow goes, there is plenty to see. It's one of the picturesque gems of New England that I wouldn't miss.*

*BB*

Dear Westerner,

My husband and I love the new series you've introduced from Mr. Wayne Montague. Not only is his series intellectually stimulating—it's also fantastically well-written. We hope to see more from Mr. Montague.

Jayne and Tim Sams, Montana

*Dear Jayne and Tim,*

*Thank you for your compliments about our new feature writer, Wayne Montague. You know he's a talented and published author, right? Head on over to Amazon and try his books. You'll love them!*

*If you'd like to tell us about your experience with the Westerner©, please send us an e-mail at [dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com)*

IN THIS ISSUE:

**From the Editor**

**Inside This Edition of the Westerner**

**News of the Book World**

**Aloha from Larry Manetti**

*Magnum, P.I. star Larry Manetti discusses a lifetime of making performances.*

**Bruce Boxleitner on the American West**

*Western star Bruce Boxleitner on the ever-popular American West.*

**Craig Hamilton-Parker**

*Britain's biggest psychic explains the unknown.*

**Reality Reading with W.M Montague:**

*A look behind the myths and legends of gunfighters with author W.M. Montague.*

**Paul L. Thompson**

*The "King" of Western writing reveals all.*

**John D. Fie, Jr.**

*The next Western from John D. Fie, Jr. is on the way.... And it looks like it's going to be his biggest yet!*

**The Westerner© Top Ten Westerns for November**

*Who will lead our top ten for November 2017?*

**Review Corner with Lon Hamilton**

*A look at some of the month's best new Western releases with Lon Hamilton.*

**The Movie Man**

*Our regular columnist, Mark Baugher, explains how he turned his Western novel into a movie spectacular!*

## **Special Feature Article:**

### **Travel in Costa Rica**

*Dennis Hambricht continues our journey through Costa Rica in this issue. If you love the exotic, you will love discovering about one of the most beautiful places on Earth.*

## **History Corner with Fred Staff**

*Historian Fred Staff discusses "terrible past times in America."*

## **Feature:**

### **Judy Mastrangelo**

*Drawing Christmas by Judy Mastrangelo*

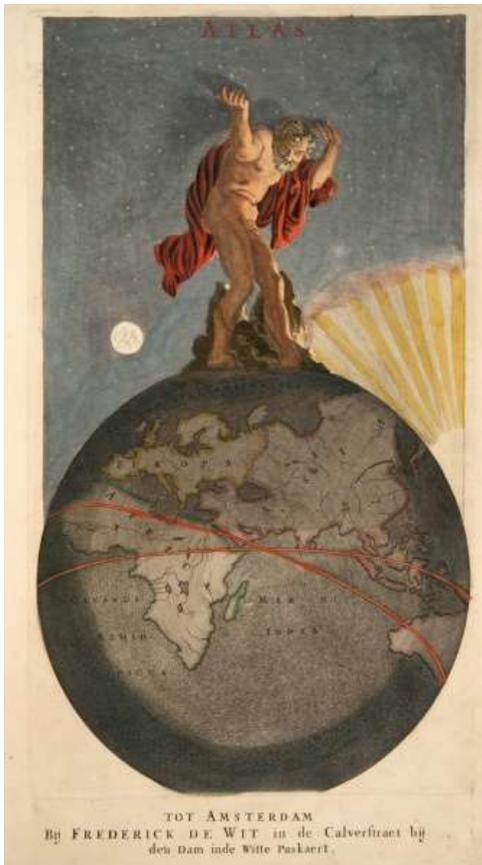
### **G. Michael Vasey**

*The Paranormal Corner*

The Westerner©  
Philadelphia, PA, USA  
Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, UK  
Edited by:  
Bruce G. Bennett General Partner  
Nicholas Wale General Partner

Contact: [dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com)

# NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD



## WITH JOHN WALT HOLMES

The latest news from the Western book world delivered directly to you via Westerner.

**Success With Dusty Saddle Western Star M. Allen**

Dusty Saddle Publishing announced last week that two books from their new Western writing star M. Allen had broken into the top 100. "The Rifleman" is currently #12 on the bestseller charts and "Will's Revenge" is #96. The company also announced that a new Western novel would be released soon.

## **More, More, More From Jim Byrnes?**

Rumor has it that another Jim Byrnes Western will hit the market sometime over the next few weeks. His first book is still gaining traction on the charts—this second one might be the Western that puts him over the edge. John Walt Holmes will keep his ear to the ground and bring you updates as they happen!

## **Winkle Rolls To Number One For Outlaws Publishing**

Outlaws Publishing Western writing star C. Wayne Winkle hit the jackpot when "Frank Bannon – The Fixer" became the number one selling Western novel in America. Winkle, who is currently working on his next release, also scored four other top 100 hits in the month of November. Outlaws Publishing will be awarding Winkle a sales achievement award for five of his books in January.

## **A New Kind Of Western From David Watts**

Million-selling Western author David Watts released his new Western novel, "A Gathered Peace," earlier this month. The novel takes the story of Luke and Adeline in a new and exciting direction. Watts, who previously hit the top spot on Amazon, is also currently working on a new Christmas short for the

Dusty Saddle Publishing Christmas collection: "On The Trail For The Holidays."

### **Guns, Grit, Glory And Bestsellers**

Dusty Saddle Publishing has announced a new series of compilation books to complement its already successful "Six Bullets to Sundown" series. This new series of compilations is called "The Guns of Pecos Bounty Hunters," and the first two volumes are already on sale and riding the top 100 bestsellers.

### **How High The Moon?**

Paul L. Thompson let it slip last week that he has another forty novels that could conceivably be released in 2018. Not all of these titles are Western. According to Thompson, who has moved an estimated 30 million pages during 2017, his stockpile includes Western romances, a science-fiction and a children's book. Outlaws Publishing Chairman J.C. Hulsey stated that "Thompson is one of the greatest writers of today. He has the style and we want to release anything the boy writes."

### **A Question Of Fie**

With the recent release of two impressive John D. Fie, Jr. box sets—readers have been left wondering if a new book from Fie will ever be released. As interest in Fie has grown through 2017, this seems to be the perfect time for Dusty Saddle Publishing to release the next novel. Will this ever happen? Dusty Saddle Publishing says that a new release is on the way. John Walt Holmes asks just this one question... When?

### **Mark Baugher And The Stars**

Top selling Western author Mark Baugher broke into the top one hundred a few weeks ago with his flagship novel "C-Bar." Now readers have been left wondering what will come next? Baugher, who famously made a movie of "C-Bar," has already said that there are several more books in the series... However, a source close to the author has stated that his new book will be different. "I can't say too much as Mark doesn't share his new ideas with many people—but this new one is a change in direction. It's Western, but it's a change."

### **Bro-mance For Allen And Hanlon?**

M. Allen and Robert Hanlon have been getting on famously as they work together for the first time on a new Western novel tentatively entitled "Kennedy." The two bestsellers have both had their share of hits in 2017—but will their collaboration be as successful? Only time can tell.

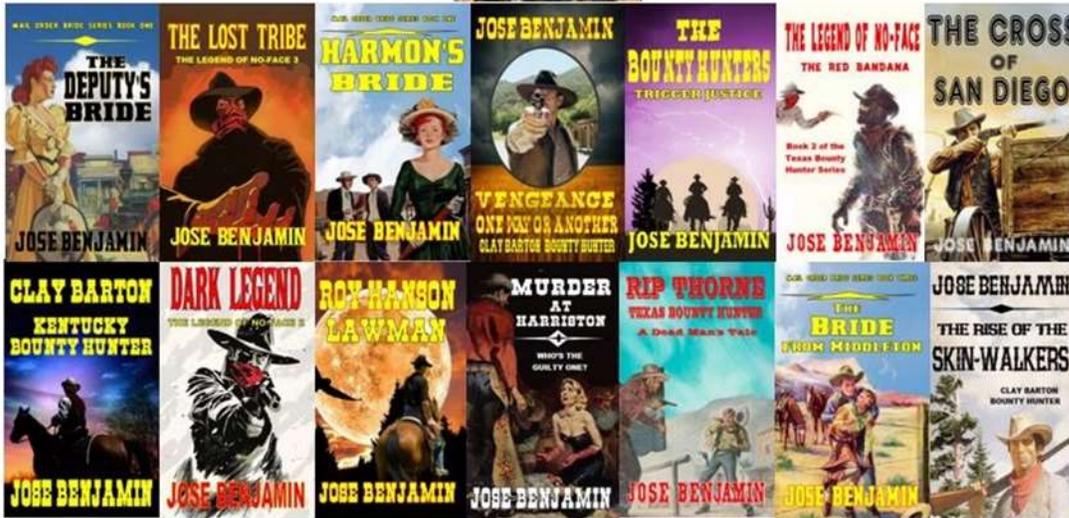
### **Western Sales At All Time High?**

Western sales are currently at their highest point in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With hit Western novels from authors such as Paul L. Thompson, Robert Hanlon, Fred Staff, and Bruce G. Bennett, this trend looks set to continue. When will Hollywood notice and start making Westerns again? Talented folks like Mark Baugher are reporting that the movies made of their Western novels are seeing increased sales and viewership. Maybe it's time for Hollywood to take notice of the trend?



**OUTLAWS CHOICE BOOKS**  
A Subsidiary of Outlaws Publishing LLC

**Presents Best Selling Author**  
**Jose Benjamin**



**All Books Available At Amazon.Com**

**OUTLAWS PUBLISHING LLC PRESENTS**  
**AMAZON BESTSELLING WESTERN AUTHOR E.C. HERBERT**

**ALL BOOKS AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM**

# ALOHA FROM LARRY MANETTI



With the Westerner©

When one thinks about Hawaii—it's hard not to think about the ever-popular show "Magnum P.I." and this month we are interviewing one of the stars of that show—Larry Manetti. But don't think for one second that Magnum P.I. is all we are going to talk about. No! Don't you be making pre-conceived notions because Larry was also one of the stars of the big '70s show "Baa Baa Black Sheep," and he was also one of the stars of the show "The Dude." On top of that, he has been in some of the biggest shows of

the last forty years. For example, who can forget his appearances in the legendary Battlestar Galactica? Now you know the scoop—let's talk about something else. Larry has written his memoir—it's called "Aloha Magnum" but covers his life from his earliest days through to the 1990s. It's fascinating stuff—you'll get a taste of it through this interview. Let's meet Larry Manetti...

**It's great to meet you, Larry. How are you doing?**

I'm doing fine, thank you.

**Well, thank you for doing this interview for Westerner. We have a good readership, and we have been discussing having you in the issue for a long, long time. One of my favorite shows growing up was Magnum, P.I.**

Thank you. You know I did more than Magnum. I did four television series.

**Like Battlestar Galatica?**

That's one of them, but I did Baa Baa Black Sheep, The Dude, Magnum, P.I. and I'm currently doing Hawaii Five-O

**I saw you were doing Hawaii Five-O, and I thought you are still looking great.**

Well, thank you, sir.

**What do you think is the secret to getting all of these TV shows?**

It's just longevity and professionalism. It just goes together. I have an angel on my shoulder.

**Which one of your shows do you like watching for enjoyment?**

I watch Magnum occasionally. I also watch Baa Baa Black Sheep. That was a series about WW2. It was part comedy and part drama. It starred Robert Conrad, me, James Whitmore, Jr., Dirk Blocker, Red West. It's got a lot of actors that started out in the early '70s who are still acclaimed. It was written by Stephen J. Cannell. It really came together.

**Red West was an Elvis bodyguard, right?**

He was. He was also in the series "The Duke" with me, and he's a good friend of mine, and he has great Elvis stories.

**What was The Duke about? I don't think I ever saw that one.**

NBC liked the combination of Robert Conrad and myself so much that they requested a TV series. Stephen J. Cannell wrote the series. Conrad played an ex-boxer who became a private detective. I played a colorful gambler. The series was shot in Chicago. It was a great series.

**Why don't you think "The Duke" took off?**

Well, Baa Baa Black Sheep lasted two years; The Duke lasted for a year. People are fickle, and depending on your timing, you either have a hit or not. Both shows, in my estimation, were very well written, very well-acted and had great storylines. I had no idea why one show takes off and another doesn't—it's in the fate of God. Some shows last thirteen years and some last thirteen months.

**You have to be careful with your roles?**

You never know. I've always considered myself a lease. I never believed I would be working on Magnum for as long as I was. For

the eight-and-a-half-year run, I always stayed close to my suitcase.



**How did you end up in Magnum, P.I.?**

I was under contract to Universal Studios at the time, and I was talking to them about doing one of the leads in a show called Simon and Simon. I was pretty interested in the show, and I was almost ready to say yes when Don Bellisario, who was the executive producer on Magnum and the key writer, called me and said, "I really would like to use you in Magnum, P.I. to play the character of Rick." He told me all about the character of Rick. I wasn't nuts about going to Hawaii as I was newly married, and I had a baby on the way. I really didn't want to leave Los Angeles, and I said, "Well, who is playing Magnum?" and he said, "Well... this new guy." I asked who, and he told me it was Tom Selleck. Well, I lit up like a lightbulb because just prior to that I had worked with Selleck on a two-hour episode of the Rockford Files. I liked him and thought he was a handsome son of a gun, so I figured this was a no-brainer and would have to go. When I say I thought this would have to go—I was talking about the first two hours—but I didn't know it would be a hit. So, I was off

to Hawaii and people were making cracks like “you better count your coconuts,” and “you better get greased up for the sun.” I just believed once [that one show] was done, it was over, until I got the call to go to Hawaii to film the series.

**What did you think about working with John Hillerman?**

I love him! The cast of Magnum was made in heaven. All of us got together and were instant relatives. We played cards, we ate dinner after the shows. We joked, we kidded. You can't get that comradery stuff on just any show. The chemistry was out of this world. We knew what each other would say before it came out of our mouths. It was a pleasure to go to work every day. He was a consummate actor, and I learned a lot from John.

**How did having a British character affect the show?**

It meant we could use a lot of British directors and actors like Ian McShane. There were tons of British actors on the show.

**Why did you decide to write a book?**

Well, I had so many people ask me for stories and different things about my life. I worked every day writing, and rewriting the book. There were things I had to take out, add in... it was a lot of work but well worth it. It's got stories about Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and on and on. It's listed as a five-star book on Amazon. It's called “Aloha Magnum” and is available from [www.larrymanetti.com](http://www.larrymanetti.com).



**How are you enjoying working on the new reboot of Hawaii Five-O?**

I love it to death! They're the nicest people. The executive producer contacted me and wanted me to move to Hawaii to play my character of Nick Demarco. I had enough of Hawaii, so they made me a recurring character.

**You also get to sing, don't you?**

Yes. I do.

**You like singing?**

Yes, it's fun. I wouldn't do it for a living as I'm no Frank Sinatra—but I give it a go.

**You're a Sinatra fan, aren't you?**

Very much so—I knew him well. There's nobody else in the world like Frank. As a matter of fact, I'll tell you a story. A British guy, Stewart Till, who was the head of PolyGram pictures and worked on The Big Lebowski, contacted me and we had lunch at the Beverly Hills Hotel. After a cup of coffee, I looked at him and asked him what was up. He asked me, “How well did you know Frank Sinatra?” I said, “Well, he used to call

me junior and tell me I was his second son.” He said, “That’s good enough. I would like to do the life story of Frank Sinatra with the Ambassador Theatre Group to open in London and then tour England.” I asked him what he wanted me to do. He asked me to go get approval from the Frank Sinatra estate to get a deal approved. Then the Ambassador Theatre Group would put together a spectacular on the life of Frank Sinatra. We are currently in the process of interviewing top, top writers in New York, and we are very close to one that I can’t name. In a month or so, we will be writing the book and the project will go to London and be on stage.

**You can’t lose with Sinatra—it’ll be fantastic.**

Do you know what his favorite song was?

**I really have no idea...**

His favorite song was ‘Laura’ out of all the songs. I had dinner with him one night with my wife and Tom Selleck. He was going on and on about the show—I grabbed his arm and I said, “Frank, why don’t you do the show—do it for me!” he said, “Junior... I thought you’d never ask me!” I had Chris Abbot, one of the writers, write the show and I asked him what he wanted to call that episode and Frank said, “Call it Laura.”

**How did you meet Frank Sinatra?**

I used to hitchhike, and I would hitchhike to all the country clubs and caddy. One day I carried at a country club, and I wound up with four people. One of them was Frank Sinatra. I called my mother as she was a huge Sinatra fan. She said, “Get his autograph,”

and I said “I’m not going to ask him.... That’s crazy.” He gave me a hundred-dollar bill, and a month later I found out one of the other caddies had Frank’s number. I went up and gave him one hundred bucks to caddy for Frank. I looked up at him after the game and I said, “One day I’m going to be a movie star, and I’m going to see you in Hollywood.” He said, “Kid, when you get to Hollywood, you look me up,” and I did. I arrived in Hollywood, called his lawyer and we had dinner.

**WOW, what a story! Well, it sounds to me like you are still keeping very busy.**

Oh, yeah! I’m very close to putting a four-hour mini-series together on a book that’s on the New York Times bestseller list called Double Cross, which was the story of John F. Kennedy and the Kennedy family and how they betrayed the Chicago Mafia and then later the Mafia killed JFK. I am a believer that the Mafia killed JFK.

**You grew up in Chicago, so you would know about the Mafia, right?**

Very much so. When I was a kid, I lived in Old Park, Illinois. Three-quarters of the gangsters lived there, and they had all the kids my age go around, bang on doors and give our pamphlets promoting John Kennedy for president. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Curtis—all of them were campaigning for John Kennedy. Sinatra promoted the living heck out of Kennedy. The Kennedy family double-crossed the Mafia in turn. He (Jack Kennedy) turned his back on the Mafia, and Bobby Kennedy crucified them.



**Let me ask you this: Did you want to be an actor from an early age?**

I started out in Chicago doing TV commercials, I did a United Airline commercial. The day after it aired, people would approach me and ask for autographs so I got the bug. Robert Conrad heard there was a kid who could be a double for him on Wild Wild West. I was doing a play at that time, and a girl came up and told me that Robert Conrad was in the audience to see my performance. Well, that ruined my night. After the show, he said, "Come here," and asked if I wanted to go have a drink with him. He then asked if I wanted to go to Hollywood and work with him. By the time we had everything together, they had cancelled Wild Wild West, but I went to Hollywood anyway and stayed in one of his apartment houses for free. He was a major help. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for him.

**You are currently running your own radio show too, I understand?**

Yes, on crntalk.com. We do it live every Tuesday at 4pm Los Angeles time. We interview celebrities, athletes, chefs. We've had Carol Burnett, Barbara Sinatra, Jack Jones, Steve Lawrence. Just tons and tons of celebrities. It's a great show. It's very popular around the world, especially in Britain and Italy. We don't talk about politics—we don't get dirty. Your kids can listen, your wife can listen. The hour goes by very quickly.

**You are certainly a busy guy!**

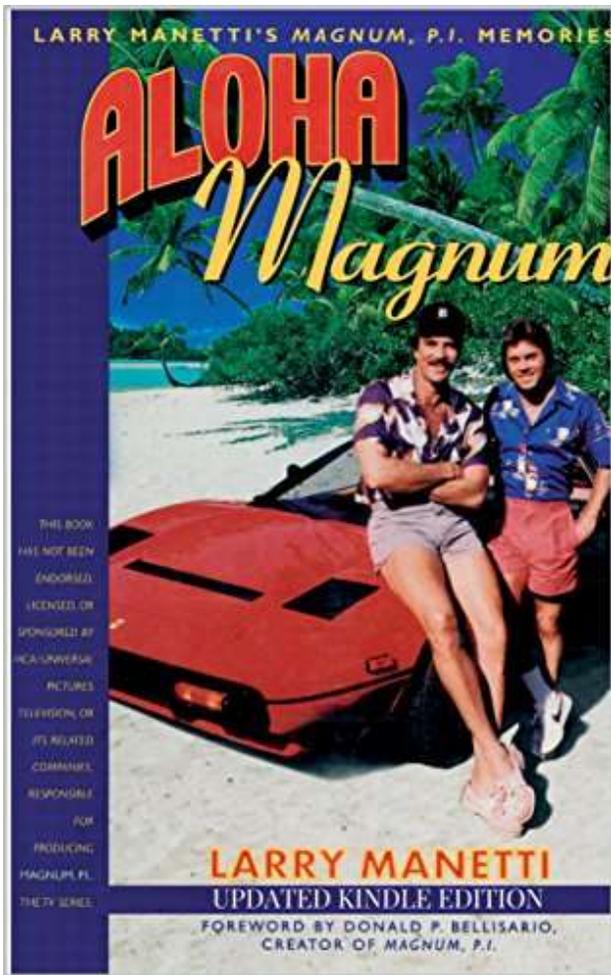
Well, if I weren't, I'd be dead.

**Well, Larry—where can we learn more about you?**

You can find out more by visiting my website at [www.larrymanetti.com](http://www.larrymanetti.com).

**Thank you for such a fascinating interview!**

You are very welcome. Thank you.



*Catch more exciting stories and adventures from Larry Manetti in his new memoir, "Aloha Magnum." This book is now available as a [Kindle book for the first time!](#)*

# BRUCE BOXLEITNER ON THE AMERICAN WEST



With the Westerner© Editor Bruce Bennett

Westerns were extremely popular in the early days of television, and iconic shows, like *Gunsmoke*, were highly anticipated weekly events. Imagine talking about Westerns around the water cooler, like we talk about the popular series on television today.

However, with significantly less content required, more great actors were involved with the production of these shows. Many

terrific television and movie stars came out of the era. One of the best was television and movie star Bruce Boxleitner.

Mr. Boxleitner is easily recognizable as the star of the great TV series, *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*, and *Babylon 5*. Many new viewers are seeing his work in the first *Tron* sequel, *Tron Legacy*. His gravelly voice and easy style make him an instant favorite with all audiences.

What you might not know is that this actor, whose work now spans six decades, can ride, wrangle, and shoot with the best of cowboys. I had the chance to ask him about his early career in Westerns as well as the trend-setting *Tron*. Here's what Bruce had to say:

Bennett: Hello, Bruce, this is Bruce Bennett on time for our interview.

Bruce: Thank you for calling me. What would you like to talk about?

Bennett: I wanted to talk about Westerns. My thought on the genre is that as America greys they become less popular overall. Because I think they promote a certain type of moralistic value.

Bruce: To me, good or bad, it's the morality play of our culture. England had King Arthur and the Round Table, and we had this. We were forever going west. I went from the Midwest to the west to find my niche.

There's a place, down on Sunset Strip, called the Saddle Ranch where a group of us who

were in Westerns get together. We used to get together once a month, but it's a little less now. When I was with this group, I said, "When we die, it dies," because we were raised on Westerns and the morality taught by *The Lone Ranger* and other Westerns of the 50s and 60s. John Wayne taught us what a man should be. Today, the bad guys are the good guys and the good guys have become the bad guys. When I was growing up, the good guys took down those bad guys.

When incidents happen like this (the Las Vegas shooting on Sunday, October 2), you see people rise up and do things they wouldn't normally do. Someone said, "Thank God it was a country concert." What they meant was a good deal of former military and off-duty police were in attendance. Those people ran to help when others were running away.

Bennett: You mentioned there is a proliferation of content out there. People are making movies just to create content to fill the demand. When I was young, there were three channels on TV. If I went to see a movie it was a big event. Today, there are thousands of channels demanding material, and movies don't seem to have the quality they once had.

Bruce: I like some of the channels that show the older stuff. I've had three or four television series during my career, but when my daughter turned twenty-two she never saw any of my work, because it wasn't available. We went from VHS, to DVD, and

now streaming. I got a call from her, because she'd been streaming *Babylon-5*.

She called me and said, "Dad, I didn't realize what a good show that was."

She was just a baby when I was involved in that show. I was more or less playing Matt Dillon to a space station which was Dodge City. We made some good entertainment back then. I look at *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*, back in the eighties, there was a certain type morality in these shows you don't see much anymore.

At the end of the day, the good guys win. Television is so dark and cynical these days.

Bennett: And that's just the news.

Bruce: Which has turned into entertainment. It's no longer just the six-o'clock news, now it's 24/7. CNN, FOX, MSNBC. It's no longer just the facts, it's their interpretation of the facts.

When things like [the Las Vegas shooting] happen, it makes you take stock. We'd just been to Vegas for the rodeo finals this past year. Two weeks of rodeo in Vegas, which is cowboy hats and western Americana. We had gone to Dwight Yoakam's concert. We were thinking, *what if this guy had chosen that one?*

It makes you wonder how something like this takes place. You think of those innocent people out for entertainment and then something like this. What's scary about this is that these incidents just don't go away.

Let's talk a little about Westerns. When I was a very young actor, I came in on the tail end of Westerns on television. I never did a feature Western, but I acted in them on television. I'd like to do more, but it doesn't seem like anyone is casting Westerns these days.

Bennett: Why is that?

Bruce: I don't know. Back then, if you did Westerns, you were in demand. The fact that you knew how to ride, knew how to handle weapons, wore the wardrobe well and that. I learned from the best—James Arness and people like that.

I'm proud of the work I did. Mine were entertaining. I worked with Kenny Rogers and made fun and entertaining Westerns. I think of Kenny when I think of Vegas now. The last time I worked with him, he picked me up at the airport. We ended up flying to Brackettville, TX in his private plane that night. We started work on *The Gambler Five* the next morning, there at Alamo Village.

I worked one long day, in the cold mud, and they flew me back to Vegas. Next morning I was home in California.



Bennett: *Gunsmoke* was such a great television show, and much of that was due

to the characterization of Matt Dillon by James Arness. It must have been great to work with such an iconic actor.

Bruce: It was. I was only one of two actors to be a pall bearer at James' funeral. I was really honored.

When you think of all the actors over twenty seasons of *Gunsmoke*, you realize what an honor it was. James actually cast me in *How the West Was Won*. The studio wanted another actor, but he had casting approval and wanted me.

His decision to win the battle against the president of ABC gave me a career. We did two years on *How the West Was Won* and then later CBS did *Red River*. They cast me first, and I lobbied strongly for him. The only guy in television who was close to the image of John Wayne was James Arness. Though the producers didn't want him, I kept on them, and he turned out to be wonderful in the role.

Then, I did his last *Gunsmoke* movie. He did a series of those in the '90s and I worked on the last one. When he passed away, at 88, I got a call here from a radio station. They asked me my reaction to the death of James Arness. I was in total shock. I remarked, "The world might have lost the great James Arness, but I lost my Uncle Zeb." That's how I looked on him.

I learned my trade from the guy who learned from John Wayne. It got passed down. He was a great mentor, though he was too shy to think of himself that way. Watching him

taught me how to be the star on a daily basis. Jim loved to have a good time and practical joke. That's a good thing, because when you're doing a Western you're usually outdoors.

It's a shared event. Everyone is uncomfortable sometimes. He always had a joke and tried to keep things light. If the star has a bad day, then everyone has a bad day. When he worked, his light mood trickled all the way down to the caterer. Even when I knew he was in pain from a leg wound received at Anzio in 1944, he would be upbeat and professional.

When he played Zeb Macahan, he made that limp work for him. It helped improve the character of the crotchety old Macahan. Yet, when he was Matt Dillion, he had to walk straight and tall. To me, that's what I took from him. He knew everyone's name. So I made a habit of walking around and introducing myself to everyone on sets when I was the star.

Bennett: When watching you on the screen, you look very calm and settled. You are also one of the most handsome actors of your era.

Bruce: I always would read that. "One of Hollywood's most handsome leading men." Problem was that Hollywood was getting away from that kind of lead and looking for other types. Leading men were more "character," leading men were characters. Television still stuck with handsome leading men more than movies.

I love Denzel Washington. I didn't like the way they did the *Lone Ranger* and wonder about type-casting today. But Denzel would make a great Bass Reeves, who they say was the model for the *Lone Ranger*.

Bennett: There's much written about Bass Reeves in fiction, these days. That's a great observation. I like Denzel Washington in just about anything. Those times were tough, and it was more difficult to be a lawman than probably is even portrayed on TV and the movies. The west was rugged.

Bruce: I just came back from two weeks in Wyoming. A bunch of guys get together every year, and I haven't been able to join them the last couple due to some surgery. I had to stay off a horse for a while. I belong to the "Hole in the Wall" gang, which is about fifty guys from all walks of life. There's a number of us from California, including actor Marty Kove.

We go up to "Hole in the Wall" country, where Butch and Sundance hid out, and spend a week riding, camp on Poker Creek, but with no guns, gals, or gambling. We're twenty-six miles from the nearest telephone. I drove up early, to northeast Wyoming, with a couple of friends and took an improvised Western history tour.

I may not do the hats, boots, and spurs on the screen anymore, but I get to have the experience away from civilization for a few days. The scenery is phenomenal. We climb to the top of the Red Wall, where they used to bring cattle and livestock up to the "Hole

in the Wall." It's getting harder; that wall keeps getting taller.

Bennett: Your health is good now?

Bruce: I had neck surgery. I'd rodeo'd for some years and had some wear and tear. I had collapsed disks in my neck.

Bennett: Let's talk about one of my favorite all-time movies – *Tron*.



Bruce: It is amazing how that movie came out in 1982 and we're still talking about it today. I was just at a showing of *Tron* and *Tron: Legacy* at the El Capitan theater. I was one of the guests chosen to speak to the audience there.

Bennett: It was a revelation to me. I'd just graduated from college.

Bruce: Well, you were part of those kids who first had to deal with computers. I was doing *I Married Wyatt Earp*, for TV, when I first got the script. I was sitting on a horse past Tucson, AZ. I had the script in my saddle bag and, in between takes, I read this thing called *Tron*. I'm reading this thing and thinking *what the hell is this?*

Imagine what you first saw seeing it and then what I was thinking reading it. My agent called and said, "When I get off location they'd like to meet you." I called him back that night and said, "I can't make any sense of it. What the hell is it about?"

I put it back in my saddle bag and forgot about it. Somewhere, someone has the original script for *Tron*. When I got back to LA, I met with Steve Lisberger who showed some footage they'd shot. I was captivated. It was inside of a computer but in the vein of *Star Wars*. I'd auditioned for Luke Skywalker, so I wasn't going to let this one get away. After all, they came to me on this one.

The making of it was wonderful. I've got a lifelong friendship with Jeff Bridges. They called and asked me if I would do *Tron: Legacy*. I said, "Are you kidding me?" I had no idea they'd even want me in it.

Bennett: When you did *Tron*, nobody was doing that kind of picture.

Bruce: Disney was at a low spot then. They hadn't had a hit in a while. Nobody wanted Steve's story and Disney took a chance on it. You always hear this story—by the way, nobody wanted *Star Wars* either. *Tron* has a unique following. What do you think they tapped into?

Bennett: People thought that computers would take over the world and everyone would be sitting at home. *Tron* took us inside of that unknown network that we all feared.

Bruce: They told it in such a fun adventure story. It's a modern *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. We went down the cyber rabbit hole.

I loved the beginning of *Legacy*. Garrett Hedlund finds his father's secret laboratory. There's people who didn't like *Legacy*, but I thought it was good. We made it in 2009 and it came out in 2010 and made the original movie look somewhat antiquated. But I liked the fact that we still had "recognizers" and light cycles.

Computer animation has come incredibly far. Motion capture done on Jeff and myself, when we did that flashback sequence, was amazing. I don't know if there'll be another movie, but that *Tron* ride in Disney Shanghai attracted a lot of attention. Maybe the powers that be will decide there's more to mine out of the franchise.

Bennett: We were talking about great heroes. David Warner played a great villain in that movie.

Bruce: He was the villain to go to in that period. We did two movies together, including a mini-series in 1995. I saw him at a convention in Miami a couple of July 4ths ago. He's still the same irascible Englishman he was back then. He hasn't changed much at all.

Bennett: Is that the first time you'd met Jeff Bridges?

Bruce: I'd worked with his father on *How the West Was Won*, but that was the first I'd met Jeff. Lloyd always told me that I reminded

him of "his son, Jeff." I admired Jeff because he'd done some great movies at that time. He'd been nominated for an Oscar for *Last Picture Show* and was continuing to make great films.

Bennett: He likes Westerns too.

Bruce: I loved the Cohen brothers' version of *True Grit*. That was a good Western, to me. Nobody can be John Wayne, but Jeff played a great role.

He's a great musician. He played at a club, near where we live, and my wife and I went to see him. We went backstage and hung out with him. He hasn't changed. Well, he's the "dude." "The dude abides," according to Sam Elliott.

I had the pleasure of working with him back in 1979. We did a two-night Western thing called *Wild Times*. During the 70s and 80s, I was working a lot in Westerns. I was the sidekick to the old gray-haired guys.

Today, it's tougher to find work in Westerns. I was pitching a new Western, which is Dennis Weaver's *McCloud* updated. It's a good idea to pitch something that has been done already. Hollywood likes remakes today.

I have something coming out on Sunday, on the Hallmark channel, which is called the *Gourmet Detective*. My son also plays a part. It's almost like a *Scarecrow and Mrs. King* type story. Anyway, the role was written for me and I hope people enjoy it.

So, I think that pitching the modern Western character is better than trying a period piece. Hollywood doesn't want period pieces right now. Have you seen *Westworld*?

Bennett: Yes, but HBO does Westerns well. *Westworld* is a terrific example of how they take a chance and make it work.

Bruce: HBO seems to be successful at whatever they want to do.

Bennett: *Deadwood* was also a great Western series.

Bruce: Still, Hollywood doesn't especially like Westerns. How many have been best picture? Two: *Cimarron* and *Unforgiven*. All the great Westerns and only two have been best picture.

Bennett: If there weren't comic book characters, there'd be no Hollywood movies today.

Bruce: Josh Brolin did a great job with *Jonah Hex*, but the movie wasn't good.

Bennett: They did the *Lone Ranger*.

Bruce: I think they should have done it straight forward. I auditioned for the one they did in the eighties, but didn't get the part.

Bennett: You're also a writer.



Bruce: When I was doing *Babylon-5*, I was approached by Martin Greenberg about doing some writing. If you remember, William Shatner had some successful books out. They thought I had a story to tell because I had a built-in audience. Science Fiction audiences, like Western audiences, are true to the genre.

William Keith actually was the ghost writer for the story. But it was my story, and I had control through the entire writing. I wanted to put William's name on the book as the co-author, but the publisher ruled that out. Still, I give credit where credit is due.

My book was like if Edgar Rice-Burroughs and Sergio Leone had a baby. I love the idea of mixing the genres. I did two books called

*Frontier Earth* and *Searcher*. It was really all one book, but they wanted to separate it into two volumes.

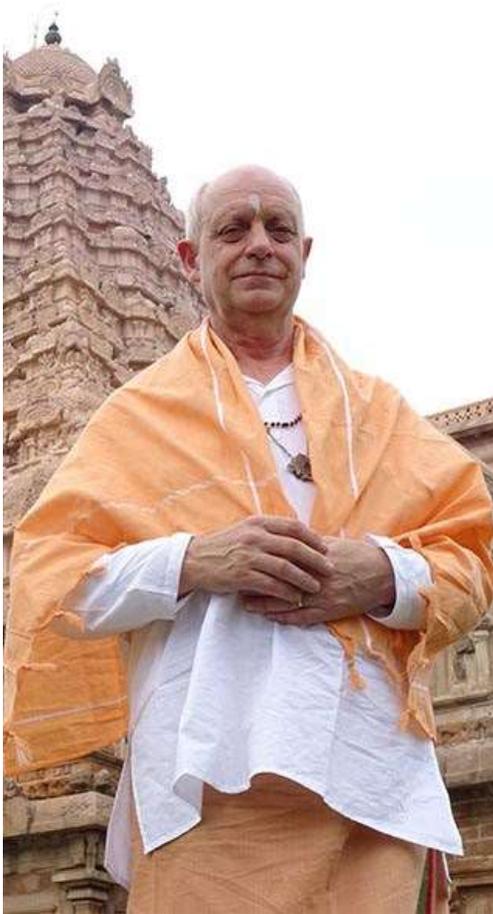
People still bring me books to sign, but they've been out of print for a while. I don't know if I've given you anything worth talking about?

Bennett: It's all been great. I just appreciate the opportunity to meet you.

Bruce: Thank you for reaching out to me.

# THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND... THE FUTURE

Part One of Our Exclusive  
Interview with Leading British  
Psychic Craig Hamilton-Parker



With the Westerner©

A Note from Our Editor

This interview was originally recorded for  
the Halloween special edition of Westerner

but was held back... not because this isn't a valuable interview, but because it's too valuable to be included with ghouls and ghosts. Our interview with one of England's leading psychic mediums delves deep into the very fabric of what makes a human life. There are those who are going to find a spiritual interview like this difficult to swallow. But with an open mind, you may find it to be beneficial. There's more to life than we know... and perhaps this interview will open some doors and make you wonder about the reality of the world around you. You will also want to check out Craig's 2018 predictions too. [Click here](#) to discover what may be in store for us all.

About Craig Hamilton-Parker

Craig Hamilton-Parker is a celebrated medium who has confounded skeptics with the uncanny accuracy of his readings. Together with his wife, Jane, and his psychic family, he is often seen on TV with programs such as *The Spirit Of Diana*, in which he and his wife made contact with the spirit of Princess Diana on live American TV.

In the UK, he had a TV series on the BBC called 'Talking to the Dead' and a series on the Biography Channel called 'Our Psychic Family.' A new UK/US series is in production called 'Britain's Best Psychic Couple.'

Craig is the author of 15 books in the paranormal genre, including the best-seller

**The Hidden Meaning of Dreams. His website <http://www.psychics.co.uk> has a community of mediums who meet in its chat rooms for regular debates and practice.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you for agreeing to this interview, Craig.**

It's my pleasure.

**Can I start by asking how did you get into being a psychic medium, of all things?**

I think it's something you're born with. I would have seen a lot of things as a child. Like, I remember I saw my grandfather standing in the room shortly after he'd died, before I'd even been told that he died. I got interested in it big time when I met a medium called Doris Stokes. Have you heard of her?

**No, I haven't...**

She was a really brilliant medium in her time. She became big news in the 1970s and '80s. My sister lost her husband, and I went with her to a private reading with Doris Stokes. Doris turned around to me and told me that I was going to be a medium and told me the exact date that I'd meet my wife, Jane. Nine years later, I met my wife on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March—the exact date Doris had told me. It got me really interested. Then I met a police sergeant who was working in Hammersmith. He'd been a medium, but he had kept it quiet throughout his life because of his work as a police officer. So, I was

actually taught by a cop to do mediumship, and it developed over the years. I then got interested in spiritualism. I didn't know anything about spiritualism. The first time I ever went to a spiritualist church was as a demonstrating medium. I was actually on the platform giving messages to the audience. It was a calling and completely unexpected.

**You were an advertising executive before you became a full time medium, right?**

Yes, I was in Winchester. I was also single parent at that time. I was doing this mediumship business for free, and once a week I could get a babysitter on a Tuesday. It just so happened that the circle in London was on a Tuesday. My night off would be to sit in a dark room and develop the skill. Then, later on, I met Jane and I gave up advertising. I was doing very well—but I hated it, really. So, we decided to do mediumship professionally. My income dropped through the floor. We had zero to live on, and I lived for a long time doing private readings and party readings. Then, once we had done that, I decided to apply what I knew about public relations. I sent letters to all the television studios and I ended up getting a spot on "The Big Breakfast." I was predicting next week's news with Paula Yates. So, Jane and I would have to give predictions of what would come up next week. It was quite a tall order. Paula Yates was quite ferocious and highly critical, but it was good training.

**But you're eerily good at predicting the future—I watch your prediction videos, and you get things dead on.**

I used to think you couldn't predict the future. I had been working as a medium. Jane and I did some television work, then we started a website [www.psychics.co.uk](http://www.psychics.co.uk), which went haywire. We were getting 150,000 hits a day, and it became a big community. Overnight, Google changed the way it did its algorithms. My site was heavily penalized. I couldn't recover it. I was in a difficult state because we suddenly had no income at all. What do we do? A friend of mine from India called me up. We'd been corresponding from the early days of the internet. He was very interested in Sathya Sai Baba, the Indian holy man. We'd been talking about lots of different things. I'd mentioned an Oracle in India that I'd been trying to track down called the Nadi Oracle. I'd heard that the Nadi Oracle can tell you everything about your life to the tiniest detail. I'd been talking to a wing commander in India who had told me a few anecdotal stories about people who had found this oracle. Just as I was having all these problems with my business, my friend got in touch with me and told me he had found one of the Nadi Oracles and arranged for me to talk to one of these people in India via Skype. He was interested in bringing this to the west and teaching people about it. It was important that the Nadi Oracle had no prior information about me. I think he wanted to test him. So, I set up a proxy email account, a proxy name for Skype, and we didn't give

him any information at all. It was incredible! He knew nothing about me. We accessed the Oracle, and he went through a series of palm leaves. These leaves are supposed to be 10,000 years old and rewritten every 500 years. The Nadi needed a thumb print, so we sent him a thumb print and with that thumb print he could find the appropriate bunch of leaves. Then we had to go through the leaves until we find my leaf that will open the appropriate oracle. We went through the leaves. He eventually got to one leaf and said, "Your first wife's name was Tina." It was true, and nobody knew that information. Nobody could have known that. He read the next life. "Your mother's name is Ethel... your father's name is Donald..." All correct. He managed to come up with 100% answers. "Your name is Craig and you were born at 1.30am on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 1954." This is the sort of information he was giving me. He could have accessed my bank account! All from a thumb print. He then told me all the things I'd done. He could tell me about my father. He said my father worked at the tax office. Even my brother didn't know that my father worked in the tax office. It was fact, after fact, after fact.



### **It sounds amazing...**

It was. It came to me at a time when I was having doubts, but this reading gave me a model how I could live my life. How I could use my gifts in the right ways. He said, "You're going to do it all for nothing... for the foundation." That sounded like a great idea. Once you take the money out of it, you can do it for the love of it. It was an incredible awakening for me. But I didn't want to rely on just one man. We found another Nadi reader who gave me the same information in a wordier way. But it was all the same information. Later on, I found a completely different Nadi. Again, I got the same information. This, to me, was 100% proof. There are a lot of Nadi readers and a lot of them are fakes. In India they know a lot of money can be made from this.

The Nadi tells you about your past lives and gives you remedies. The remedies help you break the karma of the past life that will stop you achieving what you need to achieve in life. For example, I had been offered TV shows and other mediums had stepped into my shoes and even used my script. One famous medium actually used my script for the beginning of his show. It was frustrating to be thwarted a number of times. I went to India to do the remedies, and it was an incredible experience. I went there and made a film of it. I knew it was going to be interesting. The remedies include all kinds of interesting things like fire ceremonies, charity work and even visiting a holy man, this strange man covered in ash who

confirmed what was in the nadis to me. A number of gurus confirmed it. It was confirmed over and over again. It wiped everything I believed up to that point. I had been working as a traditional medium, but now I was starting to believe that everything in our lives is influenced by past life Karma. It was like a revelation. A new way of seeing things. That's why I think my prophecies are so accurate because I think I've connected into the same energy as those people who wrote the Nadi leaves. Even more mind boggling is the concept that the people who wrote those leaves 5,000 years ago are still supposed to be living on Earth today. That's hard for people to take on board. I have gotten to the point where I've started to believe incredible things without question. I've seen so many incredible things.

### **You've written about these experiences in your books, haven't you?**

Yes, in both "[Messages from the Universe](#)" and in my recent book, "[Mystic Journey in India](#)."

### **And you've made a movie of your experiences, too?**

Yes, we are taking it to Cannes in October. Three of us made it. A cameraman, an editor and myself. I hope we sell it in Cannes. We have a distributor already. My life has taken a strange path. I had no expectation of making films.

### **Do you think everyone has had a past life?**

Yes, I do. I think everyone does have a past life, except some people might be here for the first time as well. I believe that people evolve through the animal kingdom. This might be their first time as a human but previously they may have been an animal. I think we come up through an evolutionary channel. A lot of people also spend time in the spirit world, as well. We are on the material plane, which exists in time and space. The spirit worlds are completely inconceivable to our understanding. For example, I asked Doris Stokes what my friend was doing in the spirit world, and she told me he was playing cricket. I couldn't believe it. But I think what happens is that people do what they're familiar with in the spirit world. You live in a level that is almost like a completely alive, lucid full dream with time, space and form, but you're actually living in a state that is beyond that. Does that make sense?



**Yes, it does.**

It's hard to explain. When I look at the world around me now as we are talking to each other, I think of this world as a picture in

your own brain. Chemistry has created this in our own brains. Images are coming in from outside, the world is upside down, our brain flips the world the right way up because the image on the back of the retina is upside down. It's an illusion on one level because it's constructed by the brain. Yet, even the external world, I believe, is consciousness. This material world is just one aspect of reality.

### **You talk a lot in your YouTube videos about ancient knowledge...**

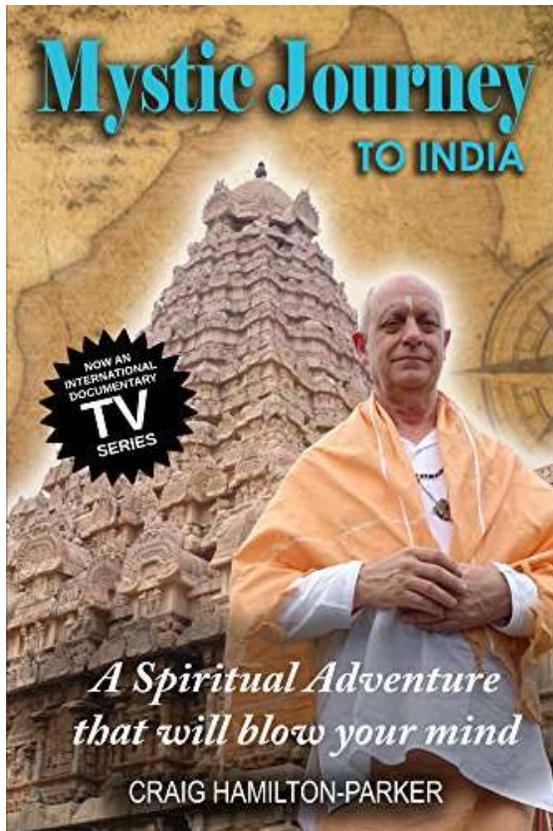
I'm very interested in the ancient knowledge. The Indians believe in huge, vast periods of time between dark ages and silver ages and gold ages. The Greeks had similar beliefs. We are on the edge of the dark age at the moment, moving into about 2000 years of golden age. The ancient man didn't have to build things. They had powers we have forgotten. The Rishis that wrote those Nadi leaves must have had super human clairvoyance. This a huge thing for normal people to take on board. Some materialists can't even accept telepathy, let alone saying that reality is not what we say it is.

### **I think there's very little we understand about the world. Too much to disbelieve it.**

I went to India and I saw Sathya Sai Baba who a lot of people have clobbered. The BBC really went for him. You can go there and see trickery. But you can go with an open mind. I saw him produce vibhuti (ash). I saw the ash appear inches from his fingers. I was so close to him I knew it wasn't trickery. I saw

the ash materialize. My understanding of reality snapped because I saw something that was completely impossible.

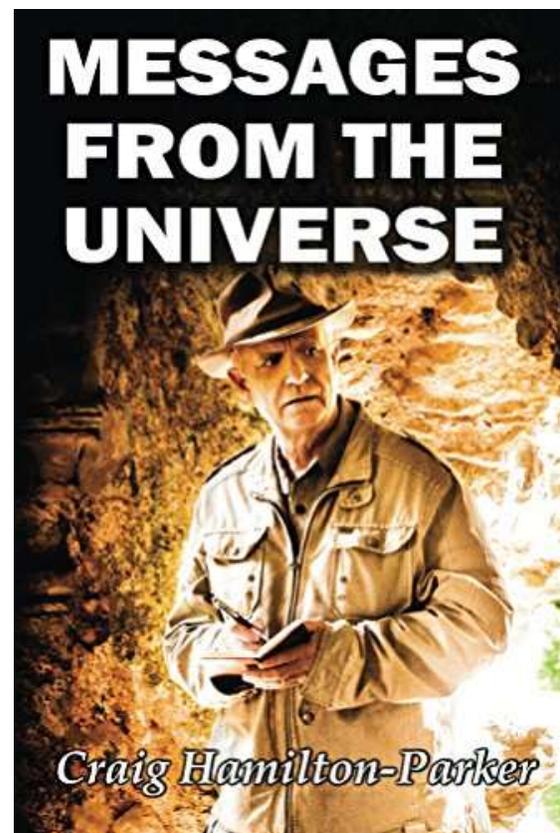
(To be continued...) *Westerner will be running the second half of this interview in January 2018.*



This is the true account of how psychic medium Craig Hamilton-Parker stumbles upon a 5,000-year-old Indian oracle that has his name written on it. When translated, it reveals the story of his life with 100% accuracy and proclaims what will happen in the future - even giving the exact time he will die. The oracle tells him that to turn the tide of providence, Craig must visit a frightening holy man who sleeps in a fire, perform strange rituals, and change

people's lives through charitable acts. Craig is just a normal western guy with a loving family at home but is told to go on an astonishing spiritual adventure that will shake his soul and leave him a changed man. You can purchase your copy by clicking [here](#).

**YOU MAY ALSO ENJOY...**



In this book, Craig reveal the secrets of the Indian Naadi Oracle that tells him that new spiritual knowledge will be revealed to him by the gods—which he initially interpreted as his mediumship—and from studying the Naadis, learning astrology, and knowledge given directly by meeting

living rishis. He shares his work as a medium and how, together with his wife Jane, he took on the media. Together, travel to mystical places, share colorful adventures, meet some extraordinary enlightened people and join the relentless search for universal knowledge. You can purchase your copy by clicking [here](#).

# REALITY READING: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE GUNFIGHTER MYTH

By W.M. Montague



Hello and welcome back to our little adventures into the folks that helped shape America into what it is today. No, I'm not talkin' about some great leader or saintly individual, nope. Let's just say that some of these characters were downright polecats, while others could, and would, be touted as "Robin Hoods" of the prairie. Then we come

to those who teeter on that thin and dangerous line between good and evil; what the "literary" and "Hollywood" types would later label as the "Gunslinger," (those who made their living with the gun) when, in actuality, they were more often than not referred to simply as "gunman" or "hired gun."

Now, these men and women, these pioneers of the Old West, had to be tough and hard. Life was no outing in the meadow, ya know. Most of the so-called "showdowns" were not so much face-to-face confrontations in the middle of some dusty street, as some would lead you to believe. There were a few instances of that, I'm sure, but for the majority, the conflicts involving the "gunslinger" or "hired gun" originated out of disputes ranging from land and water rights, livestock intrusions, or rustling, all the way down to the petty "Hatfield-McCoy" type feuds. Some folks would seek out these famous (and not so famous) "guns" to either help protect what they had, or as back-up if needed, or even to do their dirty work.

These are the folks who we want to get a look at, but from a different angle. What kind of people were they? What kind of early life did they have? How did they end up in their position and what drove them to their end? What kind of (if any) legacy did they leave us? How did they become legends after their deaths?

In our last article, we had begun our investigation with one of the more famous

gunfighters in history, Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp. What have we learned about the man?

Well, we now know he was born in March of 1848, he had three older brothers: Newton, (who was actually a half-brother from his father's first marriage to Abigail Storm, who unfortunately died when Newton was two); James and Virgil being the other two elder boys; and then we have Wyatt's two younger brothers, Morgan and Warren. Here's a little known fact: Wyatt also had a half-sister by Abigail who died at two months from pneumonia.

They grew up moving between Monmouth, Illinois, Pella, Iowa, and Missouri until two of the three eldest brothers made it home after the Civil War, when the family joined a wagon train headed west for California in 1864.

By 1865, Wyatt and his brother, Virgil, found themselves stagecoach drivin' jobs for an outfit called Banning Stage Lines out in California. From then until about 1870, Wyatt would hold various jobs as a teamster, a railroad worker and a boxing referee in 1868. Wyatt went back to Monmouth a couple years later looking for his pa, who had since moved back to Missouri, where Wyatt met Urilla Sutherland and fell in love.

1870 finds Wyatt married and widowed the same year—Urilla died from a form of typhus just a few months after their wedding.

For almost five years, he seems to vanish without a trace, only to turn up in Wichita,

Kansas working (unofficially) as "Officer Earp," his first "lawman" job, which brings us up to date so far.

When asked where he had been, he replied, "buffalo hunting," which confirmed a report by Stuart Lake in a biography he had written about Wyatt earlier. However, according to records recently found in the archives of Peoria, Illinois, it states that he was listed in the local city directory and that he was residing in a house owned by one Jane Haspel, a known madam at the time, running a "bagnio" (brothel). It is not known what Wyatt's role was there, but in 1872 he, his brother Morgan, and one George Randall, along with four women were arrested for "keeping and being found in a house of ill-fame." Wyatt was later arrested two more times for the same crime that same year.

Wichita was a town where cattle drivers brought their bovines from Texas to the railroad terminal for shipment. Like most cow towns, Wichita was a rough and rowdy place—a place where Wyatt would have his nerve tested. Drovers, anxious to let off some steam and spend their pay on whiskey and women, only added to the problem when they rode into town. One such incident, though not reported in the papers, appears in the Stuart Lake biographies and is backed up in the memoirs of Wyatt's deputy, Jimmy Cairn, that Wyatt angered a bunch of drovers when he went to repossess a piano in a local brothel that had not been paid for, forcing them to come up with the money

owed. Some fifty of the drovers were going to “hoorah” Wichita in retaliation (meaning “out of control” drunken partying). When the citizens caught wind of this, they, along with Wyatt, met the cowboys on the bridge between Delano and Wichita blocking their way. Speaking for the town, Wyatt was able to turn away the cowboys without a shot being fired.

In the spring (April) of 1876, Wyatt’s job as deputy marshal in Wichita would come to an abrupt end when he was accused by former marshal Bill Smith of using his office to hire his brothers. Wyatt responded by punching the man. A fistfight ensued, and Wyatt beat the former marshal soundly. Mike Meagher (the newly re-elected marshal) stated that “he had no intention of helping the Earps.” This angered Wyatt to the point where Meagher had to fire, then turn around and arrest Wyatt for disturbing the peace. With the cattle business on the downslide, Wyatt moved on to the next cow town, Dodge City, Kansas.

Ah... Dodge City, a town that conjures up the fabled characters of Marshal Dillon, Festus, and the rest of the iconic cast of the hugely popular Western TV show “Gunsmoke,” but it was nothing like Hollywood portrayed. In reality, it was even more rough and tough than Wichita. It is said that in the days of the cattle drives, Dodge City raised only two things—cattle and hell—giving it the reputation of “the wicked town in the West.” Cattle drives all the way from Texas would travel the six

hundred to one thousand mile long Chisholm Trail (depending on which account one refers to) to reach the rail terminal in Dodge City. Afterwards, the cowboys wanting to “unwind” would come galloping into town, whooping and hollering, sometimes firing their pistols in the air or at street lamps on their way to the famed Long Branch Saloon (yes, it was real, and still is).

Now, though Wyatt was hired as an assistant marshal in May of 1876, he seems to have left for a time on two different occasions, one being the winter of that year when he traveled to Deadwood (in the Dakota territory) for unknown reasons, possibly to do some mining since gold had been discovered there earlier. The second time was in the latter part of October 1877 to do some gambling in Texas where, according to his recollection in Stuart Lake’s biography, he met “Doc” Holliday.

Wyatt may not have liked alcohol, but he did enjoy three things. Gambling (a game called Faro was his favorite), women of ill-repute (he was known to frequent and even help his brother James with his brothel business), and ice cream (he liked to stop in at the local ice cream parlor daily).

By 1878, Wyatt was back in Dodge and became assistant city marshal under Charlie Basset. A lifelong friendship would develop between “Doc” Holliday and Wyatt. In July of that year, while trying to break up a bar fight, an unknown cowboy drew his pistol and was about to shoot Wyatt in the back.

When Doc saw this, he called out, warning Wyatt to “look out” as he drew his gun, cowing the cowboy into backing off.

Wyatt resigned his post in the fall of that year and headed to Las Vegas, New Mexico with his companion “Mattie” Blaylock, a former prostitute, eventually moving on to Tombstone, Arizona in the winter of 1879 with his brothers Virgil and James. Virgil had been appointed to the position of U. S. Deputy Marshal prior to arriving in Tombstone. James went to work as a barkeeper, and Wyatt had bought a wagon with the idea of converting it to a stagecoach. Finding two other stage lines already there, he instead went to work for Wells Fargo as a shotgun rider to protect strongboxes until Virgil got him appointed deputy marshal. In the summer of 1881, their younger brothers, Morgan and Warren, would join them, and then in September, Doc Holliday arrived as well. Now we get to the reasons behind and what lead to the infamous shootout at the O.K. Corral.

There seems to be some controversy as to exactly when and where the gunfight actually took place. According to Wikipedia, it was on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Other accounts have it taking place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. In either case, the end result was the same.

Early in 1881, Virgil, acting as deputy marshal, along with an army representative, accused Frank McLaury (a known rustler) of being involved in the theft of six army mules and changing the brands from “US” to “D8”. To avoid a fight right then and there, an

agreement was made that the animals would be returned, but they were not. The army representative then published an account of the incident in the paper also implicating the Clantons and ruining both the Clantons’ and McLaury’s already “shady” reputations; it was the beginning of the troubles for the Earps, which would eventually culminate in deadly fashion on that fateful morning in Tombstone. Around this time, Wyatt (having been appointed deputy sheriff of southern Pima County, the surrounding countryside around Tombstone), talked to Ike Clanton, promising him the reward money of around thirty-six hundred dollars (the bounty for the mule thieves) for information on their whereabouts, if it led to their arrest and conviction. Ike agreed but made Wyatt promise not to tell anyone of their “deal” for fear of retaliation from the rustlers. When the mule thieves had met their demise in other incidents, Ike Clanton, thinking Wyatt had double-crossed him, became paranoid and started making threats to get even with him. In a series of attempted stagecoach robberies, particularly the robbery of the Sandy Bob line headed for Bisbee, it was found that Johnny Behan’s new undersheriff (and friends of the Clantons and the cowboy faction), Frank Stillwell, and Frank’s business partner, Pete Spence, (which was an alias) had been two of the culprits.

This escalated the tensions already prevalent between the Earps and the Clantons with the cowboys threatening the Earps for arresting the men. Doc Holliday (a known friend to one of the suspects) was also implicated (but

never proven) by his drunken companion “Big nose Kate” after they had an argument; later, she recanted her accusation after sobering up.

After a hearing, Frank Stillwell and Pete Spence were found guilty and fined twenty-five dollars. The Clantons and other “cowboy” faction members bailed them out the same day and openly threatened the Earps should they ever try that again.

The threats continued, and by October 24<sup>th</sup> (or the 26<sup>th</sup>, depending on which source you use), 1881, Wyatt had had enough when a drunken Ike Clanton confronted him after spreading the fact that he was ‘going to kill him some Earps.’ Wyatt slapped the man across the face with his left hand while at the same time reaching to his holster, pulling out his “Buntline Special” and rapping Ike over the head with it, leaving him lying unconscious on the boardwalk. Over the next two days, the Clantons went around town making boasts claiming they were going to kill every Earp.

On the night of 24 October (or the 26<sup>th</sup>), Frank Stillwell along with Pete Spence, William “Curly Bill” Brocius, and some of the Clanton boys would attempt to set a trap by firing their guns in the air and making a ruckus to try to draw out the Earps so they could gun them down. The then town marshal (police chief, in modern terms), Fred White, having heard the gunfire, surprised “Curly Bill” in an alley. While attempting to disarm and arrest him for discharging a firearm and carrying a concealed weapon,

Fred got shot in the groin by William “Curly Bill” Brocius, and died two days later. Known for thumping criminals over the head with his revolver rather than shooting them (most of the time), Wyatt, Morgan and another deputy heard the shot and rushed to aid the marshal where Wyatt clubbed “Curly Bill.” At the following hearing of William Brocius in Tucson, “Curly Bill” was acquitted by the courts due to Wyatt’s testimony, ruling it an “accidental shooting.”

When rumors of ballot stuffing for the current sheriff, Charlie Shibell, by the cowboy faction, who appointed Johnny Behan to replace Wyatt as undersheriff of Pima County, Wyatt felt slighted and resigned. Behan would later figure prominently in the O.K. Corral incident.

Tombstone’s citizens, voicing their concerns about the Clantons and the cowboy faction, approached Virgil. Being under pressure from the town’s “vigilance committee” to do something about it, Virgil decided he had to, or appear weak among the townsfolk, a decision that would forever change the lives of the Earp brothers and haunt Wyatt the rest of his days.

You may ask why the Clantons and McLaurys were gathered outside the O.K. Corral in the first place. Well, the fact is that they weren’t actually at the “OK” corral, but rather about six doors down on the other side of a photography shop. Their original plan was to pick off the Earp brothers one by one, starting with Doc Holliday. Ike had been drinking heavily the night before and

loudly boasted how he was going to kill the Earps and “that damn dentist.” Doc confronted him at the bar about it, saying something to the effect of: “Why wait? Here I am.” Ike may have been drunk, but he was not a complete fool and knew better than to face off with the dentist-turned-gambler-killer. He grumbled and staggered out the door with evil plans forming in his mind. By early the morning of October 29<sup>th</sup>, Ike had gathered his brother, Billy, the McLaury brothers, and Billy “Billy the Kid” Claiborne. They were hoping to ambush Doc Holliday when he came out of his room above Fly’s photography studio, but it wasn’t going to turn out that way. Doc was not in his room.

When Virgil got wind of there being a “bunch of cowboys” including the McLaurys and the Clantons gathered over by the O.K. Corral, Virgil immediately got James and Wyatt, deputizing them as well as Doc Holliday as temporary deputy marshals and headed to the corral to disarm them. The four were intercepted by Johnny Behan, who in hopes of avoiding any bloodshed, was claiming to have already disarmed the group. They brushed Sheriff Behan aside and continued on their trek to meet with destiny and into history’s legends.

Arriving where the cowboys were gathered, Virgil tells the group to hand over their guns and put up their hands. Now, if you were to ask the thirty-some witnesses who saw the gunfight what happened next, you would more likely than not get thirty different accounts. In the span of a mere thirty

seconds, there would be thirty or more shots fired from both sides, resulting in the deaths of the McLaurys and Billy Clanton. Virgil was shot in the calf, which would give him a slight limp. Morgan was shot in the shoulder from which he eventually recovered, and Doc Holliday would suffer a wound to his hip. Ike Clanton and Billy Claiborne ran away amid the chaos. Wyatt would be the only one to escape injury, though his coat later revealed a bullet had passed through it. Immediately after the dust settled, Johnny Behan attempted to arrest the Earps and Doc. Wyatt replied, in essence, “Not today.” That would not be the end of the Earps’ dealings with this band of cowboys. So what happened next? Find out next month...

*W. M. Montague is a leading Western author with several books currently on the market. His expertise on the subject of the Western world made him our first choice for this column. You can learn more about W.M. Montague and his books by clicking [here](#).*

# KING OF THE WILD WESTERN FRONTIER:

## AN INTERVIEW WITH PAUL L. THOMPSON



So, are you ready to meet the man who makes up a huge percentage of Western sales every single day of the year? Yes? Well... you're meeting him. His name is Paul L. Thompson, and his books have accounted for an estimated 10% of Western sales this year. His sales figures read something like this... thirty MILLION pages over the last twelve months! He's happy, and he has every right to be. Let's meet Paul L.

Thompson—the bona fide “King of the Wild Western Frontier.”

**Paul, it's great to meet you!**

Likewise.

**I know you've written a ton of books— but what is your latest called?**

“Revenge of the Bullet” is my latest release. It's one of the best books I've ever written, and readers seem to be really enjoying it.

**Who is your intended audience and why should they read your books?**

All ages are welcome to read my books. I've never put age limits on reading habits. I think they should read my books if they want Westerns that entertain them. You know a lot of people denounce the Western as dead—but all I ever hear from my readership is that they want more dang Westerns! I love it!

**How did you come to be a writer, anyway?**

I was inspired by my father and great-grandfather. They were huge influences on my decision to become a writer.

**Tell us a little bit about your cover art. Who designed it? Why did you go with that particular style?**

I leave that up to Outlaws Publishing. They show me the covers; if I like what they've come up with, I accept it. They know if I write back and say, “that's great” that it's a go! If I don't, I send them back to the workshop and make them work harder to get the right cover made.

**Who is your favorite character from your books and why?**

M. D. (Shorty) Thompson is by far my personal favorite. If you've read the stories, then you'll know why.

**How about your least favorite character? What makes them less appealing to you?**

I don't really have a least favorite. How can anyone dislike any character that they've created! They're all like my children.

**If you could change ONE thing about your novel, what would it be? Why?**

In hindsight, and this something we are working on currently. I'd actually have my books printed in large print. I think it's important for authors to remember that a large percentage of readers, especially Western readers, are older, and we need to make sure that our books are accessible to those wonderful folks.

**Which other books are similar to your own? What makes them alike?**

Louis L'Amour, of course. I am proud of the fact that every location in my book is a real location. I like everything about my Westerns to ring true.

**Do you have any unique talents or hobbies?**

Writing Western novels is, some would say, my talent. More importantly, it's my hobby, and it keeps me busy for hours. I can't get enough of it.

**How can we contact you or find out more about your books?**

You are very welcome to check out my official website ([OLDWESTNOVELS.COM](http://OLDWESTNOVELS.COM)). You can also email Outlaws Publishing, and don't forget to check out Amazon. You can

see my books there, read my reviews, and find out all about me.

**What can we expect from you in the future?**

More wonderful novels! Seriously! I will be writing more books, promoting those books, making interview appearances, releasing audiobooks and keeping busy.

**What can readers who enjoy your book do to help make it successful?**

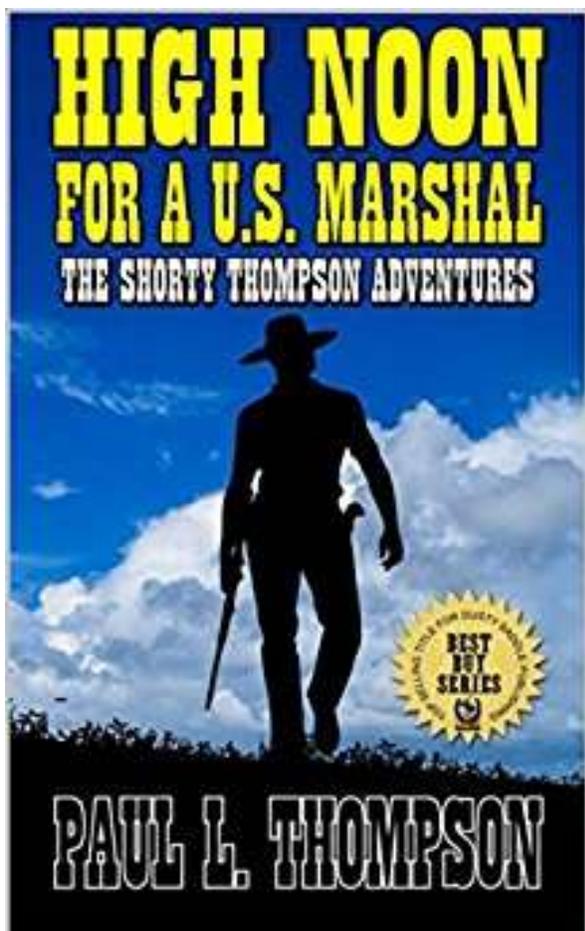
Tell the next person what a wonderful novel you just read. Review the book on Amazon. Review it on Goodreads. Share it on your Facebook wall. Do whatever you can to spread the word that you liked the book. I'd be mighty grateful for your help!

**Do you have any tips for readers or advice for other writers trying to get published?**

Do your research! That's the most important piece of advice I can give. Always do your research.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say?**

There's a lot I'd like to say—but one thing that I really do want to get across to people is that the Westerns are coming back in a big way. More Westerns are sold every day, and if you have a Western in your head, rolling around... work on it and turn it into a story. Then publish it. You won't be disappointed. Writing Westerns is fun, it's healthy and it's gratifying.



*Catch the latest Paul L. Thompson bestseller.  
It's already on the charts!*

# MEET A WESTERN HITMAKER:

## AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN D. FIE, JR.



This interview is with one of the giants of the Western writing world... John D. Fie, Jr! You may already know about his books, "Incident at Benson's Creek," "Luke Pressor: U.S. Marshal," and "Blood on the Plains." These books have been picked up by Western readers, libraries and even bookstores around the world. If you haven't heard of these great books... you may want to check them out by clicking [here](#). If you aren't convinced to buy your copies now, you may be after this interview. Scroll down to learn why Fie is leading the pack when it comes to exciting Western adventures!

**When did you decide to become a writer?**

I've been writing short stories for years, but just as a hobby for my enjoyment, and I never gave it a thought about publishing, until people wanted to see some of the stuff I was writing. I started sharing more and more and kept getting those compliments on how good my writing was and how it should be a book. My wife kept urging me on also for years.

We were on one of our trips across the country in the RV, and I stopped along the Santa-Fe Trail in Kansas. We both wanted to see the wagon ruts that are still visible even today; I got this eerie feeling out there. Like the ghosts who had gone before me were talking to me. My curiosity got piqued, and I started doing research. It was the following year when we were out in Wyoming that hit home when I walked a bit of the Oregon Trail that did it. My mind was made up at that point to sit down and write a book.

**Which writers really inspire you?**

I'm going to surprise you with this answer — it's Stephen King. The man grabs hold of you and won't leave go until he pulls that big surprise at the end of the story. But there are also a lot of others too numerous to list. But Stephen King is the one who inspires me the most.

**Can you tell us about your previous hit Westerns? How did those come about?**

Like I said previously, walking both the Oregon and Santa-Fe Trails got me to sit down and get serious finally. Blood On The Plains was my first book; I have to give a big shout out to J.C. Hulsey and Outlaws Publishing.

Blood On The Plains was first released back in 2014 with a bland looking cover, and it never went anywhere. J.C. wanted me to sign with Outlaws Publishing, and with the urging of Miss Anna, I signed on. The cover got changed and improvements made to the story, and the book re-released in 2015. Don't you know, it shot up onto the best sellers list! Readers wanted more, and I quickly pieced together a short story from out of some of my older short stories that were never previously published.

Luke Pressor: United States Marshal was born. It also joined Blood On The Plains on the best sellers list. At this point, I was saying to myself this can't be possible, but both of those books remained on that bestsellers list for almost all of 2015. People and readers are now really screaming for more, and along came Book 2: Gunfight At Bensons Creek, for what is now called the Blood On The Plains Western action series. Luke Pressor also is the same story; book 2, Pressors Hunt is also currently a series. I'm prouder than a peacock in full bloom at the success of both these sets. Now, maybe I shouldn't say this, but I'm adding a book 3 to both of these series. For The Blood On The Plains Western action series, it will be Renegade's Revenge, some time after the first of the year. The same goes for Luke Pressor. It will be Sudden Justice, and I'm introducing a new character to the series by readers' request. He is Marshal Liam Garrett Kelleher.

Right now I have projects that I'm working on for the remainder of this year. But I just want to let my readers know I read your emails and get your messages.

Outlaws launched my writing career with those best sellers, and we've made a few

changes once again when I signed with Dusty Saddle Publishing, who have now taken these two series and turned them into monster hits around the world, along with my current release, Taylorville Showdown. But I'm reaching down into my bag of tricks once more. I will be releasing yet another book this year. "Guns Along The Weary River." I'm putting the finishing touches on it, and I believe it will move into pre-release sale within the next few weeks.

**Give us an insight into your main character. What does he do that is so special?**

Wow, you're going to get me in trouble with the readers. From the emails I get and the messages I receive from everyone, they all have their own favorite. But Matt Hutchins is the main character in the Blood On The Plains series, and of course Luke Pressor in that series. I have made the sub-characters so likable, everyone has a favorite. Mother Crawford, Clem, and Steven and Martha Beckerman just to name a few.

**What are you working on at the minute?**

I'm enjoying writing this new one, "Guns Along The Weary River."

**What's "Guns Along The Weary River" about?**

A wagon master has decided to build a settlement at a place called the Weary River. Wagon trains crossing the continent have a narrow window in which to get across the river. A lot of exciting things take place. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag just yet.

**What draws you to the Western genre?**

I have always loved the west since I was a child. I watched every Western on TV; read every book I could get my hands on also.

**Which actor/actress would you like to see playing the lead character from your most recent book?**

Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban as Martha and Steven Beckerman in the Pressor Series, Kevin Costner playing Luke Pressor. Then I have a special place for Trace Adkins in my up and coming release with Sudden Justice. Julia Roberts as Sally in the Blood On The Plains series. They're all perfect for those parts. They all ride (except for Trace, I'm not sure if he does or not). But he can play one mean hombre. Have you ever seen a few of the movies he has made? It's too bad we don't have Strother Martin or Bea Arthur anymore. I had Miss Roberts, Bea Arthur, and Strother Martin in mind when I wrote Blood On The Plains and of course Gunfight at Benson's Creek. Miss Arthur is playing the part of Mother Crawford and Mr. Martin as Clem, the livery owner. My wife and I used to play a game, and when we would watch a movie, we would match actors and actresses to one of my stories. Miss Anna called my attention one night to a video she was watching on Facebook to Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban. Just by the way they interact with one another naturally they're the perfect Beckermans. Boy, I could go on and on.

**How much research do you do for your Westerns?**

A lot. Even though it's fiction, the clothes, weapons, and the products they used back when have to be right.

**Have you have written any other novels in collaboration with other writers?**

No novels, but I was asked to write a short story for the Six Bullets To Sundown short story collection for Dusty Saddle Publishing.

**Why did you do decide to collaborate, and did that affect your sales?**

I think it gives readers a chance to get a snapshot look at all the different styles that Western writers have, and I don't think it hurts sales. Taylorville Showdown made it to the best sellers list, as well as a few others.

**Why do you want to write?**

I write because of the fun I get out it, and it's my hobby.

**What made you decide to sit down and start something?**

Out there on the plains, walking those trails, there are stories to tell. The Western genre has massive materials to write about.

**Where do the ideas come from?**

Sometimes I'll see something interesting; it could be an old whiskey bottle or someone can say something. Because writing is my hobby, I have to create a story. You know what I think? It's a challenge. My mind challenges me. I have been thinking about two words a friend challenged me with back at the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016. I've lost sleep thinking about those two words. Those two words: Weary River. In a few weeks I think it is, readers everywhere

will be reading the result of that challenge. "Guns Along The Weary River."

**Do you work on an outline or plot, or do you prefer just to see where an idea takes you?**

I do all three. I could be sitting in a restaurant and an idea pops into my head. Out comes my notebook, and I write it down. At other times, I'll see something and I pull out the phone camera. I have already told you about our little game that Miss Anna and I used to play.

**How do you think you've evolved creatively?**

I think I'm improving with every book I write. You learn something new with every release. When you first start out, you're going in blind. The reviewers can be kind, or they can nail you to the wall. I learn from my mistakes and try not to make them again. Just writing short stories to yourself is one thing, but now I'm writing to an audience—something altogether different.

**What is the hardest thing about writing?**

Staying focused and making sure you're giving the reading public what they can enjoy.

**What was the hardest thing about writing your latest book?**

Writing the book as a short story. My thoughts were taking me way past the short story range. I had to struggle to condense my ideas, so I wrote them all down, studied them and came up with the solution.

**What is the easiest thing about writing?**

For me, it's finding a subject to write about.

**How long on average does it take you to write a book?**

For a novel, a month or two; for what's called a novella, a few weeks.

**Do you ever get writer's block?**

Yes, I think it happens to everyone now and then.

**Any tips on how to get through the dreaded writer's block?**

I just walk away from it and do something else. It comes back when you're not straining yourself to work.

**Do you read much? And, if so, who are your favorite authors?**

I use to, but lately I have been too busy. I read all different kinds of books. You never know what you're going to find in a different genre.

**For your own reading, do you prefer eBooks or traditional paper/hard back books?**

For my reading, I prefer paperback or hardcover; I like to feel the book in my hands.

**What book/s are you reading at present?**

I discovered a new author. I think this is his first book and it's pretty good. It's called South Of The Border by Ryan Fleming. For a

fictional story, he's getting pretty close to reality. I haven't finished it yet. I'm staying focused on what I'm doing for the time being.

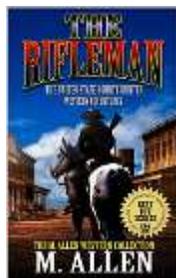
*Looking for a great Western to see you through the holidays? Why don't you grab a copy of "Incident at Benson's Creek" today from Amazon! Just click [here](#) to purchase your copy.*

# THE WESTERNER © TOP TEN FOR NOVEMBER

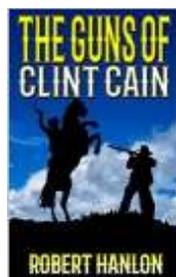
The editors thank our readers for the great response to last month's top ten list. Some of the great books are climbing the list and other new entries are reader favorites.

Enjoy the top ten for November:

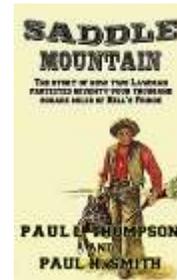
Here are the Western top ten as voted by you, our readers:



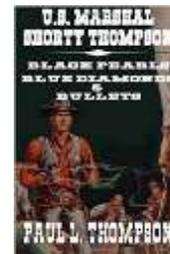
1. **The Rifleman** from M. Allen is this month's lead seller. With some great writing and a great cover, this book is deservedly a number one.



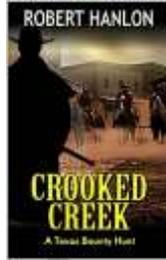
2. Robert Hanlon's **The Guns of Clint Cain** continues to hold the second position. Sales have been heavy for this widely read author, and this book continues the upward trend with readers.



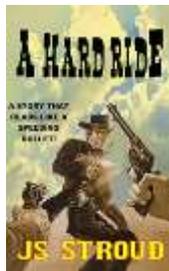
3. Paul Thompson... what else needs to be said? Once more proving his popularity with Western readers. **Saddle Mountain** is one of his best, and tightly ensconced in our third position.



4. At number four this month is another entry by Paul L. Thompson. **Black Pearls, Blue Diamonds, and Bullets** has been moving up quickly and promises to hit the tops of Western charts in the upcoming months. Another Shorty Thompson book, this one has been highly regarded by readers and is one of the renowned author's best yet.



5. Robert Hanlon has established himself as an author whose books are in high demand. **Crooked Creek** is another example of this writer's great slant on the traditional Western. Highly regarded, and well-reviewed, **Crooked Creek** moves up two positions in our chart this month.



6. Author J.S. Stroud brings us the fast moving page-turner **A Hard Ride**. Readers remark that the style and skill of this author make **A Hard Ride** a must-read for Western lovers.

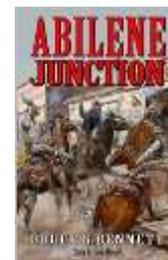


7. On our list for the first time is **The Guns of Pecos County** by David Watts. His first Western was a best-seller and has regained popularity with the overwhelming success of

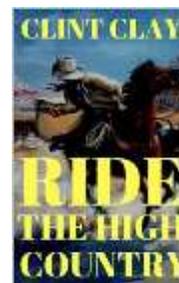
his second novel. Don't miss this great Western favorite!



8. It's easy to see why **Volume 2 of Six Bullets to Sundown** compilation makes the cut. With great stories by Paul L. Thompson, John D. Fie, and Clint Clay, this is a must-read for Western genre enthusiasts. The format is short stories and the buzz from readers is great!



9. **Abilene Junction** moves up one position in our top ten. Sales of this highly criticized new entry by author John Wesley have been brisk. The book is based on the Gabriel Torrent series by Bruce G. Bennett. Readers will find **Abilene Junction** runs tangent from most successful Westerns.

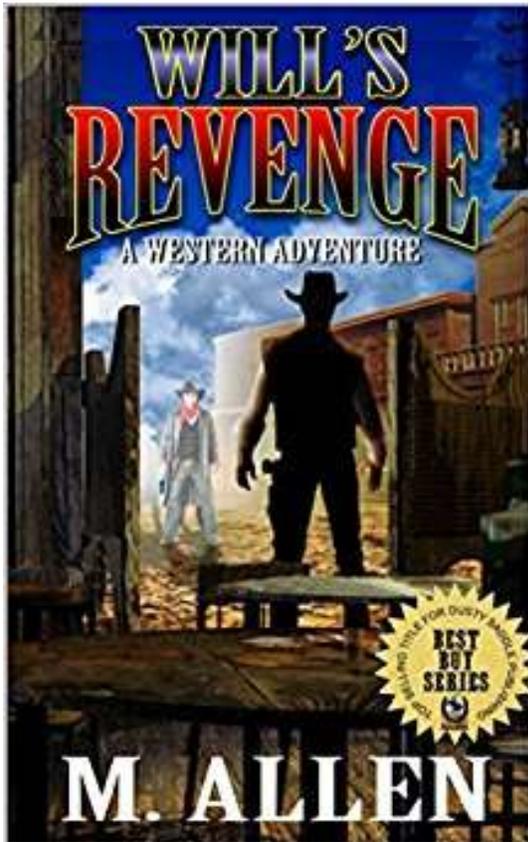


10. **Ride the High Country** by Clint Clay takes the final position in our top ten this month. The fast moving and bone jarring bronco ride will leave the reader wanting more of this popular Western writer. Grab a copy and sit down to one of the best Western novels this year!

Send your favorites and comments to [dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com). We want to hear from our readers.

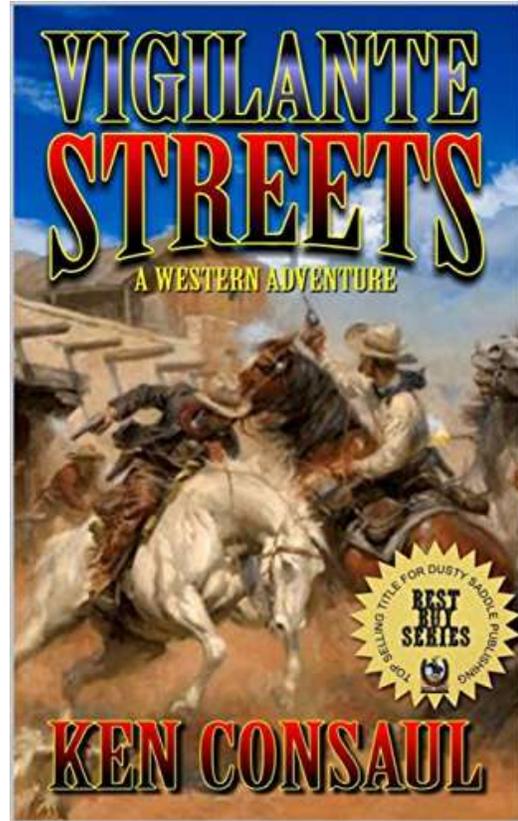
# REVIEW CORNER

WITH LON HAMILTON



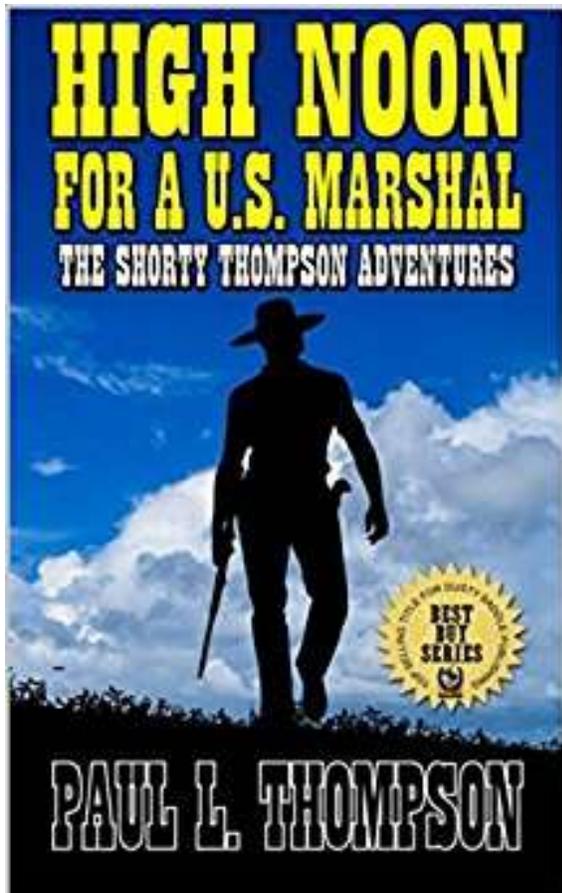
## “Will’s Revenge” – M. Allen

The latest release from M. Allen is a brand new Western collection. Allen, currently in the top 100, kicks, punches and shoots in this adventure that will please Western readers. The style is excellent, the story is gripping and readers are going to love this new adventure. Westerner magazine rates “[Will’s Revenge](#)” as a four-star read.



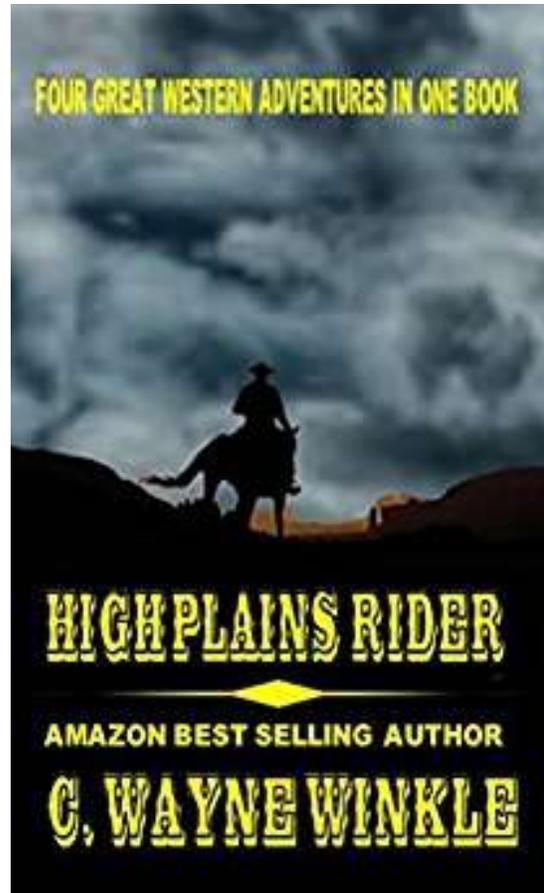
## “Vigilante Streets” – Ken Consaul

This new release from Ken Consaul takes the traditional Western and gives it a touch of the Consaul magic. A cracking good read from one of the most interesting writers of 2017. Josh Bonner and Zack Hammel arrive in the transient town of San Francisco. Soon they are dragged into action and, at the urging of Elizabeth, are forced to fight to keep the streets of San Francisco safe. This is “Vigilante Streets”—the new action-packed Western adventure from the bestselling author of “Hangtown.” Draw your gun and walk gently through the dangerous streets of San Francisco. Westerner magazine rates “[Vigilante Streets](#)” as a five-star read.



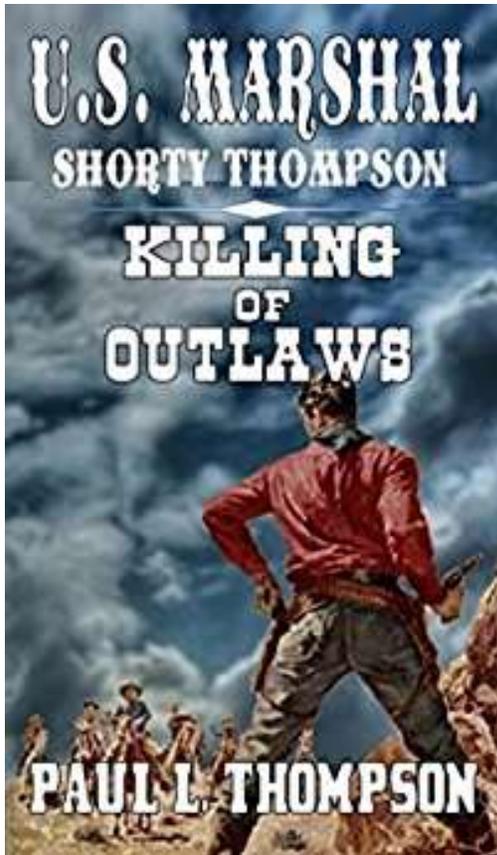
**“High Noon For A U.S. Marshal” – Paul L. Thompson**

Three great Paul L. Thompson adventures in one value release. This set might be one of the most entertaining of the year so far. Thompson readers are going to really love this collection. This reviewer rates “U.S. Marshal” as the strongest story in the collection—but there ain’t a bad one here. You’ll love this latest Thompson offering. Westerner rates [“High Noon For A U.S. Marshal”](#) as a four-star read.



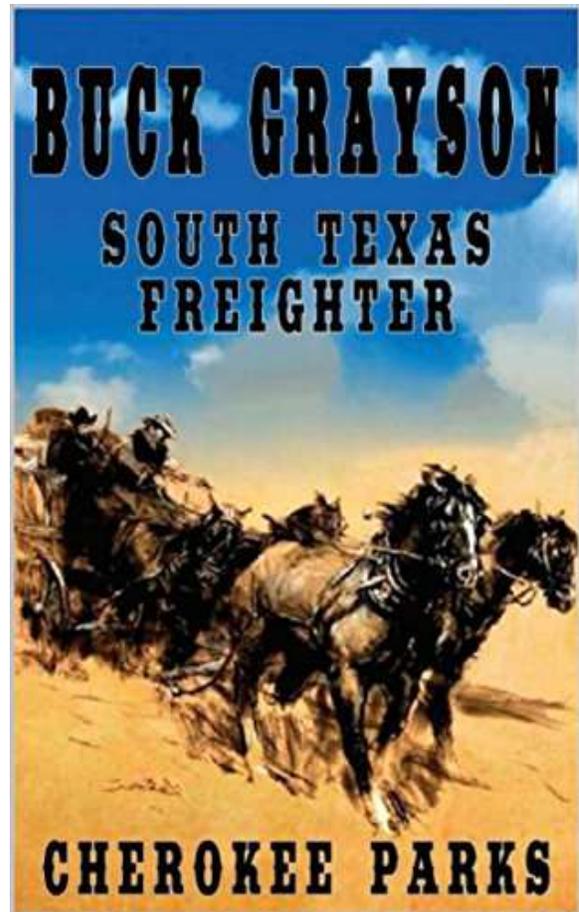
**“High Plains Rider” – C. Wayne Winkle**

A major release from the lucky writer who held the number one spot on the Western chart earlier this month. This is “High Plains Rider.” A new collection of several of C. Wayne Winkle’s previous novels. All of these were bestsellers at one point or another, and all have that Winkle magic that makes his books some of the most acclaimed in the industry. If you just finished “Frank Bannon – The Fixer,” you’ll want to pick up “High Plains Rider” and discover these golden Winkle novels. You’ll love them! Westerner rates [“High Plains Rider”](#) as a five-star read and Westerner’s pick of the week.



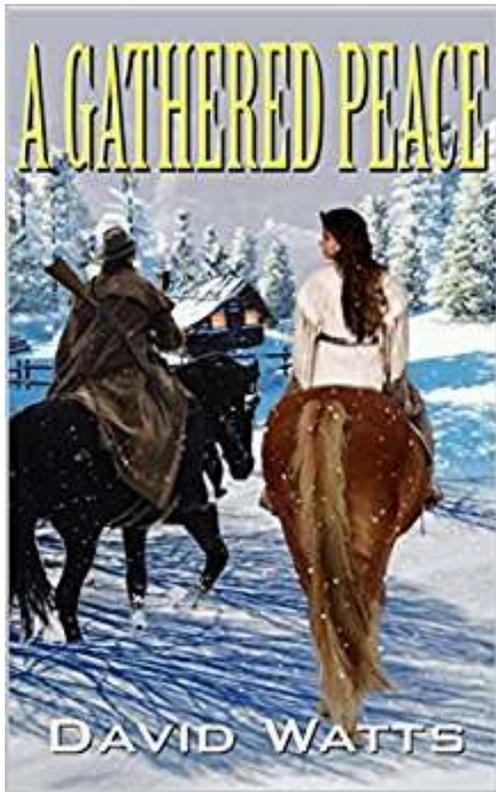
“Killing of Outlaws” – Paul L. Thompson

The latest Paul L. Thompson release from Outlaws Publishing says a lot about the writer. Here is a man who can turn out book after book and still find an original story to tell. Thompson is the biggest cat in town—and he’s showing no signs of vacating his throne. “Killing of Outlaws” is the usual Thompson magic—crime and punishment with a little bit of love thrown in for good measure. If you loved his previous releases, you’re going to love this new one. If you’re new to Thompson—you’ll love it too because it proves the boy has heaps of talent. Westerner rates “[Killing of Outlaws](#)” a four-star read.



“Buck Grayson: South Texan Freighter”– Cherokee Parks

A recent signing to Dusty Saddle Publishing—a shrewd signing perhaps? Cherokee Parks has managed to turn out two books over the last couple of months—both are high value reads and show the versatility of this great new Western storyteller. He’s the Burl Ives of the Western business. If there’s a story worth reading, Parks tells it. Grab this book. Westerner rates “[Buck Grayson](#)” as a four-star read.



### **"A Gathered Peace"- David Watts**

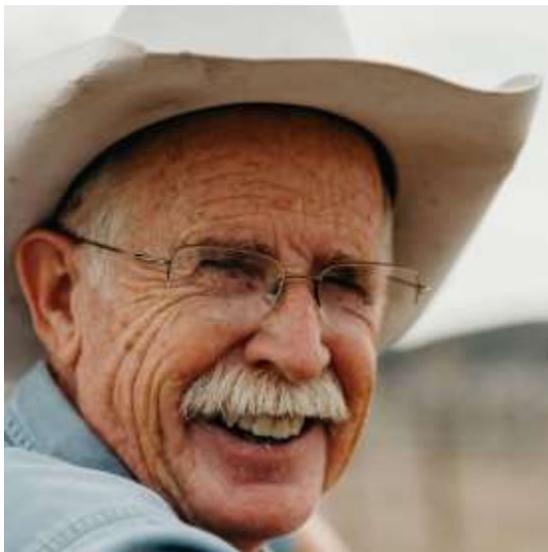
David Watts has turned out another winning Western with the third book in his popular Pecos series. He has slowed the pace a little with this one—but the melodramatic story grabs the reader by the eyes and reels them in hook, line and sinker. Westerner rates "[A Gathered Peace](#)" as a four-star read.

\*\*\*\*\*

To request a book review, or to have your book featured in an upcoming issue of Westerner, please email our friendly team of booklovers directly at [dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:dustysaddlepublishing@gmail.com)

# THE MOVIE MAN!

WITH MARK BAUGHER



Last month, I left off with a promise to tell you about the premiere of my movie, C-Bar. It took eight months to film the movie and another eight months to edit what we had. Believe me when I say this, editing is an art form. This was my first experience with making movies, and I soon figured out that anyone can be an actor, but very few can edit it all together and make it an experience worth watching. Weaving the story together and using music that tells the story at the

same time is like speaking a romance language.

We were finally thinking we had the movie as good as the movie was going to be. Problem was, by that time, we were so familiar with all the scenes, we had lost our ability to feel what was going on. I decided to show it to people in my living room, and the response was what we wanted. Then you start thinking, *what else are they going to say?* We know each other. They don't want to tell me it stinks. All we could do then was set up the Premiere at the Elks Theater in Prescott. It's a beautiful early nineteen-hundreds theater. If you are older, like me, you can think back on those kinds of places. Very ornate and bigger than life. A place to draw people and take them away from the real world.

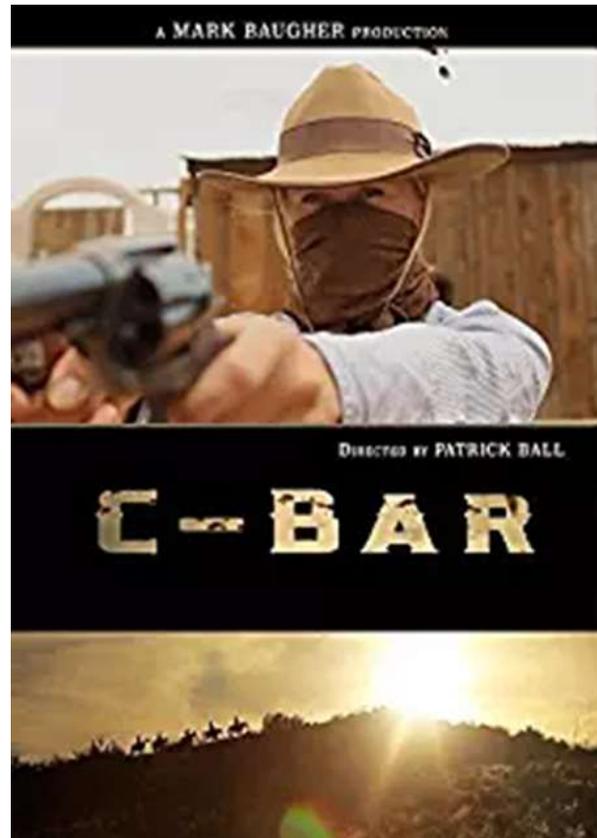
We worked the community for a month to make sure we filled the seats. Television and radio interviews. Posters downtown. The time came to open up the advance ticket sales. We sold out the first morning. Five hundred seats and then it was standing room only. The pressure was on to make it a big night. Talented people usually have several expressions of their art. We lined up people who were actors in the movie to sing before the movie started. I did a warm up on the crowd. Then the curtain

went up and the movie started. I was so nervous, I could hardly sit still, so I went to the lobby. Ten minutes into the movie, six people walked out. They looked at me and told me I should go to church. Oh, boy, my heart sank. The movie was getting to the end, so Patrick Ball and I went backstage. We planned to walk out and take our bows. As the credits started to run, I looked at Patrick and we thought about running out the back door. I said to him, "Patrick, they just may throw tomatoes at us," but then the crowd started clapping. We got brave enough then to walk out on the stage. The crowd was giving a standing ovation. I remember thinking that this was probably my fifteen minutes of fame. It was good to be us that evening.

Two days later, a check arrived for five thousand dollars. I called the donor to ask what it was for, and he said he just wanted to help. In total, we received fourteen thousand dollars from people. In my fantasies, I was hoping for C-Bar to be a hit, but I never thought people would give us money. We now had some money and big plans. Next month, I will tell you what happened in the next four theaters.

Homework assignment: Go to Amazon and watch our movie. That's all, just watch it. I will be giving a test

afterwards. If you want extra credit, watch it twice. Just click on the book cover to see the movie!



# COSTA RICA THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL!

BY DENNIS HAMBRIGHT



I was sitting at the coffee shop last Saturday morning, reading the newspaper and sipping on a hot mug of black coffee. Then, after glancing around at the other patrons a bit, something struck me as a little odd. I started to realize that I was somewhat of a square peg waiting for someone to pound me into a round hole.

I'd left my cell phone out in the car and didn't have a laptop or any other electronic gizmo propped open in front of me, and considering that the rest of my café-company all seemed to be plugged-

in and connected, I was starting to feel a little naked. Who would have ever thought that snapping the pages of an actual ink-on-paper daily publication wasn't cool anymore?

There was a family of four at the table across from my booth. The dad was watching some kind of sports live-streamed on his iPhone. Mama was scrolling thorough Facebook on her device, and the two kiddos were either playing some sort of video game or texting friends. I watched them all for a good fifteen minutes, and not once did one of them say a single word to one of the others.

Thinking this might be an interesting sociological challenge, I decided to test the waters and see if there was a pulse anywhere among 'em.

I peeled off a page of comics from my newspaper and offered it to the little boy. He looked like he might be five or six years old, and I figured that was prime territory for a little 'Charlie Brown.'

"Hey, partner. You want the funnies?"

"The what?" he said, looking up with an irritated scowl. I think my intrusion might have caused him to miss 'crushing a candy' or killing a zombie.

Mom looked up and smiled, but her finger never stopped scrolling across her phone's screen. Dad completely ignored me, and the teenage daughter smirked and said, "Yeah, right."

I had to wonder if we'd all finally gone off to that dire 'hell-in-a-handbasket' place that I used to hear the old folks warning us all about when I was a youngster myself.

Believing that there might be some more welcoming humanity somewhere on down the road, I paid my check and drove about two miles to my favorite little city park.



Once I got there, I sat in the front seat of my pickup for a moment and studied the place. Sure enough, there are slides and swings and all manner of climbing apparatus for rambunctious kids to hang off, and there's even a sidewalk that runs around the perimeter for joggers and bicycle riders to enjoy. There's picnic tables and barbecue grills and two covered pavilions for family get-togethers. But the real treasure is that five-acre watery oasis right in the big middle of it all.

They call it a 'city lake', but anyone who knows anything knows that if it ain't got boats, then it's a pond. And, no, those

bright yellow and orange hard plastic kayaks that they rent at the snack shop don't count as true lake-craft.

The water's not too deep, and this time of the year the moss is thick in the shallows. There's no swimming allowed, and fishing is catch-and-release only. But still, it's there for fishing, and that's what makes it so special.

Now let me ask you a question, and I want you to think about it real hard before you answer, because being from-the-gut-honest is what makes this all really hit home.

Have you ever, in your entire life, seen a kid with a fish wiggling around on the end of his fishing pole who wasn't giggling and grinning from ear-to-ear?



Well, if you say that you have, then I think you're just flat telling a big old fib.

It's impossible. It's a law of nature. It's like the sun rising in the east, or the tide pulling high with the rising moon, or your wife getting cranky if you don't put the toilet seat down.

It doesn't matter if it's their first catch or their hundredth. A kid's face just lights up like Christmas morning when they catch a fish. And friend, unless you've got ice water running through your veins and a lump of coal in your chest where your heart ought to be, then you'll light up just as brightly as that child does when you see the purity of true happiness on their face.

Now let me clear up one thing right here. It doesn't necessarily have to be a little kid. It can be a teenager, or even a kid-at-heart who's hit adulthood themselves. Or, hey, maybe your wife, or mother, or yes, even a mother-in-law. None of them will be able to resist letting a little giggle slip, even if all they've got is a two-inch perch squirming around on the end of the line. And if you've got grandkids, and you haven't taken the time to teach them how to fish, then brother, you're missing out on one of life's true treasures.

Bottom line - there's just something about fishing that brings the joy of childhood out in all of us.

I've written a lot about travel to exotic locales around the world - about adventure in paradise and exploring new frontiers. I've crossed a lot of borders in my life and been blessed in seeing things

that a lot of people never have the opportunity to see. But the truth is, the older I get, when I look back on all the things that have made the most lasting memories in my lifetime, the times that I spent fishing with my dad, especially when I was a young boy, are the happiest and most lasting memories of all.

If you stuck a sharp stick to my ribs and threatened to run-me-through unless I could tell you how much Dad's weekly paycheck was back when I was a growing up, or how much his car cost, or what type of designer duds he wore to work, then I guess I'd just end up with a stick stuck through me, because I don't have a clue about any of those things. As a kid, in the grand scheme of things, that type of stuff just didn't matter.

But if you were to ask me to tell you about one of our bass fishing trips to Lake O' The Pines in East Texas, or cat fishing in my grandfather's farm pond, or trolling for stripers on Lake Texhoma, or cranking in my first six-pound largemouth on Lake Tawakoni, some forty-five years ago, I could give you more details than you could ever imagine.



To this day, I still remember the smell of bait fish in shallow coves, and how the water ripples when a big fish rolls to the surface, and the first time I saw a rain storm working its way across open water. I remember that deep pride of accomplishing something special when we'd pull up to the dock and lift a heavy stringer of fish up out of the live well, and how the other men would look at us and smile, knowing themselves just how special it really was.

Most of all, I remember that connection that my dad and I had when we were on

the water together. All those differences that get between fathers and sons just didn't seem to matter when we had fishing rods in our hands.

I suppose the point is you don't have to travel to some exotic locale to make lifelong memories of adventure. With something as simple as a cheap rod-and-reel combo, a can of worms, and someone to share a summer afternoon with at a local fishing hole, you can make travel memories that will last a lifetime, without even having to leave town.

*Dennis Hambright has written the definitive insider's guide to hit the ground running like a local in San José, Costa Rica. With his Amazon #1 Best Selling ['Day by Day in San José,'](#) Hambright proves that he isn't just another wannabe who declared himself a local expert.*

*He lives there, works there, speaks the language, and understands the culture and the people. He digs into all the nooks and crannies when it comes to getting around town like a local, and on how to get the best bang for your buck. Hambright peels back the puffy veneer that most travel writers hide behind and exposes the city like none other, covering everything from where to eat, play, workout, shop, and even where to wash your undies. Whether you're there for a day, a week, a month, or fall in love with the place and decide to stay, this is definitely the guide you don't want to be without.*



# UNITED STATES MARSHAL HISTORY

by Fred Staff

I feel very lucky to have run into a man who is a walking and talking lover of the Old West and also is located close to the focal point where so much Western history originated. Ray Shelley eats and breathes the history around Fort Smith, and he has so many contacts who are on the same plane. He has agreed to share another of his historical stories. He has also promised me stories from some of his other Western lovers who have been volunteers or re-enactors and know their stories like they were there and part of it.

Fred Staff

U.S. MARSHALS FILES

Recently, my wife and I were on a road trip. As most road trips, we like to pass the time talking. Today we were reminiscing about our youth. I mentioned when I was a young boy, some Saturday afternoons I would be at the movie house with my popcorn and Coke, watching a group of men with white hats and shiny badges on their shirts, chasing black hats for some illegal act they had committed. The white hats were U.S. Deputy Marshals. My wife asked, "What is the difference in the rank structure among the Old West lawmen"? Oh, what an opportunity she gave me to do what I love to do best: TALK.

Well, I said, you have the sheriff who was the chief law enforcement officer of the county, voted into office by the people of the county. The town marshal was appointed by the mayor, or sometimes elected by the voters. Then you have the United States Marshal who is appointed by the President of the United States.

The Marshal Service is the first federal law enforcement agency in the United States. In 1789, the first order of business for the new Continental Congress was to create the Judiciary Act, which established the Federal Judicial System that included federal judges, clerks, and marshals.

September 24, 1789, President George Washington signed the act into law. September 26, President Washington started appointing marshals to the thirteen colonies. The president knew a new law enforcement agency introduced to the colonies might meet with some resentment, so he selected men who were American Revolutionary war veterans and liked by the community.

Duties of the marshal include paying fees to the clerks, jurors, U.S. attorneys, and witnesses. Also, renting the courtroom and jail space, hiring bailiffs and janitors. Plus, making sure the prisoners, witness, and jurors are present in court on time. Marshals were allowed to hire as many deputies as they deemed necessary to complete their task. The deputies would serve warrants, subpoenas, summons, and would gather evidence of a crime for prosecution. The marshal service took the National Census until 1870.

A dark side of the marshal service was with the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The act enforced the law of recovery and arrest, of any runaway slaves. If the marshals failed to comply with the law, they were financially penalized.

The first marshal killed in the line of duty was Robert Forsyth, in January of 1794. Forsyth was President Washington's appointed marshal of Georgia. Forsyth

and two deputies went to the home of a Mrs. Dixon, where Beverly Allen and his brother William were visiting, to serve an arrest warrant on a civil case filed in the federal court. Mrs. Dixon allowed the three lawmen into her home. As soon as Forsyth identified himself, the Allen brothers ran upstairs, with Forsyth right behind them. The brothers made it to their room and closed the door. When Forsyth started to enter the room, Beverly Allen shot through the door hitting Forsyth in the head, killing him instantly.

Since the killing of Robert Forsyth, there have been at least 287 officers killed in the line of duty.

Fast forward to the last half of the 19th century and the territories served by the marshal service.

I am most interested in Indian Territory (current day Oklahoma). It was considered the most violent and dangerous territory of all the American territories.

At any given time, there were 200 deputies seeking law breakers in an area that encompassed approximately 74,000 miles of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory, presided over by Judge Isaac C. Parker, the Federal judge for the Western District. In Glenn Shirley's

book, Law West of Fort Smith, he quoted Judge Parker as saying, "Without these men, I could not hold court a single day."

The deputy marshals were paid on a fee system. They were paid six cents a mile going, two dollars to serve a warrant, and ten cents a mile on their return trip. So, to make it worth their while, the deputies would spend weeks in Indian Territory, gathering as many criminals as they could. With all the hardships their job incurred, an average yearly salary was around 500 dollars.

My wife asked, "With the rate of inflation, what would the yearly salary be today?" I said, "Five hundred dollars in 1880 would be around 12,600 a year in 2016, according to the inflation calculator." I continued, "Deputies like Bass Reeves, Heck Thomas, and James Mershon were very prolific in their pursuit of the bad guys, and at time would make around 750.00 dollars a year." One of the other areas of making money was arresting criminals with a bounty on their head. The deputies could not collect on a federal bounty, because of being federal employees, but anything else was fair game. [It should be noted here that Bass Reeves once collected a five-thousand-dollar bounty for the capture of two brothers.]

"BRING 'EM BACK DEAD OR ALIVE" was only a Hollywood movie catch phrase. In reality, if the deputy killed a prisoner, not only would he lose his pay for mileage and warrant fee, he would have to foot the bill for the prisoner's burial if no relative could be located to pay funeral expenses. At six cents a mile, they would have to do a lot of riding just to pay that expense.

This is just a glimpse into the United States Marshal Service. I hope to expound on the exploits of the marshals in future articles, especially as they help to bring law and order to Western Arkansas and Indian Territory in the second half of the 19th century.

"So, that, my dear, is the difference between the law enforcement agencies of the Old West."

When I looked over to get a response, my wife's eyes were closed and her head was gently resting on the pillow against the passenger side window.

\*\*\*

Thank you, Ray, for another great addition to the history site!

Parts of this were taken from the files of the U.S. Marshal Service. To the readers, let it be known again that they are in the process of building the National U.S.

Marshal Museum in Fort Smith, and I am sure that it will be of high interest to the lovers of the Old West.

I know that Ray will add more of his great stories and insight to the history site and we all appreciate his input.

I might add that when we are talking about the U.S. Marshals in Indian Territory that not all were upright and honorable men. Many were wanted by the law before they became marshals, or turned lawless during or after their service.

A man who I had the privilege of meeting in my early days was Frank Eaton. He lived in Perkins, Oklahoma and as far as I know may have been the youngest person to serve as a U.S. marshal. He became a marshal at the age of sixteen and served with great honor. He became known as "Pistol Pete" and in his later years became the mascot of both Oklahoma State University.

To give an example of the lack of honor of some of these marshals, when Oklahoma City and Guthrie, Oklahoma were being settled by the land runs, the marshals were there to keep people from staking early claims. It seems that many staked their claims before the run. There was no one there to prevent it, as they were the only law in town. Frank Eaton

was an exception; he bought a quarter section just south of Perkins and lived in that area for most of his life.

Frank's story is one of great adventure. He was cock-eyed and to look at him you would think that there was no way he was a crack shot, but he got into the marshal service because he was recommended by an army colonel who had used him to outshoot all comers from other posts. He wouldn't allow him to join the army because of his age and sent him to see if he could join the marshal service. They were desperate for men and hired him on.

Why did he want to be so involved with shooting? It seems that his father had been murdered by six men, and the father's neighbor told him that if he was any kind of a man, he would hunt them down and kill them. He did just that and killed five of them. The sixth only escaped his bullets by getting killed by someone else. His story is in my books, YOUNG BASS REEVES and BASS REEVES, LAWMAN. I have also had the privilege of meeting with many members of his family, and I feel that there are few Western writers who have had the honor of writing about a true Western hero, whom they have actually met.

# DRAWING CHRISTMAS BY JUDY MASTRANGELO

## Drawing Angels for the Holiday Season

I love to draw and paint Angels, since they are such spiritual beings and always symbolize uplifting inspirational feelings. I thought you would like to see a simple and delightful way to depict Angels, especially since it is now the holiday season.



I often start my artwork first by picturing it in my mind's eye. I call this "Mind Painting." Closing my eyes, I relax and think about the subject I want to draw or paint. Eventually the vision will appear. Thinking of the theme of Angels is sheer delight, of course. And I also often get inspiration from great artists of the past. In this instance, there are many wonderful artists of the Italian Renaissance who did amazingly beautiful Angel paintings, such as Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, and Michelangelo, whose work I love.

I enjoy doing many types of themes, and Christmas art is a wonderful treat for me to create. Fairies are another type of spiritual being, like angels, and I've created several Christmas fairies, such as my WINTER FAIRY.



Of course, I also enjoy painting Santas and other Christmas images. Why don't you try your hand at drawing some Christmas artwork also? You can decorate your home with them, and make your own greeting cards, etc.



I show in these examples how I begin a preliminary drawing before I start a painting. I first break my picture that I want to paint into basic shapes, such as circles, rectangles, and lines. You can see examples of these in my ANGEL, WINTER FAIRY, SANTA, and my SLEIGH.



EBOOKS, HARDCOVER FANTASY, and fun-filled ACTIVITY books for the entire family. I'm also now developing a wonderful series of creative COLORING BOOKS for both adults and children. They will have themes such as: FANTASY, ELVES and FAIRIES, ANGELS, FAIRY TALES, LANDSCAPES and FLOWERS, and WHIMSICAL ANIMALS. You can get an idea of my current books in print on my website book page:

<https://judymastrangelo.com/portfolio/books>

/

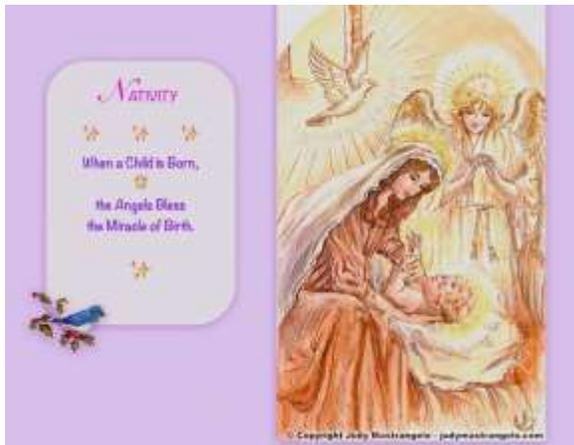
And so, I wish all of you and yours a very **Merry Christmas**, and a Happy and Healthy **New Year!**

To find out more about my artwork please visit my website at:

[www.judymastrangelo.com](http://www.judymastrangelo.com)

While you're there, please sign up for my newsletter to discover what's happening in my magical world:

<http://judymastrangelo.com/newsletter/>



\*\*\*\*\*

I speak about my painting techniques in my book, "PAINTING FAIRIES AND OTHER FANTASIES." I think you will find it interesting.

In it there are also some downloadable tutorials which are very helpful.

<https://judymastrangelo.com/books-2/painting-fairies-other-fantasies/>

My books are going to be published by DSP very soon, under the new imprint title of "IMAGINATION BOOKS." They will include many exciting titles in several formats, including AUDIO BOOKS,



## GARY VASEY'S WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL

### **Is It All in Your Head?**

If we were to conduct a poll, we would find that a growing number of people believe in the paranormal, yet a substantial number simply still cannot accept something they can't see or haven't experienced. Interest in the paranormal is probably at a record high, driven to this peak by TV shows and podcasts on the net. There are any number of paranormal investigation TV shows these days and a whole host of 'personalities' who have earned their fame chasing things that go bump in the night. I am of the growing belief that whether you believe or not dictates to a large degree whether you experience

something, and I will go even further and say that if you hold a séance with a strong disbeliever, their presences can be enough to ensure nothing at all happens.

If you read my last column, you will be somewhat familiar with this idea. But what if the paranormal experience is something that happens to us and us alone? What if we experience our own reality and that reality is dictated by your belief system? Take this kind of experience, for example—consider this encounter....

\*\*\*

This took place several years ago when I was staying with a friend of mine and her family in Maine. Her parents had a summer place out there, and I would go there with them quite often.

We were in my friend's bedroom when I saw something walk past the window. This was a second-floor bedroom, so I was quite shocked to see something go past a window so high up. I didn't get much of a look at it—but I know it was completely white – pale, even.

After that, I tried to tell myself I hadn't seen anything. My friend didn't seem to be bothered by it, so we both spent the afternoon reading and talking together.

The next day, we were outside and I had forgotten about the bedroom incident. We were in the garden when I quite felt strange—sick to my stomach. I wanted to go inside straight away. My friend wanted to stay outside, but she gave in, and we went back to her bedroom. I was looking out of the window when I saw him. There was a man standing in the garden wearing all black and a black hat, looking up at me in the bedroom. He waved at me and I saw his eyes. They were completely black. After the wave, he lifted the hat from his head and beckoned me to come to him. I stood completely still and did nothing.

He stood there for a few seconds and then just faded away, still smiling. I didn't see him again—but I knew he was bad news. The way he waved at me was creepy.

A few years later, I asked my friend about that incident, and she didn't seem to remember anything about it. She said that she had never seen any such man in that area. Their neighbors were all families. There were few older people in the area. I have no idea who he was, or what he wanted.

Submitted by Louise S., Florida

\*\*\*

Reading that story, one gets the feeling that this was a personal experience – something that happened only to Louise S. in her reality. In the next example, it is more obvious that only the person telling the story experienced the strange man.

\*\*\*

I hadn't heard of the BEK until recently. I also came across reports of BEK adults – this happened in 1976 when I was 18yrs. Back then, I was confident, fun-loving and didn't scare easily.

My friend and I decided on a week's holiday in London. We had saved for months as had intended on going to a show, nightclubs and buying fashionable clothes. We were on our way to do the latter when this happened—

We excitedly clambered on to the tube, looking forward to hitting the fashionable boutiques, took our seats, chattering about shoes, dresses, etc. I happened to look up, and on the next section of seats, facing me was a thin man with a long face. He had black hair, pale waxy skin and small black eyes. He sat impassively staring at me with no expression whatsoever. I felt a thud of panic which grew into complete terror, and regardless of the

amount of people on that tube, I had the feeling of being completely alone and in terrible danger. I tried telling my friend who was oblivious, and she kept saying, "Where? Where? I don't see him?" What?! You can't see him? You can't bloody miss him! – I wanted to scream but for some odd reason I felt I had to keep quiet and avoid his gaze. I don't know how I managed that short journey. I dragged my friend off the tube and made a rush to the lift in a blind panic. I would be safe when out of the Underground and in the daylight. Huddled in the busy lift, praying the doors would close, I almost collapsed in terror when there he was in the lift also. No emotion, black eyes watching me – I turned and whimpered to my friend that he was standing in the corner. She said there was nobody with that description there. I kept my head bowed. There was an air of menace and nobody was aware of it. I pushed my way out when the lift doors opened, then turned to check where he was – he didn't come out the lift. There was only the 1 floor ... He had vanished!

What puzzles me is why didn't my friend see him? Why was she so oblivious to my distress? She knew I wasn't an irrational person. When I tried to explain, she said she couldn't

remember me speaking!?! It was as though I was in a bubble with that man and anyone outside of it was unaware of the great threat and danger ... It was awful – who was he?

Submitted by Elizabeth Mac

\*\*\*

Here is yet one more example....

The bar was packed six people deep, loud music, and what looked like no end to the drink callouts. My husband, Jim, looked up and saw a tall man slowly approaching the bar. He was approx. 6 ft. 5 in. tall with long, straight black hair. He wore black trousers, t-shirt, and long black coat. Jim said it was as if the crowd parted for this man as he slowly walked straight up to the bar, smack bang in front of Jim's frozen gaze.

He quietly ordered bourbon. When Jim looked up at this huge man, he noticed his eyes were completely black. Jim turned to make the drink and glanced in the mirror, looking at the black-eyed man just staring back.

Jim mustered enough courage to turn and give him the drink.

Jim said he felt great fear at first while in his presence. He knew this man was staring at him, but he didn't want to

make eye contact, but felt compelled not to feel fear.

The large black-eyed man knocked back the bourbon and disappeared into the crowd. Jim, for unknown reason, had a feeling to run after him for what he believes was to ask the large man what he wanted, what he was doing there, or who he was he after. Jim moved as quickly as he could through crowd of people on two levels of the club to get to the front door.

The strange man was nowhere in sight. Jim asked the security staff, but no one saw him leave. No bar staff saw the huge black-eyed man. No one. Jim was baffled how the barman next to him did not see him, nor did any of the regulars at the bar. Security tapes also showed nothing. What the hell did Jim see?

\*\*\*

Perhaps a better question might be why did only Jim see this man?

I have collected hundreds of stories of paranormal encounters via my website at [www.myhauntedlifetoo.com](http://www.myhauntedlifetoo.com) and there do seem to be a lot in which only the person recounting the experience saw whatever it was that they think they saw. In other instances, it is a group of people who are perhaps sharing an experience together. It struck me that some of these

experiences might be explained as taking place in that person's or that group of people's realities and only their reality. One story that started me thinking this way involved what appears to be a time slip.

\*\*\*

It started in 1986 when we moved to Texas. Rather than flying, my husband thought it would be nice to drive since I had never seen that part of the country. My husband had made this trip several times to see family in Gainesville. He always went the same route when he visited but this time he decided to try something new. It was, apparently, a more scenic way to get to our destination.

We were just on the Texan border when my husband realized that we were running low on gas and we had not seen a gas station for some time. The road we were traveling was deserted with not even a house in sight. I remember that there was a deep curve in the road, and that both sides of the road were surrounded by trees that formed a canopy over the road. I remember that it offered a slight reprieve from the heat. As we got into the full curve, the road suddenly straightened out and the canopy of trees was gone.

At the end of the curve was a very small and old-fashioned gas station with two of the oldest looking gas pumps I had ever seen. I remember seeing bear hides hanging on a wooden fence. As my husband stepped out of the car, a young kid who looked as though he was about eleven appeared from nowhere. He was dirty, barefooted and wearing overalls with one clip missing and hanging down in front. As my husband talked to the boy, I decided to go into the store and get something cold to drink. But what I found there I will never forget. There were two cases of Coca-Cola sitting on the floor in front of the counter. Nothing unusual about that except the bottles were very old, covered with at least a half-inch of dust and cobwebs. The counter had a very old cash register, the kind that you pulled a handle to run it or add totals. It too was covered with dust.

The most interesting thing was a really big cookie jar that sat on the counter with cookies inside. The jar was like the rest, covered with dust and cobwebs and no evidence of any disturbance. The store was extremely dark and musty smelling, and as my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I noticed that hundreds of what appeared to be animal hides were hanging

everywhere. That is when I decided it was time to get out of that place.

When I got back outside, my husband had finished pumping gas and was engaged in conversation with the boy. It was at this time that I noticed something else about the boy: all of his teeth that I could see were filed to sharp points, like a carnivore's. The short time that I stood there, I noticed that the boy kept looking at my husband's stomach and smiling. He was trying to convince my husband to go fishing with him. My husband asked him where he lived, and he pointed to a cliff, but we saw no houses. I told my husband we needed to go, and the boy kept begging my husband to go fishing.

I got in the car and waited about two seconds before yelling at my husband. He finally told the boy he had better go before he got in trouble with me. As we drove away, neither one of us spoke for several minutes, then we turned and looked at each other and let out a sigh of relief, as if we had just escaped with our lives.

We drove about 20 minutes down the road and stopped at a cafe. As we sat down at the table, we noticed that the placemat was one of those paper mats that shows a little map of the area. We tried to find the gas station on the map,

but failed. We decided to ask the waitress about the little gas station. We were totally shocked at her reply. She said that there wasn't a gas station in that direction for at least two hours, and she had lived in the area all of her life; even the name did not sound familiar to her. She told us the heat had probably gotten to us and we should remember to drink plenty of water.

\*\*\*

Plainly, the couple jointly experienced something very strange. The encounter seems like a time slip or even an experience with a parallel universe. Finally, in making my point, take a look at this story.

\*\*\*

It was a Monday morning and it had snowed heavily overnight. I usually started work at 8:30 and it was already 8:15, so I would at least be 30 minutes late by the time I got there. I noticed that I was low on gas so I stopped at the little town gas station on the corner of 138. As I sat there waiting for the attendant, I noticed that the town was curiously silent. I figured the lack of people driving around was due to the snow.

The older man who ran the station came out and I told him that I could

only afford \$5 in gas. He kindly offered to put \$10 in the tank and when I got paid, I could come back and pay the remaining. I told him that it was very generous and that I would make stop in on Wednesday when I got paid. He said that was fine and I drove off.

The following Wednesday evening I stopped at the gas station to pay the balance.

I walked in and there were two gentlemen standing there talking among themselves. I mentioned that I owed the older man money from him pumping gas on Monday morning. The two men looked at me like I had 3 heads. One of them said that it was impossible for me to have gotten any gas because the station was closed all day. I told him that I didn't have a receipt of any kind to prove it and then made a statement: "Did it not snow on Monday?"

He said yes, but that wasn't why they were closed; they were closed because the older man had died on Sunday night.

I said that it was impossible because he pumped my gas Monday morning and gave me \$5 extra dollars' worth. I also mentioned to the older man that I

would be back on Wednesday to pay the balance due.

The attendant checked the register and found a receipt from the older man but it did not have a date on it. I told them that I wasn't crazy, and that if it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't have made it to work Monday morning.

I left the gas station knowing that I had been there Monday morning and that the ghost of this older man had pumped my gas.

\*\*\*

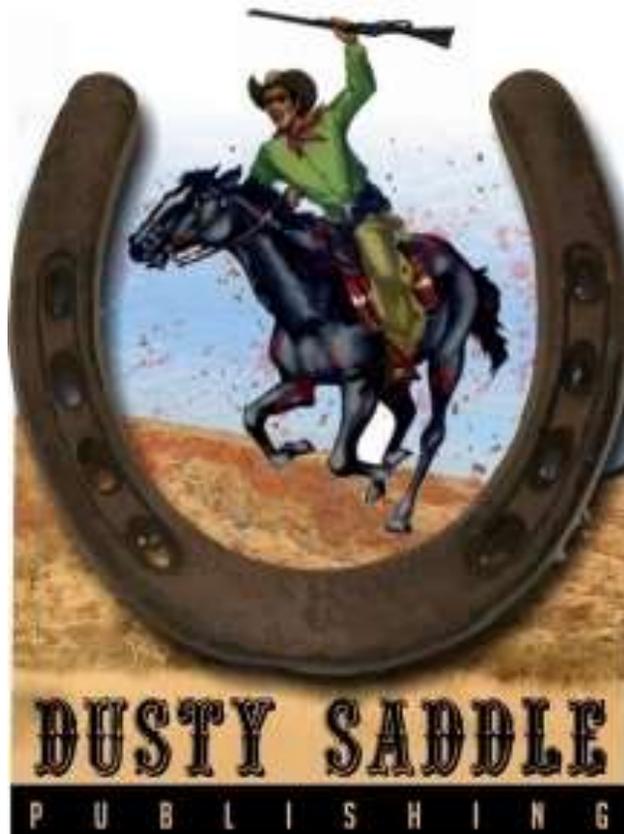
Is it possible that each of us experiences our own reality? Much of the time, we are in a shared reality in which we agree that what we see is real. We agree something is purple in color or something is hot because we have been taught that by our education, upbringing and culture. But what if within this shared reality, we can create our own reality too? Could it be that believing in the first place or being susceptible via culture, conditioning or interest, we can have strange experiences that we call paranormal whether alone or in a group? Could this explain mass events like those Marian events in which groups of people have claimed the Sun danced and the Virgin appeared on a cloud?

While many in the crowd claim to have witnessed such a thing, others will deny it happened despite being there too.

One thing is for certain whatever your opinion. Reality is weird. If your own personal experiences don't tell you this, then Google quantum physics. At the level of particles and waves, reality is anything but normal, and things behave according to expectation of the observer and time dissolves into a mysterious dimension in which the future can change the past!

Never seen a ghost? Probably because you don't believe in them and won't accept that as a part of your reality. Just my view.

*Don't forget to check out all the great paranormal stories on my website. Click [here](#) for more **free** terrors!*



This publication was published under rights of Dusty Saddle Publishing Partnership™. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright 2017 by Dusty Saddle Publishing Partnership™