

# TELLING WESTERN STORIES

From Buffalo Bill  
to Larry McMurry



RICHARD W. ETULAIN

# Telling Western Stories From Buffalo Bill To Larry Mcmurtry

**L Cohen**



## **Telling Western Stories From Buffalo Bill To Larry McMurtry:**

*Telling Western Stories* Richard W. Etulain, 1999 What has the western of literature and film contributed to American culture Richard Etulain the leading cultural historian of the West answers that question by tracing four distinct storytelling traditions and exploring the indelible images each has left in the public's mind over the past 125 years Our images of cowboys lawmen outlaws and Indians come from a collage of sources including Buffalo Bill Frederick Jackson Turner Calamity Jane Mary Hallock Foote Geronimo Mourning Dove Owen Wister Zane Grey Walter Noble Burns John Ford Louis L. Amour Wallace Stegner Patricia Nelson Limerick Leslie Marmon Silko and Larry McMurtry Etulain begins with the dominant image conveyed in Wild West shows and dime novels of the late nineteenth century the West as a place of adventure and danger In the early twentieth century stories by women and Indians appeared but they were soon overlooked and not rediscovered until the 1970s The period from the 1920s to the 1950s represents the classic era of western movies and novels of cavalry charges to save the day and heroes in white hats But since the 1960s a counter story has emerged one of ambiguity and complexity that often turned upside down our notions about what really mattered in how we look at the West

*Illuminative Moments in Pacific Northwest Prose* Richard W. Etulain, 2024-03-12 Richard W Etulain examines the emergence of Pacific Northwest prose beginning in the early nineteenth century up to the present The book provides an introductory overview to a vast subject through illuminative moments that illustrate major shifts in the literary history of the region The book's focus is on novels histories and other nonfiction works that trace Pacific Northwest prose in chronological order through three periods the frontier regional and post regional eras Etulain provides extensive coverage of the writings of notable authors including novelists Frederic Homer Balch and Mary Hallock Foote offering an understanding of frontier romantic and Local Color Writers He also explores the works of H G Merriam and novelist H L Davis illustrating regional prose writings Finally Etulain includes a panoply of writers who exemplify an emphasis on gender race and ethnicity and environmental texts from the post WWII period *Illuminative Moments in Pacific Northwest Prose* delivers a first time overview of the region's literary contributions that will interest both scholars and general readers alike

*The Age of Dimes and Pulps* Jeremy Agnew, 2018-07-25 From the dime novels of the Civil War era to the pulp magazines of the early 20th century to modern paperbacks lurid fiction has provided thrilling escapism for the masses Cranking out formulaic stories of melodrama crime and mild erotica often by uncredited authors focused more on volume than quality publishers realized high profits playing to low tastes Estimates put pulp magazine circulation in the 1930s at 30 million monthly This vast body of disposable literature has received little critical attention in large part because much of it has been lost the cheaply made books were either discarded after reading or soon disintegrated Covering the history of pulp literature from 1850 through 1960 the author describes how sensational tales filled a public need and flowered during the evolving social conditions of the Industrial Revolution

*Western Lives* Richard W. Etulain, University of New Mexico. Center for the Southwest, 2004 The life

stories of many individuals are woven together to tell the history of the American West from the earliest days of westward expansion to the twentieth century

**Mary Hallock Foote** Darlis A. Miller, 2002 Devoted wife and mother Acclaimed novelist illustrator and interpreter of the American West At a time when society expected women to concentrate on family and hearth Mary Hallock Foote 1847 1938 published twelve novels four short story collections almost two dozen stories and essays and innumerable illustrations In *Mary Hallock Foote* Darlis A. Miller examines the life of this gifted and spirited woman from the East as she adapted herself and her artistic vision to the West Foote's images of the American West differed sharply from those offered by male artists and writers of the time She depicted a more gentle West a domestic West of families and settlements rather than a Wild West of soldiers American Indians and cowboys Miller examines how Foote's career was molded by the East West tensions she experienced throughout her adult life and by society's expectations of womanhood and motherhood This biography recounts Foote's Quaker upbringing her education at the School of Design for Women at Cooper Union New York her marriage to Arthur De Wint Foote including his alcohol problems her life in Boise Idaho and later Grass Valley California her grief over the early death of daughter Agnes Foote and the previously unexplored last two decades of her life Miller has made extensive use of every major archive of letters and documents by and about Foote She sheds light on Foote's numerous stories essays and novels And examines all pertinent sources on Foote's life and works Anyone interested in the American West women's history or life histories in general will find Miller's biography of Mary Hallock Foote fascinating

**Writing Arizona, 1912-2012** Kim Engel-Pearson, 2017-09-28 From the year of Arizona's statehood to its centennial in 2012 narratives of the state and its natural landscape have revealed and reconfigured the state's image Through official state and federal publications newspapers novels poetry autobiographies and magazines Kim Engel Pearson examines narratives of Arizona that reflect both a century of Euro American dominance and a diverse and multilayered cultural landscape Examining the written record at twenty five year intervals *Writing Arizona 1912 2012* shows us how the state was created through the writings of both its inhabitants and its visitors from pioneer reminiscences of settling the desert to modern stories of homelessness and from early twentieth century Native American as told to autobiographies to those written in Natives own words in the 1970s and 1980s Weaving together these written accounts Engel Pearson demonstrates how government leaders and boosters promotion of tourism often at the expense of minority groups and the environment was swiftly complicated by concerns about ethics representation and conservation Word by word story by story Engel Pearson depicts an Arizona whose narratives reflect celebrations of diversity and calls for conservation yet at the same time a state whose constitution declares only English words official She reveals Arizona to be constructed understood and inhabited through narratives a state of words as changeable as it is timeless

*The Life and Legends of Calamity Jane* Richard W. Etulain, 2014-09-15 Everyone knows the name Calamity Jane Scores of dime novels and movie and TV Westerns have portrayed this original Wild West woman as an adventuresome gun toting hellion Although

Calamity Jane has probably been written about more than any other woman of the nineteenth century American West fiction and legend have largely obscured the facts of her life This lively concise and exhaustively researched biography traces the real person from the Missouri farm where she was born in 1856 through the development of her notorious persona as a Wild West heroine Before Calamity Jane became a legend she was Martha Canary orphaned when she was only eleven years old From a young age she traveled fearlessly worked with men smoked chewed tobacco and drank By the time she arrived in the boomtown of Deadwood South Dakota in 1876 she had become Calamity Jane and the real Martha Canary had disappeared under a landslide of purple prose Calamity became a hostess and dancer in Deadwood s saloons and theaters She imbibed heavily and she might have been a prostitute but she had other qualities as well including those of an angel of mercy who ministered to the sick and the down and out Journalists and dime novelists couldn t get enough of either version nor in the following century could filmmakers Sorting through the stories veteran western historian Richard W Etulain s account begins with a biography that offers new information on Calamity s several husbands including one she legally married her two children and a woman who claimed to be the daughter of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity a story Etulain discredits In the second half of the book Etulain traces the stories that have shaped Calamity Jane s reputation Some Calamity portraits he says suggest that she aspired to a quiet life with a husband and family As the 2004 2006 HBO series Deadwood makes clear well more than a century after her first appearance as a heroine in the Deadwood Dick dime novels Calamity Jane lives on raunchy unabashed contradictory and ambiguous as ever **Ernest Haycox and the Western** Richard W.

Etulain, 2017-09-14 Western fans today may not recognize the name Ernest Haycox 1899 1950 but they know his work John Ford turned one of his stories into the iconic film Stagecoach and the whole Western literary genre still follows conventions that Haycox deftly mastered and reshaped In this new book about Haycox s literary career Richard W Etulain tells the engrossing story of his rise through the ranks of popular magazine and serial fiction to become one of the Western s most successful creators After graduating from the University of Oregon in 1923 with a degree in journalism Haycox began his quest to break into New York s pulp magazine scene submitting dozens of stories before he began to make a living from his writing By the end of the 1920s he had become a top writer for Western Story Short Stories and Adventure among other popular weeklies and monthlies Ernest Haycox and the Western traces Haycox s path from rank beginner to crack pulp writer to regular contributor to Collier s and the Saturday Evening Post Etulain shows how Haycox experimented with techniques to deepen and broaden his Westerns creating more introspective protagonists Hamlet heroes introducing new types of heroines the brunette vixen the blonde Puritan and weaving greater historical realism into his plots After reaching the height of success with his best selling Custer novel Bugles in the Afternoon 1944 Haycox moved away from the financially rewarding but artistically constricting Western formula only to achieve his final coup with The Earthbreakers a historical novel about the end of the Oregon Trail published posthumously in 1952 Reconstructing the career of a popular literary giant

Ernest Haycox and the Western restores Haycox to his rightful place in the history of Western literature **Tombstone, Deadwood, and Dodge City** Kevin Britz, Roger L. Nichols, 2018-08-23 Shootin' Lynchin' Hangin' announces the advertisement for Tombstone's Hellorado Days festival Dodge City's Boot Hill Cemetery sports an authentic hangman's tree Not to be outdone Deadwood's Days of '76 celebration promises miners cowboys Indians cavalry bars dance halls and gambling dens The Wild West may be long gone but its legend lives on in Tombstone Arizona Deadwood South Dakota and Dodge City Kansas In Tombstone Deadwood and Dodge City Kevin Britz and Roger L. Nichols conduct a tour of these iconic towns revealing how over time they became repositories of western America's defining myth Beginning with the founding of the communities in the 1860s and 1870s this book traces the circumstances conversations and clashes that shaped the settlements over the course of a century Drawing extensively on literature newspapers magazines municipal reports political correspondence and films and television the authors show how Hollywood and popular novels as well as major historical events such as the Great Depression and both world wars shaped public memories of these three towns Along the way Britz and Nichols document the forces from business interests to political struggles that influenced dreams and decisions in Tombstone Deadwood and Dodge City After the so-called rowdy times of the open frontier had passed town promoters tried to sell these towns by remaking their reputations as peaceful law-abiding communities Hard times made boosters think again however and they turned back to their communities' rowdy pasts to sell the towns as exemplars of the western frontier An exploration of the changing times that led these towns to be marketed as reflections of the Old West Tombstone Deadwood and Dodge City opens an illuminating new perspective on the crafting and marketing of America's mythic self-image

*Rodeo* Susan Nance, 2020-04-23 What would rodeo look like if we took it as a record not of human triumph and resilience but of human imperfection and stubbornness asks animal historian Susan Nance Against the backdrop of the larger histories of ranching cattle horses and the environment in the West this book explores how the evolution of rodeo has reflected rural western beliefs and assumptions about the natural world that have led to environmental crises and served the beef empire By unearthing behind the scenes stories of rodeo animals as diverse individuals this book lays bare contradictions within rodeo and the rural West For almost 150 years westerners have used rodeo to symbolically reenact their struggles with animals and the land as uniformly progressive and triumphant Nance upends that view with accounts of individual animals that reveal how diligently rodeo people have worked to make livestock into surrogates for the trials of rural life in the West and the violence in its history Western horses and cattle were more than just props Rodeo reclaims their lived history through compelling stories of anonymous roping steers and calves who inspired reform of the sport such as the famed but abused buckner Steamboat and the many broncs and bulls famous or not who unknowingly built an industry Rodeo is a dangerous sport that reveals many westerners as people proudly tolerant of risk and violence and ready to impose these values on livestock In *Rodeo: An Animal History* Nance pushes past standard histories and the sport's publicity to show how rodeo was

shot through with stubbornness and human failing as much as fortitude and community spirit      **A Companion to American Literature and Culture** Paul Lauter, 2020-09-21 This expansive Companion offers a set of fresh perspectives on the wealth of texts produced in and around what is now the United States Highlights the diverse voices that constitute American literature embracing oral traditions slave narratives regional writing literature of the environment and more Demonstrates that American literature was multicultural before Europeans arrived on the continent and even more so thereafter Offers three distinct paradigms for thinking about American literature focusing on genealogies of American literary study writers and issues and contemporary theories and practices Enables students and researchers to generate richer more varied and more comprehensive readings of American literature      **A Companion to the American West**

William Deverell, 2008-04-15 A Companion to the American West is a rigorous illuminating introduction to the history of the American West Twenty five essays by expert scholars synthesize the best and most provocative work in the field and provide a comprehensive overview of themes and historiography Covers the culture politics and environment of the American West through periods of migration settlement and modernization Discusses Native Americans and their conflicts and integration with American settlers      Idaho's Place Adam M. Sowards, 2014-07-01 Idaho's Place is an anthology of the most current and original writing on Gem State history From the state's indigenous roots and early environmental battles to recent political and social events these essays provide much needed context for understanding Idaho's important role in the development of the American West Through a creative approach that combines explorations of concepts such as politics gender and race with the oral histories of Idaho residents the very people who lived and made state history this unique collection sheds new light on the state's surprisingly contentious past Readers whether they are longtime residents or newcomers tourists or seasonal dwellers policy makers or historians will be treated to a rich narrative in which the many threads of Idaho's history entwine to produce a complete tapestry of this beautiful and complex Western state      **The Cowboy Girl** John

Clayton, 2007-01-01 In 1901 Philadelphia's celebrity female journalist stepped off a train in Blackfoot Montana and into a world of living legends The miners and frontiersmen Indians and trappers that Caroline Lockhart met there inspired this beautiful single strong willed woman to live a life she had only dreamed about in what remained of the Wild West      Up the Trail Tim Lehman, 2018-08-15 How did cattle drives come about and why did the cowboy become an iconic American hero Cattle drives were the largest longest and ultimately the last of the great forced animal migrations in human history Spilling out of Texas they spread longhorns cowboys and the culture that roped the two together throughout the American West In cities like Abilene Dodge City and Wichita buyers paid off ranchers ranchers paid off wranglers and railroad lines took the cattle east to the packing plants of St Louis and Chicago The cattle drives of our imagination are filled with colorful cowboys prodding and coaxing a line of bellowing animals along a dusty path through the wilderness These sturdy cowhands always triumph over stampedes swollen rivers and bloodthirsty Indians to deliver their mighty horned companions to market but Tim

Lehman's *Up the Trail* reveals that the gritty reality was vastly different. Far from being rugged individualists, the actual cow herders were itinerant laborers, a proletariat on horseback who connected cattle from the remote prairies of Texas with the nation's industrial slaughterhouses. Lehman demystifies the cowboy life by describing the origins of the cattle drive and the extensive planning, complicated logistics, great skill, and good luck essential to getting the cows to market. He reveals how drives figured into the larger story of postwar economic development and traces the complex effects the cattle business had on the environment. He also explores how the premodern cowboy became a national hero who personified the manly virtues of rugged individualism and personal independence. Grounded in primary sources, this absorbing book takes advantage of recent scholarship on labor, race, gender, and the environment. The lively narrative will appeal to students of Texas and western history as well as anyone interested in cowboy culture.

**Professionals in Western Film and Fiction** Kenneth E. Hall, 2019-06-07 In American Westerns, the main characters are most often gunfighters, lawmen, ranchers, and dancehall girls. Civil professionals such as doctors, engineers, and journalists have been given far less representation, usually appearing as background characters in most films and fiction. In Westerns about the 1910 Mexican Revolution, however, civil professionals also feature prominently in the narrative, often as members of the intelligentsia, an important force in Mexican politics. This book compares the roles of civil professionals in most American Westerns to those in films on the 1910 Mexican Revolution. Included are studies on the Santiago Toole novels by Richard Wheeler, *Strange Lady in Town* with Greer Garson, and *La sombra del Caudillo* by Martin Luis Guzmán.

**American Mythmaker** Mark J. Dworkin, 2015-02-27 Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, and Joaquín Murrieta are fixed in the American imagination as towering legends of the Old West. But that has not always been the case. There was a time when these men were largely forgotten, relics of a bygone era. Then, in the early twentieth century, an obscure Chicago newspaperman changed all that: Walter Noble Burns (1872–1932) served with the First Kentucky Infantry during the Spanish American War and covered General John J. Pershing's pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico as a correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*. However, history-making these forays may seem, they were only the beginning. In the last six years of his life, Burns wrote three books that propelled New Mexico outlaw Billy the Kid, Tombstone marshal Wyatt Earp, and California bandit Joaquín Murrieta into the realm of legend. Despite Burns's remarkable command of his subjects, based on exhaustive research and interviews, he has been largely ignored by scholars because of the popular, even occasionally fictional, approach he employed. In *American Mythmaker*, the first literary biography of Burns, Mark J. Dworkin brings Burns out of the shadows. Through careful analysis of *The Saga of Billy the Kid* (1926), *Tombstone: An Iliad of the Southwest* (1927), and *The Robin Hood of Eldorado: The Saga of Joaquín Murrieta* (1932) and their reception, Dworkin shows how Burns used his journalistic training to introduce the history of the American West to his era's general readership. In the process, Burns made his subjects household names. Are Burns's books fact or fiction? Was he a historian or a novelist? Dworkin considers these questions as he uncovers the story behind Burns's mythmaking works. A long overdue biography of a writer.



who shaped our idea of western history American Mythmaker documents in fascinating detail the fashioning of some of the greatest American legends      *Ned Christie* Devon A. Mihesuah,2018-03-08 Who was Nede Wade Christie Was he a violent criminal guilty of murdering a federal officer Or a Cherokee statesman who suffered a martyr s death for a crime he did not commit For more than a century journalists pulp fiction authors and even serious historians have produced largely fictitious accounts of Ned Christie s life Now in a tour de force of investigative scholarship Devon A Mihesuah offers a far more accurate depiction of Christie and the times in which he lived In 1887 Deputy U S Marshal Dan Maples was shot and killed in Tahlequah Indian Territory As Mihesuah recounts in unsurpassed detail any of the criminals in the vicinity at the time could have committed the crime Yet the federal court at Fort Smith Arkansas focused on Christie a Cherokee Nation councilman and adviser to the tribal chief Christie evaded capture for five years His life ended when a posse dynamited his home knowing he was inside and shot him as he emerged from the burning building The posse took Christie s body to Fort Smith where it lay for three days on display for photographers and gawkers Nede s family suffered as well His teenage cousin Arch Wolfe was sentenced to prison and ultimately perished in the Canton Asylum for insane Indians a travesty that Mihesuah shows may even surpass the injustice of Nede s fate Placing Christie s story within the rich context of Cherokee governance and nineteenth century American political and social conditions Mihesuah draws on hundreds of newspaper accounts oral histories court documents and family testimonies to assemble the most accurate portrayal of Christie s life possible Yet the author admits that for all this information we may never know the full story because Christie s own voice is largely missing from the written record In addition she spotlights our fascination with villains and martyrs murder and mayhem and our dangerous tendency to glorify the Old West More than a biography Ned Christie traces the making of an American myth

*Calamity Jane* James D. McLaird,2012-11-27 Forget Doris Day singing on the stagecoach Forget Robin Weigert s gritty portrayal on HBO s Deadwood The real Calamity Jane was someone the likes of whom you ve never encountered That is until now This book is a definitive biography of Martha Canary the woman popularly known as Calamity Jane Written by one of today s foremost authorities on this notorious character it is a meticulously researched account of how an alcoholic prostitute was transformed into a Wild West heroine Always on the move across the northern plains Martha was more camp follower than the scout of legend A mother of two she often found employment as waitress laundress or dance hall girl and was more likely to be wearing a dress than buckskin But she was hard to ignore when she d had a few drinks and she exploited the aura of fame that dime novels created around her even selling her autobiography and photos to tourists Gun toting swearing hard drinking Calamity Jane was all of these to be sure But whatever her flaws or foibles James D McLaird paints a compelling portrait of an unconventional woman who more than once turned the tables on those who sought to condemn or patronize her He also includes dozens of photos many never before seen depicting Jane in her many guises His book is a long awaited biography of Martha Canary and the last word on Calamity Jane      **A Texas Cowboy** Charles A. Siringo,2000-12-01

After a nomadic childhood Charles Siringo signed on as a teenage cowboy for the noted Texas cattle king Shanghai Pierce and began a life that embraced all the hard work excitement and adventure readers today associate with the cowboy era He rid the Chisholm trail driving 2 500 heads of cattle from Austin to Kansas knew Tascosa now a historic monument when it was home to raucous saloons red light districts and a fair share of violence and led a posse of cowboys in pursuit of Billy the Kid and his gang First published in 1885 Siringo's chronicle of his life as a itchy footed boy cowhand range detective and adventurer was one the first classics about the Old West and helped to romanticize the West and its myth of the American cowboy Will Rogers declared That was the Cowboy's Bible when I was growing up For more than seventy years Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English speaking world With more than 1 700 titles Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

Delve into the emotional tapestry woven by in Dive into the Emotion of **Telling Western Stories From Buffalo Bill To Larry Mcmurtry** . This ebook, available for download in a PDF format ( \*), is more than just words on a page; itis a journey of connection and profound emotion. Immerse yourself in narratives that tug at your heartstrings. Download now to experience the pulse of each page and let your emotions run wild.

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