



SILVER SCREEN BUCKAROOS OF COLORADO

Buckaroos' News

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Spring, 1996

Colorado's Famous Faces: Wyatt Earp

Some seven months after the gunfight at the O. K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, Wyatt Earp arrived in Pueblo, Colorado, on May 10, 1882, along with John Henry "Doc" Holliday. Doc, who had been to Pueblo under the assumed name of Tom McKey seven years earlier, decided to try his gambling luck in the area as Doc Holliday. Wyatt, however, fearful of their most recent activities in Arizona, decided to cross the Continental Divide to Gunnison, Colorado, leaving Doc behind.

Wyatt's intention was to remain in Gunnison, camping with friends along the Gunnison River near Chinery Ranch, until his difficulties in Arizona had cooled down a bit. He quickly found a job running a faro bank on the second floor of the barber shop and saloon building on Virginia Avenue, west of Main Street. Although Wyatt wore two revolvers high under his arms, and told the police he was available if needed, the guns were not drawn in anger.

A reporter described Wyatt as a "rather tall, well dressed, pleasant looking stranger who stood leaning against the counter tapping his boot with a cane." Wyatt told the reporter, "I shall stay here for awhile. My lawyers will have a petition for my pardon drawn up. We look for a pardon in a few weeks, and when it comes I'll go back [to Tombstone]; but if no pardon is made, I'll go back in the fall anyway and stand trial."

However, Wyatt did not return to Tombstone, choosing to accept Gunnison's hospitality through the winter of 1882-83. The next five years saw Wyatt in and out of Colorado's boom towns and mining camps, making his living as a gambler. He met up with William Barclay "Bat" Masterson in Silverton in 1883, and dealt faro in Aspen, Trinidad, and Denver, even working for a time at Denver's Central just up the street from the Arcade, where Bat was dealing faro.

Wyatt and Bat shared a boarding house, at times fraying the nerves of their fellow boarders with their quick-draw practice.

By 1897, Wyatt could be found in Nome, Alaska, where he ran a saloon-gambling hall. He died in Los Angeles, California, on January 13, 1929, thus ending an era in Western history.



WYATT EARP

Empty Saddles



"The King of the Bullwhip" has cracked his whip for the last time; Alfred "Lash" LaRue died of a heart attack on May 21, 1996.

Mr. LaRue was born June 14, 1917, in Gretna, Louisiana. He studied drama in college, did some stage work, then completed a screen test for Warner Brothers. WB turned him down as an actor because of his uncanny likeness to another WB contractee, Humphrey Bogart! He appeared in Universal's 1945 chapter play, *The Master Key*, during which he developed his facility with the 15-foot bullwhip. Also in 1945, Producers Releasing Corporation (PRC) signed Mr. LaRue to play the outlaw Cheyenne Kid in Eddie Dean's *The Song of Old Wyoming*. Mr. LaRue subsequently appeared in several of Mr. Dean's movies. Beginning in 1947, Mr. LaRue starred in eight films for PRC, the first being *The Law of the Lash*. The series continued at Screen Guild in 1948, and from 1950 to 1952, Mr. LaRue's films were produced by Western Adventure Films. He most recently was active with personal appearances at rodeos and film



Colorado Movie Trivia

In our last issue, we highlighted many of the productions filmed in Colorado. Following publication, we received a list of additional titles from Colorado's film commission.

Here are productions that were not included in our last issue: "Aftermath," "American Flyers Classics," "Archie's Wife," "Aspen Extreme," "Badlands," "Brothers O'Toole," "Centennial," "A Child's Cry for Help," "The Chisolms," "Christmas Vacation," "Christmas Vacation 1995," "Conagher," "Dark Territory," "Diagnosis Murder," "Die Hard 2: Die Harder," "Dream West," "Dumb and Dumber," "Father Dowling Mysteries," "Flashback," "The Frisco Kid," "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "Ladybugs," "Lightning Jack," "Mork and Mindy," "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Nickel and Dime," "Open Season: The Kari Swenson Story," "Perry Mason," "Sleeper," "Stagecoach," "Stamper's Rampage," "Tall Tale," "Thelma and Louise," "Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead," "Vertical Reality," "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Where the Hell's That Gold?," and "White Fang II."



Filming in Colorado



Filmmakers have been making movies in Colorado since the early 1900s, and Colorado is serious about increasing film production in the state.

From the Colorado Production Resource Directory comes the following: "Colorado is a state of diverse locations . . . from big city scapes, to the plains, to the famous snow-capped Rocky Mountains. We have it all. Even "wilderness" areas are usually a short distance on well-maintained roads from moderately priced motels and restaurants. Regional offices of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management work well with film companies.

We have production studios, sound stages, crews, talent and, all of the support equipment and systems to do the job in Colorado."



Governor Roy Romer, in an open

letter to film professionals, said, "While you consider Colorado as a production site, I want you to be aware of our commitment to support film and tape production. We have created a Motion Picture and Television Commission that understands and will respond to your needs. This state recognizes the contribution you and your industry make to the communities you visit. We want your business and welcome the opportunity to show you how we will meet and even exceed your production needs. It is our pleasure to serve you."



Are you involved in motion picture production? The Colorado Production Resource Directory, is available for \$55.00 from the Colorado Motion Picture and Television Commission, 1625 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver, Colorado 80202. Telephones: (303) 620-4500 or toll-free (800) 726-8887. Facsimile: (303) 620-4545.



Jack Elam, Heavy and Hero

We received a nice letter from Jack Elam in which he said that it's no use starting a Jack Elam fan club at this late date as he is retiring now. Mr. Elam went on to remind us that "Old movie gunfighters never die—they just get too fat to strap on their gunbelts." Ain't it so!

Did you know that before he became the well-respected villain and heroic actor, Mr. Elam worked as an auditor, developed a budget system that was used by many motion picture companies, and became one of the highest paid auditors in the film business? Deciding that he wanted to act instead, he obtained financing for two low-budget independent films in exchange for playing the bad guy in each. And we fans are surely glad that he did, eh?

Thanks for the autographed photo, Mr. Elam; it resides in a place of honor on our movie heroes wall of fame here at the Phantom Ranch.



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For further information, please send an e-mail to:

SSBC@PhantomRanch.net.

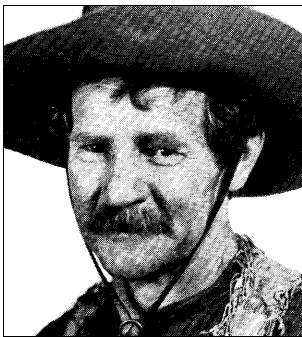


Coloradans In the Movies: Budd Buster

Budd Buster was born June 14, 1891, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1897, at the age of six, Mr. Buster appeared in stock theatre. He later could be seen in vaudeville and dramatic roadshows from 1907 to 1913.

Soon, he could be found in motion pictures, doing movies for the Powers Company. However, by 1915 he had quit the film business. It wasn't until 1934 that he again appeared in motion pictures, and would continue to do so until his retirement in 1949. Although he occasionally played one of the black-hat bad guys, he most often played old-timers in his movies. From the mid 1930s to the end of the era, Mr. Buster was one of the 'B' movies' most prolific supporting players, sometimes working under the name George Selk.

Mr. Buster died in Los Angeles, California, on December 22, 1965.



Among Mr. Buster's non-Western films are: Call of the South Seas (1944), Dick Tracy Returns (1938), Dick Tracy's G-Men (1939), Drums of Fu Manchu (1940), Grandpa Goes to Town (1940), My Best Gal (1944), Trader Tom of the China Seas (1954), Traffic in Crime (1946).

A partial list of Budd Buster's Western films includes: Adventures of Red Ryder (1940), Along the Navajo

Trail (1945), The Arizona Gunfighter (1937), Bar-Z Bad Men (1937), Beneath Western Skies (1944), Billy the Kid Trapped (1942), The Blocked Trail (1943), Border Badmen (1945), California Gold Rush (1946), Call of the Canyon (1942), Cavalry (1936), The Colorado Kid (1937), Colorado Sunset (1939), Covered Wagon Trails (1940), The Cyclone Kid (1942), Cyclone Ranger (1935), Daredevils of the West (1943), Dark Command (1940), Desert Guns (1936), Desert Patrol (1938), Desperadoes of Dodge City (1948), Doomed at Sundown (1937), Durango Valley Raiders (1938), The Feud Maker (1938), Firebrands of Arizona (1944), Frontier Scout (1938), The Gambling Terror (1937), Gangs of Sonora (1941), Gun Lords of Stirrup Basin (1937), The Gun Ranger (1936), Guns in the Dark (1937), Heart of the Rio Grande (1942), Hidden Valley Outlaws (1944), Hit the Saddle (1937), Home on the Range (1946), Jesse James at Bay (1941), King of the Royal Mounted (1940), A Lawman is Born (1937), The Lone Star Vigilantes (1941), Lone Texas Ranger (1945), Marshal of Cripple Creek (1947), Oklahoma Badlands (1948), The Old Chisholm Trail (1943), Paroled--to Die (1938), The Pinto Bandit (1944), Pride of the Plains (1944), Raiders of Sunset Pass (1943), Rainbow Over Texas (1946), Riders of the Rio Grande (1943), The Riding Avenger (1936), Rocky Mountain Rangers (1940), Santa Fe Scouts (1943), Sheriff of Redwood Valley (1946), Sierra Sue (1941), Stagecoach to Denver (1946), Sunset Serenade (1942), Texas Marshal (1941), Thunder in the Desert (1938), Thundering Trails (1943), Trail of Vengeance (1937), The Trusted Outlaw (1937), Valley of Hunted Men (1942), Vigilantes of Boomtown (1947), West of Cimarron (1941), Westward

Ho (1942), The Westward Trail (1948), The Wild Frontier (1947), Wyoming Outlaw (1939), Zorro's Fighting Legion (1939).



Wyatt Earp

Wyatt Earp Chronology

March 19, 1848. Wyatt Earp born near Monmouth, Illinois.
 December, 1869. Wyatt hired as a hunter for a party of surveyors leaving Springfield, Missouri.
 Winter, 1872-73. Wyatt and Bat Masterson, both professional hunters, meet on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.
 1873. Wyatt in Ellsworth, Kansas.
 1874. Wyatt in Wichita, Kansas.
 May 17, 1876. Wyatt arrives in Dodge City, Kansas.
 November, 1877. Wyatt meets Doc Holliday in Fort Griffin, Texas.
 1878. Wyatt returns to Dodge City, Kansas.
 September 9, 1879. Wyatt leaves for Tombstone, Arizona.
 October, 1881. Wyatt and Doc Holliday at the O. K. Corral.
 May 10, 1882. Wyatt, together with Doc Holliday, arrive in Pueblo, Colorado, from Arizona.
 Winter, 1882-83. Wyatt in Gunnison, Colorado, as a gambler. It is unlikely that Wyatt ever saw Doc Holliday again.
 1882-87. Wyatt seen as a gambler in Gunnison, Trinidad, Silverton, Aspen, and Denver, Colorado.
 1883. Wyatt meets Bat Masterson in Silverton, Colorado.
 1897. Wyatt in Nome, Alaska, running a saloon-gambling hall.
 January 13, 1929. Wyatt dies in Los Angeles, California, just two months before his 81st birthday.



The Cowboy Way: Roy's and Gene's Rules for Living

ROY'S RIDERS RULES

1. Be neat and clean.
2. Be courteous and polite.
3. Always obey your parents.
4. Protect the weak and help them.
5. Be brave but never take chances.
6. Study hard and learn all you can.
7. Be kind to animals and care for them.
8. Eat all your food and never waste any.
9. Love God and go to Sunday School regularly.
10. Always respect our flag and our country.



GENE'S COWBOY COMMANDMENTS

1. He must not take unfair advantage of an enemy.
2. He must never go back on his word.
3. He must always tell the truth.
4. He must be gentle with children, elderly people, and animals.
5. He must not possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas.
6. He must help people in distress.
7. He must be a good worker.
8. He must respect women, parents, and his nation's laws.
9. He must neither drink nor smoke.
10. He must be a patriot.



The Old Buckaroo

Found me a book titled *Colorado, A Newcomer's Manual: Everything You Need To Know About Living In Colorado*, by T.J.

Walker (Millennium Publications, P.O. Box 9941, Denver, CO 80209, \$11.95 plus shipping). Great stuff here, particularly Chapter Five's sections on Vehicle Registrations, Titles, License Plates (Tags), Insurance, Emissions Testing, and Driver's License. If you plan to move to "God's Country," you might pick up this 224-page fount of knowledge about the Centennial State. Until next time, Happy Trails, buckaroos!

Colorado



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