

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 9: NUMBER 7.....JULY, 2014

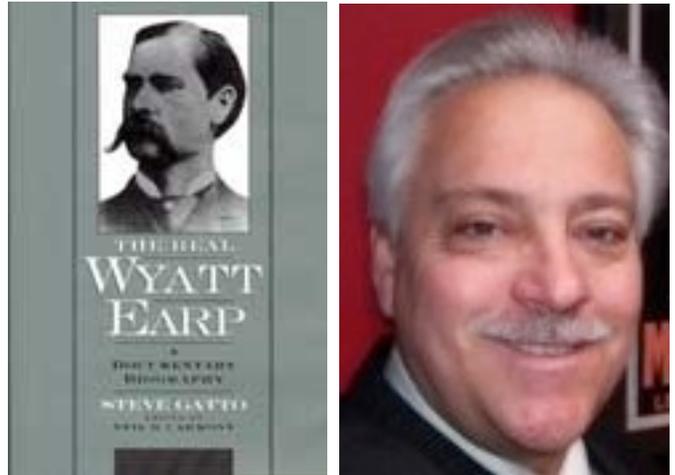
A Time and a Place

I've always been puzzled by our fascination with the mythical gunfighters of the 1800s West. For some reason, we like our heroes to be tall, silent, solitary, fearless, impervious to gunfire, and extremely well-groomed rather than average, social, enlisted, scared shitless, grubby, vulnerable to friendly and unfriendly fire, and wanting badly to survive. I have, on the whole avoided reading biographies of famous gunfighters, and I'm not quite sure why I decided to read the one at hand. But I'm glad I did. It confirmed my suspicions.

Featured This Month

The Real Wyatt Earp by Steve Gatto

Gatto has made a valiant effort to unearth the truth about Wyatt, his brothers, and the so-called outlaws that he reputedly battled around Tombstone between 1879 and 1882. Using mainly newspaper articles of the day and court records, Gatto reveals Earp to be a drifter who hired on as a lawman in several western towns, mainly because he really had no other skills—unless you include dealing faro. The ranchers and cowboys of the day certainly didn't include him as one of their own, and in fact, several of his enemies were called cow-boys, which at the time meant rustlers. But in truth, nearly everyone working cattle did a little mavericking and traded in unmarked cattle. In a sense, that level of outlawry was a respected way of making a living, and those pursuing it had to accept the risks involved, which could include exchanging a few 45 slugs with other individuals who might claim the same cattle. As a hired lawman, Earp generally had to represent one side or the other. Friendship or funds (bounties) influenced his choice more than the ethics of his clients. And just like today, the ethics of power depended upon which side had won the last election, rather than upon any clear vision of right and wrong.



In *The Real Earp*, Gatto has disclosed that some of the more notorious outlaws of the Tombstone era were fairly average ne'er do wells who might raise a ruckus when "likered up." More often than not, they got into trouble because they didn't know they were doing something wrong or unconsciously stepping on the wrong person's toes.

Nearly all of the Earp fame derived from the still-famous OK Corral shootout, which erupted spontaneously and, had the Earps not pushed it, might never have happened. There was a pretty good chance that the Clantons and McClaurys were about to leave town and would have done so if left alone a few more minutes. Wyatt came through this event and all others where bullets flew unscathed. He, too, left Tombstone when things got too hot and went back to drifting. By this time he had enough currency in tall tales to build his own legend, which he increasingly did as he aged. His early biographers lapped it up. We are, I believe, indebted to Gatto for digging into the records and presenting Wyatt for what he was—a bold fellow, a decent shot, one who leaned toward the side of the law, but occasionally found himself in jail, and, in the end, a prevaricator supreme who never really did much of what he claimed.

Introduction and review by Harley Shaw

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New at the Library

Films on DVD

Murder ... Annie Hall ... Ben-Hur
Lawrence of Arabia ... Double Indemnity
The Jazz Singer ... The Ten Commandments
Brothers ... Black Swan ... Mud
Lawnmower Man Collection: Lawnmower Man & Lawnmower Man 2: Jobe's War
The Best Years of Our Lives
La Vie en Rose: The Extraordinary Life of Edith Piaf

Mystery

Bad Monkey by Carl Hiaasen

Nonfiction

12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northrop
The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels
Among the Cottonwoods by Francelle E. Alexander
The Last Grain Race by Eric Newby
Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: *An American Modernist* by Carolyn Kastner
Detonography: *The Explosive Art of Evelyn Rosenberg* by Evelyn Rosenberg
New Mexico's High Peaks: *A Photographic Celebration* by Mike Butterfield
Starting Over by Elizabeth Spencer
An Army Doctor on the Western Frontier: *Journals and Letters of John Vance Lauderale, 1864-1890* edited by Robert M. Utleby
Jean-Frederic Waldeck: *Artist of Exotic Mexico* by Esther Pasztory
The Allure of Nezahualcoyotl: *Pre-Hispanic History, Religion and Nahua Poetics* by J. Lee
Roadcut: *The Architecture of Antoine Predock* by Christopher Curtis Mead
Meticulous Serenity: *The Prints of Clinton Adams, 1948-1997* by Robert P. Conway
Texas Obscurities: *Stories of the Peculiar, Exceptional & Nefarious* by E. R. Bills
The 1910 Slocum Massacre: *An Act of Genocide in East Texas* by E. R. Bills

Classics

Cat-Nappers by P G Wodehouse
Hot Water by P G Wodehouse
Pigs Have Wings by P G Wodehouse

Fiction

Night Travelers by Elizabeth Spencer
The Light in the Piazza and other Italian Tales by Elizabeth Spencer
Jack of Diamonds by Elizabeth Spencer
Selected Stories by Alice Munro
The Whirlybird Anthology of Kansas City Writers edited by Bernon Rowe, Maryfrances Wagner, David Ray and Judy Ray
A Sandhills Ballad by Ladette Randolph

Notes from the Library Board

The drawing in the HCL raffle for a brand new Apple iPad will be on August 2nd at the Bake Sale. It's your last chance to buy raffle tickets. Don't miss out!

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, July 16

Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00 pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30 pm

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