

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 11: NUMBER 8.....AUGUST 2016

A Favorite Son

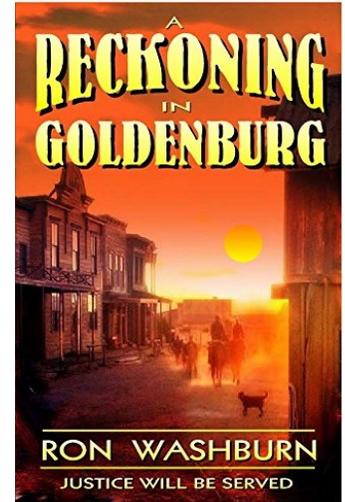
Many of our library patrons know Geno Washburn, a talented and creative craftsman who lives in Arrey. But they may not know that Geno has a creative and talented son, Ron Washburn, author of the book reviewed here. The library has three more of Ron's recent books of the same Western gunslinger genre: *Austin's Justice*, *The Hand of God*, and *The Lady Gunslinger*.

Featured this Month

A Reckoning in Goldenburg by Ron Washburn

This Western novel will be of particular interest to Hillsboro-area residents because of its setting in southwest New Mexico. Most of the story takes place in 1888 in the fictional mining town of Goldenburg – in the factual Goldenberg Canyon of the San Andrés mountains. But the action extends to Mesilla, Las Cruces, the Jornada del Muerto, Rincón, Hatch, and Nutt, and mention is made of Lake Valley and Hillsboro. Washburn describes this landscape with affection and authenticity.

The hero of the novel is Mason Sampson, and the story is told mostly by Mason himself, though sometimes the narration is in third person. Mason is not your typical cowpoke, and he is definitely not a gunslinger. He is a gentle, often naive, giant of a man, seven feet tall and ugly as sin. He thinks his parents were a black mother and Apache father, but he doesn't know for sure because his parents were killed by violent intruders in their home when he was a child. His memory of this crime and of the perpetrator haunts him and presents the narrative thread from beginning to end of the novel.



The story follows Mason's activities as an untutored expert in rocks and his recent occupation as a mason, whence the name he adopted for himself. He is a physically powerful man but is usually a psychologically pacific type who nonetheless becomes a raging tornado of destruction at points when thoughts of the childhood massacre overpower him. As we might expect in this kind of novel, there is a menagerie of really bad guys, including one who might be Billy the Kid. But there are also good men and loyal friends.

And there is, of course, a love interest. This ugly man and a gorgeous woman fall for each other, practically love at first sight, in the fullest innocence of the Western novel. The unlikeliness of this pairing is but one of many unexpected twists and turns in the novel. Washburn's storytelling provides the surprises that keep the reader engaged. This book is an easy read and usually a fun read, like a rambunctious Western movie.

Introduction and review by Garland Bills

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New at the Library

Non Fiction

The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger
The Saga of Billy the Kid by Walter Burns
Westering Women by Sandra Myres
The Coronado Expedition by Richard & Shirley Flint
Hopi Silver by Margaret Wright
The Apache Wars by Paul Hutton
New Mexico's Crypto Jews by Cary Herz
Ten Thousand Goddam Cattle by Katie Lee
Anasazi Architecture & American Design by B Morrow
The Disappearances: A Story of Exploration, Murder, and Mystery in the American West by Scott Thybony
Roadside New Mexico: A Guide to Historical Markers, Updated and Expanded Edition by David Pike
Best Plants for New Mexico Gardens and Landscapes, Updated and Expanded Edition by Baker H. Morrow

Fiction

The Other by David Guterson
Mr Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan
The Barkskins by Annie Proulx
Purity by Jonathan Franzen
Painted Turtle-Woman with Guitar by Clarence Major
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
We Were Liars by E Lockhart
Bent Dreams by Richard Tinguely
Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan

Science Fiction

Sleeping Giants by Sylvain Neuvel

Mystery

Land of Shadows by Rachel Hall
Curse of the ChupaCabra by Rudolfo Anaya
The Lake House by Kate Morton

Notes from the Library Board

For those patrons using the State Library's Bookmobile service, please note that the August visit will be on the usual third Wednesday at the usual time, but the September visit has been canceled due to personnel shortages.

The Library is continuing to look at options for replacing its public use computer. If there is anyone who is updating their hardware and would be willing to donate their old computer to the Library, please contact Joe Diel at josephhdiesel@gmail.com for more information.

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, August 17

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

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

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<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>