



## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 13: NUMBER 4..... JULY - AUGUST 2018

### True Cowboy

While there is a great deal of romance —music, movies, and other entertainments — coloring the image of the American cowboy, the true story is probably “romantic” enough as is. The Library is fortunate to have a new donation of a non-fiction story set right down the road from Hillsboro.

### Featured this Month

*True Stories of a Young Cowboy* by Gene Barksdale

“It was 1944, and I was an adventurous fifteen year old kid with no parents to guide me. So I left Amarillo and rode my thumb out Highway 66 to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and then down the Rio Grande to Hot Springs....” So begins this autobiographical account of four years’ experience mostly on the Ladder Ranch.

Barksdale started off at the Ladder with only one extra pair of Levis and sleeping outdoors with only a quilt and blanket. He learned to be a cowboy on the job, beginning his first day at the Ladder learning how to shoe his allotment of five horses to start on the roundup. He details his experiences in rounding up the cattle scattered across the range and high into the mountains. He explains learning to take part in cattle drives, as a novice being assigned to the “drag” position at the back of the herd, suffocating in dust. He writes of taking pack trains of as many as twenty mules up into the mountains beyond Hermosa to round up wild cattle in the forest.

He also describes several cowboying stints at other ranches in north Texas, the Jornada del Muerto, and in New Mexico’s Bootheel near the Mexican border. Having expanded his acquisitions, his principal accompaniments in these travels were his saddle and bedroll.

Barksdale wrote his recollections later in life at the age of 78, and they were published by his wife in



softcover after his death in 2007. His memories of these experiences are sharp and clear, including detailed descriptions of such things as their food and its preparation and of the endearing animals of ranch life. He recalls by name his many horses and mules that became such an essential part of his life as a cowboy. His descriptions of the people are nuanced, from the diversity of fellow cowboys and ranch hands to then-owner Sam Lard, ranch manager Burton Roach, and foreman Tom Walton.

This slender book has the ring of ranch life authenticity. Barksdale gives simple and straightforward explanations of cowboy activities and explains any local vocabulary used. The stories are very well-written and the occasional typo or spelling error only add an authentic touch. The stories are laced with humor and self-deprecation that make for entertaining reading.

The book also includes a number of original snapshots of people and activities on the Ladder Ranch at the time.

We express our thanks to Steve Dobrott for donating this important addition to our library.

*Review by Garland Bills*

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## New at the Library

### Non Fiction

**Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands**, Volumes 1 & 2  
by Brad Lancaster  
**Rodin: A Biography** by Fredric V. Grunfeld  
**Willa Cather on Writing** by Willa Cather  
**Shells** compiled by Harold Feinberg  
**Dunkirk** by Joshua Levine  
**Carrots Love Tomatoes: *Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening*** by Louise Riotte  
**How to Grow More Vegetables** by John Jeavons  
**The Rodale Book of Composting** by Deborah L. Martin and Grace Gershuny  
**Painted by a Distant Hand: *Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest*** by Steven A. LeBlanc  
**The Beautiful Struggle** by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
**The Physics of God** by Joseph Selbie  
**Complete Book of Pilates for Men** by Daniel Lyon Jr  
**Graining the Mare-the Poetry of Ranch Women**  
compiled by Teresa Jordan  
**The Creative Habit** by Twyla Tharp  
**Heart Berries** by Terese Marie Mailhot  
**Resolving Racial Conflict** by Bertram Levine  
**Summer Cars** by Connie Wanek  
**Ranch Wife** by Jo Jeffers  
**What Art Is** by Arthur C. Danto  
**The Cost of Living** by Deborah Levy

### Fiction

**The House of Broken Angels** by Luis Alberto Urrea  
**Ghost Sniper** by Scott McEwan  
**The Defense** by Steve Cavanagh  
**The Sniper and the Wolf** by Scott McEwan  
**Clear By Fire** by Joshua Hood  
**Predator** by Wilbur Smith & Tom Cain  
**Between the Assassinations** by Aravind Adiga  
**There There** by Tommy Orange  
**The Tea Planter's Wife** by Dinah Jefferies  
**Bear Town** by Fredrik Backman  
**Oath of Honor** by Matthew Betley  
**Field of Valor** by Matthew Betley  
**Overwatch** by Matthew Betley  
**Warlight** by Michael Ondaatje

### Mystery

**The Punishment She Deserves** by Elizabeth George  
**A Taste for Vengeance** by Martin Walker  
**The Sixth Day** by Catherine Coulter

### Films on DVD

**Galaxy Quest ... My Brilliant Career**  
**Bordertown ... Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**  
**The Misfits ... Star Wars IV: A New Hope**  
**Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back**  
**Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi**  
**Little Big Man ... From Russia with Love**  
**Diamonds are Forever ... You Only Live Twice**  
**Nobody's Fool ... Blaze ... The Hobbit**  
**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**  
**Interstellar ... Marathon Man**  
**Eternal Enemies: Lions and Hyenas**  
**Last Stand of the Great Bear**  
**In Search of the Jaguar**  
**Whales in a Crisis ... The Case for Christ**  
**Maximum Italian: Everything You Need to Speak and Understand Italian**

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

**Third Wednesday of the Month**  
**August 22, September 19**  
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00    Kingston 2:30- 3:30

### Published by

THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)