

unattended fires, extinguish campfires and fire pits, keep vehicles off dry grass, don't throw lit or smoldering cigarettes from your car or truck, and check the

weather conditions before burning trash or leaves. While most naturally occurring wildfires are sparked by lightning, thousands are triggered every

year by fireworks. The precaution we can take cannot be clearer.

Craig Shapiro, PETA Foundation

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Reading the West

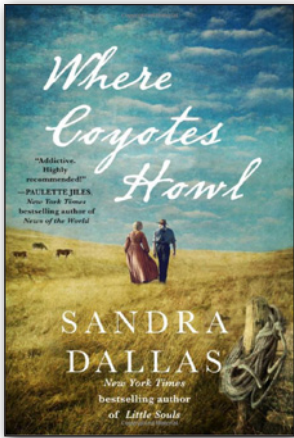
By the staff at Covered Treasures
"Courage is being scared to death ... and saddling up anyway."—John Wayne

Westerns are part of our history and center on courage, strength, and justice. Here's a sampling of outstanding fiction and nonfiction Western reads:

Where Coyotes Howl

By Sandra Dallas (St. Martin's Press) \$27.99

It's 1916. The two-street town of Wallace, Wyo., is not what Ellen Webster had in mind when she accepted a teaching position, but within a year she's fallen in love with the High Plains and with a cowboy. Life is hard, but Ellen and Charlie face it all together, growing stronger with each shared success, and each deeply felt tragedy. Ellen finds purpose as a rancher's wife and in her bonds with other women. Bestselling Colorado author Sandra Dallas' meticulous research and detail is an ode to western history.



obligation? Will a looming raid by a band of determined killers be the end of the guardians, the gold, and the relic? Local author Mike Torreano provides twists, turns, and adventure in this historically accurate Western.

The Son

By Philipp Meyer (Harper) \$16.99

This critically acclaimed, bestselling epic, a saga of land, blood, and power follows the rise of one unforgettable Texas family from the Comanche raids of the 1800s to the oil booms of the 20th Century. This gripping novel maps the legacy of the American west with rare emotional acuity, even as it presents an intimate portrait of one family across two centuries.

Old Cowboys Never Die

By William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone (Kensington) \$16.95

After 30 years chasing stampedes into storms and pushing herds of cows across the plains, longtime buddies and cattle drivers Casey Tubbs and Eli Doolin are ready to hang up their spurs. But when they get to Abilene with their final cow delivery, the company lawyer has skipped town with their crew's wages. That means one last job for Eli and Casey—steal it back. After pulling off the perfect crime, Casey and Eli start thinking this could be the start of a new career as outlaws. This is the first in a new series.

A Tale of Two Expectations

By James Mariner (Dorrance) \$19

It is 1884 and Caleb O'Rourke leaves his home in Connecticut. Arriving in Montana, he is discovered by Matthew Rangely and becomes the cowboy of his visions. Five years later, willful, well-to-do, city-bred Marie Devereaux boards the new westbound Northern Pacific train and encounters Rangely, who con-

vinces her to find her place in his little town. When Marie meets Caleb, her skill as a teacher and his willingness to learn result in changing expectations for both.

Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West

By Hampton Sides (Anchor) \$20

The Army of the West marched through Santa Fe in 1846, en route to invade and occupy the Western territories claimed by Mexico. Fueled by the new Manifest Destiny, this land grab would lead to a decades-long battle between the United States and the Navajos. At the center of this sweeping tale is Kit Carson, the trapper, scout, and soldier whose adventures made him a legend. Rich in detail and spanning more than three decades, this is an essential addition to our understanding of how the West was really won.

New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists, an Untold American Story

By Winifred Gallagher (Penguin) \$18

Hundreds of thousands of men and women traveled deep into the American West between 1840 and 1910. The traditional model of womanhood shifted. By 1914 western women became the first American women to vote; a right denied to women in every eastern state. Drawing on an extraordinary collection of research, Winifred Gallagher weaves together the legacy of persistent individuals who not only created homes on prairies but also played vital roles in forever redefining the American woman.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

May Library Events

Preparations for summer reading underway

By Harriet Halbig

The library's Summer Adventure summer reading program will begin on June 1.

Would you like to be involved? The library is seeking teen volunteers to help with the program, registering participants, awarding prizes, and helping with

special programs and with the activities that keep the library running during this busy time.

To apply as a volunteer, go to the library website, ppld.org. Click on About Us and Volunteer to find the application.

We hope you will join us!

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me

Palmer Lake Historical Society, April 20

Pikes Peak Library District holds wealth of history

By Marlene Brown

At its April 20 meeting at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, the Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) hosted Brett Lobello, director of the Regional History and Genealogy Department of the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD).

Lobello explained how the PPLD houses several papers and collections from area families and noted influential personalities of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The special collections are housed in the 1905 Carnegie Library located at 20 N. Cascade Ave. in Colorado Springs. The genealogy collections contain U.S. research materials from Colonial times to the present, including, books, periodicals, and access to major genealogical databases. For more information on archiving and researching, go to ppld.org/regional-history-and-genealogy. Regional History and Genealogy staff care for non-circulated historic documents held

in public trust by PPLD.

Some of the collection includes papers from Ruth Banning-Lewis, whose family's ranch covered over 30,000 acres east of Colorado Springs. Her collection includes notes taken at Lowell School and Wellesley College. Most of the collection is composed of newspapers clippings, leaflets, brochures, and pamphlets of a political scope during her time serving on the School District 11 board, as founding member of Girl Scouts Council of Colorado Springs, and organizer of the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross Volunteer Nurse's Aid Corps. She was on the board of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and from 1943-47 served on the Colorado Springs City Council.

Another special collection housed at the Carnegie Library in the photo archives is the Stuarts Aerial Collection from 1948-99. It contains aerial photographs of the building and construction of the City of Colo-

rado Springs and other projects in El Paso County, including the Air Force Academy in the early 1960s.

Individuals can do research through Pikes Peak Newspapers at ppld.org/databases/newspaper-archive. The database contains tens of millions of fully searchable newspaper articles by keywords and dates from 1607 to the present.

Contact Special Collections to make an appointment with a librarian (719) 531-6333 ext. 1253 to gain access to more information.

The next meeting of PLHS will be at the Palmer Lake Town Hall on the third Thursday of the month, May 18, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to palmerdividehistory.org

Marlene Brown can be reached by email at marlenebrown@ocn.me.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

No mow May; planting in our mountain forest climes

By Janet Sellers

Habitat loss: bulldozers or lawns?

Lawns represent the single largest irrigated crop grown in the U.S. and are actually harmful to our ecosystem. Use of pesticides, herbicides, and toxins aside, monoculture lawns lack floral and nesting re-

sources to support important myriad bees (the superfamily Apoidea, containing at least 5,700 species of bees).

Pollinators rely on us to help in May. The USDA Forest Service reported a study showing "that cutting the grass every two weeks resulted in signifi-

cantly higher bee abundance. Less frequent mowing gives lawn flowers like dandelions and clover—this is where social pressure comes to bear—a little more time to grow and blossom, resulting in nourishment for bees." Other studies showed that three-week intervals dramatically increased native pollinators and