

# Territorial News

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Vol. 31, No. 9

Your Connection to the Old West

November 28, 2018

Next Issue  
Wednesday  
December 12

### Play

Arizona Trivia  
See Page 2 for Details

### This Week's Question:

What is the name of the large Earth system science research center located near Oracle, Arizona?  
(12 Letters)

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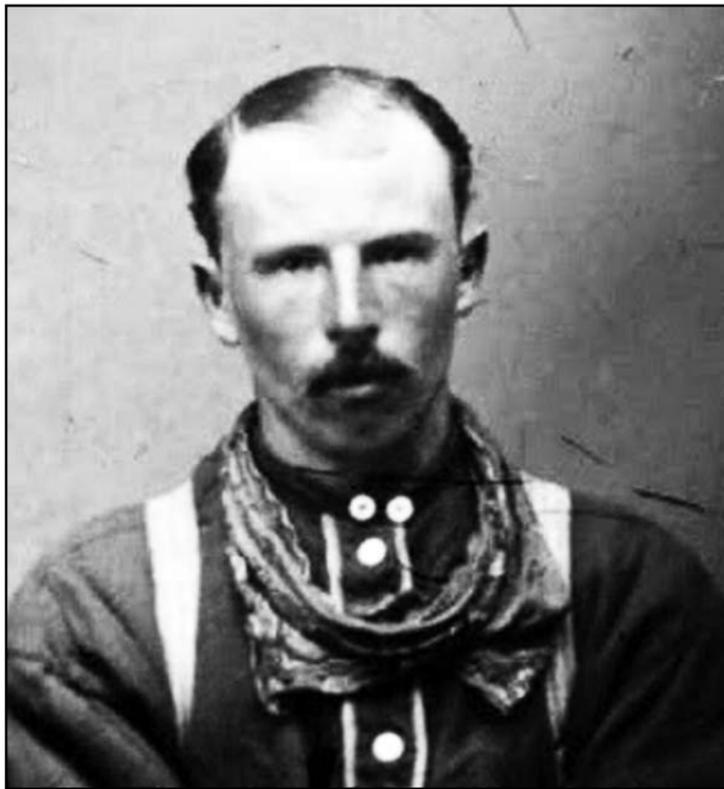
# Tom Horn

## Notorious Hired Gun

By Ralph Henderson

A tall handsome man, with great athletic ability, a love of the rodeo, and a deadly shot with a rifle, Tom Horn roamed the Old West from Arizona to Wyoming. Destined to become a legend from the time he left his home near Memphis in November 1874 at the age of 14, Tom Horn stirs controversy even today.

He was the reincarnation of the devil to homesteaders, and death to cattle rustlers. He was considered beyond reproach by the powerful western cattle barons of the late 1800s and the subject of many books and western movies through the years. Hanged for a murder he probably did not commit, his execution marked the end of an era. No longer would the Wild, Wild West administer justice at the discretion of hired gunmen, marshals



roaming at large, or eccentric judges conducting court as they saw fit. Controversy surrounding his guilt or innocence and the questionable nature of his trial still exists. One thing is certain, for the twenty-five years he

roamed the West, his presence seemed to result in a string of unexplained killings and unbreakable alibis.

Born in November 1860, Tom left home at a young age due to his abusive father and found himself in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working as a stage driver. In Santa Fe, he became very proficient with a gun and learned Spanish

and Apache. Possessing ability with languages and some tracking skills, he was employed by the Army in 1882 as a scout and interpreter. The following year Al Seiber recruited him for General George Crook's expedition into the Sierra Madre. In 1885, Horn was appointed chief of scouts for General Crook's pursuit of Geronimo. After General Nelson Miles replaced Crook, Horn helped negotiate Geronimo's final surrender to Miles at Skeleton Canyon.

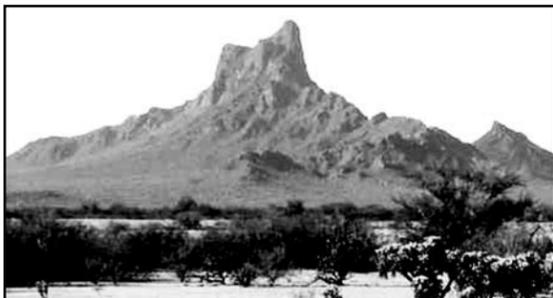
With the defeat of Geronimo, the army no longer needed Horn's services and he drifted north to Young, Arizona, where it is commonly believed that he involved himself in the famous Pleasant Valley War. Horn then moved on to Arivaipa, Arizona, working in the mining industry for a short time. Soon he began working as a cowboy and won a steer-roping contest at the Globe, Arizona, rodeo

(See Gunman on Page 4)

# The Battle of Picacho Pass

It is a little known fact that Arizona held status as a Territory of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. On April 15, 1862, the Confederates fought the Union Army on the flanks of Picacho Peak, a rocky volcanic spire situated 50 miles northwest of the small Sonoran town of Tucson. This engagement is commonly called the "westernmost battle of the Civil

War," but an earlier skirmish east of Yuma is probably the true holder of that title.



Today, Interstate 10, connecting Phoenix and Tucson, roughly traces the old wagon route that passed by Picacho in 1862. This

pass was an important place for travelers in those days since natural rock tanks here were filled with water at times when other tanks were bone dry. Furthermore, the peak above the pass was visible for many miles. The mail road passed through here,

as did the Butterfield Overland Stage route. The Mormon Battalion camped in

(See Civil War on Page 9)

## Libbie Custer

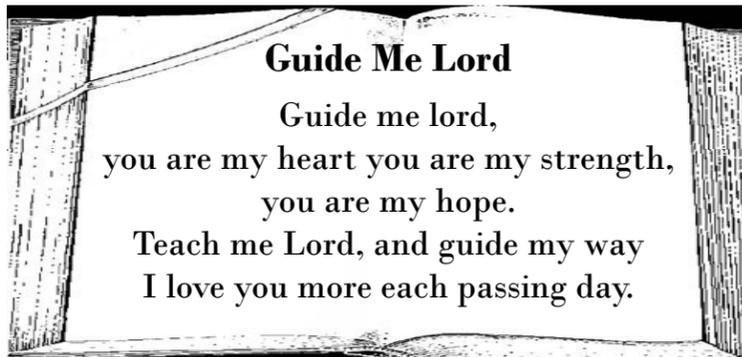
On February 9, 1864, at the First Presbyterian Church in Monroe, Michigan, George Armstrong Custer married 21-year-old Elizabeth "Libbie" Cliff Bacon. Miss Bacon, the only daughter of Judge Daniel Stanton Bacon, was generally regarded as the prettiest girl in Monroe. Judge Bacon also provided his lovely daughter with a solid education, training in the arts, and a stylish wardrobe.

Libbie first encountered George Custer when

he spent two years at an academy in Monroe. As Custer strolled past Judge Bacon's house, Libbie was swinging on the gate of the white picket fence. "Hello, you Custer boy!" she said with a smile. She then ran into the house—and into 15-year-old George's heart.

Several years later, another chance encounter nearly derailed any future romance. From October 1861 until February 1862,

(See Widow on Page 6)



### Guide Me Lord

Guide me lord,  
you are my heart you are my strength,  
you are my hope.  
Teach me Lord, and guide my way  
I love you more each passing day.

## Captain's Bar Presents

### ARIZONA TRIVIA

This Week's Question: What is the name of the large Earth system science research center located near Oracle, Arizona? (12 Letters)

Last Issue's Question: Built by Del Webb in 1960, what Arizona city was the first 55-plus active adult retirement community in the country?  
Answer: Sun City

*Congratulations! You got the right answer!*

Leo Achin, Keith Adams, Sid Clarke, Larry Damer, Richard Fordyce, Kevin Gartley, Robert Lidgett, Bill Riordan, Nancy Swanson, Richard Valley.

#### How to Play

Letters are hidden in the advertisements. Find the letters to spell the answer. Submit your answer with your name, address & phone number on a postcard for the current issue's question to Territorial Publishing, P.O. Box 1690, Apache Junction, AZ 85217. Look for the answer in the next issue. To have your name listed in the next issue, cards must be received no later than 10 days past the current issue of the Territorial News. For example: submitted answers to the 11/28/18 question, deadline is 12/8/18. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old. Remember to put your name on your entry!

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## Arizona - Web of Time

### Jim Harvey

The Arizona Trail

Long before the white man came to Arizona, Mojave Indians, whose descendants live today near the California border, were middle men on a trade route leading inland more than 900 miles from the Pacific Coast. Mojave merchants traveling on foot traded beads and sea shells for pots, cloth and jewelry.

on horseback for gold and silver in 1540.

An 1869 Tucson restaurant called the Shoo Fly served fresh tomatoes, lettuce, oranges, lemons, limes and apricots brought from Mexico by burro pack trains. The menu also included jerked beef stew.

The first Europeans to see the Grand Canyon were Spanish explorers searching

When northwest Arizona's Indian wars ended, a white couple from California named Edwin and Rose

Imus started ranching in 1875 at a place called Willow Grove east of present day Kingman and north of where Interstate 40 is now. Their two-room adobe house had been built and then abandoned by the U.S. Army. The windows were gun ports just large enough to fire a rifle through, the roof was made of canes covered by dirt, and the ground was the floor. Chairs and the bed were homemade. Flour, sugar and coffee beans were purchased at Fort Whipple three days south by wagon. Hualapai and Havasupai Indians traded dried peaches, corn and Navajo blankets with Edwin and Rose for ponies and beef.

The new sheriff of Arizona's Apache County in 1887 was Commodore Perry Owens. He let his hair grow halfway down his back and had a reputation for shooting first when he enforced the law.

1895 was the year outlaws robbing the Williams post office used too much dynamite to blast open the safe. The explosion blew out the front of the building and the thieves escaped with some stamps.

The five-story 160-room Gadsden Hotel built at Douglas near the Mexican border in 1907 had a marble staircase and a lobby ceiling covered with gold leaf.



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**In Their Own Words**

**The Mormon Ghost Town**

**T**he Mormon town of Nauvoo, with 15,000 residents, was once the largest and wealthiest in the state of Illinois. Resentment of the sect, and fear of its power, fueled anti-Mormon violence, culminating in the murder of Mormon founder Joseph Smith in 1844.

Smith's successor, Brigham Young, decided to lead his followers across the plains to escape further persecution. Thomas L. Kane, an eyewitness to the events in Nauvoo, wrote of seeing the empty town in the aftermath of the Mormon departure.

I was descending the last hillside upon my journey, when a landscape broke upon my view. Half encircled by a bend in the river, a beautiful city lay glittering in the fresh morning sun; its bright new dwellings, set in cool green gardens, ranging up around a stately dome-shaped hill, which was crowned by a noble marble edifice, whose

high tapering spire was radiant with white and gold.

The city appeared to cover several miles; and beyond it, in the background, there rolled off a fair country, chequered by the careful lines of fruitful husbandry. The unmistakable marks of industry, enterprise, and educated wealth, everywhere, made the scene one of singular and most striking beauty.

It was a natural im-

pulse to visit this inviting region. I procured a skiff, and rowing across the river, landed at the chief wharf of the city. No one met me there. I looked, and saw no one. I could hear no one move; though the quiet everywhere was such that I heard the flies buzz, and the water ripples break against the shallow of the beach.

I walked through the

(See Nauvoo on Page 10)

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My girlfriend was complaining last night that I never listen to her. Or something like that...

# Tom Horn

## Gunman

(From Page 1)

on July 4, 1888, and a similar event in Phoenix shortly thereafter. He then drifted to Prescott where he served as a deputy for sheriff "Bucky" O'Neil.

In 1890 Horn joined the Pinkerton Agency at Denver. Four years later he became a detective with the Swan Land and Cattle Company where it appears he became a hired assassin resulting in the murders of two Wyoming ranchers, William Lewis and Fred U. Powell, both known

cattle rustlers. Suspected of these killings, Horn, backed by a number of ranchers and cowboy witnesses, produced an unbreakable alibi and escaped indictment.

For the following three years Tom Horn patrolled the southern Wyoming pastures dispensing a brand of justice the men of the new changing West believed was long outdated. Serving as judge, jury, and executioner, Horn rode the range as a single unknown figure that could materialize anywhere, any time. How many men he killed will never be known, but no man's name brought out more fear among rustlers or applause among the cowboys and ranchers than Tom Horn's. The hands and their bosses saw Horn as the lone knight of the range waging a dedicated crusade against a lawless new society threatening their beloved way of life.

Returning to Arizona in 1897, he supposedly propositioned William K. Meade, the marshal of Tucson, to kill members of the Christian gang. It is not known if Meade took Horn up on his offer, but Jack Christian and Robert Christian were both murdered shortly thereafter. In 1898, Horn returned to Prescott, recruited by his old friend "Bucky" O'Neil as a civilian packer or mule wrangler for the Arizona contingent "Troop A" of the Rough Riders. Arriving in Tampa, Florida, in June of 1898, Horn never saw action after contracting malaria.

Regaining his health, Horn returned to Wyoming

(See Gunman on Page 12)

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## Ultimate Chicago with Kenny Cetera

Thursday, January 31st 7:00pm

Kenny Cetera fronts this amazing tribute to Chicago. Former touring member of the band Chicago, younger brother of Peter and contributing vocalist on Chicago 17, still the band's biggest selling record! Kenny is joined by a hand-selected band of incredible musicians to celebrate the music of one of the greatest bands of all time - CHICAGO!



## The Fly Boys

Today's Pop, Yesterday's Style

Thursday, February 7th 7:00pm

Unique four-piece vocal group featuring effortless vocals and sublime harmonies, reminiscent of the Four Freshmen and Take 6. Vintage meets modern - picture Pharell Williams crooning with Judy Garland or Maroon 5 grooving with Ella Fitzgerald. Featuring world class performers from London's West End. Looking for something unique and special? Look no further.



## Legend of a Band Moody Blues Tribute

Thursday, March 7th 7:00pm

A "Super Group" of musicians who've played with some of the biggest names in music. Drummer Gordy Marshall and keyboard player Paul Bliss performed together with the Moody Blues for over 20 years. They play all the Moody Blues classics, like *Tuesday Afternoon*, *Question*, and *Nights in White Satin*.



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FEB 8 MONTESA  
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FEB 19 GOOD LIFE RES (\$30/35/40)  
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4:00pm & 7:30pm

### SHA NA NA



MAR 13 VAL VISTA VILLAGES RES (\$30/35/40)  
MAR 14 SUPERSTITION VIEWS GUEST (\$35/40/45)  
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### MELISSA MANCHESTER



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JAN 24 MESA REGAL GUEST (\$45/50/55)  
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Tuesday, January 29th 7:00pm

Randy Linder and his band's tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival is second to none. They have entertained audiences from California to New York with the beloved hits that came from CCR between the years of 1968 and 1972 and a few of John Fogerty's solo hits, like *Proud Mary*, and *Who'll Stop the Rain*.



## Linda Ronstadt The Tribute

Wednesday, February 27th 7:00pm

Throughout the '70s, Linda Ronstadt's laid-back folk-infused pop set her apart from her contemporaries, as she effortlessly moved into the '80s, and has remained a fixture in the hearts of the legion of fans who love her. With over 30 studio albums, dozens of music awards, a Tony Award, and more, Ronstadt is one of the most prolific and beloved singers of all-time.



## ABBAFAB Abba Tribute

Tuesday, March 19th 7:00pm

Playing to sold-out crowds across the USA and abroad, ABBA FAB is a stunning tribute to the music of ABBA, the Swedish pop group that became one of the most successful acts in the history of pop music. This multimedia production is a tribute to some of the greatest music produced in the '70s and '80s including monster hits such as *Waterloo*, *Fernando*, *Dancing Queen* and more!



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 Dinner Show: \$20.00 Tickets available Nov. 1 thru Dec. 12  
 Dreamland Office, 320 N 55th Pl., Mesa

Get your tickets early - - - this will be a sell out!!!  
 Open to the public - BYOB

# Libbie Custer

Widow

(From Page 1)

Lieutenant Custer spent a sick leave in Monroe at the home of his half-sister. One day, he became drunk with some old schoolmates, and as he staggered to his sister's house, he passed the

Bacon home. Libbie, a girl of strong religious convictions, observed the inebriated young officer with stern disapproval. Custer's sister apparently elicited a pledge from him to stop indulging in liquor or tobacco, and he kept his word.

At age 18, Libbie was formally introduced to

Custer while she was a student at Boyd's Seminary. Subsequently, Custer courted Libbie, besieging her with letters.

Custer's successes during the Civil War resulted in swift promotion to general. In September 1863, he returned to Monroe and proposed to Libbie. Despite Judge Bacon's reservations, Libbie accepted.

Following the wedding and a brief honeymoon, Libbie accompanied her husband to brigade headquarters. It was not customary for women to be at duty posts, but Libbie's presence notably improved behavior around headquarters, and other officer's wives began to join their husbands.

After the war, Libbie continued to live with George wherever he was stationed, and she often accompanied him on campaigns. When

(See Widow on Page 18)

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# Take Your Christmas Photo With a Clydesdale

The Little Mesa Cafe is saddling up with the USA Clydesdale Preservation Foundation (USACPF) hosting a benefit breakfast on Saturday, December 1, from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. One half of the proceeds for all pancakes sold will go to help these "at risk" horses. Food specials, door prizes, and raffles will be offered to all. The horses will be on site and dressed for the holidays from 7:00 a.m. - noon. Bring the kids and have their Christmas photo taken with these majestic horses. This is a great opportunity to stop by and meet a Clydesdale and learn more about one of the rarest horse breeds in the world. A professional photographer will be taking photos for donations as part of the fundraiser.

USA Clydesdale Preservation Foundation (USACPF) is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Clydesdale horse breed.

Founded in 2012 in Gilbert, Arizona, by Rebecca Stivers, USACPF's goal is to educate the public about the "at risk" classification of the Clydesdale Horse.

With their origins in Scotland during the early 19th century, the Clydesdale was bred specifically as a working farm horse. The Clydesdales are one of the largest of the draft horses ranging from 1800 to

2500 lbs and 16 to 19 hands in height.

Clydesdales came to the U.S. in the late 19th century. They have been utilized as a farm horse and war horse in the earlier years, but their numbers declined drastically due to casualties of war and the industrial revolution, as they were no longer needed

(See Horses on Page 13)

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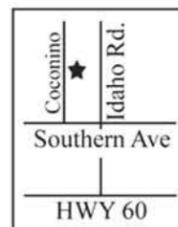
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<b>Taco Tuesday</b> \$1.75 Tacos	<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b> BIG Steaks \$15
<b>Welfare Wednesday</b> \$6 Rufus Burger with Side & 75¢ Wings	<b>Sunday</b> 75¢ Wings

**AJ's Best Karaoke**  
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# Territorial Road Trip to the BAJA 1000

By Ralph Henderson

This year the *Territorial News* traveled south to Mexico, November 14-18, for a "must see" experience for any racing fan or someone looking for a fun weekend: the annual "Baja 1000" in scenic Ensenada, Mexico. Crossing the border at either Mexicali or San Diego, Ensenada is about a seven-hour drive. You will need a passport.

The Baja 1000 has long been considered the granddaddy of all desert races, with this year's participants numbering over 300 from forty-five states and twenty countries. Spectators numbering around 300,000 gathered along the race track and Ensenada's historic Plaza to watch the 51st annual SCORE Baja 1000 over the 806 mile, rough Baja terrain. To watch the start



Spectators can get close to the exciting racing action at the Baja 1000.



Vendors line the streets as thousands of racing fans crowd the Plaza in Ensenada.

Photos by Ralph Henderson and Clifford Stevens

(See Road Trip on Page 11)

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# Battle of Picacho Pass

Civil War

(From Page 3)

this pass on December 17, 1846.

In 1862, this area was virtually deserted due to its natural desolation, and the fact that all U.S. Army troops had departed the previous year, abandoning the local settlers and leaving the Indians there to do as they wished. Before marching off to join the Union Army being assembled in the East, the local garrison troops had opened their supply depots to the nearby civilians, telling them "take what you need, and get out." Not all heeded this advice. Many people who had staked their lives and fortunes on the Southwest decided to remain, strengthening the local militia units that already populated this secessionist area. For their part, the local Indian tribes, mostly Apache, believed that their own efforts were what

(See Civil War on Page 14)





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**Ugly Sweater Night**  
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Wear Your Ugly Sweater!

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(See bartender for details)

**MONDAY:**  
POOL TOURNAMENT 7pm  
**TUESDAY:**  
KARAOKE with Jason 8pm  
**WEDNESDAY:**  
BUSTIN' LOOSE Is Back! 6pm  
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<p><b>Tuesday, January 15</b></p> <p>Monica Heuser's <b>Remember Patsy Cline</b></p> <p>Sanctioned by the estate of Patsy Cline!</p> 	<p><b>Friday, February 22</b></p> <p>Kevin Sterner in <b>Strait Country</b></p> <p>Tribute to the great George Strait!</p> 
<p><b>Friday, March 1</b></p> <p><b>Karen Hester as Dolly!</b></p> <p>DIRECT FROM NASHVILLE!</p> 	<p><b>Saturday, March 16</b></p> <p><b>Groovin' Thru the 60's</b></p> <p>Back by popular demand! Mamas &amp; Papas, Simon &amp; Garfunkel, Peter, Paul &amp; Mary</p> 

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# Mormon Ghost Town

Nauvoo

(From Page 3)

solitary streets. The town lay as in a dream, under some deadening spell of loneliness, from which I almost

feared to wake it. For plainly it had not slept long. There was no grass growing up in the paved ways. Rains had not entirely washed away the prints of dusty footsteps.

Yet I went about unchecked. I went into empty

workshops, rope walks and smithies. The spinner's wheel was idle; the carpenter had gone from his work-bench and shavings, his unfinished sash and casing. Fresh bark was in the tanner's vat, and the fresh-chopped lightwood stood piled up against the baker's oven.

The blacksmith's shop was cold; but his coal heap and lading pool and crooked water horn were all there, as if he had just gone off for a holiday. No work people anywhere looked to know my errand.

If I went into the gardens, clinking the wicket-latch loudly after me, to pull marygolds, heart's-ease and lady-slippers, and draw a drink with the water sodden well-bucket and its noisy chain; or, knocking off with my stick the tall heavy-headed dahlias and sunflowers, hunted over the beds for cucumbers and love-apples, no one called out to me from any opened window, or dog sprang forward to bark an alarm.

I could have supposed the people hidden in the houses, but the doors were unfastened; and when at last I timidly entered them, I found dead ashes upon the hearths, and had to tread a tiptoe, as if walking down the aisle of a country church, to avoid rousing irreverent echoes from the naked floors.

Thomas Kane, though not a Mormon, became an important middleman between the church and the U. S. government. In honor of Kane's work to secure government protection for the exodus, present day Council Bluffs, Iowa, was once named Kanessville.

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# Territorial Road Trip to the BAJA 1000

## Road Trip

(From Page 8)

and finish of the Baja 1000 in Ensenada's historic Plaza is truly something to see with live tracking and coverage of the race going on continuously on the many large jumbotrons located throughout the Plaza and the Cultural Center filled with vendors, mariachis, great food, and fun people. Many camped out all night along the race course at their favorite action turns and jumps where the live action was, others enjoyed the festivities in the comfort of the many 5-star restaurants, hotels and RV campgrounds along the Plaza where the start and finish line was located.

For more information on this and other upcoming SCORE off-road events in both San Felipe and Ensenada, go to score-international.com



Spectators camp near the race track at the Baja 1000.

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**WED** **Line Dance Lessons**  
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**THURS** **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** 5-8pm  
**KARAOKE** 9pm-Close  
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**FRI** **PETE BYAM** 5-8pm  
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# Tom Horn

**Gunman**

(From Page 4)

where he busted broncos for \$125.00 a month for the var-

ious ranches along the upper Chugwater. Rustling was still a problem in the Green River Valley, across the border from a remote area on the Colorado side called Browns

Hole, today called Browns Park. The area served as a refuge for many of the outlaw bands such as the Wild Bunch and others. Soon posters began to appear warning suspected rustlers to leave the area. A couple of outlaws were found dead and suspicions turned to Tom Horn, who was familiar with the area from his days with the Pinkerton Agency.

On July 18, 1901, Willie Nickell, the fourteen-year-old son of Kels Nickell was shot while riding his father's horse and wearing his father's coat. Seventeen days later, Kels, the only sheep farmer in the valley, was shot and wounded in the arm, hip and side. While recuperating in the hospital, several of Kel's sheep were clubbed to death. Again, Horn was suspected in the killing. On January 11, 1902, Deputy U.S. Marshal Joe Lefors, who felt Horn had shot Willie in a case of mistaken identity, invited Horn to meet with him

(See Gunman on Page 16)

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# Clydesdale Fundraiser

## Horses

(From Page 7)

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USACPF is always looking for volunteers who

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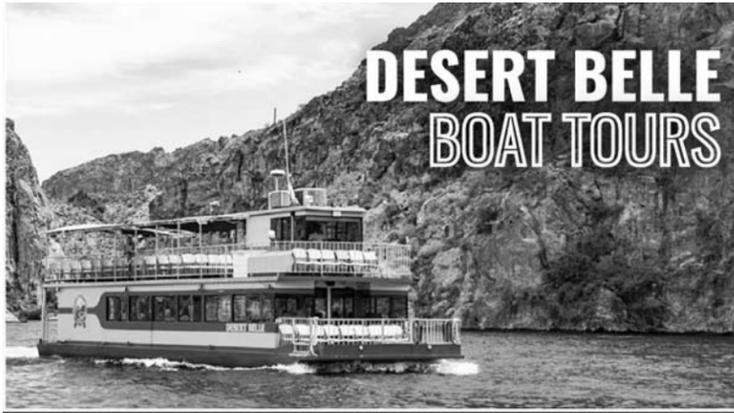
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 Nights!

# Battle of Picacho Pass

## Civil War

(From Page 9)

had finally chased away the "bluecoats" and naturally,

they were determined to make the most of the situation.

Into this volatile scene marched the newly formed Confederate Army, whose

formations had declared the entire New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy on August 1, 1861. After securing the Rio Grande Valley, the local Confederate commander dispatched Captain Sherrod Hunter to Tucson, which he occupied on February 28, 1862 after a cold winter march. With its new garrison of 75 confederates, Tucson was now the furthest point west in the Confederate Empire. They enjoyed the earnest support of the local civilians, as long as they and their brethren helped to keep the Indians suppressed, a task that drew considerable manpower away from the tiny Confederate force.

The Union reacted quickly to the Confederate seizure of the Southwestern Territories. Indeed, these events turned out to represent the most complete takeover of Union territory the Confederacy managed during its existence. Once the Confederate threat in California

(See Civil War on Page 17)

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DEC 1: Boothill  
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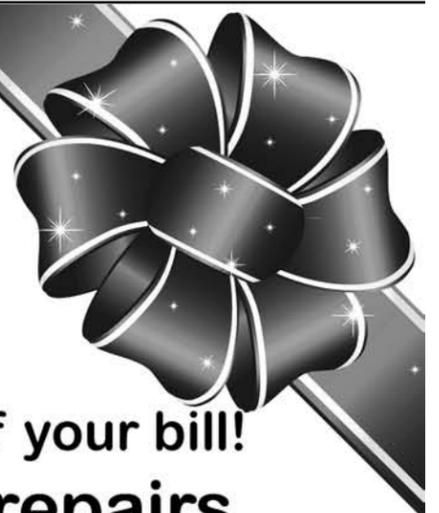
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# Tom Horn

## Gunman

(From Page 12)

under the basis that he had some "secret" work for Horn to do infiltrating a gang in Montana. During this meeting, Lefors, knowing Horn

always publicly denied everything, but privately liked to create and magnify his image as an assassin whose very name and presence created a blood chilling ring of terror, allegedly enticed Horn to confess to the killing of Willie Nickell, and the two

ranchers Lewis and Powell. Supposedly hiding in an adjacent room was a shorthand stenographer and a Laramie County Deputy Sheriff. On Monday, January 13, Laramie County Sheriff Edwin J. Smalley arrested Horn in the bar of the Inter Ocean hotel. Deputy U.S. Marshall Joe LeFors watched as Horn was taken into custody.

Horn's defense during the ensuing trial was paid for by Joe Coble, owner of the Iron Mountain Ranch (a brand still in use today), with Horn being represented by the general counsel for the Union Pacific, John Lacey, and a former Wyoming Supreme Court Justice. Despite his high-powered defense team and many alibi witnesses, Tom Horn was found guilty at the conclusion of a two-week trial on October 23, 1902. In August of 1903, his appeal pending, Horn, along with another inmate, escaped. However, pedestrians overpowered Horn and returned him to jail. Horn spent the remaining months awaiting his fate, braiding a rope and writing his autobiography. His appeal was denied on September 30, 1903. In spite of a flurry of legal efforts to spare Horn from the hangman, on November 20, 1903, one day before his birthday, Horn was led to the gallows and hung with his own rope. Horn's body was claimed by his brother Charles Horn and buried in the Columbia Cemetery in Boulder, Colorado.

In 1993, a retrial was held in which Horn was declared innocent. The New York Times described the trial: "Once Guilty, Now Innocent, but Still Dead."

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# Battle of Picacho Pass

## Civil War

(From Page 14)

subsided, a small force of roughly 1,400 troops under Brigadier General James H. Carleton was dispatched from Fort Yuma to march on Tucson. Hearing word of this "California Column," Hunter pushed north to the Gila River, encountering his first Union troops when the leading detachment of California cavalry blundered into Hunter's men as they captured a flour mill. After interring the Union cavalymen and giving the flour to the local Indians, Hunter returned to Tucson, first dispatching a small party of Confederate cavalry to ride west along the stage road, burning hay that had been left piled for the approaching Union troops. This party of rebels rode to within 80 miles of Fort Yuma, finally stopping when they encountered the first Union pickets, whom they drove off, wounding one. This little known skirmish was the true "westernmost" fight of the Civil War.

By early April, the California Column had reached an area near present day Casa Grande, Arizona. From there, they dispatched a group of scouts to reconnoiter the remainder of the route into Tucson. It was this detachment of the First California Cavalry that ran into Hunter's men at Picacho Pass on April 15. Hunter's strong detachment of pickets had occupied ambush positions up on the rocky slopes of Picacho Peak, from which they commanded a wide view of the stage road. Contrary to popular belief, the two sides did not stumble upon each other by accident. The Confederates were waiting in ambush, and only part of the Union cavalry troopers entered the pass via the stage road. The position itself was obviously an ambush point, so the approaching Californians had split in two, sending part of their force to circle the dangerous position as a precaution.

These precautions were justified, because at 2:00 p.m., Hunter's waiting men fired upon the Union cavalymen entering the pass. Two Union troopers were injured, and the rest went to the

ground in disorder. At this Confederate skirmish line, time, the other Union force came up on the flank of the (See Civil War on Page 19)

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# Libbie Custer

Widow

(From Page 6)

they were apart, he sent long letters to her. In 1867, Custer was court-martialed after leaving his regiment in the field to race 150 miles in 55 hours to see Libbie.

The 36-year-old Custer and more than 200 of his men were slain in 1876 at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Libbie was only 34, but she never remarried. She promoted Custer's reputation through lectures and books, including Boots and Saddles (1885), Tenting on the Plains (1887), and Following the Guidon (1890). Libbie died in New York City on April 4, 1933.

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"The adulation's heaped on him by a grateful nation for his supposed genius turned his head, which, added to his natural disposition, caused him to bloat his little carcass with debauchery and dissipation which carried him off prematurely."

— General George Crook delivered this unusual obituary in memory of General Philip Sheridan, who was disliked by many Army officers of the West

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# Battle of Picacho Pass

## Civil War

(From Page 17)

capturing three of Hunter's men. Encouraged by this victory, Union Lieutenant James Barrett waved his men forward against the remaining Confederate cavalry troopers, who laid down heavy fire, killing and wounding four more Union soldiers, including Lieutenant Barrett. After withdrawing and regrouping, the Union cavalry continued trading shots with the Confederates until late afternoon, when they withdrew and slowly returned to the main body to the north.

It soon became clear, however, that local Confederate successes could not change the strategic realities of the situation. Sherrod Hunter's Confederates continued to be outnumbered, and they were too far from the main Confederate army on the Rio Grande to receive regular supply or reinforcement. Carleton's California troops finally arrived in Tucson, only to discover that Hunter had evacuated. The retreat itself became well known in western lore, and Apaches based in the Chiricahua Mountains attacked Hunter's eastbound troops repeatedly. The Confederates even armed their Union prisoners, as the march became a fight for survival. The tired Confederates arrived on the Rio Grande River on May 27, 1862, bringing the Confederate invasion of Arizona to an end.

Anyone who has driven between Tucson and Phoenix is familiar with Picacho Peak. It is a major landmark in that part of the Sonoran Desert and can be seen from

Casa Grande to northern Tucson. The peak itself is the eroded remnant of a volcanic plug, its solid stone walls towering above Interstate 10. Today the area is the site of Picacho Peak State Park. There is a stone monument commemorating the battle and several hiking trails.



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					30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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