

RUN OUT OF TOWN ON A RAIL • WHY DID JOHN WAYNE'S *BIG TRAIL* FAIL?

OUR 55TH YEAR

JULY 2008

TRUE WEST

ING THE AMERICAN WEST



SECRETS OF OUR
NATIONAL PARKS

ONE COWBOY SAVED
THE GRAND CANYON.

WHO WAS HE?

\$5.99

twmag.com





EDMOND

The Art of Oklahoma!

Welcome to Edmond, Oklahoma, where world-class sculptures are scattered like jewels throughout the city - dozens of them, lining the streets and tucked into corners, waiting to surprise you with unexpected beauty. A city unmatched in the heartland with fine dining, luxurious lodging, championship golf, outdoor adventure, shopping and family-friendly events & attractions.

Edmond Convention & Visitors Bureau
(405) 341-4344
or toll-free (866) 341-4344
www.visitedmondok.com

Call for Your FREE Visitor Guide!

Modern Cowboys

Spending their days riding the range.

“Sometimes you wonder why they all bunch up into cities, when there’s all of this,” observes Ron Schaefer, head cowboy at Rancho de la Osa, as we look out over miles of high desert and the small twin border towns of Sasabe, Mexico, and Sasabe, Arizona.

We had raced on horseback against the setting sun, Ron in the lead, eager to show me this view in the afternoon light from atop the highest peak in the area.

At this time of day, the beautiful setting sun filters through the mesquite trees and cacti lighting up the rolling hills of nearby Mexico. I thought about what Ron had said. I had chosen to live in cities for most of my life but continued to savor places like this. Like many people, my work had taken me to the city. Ron’s work and life choices had taken him to this ranch, where he spends his days riding the range. Ron is living a novel existence—the life of a modern cowboy.

Ron rides a horse to work, wearing a six-shooter on his hip. He watches the low sagebrush, mesquite trees and high desert environment change like city dwellers watch the shifting windows at Bloomingdale. He’ll chronicle the changes in the land for you, if you ask. The gun, a relic from the Civil War that once belonged to a relative who had served in it, sits in a leather holster. Wild dogs and those who would prey on the desperation of illegal immigrants are the reasons he’s armed. Politics are of no concern to him. He’s protecting the ranch

and its livestock and guests without bias. When I asked him if I had reason to be concerned, Ron laughed, asking, “What can I do with six bullets and a tiny gun?” Indeed, the greatest deterrent he has to any danger is his unparalleled command of his mount and intimate knowledge of the land. “Besides,” he says, “we don’t see much trouble here. But safety is important.”

In my travels, I’ve met a select group of people who, like Ron, are living what I’ve come to recognize as an authentic Western lifestyle. They share similar qualities, including a deep respect for history, a fascination with different cultures and a patience seldom seen in modern times. They spend their days on horseback immersed in nature, and their fates are intertwined with the horses, livestock and land.

“I went and saw the world and came back and decided—this is a lot better.”

There’s Jay Brewer at Wildcatter Ranch. Jay’s a native of Graham, Texas, where the ranch is located. He grew up on horseback, at least until he “became more interested in girls than horses” in high school. Jay’s curiosity of life away from Graham led him to New York City, where he lived on the Upper West Side, rode the subway and very nearly lost his swagger. But Texas never left him completely, and

after a few years, he bought a plane ticket home to Graham. You can find Jay at Wildcatter, guiding riders into the rolling hills of North Texas, relaying the history of the Comanche Indians and the colorful “wildcatters,” people searching for oil by drilling for it in unproven territory. Jay has a passion for life and a



Ron Schaefer leads Darley to the highest peak near Rancho de la Osa, armed with a six-shooter to protect the ranch without bias.

BLANK FIRING PRECISION REPLICAS

WESTERN CLASSICS

DELUXE M1873 9mm FAST DRAW REVOLVER 38-200
(9mm Blank Fast Draw Blued) \$131

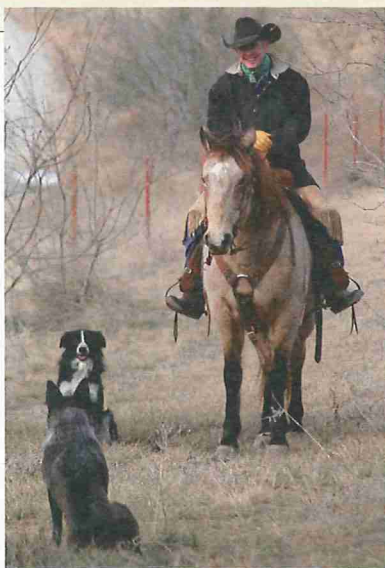
These Old West stage prop revolvers are ideal cowboy shooting practice pieces. Same size, weight, loading and firing actions as originals. Safe, cannot fire real ammo.

.22 WESTERN FAST DRAW REVOLVER 38-200N (9mm Cal. Fast Draw Nickel) \$141
38-159BC (10 Extra-loud blanks) \$9
38-228C (100 .22 blanks) \$25

1866 .22 CALIBER DOUBLE BARREL DERRINGER 38-376 (.22 Cal. Derringer Nickel) \$90

Dealer Inquiries Welcome
Special Offer: Mention Promotion Code TW and Receive FREE Shipping!
Limited Time Offer

COLLECTOR'S ARMOURY, LTD
Dept. TW • P.O. Box 1050
Lorton, Virginia 22199-1050 USA
1-877-ARMOURY (276-6879)
www.collectorsarmoury.com
sales@collectorsarmoury.com



Jay Brewer tried out New York City life but riding the subway could not compare to riding the range, so he moved back to his native Graham, Texas, where he guides riders over the hills of North Texas.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY DARLEY NEWMAN —

great sense of humor, two qualities he shares with guests.

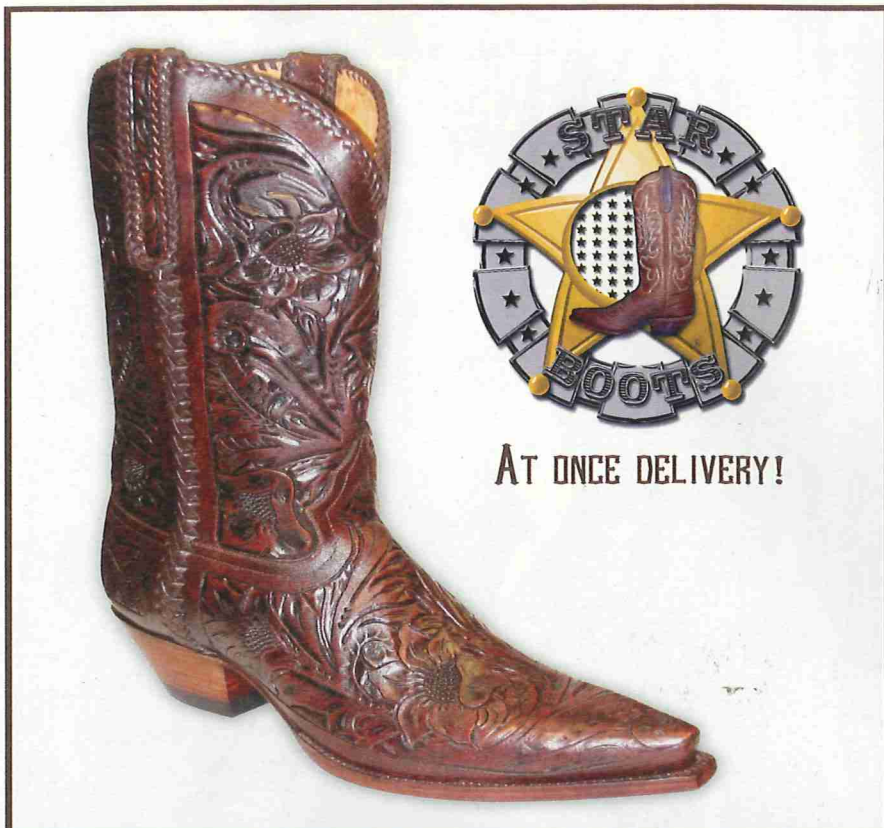
As I asked Jay about his decision to come back to Graham, he told me this, "I went and saw the world and came back and decided—this is a lot better."

In Durango, Colorado, Anne Rapp doesn't work on a ranch, but almost every day she rides out into the San Juan Mountains, either for pleasure or to guide riders like me to high altitudes and the far reaches of this dynamic area. Anne's been riding these mountains for more than 25 years, pioneering countless trails. She takes in the wild flowers as they change and braves hailstorms and changing weather under shelter of a cowboy hat. The many years that Anne has ridden in this area haven't lessened the experience or the natural elements that she calls "humbling."

Ron, Jay and Anne are modern cowboys. They may not be driving cattle on the Chisholm Trail, but they are trailblazing. We can't all be cowboys, but we can all play cowboy and support those people who have chosen to live a different kind of modern life by riding with them and hearing their stories. Mostly, we can learn from them and share a few days in their lives. It's their stories of their horses and the natural world that enrich our lives.



Darley Newman is the host and producer of the Public Television series *Equitrekking*®, which takes viewers on horseback riding vacations around the world. Check your local listings for dates and times of this stunning high definition series and visit equitrekking.com.

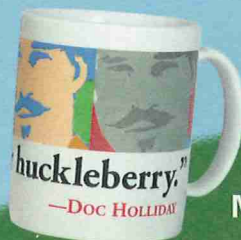


AT ONCE DELIVERY!

www.starboots.net • 973-244-4433
FAIRFIELD, NEW JERSEY • DEALER INQUIRES WELCOME

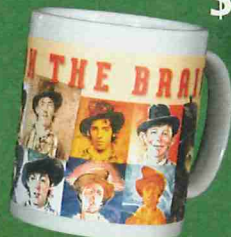
WAKE UP WITH TRUE WEST

... and drink yours at home or on the go!



True West
Mugs

\$9.99 each*



Old West Icons
Travel Mug

\$14.95*

twmag.com

888-687-1881

*plus s/h.

TRUE WEST
HUCKLEBERRY • DOC HOLLIDAY • THE BRAV