

RIDERS OF THE SILVER SCREEN



BILL RENFRO



RIDERS
OF THE
SILVER SCREEN

June 2020



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the many of you who grew up going to the local picture show on a Saturday night to see your favorite movie cowboy bring the bad guys to justice.





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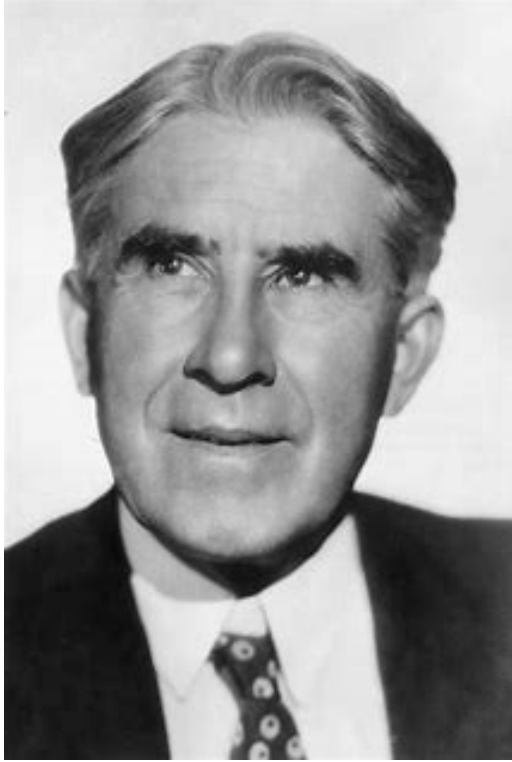
THIS BOOK

I am writing this book in an effort to bring back the memories that I have maintained over the years as one of the things that brought great enjoyment each Saturday night as I sat in the old RITZ picture show. I do not remember one time that the good guys lost or that justice was not returned through law and order.

This book only shows the pictures and names of the stars that were my favorites, and may not be your favorites, but that is the breaks; it is my book.

The book begins with the western writer that I have come to believe was the best one ever. He wrote more than 80 books in his life, most of which I have read. About 50 of these books were made into movies. He was-----

ZANE GREY



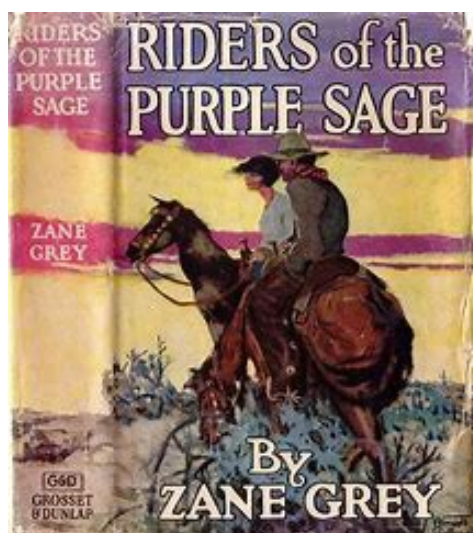
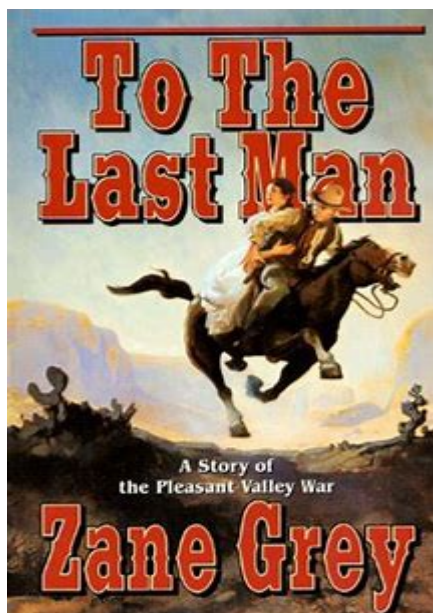
ZANE GREY
Western Author

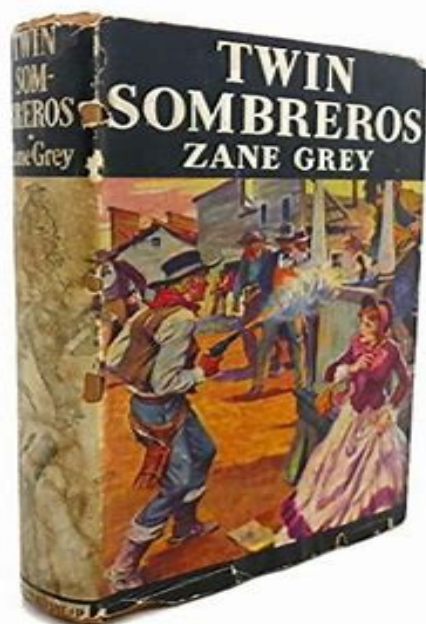
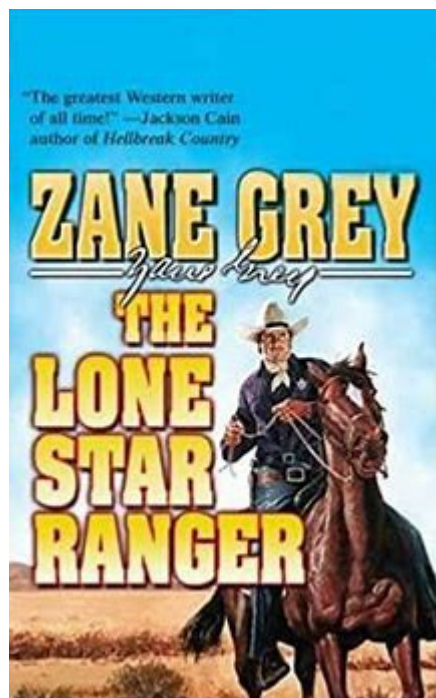
ZANE GREY

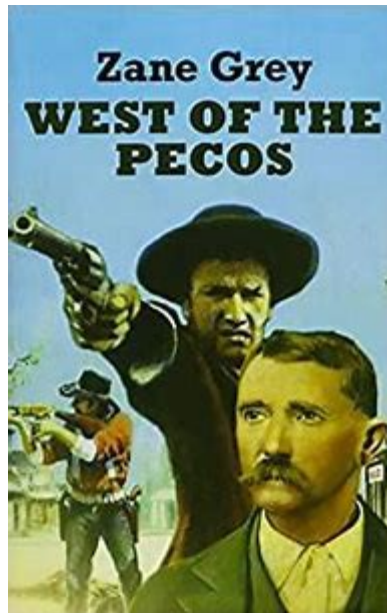
Trained as a dentist, Grey practiced in [New York City](#) from 1898 to 1904, when he published privately a [novel](#) of pioneer life, [Betty Zane](#), based on an ancestor's journal. Deciding to abandon [dentistry](#) for full-time writing, he published in 1905 *The Spirit of the Border*—also based on Zane's notes—which became a best-seller. Grey subsequently wrote more than 80 books, a number of which were published posthumously; more than 50 were in print in the last quarter of the 20th century. The novel *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1912) was the most popular; others included *The Lone Star Ranger* (1915), *The U.P. Trail* (1918), *Call of the Canyon* (1924), and *Code of the West* (1934). Prominent among his nonfiction works is *Tales of Fishing* (1925).

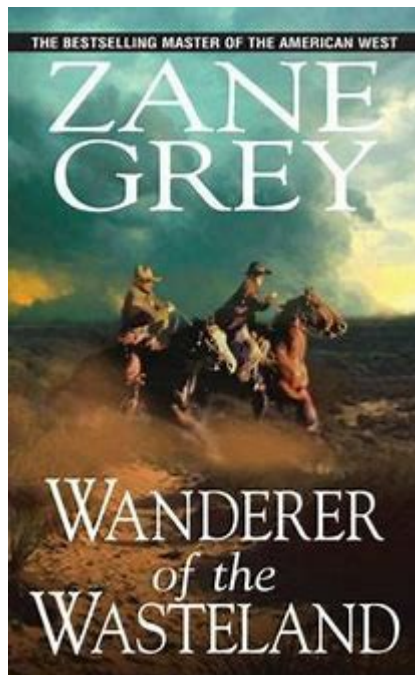
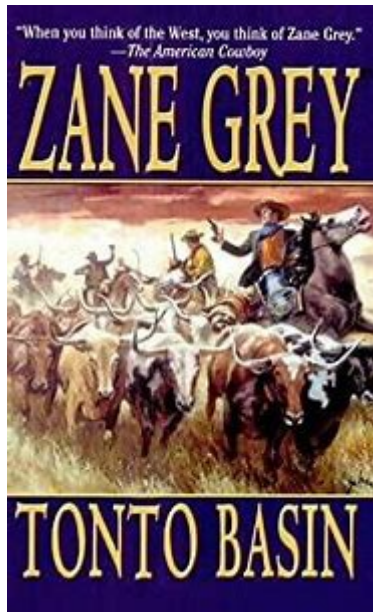


HERE ARE SOME OF HIS BOOKS.











HISTORIC PALACE MOVIE THEATER IN CORSICANA TEXAS

I have seen movies in this theater many times, but the old RITZ in Dawson, Texas was where I spent my saturday nights, but I have not found a good picture of it.

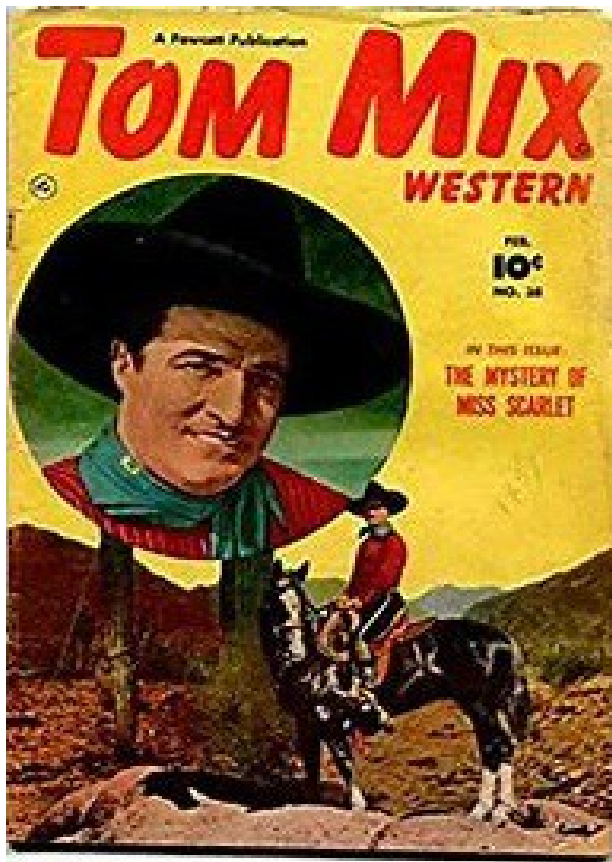
SATURDAY NIGHT HEROS



TOM MIX

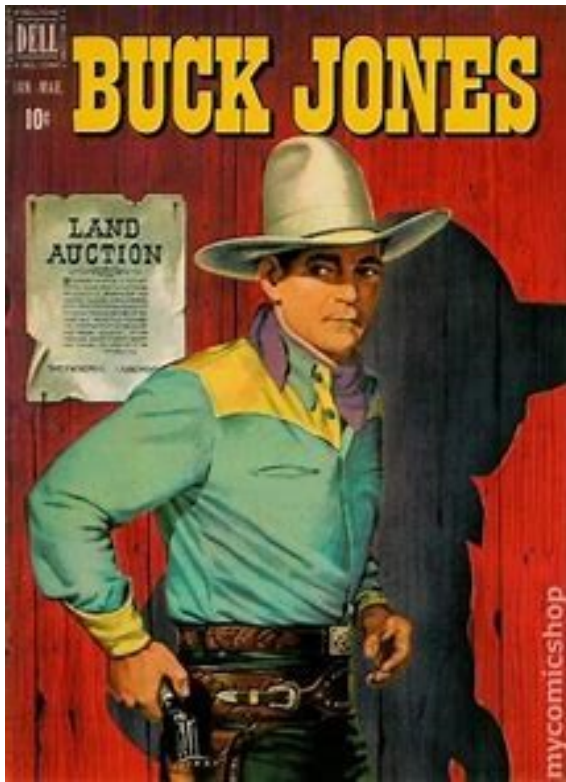
1880 - 1940

Thomas Edwin Mix was an American film actor and the star of many early western movies between 1909 and 1935. He appeared in 291 films, all but nine of which were silent movies. He was Hollywood's first western star and helped define the early days of the cinema.





TOM MIX with his horse TONY





BUCK JONES

1891 - 1942

Buck Jones was one of the greatest of the "B" western stars. Although born in Indiana, Jones reportedly grew up on a ranch near Red Rock in Indian territory (now Oklahoma), and there learned the riding and shootings skills that would stand him in good stead as a hero of westerns.





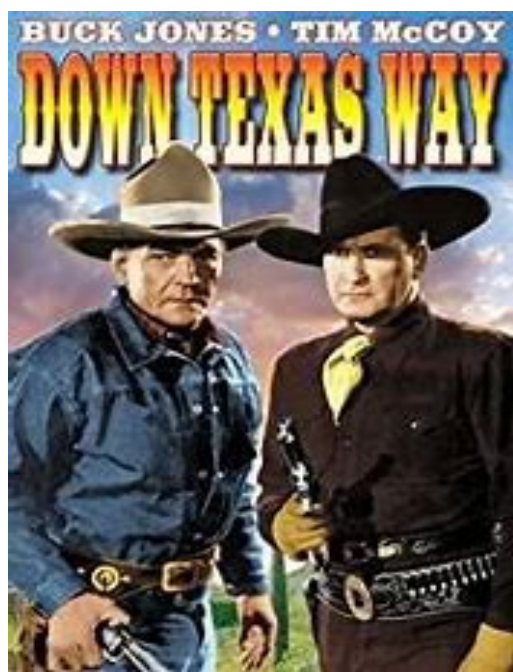


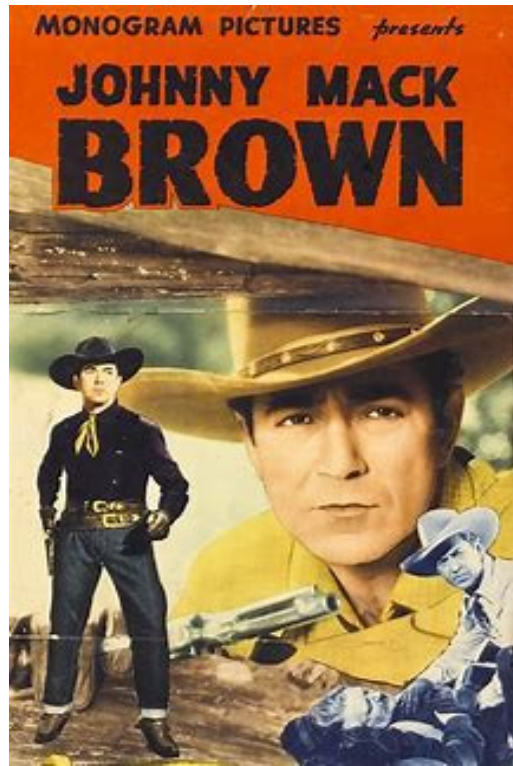


TIM McCOY
1891 - 1978

Timothy John McCoy was an American actor, military officer and expert on American Indian life and customs. He was also known as Colonel T. J. McCoy.









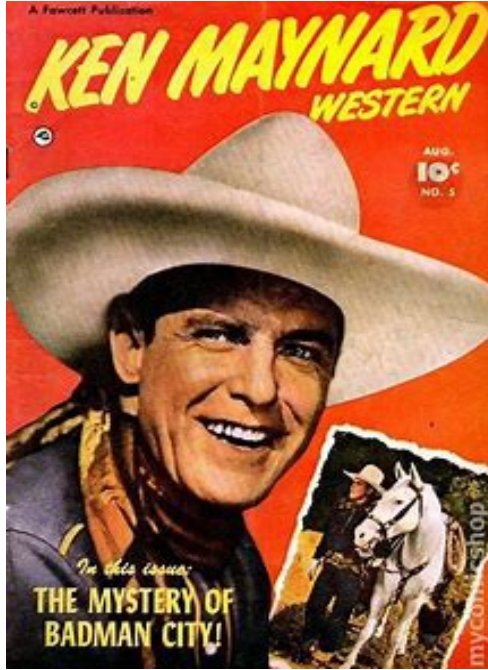
JOHNNY MACK BROWN

1904 - 1974

Johnny "Mack" Brown was an American college football player and film actor. Originally billed as John Mack Brown at the height of his career. He was mostly in western films.









KEN MAYNARD

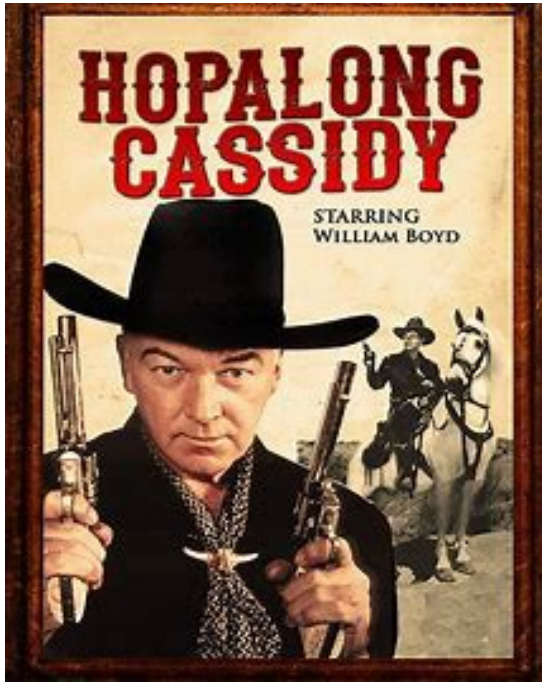
1893 - 1973

Kenneth Olin Maynard was an American actor and producer. He was mostly active from the 1920s to the 1940s and was considered one of the biggest western stars in Hollywood.



Ken Maynard's boots







WILLIAM BOYD
(Hopalong Cassidy)

1895 - 1972

William Boyd was an American actor who played the fictional cowboy hero beginning in 1904. The character was based on a series of short stories by the author Clarence E Mulford.







Hoot Gibson's spurs



HOOT GIBSON

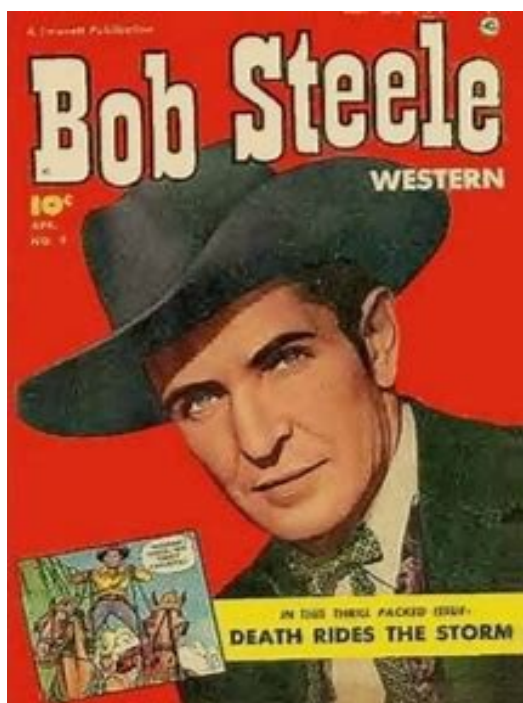
1893 - 1962

Edmund Richard "Hoot " Gibson was an American rodeo champion, film actor, film director and producer. While acting and stunt work became a sideline to his focus on rodeo, he successfully transitioned from silent films to become a leading actor in Hollywood's growing cowboy films. He was second only to Tom Mix.



Hoot Gibson's hat

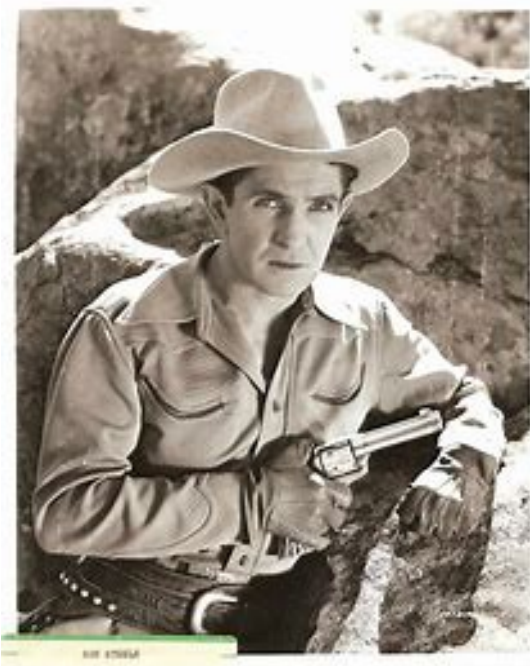




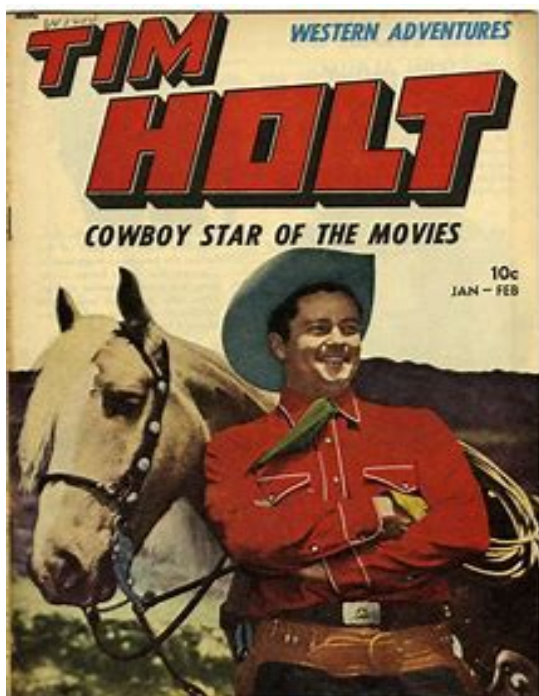


BOB STEELE
1907 - 1988

American western movie actor, he was a prolific star of dozens of western films.







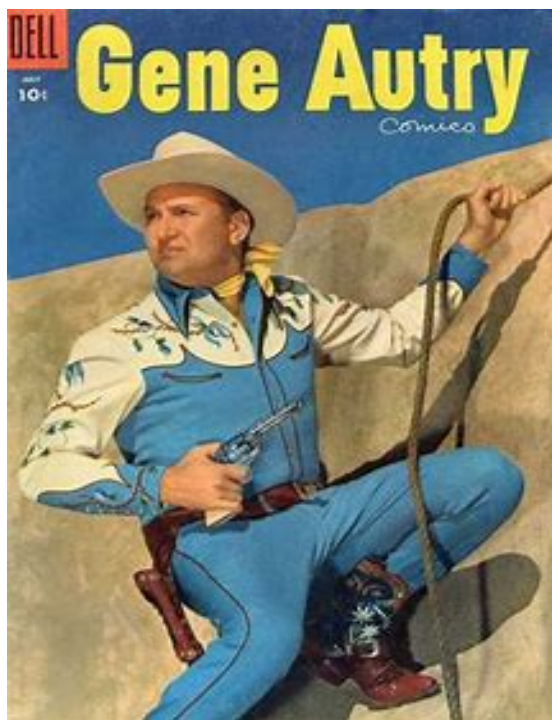


TIM HOLT
1919 - 1973

William John "Tim" Holt III was an American actor. He was a popular star during the 1940s and the 1950s appearing in forty-six B westerns released by RKO Pictures.









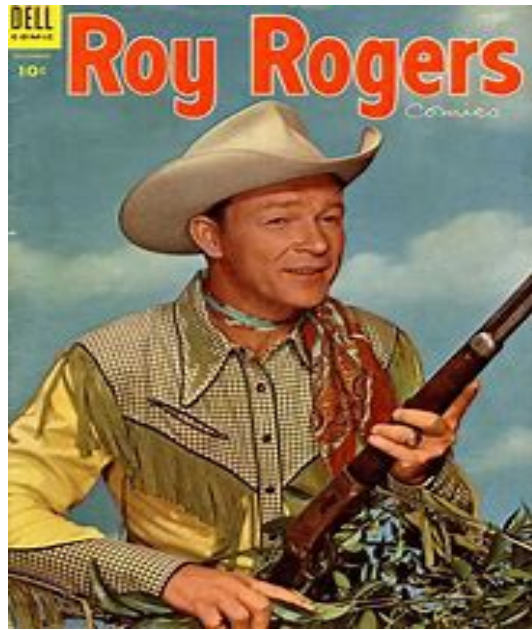
GENE AUTRY

1907 - 1998

Orvin Grover "Gene" Autry, nicknamed "The Singing Cowboy", was an American actor, rodeo performer, musician, songwriter, and singer, in a crooning style on radio, in films and on television for more than three decades, from the early 1930s. He owned a television station, several radio stations and a major baseball team from 1961 to 1997.









ROY ROGERS

1911 - 1998

Roy Rogers was an American actor, singer and television host. He was one of the most popular western stars of his era. Known as "The King Of The Cowboys", he appeared in over 100 films and many radio and TV episodes of the Roy Rogers Show. In many of his shows he appeared with his wife Dale Evans, his horse Trigger and one of several sidekicks.









PAT BRADY

1914 - 1972

Pat Brady was an American actor and musician best known as the "comical sidekick" of the popular cowboy film and television star Roy Rogers on his radio and television series.









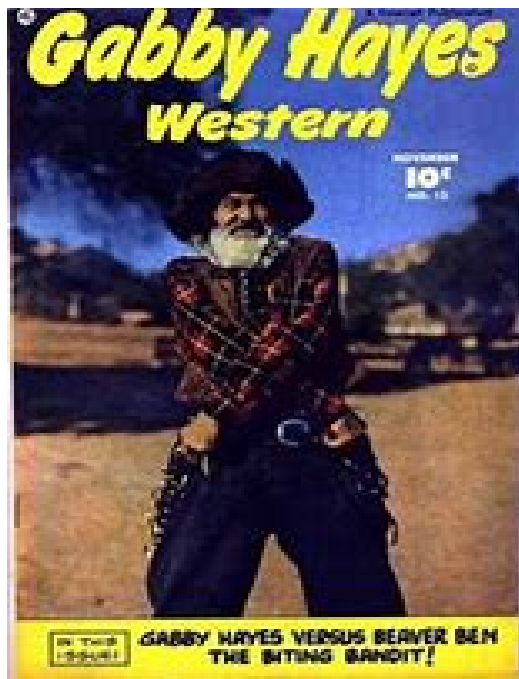
ANDY DEVINE

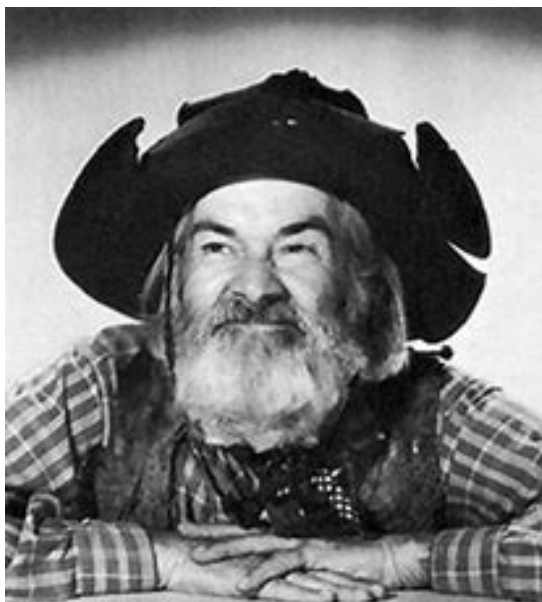
1905 - 1977

Andy Vabre Devine was an American character actor known for his distinctive raspy, crackly voice and roles in western films. He is best remembered for his role as Cookie, the sidekick of Roy Rogers in 10 feature films. He also appeared with John Wayne in films like Stagecoach and many others.









GABBY HAYES

1885 - 1969

George Francis "Gabby" Hayes was an American actor. He began as something of a leading man and a character player, but he was best known for his many appearances in B western films series as the over-loyal and brave comic sidekick of the cowboy stars Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers.









SMILEY BURNETTE

1911 - 1967

Lester Alvin Burnette, better known as "Frog Millhouse", was an American country music performer and a comedic actor in western films and on radio and TV, playing sidekick to Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and other B movie cowboys. He was also a prolific singer and songwriter who played many instruments. His career began in 1934 and extended for 40 years.







OLD WEST



The days of the wild west are long gone but the memories of those Saturday night heroes that made us all want to be cowboys still remain. As a small boy I got to see many of these actors in person, beginning with Tom Mix. There have been many good western stars that may have started near the end of the era of class B films, but went on to be great stars in their own right, here are a few.







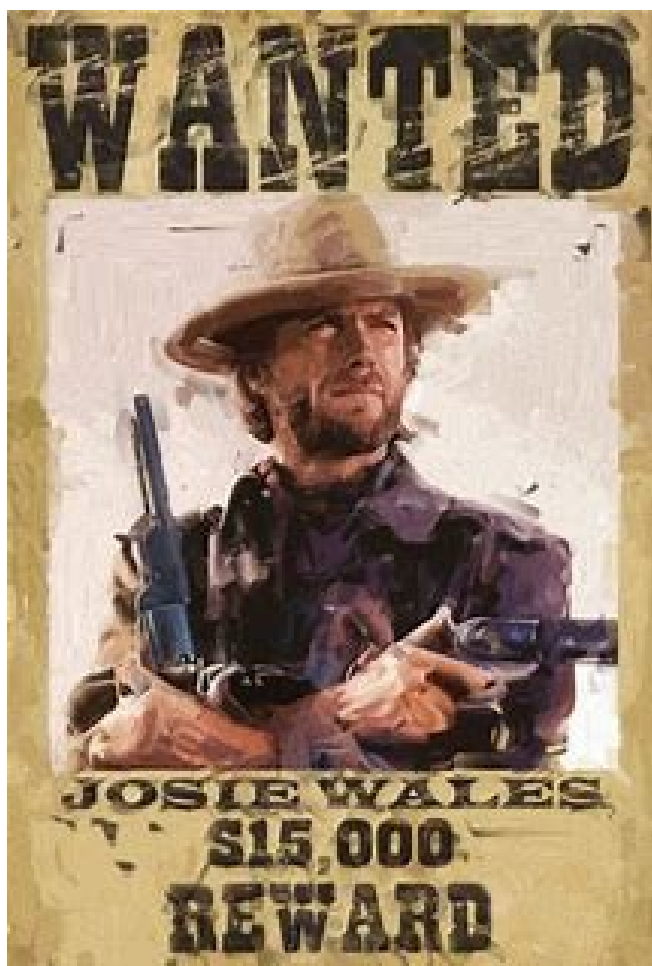
JOHN WAYNE

1907 - 1979

Marion Michael Morrison, known as John Wayne and nicknamed "Duke", was an American actor, director, producer and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient. He was among the top box office draws for three decades, famous for his roles in western films.









CLINT EASTWOOD

1930 --

Clinton Eastwood Jr. is an American actor, filmmaker, musician, and a politician. After achieving success in the western TV series "Rawhide", he rose to international fame with his role as the "Man With No Name" in Italian spaghetti westerns during the 1960c and as a cop in the "Dirty Harry" films in the 1970s and 1980s. These roles, among others, have made him an enduring cult icon .







TELEVISION HEROS



Rawhide was one of the few authentic western TV series of my time. The series ran from 1959 - 1966 and ended only because of the death of Eric Fleming, one of the main stars. Many stars appeared in guest roles on the popular series. It was his role in Rawhide that began Clint Eastwood's rise to become one of the top screen stars of our time.

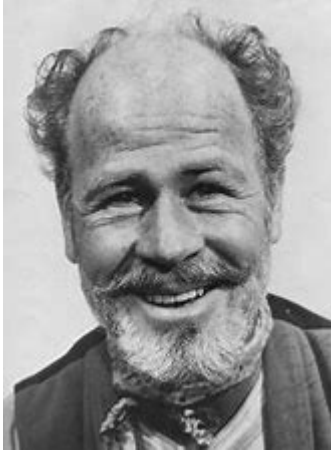
CAST OF RAWHIDE



Eric Fleming as "Gil Favor"



Clint Eastwood as "Rowdy Yates"

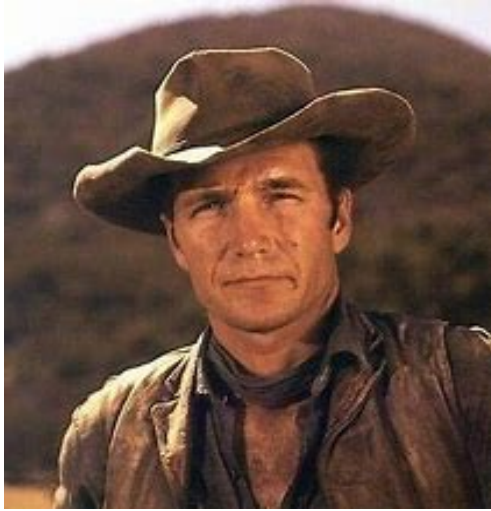


Paul Brinegar as "Wishbone"



Shab Wooley as "Pete Nolen"



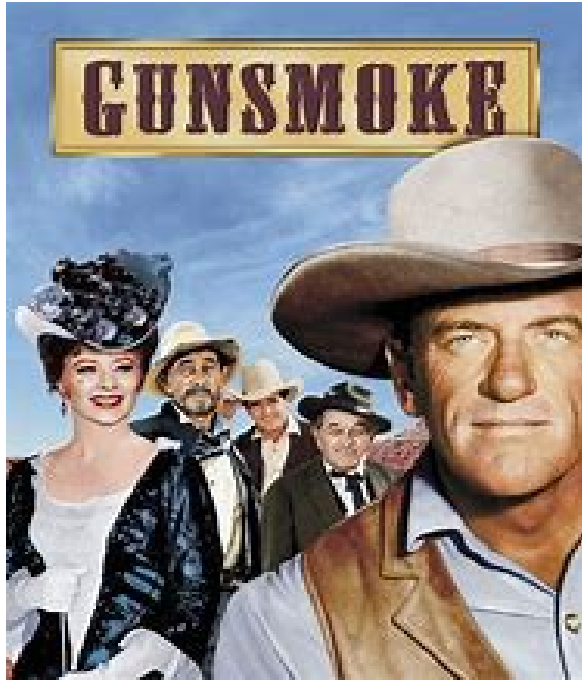




CAST



James Arness as "Mat Dillon"
Amanda Blake as "Kitty"



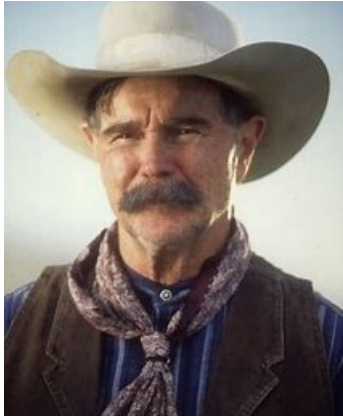
Gunsmoke had its beginning on radio in 1952 until 1955 and then went over to TV until 1975. The series then went into reruns which are still shown daily on many TV stations. The show has been one of the most popular westerns of all times. The show centers around Marshal Mat Dillon in his daily efforts to control lawlessness in Dodge City's early days. No matter the situation, the marshal seems to always solve the problem. The series had many guest stars in its long run. I still watch it every day.



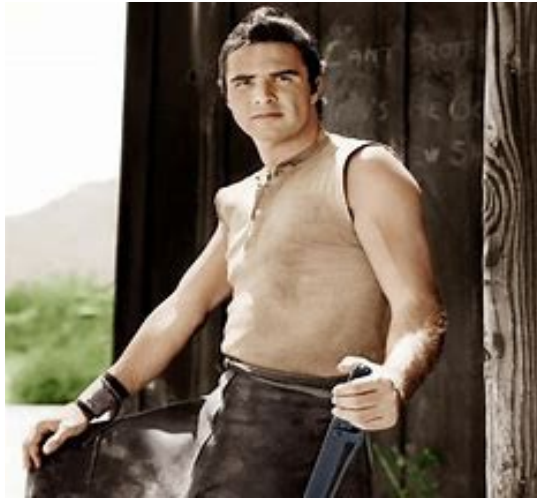
Ken Curtis as "Festus"
Milburn Stone as "Doc"



Dennis Weaver as "Chester"



Buck Taylor as "Newly"



Burt Reynolds as "Quint"











THE
END



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