

BILL TIBBETTS (continued)

previous fall and he remembered the landmarks. The cow trail took them farther north than they wanted to be, but it would put them on the Hanksville road near the San Rafael River.

Late that afternoon, as they approached the San Rafael, they heard shooting coming from the direction of the river. The boys rode to the top of a ridge to check it out. Below them they saw an old man running across a plowed field while two men with rifles were shooting at him from the edge of the field. As they watched, the old man staggered, stumbled, and went down. To the young cowboys, it looked like a cold-blooded murder.

Not wanting to get mixed up in a murder, the boys went back to their stolen horses and very quickly got the hell out of there. They cut the Hanksville road in short order and went south as fast as they could travel.

Bill and Carlisle found out later they had witnessed one of the most famous shootings ever to happen in eastern Utah. The victim was a bad man known locally as Shoot-em-up Bill. His real name was William Hatfield, and he was said to be a member of the famous Hatfield clan from Kentucky who feuded with the McCoys. The story might have been true because the man was no stranger to gunplay. His bad hip and crooked jaw were reminders of old gunfights when he finished in second place. People said ol' Shoot-em-up always wore his six-guns, and he was always waving

them around and threatening to kill people. There were rumors of a warrant for his arrest over in Colorado where he had killed a woman by mistake while fighting with her husband or boyfriend.

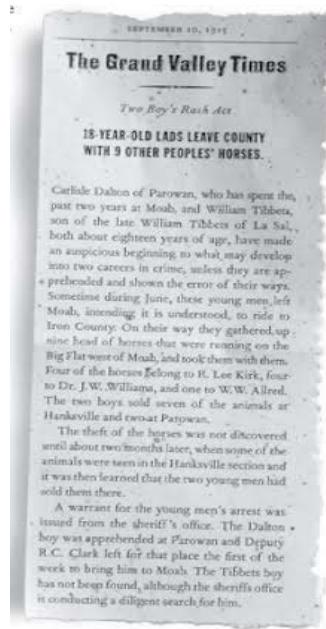
Shoot-em-up had come to Utah to seek his fortune prospecting in the Henry Mountains, but at the time of his death he was living in a dugout across the San Rafael River from the Tomlinson Ranch. It came out in a coroner's inquest that Shoot-em-up had gotten drunk that day and had gone to a neighboring farm where he was terrorizing an older couple with his guns, threats, and vile language. When another neighbor intervened, ol' Shoot-em-up took a shot at him, and missed.

It wasn't the first time farmers along the river had been tormented and bullied by the pistol packin' old scoundrel and they were tired of it. A couple of young men loaded their rifles, ran old Shoot-em-up down, and put him out of his misery.

An inquest was held in the town of Green River a few days later. A coroner's jury ruled that Shoot-em-up had met his death as the result of a justifiable homicide.

The men who did the shooting were defending their homes and families and no charges were filed.

Ephraim Moore attended the inquest in Green River and heard the testimony of the shooting firsthand. But by the time the inquest was held, two unknown eyewitnesses, Bill Tibbetts and Carlisle Dalton, had passed through Hanksville and were basking in the promised land of Parowan with their pockets full of silver dollars.



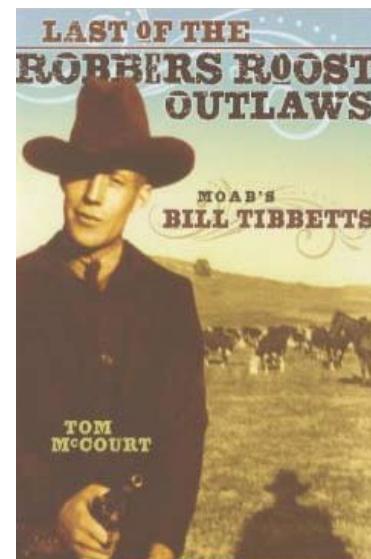
Carlisle Dalton of Parowan, who has spent the past two years at Moab, and William Tibbetts, son of the late William Tibbetts of La Sal, both about eighteen years of age, have made an auspicious beginning to what may develop into two careers in crime, unless they are apprehended and shown the error of their ways. Sometime during June, these young men left Moab, intending, it is understood, to ride to Iron County. On their way they gathered up nine head of horses that were running on the Big Flat-iron of Moab, and took them with them. Four of the horses belong to H. Lee Kirk, four to Dr. J.W. Williams, and one to W.W. Allred. The two boys sold seven of the animals at Hanksville and two at Parowan.

The theft of the horses was not discovered until about two months later, when some of the animals were seen in the Hanksville section and it was then learned that the two young men had sold them there.

A warrant for the young men's arrest was issued from the sheriff's office. The Dalton boy was apprehended at Parowan and Deputy R.C. Clark left for that place the first of the week to bring him to Moab. The Tibbetts boy has not been found, although the sheriff's office is conducting a diligent search for him.



NEXT TIME: "A Farewell to Arms" and "Making a New Start."



TOM McCOURT'S great book about Bill Tibbetts is available from the Canyonlands Natural History Association.

Follow this link:
<http://www.cnha.org/product.cfm?id=67F84CFA-3048-C277-1143EF03215E77A5>

THE ZEPHYR BACKBONE---February/March 2015

Garrett Wilson Sandy, UT



MATT & DEEPA ROBERTS Austin TX



Doug & Mary Travers
San Antonio, TX

Scott Grunder
Ludington, MI



Jannik Schou
Whitehorse Yukon



Terry Weiner
The California Desert

ALSO JOINING
THE BACKBONE..

Mike Wagner
Louisville KY

Scott Thompson
Beckley WV



THE ZEPHYR BACKBONE...October/November 2015

Richard Ingebretsen
Salt Lake City, UT



DOUG MEYER
FLAGSTAFF,



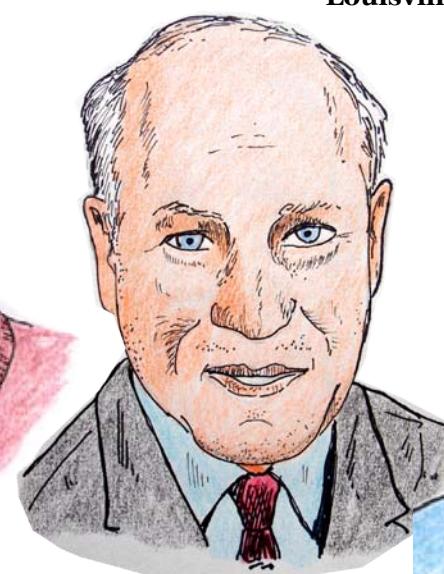
Scott
Thompson
Beckley WV



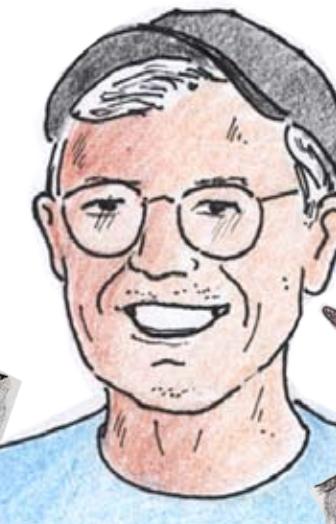
Gary Meeks
Price UT

Jan Muehlhauser
Decatur, GA

John Brasch
Louisville, KY



Tom Wylie
Littleton, CO

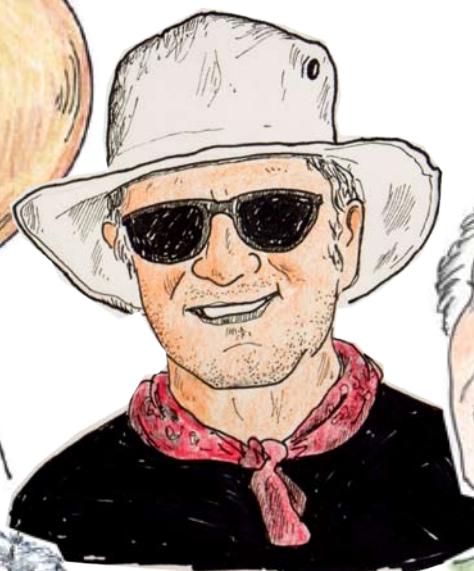


Stephen Peake
Louisville, KY

Steven Jones
Chicago, IL



Terry Weiner
San Diego, CA



Paul Cleary
Tulsa OK

Katie Lee
Jerome AZ

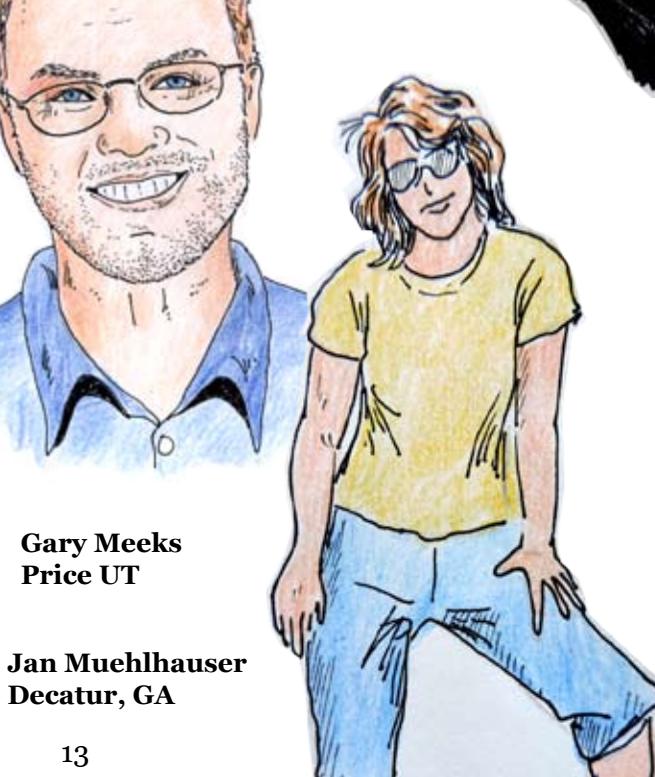


Nancy Newman
Minneapolis MN

Paul Vlachos
New York, NY



Ron Mastrogiuseppe
Crater Lake OR



ALSO JOINING THE BACKBONE
BUT UN-TOONED...so far

Rick Kardash
Soulsbyville, CA

Carter Mills/martha Hamm
Leeds, UT

Vernon Hill
Wofford Heights, CA

William Breed
Pawcatuck CT

Allan Brockway
St. Petersburg, FL

Wes Shook
Bluff UT

Lewis Downey
Salt Lake City, UT

John Gould
Moab UT

Andy Holak
Duluth, MN

John O'Hara
Berlin NJ

Allen Brenneman
Goshen, IN

David Lanning
Prescott Valley AZ

THE ZEPHYR BACKBONE--Pt 2
October/November 2015
THANKS!!! WE need your support