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# Wishes & Words

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## Off the Shelf: 150 years of ranching

Tom Brodersen  
Peregrine Book Co. general manager

The first volume of "Echoes of the Past" was published in 1955. Volume 2 was published in 1964, 100 years after Prescott was established as the capital of Arizona Territory. The latest volume in the series became available in time for Prescott's Sesquicentennial.

Together, these three volumes offer a great deal of local history with a focus on ranching families.

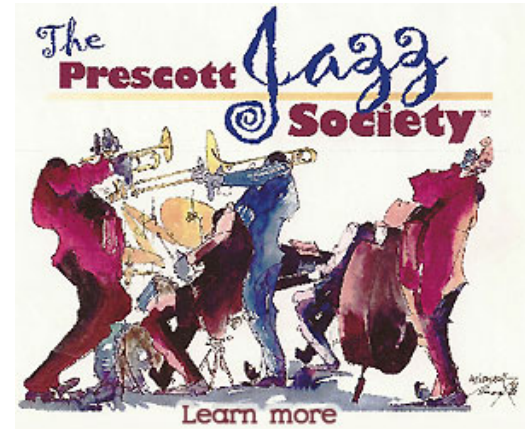
The first cattle were brought into Yavapai County in 1864, but it was not until the 1870's after General George Crook confined the native people to reservations that the cattle business began to grow. As Matt Culley wrote in the Forward to Volume 3, the range cattle industry now "reaches into every nook and corner of the county." Whether you think that is an economic miracle or an environmental calamity depends on your point of view. Any way you look at it ranching has been an integral part of our local history.

These essays are written from the

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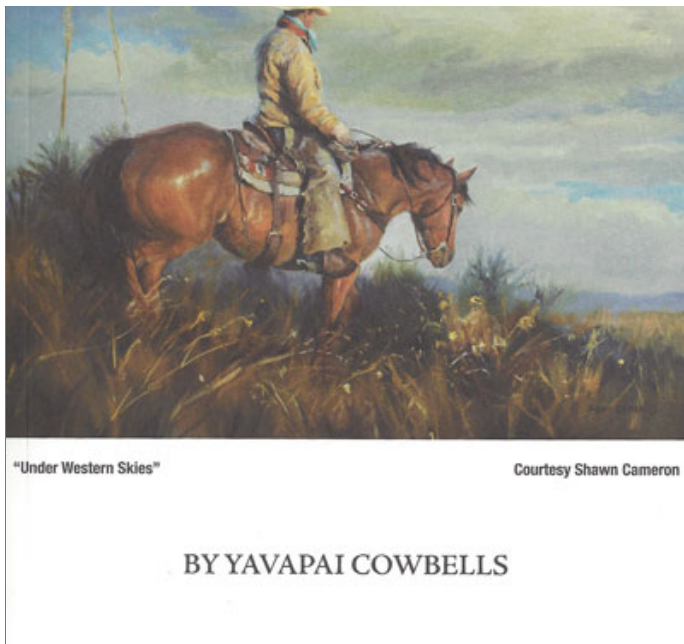
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rancher's perspective. Many of the authors are descendants of the earliest settlers in the area. The Yavapai Cowbells are a group of ranchers' wives and women ranchers. Volume 3 is dedicated to the "often overlooked" cattlemen of Yavapai County, past present and future.

If you have wondered about the origins of many of the names of local roads - Fain Road, Perkinsville Road, Miller Valley Road - you can read about those families in these books. If you are interested in the histories of area ranches that have become suburban subdivisions you can track those stories in these volumes.



(Courtesy photo)

The ranch histories are interwoven with the history of mining and other pursuits. Some raised Angora goats or competed in rodeos full-time. Others hunted mountain lions for bounty or pay. Another had been a heavyweight boxer and trained with Jack Dempsey.

The Echoes of the Past series is rich in details of people and places in rural Yavapai County. We who are curious about our local history should be thankful to the Cowbells for collecting and preserving these stories and keeping these books in print. Without their tireless volunteer efforts over several generations these tales of Old Yavapai would be lost.

The Peregrine Book Company is located at 219A North Cortez St. in Prescott.

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