



Utah Westerners

Exploring Western history since 1967

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July presentation

"Civilization Stalks Warlock," Says the Town's Deputy

It's time to hear from our film virtuoso Jim D'Arc about the well critiqued 1959 movie, *Warlock*, that was shot in Moab. The film was directed by Edward Dmytryk (*The Caine Mutiny*). It stars Henry Fonda and Anthony Quinn, two notorious gunslingers who are hired as the town's (Warlock's) sheriff and deputy. The novel that inspired the film was written by Oakley Hall, a University of California-Irvine professor who was said to be the dean of West Coast writers after Wallace Stegner's death.

Dmytryk said "the depth of the novel furnished us with a number of opportunities to examine life in the West in a serious and 'adult' manner, while retaining the obligatory action and gunfighting of the standard Western." It has to do with democracy, crime, and friendship between two men. Dmytryk went

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PRESS HOLIDAY

In July and September the newsletter will be short, four pages long. The staff will [absquatulate](#) (disappear), as old timers used to say. We'll see you at Fort Douglas and on the trip and then prepare longer newsletters for August and again beginning in October.

Film Night

TUESDAY, JULY 16, Fort Douglas Post Theater, 6:00 mingling and dinner, 6:45 comments by Dr. James V. D'Arc, 7:00 film, 9:00 Q&A

Reserve space with Craig Smith at utwesterners@gmail.com or 801-712-6183. Payment of \$45 at the door by cash, check, or PayPal. No reservations after July 11.

Utah Westerners Field Trip Day 3, Sept. 29, 2024

by John Alley

On Sunday, September 29, we will depart Pendleton and the main route of the Oregon Trail, which as it descended the north slope of the Blue Mountains, turned left to take settlers toward the Willamette Valley. Among the earliest emigrants from the States to take the trail were the Presbyterian missionaries Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and Henry and Eliza Spalding, who in 1836 settled among the Cayuse people at Waiilatpu, on the Walla Walla River, to proselytize. Many colonizing emigrants subsequently followed them north to recuperate near their mission before heading down the Columbia River to Oregon City. These people probably brought measles, which had a devastating impact on the Cayuses, one major factor in the 1847 demise of the Whitmans. We as well will head up to the Whitman Mission National Historic Site,

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The Movie Warlock

to jail in 1947 when he refused to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The show's music was composed by Leigh Harline, who studied at the University of Utah and was tutored by Tabernacle Choir conductor J. Spencer Cornwall. At Disney, Harline

composed "When You Wish upon a Star." He composed most of the songs for *Pinocchio* and scored *Snow White*.

When you arrive at 6:00 and pay Craig Smith, you will be able to pick up a meal at the food truck. D'Arc's updated book, *When Hollywood Came to Utah*, has five new chapters and will be available for sale.



Fonda's character plays a "melancholy, laconic, and assured" killer (*New York Times*), and Quinn's character a handicapped but sinister sidekick who has a fast draw.

D'Arc was curator of the BYU Motion Picture Archive and Film Music Archive for 41 years at the Harold B. Lee Library Special Collections. He was also involved with the BYU Motion Picture Studio and taught classes in the Department of Speech and Theatre Arts. His book details 1,240 movies filmed in Utah and the locations for each movie.



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Field Trip, Day 3

where a ranger will give us a special guided tour on a late-season Sunday when the visitor center is normally closed.

Being near the end of the Snake River, whose route we will have paralleled on our way west and north, we will next drive toward its confluence with the Columbia, near Pasco and Sacajawea Historical State Park, in Washington. As we do so, our historical focus will again shift back in time, to Lewis and Clark and to the early fur trade in the Columbia and Snake river basins. We will pass the site of Fort Nez Percés, also known as Fort Walla Walla, soon after we reach the east bank of the Columbia River. This post had been built in 1818 under the direction of two former Pacific Fur Company Astorians who had gone over to the North West Company and would launch the Snake Country expeditions, which the Hudson's Bay Company continued after 1821. The HBC operated the fort, one of its

three posts, along with Fort Hall and Fort Boise, on the Oregon Trail until 1857.

We expect to eat lunch at Sacajawea Park and visit the Interpretive Center there as well as the story circles on the park grounds created by Maya Lin, known best as the artist of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington D. C. After lunch, we will head back south to Farewell Bend at the southern end of Hell's Canyon, stopping briefly at the Van Ornum Massacre Monument, site of an 1860 attack by Bannocks and/or Shoshones on some of the survivors of an earlier attack on the Utter-Van Ornum emigrant party. Those events were among those that led directly to the Bear River Massacre far to the east. At nearby Farewell Bend, we will revisit the story of the Astorians; they, in particular, encountered the formidable barrier Hell's Canyon presented to western travel.

Our plan is to return to Boise that evening for dinner and another overnight stay.

A bronze statue of Marcus Whitman (left), created by Utah sculptor Avarad Fairbanks and displayed at the US Capitol's National Statuary Hall from 1853 through 2024. To its right, the model for a bronze statue by Haiying Wu of Seattle to replace the Whitman statue next year. Marcus and wife Narcissa contributed to Indian dispossession, deculturation, and deaths by inviting white settlers to the area. The new statue of Billy Frank Jr. honors the leader of the Fish Wars, 1960s-70s, which brought judicial confirmation of Native American fishing rights throughout Washington. He will be the first indigenous person honored in Statuary Hall.



Filling the Van

We have a few open spots for the field trip. If you are interested, inform John Alley and Craig Smith and confirm by paying a \$50/person deposit to Craig. Full payment of \$750 (double occupancy) or \$1,050 (single occupancy) is due in August.

In the next two newsletters, we will carry practical information, including a map to our meeting spot near the north end of Beck Street and recommendations on what to bring.

Death of a Colleague

A member of a Westerners group in Wyoming, [Jeremy Johnston](#) (53) died on June 15. He had a PhD from Glasgow and was managing editor of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody and curator of the associated Buffalo Bill Museum.

Johnston took the Utah Westerners on a tour of the museum in June 2015, followed by a happy hour and [banquet](#) hosted by the Westerners of Cody and Sheridan. In 2019 he came to the Alta Club and [addressed](#) us on "Swapping Black Hats for White Hats."

August Speaker

On August 20, we will be delighted to hear from Devan Jensen, executive editor for the BYU Religious Studies Center.

Jensen will speak about two recently found panoramas from the mid-19th century, large paintings that allowed people before photography to get a sense of the western mountains, Native Americans, Mormons, and trade with Mexico. An 1871 set of murals dealing with the Book of Mormon was recently discovered under a waterbed with Matchbox tire marks on them. The other is of the Wakara Utes preparing for battle.



Charles Hancock commissioned C.C.A. Christensen to document the Walker War, along with scenes of LDS historic sites from Missouri and Illinois to Provo and southern California.

In this panorama Christensen showed the Timpanogos band getting ready for battle in 1853. Who should appear in the scene? Charles Hancock, bottom center, who tried to convince them against war. He is said to have convinced Arapeen to lobby fellow Ute leaders Wakara and Peteetneet for him to travel north to consult with Brigham Young. Hancock was the LDS bishop in Payson. The town, Payson, was itself known as Peteetneet until 1851. By the time Hancock returned from Salt Lake City, whites had killed another Ute in Payson, and the natives attacked Springville, Spanish Fork, and Nephi. The war lasted a year to May 1854.



Devan Jensen in his spare time enjoys cycling, pickleball, and performing magic.