

Spur Awards

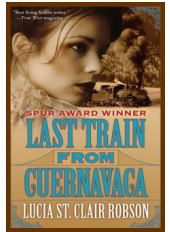


Western Writers of America, Inc.

Given annually by Western Writers of America, the Spur Awards recognize distinguished writing about the American West. Established in 1953, they are among the oldest and most prestigious in American literature. For more information, including previous winners, please visit: www.westernwriters.org

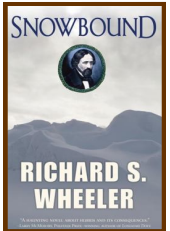
2011 — Best Western Long Novel: Last Train from Cuernavaca by Lucia St. Clair Robson

As the Mexican Revolution sweeps into Cuernavaca, two young women - English & Mexican - are hurried into a high-stakes adventure that will help determine the nation's future.



2011 — Best Western Short Novel: Snowbound by Richard S. Wheeler

Novelizes the amazing tale of American explorer John Fremont and his attempt to find a railway route to the West along the 38th parallel, in a story where he becomes trapped in the snowbound Colorado mountains and must fight his way out.

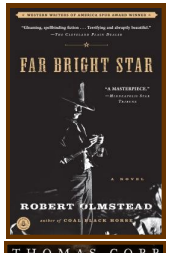


2010 — Best Western Long Novel: * Echoes of Glory by Robert Flynn

A fictitious Texas county that embraces its legends, but not its actual history is threatened when a Sheriff is challenged in an election by a local hero, and a drama professor announces that he will write a play depicting the true story of Second Platoon, which many fear will expose the dark underside of Mills County.

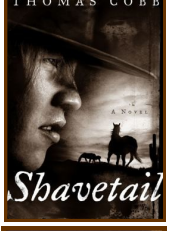
2010 — Best Western Short Novel: Far Bright Star by Robert Olmstead

The year is 1916. The enemy Pancho Villa, is elusive. The terrain is unforgiving, the intense heat and dust both relentless and overpowering. Through the mountains and across the long dry stretches of Mexico, Napoleon Childs, an aging cavalryman, leads an expedition of inexperienced horse soldiers on seemingly fruitless searches.



2009 — Best Western Long Novel: Shavetail by Thomas Cobb

Fleeing a shameful past, seventeen-year-old Ned Thorne joins the U.S. Army and, in 1871, is sent to the dangerous Arizona territories, where he joins his captain and a ragtag troop in the search for a missing woman supposedly kidnapped by the Apache.

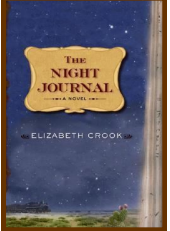


2009 — Best Western Short Novel: Another Man's Moccasins by Craig Johnson

Unsettled by similarities between a recent murder case and his first investigation as a Marine in Vietnam, Sheriff Walt Longmire wonders about a strangely familiar photograph found in the recent victim's purse.

2008 — Best Western Long Novel: Tallgrass By Sandra Dallas

During World War II, a family finds life turned upside down when the government opens a Japanese internment camp in their small Colorado town. After a young girl is murdered, all eyes turn to the newcomers, the interlopers, the strangers.

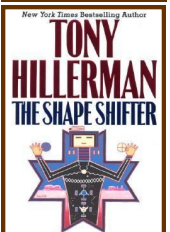


2008 — Best Western Short Novel: The God of Animals By Aryn Kyle

Based on the author's short story titled "The Foaling Season," the tale of rancher's daughter Alice Winston finds her helping to support the family business by boarding the horses of rich neighbors and leaving behind the innocence of her youth.

2007 — Best Western Long Novel: The Night Journal by Elizabeth Crook

Feeling oppressed by the romantic accounts of her famous family's history, Meg, the great-granddaughter of a southwestern frontierswoman, reluctantly accompanies her sharp-tongued grandmother to a family property that is being excavated and makes a discovery that challenges the authenticity of revered stories.



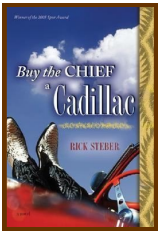
2007 — Best Western Short Novel: The Shape Shifter by Tony Hillerman

Retired from the Navajo Tribal Police, Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is called upon once again to solve a crime. This time it's Joe's last case, a case that remains unsolved and continues to haunt him.

2006 — Best Western Novel: (TIE) Camp Ford by Johnny D. Boggs

In 1946, 99-year-old Win McNaughton is asked by reporters to recount his baseball life. McNaughton focuses on his teenage years, when he joined the Union Army at 17 and became a prisoner of war at Camp Ford. It was there that McNaughton helped organize a baseball game between the Union prisoners and their Confederate guards. The game soon becomes a mini-Civil War.



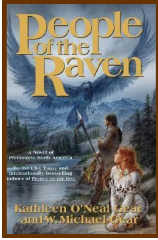


2006 — Best Western Novel: (TIE) The Undertaker's Wife by Loren D. Estleman

While her undertaker husband practices the art of making victims of the untamed American west presentable and dignified after death, a woman devotes her time to safeguarding her marriage in the face of local challenges.

2006 — Best Novel of the West & Best First Novel: * High Country by Willard Wyman

After returning home from World War I, Ty Hardin returns to packing--guiding mule trains into mountains where wagons cannot travel--in the Montana mountains that he loves, but when his mentor, Fenton Pardee, dies, Ty leaves Montana for the Sierra Nevada where he becomes a legend in his own right.

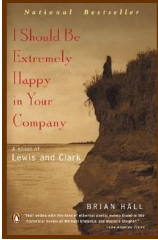


2005 — Best Western Novel: Buy the Chief a Cadillac by Rick Steber

Offered money by the U.S. government to abandon their million-acre reservation along with the rest of their tribe, three Native American brothers consider disparate goals including an entry into the world of white people, a new Cadillac, and an effort to keep the land.

2005 — Best Novel of the West: People of the Raven by Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear

Witnessing the extinction of numerous species in the wake of melting glaciers, Sandy Point Village chief Rain Bear grants sanctuary to an enemy tribe's escaped slave and prepares for a war that could result in the demise of his people.

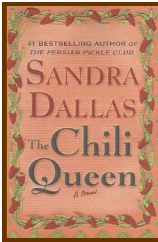


2005 — Best First Novel: * Field of Honor by D. L. Birchfield

In D. L. Birchfield's Field of Honor, a secret underground civilization of Choctaws, deep beneath the Ouachita Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma, has evolved into a high-tech culture, supported by the labor of slaves kidnapped from the surface.

2004 — Best Western Novel: I Should Be Extremely Happy In Your Company by Brian Hall

A fictionalized account based on the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific Ocean seeks to convey what was happening in the minds of the explorers and to bring life to the collision of white and Native American cultures of the period.

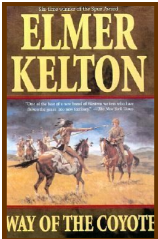


2004 — Best Novel of the West: So Wild a Dream by Win Blevins

Life in rural Pennsylvania in the 1820s doesn't hold much appeal for young, adventurous, ambitious Sam Morgan. He decides to make his life--and maybe his fortune--on the frontier, but his first step is to get there. He secures a job as a hand on a riverboat, and the adventure begins.

2004 — Best First Novel: * The Sergeant's Lady by Miles Hood Swarthout

Sergeant Ammon Swing finds himself falling for Martha Cox, the sister of local rancher Jacob Cox, who have become caught up in the middle of the desperate struggle between the Army and the Apache.

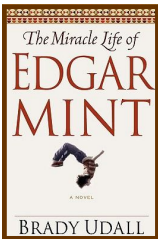


2003 — Best Western Novel: The Chili Queen by Sandra Dallas

Life may have been hard on Addie French, but when she meets friendless Emma Roby on a train, all her protective instincts emerge. Emma's brother is seeing her off to Nalgitas to marry a man she has never met. When Emma's prospective fails to show up at the train depot, Addie shelters the girl at her brothel, The Chili Queen. But once Emma enters Addie's life, the secrets that unfold cause both women to question everything they thought they knew.

2003 — Best Novel of the West: Perma Red by Debra Magpie Earling

Explores life on the Flathead Indian Reservation during the 1940s through the eyes of Louise White Elk as she struggles with problematic relationships with three men.

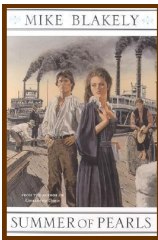


2002 — Best Western Novel: The Way of the Coyote by Elmer Kelton

Former Comanche captive Rusty Shannon tries to resume a normal life after the end of the Civil War, but instead finds himself confronted by racial tension, murderous outlaws, brutal Comanche bands, and his nemesis--the deadly Oldham brothers.

2002 — Best Novel of the West: The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint by Brady Udall

Half Apache and orphaned, Edgar's trials begin on an Arizona reservation at the age of seven when he is run over by the mailman's jeep, after which he is taken from the hospital to a school for delinquents to a Mormon foster family, and eventually to an unexpected home on a quest for the mailman.

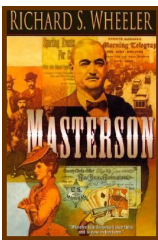


2001 — Best Western Novel: * Summer of Pearls by Mike Blakely

The Great Caddo Lake Pearl Rush of 1874 comes at saves the riverboat community whose economy is dying due to the railroads, but the death of riverboat owner Judd Kelso haunts the town until Ben Crowell steps forward forty years later.

2001 — Best Novel of the West: The Gates of Alamo by Stephen Harrigan

A fictional chronicle centered around the fall of the Alamo provides a dramatic re-creation of an event that shaped the history and identity of Texas.



2000 — Best Western Novel: Masterson by Richard S. Wheeler

2000—Best Novel of the West: * Prophet Annie by Ellen Recknor