

**For Immediate Release**

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## *Miles City Rollicking Cow Capital of the Montana Frontier*

During its heyday as a cattle town, Miles City called itself the “Cow Capital of the World.” Later, after adjacent Fort Keogh was converted to an army remount depot, Miles City proudly shared its identity: “This is Uncle Sam’s horse ranch. The employees are all civilians, and the wranglers are cowpunchers and expert riders.” Later still, a wild method of gathering and selling horses off the range produced the most recognized nickname of all: “The World Famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale.”

In 1884 the Montana Stockgrowers Association was organized in Miles City, which hosted the event for thirty-four years. Stock thieves plagued open range ranchers, and young Theodore Roosevelt impulsively called for “a war against rustlers.” But pioneer Montana cattleman Granville Stuart already was quietly organizing deadly retaliation, and soon his fourteen “Stuart’s Stranglers” killed nineteen rustlers in the countryside.

Fort Keogh at its height boasted a garrison and civilian employees totaling nearly 1,000 men. Every night the troopers caroused at the saloons and parlor houses of Miles City. There were frequent brawls involving fists and boots, but deadly encounters were rare. There was one fatal shooting, one throat-cutting, and one lynching. Otherwise, troopers and civilians enjoyed hard-drinking fun. Fort Keogh became known as a party post, complete with balls and parties for officers and ladies - including a memorable evening with John Philip Sousa and his US Marine Band. Meanwhile, Miles City became famous as a good time town, with street dances and frequent parades.

Bill O’Neal was appointed State Historian of Texas by Governor Rick Perry, and during his six-year tenure he traveled tens of thousands of miles across the Lone Star State as an ambassador for Texas history. He is a past president and fellow of both the East Texas Historical Association and the West Texas Historical Association, and he has been a member of the Texas State Historical Association for over half a century. Bill is the author of more than fifty books. He was awarded the A.C. Greene Literary Award at the 2015 West Texas Book Festival in Abilene. In 2012 Bill received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Wild West Historical Association, and in 2007 he was named True West Magazine’s Best Living Non-Fiction Writer.

*Miles City: Rollicking Cow Capital of the Montana Frontier* is published by Eakin Press, an imprint of Wild Horse Media Group, based in Fort Worth. The book is 250 pages and retails for \$24.99 in paperback and \$9.99 as an ebook. It is available through most book retailers. For more information visit [www.EakinPress.com](http://www.EakinPress.com).

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**Bill O’Neal is available for interviews.**

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