

**THE LONG TRAIL: MY LIFE IN THE WEST**

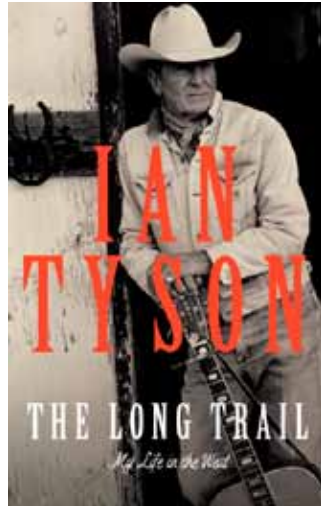
By Ian Tyson with Jeremy Klaszus

Random House Canada;  
randomhouse.ca

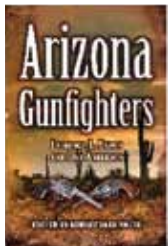
Everyone I know has an Ian Tyson story. Like my friend, who was on a first date with a guy who plugged a Tyson tape into the truck deck and told her sternly: "I hope you like this, because his music is really important to me." She did. Now they're married.

Yes, people that faithfully support the Canadian cowboy feel close to the 76-year-old's wanderlust ways as rodeo rider, art student, folk singer, and futurity winner. He pegs himself, "Classic Tyson: a man without a plan." And Tyson supporters won't be disappointed with his recently published memoir, *The Long Trail: My Life in the West*. It's an honest account of a varied 50-year career.

In 1962, Tyson's iconic songwriting style propelled him and his wife, Sylvia, into the popular American music market with "Four Strong Winds," a song he wrote in a dingy New York City hotel room. Music critic Nicholas Jennings says of "Four Strong Winds": "If you don't get goose bumps listening to this song, I think your Canadian citizenship should be revoked."



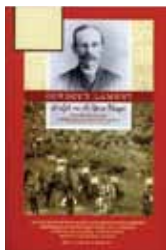
Of hard times—like his two divorces, estrangement from his only daughter, alcoholism, and serious damage to his vocal cords—Tyson says, "Music got me through the darkness." This self-described "poet laureate of that sagebrush renaissance" casts new light on his long trail. —Tracey Feist

**Arizona Gunfighters**

-Laurence J. Yadon and Dan Anderson

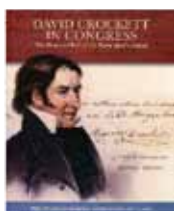
Pelican Publishing Company; pelicanpub.com

Uncovering the nitty-gritty history of the Arizona West, Yadon and Anderson recount the dangerous facts that made this desert region infamous before statehood. The authors put legends to rest by sourcing actual newspapers, letters, and diaries of the time, like the 19th-century *Tombstone Epitaph* that described detailed scenes of the Earp Vendetta Ride. The Arizona West was gruesome and untamed. —Maggie Zawalski

**Cowboy's Lament: A life on the Open Range**

-Frank Maynard, edited and introduced by Jim Hoy

This historical memoir is a first-hand account of Western life in the late 1800s. The story follows Frank Maynard, a trail cowboy, as he travels from Missouri to Colorado and provides details about his adventures. Maynard's poetry is dedicated to those who shared his experiences and offers a glimpse into one man's emotional life, perhaps an allegory of the West as it truly was. —Lauren Halley

**David Crockett in Congress: The Rise and Fall of the Poor Man's Friend**

-James Boylston and Allen Wiener Bright Sky Press

This history book cuts through the myth of Davey Crockett and presents the reader with a clear portrait of an American icon. Featuring many letters and speeches written by Crockett, the book chronicles the meteoric rise of his political career to his eventual political defeat and move to Texas. Crockett, the wily politician, is an image far-removed from the classic frontiersman and Alamo soldier that popular culture has chosen to remember. —Kyle Glazier