

"MYTHS ABOUT THE AMERICAN WEST" BY PAT/SALTY -

TWO GUNSLINGERS HAVING IT OUT AT
HIGH NOON.

MIDDLE AGED COWBOYS.

WILD INDIANS SURROUNDING + ATTACKING FORTS.

WE ALL KNOW THE STORIES FROM CHILDHOOD,
FROM COUNTLESS OLD T.V. SHOWS + BOOKS
+ MOVIES; THE MYTH OF THE WESTERN.
BUT THATS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS; A MYTH.

MOST PEOPLES UNDERSTANDING ABOUT
WHAT THE AMERICAN WEST WAS LIKE
IN THE 1800'S IS JUST UTTER NONSENSE.

IT HAS BEEN HOLLYWOODIZED / MYTHOLOGIZED
BY SO MANY GENERATIONS FOR SO LONG
THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR A
REALIST LIKE MYSELF - SALTY - TO
CLEAR ALL THE WILD WEST MYTHS UP
ONCE AND FOR ALL;

TWO GUNSLINGERS HAVING IT OUT TO
THE DEATH IN DUELS AT HIGH NOON?

(SUPPOSEDLY AT HIGH NOON SO THAT
~~NEITHER~~ NEITHER GUNFIGHTER
WOULD HAVE THE DISADVANTAGE OF
HAVING THE SUN IN THEIR EYES.)

NOT ANY EVIDENCE IT EVER HAPPENED
OUTSIDE OF STORIES, BOOKS, T.V. SHOWS, AND
WESTERN MOVIES (YOU KNOW - EVIDENCE;
DETAILS LIKE NAMES, DATES, THE TOWN
IT SUPPOSEDLY TOOK PLACE IN - EVIDENCE)

OH, SURE, THERE WERE GUNFIGHTS ALRIGHT.
OVER GAMBLING, MONEY, WOMEN, INSULTS
BOTH REAL AND IMAGINED - THE USUAL SHIT.



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ONE GUY SHOT IN THE BACK, OR SHOT FROM AMBUSH, OR EVEN SO DRUNK HE'D SHOOT HIMSELF IN THE LEG WHILE DRUNKENLY PULLING OUT HIS GUN - LOTS OF THAT KIND OF STUFF, BUT STOP AND REALLY THINK ABOUT ALL THIS "DUEL AT HIGH NOON" NONSENSE; IF A GUY WANTED TO SHOOT ANOTHER GUY TO DEATH THE LAST PLACE HE WOULD WANT TO DO SO IS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A TOWN AT HIGH NOON WITH DOZENS OF WITNESSES WATCHING FROM THE BUILDINGS AND WINDOWS - THE VERY LAST PLACE.

THERE ARE INSTANCES OF TWO - OR 3 OR 4 OR ~~2~~ MORE COWBOYS OR GUNSLINGERS SHOOTING AT EACH OTHER WILDLY OUT ON A WESTERN TOWN'S STREETS BUT THEY WOULD BE RUNNING AND DARTING WILDLY ATTEMPTING TO GET THE SUN AT THEIR BACKS SO THAT THE ONES THEY WERE SHOOTING AT WOULD BE BLINDED BY THE SUN SHINING IN THEIR EYES.

SO MUCH FOR MYTHICAL "WESTERN FAIR PLAY" ALA "DUEL IN THE SUN AT HIGH NOON" AND ALL THE ENDLESS T.V. & HOLLYWOOD WESTERNS OF YORE THAT PORTRAYED COWBOYS AS GUYS IN THEIR 30'S AND 40'S? FORGET ABOUT IT.

THEY WERE LITERALLY COWBOYS NOT COWMEN; THEY WERE KIDS,



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TEENAGED BOYS, AS A RULE,
WITH THEIR TRAIL BOSSES BEING
IN THEIR 20'S OR - AT MOST - 30'S.
TWO OR THREE OR FOUR GUYS IN THEIR
20'S OR 30'S LEADING TWO OR THREE
DOZEN TEENAGE COWBOYS.

REAL COWBOYS WERE JUST THAT; BOYS.
HOLLYWOOD AND EARLY T.V., HAVING
TONS OF ACTORS IN THEIR 20'S AND
30'S AND 40'S TO EMPLOY, ARE THE
REASON THE ROLES OF COWBOYS GOT
PORTRAYED BY MEN - NOT REALITY!!
AND THINK ABOUT IT; BEING AWAY
FROM FAMILYS ON THE TRAIL FOR
WEEKS ON END AT A TIME, ~~RECORDS~~
SUNUP TO SUNDOWN BOUNCING
AROUND IN THE SADDLE EVERY DAY -
AND FOR LITTLE PAY - OF COURSE ONLY
TEENAGE BOYS WOULD DO THAT SHIT.
IT WAS THE "MCDONALDS" OF ITS DAY;
COWDRIVES RAN, LIKE "MICKEY D'S" TODAY,
ON CHEAP TEENAGE LABOR.

SO MUCH FOR THE WHOLE COWBOY MYTH.
AS FOR THE MYTH - SO OFTEN PORTRAYED
IN OLD T.V. SHOWS + MOVIES, OF
INDIANS CIRCLING AND ATTACKING A
U.S. ARMY FORT - ANY FORTIFIED
FORT - THATS JUST SO MUCH BUFFALO ~~POOP~~.

DUNG; THE INDIANS WERENT RETARDED, YOU KNOW.
THEY WERENT STUPID WHEN IT CAME
TO WHEN AND WHERE AND HOW TO
ATTACK AN ENEMY; ~~AT ALL~~.
THEY MIGHT VERY QUICKLY AND VERY

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BRIEFLY charge up TO SOME ARMED U.S. CAVALRY FORT AND FIRE A FEW QUICK ARROWS OR SHOTS AT ONE SIDE OF IT AND THEN TURN AROUND THEIR HORSES AND TAKE OFF AT FULL GALLOP IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION BEFORE THE FORTS DEFENDERS COULD REACT; BUT THAT WAS HARASSING A FORT NOT ATTACKING ONE IN MASS AS THE MOVIES AND MEDIA ALWAYS PORTRAYED IT.

They would ATTACK THOSE OUTSIDE OF THE FORT WHO SUPPLIED IT OR WHO WERE OUT OF IT OUT ON PATROL - SURE - BUT RIDE AROUND AND AROUND A FORT TO GET PICKED OFF LIKE SITTING DUCKS BY DEFENDERS SHOOTING FROM BEHIND ITS LOGS AND TOWERS? ARE YOU KIDDING?

ANY INDIAN WARRIOR CHIEF WHO EVER WOULD HAVE PROPOSED DOING THAT KIND OF THING WOULD HAVE FOUND HIMSELF AN EX CHIEF FASTER THEN YOU COULD SAY CRAZY HORSE. OR WORSE, DEMOTED TO SQUAW DUTY HAVING TO GATHER BUFFALOW CHIPS AND WATER THE HORSES FOR GOD KNOWS HOW LONG - WHILE ALL THE WARRIOR WANNA-be INDIAN PUNKS LAUGHED AT HIM AND MADE JOKES AT HIS EXPENSE. NOT A CAREER PATH ANY SELF RESPECTING INDIAN CHIEF WOULD EVER CHOOSE - THATS FOR SURE! →

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SENSE I'M AT IT, FOLKS, LETS JUST EXPOSE, BLOW UP, AND DESTROY ALL THE HOARY OLD WESTERN MYTHS RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW;

WESTERN SALOON GAMBLING HALL GIRLS? DECEASE RIDDEN WENCHES WHO WOULD END UP LOOKING 60 YEARS OLD BEFORE THEY EVEN TURNED 30 AND AS LIKELY TO PICK A WESTERN GUYS POCKET WHILE HE DRUNKENLY SLEPT AS TO GIVE HIM A BAD CASE OF ~~QUINIA~~ V.D. TRY LIVING WITH THAT OUT ON THE RANGE FOR 14 OR 15 HOURS IN THE SADDLE. HELL, YOU'D END UP PRAYING THAT THE INDIANS WOULD SCALP YOU AND PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY RATHER THAN THAT. THE OFTEN - TOO OFTEN - ROMANTISIZED "WESTERN BUFFALO HUNT"?

(EVEN TODAY'S INDIANS ROMANTISIZE THIS HOARY OLD MYTH)

WHEN THE INDIANS (OH - SO SORRY - MY POLITICAL CORRECTNESS IS SLIPPING) - I MEAN, WHEN THE ... NATIVE AMERICANS ... USED TO HUNT BUFFALO, AS OFTEN AS NOT DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT ACTUALLY ENTAILED - IN TRUE REALITY?

GETTING THEM TO STAMPEDE IN A PANIC - DOZENS OR EVEN HUNDREDS OF BUFFALO - OFF OF A ~~CLIFF~~ CLIFF!
~~PERCEPTS ARE~~

THEN THE INDIANS WOULD CAUTIOUSLY MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN - FINISH OFF



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BEASTS

WHATEVER INJURED ~~BEASTS~~ THAT WEREN'T ALREADY CRUSHED TO DEATH, AND SPEND DAYS GATHERING UP ALL THE MEAT AND HIDES AND HORNS THEY COULD PACK UP AND CARRY OFF. THE REST? LEFT TO ROT AS AN OPEN AIR FOODMARKET FOR SWARMS OF BUZZARDS / VULTURES.

THIS WAS THE SO OFTEN ROMANTICIZED MYTH OF THE "SACRED BUFFALO HUNT" OF THE AMERICAN WESTERN PLAINS INDIANS! THE WHITES? OH, THEY KILLED THE BUFFALO OFF, TOO - ONLY THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO SOME "SACRED HUNT" HOCUS POCUS - NOT AT ALL - THEY - THE WHITE BUFFALO HUNTERS OF THE OLD WEST - KILLED OFF THE HERDS OF BUFFALO BY THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS PRIMARILY FOR ONE REASON ~~AND~~ AND ONE REASON ONLY; TO WIPE OUT THE FOOD SUPPLY OF THE PLAINS INDIANS. BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE NEVER REFERRED TO AS SUCH BY THE HISTORIANS OR MEDIA OR TEACHERS OF TODAY, THE WHOLE WHITE SETTLERS VS. PLAINS INDIANS CONFLICT OF THE 1800'S WAS A RACE WAR BETWEEN THE WHITES AND THE REDS OVER LIVING SPACE, LAND, RESOURCES, ETC. ALL THE USUAL AGE OLD ~~STUFF~~ STUFF. IT IS WHAT IT IS AND WAS WHAT IT WAS WHETHER CHICKEN SHIT INTELLECTUALS & WRITERS & TEACHERS & HISTORIANS (SO BUSY PRACTICING "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS") HAVE THE HONESTY & GUTS TO ADMIT IT OR NOT. →

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The 1800's INDIAN WARS OF THE OLD WEST WERE A NO HOLDS BARRED RACE WAR, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

AND BECAUSE THE WESTERN BUFFALO FEED THE ENEMY (THE RED RACE, THE INDIANS) THE BUFFALO HAD TO GO, AND GO THEY DID, BY THOUSANDS OF WHITE "HUNTERS."

BUFFALO

BY THE THOUSANDS, BY THE TENS OF THOUSANDS, BY THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, AND KILLING BUFFULOS - FOR BOTH THE WHITE

MEN

~~WARRIORS~~ AND THE REDMEN - WAS SO EASY, (TO COIN A ~~COMMON~~ PHRASE) THAT "EVEN A CAVEMAN COULD DO IT."

BECAUSE THERE IS REALLY NO OTHER

ACCURATE WAY TO PUT THIS, BUT,

THE BUFFALO WERE INCREDIBLY DUMB.

THEY WERE AS STUPID AS THEY WERE BIG.

WHEN THE WHITE BUFFALO "HUNTERS"

WERE NOT SHOOTING BUFFULOS FROM

MOVING TRAINS WHILE SITTING DOWN

AND SHOOTING OUT OF THE TRAINS WINDOWS

(THE FAVORITE OF THE BIG RAILROAD

COMPANYS) BUFFALO "HUNTING" USUALLY ENTAILED;

A) WALKING UP WITHIN RANGE TO A HERD OF GRAZING BUFFULO WITH 2 OR 3

LOADED GUNS,

B) SHOOTING DEAD ONE BUFFULO AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER UNTILL

THE ENTIRE GRAZING HERD WAS DEAD

ON THE GROUND - OR UNTILL WHATEVER

WAS LEFT OF THE GRAZING HERD HAD HAD ITS FILL AND SLOWLY WALKED AWAY OUT

OF RANGE, OR, 3) UNTILL THE →

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BIG BRAVE STUD BUFFALO "HUNTERS" HAD SIMPLY RAN OUT OF BULLITS FOR THE DAY.

AS I SAID, BUFFALO WERE NOT THE ~~SHARPEST~~ SHARPEST KNIVES IN THE OLD WEST TOOLKIT, THATS FOR SURE. APPARENTLY, TO BE FAIR, NIETHER WERE THEIR "HUNTERS" - WHETHER OF THE WHITE VARIETY OR THE RED VARIETY. hey, They didn't HAVE TO be, EITHER. WHEN THE MYTH IS RUTHLESSLY STRIPPED AWAY, ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE PLAIN TRUTH OF IT ALL (WHICH IS WHAT PAT/SALTY - WHAT I - LOVE AND LIVE FOR; THE PLAIN STRAIGHT TRUTH). AND THE TRUTH IS / WAS THIS; HUNTING BUFFALO WAS AS EASY AS SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL. IN FACT - TO BE PICKY ABOUT IT - SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL MAY HAVE BEEN HARDER THEN KILLING BUFFALO; THE SHOTS COULD BOUNCE OFF A PART OF THE BARREL AND HIT THE SHOOTER BY ACCIDENT; NO CHANCE OF ANY BULLITS BOUNCING BACK OFF OF THE BUFFALO AND HITTING THOSE BUFFALO "HUNTERS", HOWEVER.

THE FAMOUS WESTERN MYTH ABOUT "BUFFALO BILL" CODY, IN POINT OF TRUE FACT, THIS WAY CAME ABOUT; CODY WORKED AS A PROFESSIONAL BUFFALO HUNTER FOR THE RAILROADS OUT WEST IN THE 1800'S; THATS HOW HE MADE HIS BONES AND GOT FAMOUS, HE KILLED MORE BUFFALO THEN ANYONE ELSE - A MIND BOGGLING NUMBER OF →

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The HULKING DIM WITTED BEASTS — WHICH MEANT THAT THE WEST'S FAMOUS BUFFALO BILL CODY HAD THE ENDURANCE AND ABILITY TO PERFORM — DAY AFTER DAY + WEEK AFTER WEEK AND MONTH AFTER MONTH — THE ENDURANCE TO PERFORM A MIND NUMBINGLY ~~REPEATING~~ ~~REPEATED~~ ACTION JOB EQUIVALENT TO ~~TO~~ A MODERN FACTORY WORKER ON AN ASSEMBLY LINE TODAY; THE SAME ACTION REPEATED OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN HOUR AFTER HOUR AND DAY AFTER DAY;

Repetitious

AIM, SHOOT, AIM, SHOOT, AIM, SHOOT
(HAND ME ANOTHER GUN)
AIM, SHOOT, AIM, SHOOT, (ETC. ETC. ETC.)
AS I SAID, KILLING BUFFALO WAS NOT THE MOST CHALLENGING JOB IN THE WORLD. IN FACT, FOR THE BUFFALO HUNTER CHAMPION CODY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN MIND NUMBINGLY DULL AND BORING. FOR YEARS — THERE BEING SO MANY BUFFALO — THEIR TRIGGER FINGERS WOULD GROW NUMB AND GIVE OUT BEFORE THE BUFFALO ~~WAS~~ RAN OUT.

EXCEPT, INEVITABLY, BY THE LATE 1800'S — THEY DID. RUN OUT. OF BUFFALO, THAT IS. OR, WE SHOULD SAY, THE AGE OLD NATURAL LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND — THE PREDICTABLE LAW OF "DIMINISHING RETURNS" — PUT A STOP TO THE SLAUGHTER OF THE BUFFALO. FEWER AND FEWER BUFFALO PER HUNT WHILE THE HUNTERS HAD TO ~~TRAVEL~~ TRAVEL FURTHER AND LONGER TO ~~BE~~ KILL THEM →

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MEANT THAT, BY THE 1880's, THE CAPITALIST MASTERS THAT RAN THE RAILROADS FINALLY STOPPED FINANCING THE BUFFALO HUNTS WHEN THEY SAW THAT THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS HAD BEEN REACHED.

EDUCATED ESTIMATES ARE THAT - BY THAT TIME - ONLY A FEW HUNDRED - OR AT MOST A COUPLE OF THOUSAND - WILD BUFFALO REMAINED.

SO THEY CAME DAMNED CLOSE TO DRIVING THE AMERICAN BUFFALO (AKA 'BISEN') INTO ~~EXTINCTION~~ EXTINCTION - THE WESTERN HUNTERS HAD - JUST AS THEY DID ACTUALLY DRIVE THE GREAT WESTERN FLOCKS OF WESTERN PIGEONS INTO OBLIVIAN (THE LAST ONE DIED MATELESS IN ABOUT 1909 AND WAS MOUNTED & STUFFED AND IS IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.)

THE FAMOUS BUFFALO BILL CODY BECAME EVEN MORE WORLD RENOWN FAMOUS BY PUTTING ON HIS FAMOUS "WILD WEST" SHOWS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, AND EVEN OVERSEAS, IN THE LATE 1800'S AND EARLY 1900'S. A REAL LIFE IRONY; CODY NEVER HAD ANY END IN HIS TROUBLES AT FINDING AND GETTING ENOUGH REAL LIVE BUFFULOS FOR HIS WILD WEST SHOWS, IN ORDER TO MAKE HIS ~~W~~ SHOWS "LOOK REALISTIC"!!

GEE, WHO'D'A THUNK IT? NEVER COULD SECURE ENOUGH BUFFULOS FOR YOUR SHOWS, HUH? MAYBE THATS BECAUSE YOU KILLED SO MANY, EINSTIEN!!!

WESTERN GAMBLERS?

CHEATS. THE ONES THAT WENT FROM TOWN TO TOWN ~~AND~~ AND SALOON TO SALOON SUPPORTING THEMSELVES BY GAMBLING HAD TO HAVE BEEN CHEATS, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT (VERY FEW DO.) HOW DO YOU THINK THEY MADE A FULL TIME LIVING PLAYING CARD GAMES? BY CHEATING! BY CHEATING ALONE, WITH PARTNERS, AND IN GROUPS.

SAME AS THE WESTERN RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS. THEY ~~WOULD STEAL~~ ~~THE~~ ~~PENNYS~~ OFF A DEAD MANS EYES. MOST OF THEM NEVER DID AN HONEST DAYS HARD WORK IN THEIR LIVES.

GLAMOROUS? THEM? IF THATS THE CASE, THEN LEECHES ARE GLAMOROUS, TOO. AND LUMPS OF HORSESHIT ~~AND~~ BAKING OUT ON THE DUSTY STREET IN THOSE LITTLE WESTERN TOWNS - IN JULY - MUST HAVE BEEN GLAMOROUS.

NO - I DON'T THINK SO.

GLAMOROUS OLD WEST ~~AND~~ PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS IS JUST THAT; ANOTHER MYTH COOKED UP BY EASTERN AUTHORS AND HOLLYWOOD CASTING DIRECTORS.

AND SPEAKING OF HORSESHIT OUT ON THE DUSTY STREETS OF OLD WESTERN TOWNS, THEY STANK IN SUMMER. THOSE WESTERN TOWNS. THEIR DIRTY STREETS WOULD BE FULL OF ANIMAL DUNG, FROM HORSES, COWS, DOGS, YOU NAME IT; WHEN IT RAINED THE DIRT STREETS WOULD TURN TO MUD; ANIMAL SHIT + MUD + FLYS. →

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ALL MIXED TOGETHER, THE NEXT TIME YOU WATCH AN OLD WESTERN MOVIE OR T.V. SHOW NOTICE HOW CLEAN THE STREETS ALWAYS ARE. "HOLLYWOOD CLEAN." NEVER ANY HORSE PLOP IN SIGHT. GOD FORBID THE GULLABLE VIEWING PUBLIC EVER WOULD HAVE HAD TO SEE WHAT THE OLD WEST REALLY LOOKED LIKE. AND IN SUMMER WHAT DOES ANIMAL EXCRETMENT DRAW? FLYS! HORDS OF ~~REPEATED~~ FLYS. BIG FAT WESTERN HORSEFLYS. AND YOU SEE ~~ALL~~ ALL THOSE OLD WEST SALOON HALF DOORS? WHAT KEPT THE FLYS OUT OF THE SALOONS? NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL! SO THE VERMIN WOULD BE ALL OVER THE BAR, ALL OVER THE WHISKY & BEER GLASSES, ALL OVER THE GAMBLING TABLES, ALL OVER THE SALOON GIRLS (AS IF THAT WOULD BE ANY SURPRISE) ALL OVER EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE. IN SUMMER, AT LEAST. YOU NEVER SEE ANY OF THIS HISTORICAL REALITY IN MOVIES OR T.V. EVER! EVER! THOSE PEOPLE IN THOSE SALOONS SPENT MORE TIME SHOOING AWAY AND SWISHING AWAY AND SWATING FLYS THEN ANYTHING ELSE. AND DON'T FORGET WHERE THOSE BADASS HORSEFLYS SPENT THEIR WHOLE DAY BEFORE FLYING INTO THE SALOON TO SUCK UP A FEW SUDS OR DROPS OFF A GLASS; IN HORSESHIT OUTSIDE THE SALOON - EATING THEIR FILL BEFORE THE FLYS VERSION OF "LAST CALL FOR ALCOHOL". LIFE IN THE OLD WEST WAS - LETS JUST SAY IT - DISCUSTING! DECEASE RIDDEN →

AND FILTH RIDDEN AND GERM RIDDEN,
 A PLACE WHERE, IF THE WATER DIDN'T
 KILL YOU, THEN THE UNSANITARY FOOD
 MIGHT; IF SOME TWO BIT ARMED
 15 YEAR OLD PUNK DIDN'T KILL YOU TO
 STEAL YOUR POCKETWATCH, THEN A BUNCH
 OF BOOZED UP INDIANS LOOKING TO ADD
 ANOTHER SCALP TO THEIR COLLECTION MIGHT.
 AND ANY "MEDICAL CARE" - IF YOU COULD
 EVEN CALL IT THAT - WAS ALMOST
GUARENTEED TO KILL YOU IF THE
 ORIGINAL INJURY OR DECEASE DIDN'T.
 THINK THIS IS JUST A LOT OF NEGATIVITY?
 IT ISN'T; IT WAS THE REALITY - THE
 DAY TO DAY REALITY - OF LIFE IN THE
 OLD WEST. THE REALITY THEY CAN'T
 AND WON'T AND DON'T TEACH YOU IN
 SCHOOL. IN ANY SCHOOL. THE REALITY
 NEVER PORTRAYED IN ANY BOOK OR SHOW
 OR MOVIE. NOT EVER!

AND IN EVERY FRONTIER TOWN, WHEN
 EACH ONE WOULD SPRING UP, MALES WOULD
VASTLY OUTNUMBER FEMALES.

SO IT HARDLY TAKES A ROCKET SCIENTIST
 TO FIGURE OUT THAT HOMOSEXUALITY RAN
~~RAMPS~~ RAMPANT.

AND BESTIALITY, TOO.

WITH HORSES, COWS, CHICKENS, ETC.

IT DOESN'T TAKE AN EINSTEIN TO FIGURE THAT OUT.
 "HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE WHERE ~~THE~~ THE
 DEER AND THE ANTALOPE PLAY" ???
 MORE LIKE; "HOMO, HOMO ON THE RANGE
 WHERE THE DEER AND THE ANTALOPE GET
PLAYED WITH", IF YOU ASK ME. →

PUT IT THIS WAY; GARY COOPER AND THE DUKE AND JIMMY STEWART NEVER ACTED IN WESTERNS; THEY ACTED IN FANTASYS. IN HOLLYWOOD FANTASYS. THE REAL OLD WEST HAS NEVER BEEN ACCURATELY AND REALISTICALLY PORTRAYED. NEVER. NOT ONCE.

ONCE OR TWICE THEY CAME SOMEWHAT CLOSE TO PORTRAYING THE OLD WEST. HBO'S SERIES "DEADWOOD" CAME CLOSER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS.

IN PORTRAYING THE CURSING, THE FILTH, THE DEGENERACY AND THE CRIMINALITY AND ALL THAT - PARTICULARLY OF A NEW WIDE OPEN WESTERN FRONTIER SETTLEMENT / TOWN.

BECAUSE - LETS FACE IT - MOST VIEWERS OF WESTERNS APPARENTLY PREFER ~~TO~~ THE GREAT WESTERN MYTHS THEN THE NITTY GRITTY REALITY OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE. WELL - SCREW THEM.

SALTY AND SALTYITES AND SALTYS FREANDS AND READERS - THOSE OF YOU OUT THEIR WHO ARE - OBVIOUSLY - STILL READING, THAT IS - WE ALL PREFER THE REAL TRUTH - ABOUT EVERYTHING - THEN THE MYTHS - WHICH OF

COURSE, IS A FANCY WORD - 'MYTH' - FOR (A FANCIFIED) FALCEHOOD. NO; WE WANT THE TRUTH, WARTS AND ALL. THE GOOD - SURE - BUT ALSO THE BAD AND THE UGLY, TOO; AS LONG AS ITS ALL TRUE. SO, PARTNERS, ITS TIME FOR ME - OL' SALTY - TO SADDLE UP AND RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET UNTILL NEXT TIME; SO "HI-O SILVER, AWAY!" XXX