ZANE GREY

"The man whose books made the West famous"

By
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ZANE GREY

ALL HIS LIFE Zane Grey loved the outdoors. A passion for baseball, hunting and fishing swept his career along like the dashing mountain streams he liked so well. As a child in Zanesville, Ohio, he babbled, “I’m agonna kill bars and bufflers.” He haunted the banks of the Muskingum River while his teachers frowned at his absence record. His baseball prowess won him a course in dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania.

In New York City he hung up a sign that read, “P. Z. Grey, Dentist.” But he neglected his patients to relive in imagination the exploits of his buckskin-clad Zane ancestors in tracking Indians through the forest. While paddling down the Delaware River he flirted with a girl on the bank who became his wife. Her faith in his writing ability encouraged him to see the West with “Buffalo” Jones. On that visit he came under the spell of “the happiness that dwells in the wilderness alone.” In his many books he tried to convey the magic of that spell.

Grey’s love of adventure came to him naturally. According to tradition his Zane ancestors sailed from Denmark to England. In 1678 Robert Zane, a Quaker serge maker, emigrated to New Jersey, where he is said to have married an Indian girl. One branch of the family moved to Virginia. There the writer’s great-grandfather, Colonel Ebenezer Zane, was born. From the Colonel’s first wife, a McCulloch who was half Indian, Zane Grey believed that he inherited Indian blood.

Colonel Zane and his brothers started from what is now Hardy County, West Virginia, in 1770 and hacked their way through the unsettled wilderness. Arriving at the Ohio River, they started the only settlement on that stream, at Wheeling. Fort Henry at that little outpost was twice besieged by the British and Indians in the Revolutionary War. As colonel in the militia Ebenezer helped defend the fort. During one siege his sister Betty
carried powder through a rain of bullets to save the defenders. This brave feat inspired Zane Grey to write his first book.

After the war Colonel Zane saw the first wave of settlers leading their pack horses through the trees into the Ohio Valley. To guide them and to secure favorable locations for his military warrants, he blazed Zane's Trace across the present state of Ohio. One of his tracts was the site of Zanesville.

Colonel Zane's son Samuel had a daughter named Josephine Alice. She married Lewis M. Gray on February 5, 1856. They were the parents of the future writer of popular Westerns.

Lewis Gray was descended from Henry Gray, who came from Ireland to a farm in Springfield Township, Muskingum County, Ohio, before 1820. His son Liggett was satisfied to cultivate the acres his father had cleared. But Liggett's son, Lewis M. Gray, father of the novelist, felt the restlessness of his ancestors. The novelist described his father as "an Ohio backwoodsman, a hunter, a farmer, a preacher and finally a doctor."

Dr. Lewis M. Gray practiced dentistry on Main Street in Zanesville. The family lived in a house that still stands at 705 Converse Avenue in the Terrace section of the city. There were five children, two daughters, Ella and Ida, and three sons—Lewis Ellsworth, Romer Carl and Pearl Zane. Pearl was born on January 31, 1872. He dropped the Pearl from his name when readers of his stories mistook him for a woman. At the same time he changed the spelling of his last name from Gray to Grey.

The future novelist attended Moore School at the corner of Amelia and Park streets. There the course included reading, slate writing and numbers in the early grades. Beginning with the third grade, geography, object lessons, drawing and Swinton's School Composition were added. But the boy was not ready to profit from instruction in composition. A woman who knew him well recalled that he sat "with his chin cupped in his hand, gazing at the wall. He was a dreamer."

Dreaming did not solve arithmetic problems or impress his music teacher. But the boy enjoyed geography and history because they opened windows to dreams. He liked art. His own paintings illustrated the first edition of his Betty Zane.

He devoured Wild West thrillers. Sam Jenkins sold these dime novels in the Schultz Opera block. While Zane and his cronies pretended to browse, they deftly inserted five thin books between the pages of one. Each boy held up a book and paid Sam a dime.

As he grew older, Grey read Harry Castlemon's books, Swiss Family Robinson, Robinson Crusoe, Cooper's Indian tales and Tennyson's poems. These books stirred his imagination. "My heart was in writing stories," he later recalled, but he had no encouragement. The earliest known Zane Grey writing was not a story. It was a verse found in Miss Anna Oldham's autograph album. About 1885 he penned these lines:

"Friend Anna
Remember this and bear in mind
A good beau is hard to find.
But if you find one gentle and gay
Hang to his coat tail night and day.
But if your hands should choose to slip
Catch another and let him rip.
Yours truly,
Pearl Gray."

A few years later Zane made a more ambitious attempt at
writing in a secret cave behind the family home. With the fellow members of his gang he boarded up two small underground rooms and decorated them with skins and weapons. There they read Beadle’s Dime Library and Castlemon’s books by a flickering oil lamp. There they also ate stolen watermelons and chickens.

In that smoky den Grey wrote his first story, “Jim of the Cave,” on wall paper. But it was never published. Jim, the hero, in disgrace with the gang because he had broken one of the laws, violated the oath of secrecy he had taken with letting of blood and told Dr. Gray about the cave. Dr. Gray discovered utensils that had been mysteriously missing from the family kitchen. He also discovered his son’s literary endeavor. Then he threshed the young author with a strip of carpet found in the cave.

That was not the boy’s only juvenile escapade. His schoolmates recalled many pranks. Some said he was a bully. Edward McCadon remembered going fishing with other boys one day at the mouth of Joes Run. Zane sauntered up, hit a small boy and ran. He needed all his speed to get home before his pursuers caught him. He also needed all his speed to escape the angry men whose tulip beds he tore up. He was known as “The Terror of the Terrace.”

The wild atmosphere of forests and streams called him. While shooting squirrels in Brush’s woods he was starting on the trail that led to bear hunting in Arizona. Casting hook and sinker into the Muskingum River for catfish awakened an interest that he pursued until he enjoyed the supreme thrill of fighting swordfish off New Zealand. In his autobiography he wrote: “At that precocious period I used to run off from home, hide in the woods, throw away my clothes and make believe I was a savage. In strict truth I have been yearning to do that ever since.”

Terrace residents breathed easier when Grey went fishing. His lifelong passion for fishing began in Zanesville. He saw his first fish one day while riding with his mother in a wagon to visit an aunt thirteen miles out in the country at Brownsville. He wrote in later life; “Looking down from my high perch into the clear pool directly under me, I saw something that transfixed me with a strange rapture. Against the sunlit amber depths of the little pool shone a wondrous fish creature that came to the surface and snapped at a bug. It finished silver and rose. It had a green back covered with many black specks.” The fish fascinated him.

A few years later the family walked along the dusty road to Dillon Falls for a picnic. There the boy fished with a bent pin. In his autobiography he recalled: “Thus began for me and Romer the dawn of enchantment by running waters.” And he added this encomium: “Dillon Falls became the most beautiful place in the world, a paradise of adventure.”

When Grey was not fishing, he was playing baseball. On the Terrace he began the sport which he played at the University of Pennsylvania and in New Jersey. Both Zane and his brother were of professional caliber.


As Zane grew older, he pitched fewer baseball games and caught fewer fish. His father was determined to make a dentist of him. The boy had to remove the plaster of paris from vulcanized teeth, sandpaper them and polish them on a lathe. He hated this mechanical work. But the strong muscles he had developed in pitching made him expert in pulling teeth.

After working hours he stood with other young men across Main Street from his father’s office in front of the Clarendon Hotel and watched the girls pass. He had become interested in girls at a party. A girl called “Pet” gazed around the circle, dropped a pillow in front of Zane and knelt on it. After Zane knelt and kissed her, girls competed with fishing for his attention. He joined a dancing club. He had a swinging time until a rival misquoted a statement he made about a girl. The dancing club expelled Grey.

It was the shock of his life. He sank into a period of despondency, fistfights and imagined disgrace. Fortunately he was lifted from his gloom by his father’s decision to move to Columbus, Ohio.

In Columbus the father opened an office at 108 1/2 South High Street and the family lived at 108 Lexington. Zane got a job
as usher in a theater. But his father soon kept him busy with dental work. Young Grey made regular trips to Frazeysburg north of Zanesville. On his first trip he was more nervous than his patients when he injected cocaine and pulled teeth. After a few extractions he was confident and his patients were satisfied. In his autobiography he wrote: "I had all the young girls in the country coming for dental work whether they needed it or not."

His success came to the attention of the Ohio Dental Association. That organization eventually stopped his practice because he did not have a license. But while he was still visiting the little Ohio town of Baltimore, he laid his forceps aside to pitch for the local team against the unbeaten Jacktown nine. In a barn near the scalped diamond he donned the white canton flannel Baltimore uniform with red stripes and letters.

The Jacktown men were confident. Their pitcher was a 300-pound giant. They brought their own umpire wearing "a jaunty cap with a tassel, a white blouse with tie, short pants of velveteen, white stockings, with low shoes and big buckles."

Zane's pitching held down the Jacktown score while the Baltimore team made many runs. Jacktown players crowded behind the plate to see why. Suddenly the umpire bawled, "Game called! Nine to nothing! Favor Jacktown! Baltimore pitcher uses a crooked ball!"

"The dandy umpire robbed us," recalled Grey. He went to the barn to change clothes. Looking through a crack he saw the giant pitcher advancing with a rail over his shoulder. Grey grabbed his trousers and escaped to a cornfield. Later that day he took the train to Columbus.

The curve he used that day had been developed with Columbus teams. He started to pitch for the Town Street baseball club. Next he joined the Capitol team of the City League. Later he organized an amateur team that played college teams. Grey and his fellow players beat Ohio Wesleyan, Oberlin and Kenyon. After the game in which they defeated Denison, a University of Pennsylvania scout came up and offered Grey a scholarship.

Grey accepted the opportunity. In Columbus he had missed his favorite retreats under the sycamore trees along the Muskingum River. But to transfer a lover of fields and streams from a stiling city to a college classroom was to exchange one prison for another. To make matters worse, the prisoner was shackled with a course in dentistry. Dr. Gray insisted on that course for his son.

Grey was a lone wolf at the University. His wolfish disposition was too morose and independent to mix with his classmates. He wrote later in life: "I couldn't make many friends. I did not understand the students. Their ambitions, breeding, culture, as well as their habits of drinking, smoking, gambling, seemed to exclude me from their ranks." As a boy in Zanesville he had promised his mother he would never drink. For these reasons, he recalled, "They made fun of me."

Two activities made his college years bearable, reading and baseball. In the library he could forget his misery and escape in imagination with his favorite authors to exciting adventure on land and sea.

After he made the baseball team the students overlooked his taciturn disposition and befriended him. "The bitter loneliness of

Zane Grey is third from left, middle row, in this picture of University of Pennsylvania baseball team.
my college days seemed to change. Wilborn, captain of the track team, took me up; Danny Coogan, the great varsity catcher, made me a member of Sigma Nu; Al Bull, the center on the famous football team that beat Yale and Princeton and Harvard, took me as a roommate.

On the Quaker team Grey moved from the pitcher's mound to left field. His fielding helped defeat the Giants at the Polo Grounds and teams from Johns Hopkins, Lehigh, Columbia, Harvard and Cornell. As a batter he was even more spectacular.

In his last year the University of Virginia was leading with two Quaker men out and one on second. A Quaker professor shouted: “Grey, the honor of the University of Pennsylvania rests with you.” Grey accepted the challenge, hit a home run and won the game. A newspaper report said, “Pearl Grey was a hero.” The crowd covered him with roses.

The academic side of college was not rosy for Grey. His roving spirit could not be tamed to the narrow confines of classroom and laboratory cages. “I hated the lecture rooms,” he wrote. “I could not listen. My thoughts wandered afar, if not in green fields and quiet woods, then to dreams of what might come true. In truth, I was a poor student.”

A professor told him, “Well, Grey, you know a heap more about baseball than you do about chemistry.” His baseball prowess, rather than his academic accomplishment, carried him through. He accepted his diploma in 1896 when it was handed to him, but he thought that he had not earned it.

After graduation Grey hung up his dental diploma on the wall of a small office at 100 West 74th Street, New York City. Why did this frustrated lover of the open voluntarily corral himself among the dark stone and steel canyons of that big city? We do not know the answer. The result was further frustration. Practicing a profession that was not congenial, Grey was restless and desolate in his little apartment.

To escape from the city to the outdoors he joined the Orange Athletic Club of East Orange, New Jersey. A sports writer said: “Grey is probably the most valuable accession to the team this year . . . and he has already become a favorite with the public.” When he was hitting homeruns in 1897, it was rumored that he intended to turn professional. A reporter squelched that rumor by explaining, “He is not the kind of man who would play Sunday baseball.”

In the 1900 season a sports writer remarked that “Grey was famous for making homeruns just when needed.” He was popular too because people who knew Doc Grey was coming gathered at the diamond to have him pull their teeth.

Grey made some congenial friends in New York City. He was the youngest member of the Camp Fire Club, an organization composed of big game hunters. They included Ernest Thompson Seton and Dan Beard. At their monthly dinners they related outdoor experiences. Grey told them about a fishing expedition with his brother Romer on the Delaware River.

Mr. Boardman, a publisher, advised Grey to write an account of his experience. He followed the suggestion and the story became his first published writing. It was “A Day on the Delaware,” in Recreation, Volume 16, Number 5, May, 1902. Writing seemed at that time to be a temporary hobby. He did not yet realize that the combination of authorship and outdoor adventure would be his life work.

Encouraged by his slight taste of literary success, Grey contributed other articles to outdoor magazines. He was trying haphazardly to drive his inclinations and talents in the same direction. How could a love for the outdoors, a tendency to sit and dream and a propensity for story telling be harnessed together? Without reasoning about the problem, Grey's stubborn independence impelled him to do whatever he felt like doing at any given time.

When he felt a yearning for outdoor adventure, he locked his office and took the train for the woods and streams. It was fortunate for his career that he did. On one of these excursions in 1902 he was paddling down the Delaware River in a canoe with some friends. The fellows flirted with several girls vacationing in a cabin on the bank. In that way Zane Grey met Miss Lina Roth of New York City, his future wife, whom he called Dolly.

About this time he felt the impulse to write a book. Perhaps romance in real life inspired the writing of romance. Without being conscious of any attempt at harnessing his inclinations, he went to work. Continuing his halfhearted practice of dentistry by day, he toiled on his novel at night.

For his subject he chose a family legend. Since boyhood he
had been thrilled to read how his great-grandfather Colonel Ebenezer Zane defended Fort Henry at Wheeling during the Revolution in 1782.

In that siege the Colonel's sister Betty Zane fearlessly ran through a hail of Indian bullets to carry powder from the cabin to the fort. Grey gave the illusion of reality to his story by saying in the introductory "Note" that he based it on a diary kept by his great-grandfather. The diary was just as fictitious as Betty's romance with Alfred Clark.

But Grey labored harder at this book than he had at any other task in his thirty years. He later recalled: "I wrote Betty Zane in a dingy flat, on a kitchen table, under a flickering light."

All of one winter I labored over it, suffered, and hoped, was lifted up, and again plunged into despair."

His despair in writing the novel was matched by his discouraging efforts to find a publisher. He peddled the manuscript from one editor to another. All rejected it. In desperation and with faith in his work, he borrowed money from a wealthy patient and paid a printer to produce it.

In 1903 Grey's spirits rose from the depths of despair to heights of ecstasy. He proudly held in his hand the first copy of his first book. On the title page he read: "Betty Zane by P. Zane Grey." He soon completely abandoned the effeminate Pearl. Below the title he saw: "Cover design, letters and illustrations by the author." It was all his own.

Grey ignored the slow sales of his book. He decided he was an author. If he knew that thousands of writers of first novels never make their living from literature, he was not discouraged by the knowledge. He felt justified in abandoning his profession. Without regret he turned over his dental practice to his brother Romer. Maybe with that maverick dentistry out of the way he could guide his hobbies in the same direction.

He was proud of being an author. In April, 1904, he visited his birthplace to receive the admiration of those who had called him "The Terror of the Terrace." He told a Zanesville reporter that he had written his book for "amusement and pleasure." He promised two more books about the Indian scout Lewis Wetzel. With complete self-confidence he announced his intention to devote himself "exclusively to literature."

If he was to become a successful author, he could afford to get married. Mrs. Lina Roth announced the marriage of her daughter Lina Elise to Dr. Zane Grey on November 21, 1905, in New York City. The bride was twenty-one and the groom was thirty-three. If the young Mrs. Grey did not share her husband's enthusiasm for rugged outdoor life, she did share his faith in his ability to write. She needed that faith many times in the next five years before the editors and the public accepted her husband's books.

The newlyweds moved to a cottage on the Delaware River at Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania. Grey had finally broken the shackles that held him to dentistry. He was happily married. Near his cottage, he fished in picturesque streams, hunted on forest-covered hills, and enjoyed "the happiness that dwells in the wilderness alone." He was living as he had always wanted to live but he was not making a living. They had to depend on his wife's money and on loans from his brother R. C. to pay the grocery bill.

But he was free. In his freedom he labored hard at writing. The grammar that had been boring in school now became essential and interesting. Mrs. Grey sat down at the kitchen table with her husband and taught him the correct use of verbs and pronouns.
He studied rhetoric. "As for technical books on writing," he recalled, "I had an insatiable craving for them." For inspiration and models of style he turned to his favorite authors: "Hugo, Stevenson, Poe, Kipling became close friends and teachers. I devoured Ruskin, Hudson, Jeffries, Darwin, and I knew by heart Tennyson, Wordsworth, Matthew Arnold."

He found contemporary books too realistic. Although the main literary current of the early twentieth century flowed strongly toward realism, Zane Grey stood outside the stream. "The books of stark-naked realism," he believed, "show primitive men retrograding to the level of the brute."

His impulses drove him toward romance. He said, "To my mind, romance is only another name for idealism; a glimpse through the painted windows of the dreams of youth; the spirit, not the letter, of life."

But the family could not live on spiritual groceries, and the grocer demanded the ring of solid coins in his cash register. The editors continued to refuse Grey's work. He sent short stories, verse, articles. The postman brought them back with rejection slips. He carried his novels, painfully rewritten two and three times, up dark stairways in New York and waited hopefully in editorial offices. He always faltered down the stairs dazed and discouraged.

He had been writing and rewriting The Spirit of the Border and The Last Trail for years. They were the promised romances about his great uncle Jonathan Zane and his boyhood hero Lewis Wetzel. As a last resort he practically gave them to the A. L. Burt Company to get them before the public. The first was published in 1906 and the second in 1909. They completed his trilogy of Ohio frontier fiction.

He dedicated The Spirit of the Border to his brother R. C. The dedication expressed the author's philosophy of life and literature: "To my Brother. With many fond recollections of days spent in the solitude of the forests where only can be satisfied that wild fever of freedom of which this book tells; . . . and where one may watch the fragrant wood-smoke curl from the camp-fire, and see the stars peep over dark, wooded hills as twilight deepens, and know a happiness that dwells in the wilderness alone."

The last cloud that dimmed this happiness started to
disappear imperceptibly one day when Zane Grey went to New York on one of his discouraging visits to a publisher. On that day he met Colonel C. J. “Buffalo” Jones, who was showing movies of wild game in Yellowstone Park. Grey wanted to accompany Jones to Arizona and write about the trip. Jones demanded evidence that he could write. After reading Betty Zane Jones enthusiastically invited Grey to join the expedition.

In Arizona they crossed the Painted Desert in a Mormon caravan and lassoed mountain lions at the Grand Canyon. Back in Lackawaxen Grey described the trip in a book called The Last of the Plainsmen. As usual he peddled it without success. It was his fourth book rejected by Harper and Brothers. One publisher told the author that “he took pleasure in helping to kill off ninety-seven per cent of would-be authors.” The Outing Publishing Company finally issued the book in 1908.

These rebuffs might have discouraged other writers, but not Zane Grey. When the leaves of the trees turned red and gold that fall, he was at work on a romance inspired by his Western experience. It was a cold winter in Pennsylvania. He often found six inches of snow on the kitchen floor in the morning. When he wrote he had to warm his hands at the stove every few minutes. His imagination was at white heat and he completed the story.

Again he climbed the stairs to Harper and Brothers. He remembered the previous four rejections. He recalled: “When I staggered down the old stairway and out into Pearl Street I could not see. I had to hold on to an iron post on the corner, and there I hung fighting such misery as I had never known.” The editor, Ripley Hitchcock, had told him: “I don’t see anything in this to convince me you can write either narrative or fiction.”

But this time it was different. A son Romer had been born to the Greys. They said he brought them luck. Zane went back home over the snow on skis to tell his wife Dolly and their child that Hitchcock had accepted The Heritage of the Desert. It is a story about a girl’s escape from a Mormon colony and her romance with a young Easterner in Arizona for his health.

That first contract with a publisher was a prized possession for the rest of the author’s life. After seven years of work and waiting success had come. At last all his inclinations were harnessed together. Soon they would gallop.

The Heritage of the Desert was the first of Zane Grey’s many Westerns. While he was gathering more Western material, he made use of his outdoor experiences in books for young people. The family lived at Lackawaxen in summer and at Middletown, New York, in winter. A daughter Betty Zane was born in 1912 and another son, Loren, in 1915. Three juveniles published in this period were The Young Forester, The Young Lion Hunter and Ken Ward in the Jungle.

Zane Grey, writer of Westerns

Three more books written in this period were based on his rich baseball background. In The Short-stop the hero, Chase Alloway, played professional baseball in the Zanesville-Columbus area. One member of his team was Grey’s boyhood friend, Enoch Somers. The book was dedicated to the author’s brother, “Reddy” Grey.

“Reddy” was a character in The Redheaded Outfield and Other Baseball Stories. One of those stories, “The Manager of Madden’s Hill,” appeared first in The American Boy. It mentions by name the members of one of Grey’s Zanesville teams. Ken
Ward's story in *The Young Pitcher* paralleled Zane Grey's baseball career in college.

The exploits of Lewis Wetzel had thrilled Zane Grey, and he had played baseball with religious fervor. But the scenery and adventure of the Great West cast a stronger spell over him. From 1907 to 1917 he spent nearly half his time on trips to Arizona and New Mexico, Cuba and Mexico. Using his impressions and notes from these expeditions, he wrote a second Western, *Riders of the Purple Sage*.

He tried to serialize it in a magazine. No editor would have it. In spite of the fair success of *The Heritage of the Desert*, Harpers rejected it. Grey persisted. He bluntly asked Mr. Duneka, vice president, whether he had read it. Duneka replied that he had not but that his advisers considered it "bulldy." Grey appealed to him in fairness to read the manuscript.

Grey recalled later in life; "When I saw him next, his wife had read it, and so had he. Sufficient to add that my romance of the purple sage was published; and from that time until his death Mr. Duneka was my friend." He had reason to be. *Riders of the Purple Sage* sold over two million copies in the next fifteen years. It was Zane Grey's most popular book. At last his interests centered as a team toward happiness and prosperity.

In this period Grey formed the pattern he followed for the rest of his life. He alternated several months of outdoor adventure and note-taking with a similar period of time at home. His pursuit of deep sea fish took him from the Atlantic off Seabright, New Jersey, to the Pacific near Catalina Island.

On land he satisfied his yearning for wild places by hunting bear in the Tonto Basin and by watching and listening in the desolate solitude of Death Valley. Every day he jotted down ideas for plots and noted word pictures of purple shadows and opal peaks.

At home he sat down in a morris chair with a lapboard across the arms. Studying his notes, he organized them into a plan for a story. The manuscript of *The U. P. Trail* in the Library of Congress is accompanied by a folder with the title "Theme and Notes." In this typical outline Grey stated his purpose, sketched his characters and noted some possible episodes such as grading, tent cities, pay day and meeting of the rails.

He wrote rapidly. All he had to do was let the dreaming imagination that had irked his Zanesville teachers stream around his notes and carry his story along. As fast as the plot flowed through his mind he recorded it in pencil on legal size paper. He seldom corrected or altered his manuscript. At his best speed he filled neatly stacked pages with 100,000 words a month.

Early in his career Grey wrote one novel a year. After the popularity of *Riders of the Purple Sage* editors were willing to serialize his romances. Barton Currie of *The Ladies’ Home Journal* said: "It only takes you three months to write a novel, Grey. Why not double your output?" He did. Many of the serials were not published in book form until after his death.

One book he could not delay. In World War I Grey's strong anti-German sentiment found expression in *The Desert of Wheat*. In this novel the hero, Kurt Dorn, revolts against his father's participation in a conspiracy to sabotage essential wheat production in the Columbia River Basin. After saving the wheat, Kurt atones for his German ancestry by enlisting and suffering shell shock and wounds in action. Even this war novel had a Western setting.

When Grey placed a period at the end of the last sentence of a novel, he left for more adventure and note-taking in the West. Then his wife Dolly assumed responsibility. She edited the manuscripts and sent them to the publisher.

Her task as business manager became more difficult as contracts for serials and books multiplied. When Grey had enjoyed an adventure in the wilderness and had written it down, he lost interest. It was then up to Dolly to protect his financial interest in book and motion picture rights.

Hollywood was quick to see the screen possibilities of popular Zane Grey Westerns. In 1918 *Border Legion, Rainbow Trail* and *Riders of the Purple Sage* were filmed. The next year movies were made of *Desert Gold* and *The Lone Star Ranger*. From one to five films of Zane Grey Westerns a year appeared before talkies were introduced in 1928.

Grey was living as he wanted to live. He gathered material for his books and satisfied his yearning for the outdoors as he rode on horseback through the stark and desolate regions of Arizona and New Mexico. He became fond of his horses. Night, Black Star and Blanco Sol, made famous in *Riders of the Purple Sage*.
Sage, were shipped to Pennsylvania. Black Star and Blanco Sol did not stand the trip.

Night seemed so happy to be back in Arizona that Grey decided to graze his horses at a ranch near Flagstaff. He later rode Nig, Sarchedon and his favorite of them all, Brutus.

More and more of Grey's time was spent in the West. The wild scenery and the native characters inspired his books. He guided Jesse Lasky and other movie producers to good locations for filming his stories. His business affairs centered in the West. A Grossett and Dunlap advertisement called him "The man whose books made the West famous." Pennsylvania was too far from his interests. In 1918 the family moved to California.

For two years the Greys rented houses in Los Angeles and Hollywood. In 1920 they bought a spacious stucco home on East Mariposa Street in Altadena, California. The five-acre tract was shaded by groves of pine, cedar and eucalyptus trees with open spaces for flower gardens, tennis court, and lawns where the writer could romp with his children. From his window Grey could glimpse Mount Wilson in the Sierra Madre Range. That was the home to which he returned from hunting and fishing expeditions for the rest of his life.

Grey had found himself. He was combining his love of the outdoors with his inclination to sit and dream in a money-making partnership. His books were selling by the hundreds of thousands around the world. Every movie ticket office in the country collected money for him. His name was a household word.

Recognition came to him in many forms. The University of Pennsylvania granted him an honorary degree of Master of Letters in 1917. John Masefield, poet laureate of England, said he enjoyed Grey's Westerns. John Wanamaker met the novelist at a fishing camp at Long Key, Florida. He told Grey: "You are distinctively and genuinely American. You have borrowed none of the decadence of foreign writers. The good you are doing is incalculable. Never lay down your pen."

Edward Everett Hale, Jr. said about Grey: "Others can tell exciting stories about the killing of bad men and the rescue of frontier girls, but he is the only one I think of who has a deep sense of the beauty and wonder of the Far West."

Grey was deeply moved by his reception at Zanesville on
March 29, 1921. On a visit to his native city he was a guest of the Rotary Club at noon. Schools were dismissed in the afternoon so that students could greet him in a showing of The Desert of Wheat at the Weller Theatre.

In the evening Rotary entertained him at a public dinner. Grey told the crowd: "I stood up under the reunions and greetings of the week. I enjoyed the Rotary luncheon at noon today. But when the school children at the theatre this afternoon shouted my name something seemed to happen. I have not been myself since. Your cordiality tonight has added the last straw and I thank you."

Back home at Altadena he resumed his hunting and fishing. He listened to the legends of the regions where he hunted. His associations with guides, Indian and prospectors suggested characterization for his books. He hunted in Colorado, Northern California, New Mexico and Arizona. On the rim of the Tonto Basin in Arizona he built a hunting lodge on a three-acre tract in 1923. For several weeks at a time he made that lodge his headquarters.

About 1930 the Arizona state game laws went into effect. Grey wanted to continue to hunt bear in all seasons. As the most influential promoter of Arizona, he believed that he was entitled to the privilege. Because the state denied his request, he never returned. At the same time his enthusiasm for the outdoors matured, and he lost his desire to kill animals.

It was no sudden change in attitude. His barbaric desire to kill had been weakening. He had come to realize that wild animals belonged in the wilderness he oved. Saving the wilderness became a passion. In his book Roping Lions in the Grand Canyon he aimed to "generate the impulse which may help to preserve our great outdoors for future generations." J. Alden Brett said in Success that Grey's two great missions were the Doughboy and "to help Save Outdoor America." A writer in Sportologue called Zane Grey "The High Priest of Out-of-doors."

It is significant that Grey wrote his non-fiction books about hunting early in his career. Beginning in 1919 he wrote a series of eight illustrated books about his fishing experiences. He enjoyed freshwater fishing in Wyoming, Northern California and British Columbia. But his favorite spots in the United States were the Rogue River and the North Umpqua in Oregon. Every year from 1926 to 1929 he fished for trout in the Tongariro River in New Zealand.

Before 1920 his salt water fishing took him to Florida and the Caribbean. After that he fished around Catalina Island and the San Clemente Islands. From 1919 to 1923 the Greys rented a house on Catalina. In 1923 Grey built a summer home at Avalon on that island. The family used it regularly until 1926 and occasionally after that year. It is now the Zane Grey Manor. Grey's interest in salt water fishing shifted to the South Seas.

In 1924 he caught a record blue tuna at Nova Scotia. There in the same year he bought Fisherman I. He paid $17,000 for this three-masted schooner and spent $40,000 for installing engines and equipping her with launchers and dories. She sailed on her first trip through the Panama Canal and to the Cocos Islands and Galapagos. On the second trip she went to Tahiti and New Zealand. On her last trip she remained in Tahiti where she was sold.

Because of Grey's prominence as a fisherman, manufacturers named hooks, line and other tackle after him. He once held the following world records: bluefin tuna, 758 pounds; yellowtail, 111 pounds; striped marlin, 450 pounds; dolphin, 63 pounds; silver marlin, 618 pounds; striped marlin, 1,040 pounds; tiger shark, 1,036 pounds; Allison's tuna, 318 pounds; Pacific sailfish, 171 pounds; broadbill swordfish, 582 pounds. Ed Zorn said in Zane Grey's Adventures in Fishing: "It is reasonable to assume that no one will ever challenge his right to be known as the greatest fisherman America has ever produced."

Notes from Grey's hunting and fishing trips accumulated. His study on the third floor of the Altadena home was strewn with notes, trophies, books and fishing tackle. He did not have to put up with that inconvenience. Before leaving on one of his expeditions in 1928, he took an axe and drove four stakes into the ground. "Dolly," he said to Mrs. Grey, "when I come back I want a study this size."

The study was ready when he came back. A two-story stucco wing forty-eight by seventy-five feet in size with red tile roof stood at right angles to the house. The rooms on the first floor were filled with fishing tackle, saddles, Indian relics, photographic equipment and pictures, and trophies from the South Seas. Upstairs the first room was lined with shelves for books and cases
for notes. Several steps led down to the study where his Morris chair faced a fireplace decorated with Indian motifs by his brother Lew. Timbers one foot square supported the roof. Leopard and bear skins and Indian rugs were scattered over the floor.

Grey entered this upper story from his second floor bedroom through an enclosed passage with an open archway below. When he closed the door he had the solitude he needed for writing. There was no telephone in the study. As he neared the end of a book, he would sometimes write through the day without stopping for lunch. This was the cave on Converse Avenue in Zanesville more gloried than an imaginative boy could picture in his dreams.

From this haven he sailed the seas in search of big fish. In 1931 he equipped Fisherman II. She had been made of Krupp steel and was reputed to have belonged to the Kaiser of Germany. She was a three-masted schooner named Kallisto when Grey paid $40,000 for her on the East coast.

He brought her to California and spent $270,000 converting her to a power yacht with diesel engines, new cabins, complete refrigeration and new launches. She made only one voyage to the Fijis and back to Los Angeles because she rolled uncomfortably even in calm harbor and because the depression came.

He continued to publish one or two books a year until his death in 1939. Harpers had the right to the stories which had appeared only as magazine articles during his life. One of these was published in book form annually after 1939 until the series ended with Boulder Dam in 1963. Many titles of his 85 books have been printed in paperback and comic book versions. The S. S. Zane Grey was launched on January 9, 1943.

This acceptance indicates world-wide popularity. Readers have bought more than thirty million copies of Zane Grey's books. His stories were translated into twenty foreign languages. A hundred movies flashed his romances of the West on the silver screen. In 1959, 145 stories suggested by his books were filmed for TV as the Zane Grey Theater. Writing in Coronet, Sam Boal called Grey "the king of best sellers" and "the third best seller of all time. (The first is the Holy Bible, the second the McGuffey Readers.)"

His popularity did not change his way of life. He used his
immense royalties to pursue his life-long passion for "the happiness that dwells in the wilderness alone." It was in pursuit of that passion that he went fishing in 1937 on the North Umpqua River in Oregon. In that remote camp he had a stroke. His son Romer and a guide carried him to a car. At home in Altadena he recovered almost completely. He continued to dictate and write. The stroke did not end his pursuit of his favorite sport. In 1938 he went on another fishing trip to Australia.

He returned to Altadena and continued to write. There he suffered a heart attack and died on October 23, 1939, at the age of 67. He had caused confusion about his age by giving 1875 as his birth date in Who's Who in America to keep people from knowing his real age. That deception is gradually being changed to the correct year, 1872. His death was front page news in London, England. The American artist Shoemaker drew a cartoon picturing Grey on the last trail saying farewell to the riders of the purple sage.

S. S. Zane Grey was launched in 1943
About Zane Grey's popularity there is no question. His stupendous sales and many foreign editions have been mentioned. James D. Hart said in _The Popular Book_: "Though he had previously made the best-seller lists, beginning with 1917 he was never off them until 1925 (an unequalled record.)"

Marshall W. Fishwick wrote in his _American Heroes, Myth and Reality_: "Though none of his sixty novels was as influential as _The Virginian_, the extent of his writings made Zane Grey one of the most successful cowboy writers. Generally considered sub-literary by his critics, Grey's formula-ridden and poorly constructed novels have had much effect on America ... No one has written so much that was read so eagerly since the days of Ned Buntline and Horatio Alger. More than anyone else, Grey is the heir of the nineteenth century dime novel writer in America."

Critical opinion of Grey's work was summed up as follows by Everett Carter in _Dictionary of American Biography_, Volume XXII: "Critics have generally dismissed Grey's works as escapist and sentimental; their popularity is partly attributable to their sensationalism, their easy stereotypes of character, their uncritical worship of strength, their fulfillment of fantasy, and their resurrection of the discredited myth of the glories of the frontier."

Other critics admit all these weaknesses. But they find other merits in Zane Grey's books. John Farrar wrote: "I think you will agree with me, first that he has a genius for story-telling, and second that, fundamentally, his philosophies and ideals are those of the great mass of the American people."

"Any study of Grey, then, becomes a study of the American spirit. He is motivated by the same forces that produced Herman Melville, James Fenimore Cooper, Henry Thoreau and Walt Whitman. He may well be called the twentieth century Cooper, and in a book like _The Thundering Herd_ there is as much romance and far better writing than in _The Last of the Mohicans._"

T. K. Whipple expressed similar opinions about Grey in _The Saturday Review of Literature_. He said that critics had "lectured him for lacking qualities which there was no reason for him to possess, and have ignored most of the qualities in which he is conspicuous." Whipple admitted that Grey is not a realist. He explained: "I no more believe in the existence of such people as Mr. Grey's than I believe in the shepherds of Theocritus; I no more accept the code of conduct implicit in Mr. Grey's novels than I do the code of conduct implicit in Congreve's comedies."

Whipple concluded: "Indeed, if one asks of books a valid criticism of life as we experience it, Mr. Grey has little to offer. But let us look at him for what he is rather than what he is not.
Then, whether we happen to care for his work or not, I think we must grant him a certain merit in his own way. We turn to him not for insight into human nature and human problems nor for refinements of art, but simply for crude epic stories, as we might turn to an old Norse skald, maker of the sagas of the folk.”

A complete list of these sagas is included in the following pages. Several sources of biographical information have been mentioned. Grey’s unpublished 236-page autobiography, *The Living Fast*, which ends with his college career, has been used in the preparation of this account of his life. In 1928 Harper and Brothers issued a 56-page publication entitled *Zane Grey, the Man and His Work*. It included an autobiographical sketch, critical appreciations and bibliography of his writings. It is now out of print as is Jean Karl’s *Zane Grey, Man of the West*, New York, Greenberg, 1949.

Grey manuscripts and first editions have appeared in rare book catalogs. Manuscripts of seventeen of his stories are in the Library of Congress. In addition to books in English and foreign languages, the New York Public Library has several typed shooting scripts of Grey’s books for movies. The Zane Grey Museum in Zanesville has collected manuscripts, galley proofs, first and foreign editions, serials in periodicals, movie posters, biographical materials and furniture and trophies from the Altadena home. These mementos were secured through the cooperation of Mr. Romer Grey, president of Zane Grey, Inc.

**BOOKS BY ZANE GREY**

**NOVELS**

**Ohio River Country**

Betty Zane, 1903

The Spirit of the Border, 1906

The Last Trail, 1909

**Western**

The Heritage of the Desert, 1910

Riders of the Purple Sage, 1912

Desert Gold, 1913

The Light of Western Stars, 1914

The Lone Star Ranger, 1915

Rainbow Trail, 1915

The Border Legion, 1916

Wildfire, 1917

The U. P. Trail, 1918

The Desert of Wheat, 1919

Man of the Forest, 1920

The Mysterious Rider, 1921

To the Last Man, 1922

Wanderer of the Wasteland, 1923

The Call of the Canyon, 1924

The Thundering Herd, 1925

The Vanishing American, 1925

Under the Tonto Rim, 1926

Forlorn River, 1927

Nevada, 1928

Wild Horse Mesa, 1928

Fighting Caravans, 1929

The Shepherd of Guadalupe, 1930

Sunset Pass, 1931

Arizona Ames, 1932

Robbers’ Roost, 1932

The Drift Fence, 1933

The Hash Knife Outfit, 1933

The Code of the West, 1934

Thunder Mountain, 1935

The Trail Driver, 1936

The Lost Wagon Train, 1936

West of the Pecos, 1937

Raiders of Spanish Peaks, 1938

Knights of the Range, 1939

Western Union, 1939

30,000 on the Hoof, 1940

Twin Sombreros, 1941

Majesty’s Rancho, 1942

Stairs of Sand, 1943

The Wilderness Trek, 1944

Shadow on the Trail, 1946

Valley of Wild Horses, 1947

Rogue River Feud, 1948
The Deer Stalker, 1949
The Maverick Queen, 1950
The Dude Ranger, 1951
Captives of the Desert, 1952
Wyoming, 1953
Lost Pueblo, 1954
Black Mesa, 1955
Stranger from the Tonto, 1956
The Fugitive Trail, 1957
Arizona Clan, 1958
Horse Heaven Hill, 1959
Boulder Dam, 1963
Eastern (Post World War I)
The Day of the Beast, 1922

NOVELS
Don, 1923
The Wolf Tracker, 1930

OUTDOOR BOOKS
Hunting
The Last of the Plainsmen, 1900
Tales of Lonely Trails, 1922
Fishing
Tales of Fishes, 1916
Tales of Southern Rivers, 1924
Tales of Fishing Virgin Seas, 1925
Tales of the Anglers’ Eldorado, 1926
Tales of Swordfish and Tuna, 1927
Tales of Fresh Water Fishing, 1928
Tales of Tahitian Waters, 1931
An American Angler in Australia, 1937
Zane Grey’s Adventures in Fishing. Edited, with notes, by Ed Zern, 1962

JUVENILES
The Young Forester, 1910
The Young Pitcher, 1911
The Young Lion Hunter, 1911
Ken Ward in the Jungle, 1912
Roping Lions in the Grand Canyon, 1924
Zane Grey’s Book of Camps & Trails, 1931

BASEBALL STORIES
The Short Stop, 1909
The Redheaded Outfield and Other Stories, 1920

ANTHOLOGIES
Tappan’s Burro and Other Stories, 1923
Zane Grey Omnibus, 1943
The Ranger and other Stories, 1960
Blue Feather and Other Stories, 1961