

# Western boots stomp untamed along old trail



Living history demonstrations are a summer feature at the Homestead National Monument near Beatrice, Neb.

Those who feel that the Old West died with Gene Autry movies, motorized transportation and the final showdown in Dodge have never visited the still untamed, wholly western states of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska and South Dakota.

In this region, known as Old West Trail Country, homes still sit on the range, boots are everyday wearing apparel and most aspects of life still hold a Western aura.

In these states, it was first the land that wouldn't be tamed. Sky-high mountains, jagged Badlands, stubborn rivers and immense plains defied civilization to take hold.

Over the years, some of the land became subdued: Rivers were dammed, barbed wire enclosed roaming cattle, roads pushed through mountains. But the land refuses to be sedate—witness her mutiny in the unhampered wildlife, horizon-wide sunsets and formidable spaces.

It is the heritage of the land, and the people who came and stayed out of sheer stubbornness that is the backbone of Old West Trail Country. Travelers on the highways through these

states will find that untamed Western Flavor inherent wherever they go.

**THE FIRST COMERS**, the Blackfoot, Winnebago, Sioux and Cheyenne, came for the buffalo and stayed to fight for their adopted homeland. Their offspring and customs are here today, along with Indian place names, art, religious sites and ancient festivals. Pow wows and ceremonies re-enact their ancestral life throughout the summer: At Winnebago, Neb.; Eagle Butte, S.D.; Browning, Mont.; and Bismark, N.D.

Monuments to their great are made and in the making. Satekewa, the bird woman who guided Lewis and Clark, stands in bronze in Bismark, N.D. on the capitol grounds and also has been sculpted guiding the Corps of Discovery in a monumental bronze at Fort Benton, Mont.

A monument to Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce at the Big Hole National Battlefield, near Wisdom, Mont., tells the bitter story of their fight for freedom in Montana. In South Dakota, north of Custer, a mammoth statue of the Sioux warrior Crazy Horse is being

chiseled from an entire mountain.

The fortunemaker gold brought the next horde of inhabitants to this part of the West. The sage Indians knew it was here all along—in South Dakota's Black Hills, in Montana's Yellowstone country. The prospectors came and made big cities of Bannack and Virginia City, Mont. and Deadwood and Mystic, S.D.

They left their graves and ghost towns behind, and golden bonanza and bust tales that are still told today.

**BUT MINING IS** still a part of life today in the Old West Trail states—gold, copper, coal and silver. Travelers through Lead, S.D., can still buy a "pastie" for lunch—a pastry wrapped mixture of beef and vegetables that hardrock miners ate back in the 1880s.

Some of the ghost towns have come back to life: Deadwood-Lead have always been rowdy, colorful mining towns and Virginia City's blend of honky tonk and heartache draws visitors every summer.

With the gold-visioned miners came the cavalry—to protect and defend. They grappled Indian land from the

first comers, established a modicum of law and order, and left. In their stead, they left fortresses and new communities. They also left their dead: Custer on the battleground of the Little Big Horn in Montana; Lt. Levi Robinson, remembered in a Nebraska fort name; and hundreds of others.

The forts are quiet now, visited by travelers who find in these stockades whispers of Indian tragedy, gold dust and dreams.

Nebraska claims Ft. Robinson, Ft. Kearny, Ft. Hartsuff, Ft. Atkinson and Ft. Sidney; North Dakota, Ft. Abraham Lincoln, Ft. Abercrombie, Ft. Union and Ft. Totten; South Dakota, Ft. Sisseton, Ft. Meade; and Montana, Ft. Benton and Ft. Logan.

Cowmen and homesteaders left their brand here, stronger and more indelible than even the land could desire. Cattlemen brought longhorns to a fenced and the plains with a vast line of barbed wire.

Teddy Roosevelt found his Roughrider tradition in the pinnacles and lonely places of the North Dakota Badlands.



A PENINSULA with water on 3 sides of this Cass Lake resort Ranch home. Live in privacy and enjoy year-round recreational advantages. Plus a new furnace with Central Air, new kitchen appliances and new full bath in addition to a half bath. Three bedrooms, fireplace in living room, dining room and pull down stairs to full attic storage. Brick-aluminum exterior, 280' of steel breakwall. West Bloomfield. 626-9100. \$114,900.



HILLTOP ESTATE. Grand 5,000 sq. ft. home in Birmingham. Nicely groomed, elegant marble foyer, super island kitchen, family and rec rooms with fireplaces, Central Air, heated pool. 626-9100. \$195,000.



VINTAGE AND CHARACTER. Refurbished 1895 Farm House with mansion-size rooms, spiral staircase to balcony. In-ground pool, 8 stall barn, tack room. 2.4 acres in Southfield. 657-6700. \$135,000.



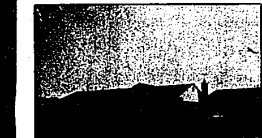
VILLA on the Riviera! Charm, quiet luxury and personality describe this North Farmington home. Entertainment center with wet bar opens to heated, in-ground pool, landscaped patio. 557-6700. \$138,000.



VIEW LAKE from this 1977 pillared classic in top West Bloomfield location. Library or fourth bedroom, full brick wall fireplace in family room, custom kitchen, Central Air, many comfort extras. 626-9100. \$128,500.



SHANGRI-LA! Three private acres with natural beauty and intriguing multi-level home. Lodge-like inside with big indoor pool, 2 fireplaces, Franklin stove, family room. Includes a barn. APPEAL! 626-9100. \$133,900.



IN-DOOR POOL, wet bar in fireplaced family room, Italian tiled foyer — impressive features in this Rochester home. Library plus four bedrooms, first floor laundry, Central Air. Immaculate. 651-8850. \$122,500.



ROCHESTER Country. Six acre retreat with Builder's own 1974 Ranch. Stone fireplace in family room with wood deck over walk-out lower level. Library and four bedrooms. Barn on property. 651-651-8850. \$125,900.



PERFECTION Plus. Beverly Hills home with view of natural ravine. Spacious rooms, gracious hostess dining room, quiet library, fireplaced living room. Top quality construction. 557-6700. \$96,500.



ROOM FOR COMFORT in this big 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Ranch with family and Florida rooms, 2 fireplaces, rec. room, excellent kitchen, large slate foyer, extras. Private yard. Birmingham schools. 646-6000. \$95,900.



LAKE FRONT Resort on motor-boat Crescent Lake. Sharp 3 bedroom (30'x14' Master) home features 2 full baths, 30'x14' living room, 24' foyer, first floor laundry and 2 car attached garage with openers. 647-5950. \$89,900.



WOODED PRESERVE just behind newly listed Troy home. Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths plus fireplaced family room, breakfast and dining rooms, etc. Central Air, garage opener. A must see home! 688-5900. \$78,900.



TREES AND POND viewed from upper level deck in back of this super Contemporary. Really big with 5 bedrooms plus library, walk-out fireplaced family room, 22'x15' living room. Big work shop. 646-6000. \$73,500.



A JEWEL of a home with spacious bedrooms, ample closets. Center entrance Cape Cod is especially appealing. Florida room views beautifully landscaped yard. A Southfield charmer. 557-6700. \$58,500.



• BIRMINGHAM 646-3000  
• BLOOMFIELD HILLS 646-7000  
• WEST BLOOMFIELD 626-9100  
• ROCHESTER 651-8850

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