

Zane Grey

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Zane Grey

Born: January 31, 1872
Zanesville, Ohio

Died: October 23, 1939 (aged 67)
Altadena, California

Occupation: Novelist, dentist

Nationality: American

Genres: Western fiction

Zane Grey (January 31, 1872 – October 23, 1939) was an American author best known for his popular adventure novels and pulp fiction that presented an idealized image of the rugged Old West. As of June 2007, the Internet Movie Database credits Grey with 110 films, one TV episode, and one entire TV Series based on his novels and stories.

Contents

- 1 Biography
 - 1.1 Early life

- 1.2 Marriage
- 1.3 His career
- 1.4 Fishing
- 2 Catalina Island
 - 2.1 End of life
- 3 Novels
- 4 Further reading
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Biography

Early life

Pearl Zane Gray was born in Zanesville, Ohio. (He would later drop his first name, and his family changed their name to Grey.) Growing up in Zanesville, a city founded by a maternal ancestor Ebenezer Zane, he developed interests in fishing, baseball and writing, all which would later contribute to his acclaim. He attended the University of Pennsylvania on a baseball scholarship, where he studied dentistry and joined Sigma Nu fraternity; he graduated in 1896. During that time, while playing baseball over the summer in Delphos, Ohio, he was charged with, and quietly

settled, a paternity suit, foreshadowing future womanizing behavior. He went on to play minor league baseball with a team in Wheeling, West Virginia. Additionally, his brother, Romer Carl Grey, played briefly in 1903 for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Marriage

While sporadically practicing dentistry, he often visited Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, to fish the upper Delaware River. It was there he met Lina Roth, better known as "Dolly", whom he would later marry. With her help and supported in part by her inheritance, he began to focus more on his writings, publishing his first fishing story in 1902. When they married in 1905, they moved to a farmhouse in Lackawaxen. While his wife managed his career and raised their children, Grey often spent months away from her, fishing, writing, and spending time with his many mistresses. While Dolly knew of his behavior, she seemed to view it as a handicap rather than a choice, and she did not blame him for it.

The Greys moved to Altadena, California in 1920 spurred by the memory of a visit during their

honeymoon. In 1920, Grey bought a prominent mansion on Millionaire's Row (Mariposa Street) built by Chicago business machine manufacturer Arthur Woodward. Designed by architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey (no relation to the author), the 1907 Mediterranean style house is acclaimed as the first fireproof home in Altadena, built of solid concrete as prescribed by Woodward's wife, Edith Norton Woodward who lost friends in Chicago's Iroquois Theater Fire of 1903. Grey summed up his feelings for Altadena with a quote still used to this day in that city: "In Altadena, I have found those qualities that make life worth living."

His career

He became especially interested in the West in 1907, after joining a friend on an expedition to trap mountain lions in Arizona. Grey wrote steadily, but it was only in 1910, and after considerable efforts by his wife, that his first western, *Heritage of the Desert*, became a bestseller. It propelled a career writing popular novels about manifest destiny and the "conquest of the Wild West." Two years later he produced his best-known book, *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1912). He formed his own motion picture company, but in a few years

sold it to Jesse Lasky who was a partner of the founder of Paramount Pictures. Paramount would make a number of movies based on his writings.

It is also speculated that two of his creations, ***Lone Star Ranger*** (a novel later turned into a 1930 film) and ***King of the Royal Mounted*** (popular as a series of *big little books* and comics, later turned into a 1936 film), were later used as an inspiration for two radio series by George Trendle (WXYZ, Detroit) which later made the transition to television: *The Lone Ranger* and *Challenge of the Yukon* (Sgt. Preston of the Yukon on TV). The *Zane Grey Show* ran on the Mutual Broadcasting System for five months in the late 1940s.

He became one of the first millionaire authors. Over the years his habit was to spend part of the year traveling and living an adventurous life and the rest of the year using his adventures as the basis for the stories in his writings. Some of that time was spent on the Rogue River in Oregon, where he maintained a cabin he had built on an old mining claim he bought. He also had a cabin on the Mogollon Rim in Arizona which burned down during the Dude Fire of 1991.

He was the author of over 90 books, some

published posthumously and/or based on serials originally published in magazines. Many of them became bestsellers. One of them, “Tales of the Angler’s El Dorado, New Zealand” helped establish the Bay of Islands in New Zealand as a premier game fishing area.

From 1918 until 1932 he was a regular contributor to Outdoor Life magazine, becoming one of the publication's first celebrity writers. In the pages of the magazine he began to popularize big-game fishing.

Fishing

Grey indulged his interest in fishing with visits to Australia and New Zealand. He first visited New Zealand in 1926 and caught several large fish of great variety,



Zane Grey holds a koala during a visit to Australia

including a mako shark, a ferocious fighter which presented a new challenge. Grey established a base at Otehei Bay Lodge on Urupukapuka Island which became a magnet for the rich and famous and wrote many articles in international sporting magazines highlighting the uniqueness of New Zealand fishing which has produced heavy-tackle world records for the major billfish, striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and broadbill. He held numerous world records during this time and invented the teaser, a hookless bait that is still used today to attract fish.

Grey also helped establish deep-sea sport fishing in New South Wales, Australia particularly in Bermagui, New South Wales, which is famous for Marlin fishing. Patron of the Bermagui Sport Fishing Association for 1936 and 1937, Grey set a number of world records, and wrote of his experiences in his book "An American Angler in Australia".

Catalina Island

Grey had built a getaway home in Avalon, Catalina Island, which now serves as the Zane Grey Pueblo

Hotel. Avid fisherman as he was he served as president of the Catalina's exclusive fishing club, the Tuna Club.

End of life

Zane Grey died of heart failure on October 23, 1939 at his home in Altadena, California. He was interred at the Union Cemetery in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, where the National Park Service maintains the Zane Grey Museum as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. His home in Altadena is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In his hometown there is a museum called National Road Zane Grey Museum. Zane Grey Terrace, a small residential street in the hillsides of Altadena, is named in his honor.

Novels

- *Betty Zane*, (1903)
- *Spirit of the Border*, (1906) -- Sequel to Betty Zane
- *The Last of the Plainsmen*, (1908), Western
- *The Last Trail*, (1909) -- Sequel to Spirit of the Border

- *The ShortStop*, (1909)
- *The Heritage of the Desert*, (1910)
- *The Young Forester*, (1910), Western
- *The Young Pitcher*, (1911)
- *The Young Lion Hunter*, (1911), Western
- *Riders of the Purple Sage*, (1912)
- *Ken Ward in the Jungle*, (1912), Western
- *Desert Gold*, (1913), Western
- *The Light of Western Stars*, (1914), Western
- *The Lone Star Ranger*, (1915), Western
- *The Rainbow Trail*, (1915), Western --
Sequel to *Riders of the Purple Sage*
- *The Border Legion*, (1916), Western
- *Wildfire*, (1917)
- *The UP Trail*, (1918), Western
- *The Desert of Wheat*, (1919)
- *Tales of Fishes*, (1919), Western
- *The Man of the Forest*, (1920), Western
- *The Redhead Outfield and other Stories*,
(1920)
- *The Mysterious Rider*, (1921)
- *To the Last Man*, (1921) (abridged version of
Tonto Basin (2004)),
- *The Day of the Beast*, (1922), Western
- *Tales of Lonely Trails*, (1922), Western
- *Wanderer of the Wasteland*, (1923)
- *Tappan's Burro*, (1923)
- *Call of the Canyon*, (1924), Western
- *Roping Lions in the Grand Canyon*, (1924),

Western

- *Tales of Southern Rivers*, (1924)
- *The Thundering Herd*, (1925), Western
- *The Vanishing American*, (1925)
- *Tales of Fishing Virgin Seas*, (1925)
- *Under the Tonto Rim*, (1926)
- *Tales of the Angler's Eldorado, New Zealand*, (1926), Western
- *Forlorn River*, (1927), Western
- *Tales of Swordfish and Tuna*, (1927)
- *Nevada*, (1928), Western -- Sequel to *Forlorn River*
- *Wild Horse Mesa*, (1928), Western
- *Don, the Story of a Dog*, (1928), Western
- *Tales of Fresh Water Fishing*, (1928)
- *Fighting Caravans*, (1929), Western
- *The Wolf Tracker*, (1930)
- *The Shepherd of Guadalupe*, (1930)
- *Sunset Pass*, (1931), Western
- *Tales of Tahitian Waters*, (1931)
- *Book of Camps and Trails*, (1931)
- *Arizona Ames*, (1932), Western
- *Robber's Roost*, (1932), Western
- *The Drift Fence*, (1933), Western
- *The Hash Knife Outfit*, (1933), Western
- *The Code of the West*, (1934), Western
- *Thunder Mountain*, (1935), Western
- *The Trail Driver*, (1935)
- *The Lost Wagon Train*, (1936), Western

- *West of the Pecos*, (1937)
- *An American Angler in Australia*, (1937)
- *Raiders of Spanish Peaks*, (1938), Western
- *Western Union*, (1939), Western
- *Knights of the Range*, (1939), Western
- *Thirty thousand on the Hoof*, (1940)
- *Twin Sombreros*, (1940), Western -- Sequel to *Knights of the Range*
- *Majesty's Rancho*, (1942), Western -- Sequel to *Light of Western Stars*
- *Omnibus*, (1943), Western
- *Stairs of Sand*, (1943), Western -- Sequel to *Wanderer of the Wasteland*
- *The Wilderness Trek*, (1944), Western
- *Shadow on the Trail*, (1946), Western
- *Valley of Wild Horses*, (1947), Western
- *Rogue River Feud*, (1948), Western
- *The Deer Stalker*, (1949), Western
- *The Maverick Queen*, (1950)
- *The Dude Ranger*, (1951), Western
- *Captives of the Desert*, (1952), Western
- *Adventures in Fishing*, (1952)
- *Wyoming*, (1953), Western
- *Lost Pueblo*, (1954), Western
- *Black Mesa*, (1955), Western
- *Stranger from the Tonto*, (1956), Western
- *The Fugitive Trail*, (1957), Western
- *Arizona Clan*, (1958), Western
- *Horse Heaven Hill*, (1959), Western

- *The Ranger and other Stories*, (1960)
- *Blue Feather and other Stories*, (1961)
- *Boulder Dam*, (1963)
- *The Adventures of Finspot*, (1974)
- *The Reef Girl*, (1977)
- *Tales from a Fisherman's Log*, (1978)
- *The Camp Robber and other Stories*, (1979)
- *The Lord of Lackawaxen Creek*, (1981)
- *Desert Crucible, The*, (2003) (unabridged version of *The Rainbow Trail* (1915))
- *Tonto Basin*, (2004) (unabridged version of *To the Last Man* (1921))

Further reading

- *Zane Grey: A Biography* by Frank Gruber (1969)
- *Zane Grey* by C. Jackson (1973)
- *Zane Grey* by A. Ronald (1975)
- *Zane Grey* by Carol Gay (1979)
- *Zane Grey's Arizona* by Candace C. Kant (1984)
- *Zane Grey: A Photographic Odyssey* by Loren Grey (1985)
- *Zane Grey, A Documented Portrait* by G.M. Farley (1985)
- *Selling the Wild West* by Christine Bold (1987)
- *West of Everything* by Jane Tompkins (1992)

- *Zane Grey: His Life, His Adventures, His Women.* by Thomas H. Pauly (2005)
- *Rider of the Purple Prose* by Jonathan Miles, *New York Times Book Review* (1 January. 2006)
- *Zane Grey: A Study in Values - Above and Beyond the West* by Chuck Pfeiffer (2006)

See also

- Sigma Nu LEADership learning program

References

- Obituary, *Los Angeles Times*, October 24, 1939, page 1.

External links

- Zane Grey Incorporated
- Zane Grey's West Society
- A Comprehensive list of Zane Grey's works
- Zane Grey Cabin Foundation
- Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA
- National Road/Zane Grey Museum Norwich, OH
- Works by Zane Grey at Project Gutenberg

- The Lone Star Ranger at Project Gutenberg
- King of the Royal Mounted BLBs and Comics
- The Shortstop by Zane Grey Free eBook
- Zane Grey biography at Ohio History Central
- WorldCat Identities page for 'Grey, Zane 1872-1939'
- Guide to Zane Grey's papers at the University of Oregon
- Zane Grey entry at the Internet Movie Database

Retrieved from

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zane_Grey"

Categories: Articles lacking reliable references
 from June 2007 | 1872 births | 1939 deaths |
 American novelists | Ohio writers | Western writers
 | People from Zanesville, Ohio | People from
 Arizona | Film studio executives | American film
 producers | American dentists

- This page was last modified 17:09, 28 June 2007.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.)
 Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the

Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a US-registered
501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.