



August 5, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Writing the Southwest through History and Nonfiction

Over the three days of the final weekend in September, the Southwest Festival of the Written Word, in downtown Silver City NM, will celebrate the *Textures Y Sabores* created in and by the works of more than 50 writers who live and write in the American Southwest.

Mark Lee Gardner and M.H. Dutch Salmon are two such individuals. Both are well-known, multi-faceted authors of southwestern history and non-fiction who will participate in separate Festival events on Sept 27, 2013-- Gardner on the panel, "Making history: The art of historical writing"; Salmon on the panel "Books, Nooks, and Hooks: How the publishing industry is changing".

Mark Lee Gardner's newest book, *Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape*, was released in July 2013 by HarperCollins Publishers and is a Main Selection of the History Book Club and a Featured Alternate Selection of the Military Book Club, Book-of-the-Month Club, Quality Paperback Book Club, and BOMC2. Kirkus Reviews wrote, *Shot All to Hell* is "...Action packed...a colorful portrait...A gripping read and probably tells all there is to tell about a legendary group of psychopaths."

Of Gardner's *To Hell on a Fast Horse: Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and the Epic Chase to Justice in the Old West*, Bookgasm.com said
"...Never has a tour of hell been so much fun."

Mark has appeared on the History Channel, PBS American Experience, ABC World News, Encore Westerns Channel, NPR, and BBC Radio.

In addition to his research and writing, Gardner is an award-winning performer of the music of the 19th- and early 20th-century American West. He has entertained audiences with his historic music at numerous venues, from the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He and his



friend and fellow music historian Rex Rideout of Conifer, Colorado were recognized by True West Magazine as the "Best Musical Tour of the West of 2009.

Mark Lee Gardner is one of the twelve Festival presenters named as a "New Mexico Humanities Scholar" by the New Mexico Humanities Council. He will provide the musical entertainment at the Festival Banquet on Saturday, September 28. Visit his website at www.markleegardner.com for information on his books and music.

M.H. Dutch Salmon is an award-winning author and the founder of High Lonesome Books Publishing in Silver City, which currently has 25 books in print.

Dutch moved to Grant County in the '80s because he found its eclectic demographics and natural environment great sources of inspiration for his writing. His most recent book, *Gila Libre: The Story of New Mexico's Last Wild River* reveals the splendor of the Gila River, a unique Southwest resource, and speculates on its future, which includes the threatening proposal of a major state and federal water project.

As the result of his passion for and contribution to the conservation of New Mexico's natural environments, especially the Gila River, Dutch was awarded a Lifetime Conservation Award at the Gila Natural History Symposium in 2008 and in 2009, a Lifetime Conservation Award from the Gila Conservation Coalition.

Salmon's outdoors column, "*Country Sports*," received the "Best Column" award from the New Mexico Press Association, the New Mexico Press Women's Association, and the New Mexico Associated Press.

In 2006, Salmon wrote and published *Gila Descending, A Southwestern Journey*, in which he reflects on his 200-mile wilderness journey down the Gila River of New Mexico and Arizona, accompanied by his hound dog and a tom cat. The book has become a classic read for all newcomers to the land of the Gila.

Salmon is also the author of two novels--*Signal to Depart*, the story of a lover of rare books & ancient art, caught between a lost culture & a modern time, who believes he can turn progress on its head; and *Home is the River*, the tale of a modern day mountain man and houndman who is drawn into an illicit plot to stop an unsavory



SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL *of the*
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dam scheduled for the last wild river in New Mexico. To find more information about Dutch's books and the others published by his company, visit www.high-lonesomebooks.com

The Southwest Festival of the Written Word in downtown Silver City NM brings more than 50 authors and publishing professionals together in 30 events for a weekend of reading and writing enjoyment. All events are free and open to the public except the Ana Castillo Memoir Writing Workshop and the Festival Banquet featuring Denise Chavez as keynote speaker. Please visit www.swwordfiesta.org for full Festival information and information on the costs for the Memoir Workshop and the Banquet.