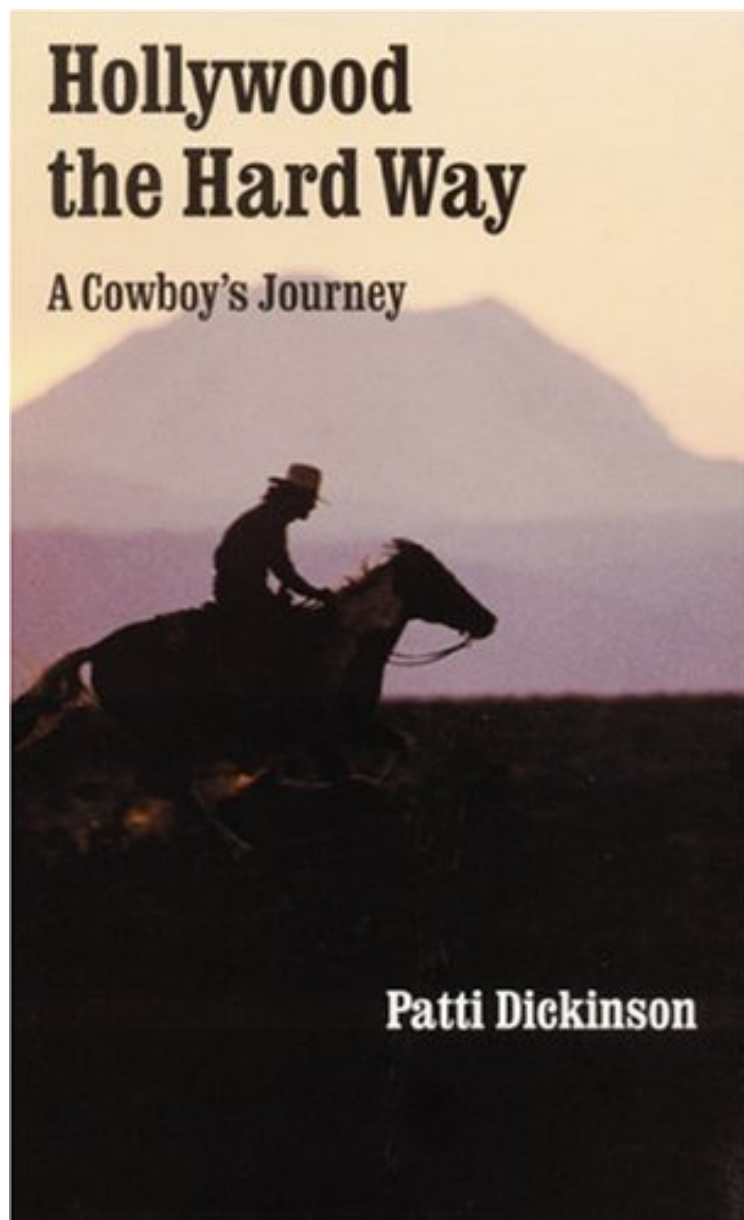


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Hollywood the Hard Way: A Cowboy's Journey

Patti Dickinson

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Patti Dickinson : Hollywood the Hard Way: A Cowboy's Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood the Hard Way: A Cowboy's Journey:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hollywood the Hard WayBy Bob C.This is a well written history of

a real event. The event only took 50 days, but every day was exciting and interesting. Not only does this book tell about the hardships and good times that Jerry Van Meter, and his mare, Fan, had on this trip from Guthrie, Oklahoma, to Hollywood, California, but it presents a good picture of the western states in 1946. It's a very good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great journeyBy Scott HajekA very well detailed story about An adventure that took place more than 70 years ago. A lot of the characters in the story are from my home area. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hollywood the Hard Way: A Cowboy's JourneyBy Barbara MartinAbsolutely, the best written about Pistol Pete and friends! The journey told of a 20 year old man and an Indian Pony.

A fifteen-hundred-mile horseback ride to win a bet, to prove a point, to honor tradition? It sounds like a tale straight out of the Wild West: a man, a horse, a grueling ride halfway across the country. The bet is between Jimmy Wakely, Hollywood singing cowboy, and Rolla Goodnight, Oklahoma cattle rancher and cousin of legendary cattleman Charles Goodnight. Frank Pistol Pete Eaton, Rolla's lifelong friend, provides the Osage Indian pony and a Colt .45. Rolla's twenty-year-old grandson, Jerry Van Meter, is the man they are betting on.

From Publishers WeeklyA young cowboy accepts a bet to ride from Oklahoma to Hollywood. He has to do it in 50 days, taking only what he can carry on his horse. He crosses raging rivers, endures blistering sandstorms and survives gunfights with murderous horse thieves. No, it's not the latest Larry McMurtry novel. It's a true story that Dickinson, an Oklahoma native, first heard from a bartender in Montana. She subsequently tracked down Jerry Van Meter, the now aging cowboy who made the amazing journey back in 1946; a year later, after extensive research and interviews with Van Meter, she wrote this charming narrative. The bet was between Jimmy Wakely, a Hollywood singing cowboy, and Van Meter's grandfather, a hardened old Oklahoma rancher. Disagreeing about whether cowboys were doomed to extinction, they chose young Van Meter to settle the matter. After a series of ordeals, including a harrowing trek across the Mojave Desert, Van Meter reached California only to find a landscape transformed by a surging post-WWII economy and filled with highways, department stores and sprawling subdivisions. Van Meter realized that he may have won the bet but lost the point: Billy the Kid was never roused from a nap by the California Highway Patrol; Wild Bill Cody never rested his horse in the end zone of the Rose Bowl. Dickinson's compelling adventure story doubles as a wistful eulogy for a vanished way of life. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal-This authentic oral history, told to the author and skillfully fictionalized, will appeal to anyone who can enjoy a great adventure story. In 1945, with dreams of becoming a pilot shattered by a back injury, 20-year-old Jerry Van Meter returned to his grandfather's Oklahoma ranch to work as a cowboy. His back healing but his confidence still shaken, he rode home one night to find his grandfather Rolla, Rolla's partner Frank, and their old friend Jimmy Wakely (now a singing cowboy in the movies) deep in debate. Wakely lamented the passing of the cowboy life, especially the 1500-mile cattle drives of Rolla and Frank's youth. They countered that young Jerry could ride that distance-from the Bar R to Hollywood-and do it in 50 days or less. A bet was made. Unfortunately, no one considered that during the old cattle drives, men and horses were amply supported with supplies, extra mounts, and human companionship-while Jerry was undertaking the grueling challenge alone, with only one horse. Fortunately, he had been well schooled in survival and horsemanship skills by two of Oklahoma's most legendary cowboys-Rolla Goodwinter and Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton. With building suspense, in vivid vignettes, Dickinson tells of the ride across deserts, over mountains, and through many perils and twists of fate. History lessons are embedded in this well-told tale: famous folk and events are woven into Jerry's family lore, and his journey takes him through a postwar America convincingly drawn by the author. Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalIn 1945, Jerry Van Meter was living on a ranch in Oklahoma, recovering from an injury that put him out of the navy. His grandfather, an old cattleman, made a bet with Jimmy Wakely, then a singing cowboy in the movies, that Jerry could ride the 1500 miles to Hollywood in 50 days, taking only what he could carry on his horse. Jerry set out on the arduous journey with a trusted Osage Indian pony and a .45 once carried by an old family friend. In 1945, you still could ride across country, mostly, and Jerry has the time of his life. Floods, river crossings, Indians, thieves, California border police, and crossing the Mojave Desert on foot add up to a great passage to a self-reliant adulthood. Jerry's memories are colored by the knowledge that the freewheeling cattle-based life he loves was about to change forever, and freelancer Dickinson's rendering of an old man's memories of the cowboy mystique is evocative. An engaging reminiscence primarily of interest to collections focusing on the Southwest but also appropriate for YA. Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Ft. Leavenworth, KS Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.