

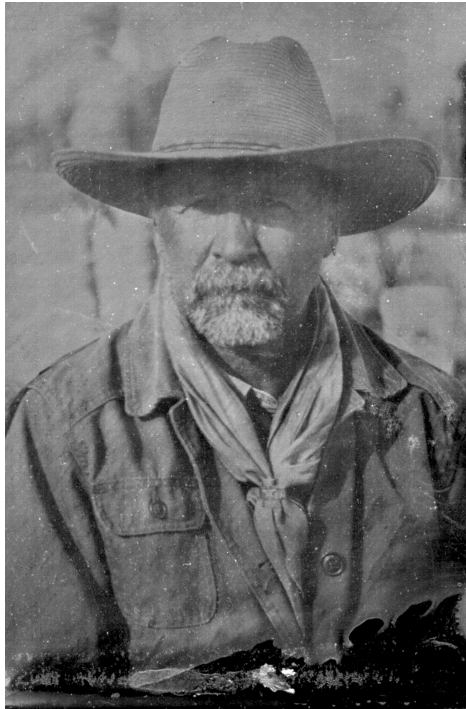
Persona of

OLD GRINGO



Parents –	1840	Family leaves KY Backcountry Farm for Council Bluffs, IA
	1846-47	Mormon Battalion
	1847	Mexican-American War Ends – marries daughter of Spanish Don – 45,000 acre rancho near Santa Barbara and learns vaquero traditions
	1848-1855	CA Gold Rush - Moved to Nor Cal
Old Gringo -	1857	Born
	1872	At 15 he is sent east to VA family for schooling after Civil War - Reads WHH Murray – 1869 And other travel/outing books of the era
	1875	At 18 he heads to Black Hills Gold Rush - Hears of a wildcat miner called “ Cariboo Jack ” Studies Sioux problem – sympathetic
	1879	At 22 he hooks up with Howard Eaton in ND
	1883	Custer Trail Cattle Co. Learns about Dudes and Rehab, and the freighter’s trade
	1885	Stayed in WY after Eaton’s Glacier/Yellowstone tour
	1885	Hired for trip to Mexico – Freight Polygs to Colonies Misses winter of 86-87 - Winters in AZ- So. UT
	1887-30	Rover in the Mormon Corridor Contract work – Forest and Park, Freighter – UT, WY, ID Guide Dudes and Nimrods
	1889	At age 32 he took the train from SLC to Beaver Canyon, ID
	1890	Drove Stages for Bassett Brothers Tours into Yellowstone
	1890	Meets Richard Leigh – learns local woodcraft traditions
	1892	At 35 he contracts Mail service to Jackson Hole

- 1894 Accompanies 1st winter expedition in Yellowstone with **Emerson Hough** to hunt poachers
Rough Trip Through Yellowstone
- 1897 Guides Seton's to Jackson Hole – *Nimrod's Wife*
Tempted to head for Alaska gold fields, but stays home
Meets a range marshal named **Tom Horn**
- 1903 Met **Horatio Jackson** in Idaho
Met "**2 Gun Bob**" **Limbert** in Craters of the Moon
- 1904 At 42 he homesteads in Teton City, Idaho – TR Land Grant
Married local Mormon girl
- 1916 Organized a touring car and trailer relief caravan to
Casas Grande, Mexico – Villa raids on the Colonies
- 1916 **Villa** invades the US - Meets **Ambrose Bierce** in Mexico
- 1917 Meets **Joe Mora** in So Cal
Adopts the Hackamore and center-fire Spanish rig, and the
Spanish Spade bit as his brand
- 1918 Ambassador for the Union Pacific R.R. and Dude Ranch
association
- 1918 Establishes the Yellowstone Trail Chapter Hut for
Association of Classic Campers (61yo)
- 1924 **Paul Petzoldt** stops by for bread and produce on the way
to climb the Tetons. **House had a hobo sign on the
gatepost.**
67 years old
- 1942 85 years old – who knows!



Old Gringo

Historic Context for the Story of Old Gringo – David Wescott

The story of Old Gringo is based on factual and some “enhanced” historical events. I felt this would be more fun than trying to fabricate a story or researching the history of someone I did not know. This is a “history” of parts of a few people I’m related to or have an affinity for.

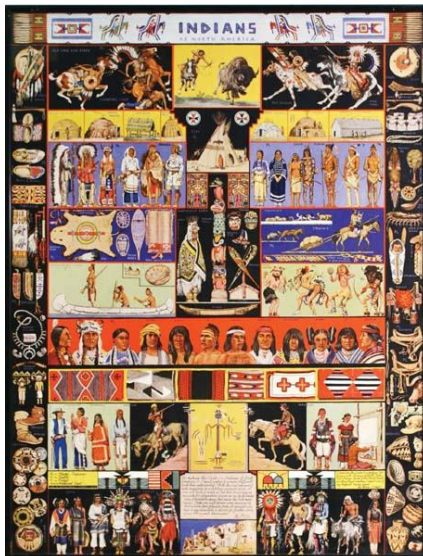
- 1800** – The Cazier (My Grandmother on my Fathers side was a Cazier) progenitors sailed from Europe to the US. They settled in Wood County, Virginia and established a backcountry farm on the Kanawha River. Baptists. In 1821 they moved to Brownsboro, KY. In 1840 family moved to Illinois. Join Mormons in 1844 and move to Council Bluffs, IA.
- 1846** - Brothers James and John enlist in Mormon Battalion, march to CA and serve one year during the Mexican War. James married and moved to Cameron, ID in 1891.
- 1847** - There is no Spanish Don, but there are connections that are interesting. About this same time, my Mother’s people - the Perez/Espejo clan - were crossing the border into CA. General Espejo was the Governor of Sinaloa and was assassinated during the Mexican War with the US. I’m 5th generation *Californio*.

The family eventually settled in the bay area of San Francisco during the years of the Gold Rush. Catholics. When I was about 4 years old our family moved to Placer County, heart of the gold strike country. I was surrounded by that history my whole early life – also the history of the local Maidu Rancherías and their history.



My Grandmother – Adriana Perez.

Illustrator Joe Mora was always a hero of mine, creating fascinating “cartas” of western national parks and his famous Cowboy and Indian panels that I had in my room as a kid, and still have today. He wrote *Californios* about the old-style Vaquero culture. The old-style is still practiced at ranch rodeos and is famous among California and Idaho buckaroos.



1821-46 – The Hide & Tallow trade were at their height in southern CA. The Cazier family emigrated to Salt Lake Valley after the war, along with notables such as **TH Holding's** family, and started a freight-hauling business – the Bullwacker Trade. They eventually settled in Star Valley, WY and hauled freight as far west as Boise, ID.

My grandfather married my grandmother and moved to Santa Barbara, where my dad was born. Grandpa was an interior finisher – wallpaper and paint. An interesting tidbit - His mother was a traveling photographer and would have the kids sing and dance to attract a crowd so she could schedule photo shoots.



I chose 1857 as a birth date for Old Gringo as it made the histories line up better. It also overlapped the Golden Age of Camping and made the skills of western expansion more accessible - 1866-1886 The Cowboy Era

1872 – The connection with an eastern education is fanciful, but gives rise to his access to the writings of Throeu, Murray, Gould, and others who were writing about life in the open air and the art of woodsloafing.

1875 – The gold fever strikes again in the Black Hills. Having been raised in CA during the first Gold Rush, he hears of a fascinating character called “Cariboo Jack” who is looking for a partner to seek out adventure in Indian Territory.

This is a nod to the fact that both Steve and I had a passion for Indian Lore and Native American traditions. I managed to wind up in South Dakota at 16 years old (with 2 buddies) in the midst of the AIM Movement, dancing at powwows.

1879-85 – Howard Eaton ran the first commercial guide service in the west. He started in South Dakota guiding the likes of TR, and moved to Dubois, WY where his family ranch is still in

operation. Guiding and dude ranching helped build the west and were the benefactors of the construction of the transcontinental railway. Their tradition of camping is still very much alive in the classic style of western outfitters. His trips are featured by writers like Mary Roberts Rinehart – *Tenting Tonight*, and *Through Glacier Park* and others.

My grandmother's brother was the last horse-mounted forest ranger on the Bridger-Teton Forest in Wyoming. He traded that for managing a dude ranch in Boulder, Wyoming and hiring my uncle Elmo (always a wannabe cowboy singing *On Top of old Smokey* – and featured in the fire truck above) as a horseback fishing guide. The love of western tradition and a life outdoors runs deep.

1885-87 – He traveled what was known as the Mormon corridor – Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Arizona – hauling freight, working as a guide and forester. He was hired on to haul freight to the Mormon colonies in Mexico, which were threatened by Villa during the Mexican Revolution. He stayed in the south missing the 2 worst winters on record. They devastated northern farms and ranches.

1889 – The Oregon Short Line is constructed from SLC to its terminus in Idaho – Beaver Canyon, also known as “The Dives.” This was the only access point to Yellowstone National Park est. 1872. It was still part of the old west. There was a hotel, liveries and saloons frequented by the likes of Calamity Jane and Rocky Mountain Mary, a female cattle rustler with no legs, one eye and a few missing fingers – hacked off by Indians when she was a baby. In 1897, Grace and Ernest Seton would take the same train to a stop 20 miles south (Market Lake/Roberts) and start their journey overland through Rexburg and over Teton Pass to Jackson Hole.

He would hire on to drive tourist spring wagons from Beaver Canyon into the park for Bassett Brothers stage line tours. At this time, he met the famed trapper/guide, Richard “Beaver Dick” Leigh who guided the Hayden Expedition as well as TR – “the West’s last mountain man”. He had lived in the Upper Snake River Valley since 1847 with his Shoshone wife and children (1831-1899 68yo). This is where he honed his woodcraft skills. Leigh lived out his days in a small cabin just east of Teton at a place still known as Hog Hollow.

1892 – At this time the mail came by rail to Market Lake and then via wagon through Rexburg to the stage stop in Victor. In the winter, the mail could only get to Green Canyon -halfway between Rexburg and Victor – and from there it was a 6-day

snowshoe/toboggan walk through Teton Valley and over Teton pass to Jackson Hole.

- 1894** – Emerson Hough (*Out of Doors*) was hired by *Forest and Stream* to report on developments in Yellowstone. In *Rough Trip Through Yellowstone*, he recounts the task of tracking poachers with a small team of hardened outdoorsmen (Old Gringo among them - maybe) and park soldiers.
- 1897**— Grace Gallitin and Ernest Thompson Seton make their first trip west. In her book *A Tenderfoot Woman*, she reports on their adventures by hiring a local teamster to take them and their belongings to Jackson Hole (Old Gringo – perhaps). They wind up fording the Snake River 3 times in the dark and losing guns and luggage, but surviving their epic trip.
- 1903** – 2 grand adventures came to Idaho . First was Horatio Jackson’s record attempt at driving cross-country by automobile (Watch the Ken Burns documentary - *Horatio’s Drive*). When he got to southeast Idaho, he hired a freighter to help get his car to Pocatello so he could get parts from the railroad. The other was Bob “2 Gun” Limbert’s exploration of the local lava flows – later to become Craters of the Moon National Monument via Indian motorcycle. He had a small fast moving crew of men to help document the expedition (Old Gringo – perhaps).



Jackson’s mechanic and co-driver and Bud.

In 1912 two motorcycles were shipped to West Yellowstone. They were ridden by CCC workers.

1904 – This is the date of the homestead certificate signed by TR for our current home here in Teton. It is right on the Highway 33 – Seton's route to Jackson, and later on, Paul Petzoldt's access to the Grand Tetons. It is located about 8 miles from Hog Hollow where Beaver Dick located his second family. Paula's grandmother would recall how the kids would come into town smelling of bear fat. The chassis to the families old 1915 Jeffrey touring car is still up on blocks in our yard, as well as the chassis from a 1914 Buick touring car.

1916 – a touring car relief caravan is organized to help the colonies in Casa Grande, Mexico that are being threatened with extermination by Pancho Villa.

"In Hurricane, another rural southern Utah town, it was not until around 1915 that residents reported seeing their first automobile. According to young Alice Isom Gubler Stratton, it came roaring, popping, and chugging into town "laying a trail of dust [and] puffing clouds of smoke from its rear." The auto "made terrible noise, and smelled awful, but it ran without horses....The wheels had wooden spokes, were smaller than wagon wheels and had rubber tires." It was driven by Mr. Fox who "had a mole on his right cheek with three hairs sticking out"; he offered rides for ten cents a mile. Alice's grandma gave her a dime and she hopped in the front seat by Mr. Fox. When the short-lived adventure was over, Stratton remembered, her biggest thought was: "My how I wished I had another dime!"

1917 - Villa invades the US. While in Mexico, Gringo happens upon a 71 year old man he had met in New York city when he was a teen. The man's name is Ambrose Bierce. He is traveling with Villa as a journalist, but later disappears in the midst of the revolution - his is considered the greatest literary disappearance of all time. (Watch the movie *Old Gringo* with Gregory Pack and Jane Fonda)

There is a family story about my grandfather hoping a freight and going to Mexico to meet Villa. The dates sort of line up, but I was never able to verify it. (Lloyd Elmo Wescott 1881-1967 - Married Hazel in Afton, WY in 1917))

1918 - He worked as an ambassador for the Union Pacific R.R. and Dude Ranches during the Golden Age of Dude Ranching 1900-1945. Became noted for wilderness skills and as a camp cook and backcountry guide on horseback, in a canoe and afoot.

1918 would make him 61 – that is the same age I was when Steve made the jump from primitive technology to classic camping and discontinued the ASP in 2012, moving almost exclusively to a passion for the camping life.

1924 – Paul Petzold and a buddy drove a Model-T from Twin Falls Idaho to Jackson Hole to climb the Grand Teton. They managed to do it in bib overalls and cowboy boots. All they had for shelter was an old quilt. When asked in later years how they managed to survive, he said, “Hypothermia hadn’t been invented yet.”

It was quite common in those days for local farms to supply produce, baked goods, dairy products and even ice to traveling adventures. This was also a time when travelers on the road started to follow many of the old Hobo traditions such as marking gateposts to identify places for handouts or warnings of mean occupants – **Jack London** would be proud we remember.

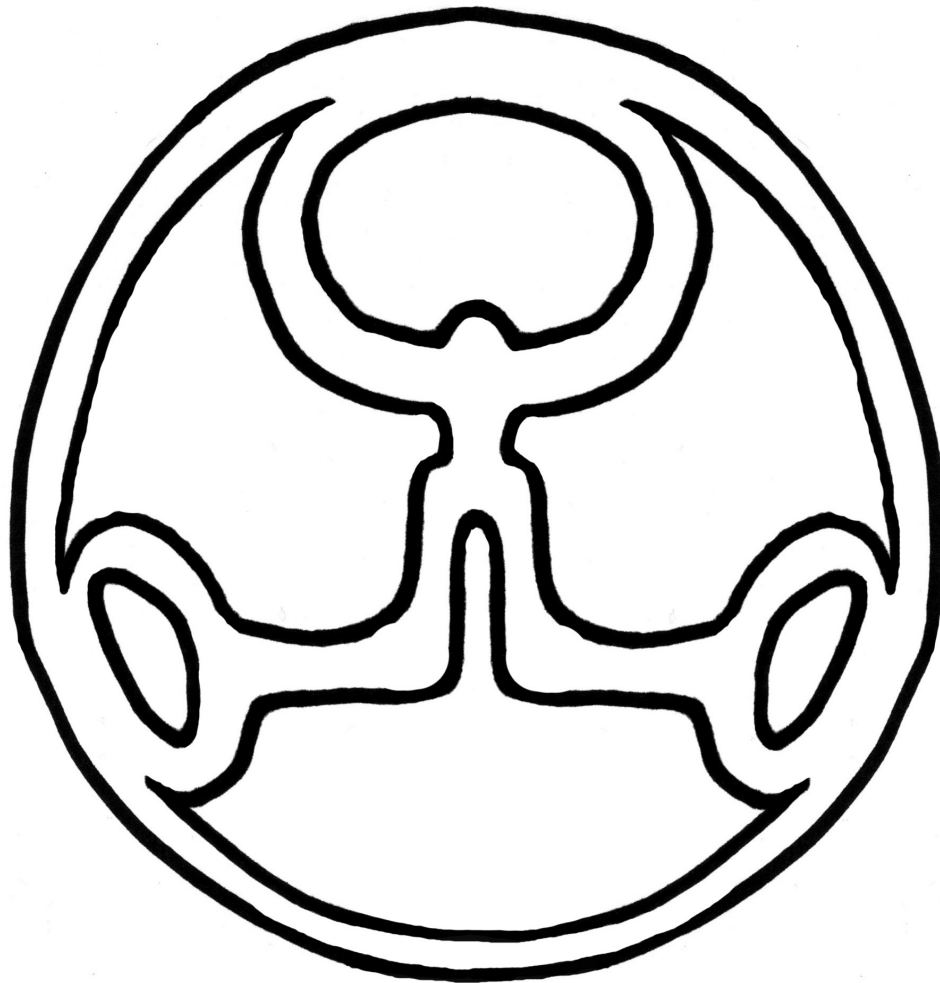
There are also stories of vehicles traveling over the pass having to do it in reverse since the gas tank was in the cowl right behind the dashboard. If the tank was low on gas, going over backwards would put the tank higher than the engine so the gas would flow.

I became good friends with Paul in the mid 1980s as my own full-time teaching and guiding career was most polished. He settled just up the road in Victor.

Note on Jack London – Jack London published *The Road* in 1907. When we were kids, we would sleep outside with our cousins during the summer. The Union Pacific Line ran on tracks across the valley from our house, and we would count the cars as they passed. That is the same line that London rode as a hobo from San Francisco to Salt Lake City. It is also the line that John Muir would take in 1913 to visit the Harriman’s at Railroad Ranch in Island Park, ID. From SLC he would take the Oregon Short Line north to Idaho.

Old Gringo’s headstone maker invokes a phrase from his vaquero roots:

1942 – *Todavía estoy aquí* - I am still here!
(Dave Stamey)



*Todavía estoy aquí
I am still here !*