



SEVEN OX PRESS

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AUTHOR DRIVES INTO SUNSET FOR TEXAS NOVEL

Does something left undone call from deep within you? Dare you answer?

In 1995, P. A. Ritzer did answer such a call. He quit his job, bought a tent and a laptop computer, and struck out across the Great Plains into the legendary American West. Entering through Kansas, he journeyed deeper into that world in Texas, with hopes of completing his historical novel *Seven Ox Seven* by Christmas. Seven Christmases would pass, the book by then in three parts, before completion of part one, *Escondido Bound*; five more Christmases before its publication.

Similarly, seven souls risk everything on a life-changing gamble in *Seven Ox Seven*. Pulling away from all things familiar, the Stuart-Schurtz party venture into a strange land, seek a mysterious canyon (which may not exist), and face whatever the Texas frontier of 1877 will throw at them. The age-old quest for home lies behind this radical disruption of their lives.

As the seven journey, a unique communion develops among them. Together they face the challenges of the trail and a search that could well end in disappointment. Still, their gravest trials will be served up by a singular agent of evil who will commit his powers, physical and spiritual, to their destruction. Will their communal integrity, and the personal integrity of each one, withstand these assaults.

Ritzer's own western odyssey lends a certain authenticity to *Seven Ox Seven*. He knows the day to day journey into the unknown, the nights in darkened campsites, the concern about provisions, the seeking for that which may not be attained. Ritzer also brings extensive research to his story and a background in history (Gonzaga University (BA)), and theology (Harvard University, University of Notre Dame (MA)), and over ten years instructing in those subjects.

Seven Ox Seven; Part One: Escondido Bound can be ordered from Seven Ox Press, Athanasius, LLC, P.O. Box 472467, Aurora, CO 80047-2467; 720-207-2867, toll free 888-433-6094, fax 720-207-9397, orders@sevenoxpress.com. Price \$26.95. For more information visit sevenoxpress.com.

Title: *Seven Ox Seven*

Subttl: *A Story of Some Ways in the West*

Vol Ttl: *Escondido Bound*

Auth: P. A. Ritzer

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