

“AIM For The Mayor--Echoes From Wounded Knee”

A Novel

By Gary L. Stuart

Xlibris Corporation

International Plaza II

Philadelphia, PA 19113

2008 Copyright © by Gary L. Stuart

All Rights Reserved

First Edition

This book is printed on acid-free, archival-quality paper.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008905316

ISBN: Hardcover 978-1-4363-5095-2

ISBN: Softcover 978-1-4363-5096-9

This is a novel and includes fictional characters and fictional scenes. It also includes true scenes, actual living characters, real names, events and locales. This is the second in a series of novels about true events in Gallup New Mexico

Author's Note

On February 27, 1973, the American Indian Movement seized Wounded Knee, a tiny village on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and held it against the will of local, state, and federal forces for seventy-one days. Two days later, March 1, 1973, two young Navajo men seized the mayor of Gallup, New Mexico, marched him through downtown Gallup at gunpoint, and held him against the will of local and state forces for several hours. That much is literally true. But there is also an emotional truth about what happened. This historical novel is a creative account of the connecting threads between the American Indian Movement, its takeover of Wounded Knee, and the abduction, and shoot-out in Stearns Sporting Goods, in downtown Gallup. The driving force that laid siege to Wounded Knee, and the lesser-known, but just as important, political abduction and gun fight in Gallup, welled up from the same melting pot of

frustration, indignation, and demand for respect by Indian peoples all over America. The connections between the two tragedies, one national and the other local, is my story, based on my research, personal interviews, and imagination. It is a novel, not a narrative history.

There are persons alive who took part in the events described in this book. It is possible, therefore, that some may be mistaken for, or with, the fictional characters who tell the story. But all fictional characters, and their attitudes, belong to me; I made them up. Many of the events in this book are a matter of history and public record. The “back-story” uses fictional scenes to set this historical novel in context. I used real names, places, and dates to document each historical event as accurately as possible.

The chapter headings are traditional Navajo taboos, which unlike white-eyes taboos, carry specific penalties for disobeying the ancient wisdom of the people. Most of these taboos were in general use at the time of the events depicted in this book. They were collected at the all-Navajo high school at Fort Wingate, New Mexico in 1966. Ernest Bulow, the high school teacher who supervised the student project, first published these taboos in his seminal work *Navajo Taboos* (Southwestern Books, Gallup, N.M. 1982). I sincerely appreciate his generous permission to reprint some of them in this book.