

Western Bookshelf Nonfiction  
Nancy Coggeshall Gila Country Legend  
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Quentin Hulse (1926-2002) was such a model of a 20<sup>th</sup> century New Mexico rancher-hunter that his likeness appeared on tourist postcards and souvenir license plates in the 1950s. He lived most of his life in the mine and ranch remoteness of southwestern New Mexico. In WWII he served in the navy, took part in the bloody Okinawa landing, and returned home with a Bronze Star. Other than that interlude, he rarely drifted far from his piece of land at Canyon Creek, just off the northern edge of the Gila Wilderness.

Nancy Coggeshall has written a memorable, compassionate, and colorful biography of this pioneer who made a hard-scrabble living raising livestock and hunting dogs, and as an outfitter and hunting guide for city-dwelling nimrods and fishermen. He was a storyteller of note, known for his wry sense of humor. (Asked about a man he considered a fool, Hulse said, "You can't kill people like that. Even if you drop an anvil on them." On another occasion he said of a newly arrived ranch family, "They were run out of Texas for stealing skunk hides.")

The author, who lives in Reserve, New Mexico, in the Gila National Forest area, drew on oral history, archival sources, and her personal association with the Gila Country Legend to tell his story.