

*Louis L'Amour was an American author. L'Amour's books, primarily Western fiction, remain enormously popular, and most have gone through multiple printings.*

He was of French ancestry through his father and Irish through his mother. LaMoore was a large-animal veterinarian, local politician and farm-equipment broker who had arrived in Dakota Territory in 1877. Although the area around Jamestown was mostly farm land, cowboys and livestock often traveled through Jamestown on their way to or from ranches in Montana and the markets to the east. Dickey Free Library , reading, particularly G. LaMoore and Emily took to the road. Removing Louis and his adopted brother John from school, they headed south in the winter of 1880. Over the next seven or eight years, they skinned cattle in west Texas, baled hay in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico, worked in the mines of Arizona, California and Nevada, and in the saw mills and lumber camps of the Pacific Northwest. It was in colorful places like these that Louis met a wide variety of people, upon whom he later modeled the characters in his novels, many of them actual Old West personalities who had survived into the nineteen-twenties and -thirties. Making his way as a mine assessment worker, professional boxer and merchant seaman, Louis traveled the country and the world, sometimes with his family, sometimes not. Two lean disappointing years passed after that, and then, in 1895, his stories began appearing in pulp magazines fairly regularly. Starting with *East of Gorontalo*, the series ran through nine episodes from 1895 until 1904. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Mulford , and wrote his novels based on the original character under the name "Tex Burns". This was published as *Hondo* in 1941 and released on the same day the film opened with a blurb from John Wayne stating that "Hondo was the finest Western Wayne had ever read". Also during this time he rewrote and expanded many of his earlier short story and pulp fiction stories to book length for various publishers. Louis had sold over a dozen novels and several million copies before Bantam Books editor-in-chief Saul David was finally able to convince his company to offer Louis a short term exclusive contract that would accept three books a year. Initially he wrote five books about William Tell Sackett and his close relatives; however, in later years the series spread to include other families and four centuries of North American history. By the 1950s his writings were translated into over 10 languages. Every one of his works is still in print. The novel describes friendship and rivalry among pulp writers of the 1930s. Together he and Bantam executive Jenny Frost created the concept of a series of "Radio Drama" style [5] productions that would combine a large cast of actors, sound effects and music to produce a modern audio drama of each story. Between 1940 and 1960 the team had completed over sixty-five dramatized audio productions. Several different styles of show were produced over the years. The majority of productions were done in New York City. In the early years the pace of production was six shows a year but in the mids it slowed to four. At this time the running time for all the programs was roughly sixty minutes. The cast members were veterans of the New York stage, film and advertising worlds and came together for a rehearsal and then a day of recording the show. Sound effects were created by effects man Arthur Miller in the studio as the lines were being recorded and narration was done. Although many of the programs were written and produced in a modified "Old Time Radio" style, attempts were also made to modernize the approach. Whenever the story material supported it a more contemporary style was used in the writing and more and more high tech solutions to the effects and mix found their way into the productions. Considerably more complex than earlier shows it had a cast of over twenty mid-level Hollywood actors, a music score recorded specifically for the production and sound effects completely recorded in the field in many locations across the west. Since this allowed them no more than nine or ten weeks a year, the show took four years to complete. It would have offered itself as a filming location for Hollywood motion pictures concerning the Wild West. However, funding for the project fell through, and *Shalako* was never built. Literary criticisms[ edit ] When interviewed not long before his death, he was asked which among his books he liked best. I like them all. I never rework a book. Indeed, at the time of his death his sales had topped 100 million. What I would question is the degree and extent of his effect "upon the American Imagination". His Western fiction is strictly formulary and frequently, although not always, features the ranch

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romance plot where the hero and the heroine are to marry at the end once the villains have been defeated.

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