



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on William Dale (Bill) Wittliff. Then, answer questions about it.

William Dale (Bill) Wittliff 1940–2019

The acclaimed screenwriter, publisher, and photographer Bill Wittliff was born in 1940 in the small south Texas town of Taft. He was raised by a single mother who worked as a local switchboard operator, a history Wittliff drew upon when writing the screenplay for the 1981 film *Raggedy Man*.

Wittliff studied journalism at The University of Texas at Austin and later founded and ran the Encino Press, which published distinctive books chronicling Texas and the Southwest.

Wittliff had a gift for telling stories on screen. He wrote screenplays for the films *The Black Stallion*, *Barbarosa*, and *Legends of the Fall*. His 1989 television adaptation of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* earned him the Writers Guild of America Award.

Wittliff collaborated with Willie Nelson on several occasions, most notably on the film adaptation of Nelson's album *Red Headed Stranger*, which Wittliff wrote, directed, and produced.

Despite his success in Hollywood, Wittliff remained a proud Texan, working from his home in Austin and nurturing a local community of writers and filmmakers.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William Dale (Bill) Wittliff. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. For what type of writing is William Dale (Bill) Wittliff best known?
2. What does the Wittliff Collection contain?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** Why are archives important to learning and teaching about history?