

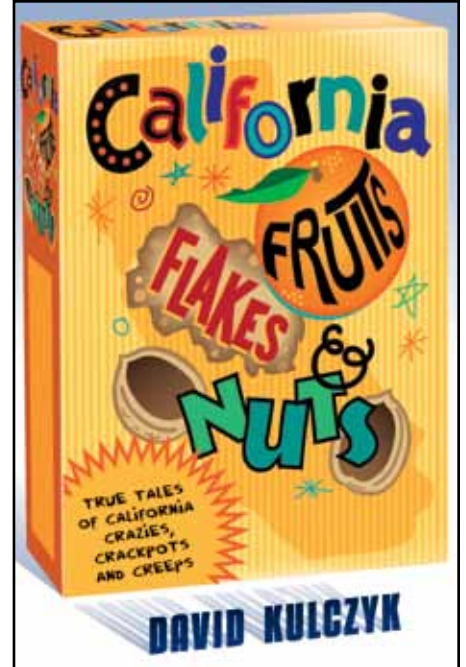
## Title Information

# California Fruits, Flakes & Nuts

True Tales of California Crazyes, Crackpots, and Creeps  
by David Kulczyk

Publication Date: November 2013

\$14.95 (\$16.95 Canada) • Trade Paperback • 6" x 9" • 190 pages  
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Bibliography • Index



They call California the Granola State — a place where everyone is a fruit, a flake or a nut. They don't get any fruitier, flakier or nuttier than the deviants, crackpots and losers profiled in *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts*. A freewheeling catalog of misfits, eccentrics, creeps, criminals and failed dreamers, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* profiles 48 bizarre personalities who exemplify the Golden State's well-deserved reputation for nonconformity.

Unlike the sanitized heroics taught in school, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* tells history from the viewpoint of the losers: murderers, lunatics, eccentrics and disgraced, washed-up celebrities. Presenting a wealth of historical information that had long been swept away and forgotten, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* is a uniquely entertaining look at the dark and disreputable corners of California history.

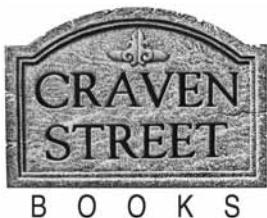
In these pages, Gold Rush pioneers are revealed as murderous madmen; Hollywood celebrities are shown to be drug-addled sex maniacs; early hippies are just 1950s weirdos; and even seemingly ordinary Californians have a talent for freakish, crazy and criminal behavior.

*California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* profiles such stellar Californians as frontier lunatic Grizzly Adams (whose head was one massive wound after multiple bear attacks); *I Love Lucy* star William Frawley (a racist, misogynist, foul-mouthed drunk); skirt-wearing, skirt-chasing legendarily awful film director Ed Wood; proto-hippie and "Nature Boy" singer eden ahbez; rocket scientist, black magician and L. Ron Hubbard mentor Marvel Parsons; and many more nutjobs, oddballs and dangerously violent freaks.

The perfect book for anyone who likes feeling superior to losers, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* is a side-splitting, salacious and shocking salute to the people who made California the strangest place on earth.

**Audience:** Humor readers, California history readers, celebrity gossip readers, true crime readers.

**About the Author:** David Kulczyk (pronounced Coal-check) is a Sacramento-based historian, freelance writer, and award-winning author of short fiction. His previous books include *California Justice* (2008) and *Death in California* (2009), both available from Craven Street Books.



### Craven Street Books

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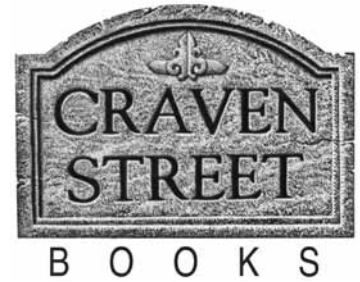
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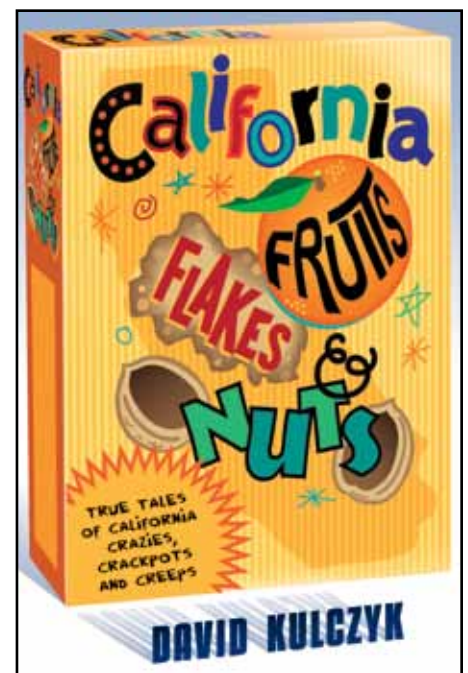
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## **New humorous history *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* celebrates the losers, lunatics and lechers that made the Granola State the strangest place on earth**

Marvel Parsons was a rocket scientist who dabbled in black magic and taught L. Ron Hubbard how to run a cult. An early hippie in the 1940s, eden ahbez thought capital letters were reserved for God, lived outdoors, and wrote a chart-topping hit song. Ed Wood was a decorated Marine combat veteran and secret transvestite who became the worst movie director in history. Needless to say, all three lived in California.

They call California the Granola State — a place where everyone is a fruit, a flake or a nut. They don't get any fruitier, flakier or nuttier than the deviants, crackpots and losers profiled in the new humorous history *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts: True Tales of California Crazyes, Crackpots, and Creeps* (Craven Street Books, November 2013).



With stories both hilarious and heartbreaking, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* is a freewheeling catalog of misfits, eccentrics, creeps, criminals, sickos and failed dreamers — 48 bizarre personalities who exemplify the Golden State's well-deserved reputation for nonconformity.

Unlike the sanitized heroics taught in school, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* tells history from the viewpoint of the losers: murderers, lunatics, eccentrics and disgraced, washed-up celebrities. Presenting a wealth of historical information that had long been swept away and forgotten, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* is a uniquely entertaining look at the dark and disreputable corners of California history.

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In addition to winners like Marvel Parsons, eden ahbez and Ed Wood, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* will introduce you to such stellar Californians as:

—**John “Grizzly” Adams:** Far from the gentle animal lover Dan Haggerty played on 1970s TV, the real Grizzly Adams was a failed businessman and frontier lunatic whose head was one massive wound after multiple bear attacks.

—**William Frawley:** He played the lovable curmudgeon Fred Mertz on *I Love Lucy*, but in real life Frawley was a not-so-lovable racist, misogynist, violent, foul-mouthed drunk. Frawley once took a panhandler for a drink at the Brown Derby, quickly took offense, and then knocked the bum out cold with a punch to the jaw.

—**Jerome Horwitz:** Better known as Curly Howard of The Three Stooges, Horwitz was in real life a hard-drinking, hard-living womanizer whose fast life killed him at 48. Meanwhile, Curly’s brother Shemp was so tormented by imaginary fears that he howled when dogs approached him and could only ride in cars with a blanket over his head.

—**And more:** Readers will get the inside scoop on **Nick Adams**, the 1950s star romantically linked with most of Hollywood — male or female; phony psychic and Ed Wood crony **Jerome Criswell**; champion tennis player and serial child molester **Big Bill Tilden**; murderous frontier prostitute **Ida Brewer**; 19th-century duellist, slavery advocate and California Supreme Court Chief Justice **David Terry**; wife-killing country star **Spade Cooley**; and numerous other nutjobs, oddballs and dangerously violent freaks.

The perfect book for anyone who likes feeling superior to losers, *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* is a side-splitting, salacious and shocking salute to the people who made California the strangest place on earth.

**About the Author:** **David Kulczyk** (pronounced Coal-check) is a Sacramento-based historian, freelance writer and award-winning author of short fiction. His previous books include *California Justice* (2008) and *Death in California* (2009), both available from Craven Street Books.

**Book Details:**

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# About David Kulczyk

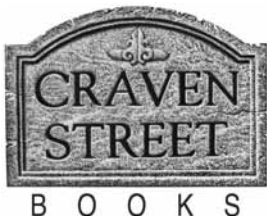
Author of *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts*



Photo: Amy Scott

Born to first-generation Americans in Bay City, Michigan, **David Kulczyk** (pronounced Coal-check) is a Sacramento-based historian, freelance writer and award-winning author of short fiction. He entered college at the age of 40 after working as a factory worker, sous chef, musician, warehouseman, fish butcher, process server, barista and bike messenger. Kulczyk's work has appeared in the *SF Guardian*, the *East Bay Express*, the *Chico*

*News and Review*, *Maximum Ink Music Magazine*, *The Isthmus*, *Madison Magazine*, the *Seattle Times*, *Pop Culture Press*, *Strange Magazine* and the *Sacramento News and Review*. He is also the author of *California Justice: Shootouts, Lynchings and Assassinations in the Golden State* (2008) and *Death in California: The Bizarre, Freakish, and Just Curious Ways People Die in the Golden State* (2009), both available from Craven Street Books. Kulczyk lived in Seattle for most of his adult life, with stays in Austin, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Madison, Wisconsin; and Amsterdam, Uitgeest and Limmen in The Netherlands. He has lived in Sacramento since 2002.



For more information on *California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts* (Craven Street Books, November 2013) or to arrange an interview with author **David Kulczyk**, please contact Jaguar Bennett at Craven Street Books, (800) 345-4447, [Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com](mailto:Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com).