

# Fiction delves into history of Apaches



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#HRBooks

W. Michael Farmer begins his novel "Killer of Witches" with a true story of a daring escape.

In 1865, 500 Mescalero Apaches escaped from the Bosque Redondo Reservation, which was more of a concentration camp, in

New Mexico and were never seen again.

Among the escapees is a fictional family that includes a five-year-old boy who will eventually grow up to be Yellow Boy, the Killer of Witches of the title.

Farmer now lives in Smithfield, but spent many years in Las Cruces, N.M., where he delved deeply into the culture and history of the Southwest. His knowledge of the Mescalero Apaches is evident in his storytelling.

Once Yellow Boy and his people make their escape, the story focuses on Yellow Boy's coming of age. He grows up playing games with the other boys and girls, training as a warrior, and when he passes his coming-of-age ritual, he goes on his first raid. In recognition of his courage and skill in this raid, he is given the Henry rifle with brass fittings called "Yellow Boy."

But as skilled as the future warrior Yellow Boy is with a bow and arrow, he has trouble shooting his new weapon. His father sends him to work with an old Indah (white man) named Rufus

Pike, who teaches Yellow Boy how to shoot and also to deal with white people.

During his time with Pike, Yellow Boy is called to a mountain to receive a vision from Ussen, the Apache Creator God. He is given the name Yellow Boy and is told that he will never miss with his rifle and that he will become a killer of witches.

But soon after, he has a dream summoning him back to his home, where

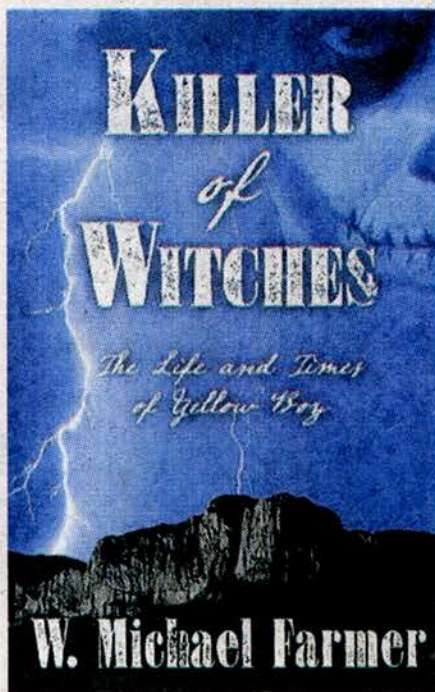
he finds that a fearsome Mexican-Comanche witch named Sangre del Diablo (Blood of the Devil) has slaughtered and scalped most of Yellow Boy's people, including his father.

Yellow Boy swears vengeance, but first he must rescue his remaining people from several perils. Then he and a few warriors embark on a daring raid on the witch's compound.

"Killer of Witches" is the first book in a trilogy, so we will be hearing much more from Yellow Boy and the Mescaleros, and the fictional and historical characters who inhabit his world. The book is published by Five Star Publishing and is available from online vendors or from bookstores for about

\$20, hardcover. It is available for Kindle at Amazon.com for \$3.99.

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