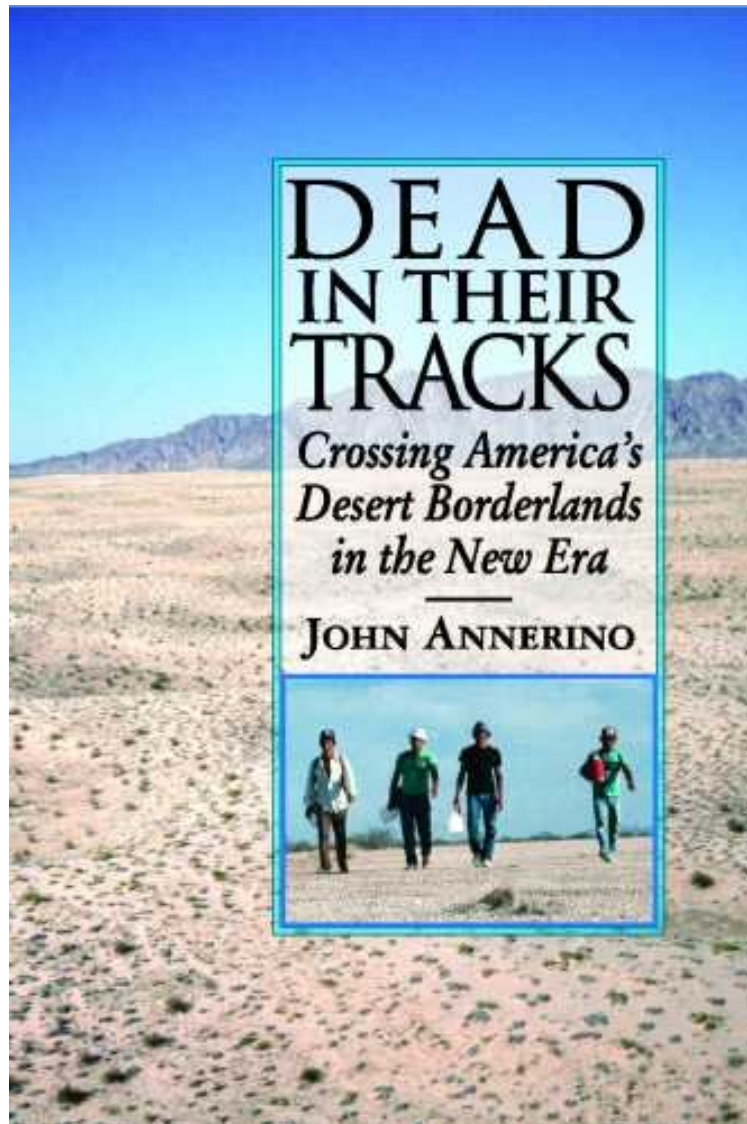


[FREE] Dead in Their Tracks: Crossing Americas Desert Borderlands in the New Era

## Dead in Their Tracks: Crossing Americas Desert Borderlands in the New Era

*John Annerino*

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**John Annerino : Dead in Their Tracks: Crossing Americas Desert Borderlands in the New Era** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead in Their Tracks: Crossing Americas Desert Borderlands in the New Era:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good book on the subject of desparate people....By Wayne Stan...crossing the south west desert. I have lived here for 30 years and have been a medic for a SAR group. The book

pretty much tells it how it is. It is a good book for my inlaws that live in the north east and have no idea of what goes on down here. I would say that the ill-informed in Washington should be made to read it, but the points it contains would be lost on them. A very worthwhile read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Attention GrabbingBy BeckyI purchased this as a gift. My friend said, the book was interesting. I did not read it but I know she would tell me if it was not a good book. She is very interested in the history of our border, and the problems associated with those crossing over from Mexico. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Striking Story about Border Crossers, the Border Patrol and the Life-Threatening Perils of Crossing the Sonoran DesertBy Jay LemmingThe phenomenon of border crossing, or migration or "invasion" or whatever term you may use to describe the trek of Mexicans and Central Americans into the United States via the Southwest border can be discussed at great length to defend any political position you choose--supporter of migrants or defender of American sovereignty against illegal aliens. What surprises me about some of the negative reviews of *Dead in Their Tracks* is the criticism of Mr. Annerino's lack of even-handed journalism. I think that kind of misses the point. *Dead in Their Tracks* is not intended to be a kind of didactic treatise on the story of the Southwest border. The story of people crossing--and in many cases, dying in--the desert is of critical importance, and that is the story that Annerino tells. It is a very human story. A gifted photographer, he supplements his writing with the camera eye to reveal the world of the Southwest border through the very perspective of those who live and cross there. I am an East Coaster and am a product of my developed mid-Atlantic coast culture. I have not spent much time in Arizona but when I did finally go several years ago, I felt as though I knew a part of the physical and mental landscape already due to *Dead in Their Tracks*. The book introduced me to sign cutting and tinajas, expressions I never knew existed beforehand. In Arizona, I placed water jugs out in the desert with *Humane Borders*. I interviewed Glenn Spencer from the American Border Patrol. During these experiences, I felt as though I was simply expanding on the story Annerino had already written. Especially for those of us from other parts of the country, such as myself, to see images of bleached bones in the Sonoran Desert or of rotting, half-eaten corpses, to consider photos of the endlessly vast plains of saguaro cactus across which hopeful border crossers must traverse, for those of us, in other words, who do not live in this part of the United States and have nothing but the faintest indication of its culture, struggles and politics, John Annerino nails it. I have written a novel about the Southwest border and while many books had a big influence on my writing it, the first of the first is unquestionably *Dead in Their Tracks*. It provides a potent and powerful glimpse into a world of human struggle, which I would recommend to anyone seeking an entrance into the world of the Southwest, the Border Patrol and the ongoing struggles of those from Latin America who hope to cross into and do well in El Norte.

It is America's killing field, and the deaths keep mounting. As the political debate has intensified and demonstrators have taken to the streets, more and more illegal border-crossers die trying to cross the desert on their way to what they hope will be a better life. The Arizona border is the deadliest immigrant trail in America today. For the strong and the lucky, the trail ends at a pick-up on an Interstate highway. For far too many others, it ends terribly too often violently not far from where they began. *Dead in Their Tracks* is a first hand account of the perils associated with crossing the desert on foot. John Annerino recounts his experience making that trek with four illegal immigrants and his return trips to document the struggles of those who persist in this treacherous journey. In this spellbinding narrative, he takes readers into the empty quarter of the Southwest to meet the migrant workers and drug runners, the ranchers and Border Patrol agents, who populate today's headlines. Other writers have documented the deaths; few have invited readers to share the experience as Annerino does. His feel for the land and his knowledge of surviving in the wilderness combine to make his account every bit as harrowing as it is for the people who risk it every day, and in increasing numbers. Each book includes an In Memoriam card recognizing an immigrant, refugee, border agent, local, or humanitarian who has died in America's borderlands." The desert may seem changeless, but there are more bodies now, and Annerino has revised his original text to record some of the compelling stories that have come to light since the book's first publication and has updated the photographs and written a new introduction and afterword. *Dead in Their Tracks* is now more timely than ever and essential reading for the ongoing debate over illegal immigration. For information on First Serial Rights, Book Club, Film, Television, Options, visit the Author's Web site.

Photojournalist John Annerino believes that you can make a good book better and that some stories are too important to let go. For these and other reasons the University of Arizona Press published *Dead in Their Tracks* . . . a revised and updated edition of his classic account of life and death along the U.S.-Mexico border that garnered generous praise when it originally appeared a decade ago. Much has happened in the interim, little of it good, and Annerino faithfully records the on-going tragedy, listing the sad toll of migrants and border patrol agents who have perished in the desert sand. The author's stark and haunting photographs are visual memorials to the living and the dead. A border fence, Annerino believes, "will never stop immigrants who believe in the American dream." His mesmerizing book is a timely reminder of the dream's cost in human lives.--Bruce J. Dinges, *The Journal of Arizona History*, Vol. 51, No. 1 This Southwest classic is based on extensive first-hand research, including risking death on foot in the desert. John Annerino chronicles deeply personal events for both the immigrants and for the Border Patrol. This vivid book is

mandatory reading for anyone wishing to understand the human costs of illegal immigration, costs for crossers, locals residents, and Border Patrol agents themselves. *Dead in Their Tracks* is Annerino's finest and most noble work.-- Southwest Books of the Year

Over many years, John Annerino has come to know the border region like few others. This book tells of his remarkable experiences investigating the realities of the border crisis from both points of view. Annerino risked his own life to travel with migrants from Mexico across the very desert in which thousands have died in order to understand them. He also accompanied Border Patrol in planes, vehicles and on foot to know their dangerous experiences as well. He researched the subject so well he created many related records for his extensive appendices.-- Southwest Books of the Year

"Anyone interested in this slaughter should run, not walk, to John Annerino's *Dead in Their Tracks*." -- Charles Bowden, Author of *Blue Desert*

Noted journalist John Annerino writes . . . "Nothing will stop these honest people in their quest for a better life, not the killing desert, and not the transformation of the "tortilla curtain" into the Iron Curtain." -- Daniel Goody, University of Notre Dame

"A passionate chronicle. The story, framed by Annerino's own treks--including the 24-hour, 50-mile march in 110-degree heat with four Mexican immigrants--is riveting." -- Bloomsbury

"When I read your book recently, I found it so gripping I literally could not put it down until I was finished. Thank you for capturing and telling the story of the migrant."-- Humane Borders / Fronteras

Compasivas, Rev. Robin Hoover "I most especially thank photojournalist John Annerino whose work, *Dead in Their Tracks*, moved and inspired me to write this novel."--*The River Flows North*, Graciela Limn

"The book is a testament and a memorial. Thirty pages list the known dead...On its surface, *Dead in Their Tracks* is about immigrants. At its core, it touches something fundamental about need and family and the struggle to survive. Annerino deserves praise for putting this story into words and pictures." -- San Antonio Express-News

"This is a deeply troubling book...a memorial to one of the greatest human tragedies of our time...It reflects the missions of a man who actually [cares] about Mexicans dying out there--fellow human beings deserving of empathy and compassion." -- Jon Shumaker, TW

From the Author

Photographed and researched on both sides of the 1,956-mile U.S./Mexico border, *Dead in Their Tracks* includes Author's Notes, The Gauntlet-An Introduction, essays The Road of the Devil, Old Mexico, Path of Fire, El Dorado, Man Hunters, Seeing Ghosts, The Wall-Afterword, and In Memoriam (first compiled Death Tolls of migrants and border agents). Appendices feature El Camino del Diablo, Expeditions by Foot, Horseback, and Wagon; Water Requirements for Crossing the Killing Ground; Desert Searches and Rescues; notes, bibliography, index. 5 author map highlight America's Killing Ground (deceased's name and location cross-cited in In Memoriam); El Camino del Diablo, Ancient and Historic Routes; Routes to the U.S.-Mexico Border; Dangerous and Deadly Border Routes; Desert Searches, Rescues, Author's Searches and Reconnaissance. Profusely illustrated with black and white images, the photographs, descriptive captions, maps and text include Spanish and Native American names and places and feature trans-border biosphere reserves, natural areas, and national parks: All-American Canal, Atascosa Mountains-Tumacacori Highlands, Barry M. Goldwater Range, Big Bend National Park UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Bootheel Country, Chiricahua Apache ancestral lands, Colorado River, Coronado National Memorial, El Pinacate-Gran Desierto de Altar UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (Mexico), Gila Bend Gunnery Range, Gila River, Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, Ironwood Forest National Monument, La Frontera (northern Mexico), Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Pajarita Wilderness, Saguaro National Park, Sentinel Plain Volcanic Field, Sinaloa (Mexico), Sonoran Desert National Monument, Sycamore Canyon Natural Area, Tinajas Altas Natural Area, Tohono O'odham and Hia Ced O'odham Tribal Lands, United States/Mexico Boundary Monuments, Wellton-Mohawk Canal. Each volume includes an In Memoriam prayer card dedicated to the lives of individual migrants and border agents who perished in the borderlands.

**\*VANISHING BORDERLANDS: The Fragile Landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border** by the author is also available on .com

\*John Annerino received the annual Society of Publication Designers Award for his photography in the National Geographic Adventure border feature, "Along the Devil's Highway."\*

"National Park War Zone" features the fatal ambush of Park Ranger Kris Eggle in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on the U.S./Mexico border. "The pictures by John Annerino are truly breathtaking and make the desert come alive," Bonnie Eggle, National Geographic Adventure

From the Inside Flap "John Annerino has spent a great deal of his career and life drawn to the American Desert. He knows its history and he has experienced its reality. In *Dead in Their Tracks* he brings us its story in a gripping first hand account of crossing the Camino del Diablo in the company of Mexican nationals attempting an illegal entry into the U.S. to find work. The struggle to complete this harrowing trek and the photographic evidence of other such attempts in this killing ground are chilling and begs the question, "Why isn't this story news and why do so many people continue to die unnoticed?" Annerino's evocative words and haunting pictures make the issue impossible to ignore."-- People Magazine

"In this harsh environment, at the most deadly time of the year--in August, when water is a precious commodity, when the temperature soars past 100 degrees in the shade and your lungs ache just from inhaling the hot air--John Annerino, a veteran explorer and wilderness runner, linked up with four Mexican nationals determined to cross the border illegally in their quest for work to feed their families. This is the story about the stark reality of the Sonoran Desert borderlands."-- One World Journeys on "Dead in Their Tracks, A Special Report"