

Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE 2, 2007

Fort Collins Unit Lists Special Project

*By Marie Krizanovic
Corral Co-Sheriff*



Living History Group from Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, Colorado, are dressed for a ball in period costumes, above. Below, a check is presented to Kurt Knierem, teacher, by Marie Krizanovic while students look on. At far right is Klaus Krizanovic. The Krizanovics are co-sheriffs of the Fort Collins Corral.



The Fort Collins Corral of Westerners International recently awarded a grant to Rocky Mountain High School for their *Civil War Living History Independent Study Class*.

The group has been in formal existence since the fall of 2002 under the supervision of Kurt Knierem, social studies teacher at the school.

The class affords high school students the opportunity to participate in living history activities pertaining to the American Civil War in a variety of venues. Through presentations and volunteer service, they have led living history programs at schools, museums, National Park sites, Chautauquas and civic organizations. They presented a program to the Fort Collins Westerners in the Spring of 2003.

The group is affiliated with the First Colorado Volunteer Infantry, Co. D. The First Colorado, based out of Denver is a living history organization that has been in continuous existence since 1974, making it one of the oldest Civil War Living History organizations in the country.

Through grants and dona-
(Continued on Page 2)

From the Editor

You may have noticed right away that this does not look like your old, familiar **Buckskin Bulletin**. Next issue probably won't look like this one, either!!

This is your editor's first attempt at "**Desktop Publishing**" and it is indeed a learning experience and a time-consuming one. The good thing, though, is that it is a lot of fun combined with occasional hysteria when things mysteriously disappear, change shape or size and often just as magically re-appear. In other words there is nothing dull about learning this new skill. Presumably things will improve with practice.

A slightly larger type size has been selected because of a few observations we have received from some of the membership about it being more and more difficult to read the old bulletins the older we all get. Plus it is a cleaner type with no little curlicues to distract. For those interested it's **Verdana 11 pt**. Your comments are welcome concerning this choice.

Mail vs. E-Mail

We are still receiving in-put from the corrals and posses concerning the possibility of sending out two bulletins a year in the regular mail and two by electronic means—either as part of our web page or just by e-mail. So far the feelings about this are about evenly divided with those who think the internet is the way to go and long overdue and those who assure us "only about 3 people in our corral even have a computer."

Since the main reason this was even brought up was the cost to print, process and mail each issue we will be keeping careful track of expenses of this issue and it is probable that being able to send the bulletin to the printer all ready to go in pdf form will cut down the printing costs. The four-page issue last time was much cheaper to print (less paper and ink were used for one thing) but it is difficult to get very much in such a small issue. But it is the paper, ink and postage costs that keep rising so though we are going to continue mailing out the bulletins at the present time there may be a time we will have to reconsider. Those groups who polled their membership with a resounding mandate to keep postal mail did assure the **Home Ranch** they would be willing to pay more dues to be sure they could get their bulletins delivered by the postman.

Web Page

Those of you who do have computers will want to check the new WI Web Page to see the excellent work of Home Ranch cyberslingers **Kent** and **Cheryl McInnis** and their son **Scott** at <http://www.westerners-international.org> Kent has been working diligently in his spare time trying to get all the updates made to the Tally Sheet. Happily for your editor Cheryl is only a phone call or an e-mail away during this switch-over to the desktop printing program ——— **Burnis Argo**

Fort Collins Helps Class

(Continued from Page 1)

tions, the class is building a library of material culture (uniforms, dresses, equipage etc.) and primary and secondary source material for high school students to use for their research and presentations with the class.

The monies from the Westerners will go to expand these libraries, as well as to defray transportation costs to and from the presentation venues.

Randall Johnson Crosses Divide

Robert Clark has sent us the information that **Randall A. Johnson**, longtime Westerner and a WI "**Living Legend**" died in February. He was honored as a "Living Legend" in 1999.

A member of the **Spokane Corral**, Johnson is well-known as the person who designed the roaring cougar logo, trademark of Washington State University. He was a student at WSC (College) at the time and later sold the rights to the logo for only \$1. It has only been altered twice, once when WSC became WSU and again in 2000 when a shield was added.

Johnson and his wife were designated as WSU Benefactors in 1997 and a scholarship in his name was established by the WSU Athletic Foundation.

Trailing

By Shebby Lee

Hello Joe You Old Buffalo!

I would like to thank Westerners International and the various member corrals for your support of our learning excursions over the years.

For 30 years now we have been proponents of the slogan "It's Not the Destination, it's the Journey." Our itineraries often include less known (and even unknown) hidden treasures. Coach drivers have been known to compete to drive Shebby Lee Tours' programs because they eschew interstates in favor of winding, scenic routes whenever possible.

In addition to non-traditional travel routes, **Shebby Lee Tours'** itineraries include unique experiences not available to the general public. For example, **Custer's Trail** offers the opportunity for participants to ride horseback across the same Dakota prairie that the 7th Cavalry traversed on their march to destiny. On the **Bleeding Kansas** program participants join in the debates about whether the territory should enter the Union as a slave or free state. And travelers on the **Lewis and Clark Trail** enjoy authentic meals and music, interaction with living historians and even replicating some of the Corps of Discovery's experiences on the trail.

The West With Experts

These unique programs provide wonderful stories about the people and events, places and landscapes that give meaning to our nation's development and to our own lives. Participants in the **Vanishing Trails Expeditions** are provided with recommended reading lists prior to departure and all tours are led by professional tour director/historians.

We are proud to be the best supplier of learning expeditions in the Great American West and your support has contributed to that success. Thanks again.

Bleeding Kansas Tour Offered

Most of the time in the 30 years Shebby Lee Tours has been in operation the company has focused on the westward expansion movement in the Great American West. But with the Civil War Sesquicentennial approaching in 2011, the company is developing programs featuring that conflict in the West—as usual, with a slightly different take on the event.

"Most people don't know that significant events leading up to the war took place in Kansas Territory," says company founder and president and Westerner **Shebby Lee**. To answer this need this year **"Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil**

War Began" is being introduced among the tours offered and planned next is **"The Civil War on the Border"** which will be Kansas/Missouri.

The "Bleeding Kansas" tour program participants will join the debates about whether the territory should enter the Union as a slave or free state. And travelers also will enjoy authentic meals and music, interaction with living historians and other hands-on experiences.

"Historic places are symbols of our shared heritage. They provide wonderful stories about the people and events, places and landscapes that give meaning to our nation's development and to our own lives," says Shebby Lee.

"Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil War Began" is scheduled for September 15-21, 2007. Information on this and other Vanishing Trails Expeditions is available toll free at 800-888-8306. or e-mail: info@shebbleetours.com. Or visit online at www.shebbleetours.com.

Scottsdale Corral

New offices of this corral are "Gladhander" to welcome guests, "Keeper of the Old Stuff" for archives, "Leatherneck Liasons" are the ones who arrange for the Toys for Tots pickup each year and in charge of decorations: "Wrangler for Cantina Fixins," writes Sheriff **Pat Etter**.

By Richard Dillon

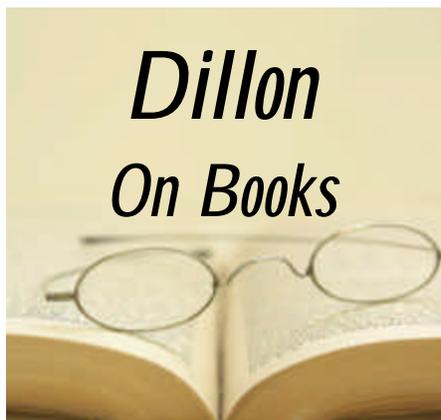
Archaeology Without Limits, edited by **Brian D. Dillon** and **Matthew A. Bost**,

is published by Labyrinthos, 3064 Holline Court, Lancaster, CA 903535. (Contact the publisher for the price.) It is that rarity, a festschrift, the term academics use for a commemorative volume, an anthology of essays in honor of a mentor. In this case, the latter is **Dr. Clement W. Meighan**, the great UCLA anthropologist and archaeologist who had such a strong cross-disciplinary interest in the history of the Southwest and Mexico.

Chapter essays cover rock art, of course, in Nevada, California and Wyoming, since this was Clem Meighan's greatest area of expertise. But others cover the Indian history of Cucamonga, California; puzzling clay figurines of ancient Indians in Joshua Trees National Monument; "digs" in California missions. Among historians joining the archaeologists here is Dr. Michael Mathes of Texas who, in studying Baja California mission registers, is sharply critical of the (long well-regarded) research of Dr. Sherburne F. Cook.

A great "read" is the story of the bungled Routledge expedition (1913-15) to Easter Island. It would make a great movie with its incessant quarreling, drunkenness, insubordination (virtual mutiny) and incompetence.

Gold Rush, The Black Hills



Story (\$17.95), edited by **John D. McDermott**, is from Pierre's South Dakota Historical Society Press. Here we have essays by regional historians telling the tale of a scramble for riches second only to the California Gold Rush. The editor contributes a view of the military's ambivalent roll in the Black Hills, ejecting illegal miners, yet encouraging mining and cession of the mountains, part of a Sioux Reservation to a greedy U.S. The text is nicely illustrated with period photos and accessed by a good index. There also is a comprehensive bibliography.

Bob Lee has edited **Gold, Gals, Guns and Guts** for the South Dakota Historical Society (\$24.95). The focus of text and historic photos is on Deadwood, but the book covers Lead and Spearfish, too. The time span is from Custer's 1874 exploration to 1976, the Bicentennial year. This is a good, solid journalistic history.

W. Dale Nelson has written **Interpreters with Lewis and Clark** for Denton's University of North Texas Press (\$24.95). Meriwether

Lewis hired Toussain Charbonneau as an interpreter. The French-Canadian's teen-aged wife, Sacagawea, was the bonus. Where Lewis gave Charbonneau the equivalent of a C Grade, she was straight A. Sacagawea was no guide, but a charming young woman whose presence insured that suspicious Indians would see that the Corps of Discovery came in peace. Nelson suggests that Charbonneau has been judged too harshly. Perhaps so. But this reviewer found the best part of a good book to be the section on the long career of Sacagawea's child, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

The Fighting Texas Navy, 1832-1843, by **Douglas V. Meed**, from the Republic of Texas Press (\$18.95), proves that there really was a Texas Navy. The second of the Republic's two fleets was commanded by a real Lone Star hero, though he is probably forgotten even by the most patriotic good old boys. He was Commodore Edwin Moore, who allied himself with Yucatan when that province rebelled against Mexico. He also stood up to the ego of Sam Houston, getting on the President's enemies list for being so uppity a subordinate to His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

At last we have a fine pictorial volume documenting the once-ordinary, now increasingly uncommon, structures of farming,
(Continued on Page 5)

Dillon

On Books

(continued from page 4)

Ranching and mining in California. It is **Structures of Utility** by **David Stark Wilson**, (\$45), from Berkeley's Heyday Books. Wilson explored the back roads of California's central Valley and Mother Lode to photograph, in black and white, grain elevators, barns and silos, hop kilns, covered bridges, sawdust burners and Stamp mills. Some of this rural architecture is quite pleasing esthetically, as Ansel Adams and his f64 Group found out, years ago; and all of it is good visual history.

Big Bend Landscapes (\$40) by **Dennis Flagg**, is from Texas A&M Press. There is a movement afoot in Westerners International to add a new category in its best books of the year competition. It would be extra-illustrated books, often photo essays, usually oversized volumes that are often denigrated as coffee table books. Some, to be sure, are weak. Most are not. This one is an astonishing collection of views, paintings so realistic that you will take them for landscape photographs. Fifty are in color and 20 in black and white. **Ron Tyler** adds an informative introduction.



Jack Sides of Smithwick, SD, presenting a program.

Corral Hears Special Talk

By Laura Batchelor

It is not often that a cavalry soldier from the 1870s comes to lunch these days, but that is what happened at the February meeting of the **Jedediah Smith Corral** in Hot Springs, SD.

To everyone's delight, Jack Sides of Smithwick, SD, came to discuss the role of the cavalry bugler in the Old West. At one time the bugler used 120 different calls to communicate to the troops.

Born in 1985 to John and Carol Sides, Jack is a third generation working the family ranch in Fall River County. He is a graduate of Hot Springs High School, in 2003, where he played the trumpet in the school band program.

His interest in the trumpet/bugle began when a college professor from Illinois would

come to the family ranch each year. Because the visitor did Civil War re-enactments he sent Jack a bugle and instruction in basic bugle calls.

The difference between a trumpet and a bugle is that a bugle is considered a cone, starting with the mouth piece and gradually getting bigger until reaching the bell. A trumpet is considered a cylinder, remaining the same diameter until it reaches the bell. Both were used extensively in the military in the 1800s.

One of the amusing parts of Side's presentation was to hear that many times the horses of the cavalry knew the trumpet calls better than the troops. Sides will graduate from Chadron State College in Nebraska in May.

WHA/WI Plans Are Told

By John Marshall
Local Co-Chair
WHA Conference

The **47th Annual Western History Association Conference** will be held October 3-6, 2007, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Conference Hotels are the Renaissance Hotel and Courtyard Marriott in downtown with the 60 history sessions and 50 exhibitors located across the street from the Renaissance in the Cox Convention Center. The Marriott is located nearby.

For hotel information and to pre-register go to the WHA website: www.umsl.edu/~wha and click on the links.

This is an exciting year to be visiting Oklahoma as it is the **Centennial** of Statehood with many events going on.

Membership is not required in WHA to attend the conference and there is plenty to

attract WI members.

The opening reception will be at the new Oklahoma History Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. October 3.

Westerners International is sponsoring a history session October 4 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Moderator will be **Mary Ellen Meredith**, past WI chairperson. Principal speaker will be **Chad Smith**, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.

October 4, 7 until 9 p.m. the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center will host convention attendees with barbeque, entertainment and tours. The WI Home Ranch office is located here and will be open for those who would like to visit.

Jo Tice Bloom, president of WI, will be the moderator at the second WI sponsored history session October 5 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Title of the session is "Gushers, Dry-

Holes...and the Oil & Gas Business."

The WHA Presidents Luncheon will be the 5th at noon and featured will be a Native American ladies Traditional Dress Show.

That evening will be the Annual WHA Banquet featuring "Indian Marine Color Guard" in the opening ceremonies.

Saturday, Oct. 6, will be the Annual "**Westerners Breakfast**" from 7 to 8:30 a.m. This is when the WI Awards are presented and the annual book auction is held.

LA Corral Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Spring 2007 issue of the LA Corral's **Branding Iron** is filled with pictures and an article about the 60 year history of WI's 4th Corral. The group was organized Dec. 4, 1946 in Pasadena, CA. Speaker at the Anniversary Dinner last October was the only surviving founding member, **Glen Dawson**.

Said Dawson, who was the principal speaker, "The original 26 members included three booksellers (one being Dawson), three artists, one motion picture actor (**Noah Beery jr.**), and one motion picture art director."

Around 120 members and guests attended the event which included a visual presentation of over 40 rare photographs of past sheriffs and corral members.

Dawson was named a WI "**Living Legend**" in 2003.

Arthur H. Clark Co. Joins OU Press

For those who are not yet aware of it, last summer the **University of Oklahoma Press** purchased the **Arthur H. Clark Company** which has moved to Norman, OK .

"This is a most favorable combination for both OU Press and the Arthur H. Clark Company," says **Robert Clark** who has moved to Norman with the company. "The acquisition of our imprint by OU Press is gratifying to me on several levels. It provides greater resources to

promote our authors and their publishing efforts, and it affords us the opportunity to increase the number of books we publish annually. In addition it allows me to focus on the acquisition of new projects, and, on a personal level it carries forward the work to which my grandfather, father, and I have devoted our professional lives."

The company was founded in 1902 and was most recently located in Spokane, WA.



Shown above are four of the authors who are members of the Boulder Corral, l to r, Margaret Coel, John Monnett, Sybil Downing & Jim Hester. Three of the above, Monnett, Downing and Hester, along with fellow member Jerry Keenan, left photo, were all published in 2006 by the University of New Mexico Press. Coel's works are published by Berkley Press. (Photos by R. Barker)

Corral Roundup

Powder River Corral has had to have it's members make a reservation for the meal and the meeting. One recent meeting 30 people showed up to eat and 45 more showed up for the program, causing wasted time in moving equipment and chairs to a larger room.

One of the most inexpensive dinners is the one enjoyed by the **Pine Ridge Corral**: \$6.50 a person.

Prescott Corral has awarded **Al** and **Joy Bates** life membership in recognition of their years of service. Both also are past Sheriffs of the group.

Lincoln Corral is trying a new idea. When a member brings a guest to any meeting, the guest's meal costs will be paid by the Keeper of the Chips.

San Dimas Corral may have come up with a way to get people interested in local and American History. They have a part of their program in which questions are asked about history. First correct answer wins a candy bar!

Chisholm Trail Corral ended the club year with a chuck wagon cookout at the rural home of **Vi & Will Jones**. Members **Susan & Trammel Rushing** prepared the meal from their authentic wagon.

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

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The WI Home Ranch Bunch

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