

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Volume LIII - issue 2 - June 2020

## PERIL ON THE HORIZON



As in days of our past, we find ourselves in peril. Our country and the world is in a difficult situation. We have adjusted our lives and routines in order to stay safe from the pandemic. Our membership has, in many cases, learned to “Zoom” in order to gather. We have altered what we do each day and learned new technologies. Westerners, International will persevere. We look forward to returning to normalcy. Let the Home Ranch know how your Corral has managed during this trying time.

*The interior of a settler's cabin during an Indian raid. Published in Harper's Weekly, July 16, 1870; C.S. Reinhart.*



### CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

I send a hearty greeting to each of you during these difficult days. COVID19 has changed our lives in many ways and I hope, first and foremost, that this finds you well, healthy, and safe. Here at the Home Ranch -- where we have our office in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on the campus of West Texas A&M University -- our office was closed for two months. The mailroom held our mail safely and we sure appreciate their safeguarding! As our campus began a phased re-opening, Delinda King -- our wonderful WI Secretary/Treasurer -- was able to access the mailroom to pick up your dues and your award entries. So we're back on track at the Home Ranch!

Here in this issue, you'll find our announcement that, sadly, we've had to postpone this year's Fall Gather. Bob DeWitt and the Pikes Peak Posse in Colorado Springs were all set with terrific programs and memorable fun for us, but we will have to wait for another time. The current Gather line-up is Los Angeles 2021 (LA Corral) and Colorado Springs 2022 (Pikes Peak Posse). Watch the Bulletin for announcements!

The awards cycle is in full-swing! Now that we've been able to pick up the awards entries, we'll be proceeding with award decisions over the summer. Winners will be notified by August and awards sent out in fall. See Bulletin announcement for details.

Finally, THANK YOU to all corrals and posses that sent in 2020 dues. Even though we've all been keeping safe and isolating, the Home Ranch expenses didn't take a break. So we are grateful to you for supporting student scholarships, WI's involvement with the Western History Association, WI staff, and much, much more. Thank you for all you do to support this great organization!

So here's to keeping healthy, enjoying the summer, and heading out on the trail --

*Bonney*



## 2020 FALL GATHER ANNOUNCEMENT 2020 Fall Gather Postponed

Unfortunately, due to COVID19, we need to postpone the grand 2020 Westerners Gather that was scheduled for Colorado Springs in September of this year.

**Bob DeWitt** and the fellow members of the **Pikes Peak Posse** had worked tirelessly and with great dedication to plan a wonderful and memorable program for us – all in the shadow of the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains.

However, knowing that our members would have to make plans in advance, knowing that many could be endangering their health with car and airport travel, and not knowing what the state of COVID would be this fall, we have decided to postpone the Gather.

Here is the Fall Gather schedule for the next two years:

**2021 Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, Los Angeles, California**  
**2022 Pikes Peak Posse of Westerners, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

We offer a HUGE WESTERNERS ROUND OF APPLAUSE to **Bob DeWitt** and all members of the **Pikes Peak Posse**. We know you had planned a great event and look forward with enthusiasm to 2022! And, to all in the **LA Corral**, we sure look forward to 2021 Gather – which will coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **LA Corral**!!

*Thank you!!*

WE THANK YOU for sending your dues and the needed contact information. This year, of course, it took a little while to access because the office on our campus was closed for some time – even though the mail continued to be held safely. We've now been able to access the mailroom and process your dues payments. We are so grateful, first, for all y'all do for Westerners and are grateful for your continued involvement with this great organization!

So, at the risk of repeating myself, let me just say it again: I want to thank each and every corral, posse, and Westerners member for your 2020 dues.

Your \$9-per-person-per-year dues are put to good use for the good and future of the organization. Those funds support our awards and scholarships. Furthermore, WI members produce impressive written work, offer memorable programs, and keep our shared traditions alive. We love being able to honor those good efforts with annual awards and certificates. We also have \$1,000 available each year for bringing young people along in their Western studies; the region's future is in the hands of the coming generation and we want to support their efforts.

Westerners continues to be involved with the Western History Association and we were part of its founding. We do an exhibit booth and a scholarly panel at the WHA conference each year. Your dues support that participation, as well as the membership fees and events associated with the WHA. See the announcement in the Bulletin for this year's conference panel.

Dues also pay for the Home Ranch staff, merchandise, utilities, publicity and promotional materials for WI, office supplies and repairs, CPA fees, layout and fees for the *Buckskin Bulletin*, website design and maintenance, and much more.

So, again, from our ranch to your's, a hearty **THANK YOU!!**

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**REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS!**

**Sheriffs:** Please remember to forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to all of your corral or posse members. And please keep us up to date on your contact information – we want to stay in touch and we always appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

**All Members:** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to you! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The *Buckskin Bulletin* comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can email it to their posse or corral members. The current *Bulletin* is also always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the *Buckskin Bulletin* link.



# CORRAL NEWS



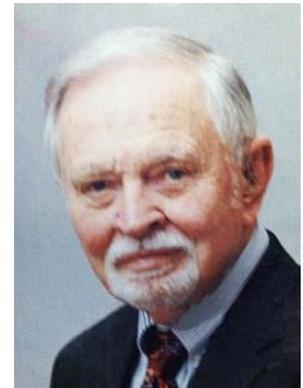
## CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

Please send us your notices and announcements on upcoming or past corral and posse programs and events. We'd love to share your news to other corrals and posses. Also, if you have lost members of your Corral or Posse and would like to honor their memory, please send this news to Ken Pirtle at the Buckskin Bulletin at: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) or to the Home Ranch at: [westerners@pphm.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@pphm.wtamu.edu)



### Charles Winton Baley (1922-2020)

Charles Winton Baley, a descendant of one of Fresno County's pioneer families, passed away on April 2, 2020. Charles was born at home on July 5, 1922, one of two sons born to Thomas Marvin Baley and Myrtle Duckworth Baley in Kerman, California. He spent his early life in the Kerman area and attended Kerman elementary schools. His family lost their ranch during the Great Depression and had to move to Missouri where they farmed Myrtle's mother's farm in Benton County. In 1934 the family returned to California and settled on a ranch in the Sanger river bottom. Charles graduated from the Alameda Elementary school on Good Fellow Ave. The family moved to the Phillips Ranch, known today as River Center Ranch House, on Old Friant Road in 1940. Charles graduated from Clovis High School in June, 1941. After attending Fresno State College for one year, he heeded his country's call and joined the Navy in September 1942. He spent two years fighting in the Pacific theater aboard an Attack Transport Ship, the USS President Adams, and saw duty in the Solomon Islands, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Marianas, the Philippines, and Iwo Jima. His ship earned a total of nine battle stars during the war. After leaving the Navy in 1945, Charles continued his education at Fresno State College (now University), earning a Bachelor's degree in Criminology in 1949 and a Masters degree in criminology in 1964. While attending Fresno State College he met his future wife, Mary Louise Kaufman. They were married on October 7, 1949. After graduation, he went to work for the Fresno County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. He served in most of the major departments in the office, including patrol, jail, transportation, mental health and civil. He was promoted to sergeant in 1953. He retired in 1982 after serving for 32 years. He enjoyed a long and active retirement and did lots of traveling. He was fascinated by western history as well as military and naval history and has authored and published two books. He was active in **Westerners International** and served as president of the **Fresno Garden of the Sun Corral** for many years. He was also a big fan and avid supporter of Fresno State Bulldogs football and held season tickets for decades. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Mary, his daughter Carol, son Charles Lawrence (Lori) and daughter Joyce (Joe) Verdian, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A celebration to honor his long and productive life will be held at a later date. He will be laid to rest in the Academy Pioneer Cemetery. Donations in his name may be sent to the Fresno Rescue Mission P.O.Box 1422 Fresno, Ca. 93716



*Published in the Fresno Bee on April 12,*



# CORRAL NEWS

## CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

We've heard from many corrals and posses that they have not been able to meet because of the corona virus pandemic, and we share your hope that you'll all be able to get together soon. And we want you all to stay healthy! A number of posses and corrals have been active, with some offering Zoom meetings and others offering various virtual options. Here are just a few samplings.



**Bob DeWitt**, of the **Pikes Peak Posse** of Westerners, has been reported on the creativity of their posse. They were able to meet in March and held a program on "Pikes Peak Trolleys, Past, Present and Future," delivered by John Haney. However, once COVID picked up, they moved to online Zoom meetings. The Posse is very active with local historical associations and promotes local history to the community. To find out more about their Zoom programs and posse activities, see their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/2081097731985432/posts/pikes-peak-posse-of-the-westernersmonthly-historical-presentation-pikes-peak-tro/2081101295318409/> Hearty thanks to Bob DeWitt for keeping us posted!

### Editors note:



**Bob DeWitt** of the **Pikes Peak Corral** graciously invited me to attend their June 8th Corral meeting via Zoom. The topic was "Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Long Expedition Exploring the Front Range, 1820" by John Stansfield. I can report that the meeting was well organized, attended by about 38 Corral members and Mr. Stansfield delivered a wonderful and interesting report. A big "thank you" to the **Pikes Peak Corral** and **Bob DeWitt** for the privilege of attending your Corral meeting.

This enjoyable and successful experience leads me to suggest that, as your Corral plans Facebook and/or Zoom meetings, please consider inviting your fellow Westerners near and far to join in your meetings. It is great fun to see and hear what our friends are learning and doing in the way of western history.

**Ken Pirtle, Buckskin Bulletin Editor**

The **Cochise County Corral** is out on the trail ... literally! The Corral, which meets at historic Scheffelin Hall (1881) in Tombstone, has conducted three Trail Rides so far this year, inviting the members of the Southern Arizona and New Mexico Corrals to join them. They've had folks from La Frontera, **Tucson Corral**, and Adobe join them going to the Overland Mail Stations (colloquially known as Butterfield) at San Simon and Stein's Peak (Doubtful Canyon), to Johnny Wards Ranch and Mowry, and to Fort Bowie. What great program innovation and how fun that sounds. Thanks, **Doug Hocking**, for updating us at the Home Ranch!

**Ron Beard, Sheriff, Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners**, reports that the Posse met in June -- with COVID protective practices in place -- for an exciting program and southwest dinner. Ken Robison of Great Falls gave a presentation entitled "John Healy: Whiskey Trader." Ken specializes in overlooked Montana History and is a historian at the Overholser Historical Research Center in Fort Benton. He also serves as the historian for the Great Falls/ Cascade County Historic Preservation Commission and the Sun River Valley Historical Society, and has written over six books on Montana history.

The **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners'** newsletter also reports that they have recently launched the Posse Booster's Club -- a group of businesses, organizations, and members who have agreed to place meeting posters in their office or public bulletin boards or other public spaces prior to each monthly Posse meeting. Great way to get the word out! The Posse had to cancel its April meeting, but was able successfully to proceed with their May meeting. For fellow Westerners: check out the Posse's website for updates and news on their exciting programs and feature essays: [northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com](http://northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com) Thanks again, **Ron Beard**, for keeping us all posted at the Home Ranch!

**Linda Cravens**, of the **Scottsdale Corral**, wrote us about an exciting program held in February on the Arizona's largest theme-park called "Legend City." The program was delivered by **Scottsdale Corral Sheriff, Jared Smith**. Later in spring, the Corral invited members to take part in a virtual program offered by the New Mexico History Museum, which hosted a discussion with author and historian Drew Gomer regarding the legends surrounding the life and times of Billy the Kid. In lieu of regular Westerners programs the Corral also offered history research from Gina Gage on "The Great Influenza Pandemic (the 'Spanish Flu') of 1917-1920." In connection with the virtual discussion noted above, they also offered virtually available research entitled "Billy the Kid's Birth date: Ash Upson Got it Right" from Robert J. Stahl, Nancy Nance Stahl, and Marilyn Jeanne Fischer Stahl. If you would like to know more about the Scottsdale Corral, you can go to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Scottsdale-Westerners/122907851122916> or to their website at [www.scottsdalewesterners.org](http://www.scottsdalewesterners.org)





# Western History Association News

## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

October 14-17, 2020, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Hyatt Regency and Albuquerque Convention Center.

Each year, Westerners International has a panel at the WHA. These last two years have been organized by Dr. Tim Bowman, Westerners President and Associate Professor of History, West Texas A&M University. Thank you Tim! This year's panel is listed below.

Panel title:

**"Multiculturalism, Museums, and Academic Centers in the Twenty-First Century West"**

Panelists:

**Alex Hunt**—Director, Center for the Study of the American West

**Brenden Rensink**—Associate Director, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies

**Jeremy Johnston**—Hal and Naoma Tate Endowed Chair and Curator of Western History, Buffalo Bill Center of the West

**Michael R. Grauer**—McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Moderator: **Tim Bowman**, Associate Professor of History, West Texas A&M University.

### PANEL SUMMARY

Rather than divide people, North American Western history offers the perfect stage upon which to interrogate the many conflicts and compromises that have occurred when social groups, empires, and nation states have come together and interacted over time. This year's Westerners panel at WHA will explore how leading museums as well as academic centers bring stories of diverse peoples interacting into the view of the larger public and will explore the myriad innovative ways in which demonstrate how these efforts help leading public-history institutions explore the themes of human migration and interaction for the modern general public dismantle the walls between academia and the public, thus uniting divided histories with the present.

*If you think you might be in Albuquerque, try to drop by!*



Jim Jennings grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University. Jim and his wife Mavis reside in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Palo Duro Corral and serves the Corral as Keeper of the Chips. Jim is a renowned western writer and a long-time western historian. Jim is retired as Executive Director of Publications for the American Quarter Horse Association and continues to write and is currently writing the scripts for Red Steagall's television show "Somewhere West of Wall Street."

## The Coffee that Won the West

by Jim Jennings, Palo Duro Corral



Let's talk about one of the cowboy's necessities of life. At least most of them think it is. We're talking about coffee, and a very special kind of it.

Back in the late 1800s and the first half of the 1900s, during spring works and fall shipping on the big ranches, the cowboys might live at the chuckwagon for months at a time. They slept at the wagon, usually in small tepees, and they ate three meals a day there. When the chuckwagons left the ranch headquarters at the beginning of these periods, bound for the distant parts of the ranch, they were loaded with all the non-perishable items the cook would need to feed the cowboys for the next several months. Among those items on the list were beans, which were a staple at just about every meal, but also the cook made sure he had plenty of flour, brown sugar, cornmeal, some dried fruit and, of course, various spices. And there was one other thing that was always at the top of the list, and that was coffee.

The chuckwagon cook's old black coffee pot hung over the coals from way before daylight in the morning until way after sundown in the evening. According to Ramon Adams in his book "Come and Get It, The Story of the Old Cowboy Cook," a three- to five-gallon pot was considered the standard size for a cow outfit of 10 or 12 men. He said that the old-time cowboys regarded coffee as essential at every meal, and added that when the cowboys could get it between meals, it contributed to their contentment with life.



When cattle were held under herd at night, the hands who were on guard duty demanded that coffee be ready at all times. Men going on guard needed a cup of coffee to keep them awake, while those being relieved needed a cup when they rode back into camp so as to warm them up before they crawled into their bed rolls. And no matter how short his sleep, the cowboy wanted another cup immediately upon arising. Regardless where the ranch was located, whether it be in South Texas or

northern Montana, or somewhere in between, it's almost assuredly that the coffee they were drinking was the Arbuckles brand.

Arbuckles coffee began in the post-Civil War era of the 19th century, when two brothers, John and Charles Arbuckle, initiated a new concept in the coffee industry – they started selling roasted coffee in one-pound packages.

Up until then, coffee beans were sold as raw green beans. In other words, they weren't roasted. It was up to the purchaser to roast the beans, usually in a skillet over a fire or in a wood stove. Often the green beans rotted before they could be roasted, and trying to roast them in a skillet usually resulted in an inconsistent roasting of the beans. Some were probably not getting roasted at all, and some of them burned in the skillet. Of course, one burned bean could ruin the whole batch once the beans were ground.

John Arbuckle, at his and his brother's Brooklyn, New York, coffee company, became obsessed with trying to sell a better kind of coffee. In 1868 he came up with a process for glazing the beans by using a sugar and egg coating. This sealed the pores in the beans, which helped to prevent them from rotting before they were roasted, and it also trapped in the flavor and aroma.

But even before then, John was working on a way to roast the beans, and he came up with what he felt was the perfect method. He built a huge roaster that suspended the beans in superheated air. This method prevented any of the beans from actually touching the surface of the heated iron containers during roasting, resulting in a more evenly roasting, and it prevented any of the beans from burning. Then the roasted beans were packaged in small, one-pound bags, and sold as Arbuckles' Ariosa blend.

Arbuckles Ariosa coffee became so popular in the West that most cowboys didn't even know there was another brand.

At one time, a stick of striped peppermint candy was packaged in every sack. Ramon Adams said that at the chuckwagon, the cook tried to keep a supply ground and ready for use, so during a slack period he might have either his helper or the wrangler grind up 20 to 30 packages. After it was ground, the coffee was then poured back into the bags and kept until it was needed. He would usually then give his helper the candy that was in each bag. However, if the wrangler happened to be busy and the cook was out of ground coffee, he would ask, "Who wants the candy tonight?" and there

would be a rush among the cowboys for the coffee grinder fastened to the side of the wagon. Of course, whoever got there first would get the candy after he finished grinding the coffee.

But it wasn't just the cowboys who demanded their coffee. The brew was popular all over the world. Coffee is said to have originated in Ethiopia. From there it spread into North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Venice, because it traded heavily with the North African Muslim nations, was the first European city to have the drink, and the first coffee shops were opened there in 1645. From Europe, it spread across the Channel into England, and by 1675, there were more than 3,000 coffee shops in England.



In America, coffee became popular after the Boston Tea Party. Many people switched from tea to coffee to support the cause of independence, and never went back. The first coffee shop in New York City opened in

1696. Beginning just after the end of the Revolutionary War and on into the 19th century, New York became home to some of the world's largest coffee importers, and Manhattan soon became the green coffee warehouse of America.

By 1876, 75 percent of the coffee entering the United States was coming into Manhattan and Brooklyn. Only 20 years later, in 1896, 86 percent of the country's coffee supply landed in New York Harbor.

The Arbuckle brothers came to Brooklyn from Pittsburg, where they were in the grocery business. By the end of the 1870s, they had gotten rid of all of their other grocery business and became Arbuckle Brothers Coffee Company, concentrating on becoming coffee dealers and roasters. In 1865, they had a single roaster machine, but by 1881 they had 85 roasters in both Pittsburgh and New York.

In 1883, the Arbuckles built a six-story warehouse building right on the waterfront. Their waterfront buildings enabled them to have the ships bearing the coffee from Brazil and elsewhere dock right outside their facilities. The coffee could be offloaded and quickly sent to the roasters, grinders and packagers. By this time, they had 500 workers, with 48 roasting cylinders in operation each day, and 32 all night. Each had a 300-pound capacity, and took 35 minutes to roast. Every day, 2,500 sacks of coffee, each weighing 130 pounds, were roasted, and 12 train car-loads of coffee were shipped per day.

By the end of the 1890s, Arbuckles was the largest coffee company in America. Not only did they import more coffee from South America than anyone else, but they also owned the ships that carried the coffee. The family owned a large complex of buildings in Brooklyn, and even had a railroad built to facilitate production and moving product. By 1906, the Arbuckle company was roasting about 25 million pounds of coffee every month. They had a stable full of horses and wagons for deliveries, but, of course, that later changed to delivery trucks of all sizes. They even had a laundry that washed and dried the woven bags that the coffee arrived in, so they could reuse them.

Off-site, they established a barrel factory so they could make their own shipping barrels. The factory had a hospital and a large, airy dining room for employees. The Arbuckles also had a large print shop where they printed all of the labels on their packages. One of the company's successful campaigns involved coupons that could be redeemed for goods. A coupon was included in every package of coffee. All kinds of merchandise, from handkerchiefs to dishes, jewelry and other items could be

obtained with the coupons. The Arbuckles established a separate company to take care of the redemption, which grew to become a large enterprise.

On the chuckwagon, if the cook already had a good alarm clock or razor, or anything else the coupons were good for, he would sometimes give the coupons to whoever ground the coffee for him.

Charles Arbuckle, the oldest of the two brothers, died in 1891, so John brought in his nephew, William Arbuckle Jamison, as a partner, and the company continued to grow. In 1912, John Arbuckle died, but the Arbuckle Brothers company continued under the leadership of the nephew and a couple of partners. In 1913, they introduced a new coffee called the Yuletide Banquet. It was a premium coffee, a superior blend to their best-selling Ariosa and cost a bit more. It had been John Arbuckle's personal blend, which he gave as a present during the Christmas holidays. Soon, Yuletide Banquet, with the name shortened to Yuban, was competing with Ariosa as the company's signature blend. Yuban coffee is still on the market today.

At the company's peak, in the first 20 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Arbuckle Brothers occupied a dozen city blocks along the waterfront. Their business was completely self-contained – they didn't outsource anything. The buildings in the complex stored the beans, and they were sorted, glazed, and roasted in their plants. The Arbuckle Brothers Company stayed in the family for at least two more generations, but by the late 1930s, the family began selling off the company. The only brand they held onto was Yuban.

Arbuckles' Ariosa blend coffee ceased to be marketed for a number of years, but today it's back on the market. The Arbuckles coffee company in Tucson, Arizona, sells the Ariosa blend of coffee with the slogan, "The Coffee That Won the West." Let's have a cup.



from the  
**Westerner International Mercantile**  
 your store just got a little bigger with more merchandise!

- Lapel pin with pin clasp ..... \$13.00
- "Past Sheriff" lapel pin ..... \$13.00
- Bolo Tie with leather band ..... \$25.00
- Lucite paper weight ..... \$17.00
- T-Shirts/round or v-neck ..... \$25.00
- Polo Shirt ..... \$45.00
- Bandanas ..... \$7.00
- Cap -adjustable size..... \$30.00

(Price includes free shipping!)

shirt sizes available in small, medium, large and extra large

If you would like to place an order or send payment, contact:  
**Delinda King, WI Secretary,**  
**Westerners International, Panhandle-**  
**Plains Historical Museum,**  
**2503 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015**

You can also email her at [dlking1@buffs.wtamu](mailto:dlking1@buffs.wtamu) or call the office at 806-651-5247

*coming soon: Western Belt buckles with WI logo!*



lapel pin



past sheriff's pin pin



bolo tie



lucite paper weight



tee shirt



white v-neck



Westerner cap



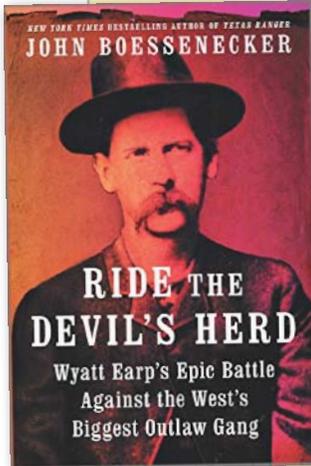
Polo shirt



white bandana

# BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



## ***Ride the Devil's Herd: Wyatt Earp's Epic Battle Against the West's Biggest Outlaw Gang***

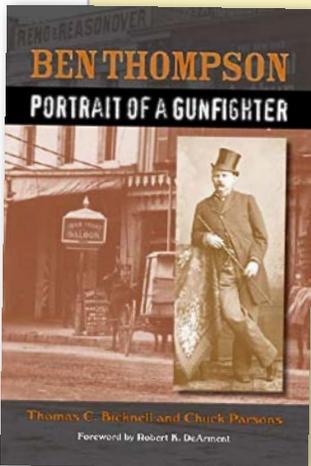
by John Boessenecker

available in hardback, Kindle, Nook version and audiobooks

**Price: \$28.00 hardback**

Wyatt Earp is regarded as the most famous lawman of the Old West, best known for his role in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. But the story of his two-year war with a band of outlaws known as the Cowboys has never been told in full.

The Cowboys were the largest outlaw gang in the history of the American West. After battles with the law in Texas and New Mexico, they shifted their operations to Arizona. There, led by Curly Bill Brocius, they ruled the border, robbing, rustling, smuggling and killing with impunity until they made the fatal mistake of tangling with the Earp brothers.



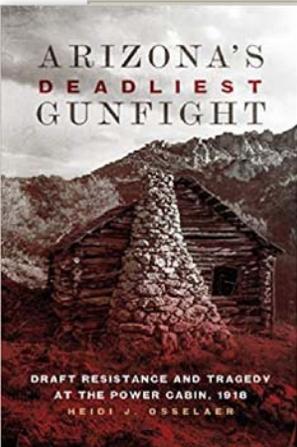
## ***Ben Thompson: Portrait of a Gunfighter***

by Thomas C. Bicknell and Chuck Parsons

available in hardback and Kindle version

**Price: \$35.00 hardback**

Ben Thompson was a remarkable man, and few Texans can claim to have crowded more excitement, danger, drama, and tragedy into their lives than he did. He was an Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, Confederate cavalryman, mercenary for a foreign emperor, hired gun for a railroad, an elected lawman, professional gambler, and the victor of numerous gunfights. As a leading member of the Wild West's sporting element, Ben Thompson spent most of his life moving in the unsavory underbelly of the West: saloons, dance-houses, billiard halls, bordellos, and gambling dens.



## ***Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918***

by Heidi J. Osselaer

available in hardback, paperback, Kindle, Nook version and audiobooks

**Price: \$30.00 hardback**

On a cold winter morning, Jeff Power was lighting a fire in his remote Arizona cabin when he heard a noise, grabbed his rifle, and walked out the front door. Someone in the dark shouted, "Throw up your hands!" Shots rang out from inside and outside the cabin, and when it was all over, Jeff's sons, Tom and John, emerged to find the sheriff and his two deputies dead, and their father mortally wounded.

Arizona's deadliest shoot-out happened not in 1881, but in 1918 as the United States plunged into World War I, and not in Tombstone, but in a remote canyon in the Galiuro Mountains northeast of Tucson.

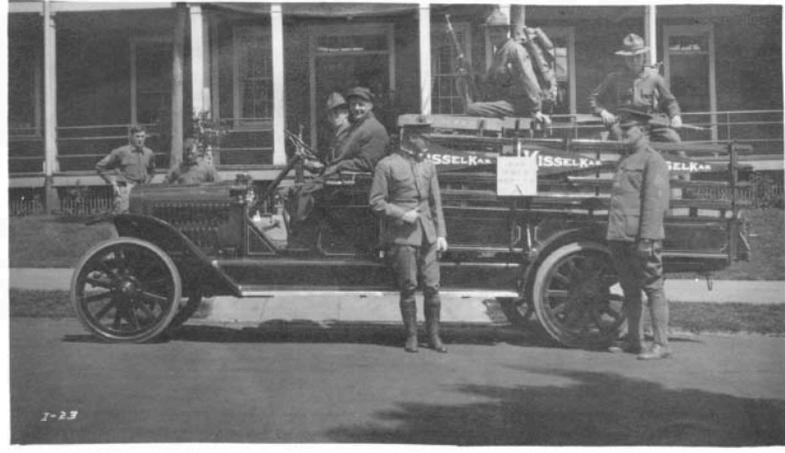
If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.

# BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



Our good friend **Brian Dillon** of the Los Angeles Corral shared this glimpse into their upcoming issue of *The Branding Iron*. Brian comes from a fascinating family with a rich heritage. Brian shares his family's history with his prolific and wonderful writing skills. Here is one of his stories.



*My grandfather, First Sergeant William T. Dillon (1869-1938) of the 61st Coast Artillery Company, Fort Baker, Marin County, California, stands at right, with some of his enlisted men and an unidentified officer. The soldiers pose with a 1913 Kissel Kar long-wheelbase open delivery wagon. The civilian in the driver's seat was probably the dealer's representative from San Francisco. Adapted for military use as a "troop hauler" with bench seats in its cargo bed, this vehicle was being tested in one of the earliest motorization evaluations by the U.S. Army. The white sheet of paper pinned to the stake-side reads "For Field Service [Grade] "A." Dillon family photo.*

## THE KISSEL KAR: AN EARLY EXPERIMENTAL MILITARY VEHICLE

Brian Dervin Dillon Ph.D., Los Angeles Corral

The earliest use of motor vehicles by the U.S. Military was during the post-earthquake fires in San Francisco on April 18-21, 1906. Private automobiles were commandeered by officers and non-coms from the Presidio and the Marin Forts for use by the Dynamite Squads blowing up portions of the city as fire-fighting measures. My grandfather Sergeant W. T. Dillon led one such Dynamite Squad six years before the Kissel Kar photograph above was taken. The first Kissel automobile was built in 1905 by two brothers, George and Will Kissel, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. By 1912 Kissel Kars could be ordered with short or long wheelbases, and "light" (small, 30 or 40hp) or large (50hp, 380 CID) 4-cylinder or even larger 60hp six cylinder engines. For the 1913 Model Year Kissel switched from right-hand drive to the left-hand drive popularized by Henry Ford's much more numerous (and underpowered, at only 20hp) contemporary Model T. The model year began on July 1, so 1913 vehicles, like the one in the above photo, were sold for the first six months of 1912. The Kissel brothers dropped the Teutonic "Kar" element from their company name in response to anti-German sentiment in 1917. Kissel also built trucks rated at ., 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 tons. Their largest trucks were opencab, chain drive, flatbed affairs, much taller than their passenger vehicles. Kissel supplied the American Army with trucks during WWI, and as early as 1915 was selling military vehicles abroad (to the Kingdom of Serbia, for example). Their most successful model, the Kissel Gold Bug Speedster, was a fast, bright yellow sports car that popularized the make and sold well beginning in 1923. The company made cars and trucks through the 1920's, but was killed by the Great Depression, and ceased production

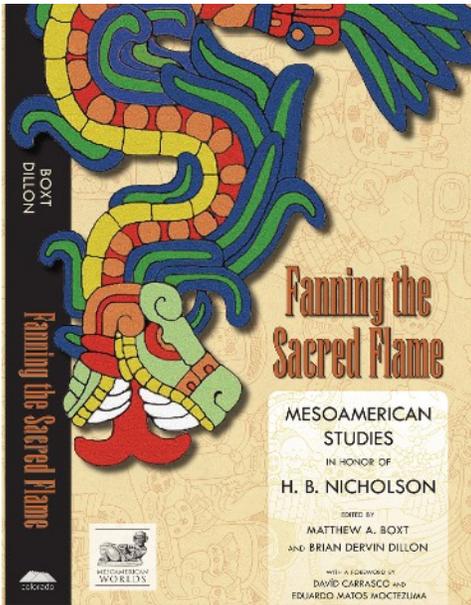


***Greetings** from your **Buckskin Bulletin** editor, Kenneth Pirtle. It is with pride that I put together these newsletters four times a year for **Westerners International**. I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "**BB**" and share with our membership. Please share your **WI** news and activities to me at [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) or the Home Ranch at [westerners@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@mail.wtamu.edu) so I can include it in the upcoming issue.*

*The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now sent to your Sheriff or Corral representative from the Home Ranch. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses and we ask that you keep your Corral information updated. Hopefully the **Buckskin Bulletin** is getting distributed among your local membership. I would humbly request that you read your "**BB**" and share it when you have the opportunity. Happy Trails, KP*

# BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



## Fanning the Sacred Flame, Mesoamerican Studies, Edited by Matthew A. Boxot and Brian D. Dillon,

both members of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, International.

"Fanning the Sacred Flame": Mesoamerican Studies in Honor of H. B. Nicholson contains twenty-two original papers in tribute to H. B. "Nick" Nicholson, a pioneer of Mesoamerican research. His intellectual legacy is recognized by Mesoamerican archaeologists, art historians, ethnohistorians, and ethnographers--students, colleagues, and friends who derived inspiration and encouragement from him throughout their own careers. Each chapter, which presents original research inspired by Nicholson, pays tribute to the teacher, writer, lecturer, friend, and mentor who became a legend within his own lifetime.

Covering all of Mesoamerica across all time periods, contributors include Patricia R. Anawalt, Alfredo López Austin, Anthony Aveni, Robert M. Carmack, David C. Grove, Richard D. Hansen, Leonardo López Luján, Kevin Terraciano, and more. Eloise Quiñones Keber provides a thorough biographical sketch, detailing Nicholson's academic and professional journey. Publication supported, in part, by The Patterson Foundation and several private donors.

## New book from Doug Hocking, Cochise County Corral

### Terror on the Santa Fe Trail Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache

Two Dot Press, an imprint of Globe Pequot Publishing

People often overlook the Jicarilla Apache. Plains Apache who lived in tepees, they dwell in the mountains of New Mexico on both sides of the Rio Grande north of Santa Fe and on the Llano Estacado, the Staked Plains. Their home was along both the Mountain Branch and Cimarron Cut-off of the Santa Fe Trail. The Jicarilla were in a position to close the trail and sever New Mexico's lifeline to the United States and this struck terror in the hearts of traders, soldiers, and the American administration. On three occasions the Jicarilla closed the trail. In 1847, they declared war on the US, but the country was in such confusion over the War with Mexico that hardly anyone noticed until 1849. Hard fighting in 1850 brought them to a one-sided peace treaty in which they gave up everything and got nothing in return. Even this the US Senate would not ratify. Nonetheless the Apache kept their side of the peace until 1854. That year a territorial governor decided he could promote his career by blaming the war he created on his predecessor and then taking credit for defeating the Jicarilla and making a peace treaty. War didn't come the way he expected until a vainglorious lieutenant attacked a peaceful camp and the Indians defended themselves inflicting casualties of 22 dead and 36 wounded while losing only two of their warriors. It was the worst defeat the Army in the West had suffered up to that time. The governor got his war. Through this all, Kit Carson was a cautious neighbor, a fearsome foe, a scout and guide to the Army, Indian Agent, and advocate for the Apache, and finally a warrior who fought at their side against Kiowa and Comanche. Beaten, the Jicarilla succeeded in shaping their own destiny. Although, in 1887, they were the last tribe granted a reservation, it was land that they chose.

