



# BULLETIN

Volume LIV - issue 4 - December 2021



# Merry Christmas

from the WI Home Ranch

and a special Howdy to all Westerners from Los Angeles!



The opening session of Westerners International's fall Gather begins inside the historic San Fernando Mission in Mission Hills, California. Due to some unexpected and unusual southern California rain, we moved the meeting and book sale inside.



## CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! As you'll see from all the photos, this edition of the Buckskin Bulletin features the fabulous 3rd Annual Westerners International Gather and 75th Anniversary of the LA Corral. Hosted by members of the LA Corral, the Gather had wonderful turnout, fantastic programs and tours, and wonderful merriment. All was done according to Hoyle, as they say, and social distancing and other safety measures were followed. We're all so grateful to the LA folks for hosting this Gather and know that all who attended had a wonderful time!

Since this is the holiday season, that also means that awards season is not far away. Please see the announcement in this issue for details on the awards and dues packets that will be going out to each corral or posse in early February. We had a record number of books and articles in this last cycle, and I'm sure we'll be seeing much the same this year. We look forward to seeing your work from 2021!

WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



As I was not able to attend the Gather this year because of health reasons, I want to send a shout-out to all who did such a fabulous job. Everyone in the LA Corral went the extra mile to make it an unforgettable Western event, and Brian Dillon was absolutely great with keeping in touch with the Home Ranch about all the evolving details of the planning. Thank you!! And I send a big shout out to Texas folks from the Palo Duro Corral for filling in and stepping up when needed: Gregg Bynum (former WI Treasurer), Ken Pirtle (Buckskin Bulletin Editor), and Rodney Laubhan, I surely thank you for all of your help at the event!

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season!

Happy Trails!

## Bonney

#### Bonney

the "Gather Gang" in LA wanted you to see this so here it is! As you can see, we miss you, we are thinking about you and wish you were here.

from all of the LA Gather attendees, October 2021



#### Inside this Issue:

Chairman's Greetings
The Rendezvous & Gather Photos
Corral News
Lincoln, New Mexico, by Jim Jennings

pg. 2 pg. 3, 4 & 5 pg. 6, 7 & 8

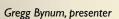
pg. 9,10 & 11

The Mercantile Publication News Book News pg. 12

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## The Awards





Above: Dick Jensen shares the excellent Spokane Corral publication "The Pacific Northwestern".

Above Center: Dick Jenson accepts the second place award for "All Roads Lead to Power City".

Above right: Brian D. Dillon receives a special "honorary member" award from the Los Angeles Corral.

Right 2nd from top, Gary Turner receives second prize for The Fred Olds Award for poetry

Right, 3rd from top, Tiim Heflin receives first prize for the Fred Olds Award for poetry.

Center: Heads Up Award, Smaller Corral - Spokane, WA Spokane Corral Dick Jensen, Sheriff

Bottom left, Brian Dervin Dillon receives the First Place Award for Best Book of 2020, Aloha Amigos, Los Angeles Corral.









## The Venues

San Fernando Mission
Bob's Big Boy
The Autry Museum
Gary Turner's Hacienda



Above, clockwise, inside Gary Turner's beautiful home with impressive animal trophies and spectacular western art.

The Autry Museum hosted tours and lectures.

Top, the San Fernando Mission hosted the book sale and the WI board meeting. Attendees visited the beautiful and historical chapel at the Mission.

Right, bottom, Friday evening at Burbank's Bob's Big Boy complete with burgers, malts and classic cars.

Below, left, history lectures were included in the agenda inside the Autry Museum.





Above, The Westerners International board convenes at the San Fernando mission in Mission Hills, California. Left to right, Kenneth Pirtle, Jim Macklin, Rodney Laubhan, Gregg Bynum, Brian D. Dillon, Ann and John Shea.



# The Party

at Gary Turner's Hacienda







Left upper, contestants line up for the "the best cowboy hat" competition.

Above, best cowboy hat, Dee Dee Ruhlow,
Above Right: Best Cowboy Boots, Sue Hoffman.
Upper center, Ross Dillon doesn't stand a chance against
big John Mutz in arm wrestling.
Center, John Mutz champion arm wrestler.
Below, our bar keeps, they stayed busy!
Lower left, Dick Jensen, proud winner of "best cowboy shirt".

Center left, John Shea participates in the hog calling competition.

Bottom center photo Jim Olds is running far behind.... Lower photos Right, Natalie Spitzerri, the undefeated champion!











#### CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

Please send us your notices and announcements on upcoming or past corral and posse programs and events. We love to spread the good news to other corrals and posses about the activities of their fellow Westerners!



#### WI Congratulates the CHEYENNE POSSE - 45 YEARS!

Photo left, Carol Hecker and her husband Dr. James Hecker, both active members for many years.

The Cheyenne Posse of Westerners celebrated their 45th anniversary at their September, 2021 meeting at the Red Lion. In 1976, the stated purpose of the Cheyenne Corral was to foster *a zeal for discovery and disseminating knowledge and understanding of the American West.* Twenty -eight members attended to hear Dr. James Hecker recount the Posse history based on information provided by a number of members. The Posse originally was limited to twenty-five men. Some of the requirements included that active corral members had to "reside within a hard days ride of Cheyenne" (30 miles) and had to be familiar with the Standard Range Rules. The rules were considered rigorous. After several years, women were accepted. Posse membership was increased to 50 by 1979. Our present Sheriff Peg Kolsrud has worn the sheriff's star for the past 21 years- the longest tenure in the history of the Cheyenne Posse.

Our past dinner meetings were held monthly except for a summer break, but with the Covid virus pandemic the Posse has not met as regularly and our attendance is not quite what it was in the past.

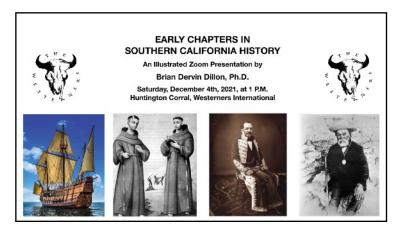
Our meetings have included such topics as:

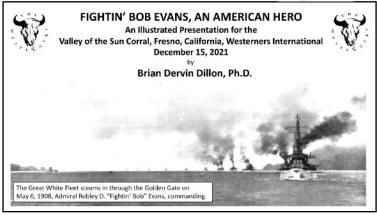
- Wyoming Woman Suffrage. Wyoming was the first state to give women the right to vote in 1869. Esther Hobart Morris who was the first woman Justice of the Peace in 1870, the first women to sit on a jury in 1870, Estelle Reel, the first woman elected to a state office in 1894, and Nellie Tayloe Ross who became the first woman governor in 1925.
- Restoration of the State Capitol Building and Herschler Office Building from 2015 -2019.
- The 1916 Lincoln Highway New York to San Francisco reenactment automobile road race which included a stop in Cheyenne in 2016.
- Flying airmail across Wyoming in the 1920's by eyesight looking down on the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and with no lights.

Over the years the Posse also took a number of treks to historic sites in our part of the American West. Some of these were:

- Fort Laramie- a major landmark on the Oregon Trail and Overland Trail started in the 1840's.
- Fort Kearney on the Bozeman Trail near Story, Wyoming. Near the site of the Fetterman Massacre and the Wagon Box Fight in the 1870's.
- · Fort Robinson, Nebraska where Chief Crazy Horse surrendered and was later murdered.

### Dr. Brian Dillon, of the Los Angeles Corral will be presenting two upcoming programs.







Thanks to all corrals and posses that send us information on your exciting and fun activities and publications. We always love to hear what y'all are doing we and encourage members to send updates to us at the Home Ranch. It's always interesting for members in other corrals and posses to see your events!



Raymond Cox, Sheriff of the English Westerners Society, reported some fine combined Zoom/in-person programs, with varied topics. Members gave talks during the fall on "The Pony Express," "Doc Holliday: His Early Life and Family," and "What the West Means to Me." They also held their book auction with good results for all. Thank you Ray, for keeping in touch from across the Atlantic!

**Dick Jensen** and members of the **Spokane Corral** are still celebrating their well-deserved Heads Up Award. Dick reports that the corral did an award recognition event and further reported that he is writing up the award for local papers in Spokane. We're glad that you're spreading the good news, Dick!

Phil Williams of the Ft. Worth Corral informed the Home Ranch that the October program was on "The Great Hanging in Gainesville, TX, October 1862," and that it was delivered by Richard McCaslin, PhD.

The **Ft. Worth Westerners'** November program was given in-person and on Zoom by **Gary Pinkweron** who spoke on "Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North."

Linda Cravens from the Scottsdale Corral reported an October 27th program by Jared Smith on "The White House Hurricane: The Great Lakes Storm of 1913." When we think about Western history, she wrote, we don't usually talk about big ships and tall waves. But the Great Lakes tie together the history of the eastern and western U.S., where mining and maritime history meet on the northern frontier with Canada. In November 1913, the Great Lakes experienced a devastating storm. The result was not only an epic snowfall, but also the collision of two November storms that sank or damaged nearly 40 ships and resulted in the loss of nearly 300 mariners. Practically unknown today, it was one of North America's largest maritime disasters. The story can tell us a lot about the importance and scale of the Great Lakes' economy to the U.S., and how it connects to the history of the American West.

**Doug Hocking** of the **Cochise County Corral** reported that their November 4 program by **Ellie English** on Katie Elder was cancelled due to illness. But Doug stepped in and delivered a program on "Workin' on the Railroad: Train Robberies on the Southern Corridor."

The **Cochise County Corral** had a full day on November 20. They hosted a Historic Highway 80 Tour, starting with breakfast at the Longhorn in Tombstone, followed by a cemetery presentation from **Sheriff Doug Hocking**, a presentation by **Bob Nilson** on trains, and a presentation on the Benson City Cemetery from **Bob Nilson** and **Sheriff Doug Hocking**. The day ended with a tour of Mescal, Arizona.





December 2 kicked off the Christmas celebrations for **Cochise County Westerners** in Tombstone with Songbird Carol Markstrom, acclaimed Western music star, who sang holiday music. The evening had more merriment with Christmas baked goods and a showing of local antiques for Show and Tell. And rumor had it that Tombstone Santa would be making an appearance!

We urge you all to check out the **Cochise County Corral** website and then look at their fine **Border Vidette**. The fall issue has eight articles on Western history and culture and a good many book reviews. **Doug Hocking**, Editor, does a great job and we're always glad to read the newest essays!

## Upcoming Events at the PPHM - Sept 21, 2021-March 2022 Harrington Changing Gallery - Paintings by Emil Bisttram



Emil Bisttram (1895-1976) was one of the leading painters in the Southwest during the twentieth century. Bisttram's artistic talents were evident at an early age and he studied at the National Academy of Art and Design, Cooper Union, Parson's, and the Art Student's League during the period when New York was emerging as the center of the art world and modernism was reaching its ascendency. In Raymond Jonson, an abstract painter living and working in Albuquerque. Bistrram found a cohort and in 1938 they founded the Transcendental Painting Group. Bisttram, Jonson, Agnes Pelton and fellow members believed that color and abstract forms had a universal essence which they explored in their work.

This exhibition will be drawn exclusively from an extensive collection of approximately 65 Bisttram paintings from Tom Ladd and his family, including his brother Richard Ladd and his sister, Susan Ladd Willis.

## **CORRAL NEWS**

#### AWARDS AND DUES PACKETS

Awards and dues packets will go out in early February 2022, as usual; awards will be for books, articles, programs, and poetry from the 2021 year.

The awards submission deadline will be **April 15, 2022.** 

The deadline for sending in dues and the Tally Information sheets (your officer and contact information) is **May 1, 2021**. Please be sure to get those Tally sheets to us; without your addresses, we can't keep in touch or email the *Buckskin Bulletin* to you!

We thank you in advance for sending in your dues. These monies fund all kinds of good things in Westerners – from the basics of keeping the lights on and the copier working, to the *Bulletin*, the office staff and supplies, the annual awards and scholarship monies, participation in Western History Association, and more. As with the last dues cycle, we know that it's been a tough year; so, if your corral or posse has had challenges with meeting and/or membership, just let us know. We're happy work with you! In the meantime, thank you for your membership and dedication to this wonderful organization!



Dale Cheryl Collins - February 13, 1953 - September 15, 2021

Christine Day, Treasurer of the **Kansas Corral**, sent us some sad and disheartening news that we want to pass along to fellow Westerners. The Sheriff of the Kanas Corral, **Cheryl Collins**, passed away September 15 in Manhattan, Kansas. Cheryl was Director of the Riley County Historical Society for over thirty years and served on many state and regional museum boards and history organizations. Cheryl will be greatly missed for her outstanding knowledge of local history and her willingness to study and promote community history. Cheryl is survived by her husband G.W. Clift, her son John, and her granddaughter Sarah. We at the Home Ranch send our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Cheryl's family and to all Kansas Westerners.







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."



## Lincoln, New Mexico

The little town of Lincoln, New Mexico, would have probably faded into obscurity by now if not for an incident that happened there some 140 years ago. When Lincoln was first settled, about 1850, by a group of Spanish families, they called their little village Las Placitas del Rio Bonito, which is Spanish for "the village by the pretty river." But in the 1860s, a number of cattlemen moved in, taking advantage of the lush green valley that surrounded the little river, and when Lincoln County was created in New Mexico Territory in 1869, the name of the community was changed to Lincoln and it became the county seat. It was, of course, named for the former U.S. President.

Lincoln County, at the time, was the largest county in the nation. It covered one-fifth of New Mexico Territory, and two men, Lawrence Murphy and James Dolan, owned the only store in the county. The pair not only owned Murphy & Dolan Mercantile and Banking in

Lincoln, they also owned large cattle ranches in the county and, due to their having considerable influence over officials in Santa Fe, which was the territorial capital, the two merchants were able to obtain several lucrative contracts with the military at nearby Fort Stanton.

Before long, the two men had monopolized the entire trade of the county. They controlled pricing and made an immense profit on their goods, and they had a hand in nearly every part of the large county's economy. The merchants and their allies, who included the local sheriff, became known as "The House."

Murphy and Dolan were, of course, disliked by the small ranchers in Lincoln County. Not only were the small operators forced to pay high costs for any goods they might need, at the same time they had to accept low prices for their cattle. There were no other markets anywhere near.

In 1876, Alexander McSween, who was a lawyer, and John Tunstall, a wealthy 24-year-old English cattleman and banker, opened another store in Lincoln, called H.H. Tunstall and Company. Supporting them was a large ranch owner named John Chisum, who owned more than 100,000 head of cattle. The next two years saw an intense feud between the two groups, sometimes in courtrooms, but more often through cattle rustling, gunfights and murder. Dolan even attempted to goad Tunstall into a gunfight, but Tunstall refused. However, he did hire young Billy Bonney – also known as Billy the Kid – as a so called "cattle guard."

In February 1878, Murphy and Dolan obtained a court order to seize some of Tunstall's horses as payment for an outstanding debt. When Tunstall refused to surrender the horses, Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady formed a posse led by deputy William Morton to seize them. When Tunstall protested the presence of the posse on his land, he was shot in the head.

And with that shot, the Lincoln County War began. Billy the Kid swore to avenge his boss' death, saying that Tunstall was the only person who had ever treated him kindly. He joined a group called the Regulators, which was led by Tunstall's ranch foreman, and their sole purpose was to hunt for Tunstall's killer, who was Lincoln County deputy William Morton.

On March 6, the Regulators captured Morton and another deputy, Frank Baker, and Billy and one of the other Regulators killed them. Three weeks later, on April 1, Billy and several other Regulators were holed up in Tunstall's store while Sheriff William Brady was searching for the killers of his deputies. They ambushed the sheriff and his men, killing Sheriff Brady and mortally wounding one of his deputies. The Lincoln County War came to a climax in July 1878 in a five-day battle when the Regulators holed up in McSween's house. McSween and his supporters, including Billy the Kid, were besieged by the county's new sheriff, George Peppin, and a group of his men. McSween's house was set on fire and several people were shot dead as they came out of the house,

including an unarmed Alexander McSween. Billy the Kid, however, and a couple of others, escaped. News of the Lincoln County War spread not only across New Mexico, but all across the country. U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes called Lincoln's main street "the most dangerous street in America," and in September, he removed New Mexico's corrupt Governor Axtell from office and appointed Lew Wallace as the new governor. The United States attorney, the sheriff and the local military commander were also replaced. All of these, including the governor, had probably been on the payroll of Dolan and Murphy.

At first, Governor Wallace felt that conditions in Lincoln County might call for martial law, but on November 13, 1878, Governor Wallace proclaimed an amnesty for all those involved in the Lincoln County War if they were not already under indictment. This proclamation, however, did not include Billy the Kid, even though Billy supposedly had made a deal with the governor. According to Billy, the governor had told him that if he would testify in another murder trial, he would be granted a pardon. Billy did testify, but if that deal truly was made, the governor failed to uphold his part of it.

The fugitive Billy soon formed a gang, referred to as the "Rustlers," and survived by stealing and rustling cattle. Governor Wallace put a \$500 reward on his head in December 1880, and Billy and his gang were then actively pursued by Pat Garrett, who had been elected as the new sheriff of Lincoln.

Although rancher John Chisum had been a business associate of Alexander McSween, once Billy took the outlaw trail and began to rob and steal from area ranchers, Chisum was one of those who urged Garrett to run for sheriff so he could legally track down Billy.

Garrett and his posse finally captured Billy and the Rustlers on December 23, 1880. After a trial in Mesilla, New Mexico, in April 1881, Billy was taken back to Lincoln, where he was scheduled to be hanged on May 13 for killing Sheriff Brady. (next page)

The morning of April 28, Billy was chained to the floor on the second floor of the courthouse there in Lincoln, and two guards, James Bell and Robert Olinger, had been assigned to watch him. Olinger had taken particular pleasure in goading Billy that morning, and made sure Billy was watching when he loaded his double-barreled shotgun. When Olinger took all the prisoners except for Billy across the street to the Wortley Hotel for dinner, Billy asked Bell to take him to the privy, which was out behind the courthouse. When they returned to the courthouse and started up the stairs, Billy turned and hit Bell, knocking him down. Billy then grabbed Bell's pistol, and as Bell ran down the stairs, Billy fired. His shot missed Bell, but it ricocheted off the wall and into Bell's body, killing him.



Olinger heard the shot from across the street, and started back to the courthouse. Billy, in the meantime, had broken into the armory and stolen Olinger's shotgun. As Olinger reached the door leading to the steps to the second floor, Billy called out to him from the window above, and then shot him with both barrels of his own shotgun. Billy went out the back door of the courthouse, caught a horse and then loped down the street and out of Lincoln.

Billy was free once again, but his freedom didn't last long. Garrett caught up with him in July in Fort Sumner and killed him. But we'll save that part of the story for another column.

The Lincoln County War was over, and the village of Lincoln once again quieted down. During the time of all the violence, more than 450 people lived in Lincoln.

When the town calmed down, Lincoln continued to serve as a supply center for area ranches and mines, and by 1888, reported a population of about 800 residents. However, when the railroad moved to nearby Carrizozo, the town began to decline in population. By 1909, it had lost its county seat status to Carrizozo.

During the succeeding decades, the population continued to decline to its current population of about 75 people. However, many of the old buildings were preserved and look today much like they did 140 years ago. The town is officially referred to as the Lincoln State Monument and is the most widely visited state monument in New Mexico. The historic site includes 17 structures and outbuildings, three of which are museums. These historic adobe and stone buildings are preserved as they were in the late 1800s, and represent all the factions involved in the Lincoln County War.

The courthouse looks very much like it did when Billy made his escape. The rings in the floor, to which Billy was chained, are still there, as is the hole in the stucco wall, where Billy's bullet ricocheted and killed James Bell. The Wortley Hotel, which was once owned by Pat Garrett and is where Bob Olinger had his last meal before Billy shot him, can also be toured. The hotel today is an inn and restaurant.

The Tunstall store is still there, and original shelving in the store displays 19th century merchandise, just as it did during the war. There is also a museum that features historical exhibits in a timeline starting with American Indian prehistory and ending with the Lincoln County War. A 20-minute video about the Lincoln County War and the community is shown throughout the day.

From about March to November, visitors can take a ride in a four-horse-drawn Overland Stage. The morning and afternoon rides are two hours long and cover five and a half miles of an old stagecoach route from near Lincoln to the old Fort Stanton cemetery. Lincoln is worth the trip to anyone interested in western history.

## from the Westerners International Mercantile

•	Lapel pin with pin clasp	\$13.00
•	"Past Sheriff" lanel 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 delinda.king70@gmail.com or call the office at 806-651-5247

coming soon: Western Belt buckles with WI logo!







þast sheriff's þin þin



bolo tie







white v-neck







Westerner cab



Polo shirt



white bandana

For any corrals or posses looking to give variety and wonderful interest to their programs, consider having a Zoom presentation from Doug Hocking!

# Zoom with Doug Hocking

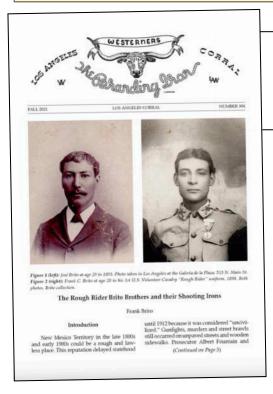


Danielson Award winner for Best Presentation and winner of the Will Rogers Medallion and Co-Founders Award for Best Western History Is available to do Presentations by Zoom

Contact him at <a href="mailto:dhocking@centurylink.net">dhocking@centurylink.net</a> or doug@doughocking.com or (520) 378 1833

## PUBLICATION NEWS

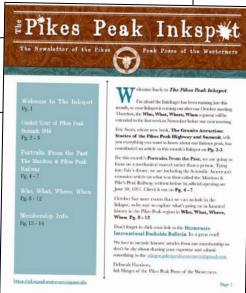
OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The Los Angeles Corral proudly unveiled its latest issue of "**The Branding Iron**" Fall, 2021. It features a lead article by Frank Brito, a new LA Corral member. For more information:

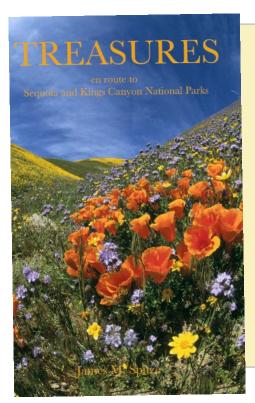
http://www.lawesterners.org

The Pikes Peak Corral is publishing an informative and great looking newsletter for its membership. Thanks to Bob DeWitt for sharing the latest issue of "The Pikes Peak Inkspot".



## BOOK NEWS OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS





## TREASURES en route to Seguoia and Kings Canyon National Parks by James M. Spitze.

(Jim is a long-standing member of the San Francisco Corral and a new member of the Garden in the Sun (Fresno, CA Corral)

The Sierra Gateway Trust announces with pleasure its first publication, a large, almost

table" book, hardbound and in full color, TREASURES en route to Seguoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

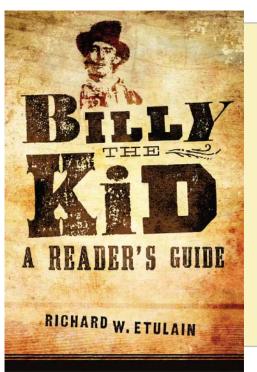
The archives of the National Park Service were opened to the author and the never-before published

story of the building of Highway 180 from Grant Grove to Cedar Grove to Zumwalt Meadow is told with several amusing details. So too are told the stories of our areas pioneer families- in their own words, often carefully transcribed from long forgotten family letters.

29.95/book + 7.975% tax + 10 shipping for

one book (they're big and heavy) + \$4.00 for each additional book. Make sure to include your mailing address. Alternatively, you can purchase copies at the Clovis Book Barn, 640

Clovis, CA 93612 or at the Reedley Museum's store, 1752 10th St., Reedley, CA 93654



Billy the Kid, A Reader's Guide - By Richard W. Etulain 258 PAGES | 6 X 9 Hardcover \$34.95

9780806166278 PUBLISHED: JULY 2020

A central character in legends and histories of the Old West, Billy the Kid rivals such western icons as Jesse James and General George Armstrong Custer for the number of books and movies his brief, violent life inspired. Billy the Kid: A Reader's Guide introduces readers to the most significant of these written and filmed works. Compiled and written by a respected historian of the Old West and author of a masterful new biography of Billy the Kid, this reader's guide includes summaries and evaluations of biographies, histories, novels, and movies, as well as archival sources and research collections.

available at The University of Oklahoma Press, <a href="https://www.oupress.com">https://www.oupress.com</a>

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