

Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL
<http://www.westerners-international.org>

ISSUE 1, 2008

WI Changes Are Told

End of December, early January turned out to be pretty exciting around the **Home Ranch**.

First, **Revere Young**, who has served as a great Executive Director of Westerners International for the past six years, decided he was ready to step down from both the Executive Director position and from his post as Award's Chairman.

Fortunately a great replacement for Executive Director was quickly rounded up. **Kent McInnis**, our Cyberslinger, and member of both the **Chisholm Trail Corral** and the **Indian Territory Posse**, had decided to retire from his job in the working world the end of December. Soon as Revere heard of this he went to work and convinced Kent his retirement would be greatly enhanced by his serving WI as the new Executive Director.

Shortly after the first of the year we received the news that **Jo Tice Bloom**, WI President, also wanted to retire from the duties she has handled so ably the past two plus years.

At the March Executive Committee meeting **David Carter**, member of the **Fort Smith Corral** and an active member of the WI Executive Committee for several years, was asked to serve as the interim president of WI, filling out Bloom's unexpired term of office, which he happily agreed to do.

Information on both **Kent** and **David** will be included in the next issue to introduce them to the membership. Two good choices.

As for the post of Award's Chair-

man, executive committee member **Bill Deupree** agreed to assume this post with **Leon Nelson** volunteering to be his assistant. Both are members of the **Indian Territory Posse**.

First order of business. when Kent came on board, was to work on updating our way-out-of-date computers and printers. With the blessings of the Executive Committee (and our treasurers) we have two new computers, a wonderful new printer/scanner/fax and DSL internet service. Thanks to some wheeling and dealing and knowing just where to go, Kent was able to secure all of this equipment for a very friendly price.

We have been trying, during this transition period, to conduct business as usual in the WI office. But if we have not been returning phone calls and e-mails and regular mail requests as quickly as we should we do apologize. If you have never gotten an answer you might want to contact us again. Our new systems have sometimes been down as we try to get everything installed and up and running and learn to use it all. Kent has been doing his part, practically living at the Home Ranch.

It won't be long until everyone is settled in their new jobs and using the new equipment and things will be back to normal.



New WI Executive Director Kent McInnis poses in the courtyard of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Also pictured are the Home Ranch "office staff" Mary Marvel, left, and Burnis Argo. (Photo by Jim Argo)

Double Your Donation

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation is offering WI a chance to grow its endowment this year. It will match each new donation made to the Foundation's WI Account. If any member or group want to make a memorial contribution, or simply wants to make WI more financially secure, this is the time to do so. Checks must be made out to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. We already have three donations which qualify. This tax deductible opportunity ends December 31, 2008.

From the Editor

You have no doubt noticed this bulletin is slimmer than usual. This is yet another effort to keep the bulletins coming out in spite of continually rising ink, paper and mailing costs. Most bulletins still will be the usual 8-page size.

Those of you who have access to a computer—did you know we are now putting the bulletins on our web page? Actually you will be able to read them there before your copy arrives in the mail and as a bonus—pictures in color!

Apologies

It isn't often that it is possible to change one person's name and then move another group of people several states south and west of where they thought they lived all in one day, yet that is what your **Editor** did in the last Bulletin. For the record the AI who wrote the "Living Legend" article was Al **Bates**, **NOT** Al **Lowman**, another fine Westerner. And the **Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral** has not traveled from it's home in North Dakota to Tucson, Arizona.

From the President

By David Carter

We all wish **Jo Tice Bloom** well and thank her for a job well done. I was pleasantly surprised when the WI Executive Committee unanimously named me president to fill out her term. I consider it an honor.

Like you I am a Westerner for many reasons. I enjoy the culture, the characters that I have read about and seen in the movies or met at museums and other places while traveling to glean information about the West.

Fort Smith, Arkansas, where I live was one of the jumping off places before you really got to what we call "The West." Our historic site in Fort Smith is a National Park and is where federal judge **Isaac Parker** deputized marshals to bring law and justice to the Indian Territory, the neighboring Oklahoma of today.

You and I know there are so many facets of the West. In the year 2000 the **Wells Fargo Corral** in the **Czech Republic** had a Rendezvous complete with stage coach and 250 members dressed as cowboys

and Native Americans.

They were **that** interested in our western culture of years past.

Fort Smith Corral had a Rendezvous in 2001 complete with a chuck wagon cookout with music on the banks of the Arkansas River, the next day a train robbery and shoot-out, then a play that was enjoyed by all. Later we enjoyed a steak cookout with all the "fixins" at historic Orr Ranch. We entertained 17 members from the Czech Republic as well as visitors from Oklahoma, Kansas and other posses and corrals around the USA. There are over 5000 Westerners around the world, according to the Home Ranch.

I guess my point is that there must be an awful lot of other people out there who could share in the enjoyment if they only knew our organization existed.

Extend an invitation to your friends and relatives no matter where they live, so receive a brochure from the Home Ranch or visit out website: <http://www.westerners-international.org> and be part of the history and the fun.

LA Corral Lists New Officers and Activities

The **Los Angeles Corral** began its year with a new sheriff and a terrific program by Angela Aleiss entitled "Making the White Man's Indian: Native Americans and Hollywood Movies." She was assisted by Marc Wanamaker and his wonderful collection of early movie photographs.

The new Trail Bosses are Sheriff **Willis Osborne**, Deputy Sheriff **Froylan Tiscareno**, Register of Marks and Brands **Paul Spitzzeri**, Keeper of the Chips **Lynn Hodge**, Publications Editor **Phil Brigandi**, along with a host of others that help keep the corral running. In April the group took a trip to see the outdoor play of Helen Hunt Jackson's book Ramona and June 21 **Gary** and **Vicki Turner** will host the annual Fandango at their home. The annual Rendezvous will be in October 25. "It promises to be another enjoyable year," writes **Paul H. Rippens**.

The LA Corral was organized December 19, 1946.



Byron Price, left, shows the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award medal he just presented David Dary at the recent awards banquet of the Oklahoma Center for the Book. Both are members of the South-Canadian Cross Timbers Corral. (Photo by Fred Marvel)

Dary Receives Honor

David Dary, former president and Executive Board Chairman, and a "Living Legend" of Westerners International was recently honored by the Oklahoma Center for the Book. The respected journalist, educator and prize-winning historian of the Old West has written 15 books and over 200 articles for newspapers and magazines. He is emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Oklahoma, having retired in 2000 as head of what is now the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at OU.

Born in Manhattan, Kansas, **Dary** was graduated from Kansas State University. He later received his master's degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas. Among his awards are two Wrangler Awards from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center, two Spur Awards from the Western Writers of America, which also presented him with their Owen Wister Award, and a Westerners International Best Book Award. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2007.

David and his wife **Sue** were founding members of the **Chisholm Trail Corral** in Oklahoma City with **Sue** serving as the first sheriff.

Introducing Dary and presenting his award was **Byron Price**, Director of the OU Press, director of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West and Charles

WHA Plans

The 2008 Western History Association meeting will be held October 22 to 25 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The **Home Ranch** would like to express our appreciation to the **Utah Westerners** for already beginning to organize their help for manning the WI booth in the book room and participating in the annual WI Breakfast, book auction and award's presentation.

The group's May meeting included a program by **Floyd A. O'Neil** titled "Utes on the Borderlands." O'Neil, who is a member of the Utah Westerners has spent a lifetime studying the Ute Nation. He recently was at the Cortez Cultural Center to participate in the Four Corners Lecture Series.

Book Review

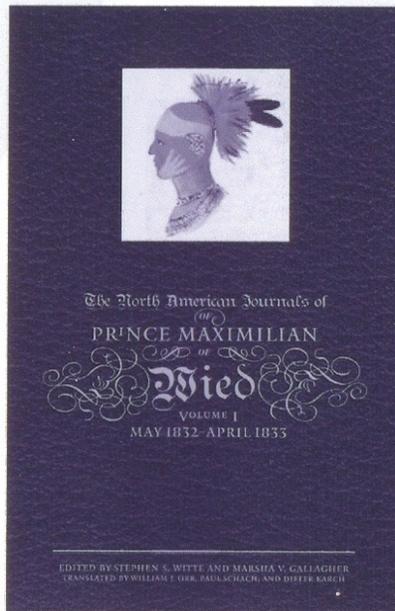
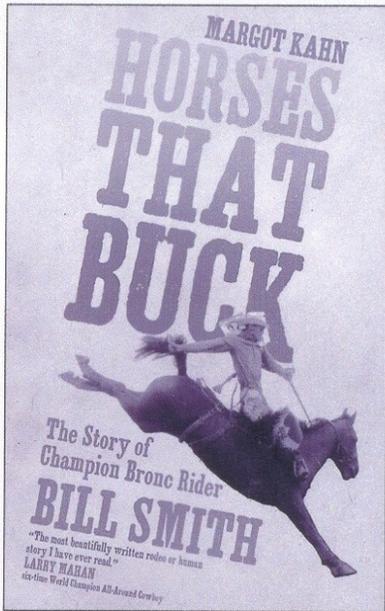
John W. "Jack" Swilling, who is credited with establishing Phoenix, AZ, had two reputations. On the one hand he was a loyal friend, an attentive husband and father, first postmaster of Phoenix, developer of the first modern irrigation project in the Salt River Valley. He also had a darker side, or so it was said. He drank hard, killed a couple of men, abandoned his first wife and child, and died in jail having been accused of robbing a stage coach. That he was later exonerated has been conveniently forgotten in many circles.

Albert R Bates, past Sheriff and life member of the **Phoenix Corral**, has set out to try and make sense of the two sides of this Arizona pioneer in his book Jack W. Swilling: Arizona's Most Lied About Pioneer. (Soft cover, 128 pages with illustrations, maps, appendices, source list, publisher —Wheatmark.com/bookstore)

Bates is not attempting to clean up Swilling's reputation, just presenting facts that can better show his accomplishments as well as his faults and put them in perspective. Jack's dependence on narcotics to free him from intense pain, the result of serious injuries received as a young man, certainly played a part.

An interesting, easy to read portrait of a very complex character in the history of Arizona.

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WIHomeRanch@AOL.com.



Horses that Buck

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