

Buckskin Bulletin

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

ISSUE 1, 2009

Happy Birthday Chicago!

"On the rainy evening of February 23, 1944," Don Russell Award to former Sheriff **Tom Joyce** for all he has done for the corral. This award has not been given in five years and is not given often.

as the story goes, **Leland Case, Elmo Scott Watson** and 12 of their like-minded friends

Former recipients were **Bill Austin, Fred Egloff** and **Mary Pappas**," said Shiffer who was elected, by acclamation, to serve another term as sheriff, making him the longest serving sheriff of the corral.

The Chicago Corral is also starting a program of mentioning a past member with a short bio of his/her accomplishments. "We have had so many colorful members over the years we felt that it was a good idea to let the newer members know about them. It will be presented by **Dan Leonard** each month," said Shiffer.

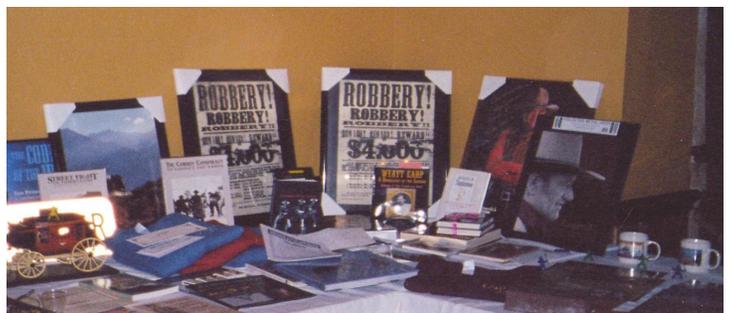
met together in Watson's home for an evening of listening to a talk on a Western history subject. The speaker was **Clarence Paine**, librarian at Beloit College in Wisconsin who delivered a "short and unlearned treatise on Calamity Jane." And that was the beginning of **The Westerners**.

February 24, 2009, members of the **Chicago Corral** met to celebrate their 65th anniversary. Over forty people, including old and new members and some Past Sheriffs enjoyed an evening of remembering, renewing old friendships and of course, of listening to a talk with a Western theme. Speaker was **Brian Downes**, executive director of the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum in Winterset, Iowa.

"He brought us up-to-date on everything that is going on at the birthplace," said **Jim Schiffer**, corral sheriff.

"The corral purchased an inscribed brick with 'The Chicago Corral #1, The Westerners' inscribed on it. The bricks will be placed in a flower garden immediately in front of the birthplace," he continued.

During the evening the corral presented the



Pictured are the official Chicago Corral birthday cake and a few of the many door prizes given out.

Publicity for WI Corrals

Two of our groups mero at a corral meet-have been in the ing, covered by the newspaper lately. local newspaper, in- Since **Anthony** including a nice picture. **Romera** was not able **Huntington West-ners** had an article place Danielson Award in the *San Marino Trib-une* last October in Salt *une* announcing a Lake City, the **Silver** luncheon program at **City Corral** had the which Michael Crosby award sent to them talked about the Los and presented it to Ro- Encino pioneer ranch.

A Message from our WI President

Galveston suffered too much loss from Hurricane Ike to have their annual **Dickens on the Strand**, normally held the 1st weekend in December; but they'll do it again this year. Shirley and I always like spending a part of our December in Galveston and we really missed it this past holiday season.

For those who can't make Galveston there is the **Victorian Walk** in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The Guthrie Chamber of Commerce says this is a very popular event and the locals don their Victorian clothes and Wassail Party is scheduled from 5:30 to 8 p.m. No doubt other places have a Victorian celebration, too.

Galveston, Texas, is in their 34th year and they should resume this year. If they do, we will be there. We have always dressed Victorian for the occasion and in the past they have had the great and great great grandsons on hand to autograph their ancestor Charles Dickens' book and to deliver "A Christmas Carol" at a planned dinner party. Other events are a breakfast and a house tour, all done in the Victorian manner, and one year they had a dance, with authentic

Victorian-era music, you could participate in if you were in period dress. It has always been a great weekend and definitely part of our Western culture.

You don't have to dress if you just want to see what goes on. The parade of participants can be viewed along with the bands and other interested parties. The streets are lined with interesting shops and eating places and vendors display their wares on the blocked off side streets.

On September 9, 2008, Shirley and I visited the **Kaw Valley Corral** in Lawrence, Kansas where **Jim Drury** is Sheriff. **Marie Argersinger** took us under her wing and made us feel right at home. Others at our table were **Cindy, Betty, Hob** and **Helen**. **Judge James K. Logan** discussed "Law in the Early West" and he mentioned Judge Isaac C. Parker, Fort Smith's renown "Hanging Judge." Since Shirley and I live in **Fort Smith** we are well acquainted with the Judge Parker story. Our corral even meets at the historic fort site.

In November I was in Washington D.C. visiting the **Potomac Corral** where **Francis Flavin** is Sheriff.

Spring is here and my onions are up and the tomato plants are in the ground. My yard is large and is mostly garden.

We will be in **Phoenix, Bisbee** and **Tucson** in early April for those corral meetings. Hope to be in the **Black Hills** of South Dakota and **Yellowstone** of Wyoming in the fall to visit those groups.

**Riding for the Brand,
David L. Carter**

Our Thanks to you, David

Since **David Carter** and **Shirley** first became acquainted with Westerners they have been among our most dedicated members. David was put on the Executive Committee as he and Shirley were driving from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Oklahoma City anyway for WI meetings including the Summer Board Meetings. David has always expressed an interest in becoming better acquainted with our member groups and has been in favor of personal outreach. We are delighted he is trying to visit as many corrals as possible. If he comes to our town we know you will enjoy getting to know them both. Thanks, David, from the **Home Ranch**, for taking on this very important task.



David & Shirley Carter dressed in their official Victorian Christmas attire.

Jedidiah Smith Corral Presents a Skit

"Just a note to explain the Moses "Black" Harris. **Barbara Kane** pictures before they scare you **Kane** as Thomas Fitzpatrick, too much," wrote **Bernice Landers** to the Home Ranch. **Barbara Bogner** as Edward

"Since our corral is named for **Barbara Bogner** as Edward Jedidiah Smith I wrote a skit, Rose and **Bernice Landers** made some scenery and talked these members into helping "We did research on all the present it to the corral," she continued. "We did research on all the men and found the other three were just as interesting and

Laura Batchelor played courageous as Jed," she said.

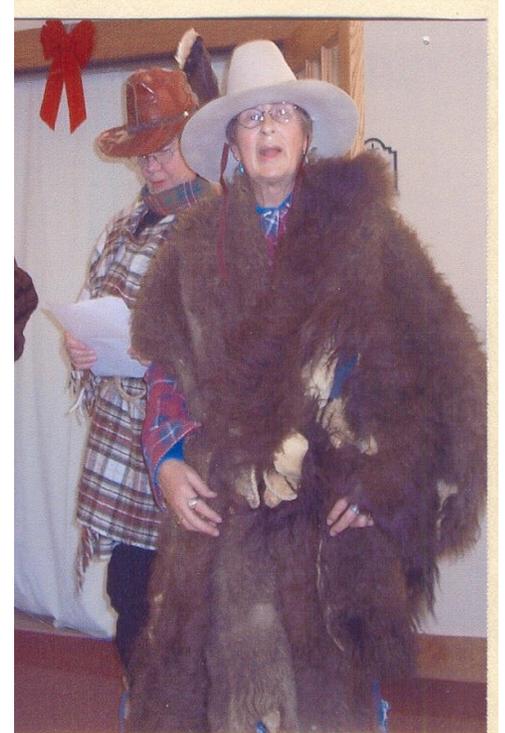
The play took place as the group was entering the Black Hills on their way west. The actors explained to the Corral each character portrayed.

They even found clothes to fit the era.

"We had a good time doing it and everyone enjoyed it," said Bernice.



Pictured above, left to right, are corral members Laura Batchelor, Barbara Kane, Barbara Bogner and Bernice Landers. Batchelor is wearing a real bear fur hat and buckskin shirt. Skit leader Landers, right photo, sports a robe of buffalo hide.



Neal Graffy Speaks

Santa Barbara Corral heard A talk about the naming of the 52 original streets created in their town in the 1851 survey that transformed the settlement from "free -range" adobes to a structured grid of streets and blocks.

Speaker Graffy is a West-erner, a Clamper and has writ-ten a book on the streets.

He says he hopes to make enough money to buy a ranch where Westerners can have a spring and fall barbecue.

Hopefully the corral members did their part to help him out.

Bulletin Numbering Explained

Many of you may have noticed that the numbering of our BB has become somewhat erratic with the last bulletin each year frequently lapping over into the next year. In an effort to try and correct this we have elected to call the recent issue of the BB No. 3 & 4 on our website: www.westerners-international.org This will give us the time to do three mailed bulletins to our membership (as the full board authorized in 2006) and possibly a 4th strictly on-line before the end of December. As printing and mailing costs keep rising it becomes more and more difficult to afford printing and mailing 4 copies a year. The 3900 copies of the last bulletin, including printing, labeling and mailing cost \$2,209.47. Four issues of the BB cost an amount equal to the dues we receive, leaving very little to run the office. Check out the bulletins we have posted on-line. You may like them better that way, especially the pictures which are in color there.

Corral Roundup

The **Stockton Corral**, which meets at the Stockton Odd Fellows Hall, held the fifth annual joint meeting in April with the IOOF members. Speaker was **Sal Manna**, historian and president of the Society for the Preservation of West Calaveras History. He also is author of The King of Sting.

Nevada Corral members enjoyed a buffet dinner and slide show for their April Meeting. "Prospectors Then and Now" explored Nevada through the prospector's eye. Special guest **Bob Goodman** presented a slide presentation "After the Prospector" which explored abandoned mines and some of the interesting things found there.

Hal Jackson was the speaker at the January meeting of the **Albuquerque Corral**. Jackson, who is a member of the corral, is a retired university professor and an author. Title of his talk was "The Great Northern Migration: Oate and Spanish Culture Change the Southwest."

The **Durango Corral** met in February at the historic Strater Hotel to hear a program by **Mark Franklin**. Title of the talk was "In Search of the Spanish Trail."

The members of the **Huntington Westerners** had a busy day in April. First was their meeting at "high noon" for lunch and a talk by Linda Mollno titled "Women and Wine in California." Following the meeting members had a chance to tour El Molino Viejo, built in

1816 as a grist mill. The Old Mill has been described as Southern California's oldest commercial building."

Hamlin Garland Society members **William Aisenbrey** and **Dr. Art Buntin** were the speakers at the February meeting of the **Dakota Midlands Corral**. Title of their program was "The Westward Movement & Frontier Life: The Garland Family Experience as revealed in the writings of Hamlin Garland."

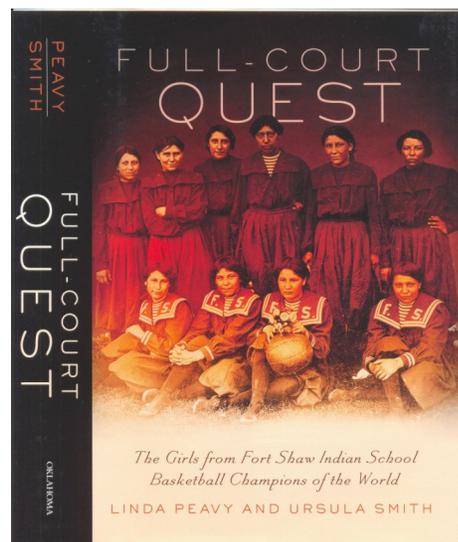
"Back to Nature: Family Camping in the Western Wilderness" was the January program for **Utah Westerners**. Speaker **Susan Session Rugh** drew on National Archives documents to explain "why so many visitors crowded into the national parks after the end of World War II and how they navigated the hazards of family camping in the western wilderness."

Also explored "were the implications of those childhood experiences for the development of the environmental movement that we all admire or despise."

A very interesting-sounding program!

Fort Collins Corral members enjoyed a program by **Bill Bertschy**, "The History of Pingree Park Campus" in March.

The Pingree Park valley is the location of Colorado State University's Pingree Park Campus and Conference Center. Bertschy is a member of the corral and director of the 1,200 acre campus in the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area.



Award Winner!

Though WI **Maverick Corral** members **Linda Peavy** and **Ursula Smith**, who live in Vermont, could not be on hand in Oklahoma City to receive their first place book award April 4, they can be assured their achievement was celebrated by the 13 plus local Westerners attending the 20th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards.

Peevy, a former instructor at Oklahoma Baptist University, and Smith placed first in the non-fiction category for their latest book Full-Court Quest, published by the **University of Oklahoma Press**. This entertaining and well-researched book, their 10th collaboration, is the story of a group of girls from Fort Shaw Indian Boarding School in Montana who became the first basketball champions of Montana. Taking this new game to St. Louis and the 1904 World's Fair this group of 10 girls, representing seven Tribes, were there declared "World Champions."

This story was almost forgotten until Peavy and Smith uncovered it. After 10 years of research, including interviews with family members, the story is now getting the attention it deserves.

By Richard Dillon

The **San Francisco Corral** has had many Sheriffs during its forty years of existence, but has only one Deputy Police Chief. That would be **Kevin J. Mullen**, who began a literary career when he retired from the San Francisco Police Department.

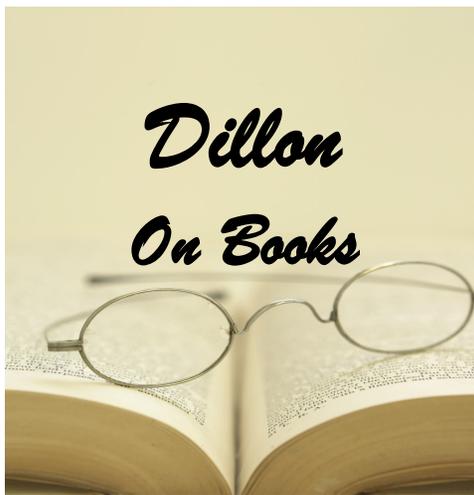
Chief Mullen has authored four top-notch nonfiction books in recent years. Let Justice Be Done, about the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, was followed by Dangerous Strangers, on minority crime in the old urban West, and The Toughest Gang in Town, (police stories of old San Francisco). He now brings us a dandy, Chinatown Squad.

This is a detailed, close-up and engrossing story of a war in the streets and alleyways of San Francisco's Chinatown; of battles between a small band of cops and "soldiers" of the ancient criminal force, a la Mafia, the Triads of China.

Responsible for the tong wars that plagued California's major Asian community during the last half of the 19th Century and into the 20th, the Triads, though once beaten by the elite (if roughneck) Squad, re-established themselves in the port city during the post World War II migration of Cantonese.

Mullen is especially good at the biographies of the Chinatown Squad's sergeants and the Chiefs of Police under whom they served. Politics, incompetence and corruption sometimes hampered the Squad's activities.

By and large, the Chinatown Squad, over the



years, has put a lid on crime and vice in the old ghetto, with such primitive "tools" as sledge hammers and pick axes (for the fighting tongs armored the doors of their hideouts) in lieu of writs and warrants.

As for the boo how doi, the highbinders or hatchet men of the Triadic tongs, they soon replaced their original weapons (small hatchets concealed in the loose sleeves of their traditional blouses) with Colt or Smith and Wesson revolvers.

As California historian **Kevin Starr** has noted, "Chinatown Squad reads like a movie script. But this is history, the real thing."

The handsome paperback from, **Noir Publications** (448 Ignacio Blvd, #200, Novato, CA, 94949) sells for \$18.95.

Back in 1978 **Gary Kurutz** was sheriff of the **San Francisco Corral** of the Westerners. He has since been elevated to a "Fellowship" as an Honorary Member.

Gary Kurutz is now editor of a splendid journal by Major John Corey Henshaw, Recollections of The War With Mexico (\$44.95) from the

University of Missouri Press. The Mexican War is an often-neglected chapter of the history of the West in general, and of the Westward Movement in particular.

Kurutz's handling of the well-written manuscript is exemplary. He has fitted it out with a substantial explanatory introduction, plus hundreds of notes to clarify the text. He has then added a useful bibliography and a helpful index.

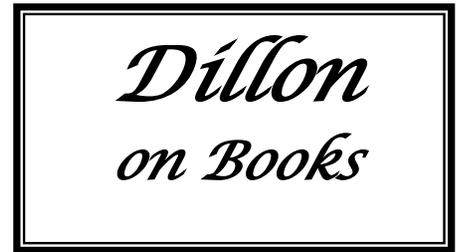
Henshaw served in both of the major campaigns in Mexico, General Zachary Taylor's attack in the north from the Rio Grande and General Winfield Scott's amphibious operation at Vera Cruz and invasion of the Mexican heartland, all the way to Mexico City.

A skilled writer, Kurutz is united here with an intelligent and keen observer -- and participant -- in the war. He sizes up Mexico, the war (which he opposes), and the U.S. Army. He is sharply critical of his fellow officers, especially Southerners whom he accuses of dominating the Army and its promotions.

Another ex-Sheriff of the **San Francisco Corral** (1992, 2002) is **Dr. Robert J. Chandler**. Bob has just co-authored with **Steven Potash** a fine history-in-brief of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Published by the **Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library** at Fort Mason, S.F., it is titled Gold, Silk, Pioneers and Mail. The well-illustrated volume sells for \$25.

Chandler and Potash
(Continued on Page 6)

Meet Our Secretary



(Continued from Page 5)

Originally won the Coke Wood Award from Westerners International for the for the best historiographical monograph of 2005. They have now expanded it into a slim, but nifty, book on the key shipping line of the Gold Rush and its aftermath.

The Pacific Mail's sidewheel steamers not only replaced sailing ships on the Panama City to San Francisco run for 49ers and their successors, they also opened the trans-Pacific trade from San Francisco before evolving into the Doller Line and, later, the American President Line.

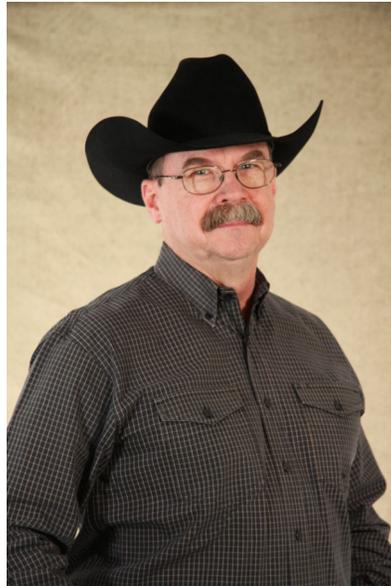
Among the illustrations are items from the rich collections of the co-authors. Of particular interest are the European-style paintings of vessels by the so-called China School of artists-for-hire on the China Coast.

Richard H. Dillon

A Message For Collectors

The *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* has been published since 1897 and if you are a collector with missing issues in the quarterlies for the first 100 years you may be able to purchase what you need to fill in those gaps, says **Frank W. Jennings** of the **Southwest Vaqueros Corral**. For more information you can contact **Kathy Foley** at kfoley2009@gmail.com

(Editor's Note: One of the most valuable members of the Home Ranch is Don Reeves, secretary of Westerners International. A lot of WI members probably don't know that much about low-key Don but his corral, Indian Territory Posse, has prepared, and shared this tribute to him which will be in their corral publication.)



Don Reeves

On February 1, 2009, **Don Reeves** completed 30 years of service with the **National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum** (where the Home Ranch office is located.)

He currently holds the McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture and has been on the curatorial staff since 1979. A native of Iowa, he received an MA in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to joining the museum he was a curator for two years at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Examples of Don's creative talents are showcased in the Museum's American Cowboy Gallery, the Western Performers Gallery and the Children's Cowboy Corral, which he curated. Further evidence of his abilities is shown as curator of the annual Traditional Cowboy Arts Association Exhibition and Sale.

Talented as an author, he has numerous exhibition catalogs and magazine articles to his credit. Don is about to be a published book author, as his book on Luis Ortega's Rawhide Artistry will soon be released.

His vast knowledge of western history has resulted in his serving as a consultant on sev-

eral film projects. Included in his consultation work is: "A Colored life: the Herb Jefferies Story," "All That Follows is True: The Making of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" as well as "The Real Cowboy: Portrait of an American Icon." If you watch the History Channel, you may have seen Don being interviewed on their program "Cowboy Tech."

On matters near and dear to his friends in the **Indian Territory Posse**: He is a long time valued member of the Posse and made it possible for us to hold our meetings at the Museum. Along with other Posse members he engineered moving the headquarters of WI from Arizona to the museum in Oklahoma City. Don has served as Secretary of the WI Board of Directors for over 20 years.

Our congratulations and appreciation to Don for his service to the Museum, the Posse, The Westerners International and to the preservation of the legacy of the West.

Trailing The West

By **Shebby Lee**

Hello Joe, you old Buffalo!

Shebby Lee Tours, headed by fellow Westerner and former Sheriff of the **Black Hills Corral**, **Shebby Lee** is proud to announce summer programs of the Great American West. All tours feature living history, special speakers and events, authentic meals, interpretive centers, historic sites and other activities specifically related to the theme of the tour.

All Shebby Lee Tours programs include a professional tour director/historian to lend insights to the sights. Our tour directors are carefully trained not only in the nuts and bolts of leading a successful study tour, but in the historical background of the region. They are there to augment the primary interpreters and re-enactors who make the subject come alive.

West Dakota— July 11-18:

Explore the best of western Dakota on this 8-day, seven night itinerary encompassing the broad sweep of history on the northern plains. Western wildlife, legendary characters and extraordinary National parks greet you at every turn in West Dakota!

**Lewis & Clark Trail—
August 7-22:**

Follow the trail from St. Louis to Astoria on this very special 16-day trip. Meet mountain men, fur traders & the men of the Corps.

For more information on these and other tours write:
shebby@shebbyleetours.com
Or telephone toll free:
1-800-888-8306

Our Corrals are Publishing

The **Pacific Northwesterner**, bi-yearly publication of the **Spokane Corral**, featured an article by **C. James Quann** entitled "Big Jim: Drilling with Diamonds," the story of the diamond drilling industry and one of its pioneers, the author's father, James Andrew Quann. The article, nicely illustrated with a number of photographs and other illustrations, traces the history of the industry and many of the projects "Big Jim" and his co-workers tackled including Grand Coulee Dam, for the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Wu-Sheh Dam project in Taiwan as part of a government team.

Paul Malkoski presented a program titled "Western Songs and Western Vision: Folk music and its changing view of the West" for the **Denver Westerners**. The program was reproduced by the group in their November-December publication of *The Roundup*. Included are the words to all the songs—which always makes for interesting reading.

The December issue of *Corral Dust*, publication of the **Potomac Corral** had a nice article about "Livestock Trail Drive" by past sheriff **Dale L. Anderson**. He discusses the cattle, chuckwagons, and the kinds of livestock (did you ever hear of reindeer drives?). Of special interest is the map of the various trails

Vol. 2, Issue 1 of the **Territorial Times**, published by the **Prescott Corral** featured several interesting articles including one on Angora Goat ranching in Yavapai County, Arizona, the biggest industry in the county Between World War I and World War II. The next article was on Nellie Trent Bush, an early-day state senator who "rankled the Party leaders as she gained clout in the legislature" and another on "Robert E. Morrison, Pioneer Lawyer and Public Servant" in Arizona Territory. Last was a Snapshot from the Dells: Prescott's Summer Playground" including photographs of this scenic resort which closed about 1971.

Authors of these interesting and informative articles were **Mona Lange McCroskey**, **Heidi M. Osselaer** and **Jack Pfister**, whose step great grandfather was Morrison

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

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Westerners International
c/o National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.

Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Phone: 1-800-541-4650

E-mail

WIHomeRanch@gmail.com

WI Home Ranch Bunch

Kent McInnis, Don Reeves, John Marshall, Leon Nelson, Bill Deupree, Mary Marvel, Cheryl McInnis, Noel Kruger, John & Melvena Heisch, Jerry Burson, Ed Kelsay, Burnis Argo.

WHA IN COLORADO



Buffalo Bill Grave and Museum, left and right, and the Platt Valley Trolley. Photos by Jim Argo.



This coming October 7 through 10, members of WHA will meet in Denver, Colorado. More information on the meeting is available at this website: <http://www.umsl.edu/~wha/> We have many WI members in Colorado who might enjoy attending at least some of the Western History Association gathering. WI has a breakfast each year at WHA where the annual awards are presented and the Fall Board Meeting which is open to all Westerners. This year WI is also hosting a session at WHA. Watch this page next issue for more information and pictures.

Westerners International

c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73111



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