

Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL
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WHA to Meet in Denver



Shown here is a view of downtown Denver where the WHA meeting will be held this coming October. More Denver scenes can be found on Page 8. (Photos by John Argo)

WI Awards Program Update

We at the **Home Ranch** are pleased to announce that this year's awards program was one of the most successful we have ever had. The ballots are coming in from the judges and letters will soon be going out to the winners at the same time the results will be posted on our web site..

Each category had more entries than last year and the most books we have ever had began arriving at the office, beginning in early February. How the judges will ever decide the three book winners is a mystery as they were all of high quality (say the judges) and the ones we have taken home to read so far—very interesting.

Those winners who will not be able to attend the annual breakfast at the WHA meeting in Denver can ask someone they know who will be there to accept the award for them. Otherwise the awards not picked up will be mailed to the winners as soon as they arrive back in Oklahoma City. Last year one corral had the award their member was to receive sent directly to the corral and the award was presented to the winner at a corral meeting. This seemed to be a nice way of doing things as the entire group was then on hand and able to enjoy the good fortune and achievement of one of their fellow corral members.

The **Western History Association** meeting will be held October 7 to 10 in Denver, Colorado. Theme of the 49th annual conference is "**Wired West**" and the conference hotel is the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver. More information about the conference may be found at the WHA web site <http://www.umsl.edu/~wha/>

The WHA meeting each year is important to Westerners for two reasons. First WHA was formed by a group of Westerners in 1961 to provide an academic organization for study of the North American West. Second, it is at this meeting each year when Westerners, many of them members of WHA, can gather for the annual board meeting as well as the Annual Awards Breakfast and book auction.

Time and place for the WI annual board meeting has not yet been announced. The annual awards breakfast, however, will be **Saturday, October 10** at 7 a.m. in the **Long's Peak Room**.

The Phi Alpha Theta Luncheon will be at noon Thursday, October 8, in the Mt. Elbert Room. WI Chairman Kent McInnis will be on hand there to present the WI Scholarship to this year's Phi Alpha Theta member who is the scholarship recipient.

As usual WI will have a booth in the exhibit hall and several members of the Home Ranch Bunch will be on hand to greet any Westerners who happen by to sign the WI guest book and we will be doing out best to make others who stop by who are not members of WI aware of our fine organization.

A Message from our WI President

(Editor's Note: David Carter is quickly becoming one of our most traveled International Presidents. Along with his wife Shirley, he has already paid visits to a number of our Corrals and Posses and the pair plan to visit as many more as time and money permits. This is an account of their latest trip.)

We always begin our trips [starting from **Fort Smith, Arkansas**] at 4 a.m. when the traffic is limited. It seems to stretch out our day this way.

We spent our first night in Albuquerque, on to Flagstaff and south to Phoenix for their corral meeting the next evening.

We talked to **Reba Grandrud**, representative of the **Phoenix Corral**, who had been **International President** in the 1980's. This corral meets in a Marie Callender Restaurant and their sheriff, **Jacque Miller**, uncovered their buffalo skull and everyone said, "Hello, Joe, you old buffalo." The meeting and the food were great but the program was even greater. **Chloe Noble Kavanaugh**, who grew up in Bisbee, delivered her rendition of "Back to Bisbee" with a great amount of enthusiasm, making the evening quite enjoyable. When the meeting was over (as tradition has it) we all said, "Goodbye, Joe, you old buffalo."

We spent the next day in Tombstone (we have been there several times in the past) saw **Ben Traywick**, the town historian, at his shop, "Red Marie." We met Ben and his wife at a N.O.L.A. meeting in Tucson several years ago. Then Shirley wanted to tour "The Birdcage" and the "O.K. Corral" again.

The next evening we attended the **Bisbee Corral**. We had dinner at one restaurant and the meeting was held just down the road at a Senior Citizens' Center. **Sheriff Rebecca Orozco** conducts a well-run meeting and their program was complete with **Thomas P. Stoney sr.**, past president of the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers Inc., giving a very interesting program on the history of the buffalo soldiers. The next day we toured the Buffalo Soldiers Museum at Fort Huachuca. We had planned on attending the **Fort Huachuca Corral** that evening but they have gone into "temporary dry Camp" with many members moving to the **Bisbee Corral**.

We checked into our timeshare in Scottsdale on Saturday and perhaps this is a good place to explain why we can't see every corral. When you look at the Tally Sheet you find that corral and posse meetings are listed along with the times and sometimes places. In some cases they don't meet at all during the summer months. I try to make as many meeting as I can along the way, though. There is no expense account with this job so you can bet it is a complete honor and pleasure to serve as President. [*i.e. He does it for the love of Westerners.*]

Our next corral meeting was at **Tucson** and I contacted "**Rep**" **Jarvis Harriman** and learned that **Ann Worsley** was sheriff in lieu of a **David Carter**, as listed. Jarvis was kind enough to tell me that it was a two hour drive for me to get there from Scottsdale due to extensive construction on the Interstate (completion due 2010).

Roger and Patricia Stephenson were kind enough to invite us to sit at their table. She, too, has served as International President. Roger was very helpful in drawing us a map when exiting the city for a speedier way out of the construction problems. Their program was delivered by **John C. Lacy**, a well-versed attorney, about mining contracts and some of the ways they can be devious. It was quite interesting.

I met several Davids that night. One bore the same last name as mine and another had just returned from a trip to Israel. The temperature was 90 degrees in Tucson and after a tast of Americana in Las Vegas we drove to Denver. In the mountains outside of Denver, the temperature dropped to 28 degrees and it started snowing.

Then on to Lee's Summit, Mo, (Shirley's home town in the Kansas City area) to spend Easter with friends. Cole younger and his brothers are buried in the Lee's Summitt's Historical Cemetery.

We returned home in time to attend our own **Fort Smith Corral** meeting. **Susan Trisler**, wife of our sheriff **Harold Trisler**, gave a program on Western womens' attire during the period from about 1860-1890's right down to the bustles and corsets. In our corral most of the members come in authentic western clothing, right down to "buttons on their pants."

May 1st we attended an authentic church wagon cookout in Oklahoma City sponsored this year by the **Indian Territory Posse** and attended by members of the three Oklahoma groups, the Posse, **Chisholm Trail Corral** and **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral**. Great food (it is to die for) and music. This is an annual event we try never to miss. (See pictures on Page).

On May 7th our Fort Smith sheriff, Harold Tristler, and his son, Sam, gave a program at the Masonic Temple on "Who Killed Deputy Marshall Dan Maples." Dan Maples also was a Mason. His great grand-daughter attended. We are honored that the "Marhsals' Museum" chose Fort Smith as their location.

Riding for the Brand ~ David Carter



It was a cold, rainy May evening when the joint cookout of the Oklahoma Westerners groups was held this year, chasing Westerners and the chuckwagon inside the parking garage at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Pictured left to right in left photo, Kent McInnis, WI Chairman; Trammel Rushing, chuckwagon cook and sheriff of the Chisholm Trail Corral; David Carter, Fort Smith, International President of WI, and Gary Lower, sheriff of the host group, the Indian Territory Posse. Shown below are Burnis Argo, left, and Fred Marvel, right, members of the Chisholm Trail Corral, with David Carter, our traveling WI President. Keep an eye out for him. He may show up at a meeting of your group one day soon. (Photos by Ed Kelsay)

From the Editor

The big project in the Home Ranch office this summer has been completely re-doing our Buckskin Bulletin mailing list. This is not an easy job as we have almost 3900 addresses on it but as the new mailing lists have come in from the corrals and posses, we have been putting them on a new Excel spread sheet, deleting departed members, typing in new addresses for old members and adding new members for each group. We will not be completely finished by this bulletin as we have not yet received all the new mailing lists. We know there will be a few mistakes in what we have already done so please call those to our attention and please make sure your group has sent us an updated mailing list. We have noted several groups have their mailing lists on Excel spread sheets. If so, please send the files to us as an attachment by e-mail. This would be a great time saver and help us to more quickly get and keep our mailing list in good order.

Burnis Argo



CHICAGO CORRAL PUBLISHING AGAIN

Back in print after an absence of seven years is the Chicago Corral's **Brand Book** with Volume 47, Issue 1, rolling off the press this past February. New Editor, **Jackie Wilson**, promises all members will receive all the copies they are entitled to though her biggest difficulty "is locating all the talks after so much time has passed" to reprint in the upcoming Brand Books. This first issue includes past programs "Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys — King of the Merchandisers" and "What Really Happened That Night" the story of the deaths of Ben Thompson and John King Fisher. "Once we are current, there will be a regular printing schedule," says Wilson



Christmas in August?

(A funny thing happened to the last Bulletin of 2008. The type at the top of Page 8 didn't get printed and why we do not know. At least there was nothing on the extra copies that arrived in the WI office after the BB's were mailed so we assume the information wasn't on any of the printed ones. We did notice that the bulletin posted on the WI web page: <http://www.westerners-international.org> included our listing of several corral holiday meetings. We have decided to give those who only read the printed bulletin an opportunity to see the information in case their corral was included.)

Members of the **Pahaska Corral** met for their annual "Book Fandango" December 22. Members brought a wrapped book. Rules for the distribution of the gifts was up to the sheriff.

"History of Civil War Music" was the topic of the December 16 meeting of the **Southwest Vaqueros**. Presenting the program was musician **Hank Harrison**.

Tom Buecker, curator of the Nebraska State Historical Society's Fort Robinson Museum, presented "Christmas at the Fort" for the **Pine Ridge Corral's** December 9 meeting.

"This month we will celebrate an early Christmas with dinner music," read the meeting notice of the **Last Chance Gulch Corral**. Members were asked to bring any musical instruments to display on the table.

"Also, if you or your family have a favorite historical Christmas treasure to share, please bring it."

The program for the December meeting of the **Prescott Corral** included a musical presentation by the Prescott High School Show Time Chorus. A collection was taken up resulting in a donation of \$250 to benefit the music department at the school.

The **Scottsdale Corral** holiday party included good food and the playing of a new Arizona trivia game. Members also brought unwrapped toys to donate to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.

A white elephant gift exchange was held at the December 18 meeting of the **Albuquerque Corral**. The gifts were to be something valued at \$10 and be something fun—a used item from home or a "gag" gift.

Dakota Midlands Corral met December 5 for the annual auction. Members were urged to "clean out your closets, start your ovens and fill your covered wagons with treasures and good food." Money raised is used to help the group "pay the bills and to help others through 2009."

Remember to send in information on your holiday meetings this coming December for the bulletin. Pictures of your special events are also welcome.

Corral Roundup

The **San Diego Corral** meetings are held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the downtown San Diego Library. Speaker for the June meeting was **Horace Dodd**, "our resident bibliophile" as noted by the meeting notice, whose topic was William Tecumseh Sherman who lived in California before and after his stint as a Union General in the Civil War. Title of the talk was "Sherman in Pre-Civil War California."

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"The Muleshoe Cattle Company: Memories of an Arizona Cow Ranch" was the title of the April program of the **Santa Barbara Corral**. Giving the illustrated presentation was **Bob Isaacson** whose grandfather owned the cattle company from 1906 to 1928. The speaker has recently published a book on the ranch. The Isaacson family has owned and used the old Muleshoe Ranch brand for 109 years.

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The **Durango Corral** meets at the historic Strater Hotel. Giving the April program, "Engineers, Artists, Shoshones and the Lander Trail" was given by **Jourdan and Fraser Houston**.

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"Bear River, 1863: The Missing Massacre" was the title of the August program for members of **Utah Westerners**. **Rod Miller** gave the talk about what has been called "the worst Indian massacre in the West" which occurred just north of the border between Utah and Idaho.

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Boulder Corral met in April to hear a talk by **Walter R. Borneman** entitled "James K. Polk and the American West." Said the notice, "Walt will talk about Polk as an overlooked president and his role in acquiring the western United States we know today."

By Richard Dillon

The bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, now fading from memory, spawned a lot of excellent books. One of the best is **Lewis and Clark In the Indian Country**, edited by **Frederick E. Hoxie** and **Jay T. Nelson** for the **University of Illinois Press** (\$70, \$24.85 paperback).

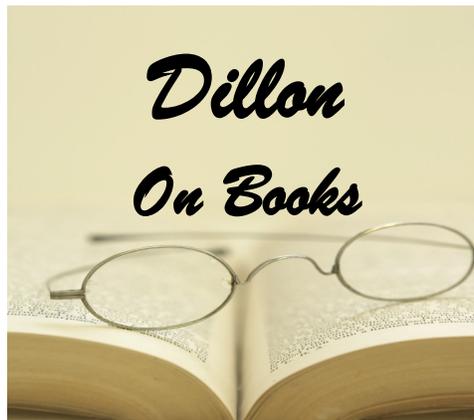
This volume has as its focus the interaction of the Corps of Discovery with Indiana and, especially, the view of the expedition from tribal perspectives instead of the usual other-way-around.

The essays collected here serve to widen our view of Jefferson's enterprise, its long-term impact. The scope of the essays is broad, a mix of contemporary commentary and original Corps documentation.

A particular concern of the collaborators is that the story of the expedition, with its many complex factors, should not be remembered (because of so much popular attention) as just a "mystic odyssey" or, worse, an excuse for "showbiz" historical tourism. Contributors include Native American spokesmen and scholars like **James P. Ronda** and **John C. Ewers**.

Long before globalization sent American jobs offshore, **Joe Rosa** (of London, for Pete's sake!) "stole" Wild Bill Hickok from us. Now, fellow-Briton **Fred Nolan** has done run off with Billy the Kid! Even **Bob Utley** acknowledges that Nolan is the world authority on William H. Bonney.

Nolan's new, and very entertaining, book from the **University of Oklahoma Press** is **The Billy the Kid Reader** (\$29.95). It collects an astonishing number of biographical sketches, both real and humbug, by a surprising variety of writers. First, Nolan takes up Billy the legend; then a



real historical personage.

Walter Noble Burns re-invented the legendary Kid in 1926 after **Emerson Hough** and Billy's cowboy contemporary, **Charley Siringo**, each had a crack at him. (Plus the Kid's nemesis, Pat Garrett, and the latter's ghost writer.) To our surprise, a serious Western author, Harvey Ferguson described the legendary badman in of all unlikely journals, R. L. Mencken's back in 1925.

Among those re-examining Billy as a real person are **Philip Rasch** and **Robert Mullin**. **Paul Hutton** winds up the volume with an overview, trailing the fake Kid through novels and, especially, movies. A bonus for readers is the group of period photographs enhancing the text, many from **Bob McCubbin's** superb collection.

In its consideration of all aspects of a frontier soldier's life in the 19th century west, Jeremy Agnew's book, **Life of a Soldier on the Western Frontier** from **Mountain Press** in Montana (\$16), is encyclopedic, though only a modest-sized volume.

Like the Gilbert and Sullivan "Policemen," the lot of a common soldier on the Western frontier was not a happy one. Agnew breaks down the routine of a typical \$13-a-month private into its categories—his post duties and drills, his food, clothing, off-duty recreation (liquor, cards, women); then

summarizes the small world in which he lived. Here we find the organization of the U.S. Army, in general, and a typical frontier post in particular. There is, for example, a fine chapter on the Army's choice of weapons.

Mostly, a soldier's life was one of hard work and boredom, not the excitement and danger of combat. Pursuits and patrols by cavalry (and slow-moving infantry, even more so) rarely caught up with Indian raiders. A soldier worked seven days a week, often in manual labor, building or maintaining an outpost with awful chow of "salt horse" (salted beef), beans, and coffee. Small wonder that enlisted men looked forward to Indian engagements, if only to break the tedium.

Agnew's interesting survey includes a section on major frontier forts and another on the Army's clashes with hostile Indians, from the Grattan affair (1854) to the Wounded Knee Massacre (1890).

Well done!

Continuing their excellent Kingdom In The West series in Mormon history for the **Arthur H. Clark Company** in Norman, Oklahoma, **David Bigler** and **Will Bagley** have joined forces again to collect more documents on one of the Old West's worst atrocities. They have titled their volume **Innocent Blood** and subtitled it "Essential Narratives of the Mountain Meadows Massacre," (\$45).

The Mormon Church did a marvelous job of covering up the details of the 1857 butchery of peaceful emigrants at Mountain Meadows, even after sacrificing a "fall guy," John D. Lee, in 1877. He was guilty enough, but did not run a one-man massacre.

A fanatical unit of the Mormon militia initiated the attack, goading local Peiute Indians into joining them; then blaming the Indians for the affair,

(Continued on Page 7)

Living Legend Nominations Needed

In the fall of 1970 a series of articles honoring our "Living Legends" was initiated. A "Living Legend" is a Westerner his or her corral or posse feel is worthy of special recognition because of the work they do for Westerners, their community or other organizations and/or who are accomplished as writers or artists. If there is such a person in your group please don't keep it a secret. Round up a photo or two and have someone write an article listing the accomplishments of your special Westerner. Many of these people have led such full, busy and eventful lives it is often difficult to tell even half you know about them or feel is important but don't worry too much about the length. Some articles have been short and some long.

Through the years we have honored 49 "Living Legends." We have not had one called to our attention in awhile so it is time to revive this series.

Here is a list of past Legends:

1. **John G. Neihardt**—1970
2. **Arthur Woodward**—1971, Los Angeles Corral
3. **Peter Decker**—1971, New York Corral
4. **George B. Eckhardt**—1972, Tucson Corral
5. **Don Russell**—1972, Chicago Corral
6. **Dr. Nolie Mumey**—1973, Denver Posse
7. **John Francis McDermott**—1973, St. Louis Corral
8. **Fred Hackett**—1974, Chicago Corral
9. **Frank Thompson**—1974, Black Hills Corral
10. **Iron Eyes Cody**—1974, Los Angeles Corral
11. **Richard Coke Wood**—1975, Stockton Corral
12. **Nellie Snyder Yost**—1975, Buffalo Bill Corral
13. **Joseph Rosa**—1977, English Westerners Society
14. **George Virgines**—1978, Chicago Corral
15. **Charlie Evans**—1978, Buffalo Bill Corral
16. **Jerome Peltier**—1978, Spokane Corral
17. **John R. Bethke**—1979, Chicago Corral
18. **Gerald F. McMullen**—1979, San Diego Corral
19. **Ernest Lisle Reedstrom**—1980, Chicago Corral
20. **Donald E. Worcester**—1980, Fort Worth Corral
21. **Harold Shunk**—1981, Black Hills Corral
22. **Father Peter J. Powell**—1981, Chicago Corral
23. **Harry Blair**—1982, Black Hills Corral
24. **C.L. Sonnichsen**—1983, El Paso & Tucson Corral
25. **Dick Dunlop**—1983, Chicago Corral
26. **Donald R. Ornduff**—1984, Kansas City Posse
27. **Leland D. Case**—1985, Tucson, Stockton, Chicago Corral
28. **Otis Holden Chidester**—1988, Tucson Corral
29. **Jeff Dykes**—1989, Potomac Corral
30. **Harrison Doyle**—1991, San Diego Corral
31. **Merrill J. Mattes**—1992, Chicago, Omaha, San Francisco Corral; Denver Posse
32. **Bob Lee**—1993, Black Hills Corral
33. **Jim Murphy**—1994, Tucson Corral
34. **Al Shumate**—1997, San Francisco Corral
35. **Ormy Gumfudgin**—1997, Los Angeles Corral
36. **Jose Cisneros**—1988, El Paso Corral
37. **John Willard**—1998, Yellowstone Corral
38. **Wallace E. Clayton**—1998, Tucson Corral
39. **Randall Jackson**—1999, Spokane Corral
40. **David Dary**—1999, Chisholm Trail Corral
41. **Albert William Bork**—2001, Prescott Corral
42. **John Marohn**—2001, Tucson Corral
43. **Bob Utley**—2001, Yale Corral
44. **Alvin Glenn Davis**—2002, Llano Estacado Corral
45. **Joe Simon Sando**—2002, Albuquerque Corral
46. **Richard Dillon**—2003, San Francisco Corral
47. **Glen Dawson**—2003, Los Angeles Corral
48. **William Gardner Bell**—2003, Potomac Corral
49. **Bruce Fee**—2007, Prescott Corral

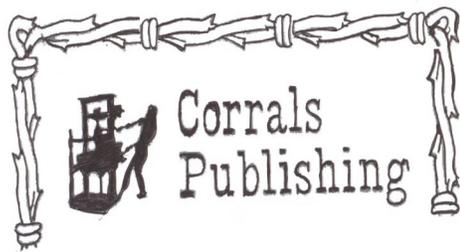
(Ladies! Did you notice how many female Westerners were on this list?)

Photos Wanted For Bulletin

We like to use photographs in the *Buckskin Bulletin* of Corral/Posse activities to liven up the publication. So don't hesitate to send photos of your special programs, yearly cook-out or picnic, road trips, holiday parties. anything you think might be of interest to other Westerners. is what we would like to see. Do you have a special corral anniversary coming up? Gather your past sheriffs together for a group photo. Does your group give a scholarship? Send us a picture of the presentation, along with pertinent information about the winner.

Be sure to include the names of those in the photos and the name of the photographer. Send to:

Editor, Westerners International, c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63 Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.



Dillon on Books

DENVER POSSE

The May/June issue of **The Roundup**, publication of the Denver Westerners, features a written account of the program presented at the group's December 17 meeting. Speaker **John W. Suthers** is currently the 37th Attorney General of Colorado. The topic of his talk was "The History of the Colorado Attorney General's Office." Because of his interest in history, especially that of Colorado, Suthers has helped produce a history of each public office he has held during his career.

LOS ANGELES CORRAL

Corral member **John W. Robinson** has prepared an interesting article tracing the literary "mentions" of the San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California. Robinson lists many of the stories, books (both fiction and non-fiction), newspaper articles, diary and journal entries, songs, poems and magazine articles which have given a picture of this scenic area and lured visitors to come and see for themselves.

Also in the Spring, 2009, **Branding Iron** is an article by **Donald Duke** about another California tourist attraction from 1880 to mid-930s—ostrich farms.

SPOKANE CORRAL

The Pacific Northwesterner April, 2009, issue features an excellent guide to many of the "historical monuments, markers and points of interest" in the Spokane area. Author **Dick Jensen** not only groups these according to location but includes maps showing the locations, full information about each and in many cases, pictures. This well-done publication is sure to have a place of honor on local Westerners bookshelves.

The saints lured 120 Gentiles (non-Mormons) into surrendering their arms, then killed them all except for children under six years of age. The murders believed them to be too young to remember the horrors of Mountain Meadows and, someday, perhaps offer testimony.

The militiamen were motivated by a desire for revenge, for the murder of their Apostle, Parley Pratt, and the earlier killing of LDS founder Joseph Smith. Their bloody reaction was a part of the Church's doctrine of blood atonement.

These documents should dispel, forever, the myth that the Paiutes were solely guilty, and that Brigham Young was entirely innocent. Bigler and Bagley collect Church accounts, newspaper stories, Indian testimony and even the few memories of the spared Gentile children. And they carry the story all the way up to the execution of John D. Lee.

Leonard Arrington, amiable, jovial, was such a gentleman that it is hard to criticize him as a historian. But **Gary topping** does so in the first geography of the Latter Day Saints historian, **Leonard J. Arrington: A Historian's Life**, from the **Arthur H. Clark Company** (\$39.95).

Topping's life of Arrington is critical, but objective; the story of an Idaho farm boy who worked hard to better himself and ended up as the leading historian of the LDS Church and the founder of the Mormon Historical Society.

More liberal and intellectual than almost all Mormons of his day, Arrington saw his book **Great Basin Kingdom** become a regional classic. But some of his subsequent books were flawed, superficial. Some were commissioned Mormon biographies; one was a contract business history.

Also, like H.H. Bancroft and too many profs, Arrington placed his name on the title pages and

spines of books largely written by his assistants. (When he admittedly co-wrote books they were of higher caliber.) And Arrington still held back from calling a spade a spade in the darker segments of Mormon history, like the massacre at Mountain Meadows.

However, we should remember and honor Leonard Arrington for his efforts to open up the Church's archives to researching historians (even Gentiles). It was not easy. It took years of Church "diplomacy," and victory was, alas, only temporary. Eventually church conservatives got him replaced as Church Historian and, more or less, banished him to Brigham Young University, to end his liberating experiment as an archivist.

A companion volume, also from the Clark Co., is **Reflections of a Mormon Historian: Leonard J. Arrington on the New Mormon History** (\$36.95), edited by **Reid L. Nelson & Ronald W. Walker**.

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

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WI Home Ranch Bunch

Kent McInnis, David Carter,
Don Reeves, John Marshall,
Leon Nelson, Bill Deupree,
Mary Marvel, Cheryl McInnis,
Noel Kruger, Shirley Carter,
Fred Marvel, Jim Argo, John &
Melvena Heisch, Dennis & Sandra Noble, Jerry Burson, Ed Kelsay, Burnis Argo.

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Look for These Sights in Denver Story p. 1



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