

Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLVI

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL

Summer Issue 2013

www.westerners-international.org
Check here to read the Bulletin on-line

Or in Your Photograph Album

What's in Your Backyard?

Westerners enjoy going to see historic places. At least this seems so judging by reading the meeting notices which come to our office telling of field trips by our WI corrals and posses taken to nearby places—or in the case of the **Utah Corral**, further afield.

And then there are family trips we take, often visiting favorites more than once and taking friends and family to experience a place we liked.

One of the places your ed-

itor and her family have visited many times is **Bandelier National Monument** near Los Alamos, New Mexico. We were reminded of it recently when our oldest son and his family returned from a **New Mexico** vacation with photographs. One looked familiar. It was of their son climbing a ladder at Bandelier. Didn't we have a similar photo in an album some-

where? Of course we did. It was of his father also climbing a ladder at Bandelier only several years ago.

If you have never visited this area of New Mexico, or the town of **Los Alamos** in the beautiful **Jemez Mountains** just west of Santa Fe, it should be on a list of things to see.

Says Wikipedia: Bandelier is a 33,677-acre National Monument preserving the homes and territory of the Ancestral Pueblo People. Most of the pueblo structures date to two eras, in total from 1150 to 1600 CE.

The bulk of the area to visit is in Frijoles Canyon and be aware that in certain times of the year entrance is by shuttle bus only so this is certainly a spot you will want to check out on computer ahead of time. Just go to **google.com** and type in Bandelier National Monument.

For those who like to hike there are several trails to follow and the Visitor's Center provides plenty of information on the area and what

(Continued on Page 3)



Jimmy Argo at Bandelier in 1979. left. His son, Jameson, photographed recently, 34 years later.

From the WI Chairman: *Kent McInnis*

With Westerners International's annual award winners announcement this month, I have some questions.

We all know that we yearly compete for the **Co-Founders Best Book** award, but do we know who the "Co-Founders" are? They are Leland D. Case and Elmo Scott Watson but who were they?

How about the award for best published monograph or article? Who was "**Coke**" **Wood**, for whom this award was named? Why is the award for the best program presented named for **Philip A. Danielson**? And what's with this guy **Fred Olds** whose name is on the best poetry award?

Your chairman was only lucky enough to know Fred Olds, but he feels duty bound to learn more about all the above-named Westerners.

This year we committed to communicate better with our membership. It's good to remember the past but vital to interact in the present. Interaction and communication require both a listener and a speaker. More importantly this requires the interaction to go both ways.

The point? I want to read articles written by Westerners who knew or know about **Leland C. Case, Elmo Scot Watson, "Coke" Wood, Philip Danielson and Fred Olds**. I want more firsthand information about them from you. And when you are through reading this write a letter or two in response. I find nothing more enlightening than learning about people from more than one perspective. Let the discussion begin.

Kent McInnis

From the Editor: ~ *Burnis Argo*

Pictures Pictures Pictures

We are wanting lots of them—or at least enough to add some interest to our bulletin and the WI Extra which is an on-line only picture page we are doing each time.

Take your cameras to your meetings, to your barbecue, on your field trips. Send us a picture of your speaker or some of the members touring an interesting place.

Attn: Overseas Corrals

One of the most popular things we do in the bulletin is run pictures of your activities but we haven't had any such pictures to run of late.

Hints for Your Pictures

The more colorful the bet-

ter. We are looking into doing at least part of each mail-out bulletin in color instead of just the on-line edition in color.

You can put them on a cd and mail them in or have them printed (a 4 x 6 print will do) and then mail them in or you can send them by computer. Be sure and include the names of the people in the photographs and give a little information about what is happening and where it is happening. Also give the name of the photographer/s so proper credit can be given.

The picture at right was taken in the entrance hall of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The Statue, of course, is "End of the Trail".



Mary Marvel has stepped up from assistant WI Treasurer to Treasurer as John Marshall, present Treasurer, has retired from the job. He will be staying on the board as an adviser. (Photo by Cheryl McInnis)



Park visitor Katy Argo takes a peek inside one of the cliff dwellings at Bandelier National Monument. (Photo by Jim H. Argo)

WI Session Planned at WHA

The 53rd Annual Conference of the **Western History Association** will be October 9 through 12 at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, **Tucson, Arizona**.

In addition to having a booth, a board meeting and an awards ceremony at the meeting, this year **Westerners International** is sponsoring a session. It will be presented Saturday, October 12, from 10:30 a.m. until noon in the Primrose Room.

Title of the conference is "Vital Signs: Earth, Power, Lives." The session is "**The Spanish Language and Chicano Education since World War II**." Chair will be **John R. Chavez**, Southern Methodist University. Presenting papers will be **Maritza De La Trinidad**, University of Texas, Pan

American; **Rosina Lozano**, Princeton University and **William Robbins**, Oregon State University. In charge of comments will be **Geraldo Cadava**, Northwestern University.

WI members who will be attending the conference are urged to show support by attending the session.

New this year will be a **reception** from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 10, in the Indigo Room. There will be a cash bar. It has been voted to eliminate the Breakfast usually held and instead present the awards and conduct the annual book auction at the reception.

The annual **Fall Board Meeting**, open to all WI members, will precede the Reception, Thursday in the Indigo Room, 3 until 4 p.m.

What's in Your Backyard?

(Continued from Page 1)
to see.

What did the young Argos enjoy the most at Bandelier? The ladders, of course, for the 8-year-old. His sister Katy, 15 and a tall basketball player, was shocked to discover how short people were in the days of the Pueblo Indians. Claire, the 13-year-old, who is artistic, was surprised that the pictographs left so many hundreds of years ago were still in such good shape, especially the colors.

Now the point of this little personal story is to **prime the pump**, so to speak, and get other Westerners to share some of their favorite spots—be they museums, forts, old buildings, old towns, other National Parks or Monuments, a scenic road, anyplace that might be of interest to others.

Share your photos and tell us something about your favorite place. Be sure and tell us who took the photographs, tell us what you like about the place, why you think it is special.

If your corral or posse goes on an outing, long or short, take a camera along and get several pictures. You can mail them in or e-mail: **wihomeranch@gmail.com**

We especially like pictures of the activities of our member groups so don't hesitate to share.

Western Days Draws New Mexico Corral

Members of the **Central New Mexico Corral** participated in the Western Days sponsored by the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, held July 6 on the Old Town Plaza.

Sheriff **Baldwin G. Burr** gave a presentation on "Billy the Kid and the Movies." Western Music Association award winner **Jim Jones** sang traditional and contemporary cowboy songs. and **Frank and Judy Love**, with the Leather Guild, exhibited their leather art.

Overall event coordination was provided by Western Music Association local chapter president **Joe Brown** assisted by Jones.

Pahaska Corral Sets New Policy

Pahaska Corral, located in Cody, Wyoming, has come up with a new policy, to honor and in honor of member **Adelyn Fraley**.

Now that Adelyn has reached the golden age of 100 years, the corral is bestowing on her, and all future centenarian members, a lifetime membership.

Congratulations to her and may she enjoy this honor for years to come!

Do we have other centenarian members? If so, let us know.



Central New Mexico Corral sheriff, Baldwin G. Burr, explains to the audience how the depiction of the "legendary" Billy the Kid in various motion pictures changed according to the times in which the movie was made. (Photo by Frank Love)

Website Wanderings

Many of our corrals and posses have web pages. They are well done, informative and interesting to read. A person can find out a lot of the history of Westerners by reading them. Please give them a look. You can type in the "addresses" as listed below or go to the Westerners International web site, listed on the first page of this bulletin, click on Corrals and Posses and then click on one of the corrals listed on the right of the page.

Chicago Corral

<http://www.chicagowesterners.org/>

Los Angeles Corral

<http://www.lawesterners.org/>

Powder River Corral

<http://www.bighornweb.com/westerners/index.htm>

Kansas Corral

<http://kansascorralofwesterners.weebly.com/>

Utah Westerners

<http://utahwesterners.wordpress.com/>

Denver Posse

<http://denver-westeners.org/>

This is just a sampling to get you started. We have 14 listed on the WI Web Page. If your corral has a page and it is not noted there, please let us know.

You don't have a computer? Most libraries have computers for people to use. They will be happy to help you.

By Richard Dillon

The Texas that Might Have Been (\$29.98) from **Texas A&M Press**, is subtitled "Sam Houston's Foes Write to Albert Sidney Johnston." It is composed of the correspondence collected by Texas historian **Margaret Swett Henson** and now edited by **Donald W. Willett**.

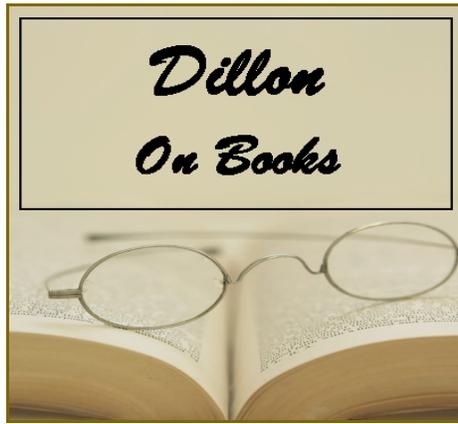
Sam Houston, although pretty much the Father of Texas, was not universally loved. In fact, his enemies list would approximate the size of the Dallas phone book. The letters here are from critics who suggest how different the Republic and state might have evolved had their harsh views prevailed.

The letters give us an up-close look at the controversies that divided Texas in its infancy, as well as information on customs (dueling), health and medicine (yellow fever) and the Texas Rangers (John Coffee Hays).

There is much here on patronage and politics, and the Republic's insolvency. But there is spirited opinion on annexation by the U.S.; land speculation and Houston's secret attempt to destroy the Texas Navy and one of his enemies, Commodore E.W. Moore, one of the Lone Star State's neglected heroes.



Louisiana is one of those states, like Arkansas and Missouri, that is not quite part of the West because of its strong Southern roots. Nevertheless, its history is well worth study by Westerners as a sort of transition to that of the "real" Southwest. **Charles M. Robinson III** has written **Roadside History of Louisiana** (\$20) for the **Mountain Press**. And there is much more here than an extension of the rich lore of New Orleans and its Cajun neighbors.



Shreveport evokes the memory of Captain Henry Miller Shreve, who finally cleared the worst of the nation's river "rafts" (log jam) barring navigation, the Great Raft of the Red River. Natchitoches, also on the Red River, was a gateway for Americans to the Republic of Texas, via Fort Jesup, Louisiana, and Nacogdoches, Texas. From Jim Bowie's Opelousas, cattle drives were made to markets long before the Chisholm Trail. And Union forces invading Texas in the Civil War were turned back in dogged fighting in the Louisiana bayous.



Beyond the Missouri (\$39.95/\$29.95) **University of New Mexico Press** is **Richard Etulain's** narrative history of the entire American West, jammed into just 466 pages. Etulain brings new scholarly research into his overview of the West from prehistoric times to just about a minute ago, and from the Dakotas and Texas to California's Pacific shore. He does so in a readable style without footnotes to interrupt our reading.

Etulain summarizes the differences between Indian tribes for those of us so lazy that we lump them. He reviews Indian-White relations and regional sub-cultures of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The author strikes a laudable middle road between the old, and too comfortable, Frederick Jackson Turner school of historian and the wide-eyed (and mouthed) self-styled New Historians. He is wary of the triumphalism of the former and the accent upon the negative of the latter.

(Editor's Note: We thank our friend and fellow Westerner, Dick Dillon, for his work and time spent on these always interesting book reviews.)

2012 WI Award Winners

Co-Founders Best Book Award

1st Place: John Boessenecker, San Francisco Corral
*When Law Was in the Holster:
The Frontier Life of Bob Paul*
University of Oklahoma Press

2nd Place: Charles H. Herner, Adobe Corral
Alexander O. Brodie: Frontiersman, Rough Rider, Governor
TCU Press

3rd Place: James E. Potter, Pine Ridge Corral
*Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the
Civil War, 1861 - 1867*
University of Nebraska Press

Coke Wood Award for Monographs and Articles

1st Place: James E. Potter, Pine Ridge Corral
2nd Place: Richard H. Dillon, San Francisco Corral
3rd Place: Charlotte Hinger, Fort Collins Corral

Philip A. Danielson Award for Best Programs

1st Place: Dr. Jeff Broome, Denver Posse
2nd Place (tie): Abraham Hoffman, Los Angeles Corral
2nd Place (tie): Phil Brigandi, Los Angeles Corral

Fred Olds Western Poetry Award

1st Place: Tim Heflin, Los Angeles Corral
2nd Place: Jerry Selmer, Los Angeles Corral

Heads Up Award

Corrals Organized Prior to 1973
Los Angeles Corral, Los Angeles, California
Joseph Cavallo, Sheriff

Corrals Organized 1973 and Later

Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck, North Dakota
Mike Knudson, Sheriff

Overseas Corrals

Linz Corral, Linz, Austria
Hans Jorg Ratzenboeck, Sheriff

WI Scholarship

Best Doctoral Dissertation in Western U. S. History
by a graduate student member of Phi Alpha Theta
John M. Rhea, PhD
University of Oklahoma

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Kansas Corral Sees the State

The **Kansas Corral** has members all over the state so this is a group that travels the state so all can attend at least some of the meetings. They visit many very interesting historic sites during their travels.

In April the group was in Osborne County, northcentral Kansas, to visit the site of the 1936 "nonfiction novel" by John Ise, Sod and Stubble. The book is based on "adventures and adversities" of early homesteaders of Osborne County.

The group traveled to Atchison, Kansas, in August to visit the Amelia Earhart birthplace museum (and other local sites) and to ponder a mystery.

Explained sheriff **Ann Birney**, "At the July Amelia Earhart Festival, two people, one from the Ukraine and one from New Jersey, became convinced that Amelia and perhaps her daughter are buried in a crypt in the basement of the birthplace.

"They didn't have to push me much to convince me to look at the basement with new eyes and think about what they were saying"

She is hoping someone with historic preservation experience can analyze the beams and supports in the basement at some time and invited the group to see if "the hair stands up on your arms as you descend the stairs to the basement."

Summer is Time for Special Events

With the arrival of spring and summer many Westerners groups begin thinking "outside the box," so to speak and organize a meeting or two away from their usual gathering place.

The **British Westerners** held 3 Roundups/camps this summer, April, June and end of August/early September.

"Yup. It's time again to say howdy to springtime and the year of our 40th Anniversary. See if those clothes still fit, get your rigs cleaned and ladies get all you new spring outfits ready for show." said the Spring Newsletter.

>>>>>

The **Chisholm Trail Corral**, Oklahoma City, held the annual Chuckwagon Cookout at the country home of **Will and Vi Jones** May 17. As usual, members Trammel and Susan Rushing, chuckwagon cooks extraordinaire, brought along their authentic chuckwagon and cooked the meal.

It was the heart of tornado season in Oklahoma but the weather did cooperate.

>>>>>

The **Utah Westerners** took the longest trip, from Salt Lake City to Utah's Canyon Country, May 31-June 2. Among the extras offered on the trip were a Jeep Safari and a River Trip.

>>>>>

John G. Neihardt Corral, Columbia, Missouri, gathered for the annual Spring Buffalo Barbecue June 11 at the home of **Jim and Phyllis Boillot**. Members were asked to bring a covered dish (and their own chair, folding table or card-table to avoid having to sit on the floor). Buffalo-burgers, buns and fixings provided.

"Be sure to call **Billye Adams** and tell her you are coming. We have to know how many buffalo to run over the cliff," said the notice.

>>>>>

Members of the **Pine Ridge Corral**, Chadron, Nebraska, held a potluck picnic on the grounds of the courthouse park, meat and drink provided. Following lunch the group toured the Charles F. Coffee house as well as other houses connected with the prominent Coffee family of Chadron.

>>>>>

Los Angeles Corral members boarded the Overland Trail car of the Vino Train for a ride from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara July 13. A historic narrative was provided by the owner of the 1949 lounge car.

Upon arrival in Santa Barbara the group was escorted on a tour of local wine

tasting rooms. On the return trip the group enjoyed the sunset over the Pacific as well as a special dinner.

>>>>>

August 7 the **San Dimas Corral** held its annual Fandango at the historic Pomona Ebell Museum of History. Joining them were members of the Old Spanish Trail Association.

>>>>>

Denver Posse Rendezvous was held at the Forney Museum of Transportation August 24.

Program was given by storyteller Steven R. Lee, in a living history presentation of Otto Mears, the Pathfinder of the San Juan Mountains.

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Omaha Corral Shares Good News

In the last bulletin we asked for input regarding things WI Corrals and Posses might do to revitalize and grow. Sheriff **Jeff Barnes** of the **Omaha Corral** wrote to let us in on the success his group has experienced.

"We did a survey of our members last year, asking a wide variety of questions on meeting locations, programs and other things to get membership input," he said.

"With the results, we changed locations, found programs to the liking of the membership and have seen a noticeable increase in attendance, going from a low

of 35 last year to a high of 80 this year," he added.

"While our membership has increased and former as well as present members started coming to the meetings we haven't solved the problem of getting younger members yet—but we are working on it," he added.

So there is one suggestion for others to try. "Give the people what they want" is always a good idea and you don't know what they want until you ask.

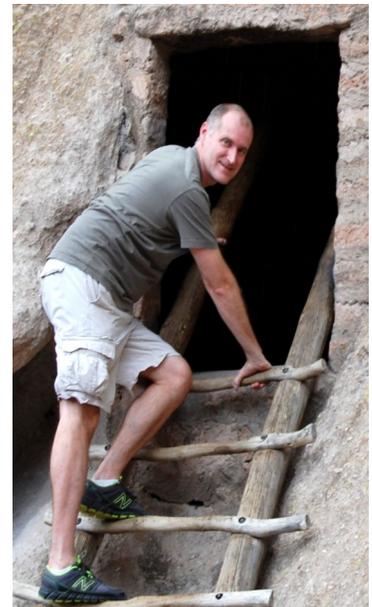
It certainly seems to have worked for this Corral. We wish them more good luck.

Thank you for sharing!

Museum Happenings

In honor of the 100th birthday of Oklahoma Native Son **Alan Houser**, museums across the state will be honoring his memory with exhibitions—each on a different subject.

The **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Center**, home of Westerners International, will present a look at him as teacher and mentor. Works by Houser (1914-1994) in the permanent collection of the museum, as well as those of many of his students, will be displayed from August 30, 2013, through May 11, 2014



(Photo by Claire Argo)



VIEWS OF BANDELIER
Top photo, visitors walk one of the upper trails in Frijoles Canyon. Argo family, middle left, Claire, Stephanie, Katy and Jameson, outside one of the caves. Jim H. Argo, above, visits one of the upper rooms on the cliff face. Many of the lower trails give a good view of the cliff caves and rooms.