

# Buckskin Bulletin

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## What's in Your Backyard?

# Corral Visits Camp Crittenden

By Doug Hocking

On October 12, 2013, the **Bisbee Corral** journeyed out to Camp Crittenden which was built in March of 1868 and closed in June of 1873 after Cochise and the Chiricahua Apache were confined to a reservation that included most of what is now Cochise County, Arizona.

The camp was strategically located at the headwaters of Sonoita Creek and near those of Cienega Creek, the Babocomari River and the Santa Cruz River. It blocked an important raiding corridor for Pinal and Coyotero Apaches into southern Arizona and Sonora. Half a mile away lie the barely detectible remains of Fort Buchanan, 1856 to 1861, which shared the same mission.

The Bascom Affair, often credited with launching the Chiricahua Wars in 1861, began when Apache raiders stole a boy and a herd of cattle from Sononita Valley Rancher Johnny Ward. Lt. George Bascom, commander of Co. C 7th Infantry, at Buchanan, took his company

and most of Co. H. 7th Infantry, to confront Cochise at Apache Pass. A few months later the post was closed as soldiers were recalled to the Rio Grande to face invading Confederates.

Lt. Howard Cushing passed through Crittenden in May, 1871, on a long scout against Apaches. He returned to the post a few days later feet first after having met Apache war leader, Juh, in desperate combat near the Whetstone Mountains a few miles away. In August 1872, Lt. Reid Stewart took the mail and an escort toward Tucson. The wagon was far ahead of the escort party when the Lieutenant and his driver encountered Apaches. Neither survived and the mail did

not get through.

Today shoulder-high mounds conceal the melting adobe walls of two company barracks, a cook shack, "suds row," officers' quarters and post headquarters. The ruins are spread over a large area 500 yards in length. Broken bottles and tin cans

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**Doug Hocking, left, and Steve Anderson talk over Camp Crittenden and what remains of it. (Picture provided)**

# From the Chairman:

Last year at our full board meeting in **Denver**, we voted to suspend our traditional **Westerners Breakfast**. In its place we scheduled an afternoon reception to present our awards and conduct our book auction when we met in **Tucson, Arizona** at the 2013 **Western History Association** conference.

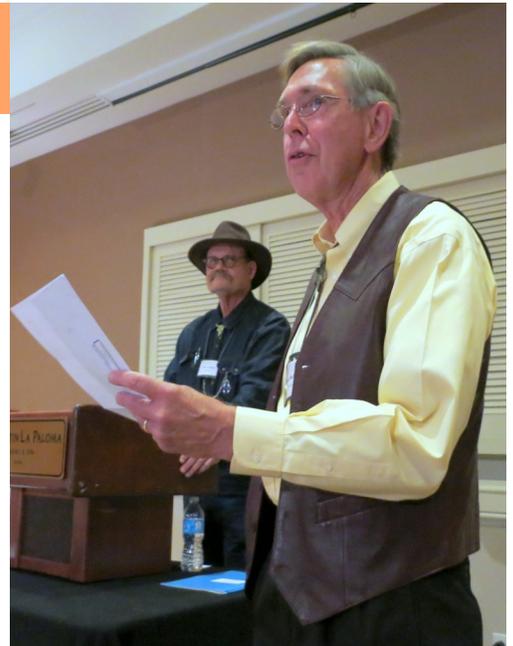
This year I arrived the day of the full board meeting, which was also the day of the first annual reception, awards presentation, and book auction. Our WI president, **Rodney Goddard**, greeted me with reports of numerous disgruntled Westerners protesting this departure from tradition. Immediately, I asked Rodney if he had asked the protestors if they had attended last year's breakfast? He had not. Perhaps that is just as well. Two years ago at the WHA conference in **Oakland, California**, the breakfast attendance was 19. I remember my first Westerners Breakfast years ago in **Fort Worth**. The room was packed with over 100 attendees.

Times have obviously changed. This year attendance was an even 40 Westerners, which is the first increase in attendance in many years. Our best guess is that compared to last year the increased attendance was around 50%. Much to my surprise many of our earlier detractors enthusiastically changed their opinions. Although history is immutable, the present affords us the luxury of adaptation. The fact was that an early morning breakfast, scheduled on the last day of the conference was no longer a good idea. The shift to an

afternoon **Reception** was a risk. **The Home Ranch** feels we succeeded.

There were several reasons the change was a good idea. First, there is no longer that urgency to finish in 60 minutes. We still will keep the formalities to an hour, but no longer do we see attendees leaving in haste to get to the next session. As a result, people stayed overtime and talked to one another. They would not leave. What a change! Second, there are only so many "morning people." I am one myself, but that did not make it easy to boost our numbers. Third, the breakfast was getting very expensive. This time for \$10 we shared light *hors d'oeuvres* at a less frantic pace. Last, for Westerners who wished to participate in all of our activities, we conducted them (**board meeting, reception, and Westerners Session**) on the same day. In the future, costs for coming for one day only should be much less expensive.

Change can be upsetting, but we found out that it can also be satisfying to all concerned. What started as an experiment born from observation is now confirmation of the merits of taking risks occasionally. I expect next year's reception, awards presentation, and book auction will see further growth in participants. And that will help grow our membership strength and organizational reputation for years to come.



WI President Rodney Goddard, left, and Executive Board Chairman Kent McInnis conduct the awards presentation at the reception held during the WHA meeting in Tucson. More photos on page 4 and the WI Extra pages on the WI web site. (Photo by Cheryl McInnis)

# From the Editor

Thank you to all who have taken the time to write or call about the bulletin and especially to those who have sent items of interest to be included in an issue. With the addition of the **WI Extra** pages to each issue as it is posted to our web site we now have more room to share pictures and information which are of interest to our members. If you haven't seen them, go to the web address listed on the top of page 1.

In this issue **Doug Hocking, Bisbee Corral, Reba Grandrud, Phoenix & Scottsdale Corrals** and **Shabby Lee, Black Hills Corral** all shared with us.

We are also pleased to tell you that Doug Hocking has agreed to join the **WI Board of Directors**. Welcome, Doug.



## What's In Your Backyard?

# Visit Spirit Mound in South Dakota

*(Editor's Note: Westerner Shebby Lee, member of the Black Hills Corral, has a big backyard available to her because she owns a travel agency in Rapid City, SD. Here she shares a favorite spot in her home state.)*

### **By Shebby Lee**

Spirit Mound, a historic site on the Lewis & Clark Trail, rises a mere 100 feet above the surrounding prairie in southeastern South

Dakota. It is a gentle slope with a well-marked trail and can be hiked in less than an hour. The site is very remote and even today lacks the usual amenities of a state park. When I first saw it as a student at the nearby University of South Dakota, it was private agricultural land including a truly gross cattle feedlot at the base.

There also were a one-story ranch-style home, gates and fences staking the owner's claim to the property. Locals knew of its historic significance, but before the impetus of the Bicentennial, there was little hope that it could ever be protected.

Today, thanks to funding and interest generated by the Bicentennial Commemoration, the house and feedlot are gone and it is a South Dakota State Park. A modest kiosk and occasional interpretive signs along the trail explain its significance and an enthusiastic volunteer organization has returned the mound and its sur-

rounding prairie to something the men of the Corps would surely recognize.

Lewis & Clark's experience on this hill was far different from that of the modern-day visitor. On August 25, 1804, eleven of the men climbed the five-story high hill to check out the rumors that it was inhabited by fierce spirit people 19 inches tall with large heads and "arrows with which they can kill at a great distance." They saw no men of that description but were greatly fatigued after detouring eight miles from the Missouri River on a very hot summer day. In fact, it was so hot that they sent Lewis's dog, Seaman, back to the keelboat. They also had no groomed path designating the easiest course to the top.

From an exploration standpoint their adventure was disappointing. Nothing to report, another day wasted with winter coming on, and still 682 river miles to go before reaching their hoped-for wintering spot at the Mandan Villages.

The mound, created by a Wisconsin glacier and still held sacred by the natives, is now accessible even to invalids and aging Boomers with bad knees. There is no admission fee.

Happy Trails!

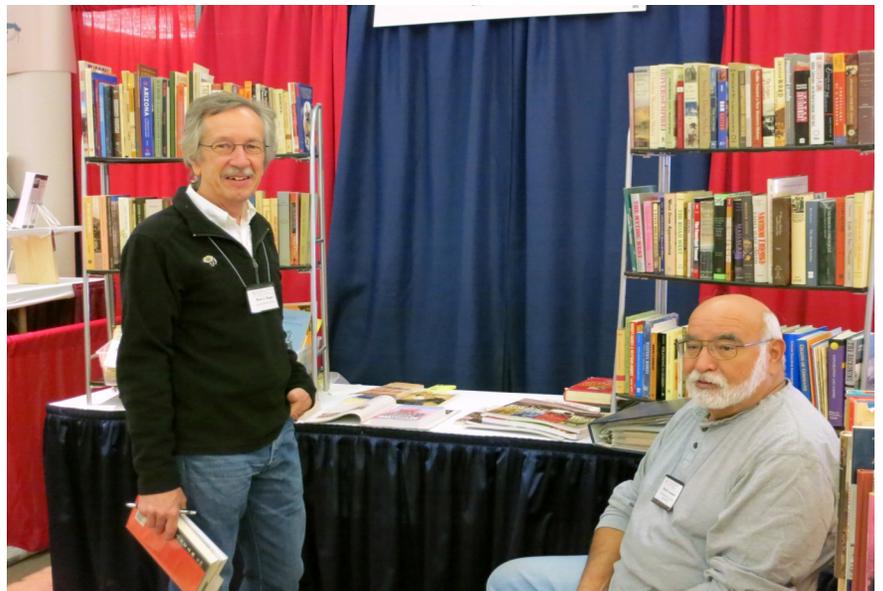


*A group returns from visiting Spirit Mound. Photo provided by Shebby Lee.*

# WI Scenes from WHA



Clockwise from upper left, Judy Austin, Phi Alpha Theta representative, and this year's WI Scholarship winner, John M. Rhea. Upper right, Cheryl McInnis and Patsy Goddard inspect an Old Joe Bola at the WI Booth. Below, Past President of WI, Bruce Dingus, left, and Alfredo Gonzales at a Publisher Booth. Lower left, William Barr fills out a silent auction bid form at the WI Reception, book auction and awards presentation. Left, Kent McInnis and Shannon D. Smith in the Exhibition Hall.



Photos by Cheryl & Kent McInnis

**By Richard Dillon**

It is a cliché, but it is also a truism, that the Mexican War was a preparation for the Civil War in terms of the officers of importance. **Martin Dugard's** volume, **The Training Ground** (\$22.95), a **Bison Book** from the **University of Nebraska Press**, reiterates this fact. Dugard's subtitle is "Grant, Lee, Sherman and Davis in the Mexican War."

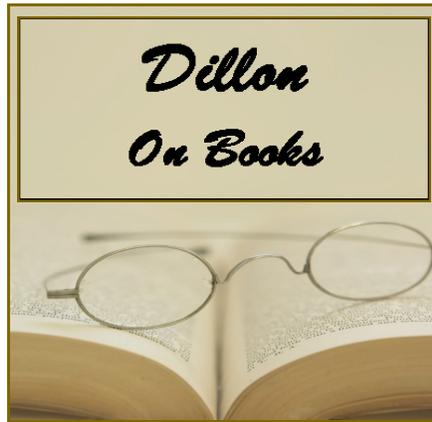
The Mexican War was no push-over. The Mexican Army, especially its cavalry—lancers—made for hard-fought campaigns; excellent training for West Pointers U.S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, W. T. Sherman and even Confederate President Jeff Davis. All were first-class subordinates of Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, who directed Army operations.

Dugard's narrative is an excellent account of the bitter enemies of 1861 fighting, side by side, in Mexico in 1846. The author does not ignore lesser officers, some good, some bad. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson was excellent, whereas Braxton Bragg, an artillery master in Mexico, was a great disappointment in the War Between the States. So also was David E. Twiggs, the turncoat who surrendered Federal forts in Texas to the Rebels.



When this reviewer taught, long ago, at the University of Hawaii, he asked colleagues (professors and librarians) at the university and the state library, the Library of Hawaii, what was the best single book on the history of the islands. Instead of one of Grove Day's fine volumes, my informants chose a book published in 1875! It was **Isabella Bird's Six Months in the Sandwich Islands**.

But Ms. Bird also published a second memorable volume, **A Lady's Life in the**



**Rocky Mountains** (1879). In **Following Isabella**, **Robert Root** takes up the trail of the Victorian lady in the Rockies. The **University of Oklahoma** is the publisher, (\$19.95).

Root combines Isabella Bird's adventures with regional history, nature writing and his own experiences. Like Ms. Bird, he found his most fulfilling days in the mountains. Her trail led him to the Front Range, Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. Here is a delightful intersection of observations, those of Root and those of his subject, such as their "joint" climb of Long's Peak.



Surely the story of the Oatman Captivity is the classic tale of Arizona history. **Margo Mifflin** gives us her version of the life of Olive Oatman in **The Blue Tattoo** (\$24.95) from the **University of Nebraska Press**. It should be compared with **Brian McGinty's** "take" on the Oatman story in a 2005 **University of Oklahoma Press book**.

Ms. Mifflin's view is sort of politically correct, or revisionist. The author defends the Mojave Indians who kept her as a slave, and attacks her biographer, Royal Stratton, for his anti-Indian views. (Thank heaven, Ms. Mifflin does not whitewash the brutal Yavapai Indians who massacred most of Olive's family.)

## Missions Topic of Program

**Janet Sands**, incoming sheriff of the **Santa Barbara Corral**, gave the program at the October meeting, using her own paintings to illustrate her talk. The subject was "On a Mission" and included facts about Mission History and Mission Style and why it is the iconic style of Santa Barbara. She is currently writing a guidebook of the west coast and its missions.

The **Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral**, Bismarck-Mandan North Dakota, enjoyed a program in September which might be an idea for other groups to copy.

Speaker was **Lorna Meidinger** from the North Dakota Historical Society.

She presented slides on churches and cemeteries in the state which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The 39 churches and 8 cemeteries can be found on the prairie and in towns and cities and the churches ranged from being constructed from mud to wood to stone to brick and from plain to ornate.

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Town Bands was the subject of the November meeting of the **Pine Ridge Corral**. Chadron, Nebraska. Speaker Sandi Gulbranson said:

"Weekly band concerts in the city park or on the courthouse square on warm summer evenings were common entertainment in the 19th century Nebraska. City-sponsored brass bands, manned with amateur musicians often were called Cornet Bands after their principal instrument."

She noted that most of the bands were composed of men but after 1900 female faces began to appear in band photos.

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"Do good fences make good neighbors?" That was the question **Rex Myers**,



past sheriff of the **Pahaska Corral**, Cody, Wyoming, attempted to answer at the groups October meeting. Special emphasis was on Western fencing. "Is it barb wire, barbed wire or bob wair fence," he asked.

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Speaker at the September meeting of the **John G. Neihardt Corral**, Columbia, Missouri, was **Ray Wood**. He spoke on Neihardt's book The River and I about his 1908 float trip from Fort Benton, Montana, to Sioux City, Iowa. His talk was il-

lustrated by photographs taken on that trip as well as modern ones some more modern ones.

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### **Huntington Westerners**

Enjoyed a program by **Eric A. Nelson** at their November luncheon. Subject was the Pico House in Los Angeles, a luxury hotel built by Pio Pico, last Mexican Governor of Alto California.

Nelson based his program on his personal collection of Pico House hotel stationery, postal history, invoices for purchases of furniture, furnishings and other goods for the business along with other documents relating to the Pico House.

The speaker is a longtime member and officer of the Corral.

## Corral Visits Fort Crittenden

*(Continued from Page 1)*

mark the area. A fine collection of artifacts from the past can be seen at the Museum of the Horse Soldier in Tucson. Camp Crittenden was retired when Cochise accepted the reservation. Today the post is on private property



*What remains of the Fort Crittenden stockade (jail). More pictures on the WI Extra, posted on-line. (Photo by Doug Hocking)*

and permission must be sought before entering.

Ranch Hands learned about the significance of bottles and cans in determining the period during which an installation was occupied and in determining the use to which buildings were put. They also learned the history of the camp and how much can be learned from a few old walls and foundations.

# A Reading Adventure

Recently a book, **Addie Slaughter, The Girl who Met Geronimo**, arrived at the Home Ranch from a WI Past President **Reba Wells Grandrud**, Phoenix, AZ.

She sent it to be included in the WI Library but since it is not only an interesting book, (a 12-year-old granddaughter confirmed this), but also one for children and Christmas is approaching—we thought it might be of

interest to parents and grandparents searching for holiday gifts. So we got additional information.

**By Reba Wells Grandrud**

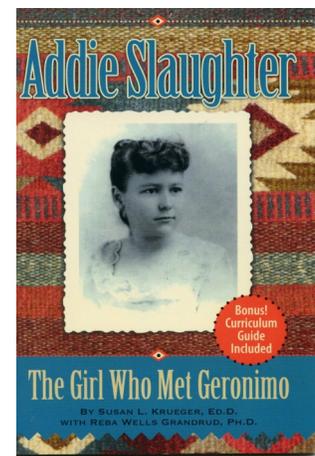
Most Westerners are aware of **John H. Slaughter**, the well-known sheriff of Cochise County, Arizona, and his San Bernardino Ranch that he stocked with large herds that were trailed overland from Texas in the late 1870s. In her later years I knew Slaughter's only granddaughter, **Adeline Greene Parks** of La Jolla, California. She gave me original photos and copies of the stories her mother, Adeline "Addie" Slaughter had told her when a child, and that she had written down.

An educator friend, **Susan Krueger**, took my research, photographs and the stories and put them into Addie's own words as a children's book.

*(Editor's Note: More information about the book is \$15.95 and can be found at Barnes & Noble, Amazon & <http://www.fivestarpublishations.com>*



Reba Wells Grandrud



## Coming Attraction



Walter Brennan

In the next issue **Don Reeves**, who holds the McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and is secretary of the WI Executive Board, will take us on a tour of the **Western Performers Gallery** at the museum.

## Group Has Meeting

"High Head in the Deep Below: Overcoming 19th Century Engineering Challenges on the Comstock Lode" was the topic of the October meeting of the **San Francisco Corral**. Speaker for the meeting was **Noel W. Kirshenbaum**.

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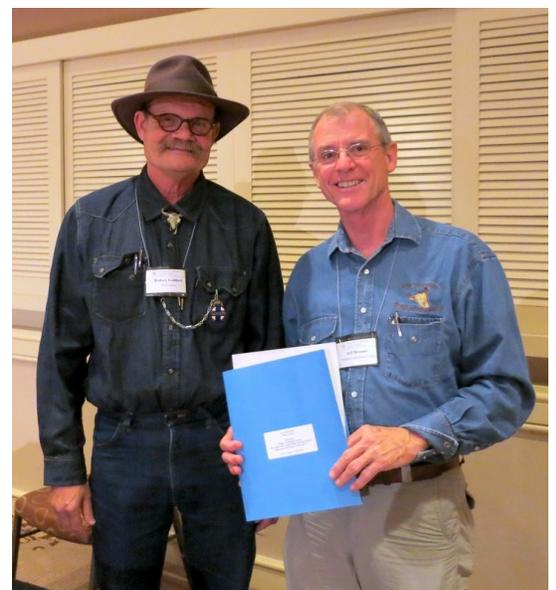
## WI at WHA



WI Executive Board Chairman **Kent McInnis** and long-time WI member **J'Nell Pate** tour the exhibit area, right. A group settles in, below, to hear who received the 2012 WI awards.

Accepting the Head's Up Award for the **Los Angeles Corral** is member **Gordon N. Bakken**, above. **Dr. Jeff Broome, Denver Posse**, below, accepts his first place Philip A. Danielson award from **Rodney Goddard**, WI President.

*Photos by Cheryl McInnis*





## Camp

### Crittenden

Ranch Hands of the **Bisbee Corral**, left photo, left to right, **John Severn, Steve Anderson, Rossanna & Gene Baker, Matt Greenway, Debbie Hocking, Susan Ostrander, Dennis Sak and Doug Hocking**. Below is a view of **Mt. Wrightson**, also known as Mount Baldy, named by Capt. Richard Ewell's men in his honor.



Photos provided by Doug Hocking

A wall of the old commissary still standing is shown above. At right the Bisbee Ranch Hands climb on the remains of the corral walls.

