

Buckskin Bulletin

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Casper Posse Enjoys Programs

*By Douglas Cubbison
Casper Posse Sheriff*



On October 21 we had an excellent program from **Trey Corkern**, Curator of Education at the Fort Caspar Museum in Casper, on the "Fur Trade and Mountain Man in Wyoming." This was primarily a hands-on program, and our guests had the opportunity to handle (and wear) reproduction clothing, arms and equipment.

The November program was by me, curator of the Wyoming Veterans Museum, on the results of my recent research trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to research the 11th Kansas and 12th Ohio Cavalry regiments during their tenure here in Casper during the Civil War. The talk was particularly focused on performing the necessary research to support a Medal of Honor for Lieutenant Caspar Collins, Company G 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry—killed in action at Platte Bridge Station, Wyoming Territory July 26, 1865.

*Con Trumbull, above, posse member and the great grandson of noted governor of Wyoming, B.B. Brooks, models some of the Mountain Man items. Posse Sheriff **Douglas R. Cubbison**, right, models a Mountain Man top hat. (Photos Provided)*



A Reminder

To keep up with WI news between issues of the *Buckskin Bulletins*, be sure to check www.westerners-international.org from time to time. This is our official website. Each BB appears here many days before you get one in the mail. Also, make sure we have your group's information correct as we strive to keep the information as up-to-date as is possible.

From the Chairman — Kent McInnis

Our annual national gathering of Westerners at the Western History Association Conference in Portland, Oregon, is itself now history. What an interesting event it was? Our goal always is to take everything we can to the conference and return with very little. I refer to books for auction, plaques & certificates for our 16 award winners, and pamphlets & merchandise we offer at our booth. This year FedEx shipped a lot back home, but our overall effort was a splendid success.

We Arrive

At year's beginning we had lined up six Westerners to go to Portland to be the labor for our various tasks related to this convention. Last



Floyd O'Neil, Utah Westerner, above, and Michael Barthelemy, student at the University of New Mexico, were the speakers at the WI Session at the WHA meeting in Portland. (Photos by Kent McInnis.)

month the number dropped to four volunteers. By the first night we arrived at the WHA conference, I learned the number was down to two – my wife Cheryl and me. Never fear. We had done this before. With a little instant planning, involving primarily a reduction in sleep, the two of us set up our Westerners International booth that night. The next morning we gathered auction books. Then we had a hasty lunch before convening our full board of directors meeting at 3:00 pm. One hour later we greeted fellow Westerners at our annual reception, book auction, and awards presentation.

The Session

The next day I knew would be a piece of cake. We had done all the heavy lifting. Cheryl chose to stay at the booth and sell historians on the merits of joining the fun

at a local corral or posse. I scheduled my morning to attend the Westerners International Session at 10:15 am. The topic of this session was **"Native Narratives: New Voices from Old Conflicts."** It sounded interesting. This annual session is great for me because I can enjoy it without being involved in the planning. Six persons were listed on the program and subsequent addendum.

Always wanting to get in early, I stepped in just as people were leaving the previous session. I like to look around and assess the quality of the room, the type of audio/video equipment and the nature of the audience coming in. I was happy to see that gradually the seats filled up with about 25 people, which is a big gathering for one of 12 sessions to choose from.

A Problem

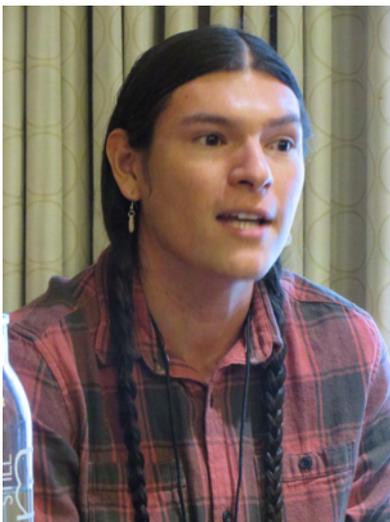
What I did not see was any other Westerners in the room. That was important, since they would be presenting the session. By 10:15 the audience, seeing the handwriting on the wall, started leaving. I glanced at my nametag, which designated me as chairman of Westerners. "You're the chairman, right?" a man asked. "What has happened?" I assured him I didn't know either.

The gentleman soon disappeared, saying that he would investigate. Soon one of the head honchos of the WHA host brigade came to the rescue. "What has happened?" he inquired. I assured him I still didn't know. "What would you like to do?" he continued. Not being in charge, I persisted in telling him that I didn't know. "I can gather your audience up again and bring them inside," the WHA host suggested. "Can't you talk about something?" That's a dangerous question. My host finally pointed at two lingering members of our disappointed audience and told me, "They are both doing their own research on the subject. That would give you your session." I pondered that for half a second and agreed. "If you can get them to do that," I reasoned, "I could moderate this *ad hoc* session."

A New Panel

I quickly approached my two new best friends and introduced myself, making sure they told me their names and what they could talk about with some authority. I needn't have worried. **Michael Barthelemy**, working on his master's degree at the University of New Mexico, is a Mandan-Hidatsa. Whenever he returns to his Mandan home he records oral histories of his

(Continued on Page 4)



CORRALS

Publishing

The Pacific Northwest-erner is the name of the twice yearly publication of the **Spokane Corral**. Issue 2, out this October, includes an article by Richard Sola entitled, "Eric A. Johnston: Transforming the American Film Industry, 1945-1963."

Johnston, who was from Spokane, "was a rare mixture of business leader, government public servant, diplomat and public figure who combined his expertise in these areas to protect the American film industry from collapse in the decades following World War II," according to the article. The lengthy article focuses on Johnston's role as president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

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Denver Westerners publish six times a year. The July-August issue of **The Roundup** features many illustrations to accompany the featured article "Album of Views: Rocky Mt. National Park and Circle Trip Colorado." **Lee Whiteley**, author, is also a member of the group.

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"Nell Murbarger-The Roving Reporter of the Desert Southwest" is the title of the article in the summer issue of the quarterly publication of the **Los Angeles Corral, The Branding Iron**. According to author, and corral member, **Phil Brigandi**, Murbarger helped make the many ghost towns in the West tourist attractions through her articles about them. Murbarger is said to have added a human touch to the articles through her descriptive, well-researched accounts as well as interviews with old-timers.

From the WI President

Winter is coming to the plains, and western Kansas has had a few good "weather events" in the process. Even though you might currently be sadly stuck indoors, watching a good western on the tube or reading a fascinating book by a roaring fire while the snowflakes fly, it's not too early to begin thinking about the coming spring and taking your corral on a field trip.

Last July the **Old Hays City Corral** met with the rangers at Fort Larned National Historic Site for a catered dinner and a program. A memorable event, the tour took Westerners all over the property as well as behind the scenes. Undaunted by an epic Kansas lightning storm that doused the electricity, ranger Mike Reynolds conducted his talk on the fort's historic firearms collection via cellphone flashlight. It was such a night to remember that our corral is already planning at least one, possibly two treks for the upcoming summer.

Look around you – there are certainly significant and interesting sites near your own corral. Your members could have an epic adventure of their own to rehash at winter meetings. While I've got you here, please let me wish you a happy season -- may your holidays be warm and bright!

Juti C. Winchester

(EDITOR'S NOTE: While a bio of our newest WI President is on the WI Web Page (address at top of Page 1) we realize not everyone is computer savvy and may not have seen the story so we are including it here to introduce her to all of the members. Picture & story at right.)



Juti A. Winchester

Juti Winchester, PhD, teaches Plain Old History, Western History, and Public History at Fort Hays State University in the storied western metropolis of Hays, Kansas. A graduate of Northern Arizona University and San Diego State University, she wrote her dissertation about tourism and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Currently, Juti is working on a manuscript exploring the way the public has used ideas and images of Buffalo Bill since his death in 1917.

Before returning to the Ivory Tower, she worked in various positions including archivist, architectural historian, and museum curator, including a stint at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. "Doc" Winchester has been a member of the **Garden of the Sun Corral** in Fresno, California, and was a founder and Rep for **Pahaska Corral** in Cody, Wyoming. She recently helped found the **Old Hays City Corral** in Hays, and is their current Rep.

Because somebody's bound to ask, she says, Oliver Winchester of rifle fame is something like Doc's sixth great-uncle.

Chairman Reports on WHA Session

(Continued from Page 2)

tribe as part of his master's thesis. He wanted to relate the importance of knowing cultural nuances that gets good oral histories. An older gentleman and member of the **Utah Westerners, Floyd O'Neil**, of the American West Center at the University of Utah, told me he was born on the Ute reservation. In later years he conducted oral histories of many varied native American tribes all over the United States. I was glad to be only a humble moderator. But how could we fill an hour and a half?

The Panel Begins

I introduced our ad hoc panel to a restructured impromptu audience. Because our crowd was not as large as the original 25, our audience suggested they should introduce themselves and reinforce the comments of the panel. Everyone except the moderator had some affiliation with a native American tribe.

Mr. Barthelemy opened first by relating how he comes back to his home on the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation to interview family and other tribal members. What struck me was his comment about how important it is to know how to elicit information. Asking a direct question in the Mandan culture is like violating one's personal space, Barthelemy related. You must learn how to respectfully inquire about a subject in a manner not considered intrusive.

Floyd O'Neil related his vast experience over several decades of recording oral histories from many different tribes. He covered a broader scope of the ins and outs of getting as well as preserving oral histories. He, too, seemed fascinated by

Michael Barthelemy's insights and experience and was graciously willing to direct most audience questions to him. Members of the audience offered questions as well as their own personal experiences. My heartfelt thanks go out to Michael and Floyd for rescuing the Westerners International Session in such a splendid way. I claim that this impromptu session had to be the best at WHA this year.

A Successful Session

Knowing that traditionally the moderator offers concluding comments, I had to compose in my head what would relate to statements of our impromptu panel. We soon approached the end of our hour and a half, so in the five minutes left, I ended the session this way. "In Oklahoma we have nearly forty fed-

erally recognized tribes, which means that it could potentially be a cultural minefield in our state. But we Okies take a great deal of pride in our state's origins. Most of us carry some native American heritage in our family trees. I remember in sixth grade, our teacher was covering Oklahoma tribal history and asked for a show of hands of who had Indian blood as part of their family heritage? All students held up their hands, except for one girl. She started crying, feeling left out. With such a myriad cultural landscape, I make two suggestions that work in Oklahoma. If you are unsure of a cultural feature within a tribe, first ask permission to ask a question. Then ask. Everyone is flattered when you care enough to learn about a culture. Then, most important, approach the cultural minefield with a sense of humor.



And the Winner is...

Each year the **Western History Association** presents the **Arrell M. Gibson Award** to the author of the year's best essay on the history of Native Americans. The \$500 cash prize this year was sponsored by the **Indian Territory Posse** of Westerners, Oklahoma City. Posse member **Kent McInnis**, right, presented the 2015 award and check to **Khalil Johnson** for his essay "The Chinle Dog-shooter: Federal Governance and Grass-roots politics in Postwar Navajo Country." (Photo by Cheryl McInnis)

WI at WHA



Photos by Cheryl McInnis

Pictured upper right are Westerners **Roger** and **Marilyn Nichols**. Roger Nichols was last year's first place winner in the "Best Book" category. On hand to accept his first place Danielson award from Kent McInnis, was **Jeff Broome**, Denver Posse, above. **John Bloom**, longtime Westerner and board member, right photo, picked up the second place Fred Olds Poetry Award for **Tim Heflin**, Los Angeles Corral. Enjoying the reception and awards presentation are a group of Westerners, lower right. For more pictures see WI Extra, Page 2.



THANK YOU

Each year at the Western History Association meeting Westerners International holds a book auction to raise money to help pay for the awards. A big "Thank You" goes to those presses donating books this year. They are South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Oxford University Press, University of Nebraska Press, University Press of Colorado, Texas A&M University Press, Jeremy Johnston who donated a book from the University of Oklahoma Press, Washington State University Press and the University of North Carolina Press.



What's in Your Backyard?

Arizona Corral Tours the Grand Loop

By Doug Hocking

On October 17 the **Cochise County Corral**, formerly the **Bisbee Corral**, made a trip down the great loop – Sonoita, Patagonia, Tumacacori Mission, Tubac, San Xavier del Bac Mission and the Museum of the Horse Soldier in Tucson with dinner at Pinnacle Peak Steak House. The Loop is close to 200 miles but in good company the trip goes lightly and everyone enjoyed themselves. Despite competition from Helldorado Days in Tombstone and the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb, the trip was well attended, a real success for Trail Boss, Matt Greenway.

WE BEGIN OUR TRIP

We met for breakfast in Sierra Vista and set out across the verdant plains of the Sonoita Valley and Empire Ranch where westerns from *Red River* to *Oklahoma!* and *Tom Horn* were filmed passing the Forts Crittenden and Buchanan that once protected the area from Apache. Near Patagonia we passed the ruins of Johnny Ward's ranch where young Micky Free was taken captive.

TUMACACORI MISSION

Our first stop was at the Tumacacori Mission founded by Padre Kino in 1692. A young man dressed as a Spanish lancer showed us around demonstrating a garden of plants introduced from the Mediterranean and an orchard of heirloom trees. Elsewhere we saw the tiny graveyard where the Jesuits and Franciscans recorded over 500 burials. The adobe walls are covered in graffiti. General Black Jack Pershing's name used to appear here but fortunately the plaster has chipped away saving us embar-

rassment. The mission is beautiful and a pleasure for photographers. In 1775, Juan Bautista de Anza set out from nearby Tubac to colonize California. It was Anza Days and folks were celebrating.

SAN XAVIER DEL BAC

We lunched at Wisdom's Cafe and pushed on to San Xavier del Bac, the White Dove of the Desert 11 miles from Tucson. This, too, was a Jesuit mission founded by Padre Kino. In 1767, the Spanish crown decided that the Pope's soldiers, the Jesuits, could not be trusted and they were replaced by Franciscans. The Japanese had earlier made a similar conclusion and this led to the closed Japan of the first half of the 19th century. The mission is on the San Xavier Reservation. Indian crafts and fried bread

were for sale. The mission is indescribably beautiful, nicknamed the White Dove of the Desert. Plastered in white it is visible from many miles away. Unlike Tumacacori, this church was never abandoned and is still in use. The photographic possibilities are endless, the history deep and ever-present.

HORSE SOLDIER MUSEUM

We pushed on to the Museum of the Horse Soldier in Trail Dust Town. This private collection of cavalry equipment, uniforms and weapons has got to be the finest and best organized anywhere in the country. Curator Rae Whitley gave us a guided tour that informed on much of the history of the mounted soldier. Our dress uniforms followed French, Prussian, British, French then British.
(Continued on Page 7)



Above is a view of the garden at the Tumacacori Mission. More pictures are on WI Extra page 1 on website. (Photo by Doug Hocking)

Corral Roundup

Corral Tours Grand Loop

The October meeting of the **Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral**, Bismarck-Mandan, North Dakota, included a program by Sister Thomas Welder who told the group about "The History of the Benedictine Sisters in Bismarck" who started St. Mary's Academy and Boarding School which was founded in 1878.

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Matthew Barbour, manager of the Jemez Historic Site was the speaker at the November meeting of the **Central New Mexico Corral**. He spoke on the archaeology and history of the site. Members also were asked to bring unwrapped toys to the meeting for the group's annual contribution to the Toys for Tots program. A recent project of this corral was having each member fill out a biographical information sheet which they plan to put together and pass out to all members so they can get to know each other better.

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The **Dakota Midlands Corral**, Aberdeen, South Dakota, met in November to hear a program on "Texas Cattle Drives—and the South Dakota Connection." Speaker was member **Erling "Punch" Podoll**. This group meets six times a year, September through November and March through May.

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Rick Stahl, member of the **Chisholm Trail Corral**, Oklahoma City was the speaker at the group's October meeting. His subject was the history of "The Harvey Houses."

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"Cowboy Larry," aka Larry Walker, was the speaker at the November meeting of the **San Dimas, California, Corral**, giving a history of the Hurst Ranch and giving the group insight in to the life of a ranch hand, his tools and lifestyle. During the school year Walker gives school children a look at the life of a working ranch hand.

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Pine Ridge Corral, Chadron, Nebraska, heard a program by Janice German in October, who spoke on "Jenny Danly, An Early Citizen, a Tragic Life."

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Governor Ralph Carr, 29th Governor of Colorado, "spoke" to the Denver Posse in October. Portraying the governor was **Jim Wilkins**, member of the Posse. Carr is best-known for his staunch defense of American citizens of Japanese descent during World War II. His "lone voice standing up for injustice" resulted in his losing a bid for re-election.

(Continued from Page 6)
ish again patterns depending on who was winning wars in Europe. The collection has the only real Rough Rider uniform in existence. There were weapons, including cannons and machine guns used by mounted troops, from muzzle loading musketoon to pistols, Sharps and Springfields. There was even a red and white trimmed Indian Scout uniform with crossed arrow insignia later adopted by the Special Forces. I learned that the wonderful orange trim used on dragoon uniforms was only issued between 1855 and 1860 and may not have made it to the field.

We finished up at Pinnacle Peak for great steaks, where male guests must wear ties.

Buckskin Bulletin

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Group Inducts First Woman Member

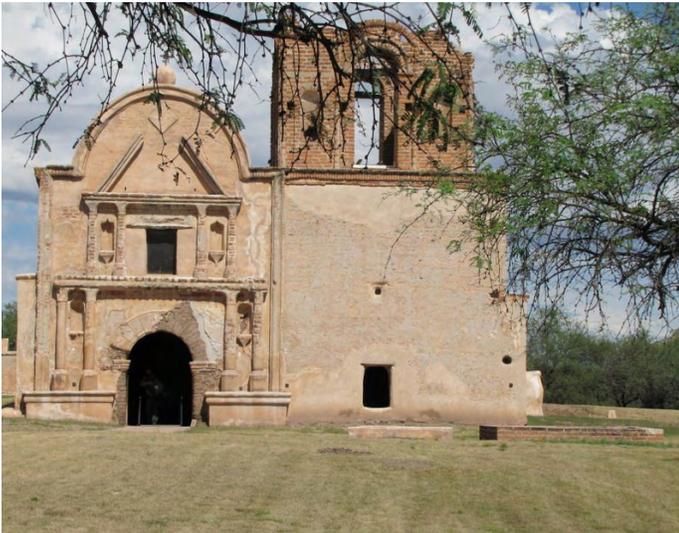


The **Indian Territory Posse**, Oklahoma City, inducted its first woman member, **Gina Pratt**, at the group's November 6 meeting.

Doing the honors was the sheriff **Richard Mullins**. The Posse was organized in 1962. In the beginning all WI corrals and posses were men only. Through the years, one by one, most, if not all, have gone coed. Are there any all-male groups still around out there? If so, let us know. (Photo by Kent McInnis)



GREAT LOOP TRIP



Photos by Doug Hocking
Cochise County Corral



Above right is the altar in a side chapel at the Tumacacori Mission, founded in 1692. Right is the ruins of a bell tower there. Top photo shows the mission of San Xavier del Bac, known as the White Dove of the Desert founded in 1767 near Tucson, Arizona. Above are original and rare Rough Rider uniforms at the Museum of the Horse Soldier in Trail Dust Town.



VIEWS FROM WHA



Photos by Cheryl & Kent McInnis
Chisholm Trail Corral



Cheryl McInnis, upper right, takes a turn at the WI Booth in the Exhibit Hall. Top photo, **Kent McInnis**, left, and Westerners board member **Bob Clark** are deep in conversation. Above, John W. Heaton, left, Executive Director of the Western History Association, enjoys a light moment with **Floyd A. O'Neill** and Betsy Jameson. Also enjoying the event are Westerners **Robert J. Chandler**, left in photo at right, and **Jeff Broome**.