

WESTERNERS BUCKSKIN



INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

Volume LI - issue 1 - March 2018



WESTERNERS RENDEZVOUS AND GATHER AT THE HOME RANCH!!!! SEPT 14-15, 2018 CANYON, TEXAS

photo courtesy www.texas-show.com

We're trying something new! We will have our exhibit booth and scholarly panel at the Western History Association meeting, as always. HOWEVER, we will have our awards reception, along with a Western rendezvous at the Home Ranch in Canyon, TX – it's gonna be FUN! Friday Sept 14, will be an afternoon Board of Directors meeting and dining out locally for all members. Saturday, we'll have presentations on Western History at the fabulous Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, with lunch provided. In the afternoon, we'll tour Palo Duro Canyon, and in the evening we'll enjoy Western BBQ, an awards ceremony, great WI company, a Western reenactment, and a very talented cowboy poet! Our dinner will be at a beautiful ranch, with hearty Western food! We've left Sunday open for those who would like to stay and do sightseeing on their own – there's lots to see here on the High Plains!

Canyon, Texas was just voted the #1 small town in the U.S. by Dish America and we're proud of what we can offer to visitors. Amarillo is just 15 minutes to the north, so we are easily accessible by air and by interstate.

For information on things to do and see:

For the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum: www.panhandleplains.org

For the town of Canyon: www.visitcanyontx.com

For Amarillo: www.visitamarillo.com



Canyon has a Best Western, a Holiday Inn, a locally owned motel called Buffalo Inn, a wonderful B&B called Hudspeth House, and a charming vacation rental cottage called The Cottage. Amarillo, just up the road, has lots of motels and hotels, as well – and there are restaurants and fun sites in the area.

We will send out further details in May; there will be a fee just to cover your lunch and dinner costs and we'll let you know more about the Saturday morning presentations, as well. We KNOW it'll be a lot of fun and a chance to socialize and enjoy the company of fellow Westerners. We hope you don't miss it – it will be a Western Rendezvous and Gather of grand proportions! Brush off y'er hat, polish y'er boots, and come on down to Texas in the fall!



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Our new contact information:

Westerners International Home Ranch - Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum - 2503 4th Ave - Canyon, TX 79015 - phone 806 651-5247

westerners@mail.wtamu.edu



WE WANT TO THANK YOU!

I want to thank each and every corral, posse, and Westerners member in advance for supporting Westerners International through your 2018 dues.

Here in the Lonestar State, the Home Ranch might seem far away from the corrals and posses throughout the U.S. But I assure you that you are all close to heart and hand for us here in Canyon, TX! WI is an unusual organization, for being made up of individual corrals and posses with different by-laws and protocols; but – when it comes to loving the West and to writing and talking about its history, literature, and culture – we all come together.

We want you all to know that your \$5-per-person-per-year dues are put to good use year ‘round! Dues go to support our awards and scholarships. Members throughout WI are doing wonderful written work, delivering memorable programs, and carrying on a Westerners tradition that goes back to the 1940s. We love being able to recognize that work and those tributes through awards and certificates. We also have \$2,000 available each year for bringing young people along through scholarships; we know that the future of the West’s history will be in the hands of the next generation, so we consider that a great investment in a Western legacy.

We continue to be part of the Western History Association and were part of its founding. We put on an exhibit booth and a scholarly panel at the conference each year, and are proud to be part of that tradition. Your dues support that participation, as well as the membership fees and events associated with the WHA.

Dues also pay for staff at the Home Ranch office, they pay for merchandise (watch for VERY cool WI buckles from Montana Silversmith this year!), utilities, publicity and promotional materials for WI, the layout and fees for the Buckskin Bulletin, and website design.

These are just a few of the items supported by your dues and we **THANK YOU** for your support of the organization. Here, at the Home Ranch, we’re hoping to bring more news of corral/posse events to the whole membership through increased items and features in the Buckskin Bulletin – watch for the monthly “Featured Sheriff”! We’re also ‘opening up the gates’ to participation in the Western History Association panels and in a new partnership with a Western journal. Look for the ‘call for papers’ for the WHA 2019 in Las Vegas in this issue of the Bulletin. And watch the website and emails from your sheriff for a call for papers for a Westerners-only issue of a Western journal. New opportunities for all!

WI is a very special organization – part research and part fun. Part books and articles and part chuckwagon. This MIX - of seriousness and fun - is hard to find, as is the far-reaching tradition that grounds WI. To keep those traditions going, we try to connect with young people at the high-school, college, and university levels. We offer scholarships each year, and tip our hat to corrals that have recently brought in young members. With Westerners of all generations, we celebrate and extend a culture that matters to a country – and we have a great time in the process!

We hope you can join us for the Sept 14-15 Rendezvous and Gather at the Home Ranch in Canyon, TX. The annual board meeting be on Saturday, with members gathering for dinner. And Saturday will have exciting Western History programs at the museum, lunch, a Palo Duro Canyon tour, and a great event at a stunning ranch: BBQ, Western reenactment, cowboy poetry, and an awards ceremony under the stars. Don’t miss it! Details in this Bulletin, with more to come in emails to your sheriffs, posts on the website, and in the June Bulletin.

Happy Trails to all!

Bonney



from the
**Westerner International
Mercantile**



- Lapel pin with pin clasp \$13.00
 - “Past Sheriff” lapel pin \$13.00
 - Bolo Tie with leather band \$25.00
 - Lucite paper weight \$17.00
- (Price includes free shipping!)

If you would like to place an order or send payment, contact:

**Delinda King, WI Secretary,
Westerners International, Panhandle-Plains
Historical Museum,
2503 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015**

You can also email her at dlking1@buffs.wtamu or

watch for WI belt buckles coming soon!

MORE NEWS FROM THE **HOME RANCH**

REMINDER FOR ALL WI REPRESENTATIVES: DUES, AWARDS, and CONTACT INFORMATION SHEETS PACKETS

The Dues, Awards, and Contact Information Packets were mailed to all WI Representatives on February 4. We thank you in advance for returning the needed materials and information! Dues and contact information sheets are vital to the everyday operations of Westerners and we are grateful for your timely responses!

The **dues** deadline is **April 1, 2018**; please include the Contact Information Sheets. Without current contact info, we don't have a way of reaching sheriffs and other officers, and I don't have a way of emailing the *Buckskin Bulletin* to your corral or posse! So please be sure and include those out with your dues.

Awards entry forms were included in hard copy in the Dues/Awards/Contact Info packets, and they can also be downloaded from the WI website. All award entries are due by **April 15, 2018**. You are all working on interesting programs and publications; let us know about your events and your work! We want to spread the good word and award you all for your efforts!



REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS!

Sheriffs: Please remember to forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to all of your corral or posse members. And please keep us up to date on your contact information – we want to stay in touch and appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

All Members: Please be sure that your sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to you. We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The *Buckskin Bulletin* comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can email it to their posse or corral members. The current *Bulletin* is also available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are always accessible on the website through the *Buckskin Bulletin* link.

We hope you're enjoying the new format – especially the enhanced color production and extended length for more articles, photos, and announcements!

Mark your calendars for this year's WHA:

WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETING OCTOBER 17-20, 2018 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

See www.westernhistoryassociation.wildapricot.org
for registration

WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL's panel will
be on
"Re-imagining Twentieth-Century West Texas:
Race, Politics, and Space in the Giant Side of
the State"



Session Chair: Tim Bowman, West Texas A&M University, with Chair's Commentary from Jeff Roche, The College of Wooster, and presentations from Brian Ingrassia, West Texas A&M University, and James Vice, Texas Tech University

MORE NEWS FROM THE HOME RANCH



The Westerners Executive Committee met on Feb 24, 2018 at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Members present included (left to right) Paul Matney, Gregg Bynum (Treasurer), Rodney Laubhan, Ken Pirtle (Buckskin Bulletin Editor), Rodney Goddard, Bonney MacDonald (Chairman) and Delinda King (Secretary). Topics for convivial and productive conversation included the budget report, merchandise updates, Buckskin Bulletin updates, membership and dues updates, a recap of the 2017 WHA, a discussion of upcoming WHA, and -- of course -- plans for the Sept 14-15 Westerners Rendezvous and Gather at the Home Ranch in Canyon, Texas!



Our mission is to promote the study of the American West both as a region culturally unique and as a product of broad historical forces. CSAW envisions becoming a center that is dedicated to cultivating a critical sense of region and place in a globalized era.



Photo courtesy Western Horseman Magazine

The Center for the Study of the American West is under the leadership of **Dr. Alex Hunt**, Professor at West Texas A & M University. The **Home Ranch of Westerners International** is proud to be "neighbors" with CSAW at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum. CSAW promotes scholarly research and hosts lectures and seminars such as the Garry Nall Lecture Series.

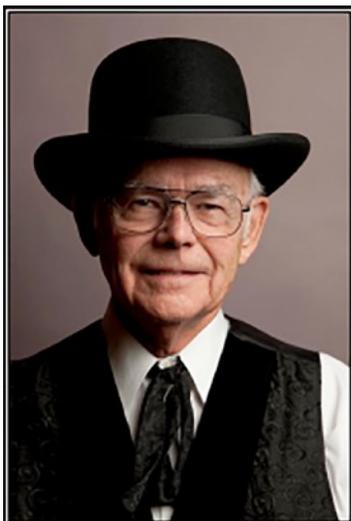
Upcoming event at CSAW

John Erickson author of "**Prairie Gothic: Writing Regional History**" Award winning Western author, John Erickson, creator of **Hank The Cowdog**, will discuss how he combines personal and Panhandle history in works such as his classic book, **Prairie Gothic - The Story of a West Texas Family**

Tuesday, March 20th — 7:30 pm Hazelwood Lecture Hall — Panhandle Plains Historical Museum

for more information: <http://www.wtamu.edu/museum/csaw-home.aspx>

Jerry Selmer Recognized as a Westerner Living Legend



Jerry Selmer joined the **Los Angeles Corral** of Westerners in the Fall of 1975. Jerry was a friend and admirer of Homer Britzman. Britzman was the founder of the L.A. Corral in 1946, and lived in Charlie Russell's old house, surrounded by wonderful works of art by this brilliant Western artist. It was in the aura of this house that the "western bug" first bit the much younger Selmer.

Jerry served in many different Corral positions, including Wrangler, Registrar and Sheriff. During his tenure as Sheriff, Jerry planned and assisted for the 40th, 60th and 70th anniversary celebrations of the corral. Selmer has also personally recruited at least a half-dozen new members into the Los Angeles Corral, including his son John, who became Sheriff in 2016, and James Macklin, the most brilliant and hardworking Keeper of the Chips.

Jerry has published multiple articles in the *Branding Iron*, the Los Angeles Corral's quarterly, including an entertaining review of our Corral's own history. He is even more famous for his dozens of insightful book reviews in that same journal, which for nearly forty years have sent members off in search of worthwhile, recently published, Western Americana. Selmer is also responsible for the recent revision of the Corral's Range Rules.

Selmer is a talented and captivating public speaker, the invited lecturer to the Los Angeles Corral at its monthly round-ups on topics as diverse as *The History of the Southwest Museum and Charles Lummis*, *The Civil War in the West*, *Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce*, and the *Penitentes of New Mexico*. His ongoing research interests include western mining, ghost towns, American Indian culture and history, and Western American art.

Selmer is a 3rd generation Californian who has always made his home in the Los Angeles area. Jerry attended Pasadena City College, then UCLA, where he graduated with a B.A. in Public Administration. Also in the ROTC, Selmer achieved a 2nd Lieutenant's rank in the U.S. Army, and eventual advancement to 1st Lieutenant, Selmer finished his military obligation in the California National Guard as a Captain.

Jerry worked for the City of Los Angeles, rising up through the ranks over a 31-year career culminating in the post of Assistant City Administrative Officer, the Mayor's "go to" guy for 42,000+ city employees and 25 separate Unions. Jerry and his beloved wife Doris have been married for 62 happy years. Very much a team, together they have been active not only in Westerners, but also the Friends of Arcadia Public Library, the Arcadia Historical Society, the Miniature Book Society, and, for nearly 20 years, the San Dimas Festival of Western Art. The Selmers, for more than six decades, have engaged in their passion for travel throughout their beloved West, not just the United States, but also Canada and Mexico, usually far from the beaten track, seeking out remnants of the past still lingering into the present.

Upon his retirement from the City of Los Angeles, Jerry became the Executive Director of the Southwest Museum, the oldest and most prestigious museum of the Los Angeles Area, guiding it, for four years. Selmer is a member of the Zamorano Club, of E Clampus Vitus, and has served on the City of Arcadia Public Library Board, the Friends of Mission San Fernando Archival Center, and as a member of the City of Los Angeles' Contracting Procedures Commission.

Jerry's immense contribution to the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners and to Southern California as a whole is greatly appreciated, and should be formally recognized. We hereby resolve, in the 71st year of our existence, and respectfully request, that his name be added to the roster of those already identified as "*Living Legends*."

Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D.
Sheriff, Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, July 13, 2017

CORRAL NEWS



The **Cheyenne Wyoming Corral** presented at their February gathering : **Key women in the development and success of early day Cheyenne.**

by Mary Guthrie. Mary's grandfather, who came to Wyoming in the 1880s, was a prominent sheep rancher in northern Wyoming, and her great uncle was a Cheyenne businessman by 1884. He was also an infamous member of the invaders who participated in the Johnson County War. Contrary to romantic lore of daring pioneers (gold miners, oilmen, cattlemen, etc.), hardworking and committed citizens created vibrant communities in the West. Mary will introduce you to some of the wonderful women who made a difference in our history.

The **Cheyenne Corral** March meeting was Thursday, March 15, at the Cheyenne Country Club, **Peg Kolsrud, Sheriff**, Cheyenne Corral of Westerners

The **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** had a February program entitled **Brigham Young, the Great Colonizer of the West**, presented by member Paul Strong of Bigfork, Montana.

In March the Posse will feature **The Treaty of Hell-Gate** by Founding Member **Dr. E. B. Eiselein** of Kalispell, Montana.

The **Fort Collins Corral**, Colorado presented **Land, Wildlife and People: Transportation and Time Changes All** presented by Professor Del Benson, Colorado State University, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at CSU will discuss and visualize peoples' historic use and effects on land, wildlife, and each other in the U.S. and Colorado.

The **Fort Collins Corral** - upcoming meeting -March 12, **Camp Amache and Japanese in Colorado** Presented by Gil Asakawa. Over 7,000 Japanese, most being American citizens, were forcibly imprisoned at the Granada Relocation Center in Granada, Colorado from 1942-45. Gil Asakawa, an author and expert on Japanese Americans, will speak on the history of Japanese in Colorado, including the WWII incarceration experience and Colorado's concentration camp, Amache, near Granada east of Lamar.

The **Pikes Peak Corral's** February meeting included **Pikes Peak Summit: The Strategic Military Advantage** by Eric Swab. Held at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center. Thanks to Bob DeWitt for sharing this information.

The Home Ranch received the following from **Raymond Cox** of the **English Westerner Society**: *"Just to say that we have cancelled our meeting set for Saturday because of severe winter weather we're getting here. It's affecting trains and roads and few members would be there. Some of them have to travel large distances."*

The Spokane Corral - How It All Began:

In 1955, several history-minded gentlemen got together to form a men's-only club, designed to promote the history of the Pacific Northwest: Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington. To form such a club, you need enough members to make it work; so in early March, Jerome Peltier and Thomas Teakle organized a "complimentary" dinner at the Spokane Hotel and sent out a number of invitations. Out of this historic dinner the Spokane Corral was formed; the entry date would be March 17th, 1955. At the time it was required that all members write an article and our first one was by Edgar Stuart, "The Literature of the Custer Fight."

The Spokane Corral was at first "a good ole boys" club, but in 1974 women were invited to attend the Christmas gala, and by 1977, women were welcomed into the club as members. An interesting aspect of the first meetings was that slide show presentations "were not appropriate unless they contributed to a paper." The founders also decided that a quarterly publication should be considered as it would help reach out to the community by sharing local history.

Now, 63 years later, the club is going strong. We have ten speakers a year and a collection of our talks, including power point presentations, are housed in Spokane's Museum of Arts and Culture; they are earmarked for researchers, historians and anyone else who wants to delve into Pacific Northwest history. This is a rich repository of knowledge that goes beyond the classroom. During the months of July and August, we have all-day fields trips to various historic sites, such as the two pictured above.

The Spokane Corral has many authors, not only of the Corral's publications, but published through publishing houses. I will mention those who have written books: Jack Nesbit is a noted author on David Douglas and Pacific Northwest history; Chet Caskey has published many books on local Spokane history; Dick Jensen has written about Spokane's historical markers "Set in Stone"; Penny Hutton wrote about her home town, "Forrestville" and co-authored a book with Don Popejoy "Early Spokane"; Don Popejoy co-authored a book about the "Mullan Military Road" and has self-published twice on Lewis and Clark; John Richards is writing a book on Patsy Clark and the mining industry of the Silver Valley; Robert Heacock wrote on Lewis and Clark along the Columbia and Snake rivers the titled "Hard Wind from the West"; and Tony and Suzanne Bemonte have written numerous books on Spokane and Pacific Northwest history.

Our membership is healthy and currently stands at 129; broken down into two categories, we have 83 individual members and 46 subscribers of nationally recognized university libraries, city libraries and museums. We currently have 19 board members with some very unique responsibilities: our Cyber-slinger is the club's webmaster; we have a Town Crier who manages our Speakers Bureau; we have a store-keeper who handles the publications and organizes book sales at the monthly meetings (the books are from members who donate them to the club and all proceeds go to the club's treasury); two years ago we raised over \$1000 and the next year \$800 plus some change. We also have a Chaplin, Father Ted Bradley, who presides over our meetings.

Our Publication Committee produces two excellent issues a year and they spend hundreds of hours turning out quality history.

Our monthly meetings are more than a presentation on history. The meetings are an opportunity for members to enjoy a good meal with friends, great personal conversations, a time to share life, and to bring friends, who will hopefully become new members!



more **CORRAL NEWS**

The **Yellowstone Corral** of Westerners had an interesting program in January. Dr. Don Werner, a long time veterinarian, spoke on the topic of "**Past, Present, and Future of the Bison and Man.**" Apparently Dr. Werner offered to bring visuals with him to the event, suggesting that he could bring along a young bison from the ranch. Harry Axline, Recorder for the Corral, reported that the members thanked the vet but passed on the opportunity. Dr. Werner had previously been a member of the **Yellowstone Corral** and was heartily welcomed back by the audience.

Jim Pomajevich, from the **La Frontera Corral**, sent along news of a fun event for March. Jim and other members of the Corral were planning to attend the National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association, March 15-18, in Tucson and Tubac, Arizona. It looked to be a grand gathering of Western-minded folks! For more information on the group, see www.stagecoachfreightwagon.org Looks like fun!



From **Dennis Garstang**, Sheriff of the **Kansas City Posse**: Wild West History Association Meeting, Springfield, Missouri, July 18-21, 2018. See www.wildwesthistory.org for information on the event and the association.



The **Scottsdale Corral**, Arizona announces the presentation of the "2018 True Westerner Award" to honor **Robert G. McCubbin**, True West Publisher Emeritus. Robert G. McCubbin was not only instrumental in resurrecting **True West** magazine with Bob Boze Bell when they purchased the publication from Joe Austin Small in 1999, he was also a charter subscriber to the magazine when it was first launched in 1953. Robert has spent a lifetime compiling the largest collection of outlaw and lawman photographs in the world.

The **Scottsdale Corral's** January Meeting featured "**Specters of the Past: Arizona's Ghost Towns**" by Jay Mark. The subject included the promise of great riches is what brought many of the earliest colonizers to the Arizona Territory. Following the opportunities to discover the mother lode, they built, dismantled and abandoned communities when mines played out – leaving behind tantalizing clues of incredible hardship. Some towns survived like Bisbee, Jerome, Tombstone and Oatman. Most disappeared, gradually becoming absorbed back into the desert from which they were born. This presentation explores more than a decade of an historian's journeys to these fascinating ghost towns by Mr. Mark.

The **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** offered an interesting historical program on Feb 19. **Paul Strong** presented on "**Brigham Young, the Great Colonizer of the West,**" reviewing the Mormon's departure from Illinois and their settlement in Utah during the 1840s. The program took place at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell, with a slow-roasted pork dinner for those in attendance.

Received: the latest newsletter from the **Northwest Montana Posse**, "The Pony Tracks", well done! **Richard L. Hardesty**, Editor & Printer's Devil. Included is a link to the Posse's nice web site: <https://northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com>

Bob DeWitt Sheriff, **Pikes Peak Posse** reports that their January gathering featured a historical presentation on "**Rankin Scott Kelly, 1st Sheriff El Paso County, Colorado Territory 1861-1867**" by John Wesley Anderson. Held at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center.

Here at the Home Ranch, we are ALWAYS happy to hear when members visit other corrals and posses, and we encourage you all to contact a corral if you are traveling to a given area and would like to meet fellow Westerners! Here is **Michael Grauer** of the **Goodnight Corral in Canyon, TX** visiting the **Kansas City Corral** in February. Michael reports that there were about thirty people in attendance, many of whom had driven up to 70 miles to enjoy the corral fellowship. He was hosted by **Dennis Garstang**, and the program was on the history of the Wyandotte (Wyandot) Indians in the Kansas City area. The program included historic and contemporary Wyandotte artifacts and a wonderful historical tale. The **KC Westerners** meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral in Kansas City North, near I-29. **Michael Grauer** reports having a wonderful and informed time at the corral gather and enthusiastically recommends that others try to visit corrals and posses, as well.



Sheriff Michael Grauer of the Goodnight Corral, Canyon, Texas. Michael is Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs/Art & Western Heritage at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum.



more **CORRAL NEWS**



Featured Sheriff

Val Riley, Prescott Corral, Arizona

My wife, Linda, and I are retired and very involved in volunteer projects here in Prescott. We have served as past president of Prescott Sunup Rotary. We also volunteer with our Home owners association in addition to my new responsibilities as **Sheriff** of our **Prescott Corral**. Linda and I love to travel and enjoy taking our fifth-wheeler out "cruising" for a month or so during the Summer. My interest these past few years has been in visiting old battle sites and forts from the the Indian Wars of 1840's through the 1880's, of which Arizona has several that are most interesting to research and visit.

Prescott Corral of Westerners International is an exciting Corral with approximately 165 members, of which a little over 100 are actively involved. We help support through our treasury and volunteer work three major historical museums, Sharlot Hall Museum, Smoki Museum and the Phippen Art Gallery and Museum. Our Corral meets on the first Thursday of each month and have a variety of interesting speakers whose expertise in a particular historical person, place or event is of interest to the Corral as a whole. The "tie that binds" us together as a Corral is our love of country and history, and for that we appreciate all the Home Ranch does to support us in preserving that which is most dear to us.



Doug Cubbison, of the **Casper Posse** reports that Mr. Bill Hoover talked about Guns of the Old West at their well-attended January meeting. The event was well attended and even was featured in a story in the Casper Journal newspaper.

Linda Cravens of the **Scottsdale Corral** sent us notice of their interesting February program: "**The Abrams Pat Garrett-Billy the Kid Tintype: Is It the 'Real Thing?'**"

Dr. Bob Stahl, Historian and ASU Professor Emeritus explored the Frank Abrams tintype and discussed perspectives offered by experts as to whether or not the tintype dates from the time of Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett and his friend, Billy the Kid, as well as whether Garrett and the Kid, are actually pictured in this tintype. The men in the photo were compared to examples of other 'Billy the Kid' photos that have surfaced in the past three decades.

Vern Gorzitze of the **Utah Westerners** notified the Home Ranch of his corral's February presentation by Keith Fessenden on "**The Gilsonite Industry of the Uintah Basin of Utah and Colorado, 1860 to the Present.**" Mr Fessenden discussed the mining of a unique hydrocarbon found primarily in the Uintah Basin. Originally, the Gilsonite veins in Utah were found only on the Uintah and Uncompahgre Indian Reservations. Members learned why this was not an insurmountable obstacle to development as Mr. Fessenden addressed the four different methods miners found to have the veins removed from the two reservations so they could be mined legally.



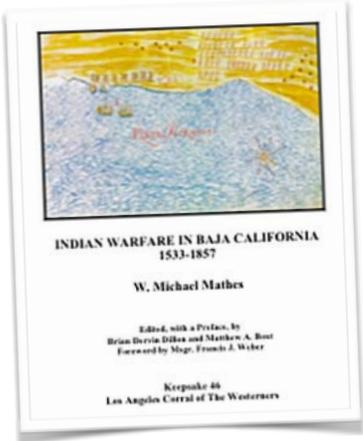
Amanda Martinez with **DeeDee Ruhlow former Sheriff of LA Corral**, at the December meeting of the LA Corral. Congratulations Amanda for your Student Fellowship!

CORRAL Publications NEWS

The Buckskin Bulletin is pleased to receive these impressive scholarly bulletins, written and produced by various Corrals and Posses. These have wonderfully fascinating stories from the past. Here are a few samples. If your Corral or Posse produces bulletins or publications, we'd love to see and share what you are doing.



Indian Warfare in Baja California, 1533-1857 -Now available from Amazon.com, the final study by internationally-acclaimed scholar W. Michael Mathes. Mathes (1936-2012) was the foremost historian of Baja California, honored by Mexico, Spain and the United States for more than a half-century of research and writing. His last work has just been published as **Keepsake 46** by the Westerners Los Angeles Corral.

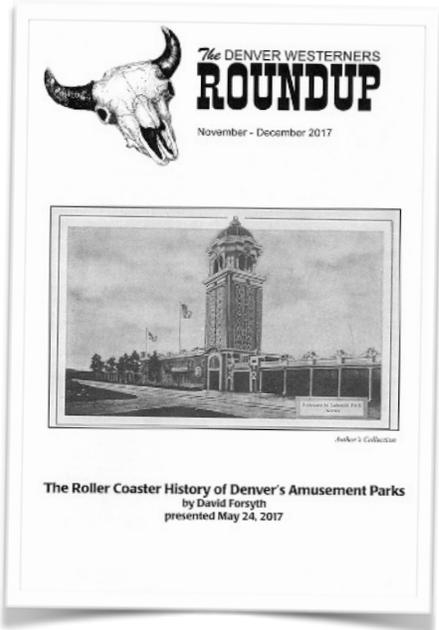
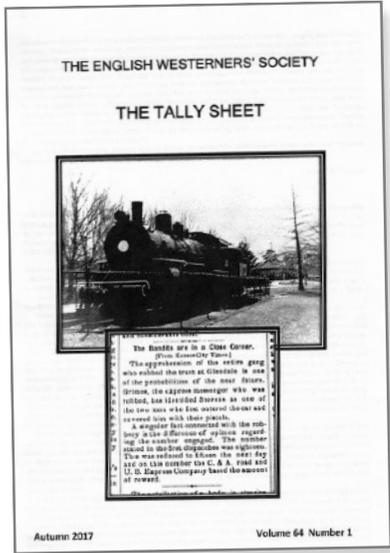


The English Westerner Society publishes The Tally Sheet, edited by Francis Taunton.

Round-Up is produced by the **British Westerner Association**. Magazine Editor is **Bob Mills**, aka "Hondo". This issue has photographs of very recognizable second tier Hollywood, western actors such as Chill Wills, Noah Berry, Jr., and Denver Pyle. There are also lots of party photos of western-attired celebrants. Our English cousins really know how to have a good time!

The December 2017 issue of **The Denver Westerners Roundup** features an interesting account of "The Roller Coaster History of Denver's Amusement Parks" written by David Forsyth.

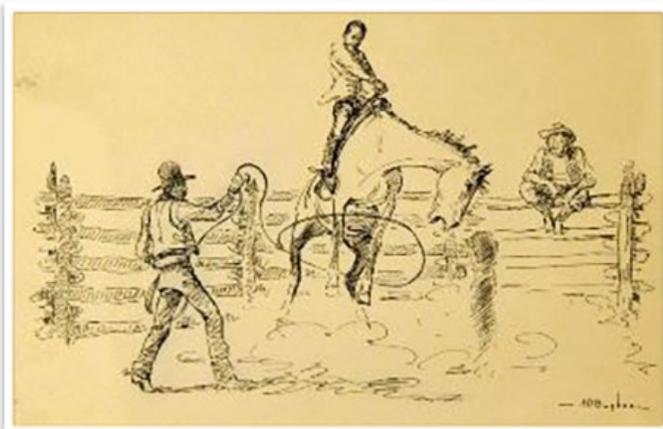
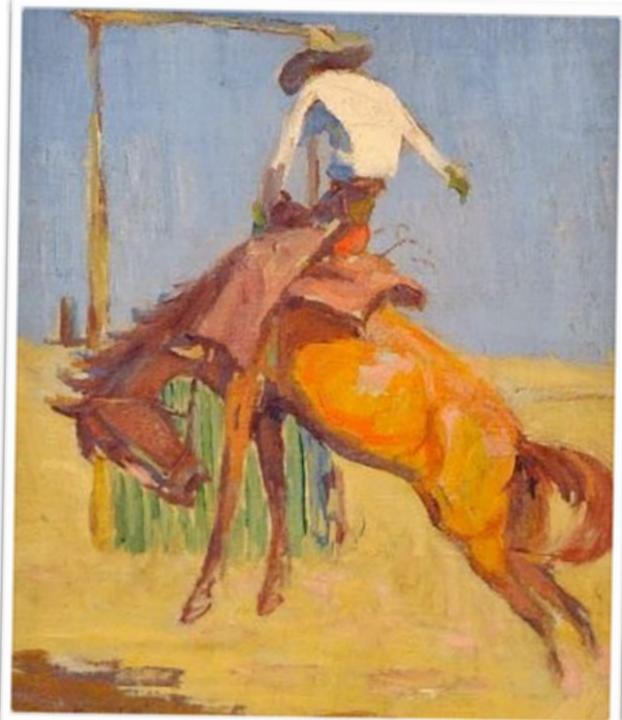
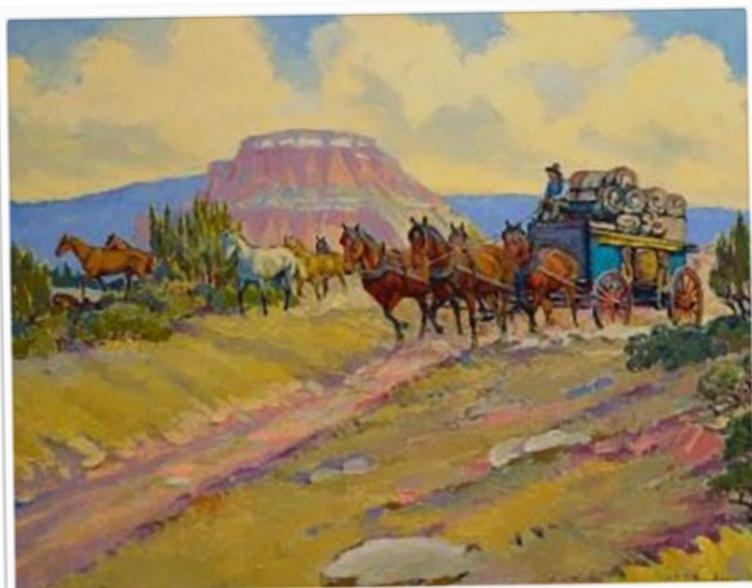
Thanks to all Corrals and Posses who graciously share their publications.



The Home Ranch is always pleased to receive correspondence and publications from our overseas friends.



The Home Ranch is proud of its affiliation with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. PPHM is the largest historical museum in Texas. For current and upcoming exhibitions, lectures, and special events please check the museum’s web page at: <http://www.panhandleplains.org>



*These paintings are a sample from the Museum’s permanent collection. Thanks to the **Panhandle Plains Historical Museum** and **Michael Grauer** for allowing us to showcase these paintings.*

Though he spent his childhood in Lexington, Massachusetts, Harold D. Bugbee (1900-1963) came of age in the Texas Panhandle after his family moved to Clarendon in 1914. There, they joined a cousin—cattlemen T.S. Bugbee—on his ranch outside town. A budding artist, Bugbee began sketching life on the ranch and soon that childhood talent blossomed into a career. He spent summers at the Taos Art Colony and, in 1921, graduated from the four-year Cumming School of Art in Des Moines, Iowa after only two years as a student there.

During the 1920s, Bugbee exhibited in galleries in Denver, Chicago, Kansas City, and New York, but turned to magazine work when sales declined during the Great Depression. It was during this period that his illustrations began to appear in publications like *Western Stories*, *Country Gentleman*, and *Field and Stream*—as well as Western history books including *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*, by J. Evetts Haley.

In 1951, Bugbee became curator of art at PPHM. He contributed five murals in Pioneer Hall and eventually gave 200 of his works to our permanent collection. In 1961, Bugbee married Olive Vandruff, a successful wildlife painter from Kerrville, Texas. She succeeded him as art curator after his death in 1963.

The H.D. Bugbee Gallery showcases a rotation of our collection of 1000 works by Bugbee and Vandruff and includes a detailed reconstruction of Bugbee’s studio.

“The PPHM is my single favorite museum and has been a huge source of inspiration to me as a historian. Touring it is an amazing learning experience. For almost 20 years now I have been recommending the place to travelers. You can do whatever you like, I tell them, but don’t miss the PPHM!”

- S. C. Gwynne



The Big Die Up and The Drift Fence



*by Jim Jennings, Palo Duro
Corral Amarillo, Texas*

The flat, treeless land atop the caprock in the Texas Panhandle was a virtual sea of grass in the 1870s. Other than in the river beds, there were no trees; it was just grass as far as you could see. No domesticated livestock had ever grazed it, only the buffalo, and them only seasonally, as the big, woolly animals drifted from north to south and back again with the seasons of the year. The various grama grasses and the buffalo grass that were native to the area recovered quickly after the buffalo moved through, and soon there were no traces of it having even been trod upon. Cattlemen who crossed the area recognized its potential as ranch land, and as soon as the Comanche were defeated in late 1874, the cattlemen began to move in.

Charles Goodnight was the first to build a ranch there, coming down from Colorado in 1876 to establish the great JA Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon, but he was soon followed by Thomas S. Bugbee, who moved in from Kansas in the fall of '76 to establish the Quarter Circle T Ranch. Bugbee then partnered with Orville H. Nelson to establish the Shoe Bar Ranch, and H. W. (Hank) Cresswell, came in, also from Colorado, where he had been friends with Goodnight. Cresswell established the Bar CC. Other ranchers also moved into the area, and although each man had a particular area that he called his -- and in some cases he had bought it from the state and it was his -- all of the land was open range. It was grazed by whoever's headquarters was the closest. The important thing to note is that there were no fences. This, of course, allowed each rancher's cattle to mix in with another rancher's cattle, but the cattlemen handled this by sending a representative or "rep," as they were called, when each ranch began rounding up its cattle to brand the calves. The reps from the other ranches were there to make sure their boss' calves were not "accidentally" branded by the neighbor.

But, all of these cattle out on the range by themselves was just too much of a temptation for a certain element who thought that the ranches would never miss just a few head, and soon cattle rustling became a real problem for the ranchers. To combat the problem, Goodnight discussed the idea of organization with the other large cattlemen, including Bugbee, Nelson, and Cresswell, along with the others who ranged in the Texas Panhandle, and in March 1880 the ranchers formed the Panhandle Stock Association of Texas. A \$250 reward was posted for the apprehension of anyone stealing cattle belonging to association members, and as it grew, the organization hired inspectors, detectives, and attorneys to arrest and prosecute rustlers operating against area ranchers.

But it wasn't just the rustlers that the Association dealt with. The following winter, in 1881, thousands of cattle from the northern plains drifted with the north wind into the Panhandle in search of shelter and grass. Those kinds of numbers, when added to what was already on the range, almost ruined the winter pastures of the local cattlemen. To combat the problem, the members of the Panhandle Stock Association voted to build a "drift fence" all the way across the upper Panhandle to stop those northern cattle from drifting onto their range.

Barbed wire had been invented in the 1870s, and an 1876 demonstration in San Antonio by John Warne Gates of Illinois showed that the wire would contain cattle. Construction of the drift fence began in 1881, with most of the wire and staples hauled in wagons from Dodge City, Kansas. Fence posts were cut in the canyons along the Canadian River and in Palo Duro Canyon, and for the next four years, fencing crews were seen working all across the Panhandle. By 1885 a broken line of drift fences -- with a gate every three miles -- extended on level ground above the Canadian River for 200 miles across the Panhandle and into eastern New Mexico.

The fence's first test was the winter after it was finished, as a terrible blizzard with extremely cold temperatures hit the Panhandle on January 1, 1886. According to Lewis Nordyke, in the book "Great Roundup," as the storm raged through Kansas, two dozen people in one county froze to death the first night, and at Camp Supply in Oklahoma Territory, when a stagecoach pulled into town that night, it was discovered that the passengers, who had all huddled together under buffalo robes, were almost frozen, but the driver, up on his exposed seat, was dead. He had frozen to death.

Cattle out on the range tucked their tails, humped up, lowered their heads and drifted with the snow and wind -- right into the drift fence. When the blizzard was over, thousands of dead cattle were found stacked up against four strands of barbed wire. Cattle from as far away as central Kansas had hit the fence.

The next winter, which started with the first blizzard in November of 1886, was worse, and was talked about as long as the cowboys who experienced it lived. In the north country of Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, blue northers whistled across the plains, bringing one blizzard after another. The great western artist Charles Russell, who lived in Montana, was holed up on a ranch with a friend during one of the blizzards and painted a postcard-size water color of a cow that was nothing but skin and bones humped up knee deep in snow. This was Russell's famous "Waiting For a Chinook" painting, and is credited with being the painting that propelled him to becoming a legend in western art.

On the Kansas prairie and in the Texas Panhandle, those same blizzards roared right on in, and like the winter before, drove the cattle south until they reached the drift fence. When they could go no farther, they began to stack up, and they died. According to



Nordyke, one cowboy said he saw cattle stacked up north of the fence in piles 400 yards wide. He said the cattle looked as if they had bedded down. In places, where there were high drifts of snow, only the horns of the dead cattle showed. Some smothered, some froze to death and some were trampled by the ones coming behind them. When it was over, one rancher said that he could have walked for miles on dead cattle without ever stepping on the ground. Cowboys on the LX Ranch, which still exists today north of Amarillo, reportedly skinned 250 carcasses a mile for 35 miles. The Panhandle Stockman's Association asked ranchers to ship to Dodge City the hides of those animals skinned so they could get a reasonably accurate count as to the losses. By June 1, 1887, Dodge City had received 400,000 hides. This tragedy became known as the Big Die Up.

Although the drift fence accounted for most of the deaths, that wasn't the only cause. According to Nordyke, cattle fell off bluffs, walked straight into bogs and piled up in ditches. In the early hours of the storm, before the lakes froze solid, cattle walked out across the hard ice at the edges of the lakes only to break through the thinner ice in the center, where they drowned. Nearly every water hole and lake was filled with cattle that drowned, froze or were trampled to death. The Cimarron, Arkansas and Canadian rivers were piled full of cattle.

When the wind and snow stopped, the marching cattle that had somehow survived, stopped and looked for feed, but there was none. The grass was covered with a heavy blanket of snow and ice. Horses pawed through the ice and found grass, but the cattle could only hump up and bawl. The waterholes were all frozen over for days, and there was only snow to drink and eat. Many cattle that had made it through the blizzard, starved to death.

Many of the settlers who had moved out onto the plains, and were living in hastily built homes or in dugouts, fared no better during the blizzard. Very few farming families had adequate protection against such a severe and sustained storm. No one could ever gather accurate figures on the human deaths, but the estimates ran as high as 300.

The Big Die-Up broke many of the ranchers. Their losses were too high to recover. Losses in the blizzards ran from 40 to 80 percent, and many small operators suffered an almost total wipeout. The Reynolds brothers, who headquartered in north central Texas near Albany, had trailed 7,000 steers from Texas to their Dakota range in the early part of the year. They lost every steer in the blizzards. And a rancher in southern Kansas, who the year before had branded 10,000 calves, branded 900 calves the spring of 1887. It's very likely it was some of his cattle that drifted south with the wind and the blinding snow, and piled up against the drift fence in the Texas Panhandle.

All those cattle dying because of the drift fence was a terrible tragedy in the history of ranching, but it also caused some changes to be made. Legislation was passed in 1889 that prohibited the fencing of public property, which is what most of the open range was at that time -- it was owned by the State of Texas. However, it didn't matter. The ranchers who did survive those terrible winters now realized they couldn't take care of their cattle on the open range. They began to file homesteads and buy land, and started fencing their pastures. Parts of the drift fence were incorporated into some of the ranchers' pasture fences, while most of the rest was torn down. It was the end of an era, and the beginning of ranching as we know it today.





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Send a one-page abstract (a description of your research presentation) BY EMAIL only to WHA 2019 Panel Committee Chair, Matt Despain, sdespain@rose.edu Deadline: May 1, 2018.

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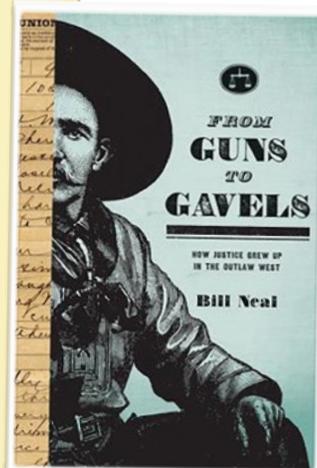
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- Publish Date:9/15/2016
- Product Number:9780896729827
- ISBN978-0-896-72982-7

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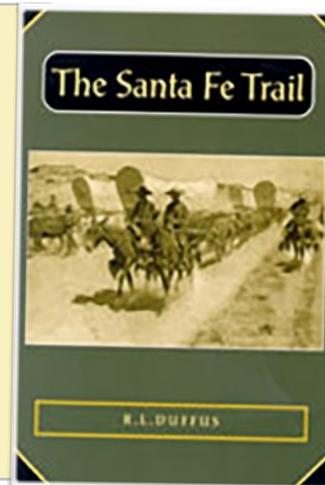
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