

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



SOUTHERN MISSION ORCHARD.

GENERAL DON ANDRÉS PICO OF LOS ANGELES, 1865.

VAQUEROS LASSING CATTLE.

CORRIDOR OF THE FARM-BUILDING

A CALIFORNIAN MAGNATE IN HIS HOME.

EX-MISSION OF SAN FERNANDO.

MISSION SAN FERNANDO

is on the list of things to see and do at the
Westerners International

3rd Annual Gather!

Held Jointly With The

**Los Angeles Corral 75th
Anniversary Celebration!**

**Friday, October 8 and Saturday,
October 9, 2021**

details inside this issue

Mayordomo Andrés Pico and his step-daughter in the foreground of Mission San Fernando, with Mission Neophytes (ex-mission Indians) all around. This image dates from about 1865.

Pico was in charge of the Mexican forces at the Battle of San Pasqual. In 1846, he soundly whipped the U.S. Cavalry in the biggest victory of the Mexican War in California. Afterwards, he became good friends with the Americanos, and even became a California State Senator.

Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D of the Los Angeles Corral

Below: Mission San Fernando, Rey de España, towards the end of the 19th century, and long before restoration.





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch. It has been a tough and challenging year and I dearly hope that you and your loved ones have been able to stay safe and healthy. And I hope that, with some good spring weather coming, you're getting out and enjoying some warm sunshine and good Western air. Those big horizons and blue skies do us good, right?

Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer, and I are still both working remotely from home for the most part, and Delinda goes onto campus and to the office once a week. We've heard from a lot of sheriffs and reps about the challenges of the year and know that many of you haven't gathered for programs since March of 2020. Some of the more tech-savvy members have put Zoom programs together and that's been fabulous. However, for those who haven't gone that route, we're cheering for you and hoping that in-person meetings are starting (or will start) when it's safe in your area. Keep us posted!

We're all the more eager to hear from you these days and greatly appreciate the updates that many of you send. So, even if it's a small online event, or maybe a newsletter, send it to us and we'll be sure it gets into the Bulletin for others to see!

As you'll see elsewhere in the Bulletin, the awards season is upon us. Packets with dues info (with varying options for struggling corrals this year!), contact info sheets, and awards entry forms were sent to all corrals and posses in early February. The deadline for award entries is April 15, so please do send us any material you've been working on. We'd love to see it and spread the good word. Entry forms are available from your sheriff and can also be downloaded and printed from the website.

Happy Spring and Happy Trails!

Bonney

Bonney MacDonald
Chairman, Westerners International

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..... more news from the Home Ranch

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 we always appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

All Members: Please be sure that your corral and posse 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 always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the Buckskin Bulletin link.



2021 DUES and CONTACT INFO SHEETS



COVID has hit corrals and posses hard this year. At the Home Ranch we want to do all we can to support and encourage corrals and posses. We've heard from a lot of sheriffs who report that their groups haven't met since last March. As a result, it's just hard to come up with dues at this point. We understand!

As you'll know from the letter in the dues/contact info/awards packets (sent to all corrals and posses in early February), we know you can only do so much. So for the corrals and posses that have continued on Zoom and find themselves able to send in dues, we thank you! However, if you're not in that position, you are welcome to send in 50% of the dues. And if that's not possible now, we will work with it! Our main concern is that we all stay safe, get back to meeting in person or on Zoom as we are able, and keep the Westerners spirit alive. Do what you can and we'll support you in whatever way we can!

And please, even if you're not sending in dues now, return the contact information sheet. We need that information so we can send the Bulletin to the right place, and have email and mailing information for your officers. Thank you!!

2021 AWARDS

Award entry forms were sent out in early February, along with the dues and contact info sheets. They can also be downloaded from the WI website. All award entries are due by April 15, 2021. 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! We know it's been a tough year and that programs have been few and far between. But maybe you've written an essay, book, or article – or even some poetry. Send in your work so we can brag on you!

We thank you in advance for sending in your award entries. Each year the number of entries grows and that means that more and more Westerners are giving wonderful programs, writing important books, articles, and poems, and contributing to the overall good of this organization! Be sure to let your fellow members know what you're doing by sending in your nominations!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR and SIGN UP FOR OUR
SPECTACULAR, POST-PANDEMIC
Westerners International



3rd Annual Gather!
Held Jointly With The
Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary
Celebration!

Only 7 Months To Go Before Our Two-Day Extravaganza in Los Angeles on

Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 2021



Saddle Up Pegasus and Come on Down! (Sgt. William T. Dillon photo, Mexican Border, 1914).

Join all of your Westerner Friends at **San Fernando Mission**, Hot Rod Night at Bob's Big Boy, the **Autry Museum of Western History**, and the Hacienda Turner to **Celebrate the End of the Pandemic!** Come for two Days of Educational Entertainment, Guided Mission and Museum Tours, Music, Dancing, Dining, Drinking, the Biggest Western Book Auction in the U.S. of A., Eskimo Wrestling, Shovel Racing, Best Cowboy Hat and Boot Contest, Ugly Pickup Truck Competition, Prestidigitation, and the WI Annual Awards Ceremony!

\$85.00 per person for both days. Friday Catered Lunch, Saturday Catered Dinner, and Free Bar both days Included! Late Registration fee (After August 1, 2021) is \$95.00

Print out, then Fill out the Handy Order Form on page 6 of this issue of the **Buckskin Bulletin**, and send it, along with your check made out to **Westerners, Los Angeles Corral**, to our **3rd Annual Gather Wranglers, 16007 Lemarsh Street, North Hills, CA 91343**

Entry forms will also be available for downloading and printing on the Westerners website

Questions?: Email Wrangler Brian . . . briandervindillon@gmail.com

Westerners International 3rd Annual Gather & Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary Celebration Schedule of Events:

Day 1: Friday October 8, 2021

Location 1: Mission San Fernando, Rey de España

Westerners International Board Meeting

Welcome by WI Chair and L.A. Corral Sheriff

Western Book Auction (1000s of volumes at rock-bottom prices!)

15-Minute Thumbnail Historical Sketches on:

1: First People of California

2: The California Missions

BBQ Lunch Catered by the Bear Pit (Included)

Open Wine and Beer Bar (Included)

Mission Tours: Museum, Archive, Bob Hope's Grave, 1797 grounds. . .

Location 2: Bob's Big Boy Burgers, Burbank

Hot Rod Friday Night! (Oldest continually running in Western U.S.!)

Self-serve burger dinner, See dozens of Hot Rods in Parking Lot

Day 2: Saturday October 9, 2021

Location 3: Autry Museum of Western History (Admission included).

Sign-ups for Cowboy Competitions that night

Tours of the Autry Museum, including:

15-Minute Thumbnail Historical Sketches on:

3: Los Angeles City History and Tragedies

4: Hollywood Cowboys

5: Old West Shootin' Irons

Self-serve lunch in Autry Restaurant/Snack Bar



Location 4: Hacienda Turner, San Fernando Valley

Open Bar, wine, beer, liquor (Included)

Live Mariachi Band (Requests, Dancing)

15-Minute final Historical Sketch: Cowboy Poetry

L.A. Corral Publications for Sale by their authors

Cowboy Competitions (Wheelbarrow races, best Cowboy Hat, etc.)

Mexican BBQ Banquet (Included)

Westerners International Annual Awards Presentations

Next Year (2022) WI Gather Announcement

Final Benediction and Farewell

Bar flies Retreat, Confab & Convention Until. . . ?

(Refunds will be made In case of unforeseen, late, Covid-19-induced cancellations).

continued on next page

ORDER FORM



Westerners International 3rd Annual Gather and Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary Celebration Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 2021

Please Sign Me Up for the two-day combined Westerners International 3rd Annual Gather and Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary.

My Name is (Please Print): _____

My Guests are (Please Print): _____

Enclosed Please Find my Check (**\$85.00 per person**) for the Total of: _____

(Please Make Your Check out to **Westerners, Los Angeles Corral**).

The **Detailed Schedule of Events** includes a list of convenient Hotels and Restaurants for out-of-towners, plus local attractions for Westerners who would like to come before, or stay after, the two-day celebration.

Please Send me the **Detailed Schedule of Events** for the Two-Day Celebration:

1: As an Email Attachment, to my Email address of: _____

2: As a Print Copy to my Home Address of: _____

I understand that I am responsible for all transportation to and from the different locations our celebration will be held at, for those meals apart from the Friday lunch and the Saturday dinner, and for my lodging. I will also have completed my inoculations against COVID-19 prior to October, 2021.

Now, please cut out the address below, attach it to your envelope, put your filled-out form and your check inside, and mail it to:

**3rd Annual Gather Wranglers
16007 Lemarsh Street
North Hills, CA 91343**

CORRAL NEWS



CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

Please send us your notices and announcements on upcoming or past corral and posse programs and events. We love to spread the good news to other corrals and posses about the activities of their fellow Westerners!

Bob DeWitt of the **Pikes Peak Posse** shared with the Home Ranch a copy of their inaugural edition of **The Pikes Peak Inkspot**. Congratulations on a beautifully done and informative publication. Bob sends along an invitation to other Westerners to it check out, at: **INKSPOT** (https://drive.google.com/file/d/115WEy_UUIa2PqalEF02HCaEbHgJ38qH6/view)

The **Pikes Peak Posse** will host the Westerners International Conference - Colorado Springs, Colorado September 8-10, 2022 (tentative dates)



The **Pikes Peak Posse** is successfully Zooming their programs and meetings. The most recent program was "Mapping the Cherokee Trail in Colc **Bruce Watson**. Bruce is a member and the Co-Chair of Mapping Committee of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA. On the following page is a submission of Bruce's program.

The **Pikes Peak Posse's** January program was "The Cherokee Trail: The Major Route West for Gold Seekers, Emigrants, Cattle Drives, and Mail and Stage Routes 1849-1883" by Jack & Pat Fletcher.

The **Fort Collins Westerners** March was a Zoom meeting reports co-sheriffs **Marie & Klaus Krizanovic**. The Corral planned to select from two available programs.

Danita Bynum of the **Palo Duro Corral**, Amarillo, Texas has brought to our attention the interesting fact that current members are serving important roles on various area boards:

- **Lenny Sandler** is on the board of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum in OKC
- **Jim Jennings** is on the board of the Ranching Heritage Center on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas
- **Dr. Paul Matney** is president of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum board in Canyon, Texas
- **Gregg Bynum** is on "The Play Texas" Musical board of the Texas Panhandle Historical Foundation.

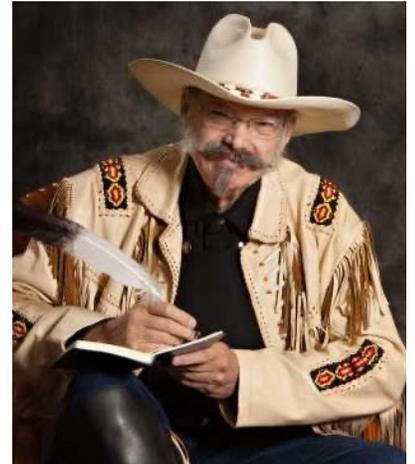
Doug Hocking

Sheriff of the Cochise County Corral of Westerners

Is available for presentations to your Corral or Posse by way of Zoom

Danielson Award winner for Best Presentation and winner of the Will Rogers Medallion and Co-Founders' Award for Best Western History

Contact him at dhocking@centurylink.net or doug@doughocking.com or (520) 378 1833



Sara McKee of the **Lubbock Corral** announces that **Silverbelly**, authored by Westerner **S.J. Dahlstrom**, has won the Will Rogers Gold Medallion, The Will Rogers Medallion Award recognizes excellence in Western literature and media. The sixth book in the Wilder Good series, **Silverbelly**, won the gold medal in Western Fiction: Young Readers category in the Will Rogers Medallion Awards on February 6th at the Ft. Worth Stockyards. "Congratulations to Nathan!
(**Silverbelly** is recognized on the Publications page on page 14)

The **Los Angeles Corral** is currently "Zooming" their monthly meetings. **Brian Dillion** arranged for the March program on "The Last Mutiny, Around the Horn to California on The Clan Buchanan."

Thank you **David Cummins** of the **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas for sharing his "recent writing about western defining essence." His essay is a fascination account of the Iroquois Confederacy.

The **Los Angeles Corral** met via Zoom on March 10th and heard a fascinating program by **Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D** titled "The Last Mutiny? Around the Horn on the Clan Buchanan," a 30-minute illustrated slide-lecture.

From the **Cochise County Corral**: **Doug Hocking** was interviewed in February by Voices of the West on the Butterfield Trail. If you are interested in hearing more on this, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/VoicesoftheWest/> The **Cochise County Corral** hosted a program on "Healers, Quacks, and Elixers" from George Whitehead in February. Their March program featured *continued on next page*



CORRAL NEWS

More Corral and Posse Updates

Gary Smith, Watervale historian, speaking on "Water, Water Everywhere." to the **Cochise County Corral**. This March program was especially unique as it was organized as a "Trail Ride" or hike in the desert sand-washes near Tombstone. To add to the fun, they offered breakfast, and Doug Hocking represented prospector, Ed Schieffelin; Ilona Smerekanich spoke for Al Schieffelin; and Jon Donahue talked about mine developer Richard Gird. What a creative program!!

Cochise County, not held back by the pandemic, also offered the following events: Thursday, March 4, they did their first Zoom broadcast, featuring **Doug Hocking's** "Workin' on the Railroad: Train Robberies in the Southern Corridor" and were joined by at least eight folks from across the country and around the world. It went well as they got grand comments from Germany and Chicago. It was not meant to replace their monthly meeting in historic Schieffelin Hall (1882), Tombstone, but to supplement it. At that same meeting, they signed up seven new members!

Then on Saturday, February 13, the **Cochise County Corral** gathered for breakfast and then made its way out to the Fairbank ghost town to reenact the famous February 1900 train holdup where heroic lawman and express messenger, Jeff Milton, shot it out with the gang led by Three-finger Jack Dunlap. Everyone took a role as an outlaw, lawman, or innocent bystander. They were joined by members of **Tucson Corral** and several truly innocent bystanders.

And for anyone wanting to keep up with this active and interesting corral, please have a look at their journal! The third edition of their journal, **The Border Vidette**, and the 8th edition of the newsletter, the Fremont Street Mail, came out in early March. You can find them at www.CochiseCountyCorral.org. This year, **Cochise County Corral's** Ranch Hands will submit entries for **Westerners International** awards in every category except Cowboy Poetry; they report that they're saving that for next year. Despite the challenges of a hard year, Cochise County Corral is, as they say, "smokin'!"

With things warming up in southern Arizona, the **Cochise County Corral** also has a great April program planned. On Thursday, April 1, 2021 **Bob Nilson** and **Jon Donahue** will speak on Historic Hwy 80, the "Broadway of America" - from Benson to Douglas. U.S. Route 80 (US 80) also known as the Ocean-to-Ocean Highway, a major transcontinental highway, was completed in 1926. The public is welcome at this free event. The corral plans an optional no-host pre-meeting dinner at the Longhorn Restaurant.



The **Fort Worth Westerners** have also been getting very creative with programming. We know that not all corrals and posses can adapt to Zoom format, but here's a little inspiration: They decided to do Zoom programs only and not take the Summer 2020 months off. To date, their Zoom programs have been well received and have increased their membership from 32 to near 50; and at least 10 of the new members don't live in the Fort Worth area. Another benefit is that they can arrange for programs from presenters that don't live in the Fort Worth area. Their January program on Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River was presented by Tom Ashmore from San Angelo. Their February program was from **Wayne Ludwig**, author, historian, and **Fort Worth Westerner**, on "The Chisholm Trail from Texas to Kansas: A Modern Myth," and the March program was from Kevin Grubbs, Ph.D. candidate, Tarrant County College History Instructor, and Log Cabin Village Interpreter, on "A Rushing Business: Merchant Semen in Texas After the Civil War." Other programs for spring, summer, and fall include the programs listed below. If you'd like to join in on any of these, you do not have to be a member of their corral. Just visit www.fortworthwesterners.com

- **Apr** – Black Indians: the Lost Culture – Lisa Uhlir, PhD – Tarrant County College Professor and Native American
- **May** – Army Camel Corps Experiment – Doug Baum, owner Texas Camel Corps that provides camels for treks in Big Bend National Park and Egypt, from Valley Mills, TX (website: www.texascamelcorps.com)
- **June** – Blood in the Borderlands: Conflict, Kinship, and the Bent Family, 1829-1849 -David Beyreis, PhD – author, Ursuline Academy of Dallas History Instructor, and Fort Worth Westerners member
- **July** – Sea of Mud: A Forgotten but Significant Incident in the Texas Revolution – Gregg Dimmick, MD - retired pediatrician, author, and avocational archeologist from Wharton, TX
- **Aug** – Adobe Walls and Red River Wars - Michael Grauer - Curator at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, previously 31 years at Panhandle-Plains Museum in Canyon, TX, and Westerners International Board member
- **Sept** – Murder in Montague - Glen Sample Ely, PhD - author and owner of on-line company Texas History (website: www.texashistory.com)
- **Oct** – The Great Hanging in Gainesville, TX in Oct 1862 – Richard McCaslin, PhD - award winning author and University of North Texas History Professor
- **Nov** – Trammell's Trace, the First Road to Texas from the North - Gary Pinkerton - author and independent researcher (website: www.trammellstrace.org)



Up in the north country, the **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** has been warming things up with good programs and a great newsletter. Their March program was on "Sophie the Hard-Living, Hard-Bargaining Montana Frontier Woman," and was presented by **Darris Flannagan**. They met at the Red Lion in Kalispell for the evening's presentation and for a genuine Irish dinner. Their April meeting will be entitled "Hard to Get To, Harder to Leave: A Look at Libby's Early Development." The program will be presented by Posse member, **Jeff Gruber**.

Please do check out their extensive publications at <https://northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com/publications/> You'll find lots of material that will interest you!

And, from **Linda Cravens** of the **Scottsdale Corral**, we have a great update on programing. They will present a program on Arizona's Mexican Heritage: An American Story Documentary Series. Episode One, on March 24, was on "The Origins." Historian Pete Dimas, with the support of Braun Sacred Heart Center, created a remarkable multi-part documentary on Arizona's deep, rich Mexican heritage. This project was years in the making, and involved support from the community, historians, and many museums and archives.

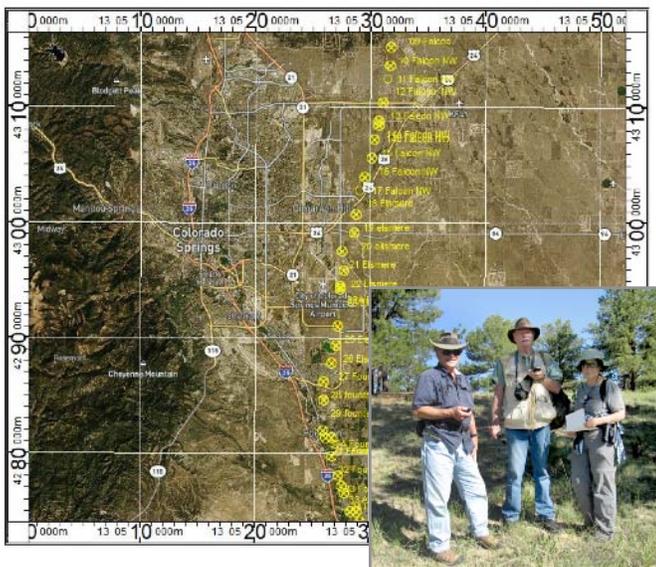
Editor's note: Bruce Watson presented "Mapping the Cherokee Trail in Colorado" to the **Pikes Peak Corral** at their February meeting. Bruce is a member and the Co-Chair of Mapping Committee of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA.

In Pursuit of Colorado's Historic Trails

By Bruce Watson

The Oregon-California Trails Association is dedicated to the marking, mapping, and preservation of America's historic trails. The Colorado Chapter is chartered to pursue these efforts for the Cherokee Trail within our state. This trail was named for the Cherokee Indians traveling to the California gold fields in 1849-50. Their route through Colorado followed other well-travelled trails along the Front Range, such as the Trappers' Trail and the Taos Trail, amongst others.

The "Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter" of OCTA was created in 2005, and currently has approximately 100 members, which include many from other states. This chapter serves as the only OCTA representative for Colorado. Here is a link to our website: <https://octa-trails.org/regional-chapters/colorado-cherokee-trail-chapter>



El Paso County Mappers at Jimmy Camp Creek Park. Left to right, Tracy DeVault (AZ), Bill Burr and Jeannie Mitchell.

Our chapter contains a Mapping Committee dedicated to pursuing detailed mapping of the trail, which, upon completion is forwarded to both the national OCTA offices and the National Park Service. A fairly large portion of the trail has been completed, yet there remains much more work to be done. We try to enlist mappers who reside close to the areas requiring work to reduce travel time and distance. Currently we have unfinished work in Larimer, Douglas, Elbert, and El Paso Counties. As historic trails generally cross state lines, we work closely with other states' chapters to ensure accurate continuation of the routes.

Our mapping efforts basically fall into two categories: research and field work. Both are challenging and rewarding. Our research can involve searching diaries, journals, old maps and even old aerial agricultural photos. Libraries are a primary source of much of our research, and more recently internet access.

One of our most productive research tools involves the use of the original land surveys. In our area of interest these surveys were generally performed in the 1870s, when traces of the trails were still evident. We have methods to convert the surveyors' measurements into GPS coordinates. Using these coordinates, we're able to begin our field work, which involves seeking physical traces of the trail. Using hand-held GPS units, we then record the path of the trail. OCTA has nationally accepted trail classifications, which we use to classify the segments of the trail. We offer training to new mappers, both in person, and a series of self-paced PowerPoint presentations.

The Colorado Chapter periodically schedules outings to visit historical sites, not necessarily involving the Cherokee Trail. Recently we've had Zoom chapter meetings with guest speakers delivering presentations of historical interest. It's our common interest in western American history that binds us all.

If the history of westward migration interests you, we suggest consideration of membership in OCTA, and of course our Colorado chapter. OCTA membership provides a quarterly magazine, titled the Overland Journal. These journals contain well-written historical essays on a variety of subjects and are very popular. The national OCTA holds a convention every year, with excellent speakers and tours to historic sites. The 2021 convention has been scheduled for Elko, Nevada. Once you attend one of these conventions, you'll look forward to each succeeding one, as they're very informative and enjoyable.

If you're interested in joining OCTA or one of their 11 chapters, access the national website at <https://octa-trails.org> or call 816-252-2276.

We still have considerable work to do in El Paso County. I've included the contact information for our two county mappers.

Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter contact information:

Camille Bradford, President: bradford@usa.net, 303-460-0371

Bruce Watson, Co-Chair Mapping Committee: bgwatson@comcast.net

Bill Burr, El Paso County Mapper: williamcburr@gmail.com

Jeannie Mitchell, El Paso County Mapper: vancerus@earthlink.net



Western History Association News

WHA 2021 PANEL

Panel title:

"Anti-Mexican Violence, Terrorism, and Attempted Community Destruction."

Commentator: Sonia Hernández (Texas A&M University)

Panel Chair: Celeste Menchaca (University of Southern California)

Panelists and their presentation titles:

"El Paso Strong: Surviving and Remembering a Mass Shooting," Cynthia Renteria (University of Texas at El Paso)

"The Desert Reclaims Everything: Returning Home a Year After the Matanza," Roberto José Andrade Franco, freelance writer

"Unlawful Acts: Anti-Mexican Violence and the Failure of the Criminal Justice System in Texas, 1910-1920," Nick Villanueva (University of Colorado, Boulder)

With hearty thanks to Tim Bowman, Westerners International President for his organizing of WHA panels, exhibits, and activities!

for more information: <https://westernhistoryassociation.wildapricot.org/2021/program>



Jim Jennings grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University. Jim and his wife Mavis reside in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Palo Duro Corral and serves the Corral as Keeper of the Chips. Jim is a renowned western writer and a long-time western historian. Jim is retired as Executive Director of Publications for the American Quarter Horse Association and continues to write and is currently writing the scripts for Red Steagall's television show "Somewhere West of Wall Street."



Left to right: Bill Powers, Bob Dalton, Grat Dalton, Dick Broadwell, four of the five men killed while attempting to rob two banks at Coffeyville, Kansas on October 5th, 1892. Emmett Dalton, who was with them survived 21 bullet wounds and served time in the State penitentiary until pardoned. He later wrote newspaper articles stating that "Crime does not pay."

The Dalton Gang

Lewis Dalton was a saloon keeper in Kansas City, Missouri, when he married Adeline Younger. Adeline just happened to be the aunt of Cole and Jim Younger, who hooked up with Jesse James and became well-known bank robbers in the 1860s and '70s.

With Lewis, Adeline had 12 children, nine of whom were boys. Lewis had an interest in horse racing, and to pursue that, the family moved from Missouri to Indian Territory in 1882. Later they moved to a settlement near Coffeyville, Kansas, and then back to the Kingfisher area in Oklahoma Territory.

As early as 1870, Lewis Dalton began traveling to California to enter his racehorses in the circuits out there, sometimes being gone for months at a time. Starting with the oldest, he would eventually take all his boys along with him. In 1877, while their father was running horses in Visalia, California, the oldest boys, Ben, Frank, and Littleton, were offered work as muleskinners out there. Brothers Grat and Cole followed them to California in 1880, and then Bill joined his brothers in 1884, leasing a ranch in San Luis Obispo County.

That same year, Frank was offered a job in the Indian Territory as Deputy U.S. Marshall out of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and he moved back to be closer to home



and the rest of his family. On November 27, 1887, Frank went across the river from Fort Smith to arrest three whiskey bootleggers. As Frank approached the camp, the bootleggers began to fire on him. Frank shot and killed two, but his gun jammed and he was killed by the remaining bootlegger. At the time, Frank would have been working for U.S. Federal Judge Isaac Parker, whose court was in Fort Smith. During the 21 years that Judge Parker sat on the bench in Fort Smith, there were at least 70 deputy marshals killed in the line of duty in the lawless Indian Territory.

After Frank's death, brothers Grat and Bob Dalton also became Deputy U.S. Marshals at Fort Smith, and Bob hired his brother Emmett to guard prisoners. Bob killed a man in the line of duty, which he claimed was in self defense, but he was fired and then was given the job of organizing a police force in the Osage Nation.

He took Emmett along as a deputy. Grat meanwhile stayed at Fort Smith. In July of 1890, Emmett and Bob began stealing horses. Stockmen in the area organized a posse to capture them, but the two hid out. Grat tried to send them food, horses, and ammunition, but was caught and thrown in jail at Fort Smith. After two

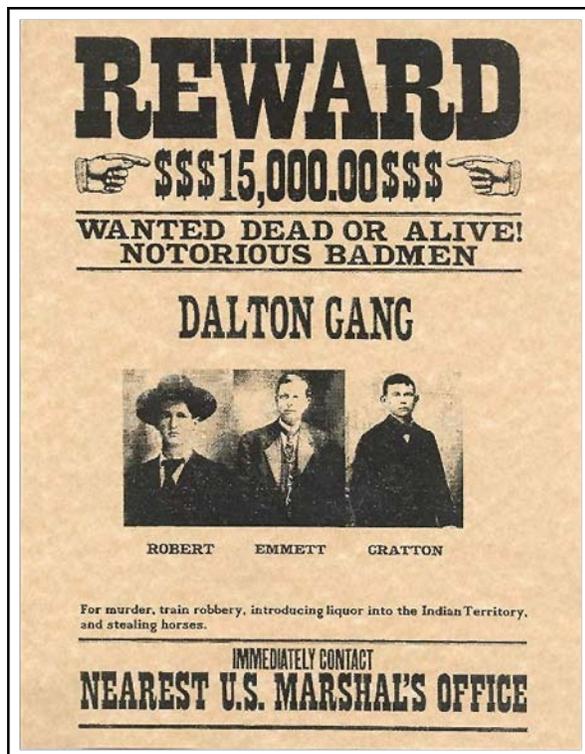
weeks, Grat was released in the hopes he would lead the law to his brothers, but Bob and Emmett took a train to California and began working at their brother Bill's ranch.

Grat returned to California to meet Emmett and Bob at Bill's ranch in January 1891, and since working for the law hadn't worked out, they began making plans to rob a train. Their brothers Cole, Littleton, and Bill tried to talk them out of it, but on the night of February 6, 1891, a Southern Pacific

Railroad passenger train was held up by two masked men carrying .44-caliber revolvers. No money was successfully taken, but during the crossfire with the outlaws, the train's fireman was accidentally killed by the expressman. The robbers were Bob and Emmett. Grat was unable to join the heist because he had spent all his money on drinking and gambling, and couldn't afford to buy a horse.

The sheriff's posse tracked the outlaws to Bill's ranch, where they found a saddle that was missing a leather strap. That leather strap had been found at the scene of the hold up. Brothers Bob, Emmett, Grat, and Bill were all indicted for the robbery, and a few days later Grat and Bill were arrested, even though neither were involved. Bill was able to post bond for he and Grat, but a \$3,000 reward was offered for the capture of Bob and Emmett. That, however, was never paid. They were already on their way back to Oklahoma territory, and as soon as they got there, they robbed a train of \$1,200 at Wharton, Oklahoma. Assisting the brothers were George "Bitter Creek" Newcomb and "Blackfaced" Charlie Bryant, who got his nickname because of a gunpowder burn on his cheek.

In the meantime, back in California, Grat was convicted of the murder of the fireman on the train that Bob and Emmett had robbed, and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Bill was acquitted. Grat then escaped from jail, and made his way back to Oklahoma. Bill sold



his ranch, and he, too, went back to his family in Oklahoma.

By this time, Bob and Emmett had put together an outlaw gang, and they intended to make as much money as they could. Joining them, in addition to Newcomb and Bryant, was their brother Grat, along with Bill Doolin, Dick Broadwell, Bill Powers, and Charley Pierce.

Three months after the Wharton robbery in August 1891, Charlie Bryant became ill and was taken to the doctor in Hennessey, Oklahoma Territory. Deputy Marshal Ed Short spotted Bryant and arrested him while he was recovering from his illness at a local hotel. There being no jail in Hennessey, the marshal loaded Bryant on a train and headed to the federal jail in Wichita. In route, Bryant somehow obtained a gun and attempted to escape. He shot Deputy Marshall Short in the back, but then Short turned and shot Bryant. Both men died.

The Dalton Gang's next robbery was a train at a small station called Lelietta, in Oklahoma Territory, where they got \$19,000. Then, on June 1, 1892, they were waiting on the train in Red Rock, Oklahoma Territory, but when it pulled into the station, there were no lights showing in the coach windows. They got suspicious and allowed the train to go on. In a little while, another train pulled in. The outlaws boarded it, but the safe only contained about \$50. As it turned out, their suspicions about the first train were correct. It had been full of armed guards protecting \$70,000 of the Sac and Fox tribe's annuity.

The next robbery was at Adair, Oklahoma Territory, near the Arkansas border, on July 14. At the station, the Dalton gang took what they could find in the express and baggage rooms, and then sat on a bench on the platform, talking and smoking, with their Winchester rifles across their knees, waiting on the next train. Once again, the train was loaded with deputies, but for some reason, they were all at the back of the train. The gang backed a wagon up to the express car and unloaded all of the contents, easily subduing the only guard in the express car. When the marshals finally discovered the robbery, a fierce gun battle broke out. Two guards were killed, as well as an innocent bystander, and another was wounded. The gang escaped unharmed, making off with \$17,000 in cash. After this train robbery, a price of \$5,000 was placed on each of the gangs' heads.

In early October, Bob Dalton bragged that he would "beat anything Jesse James ever did – rob two banks at once, in broad daylight." Their plan was to rob the C.M. Condon & Company's Bank and the First National Bank on opposite sides of the street in Coffeyville, Kansas. Bob and Emmett were to rob the First National Bank while Grat, Broadwell, and Powers robbed the Condon Bank across the street.

Tying their horses in an alley across from the banks, they dismounted and, disguised with false beards, divided into two groups, three in front and two in the rear. Grat, Broadwell, and Powers entered the Condon Bank, and Emmett and Bob hurried across Union Street to the First National Bank. A street worker noticed the men dog trotting across the alley with rifles, recognized them and yelled, "The Daltons are robbing the bank!" Grat entered the Condon Bank and pointed his Winchester at the cashier. While Powers and Broadwell took positions at the door, Grat handed the cashier a bag and ordered him to fill it with cash from the money drawer. Then Grat ordered the manager and cashier into the vault where the safe with the gold was. When told to open the safe, the manager lied, telling Grat it was a time lock and that it would not open for another ten minutes. Grat believed him and decided he would wait until it opened.

Meanwhile, Emmett and Bob had entered the First National Bank, covered the officers and two customers, and ordered the cashier, Thomas Aryes, to open the safe, where there was gold and cash. They put the gold into a sack and went out the front door. They had planned to meet up with Grat and cross the plaza to the alley, where they could make their escape, but word of the robbery had spread through town. As they exited the door, an American Express agent opened fire with his revolver. Bob and Emmett returned fire, turned around, and went through the back door, carrying their rifles and the money bags.

Grat heard the revolver shots from the Express agent. Two hardware stores in the town had meanwhile begun passing out guns to the local citizens, who began firing through the windows at the Condon Bank. The three outlaws returned fire and held out, waiting for the time lock to open.

When Emmett and Bob went out the back door of the First National Bank, they were met by Lucius Baldwin who had been watching the door with his pistol. Bob shot him with his Winchester, killing him. Bob and Emmett then made their way to the end of the alley onto Eighth Street, where they could hear the townspeople shooting at the Condon Bank. Outside of a drug store across from the First National, George Cubine was standing with his

Winchester aimed at the front door of the bank, awaiting the exit of Bob and Emmett. Bob shot him in the head. Cubine's partner, Charles Brown, was standing unarmed next to him, but bent down to pick up Brown's Winchester. Bob shot and killed him.

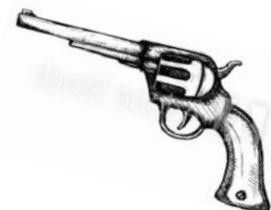
After Bob and Emmett left the bank, cashier Thomas Ayers ran into one of the hardware stores and grabbed a rifle. He spotted Bob just as he had killed Brown, and aimed his rifle at him from behind the store window. Bob saw Ayers from about two hundred feet away and quickly shot him in the head.

In the Condon bank, Grat told Powers and Broadwell that it was time to leave. The three went out the side door crouching and dashing across Walnut Street to the alley where they had hitched their horses. Bob and Emmett met Grat and the others in the alley, the sacks of money still over their arms.

As the Daltons made their way east down the alley toward the horses, town Marshal Charles T. Connelly came through the livery stable into the alley. Grat shot him in the head and killed him. Following behind Marshal Connelly was John Kholer. Grat noticed him, but before he could aim, Kholer shot Grat in the throat, killing him.

Taking fire from the hardware store, Bob was hit in the head and the heart, killing him instantly. Powers tried to mount his horse, but shots from the store also killed him. Emmett was able to mount his horse unwounded and began riding away, but after noticing Bob was hit, turned around and attempted to lift Bob onto his horse. Emmett was then hit in the back with a load of buckshot. Broadwell was hit several times but managed to ride away. He was found dead two miles away.

Grat and Bob Dalton, Dick Broadwell and Bill Powers were all killed. Emmett Dalton received 21 gunshot wounds and survived. He was given a life sentence in the Kansas State Penitentiary. However, he served only 14 years before being pardoned, due to some friends who had known him when he was going to school near Coffeyville, and thought he wasn't all bad.



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John Wickman

Abilene, Kansas

May 24, 1929 - January 22, 2021

In memory of John Wickman, founding member of the **Kansas Corral**

John Wickman was a founding member of the Kansas Corral of the Westerners, which was founded in 1971, fifty years ago this year. John's late wife Shirley was a member of the Corral, and son, Eric Wickman, is a current member.

John Wickman was also a founder of the Kansas Museums Association in 1969. John and the Eisenhower Library were very important to the Kansas Museums Association getting started. John gave the keynote address at the first Kansas Museums Association annual meeting, which was held at the Eisenhower Library, and he supported Eisenhower Library staff member, William K. Jones, serving as the first President of the Kansas Museums Association.

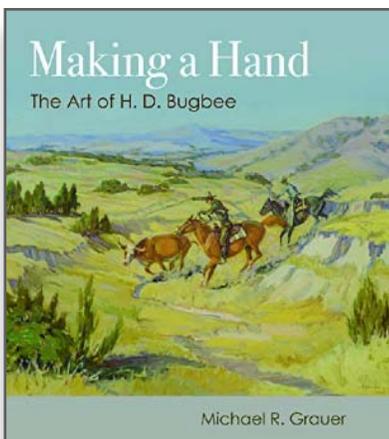
John was also a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society, serving as President in 1977-1978. He retired as Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library in 1989.

We know that he will be missed by family, friends, and Kansas Westerners.



BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



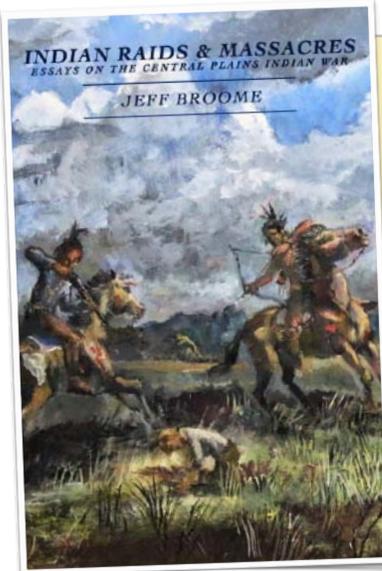
Michael R. Grauer's book, **Making a Hand: The Art of H. D. Bugbee** Western Heritage Award (Wrangler) for Art/Photography Books, Literature, for 2021

The Western Heritage Awards Committee of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum has selected Michael R. Grauer's book, *Making a Hand: The Art of H. D. Bugbee*, to receive the Western Heritage Award (Wrangler) for Art/Photography Books, Literature, for 2021. Part of the West Texas A&M University Series, the book's publisher, Texas A&M University Press, submitted the monograph for consideration, unbeknownst to the author. Mr. Grauer will receive his award on Friday, September 17, 2021 during the annual Western Heritage Awards weekend. Michael Grauer is the McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture and Curator of Cowboy Collections at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum has been recognizing exemplary achievements in all media in the preservation and education of the histories, arts, and cultures of the American West since 1955. The Western Heritage Awards honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Western heritage through creative works in literature, music, television and film that share the great stories of the American West.

BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

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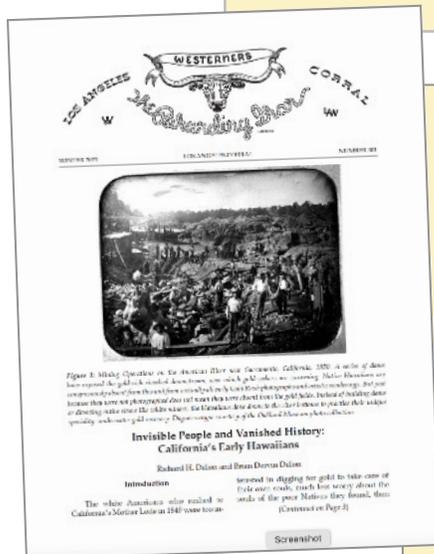
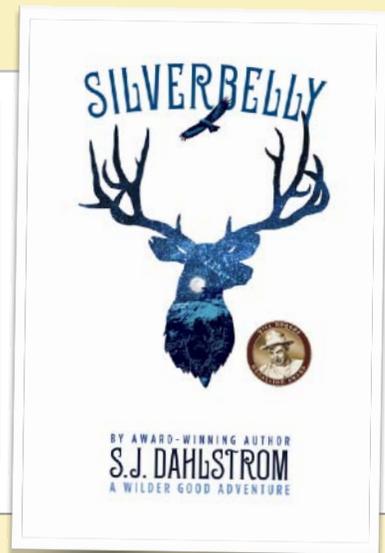
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The **Los Angeles Corral's** latest issue of **The Branding Iron** (#301) is hot off the press. The Branding Iron is the quarterly historical publication of the Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners. It began in 1947 as **The Brand Book**, but after five issues was re-named **The Branding Iron**. It features articles on the history of Los Angeles, Southern California, and the West, along with book reviews, and news about the Corral and its members. Many of the articles were written by noted scholars and local historians. The early numbering is not consecutive because other Corral publications including some Keepsakes, were originally included along with the quarterly. Only **The Branding Irons** are included here.

All Branding Iron issues are now available. To search the entirety of the collection, download a complete list at: <http://www.lawesterners.org/2013/10/19/branding-irons/>

If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: kenneth.pirtle@me.com so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.