

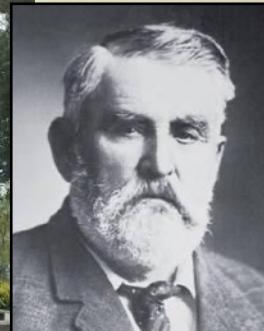
# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Volume LIII - issue 43 - September 2020

Introducing:

## THE CHARLES GOODNIGHT HOUSE, HISTORICAL SITE



Charles Goodnight and his business partner John Adair established the JA Ranch, the first cattle ranch in the Texas panhandle in 1877 in the Palo Duro Canyon area of the Texas Panhandle. In 1887, Goodnight established the Goodnight-Thayer Cattle Company in present Armstrong County and built a spacious Victorian-style two-story ranch house. The Goodnight home is restored on its original site and features a 268-square-foot second floor sleeping porch with spectacular views of the countryside and the nearby bison herd that are actual descendants of the herd raised by Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight.

The Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site includes the J. Evetts Haley Visitor and Education Center, which offers exhibits about the Goodnights, bison, and the settlement of the area. A Quanah Parker Trail giant arrow marker on the grounds serves to commemorate the friendship between Charles Goodnight and Quanah Parker, last Chief of the Comanche.

The site is available for self-guided tours Tuesday through Saturdays, 10am to 5pm. The Goodnight house is located a few hundred yards off of Highway 287 and about 45 miles SE of Amarillo, Texas. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. There is no fee to enjoy the visitors center.

for additional information: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/charles-and-mary-ann-goodnight-ranch-state-historic-site>



**Ya'll Come! To the Westerners, International  
3rd Annual Gather!**  
Held Jointly With  
**The Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary Celebration!**  
Lots of information on page 4-7

## CHAIRMAN'S GREETING



WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



Greetings from the Home Ranch. I hope that you are all enjoying the beginning of summer and a little respite from the trials and challenges of the last year! Here, after a wet spring, we are seeing the sunshine, the birds, and all the promises of summertime.

As was the case earlier in the year, Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer, and I are still both working remotely from home, and Delinda goes onto campus and to the office once a week.

I salute each and every one of you for coming through the last year. Most of the WI corrals and posses did not meet face-to-face for the year and some are just starting to plan their in-person programs for late summer and early fall. A few corrals and posses were tech savvy and creatively put together Zoom programs and even gained membership in the process. However you have weathered the storm, I tip my Stetson to you!

On the top of our list at the Home Ranch are the judging of the award entries and gearing up for the annual fall Gather, which will take place Friday, October 8 through Saturday, October 9. The Los Angeles Corral will be hosting us and it promises to be a truly grand event, as it is the annual WI Gather as well as the 75th anniversary of the LA Corral. Entry forms are available online on the WI website's front page. Just print it out and send it in – we hope to see you there!

Happy Summer and Happy Trails to all!

*Bonney*

Bonney MacDonald  
Chairman, Westerners International  
Happy Trails!

### Inside this Issue:

Chairman's Greetings  
Home Ranch Announcements  
The LA Rendezvous & Gather  
Corral News

pg. 2  
pg. 3  
pg. 4 - 6  
pg. 8 - 9

WHA news  
The Murder Steer, by Jim Jennings  
The Mercantile  
Book News  
Publications

pg. 10  
pg. 11 - 12  
pg. 13  
pg. 14  
pg. 15



## 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 THANKS FROM THE HOME RANCH

COVID hit corrals and posses hard this year. At the Home Ranch we've tried to do all we can to support and encourage you to stay with it and keep the enthusiasm for our great organization. We know that a lot of you weren't able to meet during this last year and we applaud you for keeping safe and healthy.

If you were one of the corrals or posses who were not able to send in dues this year, we understand and we have your back! Yes, we depend on dues to keep the lights on, pay for awards, and many other things; but the MAIN thing is you all and the traditions you carry forward and the programs you offer. What we at the Home Ranch hope for most is that you stay healthy and that you are part of this fun and wonderful group of folks.



## 2021 AWARDS

Thank you to all who sent in submissions for awards. We need to apologize because, for reasons we're still sorting out, two award entry packages were returned. We have since arranged for them to be resent, so all will be well. And rest assured that the fault with the mail was on our end not yours; so your entry will be received as on time.

It's such a treat to read through all of your programs and written submissions for awards. It reminds us all of the good and enthusiastic work you all are doing in Westerners.



**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 the final page 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**

**Questions?: Email Wrangler Brian . . . [briandervindillon@gmail.com](mailto: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).

## REGISTRATION 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**

For an even more thorough and complete agenda, visit:  
<http://westerners-international.org/GatherSchedule.pdf>

# 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!

### Corral and Posse Updates

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/VoiceoftheWest/>

The **Cochise County Corral** hosted a program on "Healers, Quacks, and Elixers" from **George Whitehead** in February. Their March program featured **Gary Smith**, Watervale historian, speaking on "Water, Water Everywhere." 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 Smerekianich** spoke for Al Schieffelin; and **Jon Donahue** talked about mine developer Richard Gird. What a creative program!!

**Cochise County Corral**, 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](http://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 had a great April program. On Thursday, April 1, 2021 **Bob Nilson** and **Jon Donahue** spoke 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 planned an optional no-host pre-meeting dinner at the Longhorn Restaurant. And, in early June, they hosted a free program on "Siberian Cowboys: Cochise County Cowboys with the U.S. Army in Russia."

**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](http://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.texacamelcorps.com](http://www.texacamelcorps.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 members



continued on next page

more

# CORRAL NEWS

**Jul** – 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

**Sep** – Murder in Montague - Glen Sample Ely, PhD - author and owner of on-line company Texas History (website: [www.texashistory.com](http://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](http://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 programming. They had 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. The Corral also had a May meeting on "The Forgotten Scottsdale." They will not meet in summer but plan to resume meetings in September.

## Zoom

### Doug Hocking

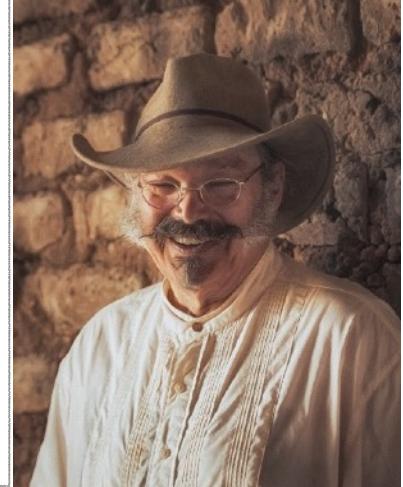
For any corrals or posses looking to give variety and wonderful interest to their programs, consider having a Zoom presentation from Doug Hocking! Danielson

Award winner for

Best Presentation and winner of the

Will Rogers Medallion and Co-Founders' Award for Best Western History  
Is available to do Presentations by Zoom

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



### Westerners, International BOOKS CLOSE-OUT

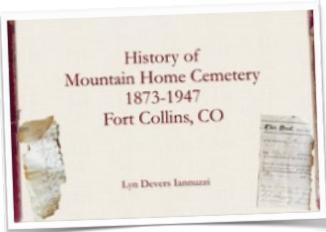
As Western historians (and long-ago W.I. Presidents) **John Porter Bloom** and **Joe Tice Bloom** accumulated and loved many W.I. books and other publications. Now there is just John, who has to cram everything into a retirement apartment. Let me ship these invaluable books, etc., to you. **Free**. (OK, be nice to return postage) I can send you a list: [john.bloom@comcast.net](mailto:john.bloom@comcast.net), or by regular mail: **John P. Bloom, 3045 Buena Vida Circle, Apt. 111, Las Cruces, NM 88011**.

more

# CORRAL NEWS

**BIG NEWS**

The Pikes Peak Posse's Westerners, International Conference for 2022 slated for Colorado Springs, Colorado is now set for September 8-10, (re-scheduled dates)  
Update from the Special Events Committee: Conference Chair, Media Wrangler and "Rep", IT of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners.  
It promises to be grand!



Klaus & Marie Krizanovic, Co-Sheriffs of the Fort Collins Corral report that their "Zoom" April meeting was a presentation by **Lyn Iannuzzi** on the historic Mountain Home Cemetery in Fort Collins.

The **Buckskin Bulletin** appreciates receiving meeting notices from the Fort Collins Corral.

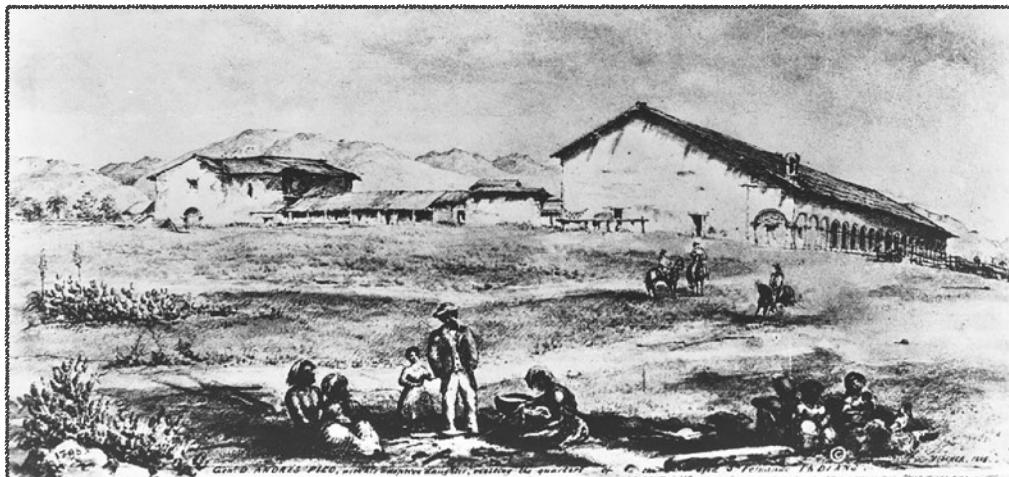
**Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D.** of the **Los Angeles Corral** was invited to give a "Zoom" presentation to the **Conference of Historical California Societies** in April of this year. As an attendee, I can report that Brian did a wonderful job in his topic of "Writing, Editing, and Publishing History". Way to go Brian!

The Home Ranch was pleased to get this note in the mail along with a generous check!

"The Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees are pleased to send you the enclosed \$1,000.00 contribution from the Oklahoma Westerners Indian Territory Posse Fund. This grant was recommended by Indian Territory Posse for the benefit of your organization."

A hearty "thank you" from the Home Ranch to the Indian Territory Posse!

**BIG NEWS**



Ya'll come to  
OUR SPECTACULAR, POST-PANDEMIC  
**Westerners International**  
**3rd Annual Gather!**  
**Held Jointly With**  
**The Los Angeles Corral 75th**  
**Anniversary Celebration!**

Lots of information on previous pages 4, 5, and 6.

*On the list of sights will be the Mission San Fernando. Illustration left -Mayordomo Andrés Pico and his step-daughter in the foreground, and Mission Neophytes (ex-mission Indians) all around. This image dates to about 1865...*



# Western History Association News

## Western History Association Panel

Oct 27-30, 2021 in Portland, Oregon

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)

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

For further information on the WHA Conference see  
[www.westernhistory.org](http://westerners-international.org)



*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."*



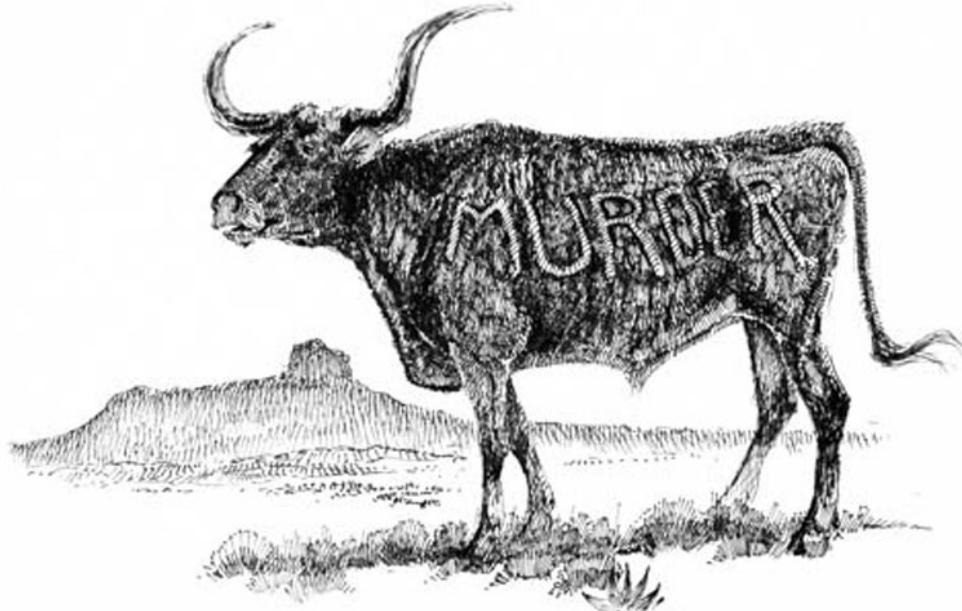
# THE MURDER STEER

*Unlike many of the gunfights seen in movies, this one really happened.*

In the middle of the day, on January 28, 1891, at a roundup in Brewster County, Texas, rancher Henry H. Powe lay dead of a gunshot wound. Dust created by several thousand head of cattle swirled around his body, as the other cowboys, stunned by what had just happened, watched Powe's killer ride away on a fast horse. Unlike what Hollywood would have you believe, tragedies like this were rare. Ranch cowboys in the 1890s seldom carried guns, and almost never when they were working. But this murder really happened, and how it happened has been related around campfires for 130 years. I think it's time to tell it again.

Ranching in Brewster County, Texas, didn't really get started until the late 1870s, primarily because of the Indians and because no one knew anything about the area. Brewster County is the largest county in the state, and it's neighbored by other large counties, located in far West Texas in the Big Bend area. That region got its name because that's where the Rio Grande interrupts its southeasterly flow to the Gulf of Mexico and turns almost due north for a while. In other words, it's a big bend in the river. Following the Mexican-American War, which ended in 1848 and established the Rio Grande as the border between Mexico and the United States, several military surveys were made of this totally unmapped land, but for the next 30 to 40 years there was very little settlement at all.

It's not a particularly easy country in which to ranch because Brewster County is a part of the Chihuahuan Desert, which includes most of the Big Bend region and stretches



deep into Mexico. Much of the terrain can be described as harsh, rough and rocky, and the climate is arid to semi-arid, depending upon what part of the county you're in. The summer days are hot and dry, but the evenings are remarkably cool due to the elevation that is a result of being between the Chisos and Davis mountain ranges. And the grass is strong, perfect for growing cattle. Once the Apache Indians were defeated in the 1880s, more and more ranchers moved in. By 1890, there were a number of outfits, both large and small, running thousands of head of cattle.

The Big Bend area was all open range, no fences. Ranchers attempted to keep their cattle on their own range, but with no fences or other barriers, it was impossible. As a result, everyone's cattle ran together. In the fall, the cattle on the range were all gathered so that the calves could be worked and branded, with each calf receiving the same brand as that of his mother. All the ranches in the area sent cowboys to help with the gather and the working, and even those ranches that were far enough away that it was unlikely

any of their cattle were mixed in, sent a representative – or “rep,” as they were known – to make sure none of their calves were branded by someone else. A roundup boss was elected from the group to settle any disputes, and since the roundups gave the cowboys the opportunity to visit with old friends, everyone always looked forward to them.

In late January of 1891, a number of the smaller ranches held a roundup at Leoncita Springs, north of the town of Alpine. The mission was to brand those calves that had been missed during the fall works. As the work began, cowboys from each ranch spread out across the area, pushing before them any cattle they found, and when they all came together at Leoncita Springs, there were somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 head in the gather. Among the area ranches that did not participate in the roundup was the huge Dubois and Wentworth spread from the Toronto Mountain area, but that ranch sent a rep to make sure the correct brand would be applied should any of their calves be discovered. The rep for Dubois and Wentworth was a man named Fine Gilliland, who wore a pistol on his belt and was described by some as a hired gun. At the very least, he was a man of questionable character.

As the week went along, everything was going well with the roundup, the cowboys from the various ranches enjoying the rare opportunity to visit. Then, on January 28, an unbranded, brindle-colored bull calf with no apparent mother was discovered in the herd. The roundup boss told Henry Powe, a one-armed Confederate veteran who had lost an arm in the battle of Gettysburg, that he thought he had seen the calf following a Powe cow, so Powe cut the animal out of the herd to apply his HHP brand. That was when Gilliland rode up and asked if the calf's mother was with the calf. He was told that she wasn't, but that the boss had said it was a Powe calf. Gilliland then replied, “He'll play hell taking it unless he produces the cow,” and drove the calf back to the herd.

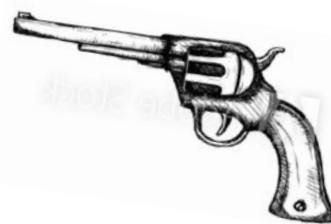
There are many versions of what happened next, but most agree that Powe, who saw the calf and Gilliland coming, attempted to turn the calf back. After Gilliland blocked the way, the two exchanged words. No one was close enough to hear what was said, but Powe rode over to another man and removed a gun from the man's saddle bags. Gilliland then attempted to rope the calf, and Powe fired a shot at it, perhaps to drive it away. Although Powe had not fired at Gilliland, the latter man – who was armed – dismounted, and after taking careful aim, shot at Powe but missed. Powe also dismounted, and with both the horse's reins and the pistol in his only hand, fired at Gilliland, but he, too, missed, probably because when the gun went off, Powe's horse jerked him down. Gilliland shot again, killing Powe. Some say that Gilliland walked up to where Powe lay on the ground and shot him point blank in the chest. Regardless, the rancher was killed.

Holstering his pistol, Gilliland remounted and left the herd at a run. Henry Powe's son, Bob, rode into Alpine to report to Sheriff James B. Gillett what had happened, and soon Deputy Sheriff Thallis Cook and Texas Ranger James Putman were on Gilliland's trail. About a week later, in a canyon in the Glass Mountain range, they found him, but Gilliland fired twice at the lawmen, his first shot hitting Cook in the knee and his second one killing Cook's horse. Then, in an attempt to escape, Gilliland spurred his horse into a dead run. Ranger Putman calmly stepped down from his horse, and with his rifle, dropped Gilliland's horse. Putman ordered Gilliland to surrender, but the gunfighter, using his dead horse as a shield, answered the ranger with gunfire. Putman then killed Gilliland the next time he raised up to shoot. The canyon in which Gilliland was killed was later named Gilliland Canyon and is called that yet today.

Back at the herd, no one wanted to claim the brindle calf. When one of the cowboys rode into the herd, heeled the calf and dragged him to the branding fire, he was castrated and then another cowboy pulled a running iron out of the fire and branded the word “murder” on the yearling's side. After rolling him over, he was branded “Jan 28 91” – the date of Powe's murder – on the other side. The calf was then turned loose and he returned to the herd.

But that's not the end of the story. According to legend, the steer was seen time after time for years, with each sighting followed by a string of bad luck. Some say that he's still out there. However, according to author C.F. Eckhardt in the website TexasEscapes.com, Henry Powe's son Bob said that the animal stayed on the ranch until 1905. That year, Bob Powe put him in with a herd that was bound for some Indian reservations in Montana. Supposedly Powe followed the herd until it crossed the Pecos River so that he knew for sure the steer was gone from his range.

As I mentioned earlier, the story of the Murder Steer has been told and retold for 130 years now. It has appeared in a number of different books about the Big Bend country, and famous folklorist J. Frank Dobie put the story in his book “The Longhorns.” A segment of the old black and white television show “Rawhide” was based on the event, and Canadian song writer Ian Tyson has written and recorded the song “Murder Steer,” which spread the legend even more. Tyson's song follows the events as I've told them here.



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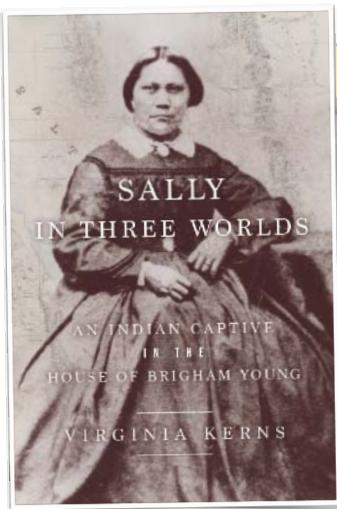


white bandana

# BOOK NEWS

TO WESTERNERS

OF INTEREST



## **Sally in Three Worlds**

An Indian Captive in the House of Brigham Young

By Virginia Kerns

In this remarkable and deeply felt book, Virginia Kerns uncovers the singular and forgotten life of a young Indian woman who was captured in 1847 in what was then Mexican territory. Sold to a settler, a son-in-law of Brigham Young, the woman spent the next thirty years as a servant to Young's family. Sally, as they called her, lived in the shadows, largely unseen. She was later remembered as a "wild" woman made "tame" who happily shed her past to enter a new and better life in civilization.

available from the University of Utah Press at: <https://uofupress.lib.utah.edu/sally-in-three-worlds/>

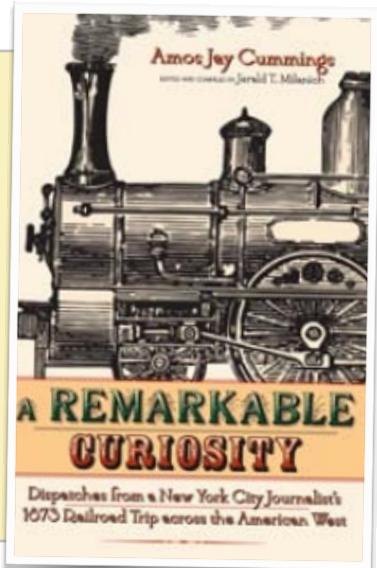
## **A Remarkable Curiosity**

Dispatches from a New York City Journalist's 1873 Railroad Trip across the American West  
by Amos Jay Cummings; edited and compiled by Jerald T. Milanich

In 1873, Amos Jay Cummings, a decorated Civil War veteran and journalist for the New York Sun newspaper, set out on a westward journey aboard the newly completed transcontinental railroad. For some time, miners, settlers, and entrepreneurs had already been heading west to make their fortunes, and Cummings made the trip in part to see what all the fuss was about. During his six-month expedition from Kansas to California, Cummings sent extraordinary and engaging accounts of the American West back to his readers in New York.

Hardcover Price: \$28.95

Available from the University Press of Colorado at: <https://upcolorado.com/university-press-of-colorado/item/1854-a-remarkable-curiosity>



## **Icons of the West 2nd Edition**

### **Frederic Remington's Sculpture**

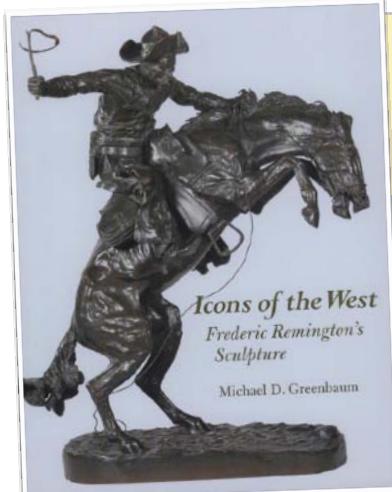
Author: Michael D. Greenbaum

The 2nd edition of this outstanding book is now available. It is the complete book on bronzes by Frederic Remington. It lists all 22 of the models that he created and the location of most of the known casts as well as detailed descriptions of the sculptures. This book has many color photos and black and white illustrations.

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Available from the Frederic Remington Art Museum at:

<https://frederic-remington-art-museum.myshopify.com/collections/books/products/442>



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](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) so I can add it to the Book

# PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



Figure 1: The Atlantic Fleet steaming out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, led by flagship U.S.S. Connecticut (Battleship No. 18). The armada was sent around the world by President Theodore Roosevelt from December 16, 1907 to February 22, 1909. The hulls of the battleships were painted white, earning them the popular nickname the "Great White Fleet." They visited California between April 14 and July 7, 1908. Boxt postcard collection.

## California Salutes the Great White Fleet

Matthew A. Boxt

### Introduction

On December 16, 1907 the United States Atlantic Fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, embarked on a world cruise that lasted until February

22, 1909 (Figures 1-3).<sup>1</sup> It was a 43,000 mile, 14-month circumnavigation of the world that included 20 port calls on six continents. The goals of this naval exercise were multiple. It demonstrated American goodwill,

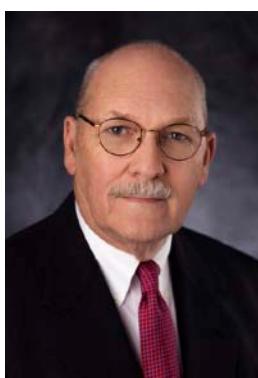
(Continued on Page 3)

Screenshot



**Dr. Brian Dillon** has graciously shared the latest issue of **The Branding Iron**, #302 for June 2021, published by the **Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, International**.

**Great job! Dr. Dillon**



**Greetings** from your **Buckskin Bulletin** editor, Kenneth Pirtle. It is with pride that I put together these newsletters four times a year for **Westerners International**. I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "BB" and share with our membership. Please share your WI news and activities to me at [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) or the Home Ranch at [westerners@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@mail.wtamu.edu) so I can include it in the upcoming issue.

The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now sent to your Sheriff or Corral representative from the Home Ranch. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses and we ask that you keep your Corral information updated. Hopefully the **Buckskin Bulletin** is getting distributed among your local membership. I would humbly request that you read your "BB" and share it when you have the opportunity. Happy Trails, KP