

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



"THE LONE WOLF" 1890 IS PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS PAINTING AND MOST WIDELY REPRODUCED — OF ALFRED VON WIERUSZ-KOWALSKI, A POLISH PAINTER.

Growing up in the 1950's I recall this same framed print hanging in my grandmother's house. I have seen it again from time to time in various places in my life as it has resonated in my visual memories. Many years later a friend of mine had written a western novel and he used this same image as his cover. I prepared it for him in Photoshop for publication purposes well aware that I knew this painting.

As a student of northwest Texas history, I learned that wolves were common in the plains and followed the migrating buffalo herds. An elderly rancher friend of mine, Ed Harrell, proudly claimed that, in his youth, he had killed the last wolf in the Texas panhandle in the 1930's. That struck a somber chord in me. The artist has indeed captured a somber mood here that lingers, ie. hunger, cold, loneliness and the distant warmth of prairie cabins.

(Kenneth Pirtle Buckskin Bulletin editor)

CHAIRMAN'S GREETING



WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU

We hope you enjoy this issue and that you are cozying up to the fire on a winter evening. Here in the southwest, winter is on its way, with the north winds picking up and snow arriving in the high country.

In this issue, please see the Home Ranch's big, Western THANK YOU to Cal Larive and all members of the Jedediah Smith Corral. They went above and beyond to host a fun-filled and educational gathering in Hot Springs, South Dakota. We all had a wonderful time and appreciate all that y'all did to make it possible!!

Delinda King/Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Jackson/ WI Assistant, and I have continued our work over the last season. Awards have been mailed out and we're gearing up for a new awards season in the spring. As you'll see elsewhere in the Bulletin, the 2026 due invoices and contact information sheets will be sent out in February, so the Home Ranch is making preparations there, as well.

REMINDER ABOUT CHANGES IN WEBSITE ADDRESS AND MAILING ADDRESS
(posted in the June and Sept Bulletins)
In case you missed it in other Bulletins, here's our information

The new Home Ranch email is: **WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com**

The new Home Ranch mailing address is:

Westerners International
2200 4th Ave
Box 309
Canyon TX 79015

The Home Ranch phone number remains the same: **806-654-6920**.
It's been the same for the past few years, but we want to be sure you have it handy!

Finally – as always!! -- a special thanks goes out to **Ken Pirtle**, Buckskin Bulletin Editor and member of the **Palo Duro Corral** in Amarillo, TX, for formatting, producing, and editing yet another great issue of the Bulletin – full of good news on events and activities in our corrals and posses!

Happy Trails, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays to all !

Bonney

Bonney MacDonald
Chairman, Westerners International

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A TEXAS-SIZED THANK YOU TO SHERIFF CAL LARIVE AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE JEDEDIAH SMITH CORRAL!!

We had a wonderful turnout for the 2025 Gather in Hot Springs, SD this last September and want to thank Cal and all members of the Corral who went the extra mile and more! The trips were filled with unforgettable historic sites, the programs were educational and entertaining, and the fellowship was felt and enjoyed by all! The town of Hot Springs is truly unique, and if you weren't able to attend the Gather, keep it in mind for a memorable vacation trip. I certainly plan to return! Immense thanks to Cal and everyone in the Corral; we all had a great time!!!

Photo credits for 2027 Gather: **Maggie Crabtree, Spokane Corral.** Thank you, Maggie, for your wonderful photos!!



Cal and Old Joe, Cal Larive, Sheriff, Jedediah Smith Corral; Host of the 2025 Gather in Hot Springs, SD



HEAR YE HEAR YE!! 2027 WESTERNERS GATHER WILL BE IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, FALL 2027

Maggie Crabtree, who attended this year's 2025 Gather, and her fellow corral member, Dick Jensen, Sheriff, have officially signed on to host the next Westerners International Gather in Spokane, WA in 2027. The Gathers are held every other year, which gives corrals and posses time to plan and coordinate. Although, by the looks of things, Maggie, Dick, and fellow corral members are well on their way to planning outings, speakers, historical programs and more! Stay tuned to the Buckskin Bulletin for details on the Gather in Spokane! Thank you in advance to the Spokane Corral!!

Fun times in Hot Springs South Dakota



- 1 Cal Larive, Sheriff, Jedediah Smith Corral
- 2 Craig Crease, first-place winner of the Best Book Award with Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer
- 3 Ed Bathke, Heads Up Award for Larger Corral, Denver Posse
- 4 Jim Olds, Sheriff LA Corral accepting Fred Olds Poetry award on behalf of Gary Turner, LA Corral / with Delinda King
- 5 Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer; Lisa Jackson, WI Assistant; Bonney MacDonald WI Chairman
- 6 Laurel Vartabedian accepting the Danielson award for the Palo Duro Corral for her 2024 presentation
- 7 Maggie Crabtree, Heads Up Award, Smaller Corral, Spokane Corral
- 8 Bernice Landers, poet and member of Jedediah Smith Corral with Bonney MacDonald
- 9 Maggie Crabtree, Spokane Corral and Bonney MacDonald

PHOTO CREDITS: Maggie Crabtree, Spokane Corral



More pics from Hot Springs South Dakota

Left:
James Butler Hickok
Alias "Wild Bill"
Born – May 27, 1837
Troy Grove, Illinois
Died – August 2, 1876
Deadwood, Dakota Territory
"Victim of the assassin Jack
McCall"

Right:
Martha Jane Burke
Alias "Calamity Jane"
Born – May 1, 1852
Princeton, Missouri
Died – August 1, 1903
Terry, South Dakota
Her dying request
"Bury Me Beside Wild Bill"



"to err is human" . . . so they say!

Correction on information in the September Bulletin

In our September **Buckskin Bulletin** section on Corral and Posse Highlights we made a mistake in assigning a name to a photograph from the Kansas City Westerners. In May, the Posse hosted George Pettigrew, of the first Kansas Colored Infantry, and Isaac Johnson, who is the great grandson of an 1867 Buffalo Soldier. The photograph was mistakenly noted as being of John Dillingham, when it was actually a picture of George Pettigrew. We apologize for the mistake.



also: Correction on previous listing for 2024 Westerners Awards
We misprinted the third place for the Phillip Danielsen Award for 2024. Please note that it should read:

Jedediah Smith Corral
Sheriff, Cal Larive
For presentation by Urian Luallin,
"Phillip Wells: Best-Unknown Historical Character in South Dakota"

Thank you to Peggy Sanders of the Jedediah Smith Corral for bringing this to our attention. We apologize for the mistake!

Bob DeWitt of the **Pikes Peak** Corral has asked a very interesting question that the Home Ranch has not yet been able to determine the answer. Perhaps someone among our membership might have the answer. The question is this:

"What was the origin of the name for the Westerners organization?"

If you think you know how we got our name, please reply here: kenneth.pirtle@me.com and we will pass this enlightenment on to Bob. Thanks Bob for your curiosity.

important
reminders

for all Westerners



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.

REMINDER OF NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR WESTERNERS!!!

PLEASE NOTE:

After May 31, we had a new email address and USPS mailing address. Our new information was included in recent Bulletins and is listed again below.

NEW EMAIL FOR THE HOME

RANCH: WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

2200 4th Ave
Box 309
Canyon TX 79015

PHONE NUMBER (remains the same!) : **806-654-6920**

This number gets you through to Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer

Please note that my previous personal email – bmacdonald@wtamu.edu – can no longer be used because I retired as of June 1, 2025. So please contact me through the above Home Ranch email.

Bonney

A REMINDER FOR THE END OF THE YEAR: 2026 DUES INVOICES AND CONTACT SHEETS WILL BE SENT OUT IN FEBRUARY

The dues invoices for 2026 dues will be sent out by US MAIL to your representatives in February. We will also post them on the front page of the WI website. We ask that you fill them out legibly and return them in hard copy to the address on the form.

The dues packets will contain both the dues invoice as well as a contact information sheet. Please RETURN BOTH OF THESE IN HARD COPY to us. The contact sheets are especially important so that we can reach you with *Buckskin Bulletins*, exciting information, and more! If we don't have the accurate contact info, then the Bulletin can't be sent to the right person and then forwarded to each each of you! So please remember to return these.

Thank you!

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!

The **Flagstaff Corral** has returned to active status after a two-year pandemic pause (Three Cheers!!). The Corral is meeting monthly (except for August) for dinner buffet and cash bar. The past two years the Corral has donated to local non-profits that support learning about local history -- namely the Elden Pueblo Project and the Northern Arizona Pioneer Historical Society. The opportunities for Westerners programs are as rich and diverse as the Northern Arizona landscape and culture. In September the **Flagstaff Corral** presented the Verde Valley Archaeology Center Director Emeritus Ken Zoll. His program was "The Crane Petroglyph Heritage Site and V-Bar-V Historic Ranch." The Sheriff of the **Flagstaff Corral** is **Janet Sands**.

The **Llano Estacado Corral** of Westerners International, Lubbock, Texas, met at **Don and Sally Abbe's** house on September 23. Corral member **Paul Carlson** presented the program on "Old Man Singer: A New Look at Lubbock County's Most Famous Citizen of the 1880s." **Kathy Stonum** is Co-Sheriff of the **Llano Estacado Corral**.

In other news from the **Llano Estacado Corral**, member **Nathan Dahlstrom** has recently published another book, "Never Curse the Rain," now available through his web site: <https://wildergood.com/portfolio/never-curse-the-rain>. Congratulations Nathan!

In September, the **Ft. Worth Westerners** hosted a presentation from Peter Martinez on "Fort Worth Mexican American History," and, in October, they enjoyed a program from **Ray Sumner** who spoke on "The Sand Creek Massacre." Their November program was presented by **Kieth Wondra**, who spoke on "Buffalo Hunting and Dodge City".



For their November activities, in addition to their scheduled Zoom program, the **Ft. Worth Corral** had an in-person "meet up," where they enjoyed a meal at a local pancake house and went to the Sir Richardson Museum to celebrate the corral's 60th anniversary. Congratulations!! They viewed an exhibit that examined the connection between Charles Russell, Frederic Remington, and other artists at the birth of Hollywood's Western films genre. **Bob Saul** is Sheriff.

NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR ZOOM SPEAKERS FROM THE FORT WORTH CORRAL

As many know, the **Ft. Worth Westerners'** programs are held on Zoom. They are currently scheduling out for 2026, and they already have programs for January and April. However, they are seeking speakers for the Zoom programs for the following dates: Feb 17, Mar 17, May 19, June 16, July 23, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15. Since it's a Zoom program, you can speak from anywhere! So, if you have an idea in mind or have a program that you'd like to contribute, please contact Ft. Worth Westerners Representative, Phill Williams, at pg_w@hotmail.com. Phil would be delighted to hear from you!



the Fort Worth Corral

The **Cochise Country Corral of Westerners** met in October 2. Father Greg Adolf's program was "Manila Galleons." Father Adolf shared that the Philippines were once a province of Mexico and many elements of "uniquely" Mexican culture were imported from the Far East through the Philippines. Additionally amazing treasures and designs flowed from the East through Mexico.

In additional news, the Corral has planned a Christmas gathering of poetry, song, snacks, and stories set for their December 4th.

The **Cochise County Corral** of the Westerners is sponsoring the Tombstone Festival of Western Books on Friday, March 13, 2026. The featured author is Anne Hillerman, whose Leaphorn/Chee/Manuelito Navajo Police Mysteries are well known as the series, Dark Winds. The festival is held the day before the Tucson Festival of Books drawing visitors from that source and with wide support of Tombstone merchants and attractions that make it a good day to visit Tombstone.

More information is available at <https://cochisecountycorral.org>. Dark Winds is an American psychological thriller television series based on the Leaphorn & Chee novel series produced by Robert Redford and authored by Anne Hillerman her late father, Tony Hillerman. It premiered on AMC in 2022 and is headed into its third and fourth seasons.



The **Pikes Peak Posse** had a great turnout in November for a fascinating demonstration of the Wet Plate Collodion photographic process. Don Jones and Angela Crews shared the complex process of preparing sensitized plates and exposing through a large format camera. This process documented the scenes of the American west during the 1880s through 1900. Thanks to **Bob DeWitt** for sharing the Posse news and their publication, the "**Inkspot**."



more CORRAL NEWS

Linda Mazur of the Huntington Corral wrote us about their December 6 program. Their presenter was **Layne D. Staral**, a 6th generation Californian, whose ancestors homesteaded the Azusa Valley in the 1850s and eventually participated in the building of the towns of Azusa and Glendora. The program offered family photos and memorabilia and elaborated on the story of the transition from vast Mexican land grants to small independent communities. Thank you Linda!

The **Palo Duro Corral**, Amarillo, Texas, will gather for a festive cowboy Christmas party at Hoffbrau Steak House this month. Entertainment will be provided by the Yellow City Bluegrass band. Additionally, **Sheriff Mike Pacino** will pass his badge to our 2026 **Sheriff, Bary Nusz**.



News from the Los Angeles Corral

Author's Update: Forthcoming Books by Los Angeles Corral Writers

Abraham Hoffman's latest, autobiographical, offering is *Schools Dazed, or A Teacher's Recollections of Los Angeles Public Schools, 1962-2024*. Should the planets come into perfect alignment, this rollicking trip through 62 years of Hoffman's teaching in Los Angeles Junior High Schools, High Schools and Community Colleges might just appear as the very next Los Angeles Corral **Keepsake 59** before the end of 2025. This will be Dr. Hoffman's lucky 7th keepsake proudly published by the Los Angeles Corral.

Tracy Johnston's epic work of translation and annotation, the early stages of which she shared with us as the August, 2023, Round Up Presentation, should those same planets be in perfect alignment, also might just be published early next year, 2026, as the very next Los Angeles Corral **Brand Book 27**. If so, it will be something new in two completely different genres in our almost 80-year history. Not only will Tracy's opus be our very first full-length cookbook, but also the first full-length English translation of a volume originally published in Spanish, in California: Encarnación Pinedo's 1898 *El Cocinero Español*.

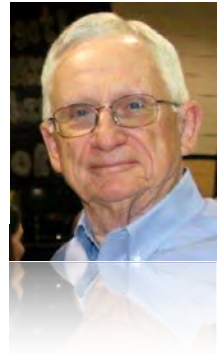
Brian Dervin Dillon's latest, autobiographical, offering will be, once again should those planets be in perfect alignment, *Lost in the 'Sixties, Coming of Age in Hippie San Francisco*. This is the book-length, expanded version of his two magazine articles published on that subject nine years ago, then most recently reprised as the November, 2025, Round Up presentation made to the Los Angeles Corral. This was one of two books Dr. Dillon set aside to complete his Alice Chong biography, published at the beginning of this year (2025). Completion of Brian's Hippie opus is expected for early 2026. And, as if that was not enough, Dr. Dillon's second literary offspring set aside for him to concentrate on the 2025 Alice Chong biography, is also scheduled for a 2026 birth: this will be his *Shootin' Irons: One Family's Odyssey from California to Asia, Africa, Central America, Europe, and Back Again* book. It contains fifty separate chapters, each one devoted to a Dillon family member shooting a specific pistol, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, or cannon on five different continents over the past 150+ years during six successive generations. The Los Angeles Corral got a taste of the research going into this book when Brian presented his prize-winning February, 2023, Round Up illustrated lecture on *Old West Shootin' Irons*.

Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D continues his busy presentation tour with a lecture on his amazing book titled: *Alice Chong, An American Heroine*. Brian will share her heroic story in December to the Wings Over Wendy's Veterans Group in West Hills, CA.

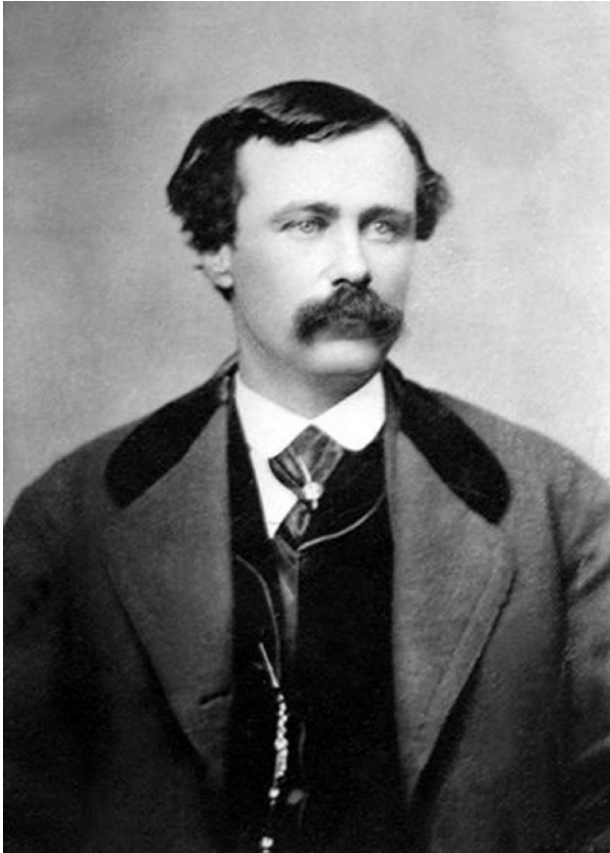
Alice Chong (1909-1972) was the most remarkable American woman of World War II. Born on Kauai, Territory of Hawaii, and one of 32 children, she grew up speaking Hakka Chinese, Hawaiian and Japanese. After moving to Honolulu, she learned her fourth language, English, and her fifth, Cantonese. Alice graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1933, and took a job teaching English in Peking, China. There she learned her sixth language, Mandarin. After returning to the UH to complete her Master's Degree, Alice took a job at Ginling College, Nanking, the foremost women's university in Asia. She boarded ship for Shanghai in 1937 the same day the Japanese launched their all-out war by land, sea and air against China. Alice led the Ginling college girls on an epic, 2,800-mile trek from Japanese-occupied Shanghai to safety, talking her way through roadblocks and surviving numerous aerial bombings. Three years before the Pearl Harbor attack Alice Chong became the only American female war correspondent publishing *Behind Enemy Lines*.

Check out the informative Los Angeles Corral web site at: <http://www.lawesterners.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 History of Mobeetie



Charles Rath, founder of the trading post that became Mobeetie

When Charles Rath, along with his partner Bob Wright, formed a trading post on Sweetwater Creek in the eastern Texas Panhandle in 1874, it was just another of Rath's many trading ventures. He had first worked with William Bent at Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River in what became Colorado, and in 1860, he took over the trading post of George Peacock on Walnut Creek, near present-day Great Bend, Kansas. Peacock and five others had been massacred by Kiowa warriors led by Satank.

In the early 1870s, Rath was one of the first men to take advantage of the growing buffalo hide trade and in September 1872, in Dodge City, he formed the Rath

Mercantile Company, whose yard was sometimes filled with as many as 80,000 hides. In late 1873, as the buffalo diminished in Kansas, he, along with Bob Wright and James Langton, built a store and restaurant at Adobe Walls, near the site of William Bent's old outpost down in the Texas Panhandle. When the facility was almost complete, Rath and his partners returned to Dodge City in May, leaving three men and a woman to mind the store. He was safely back in Dodge City when a combined force of some 700 Comanche, Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Arapaho warriors attacked the post on June 27, 1874, in what is known as the Second Battle of Adobe Walls. Two months later that post was abandoned.

But Rath recognized the opportunity afforded by having a trading post in the Texas Panhandle, in an area where buffalo hunters were killing up to 5,000 buffalo a day. He and Wright established a new post on Sweetwater Creek, at the southern terminus of the Jones and Plummer Trail that led northward to Dodge City.

In the beginning, Rath and his men covered their picket and dugout shelters with green buffalo hides for



The first courthouse in the Texas Panhandle, 1880, Mobeetie, Texas

protection from the cold winter weather. As a result, their settlement came to be known as Hide Town. Once they got their trading established, they bought hides from the hunters, and periodically Rath would send a group of wagons loaded with hides to Dodge City. Those wagons would then return to the trading post with supplies that Rath sold to the hunters. Rath and Wright, along with traders W.M.D. Lee and E.E. Reynolds, who were partners, claimed to have bought over 150,000 buffalo hides while they were in Hide Town.

Billy Dixon, who was famous for firing a shot of almost a mile at the Second Battle of Adobe Walls in 1874, was wagon master of a bull train in Hide Town for a time. Running the train for Lee and Reynolds, Dixon mastered 10 different seven-oxen teams, with three wagons to a team, bringing provisions into Hide Town and taking loads of buffalo hides back to Dodge City.

It didn't take long for other traders and businessmen to also recognize the opportunity presented there on Sweetwater Creek, and the population of Hide Town started growing in a hurry. Before long, the local citizenry decided that Hide Town wasn't a distinguished

enough name, so the community became Sweetwater City, named for the creek.

In May 1875, the U.S. Army established Fort Cantonment about two miles northeast of Sweetwater City to keep the Indians on the reservations in Indian Territory and to establish law and order in the region. Major James Biddle with 422 officers and men of the Fifth Infantry and Sixth Cavalry arrived to establish the new fort. One of the buffalo hunters, who happened to be camped on the creek the day the Army arrived, said

he saw about a hundred wagons and about 400 soldiers. He said the wagons carried all kinds of supplies, including lumber for the officers' housing, and food and grain. He also said that within a half hour of the soldiers making camp, traders Lee and Reynolds had opened a saloon as close to them as they could get.

Construction of permanent facilities began in July 1875. The first buildings at the fort were made of sharpened cottonwood posts placed into the ground at close intervals, joined by poles fastened across the top. Larger logs were used as ceiling beams that were stacked with layers of brush and weeds above the beams. The structures were then covered with adobe, which was packed into the spaces between the posts.

Almost immediately, the population of Sweetwater City grew to about 150. George Montgomery, who later became the first postmaster, remembered that when he arrived in town, there were three saloons, a dance hall, a Chinese laundry, a barber shop and a restaurant that was run by Tom O'Laughlin and his wife, Helen. He said that Helen was the only virtuous woman in town, but that there were about 15 dance hall girls. He said that

most of the other populace were bullwhackers, mule skimmers, and buffalo hunters, and that there were gamblers galore.

In 1875, Bat Masterson, prior to his working with Wyatt Earp as a deputy in Dodge City, was dealing faro in a Sweetwater City saloon when he got into an argument with Sergeant Melvin King over a card game and a dance hall girl by the name of Mollie Brennan. The argument quickly led to gunplay, and Masterson killed King. However, before King was hit, he fired a shot at Masterson that went through Mollie, killing her, and then hit Masterson in the pelvis. Masterson survived, but the injury caused him to walk with a limp the rest of his life.

In February 1876, the nearby military post was renamed Fort Elliott, in honor of Major Joel Elliott, who was killed in the Battle of the Washita. By 1878, lumber had been hauled from Dodge City, and several buildings had been added to the post. Those included the post commander's residence, six sets of officers' quarters, five barracks, a post headquarters, a combined school and chapel, and a 12-bed hospital.

Major H. C. Bankhead, with 263 men of the Fourth Cavalry and Nineteenth Infantry, relieved Biddle and his command, and in 1879, a company of the all-black Tenth Cavalry—what was known as the Buffalo Soldiers—was assigned to the garrison. Between 1880 and 1888, other black units, companies of the Twenty-fourth Infantry and Ninth Cavalry, served there. From November 1881 until February 1884 all of Fort Elliott's troops were black. The commissioned officers were all white, however, with the exception of Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, the first black graduate of West Point.

Troops from Fort Elliott patrolled both the Panhandle and western Indian Territory. Their main task was to stop small hunting parties of Indians from entering the Panhandle, but on several occasions during the late 1870s, they pursued bands seeking to escape the reservation.



In 1878, the town moved a short distance in order to be closer to the military post. Its officers and men represented a substantial portion of the customers for the saloons and gambling dens. However, Sweetwater City wasn't all buffalo hunters and soldiers. The community contained numerous business and professional men, including doctors, lawyers and merchants.

In 1879, Wheeler County was organized and Sweetwater City was chosen as the county seat. However, before it could legally receive the seat of government, the town had to have a post office, so an application was sent in. That's when they found out there was already a Sweetwater, Texas, so they had to come up with another name. According to legend, someone came up with the name Mobeetie because they thought that was the Comanche name for sweet water. The application was refiled, and on September 4, 1879, a post office was established.

Throughout the 1880s, Mobeetie was the commercial center of much of the Panhandle. Rath's mercantile store catered to area ranches, and Fort Elliott dominated the economy. Mobeetie's main street expanded to include livery stables, wagon yards, a barbershop, drugstore, blacksmith shop, two hotels, numerous boarding houses, and an increased number of the ever-present saloons.

The first courthouse in the Texas Panhandle was built in Mobeetie in 1880 by Irish stonemasons who quarried the stone from the Emanuel Dubbs homestead nine miles east of town. One year later, Mobeetie became the judicial center of the Thirty-fifth District, which comprised 15 counties. Several lawyers set up shop, including Sam Houston's youngest son, Temple Houston, who served a term in Mobeetie as district attorney before his election to the state Senate. In 1882, there were 300 inhabitants, and in 1890 there were 400.

Mobeetie continued to have its share of gamblers, rustlers, and prostitutes. Legendary trail driver and first rancher in the Panhandle Charles Goodnight said once, "Mobeetie was patronized by outlaws, thieves, cut-throats and buffalo hunters, with a large percent of prostitutes. Taking it all, I think it was the hardest place

The old rock schoolhouse, 1889



I ever saw on the frontier except Cheyenne, Wyoming.” However, Captain George W. Arrington of the Texas Rangers proved an effective deterrent to the lawless element. Arrington was elected county sheriff in 1882 and throughout his term, made his home in the two-story stone jail, which still stands today.

In the same year, the “Texas Panhandle,” the region’s first newspaper, began operation, but in 1889, the “Texas Panhandle” newspaper became the “Wheeler County Texan.” A rock schoolhouse, which also served as a union church and community center, was built in the same year, replacing an earlier wooden structure. The community center held dances and horse races on holidays in the small town.

But in 1890, the U.S. government closed Fort Elliott since it was no longer needed to keep the Indians under control, and Mobeetie began a period of quick decline. The town's troubles increased on May 1, 1898, when a tornado took seven lives and leveled many of the buildings, most of which were never rebuilt. Another blow occurred in 1907, when a controversial election made the town of Wheeler, 12 miles to the southeast, the county seat. Nevertheless, Mobeetie survived, with its school, a bank, a lumberyard, and various other businesses.

Then in 1929, the town suffered another major setback when the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway built its line from Pampa to Clinton, Oklahoma, across the north end of the county, missing the town by two miles. But, the post office and most of the businesses moved to the railroad, and the settlement of New

Mobeetie was born. During the 1930s, modern school facilities, including a combination gymnasium/auditorium, were constructed, and the population was sitting at 291. Old Mobeetie was subsequently incorporated into the new town.

In the mid-1980s, Mobeetie had nine businesses, a bank, a post office, three churches, and modern school facilities for 12 grades. Today, only one bank, the post office, the elementary school—which was formed from three other small towns close to Mobeetie—and a diner exist in this almost forgotten town. The latest population estimate is 82.

The old county jail in Old Mobeetie, after serving as a private residence for several years, has since become a museum that features artifacts from both Mobeetie and Fort Elliott. All that’s left of the fort is a flagpole and an outdoor jail cell.

Mobeetie was the first town in the Texas Panhandle. Although much reduced in size, it still exists. We might mention that the second oldest town, Tascosa, does not. However, where Tascosa was located, is today the site of Boys Ranch, a residential community serving boys and girls ages 5 to 18. But we’ll save that story for another time.



from the
Westerner International Mercantile
 your store just got a little bigger with more merchandise!



items, left

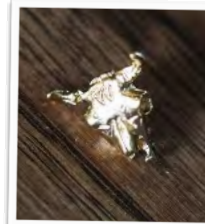
- Five Panel Twill Cap, adjustable.....\$25.00
- 7x9" Rawhide Portfolio with stamped logo.....\$38.00
- Notepads w/Western logo.....\$4.00

Items, right & below

- 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
- T-Shirts/round or v-neck\$25.00
- Polo Shirt\$45.00
- Bandanas\$7.00
- Decal 3"\$4.00
- Cap -adjustable size.....\$30.00

(Price includes free shipping!)
 shirt sizes available in small,
 medium, large and extra large

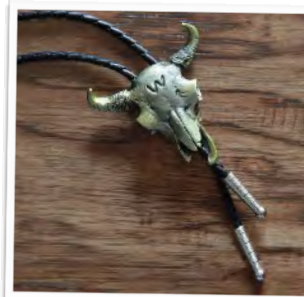
If you would like to place an order or send
 payment, contact:
 Delinda King, WI Secretary,
 Westerners International
 at delinda.king70@gmail.com or call at
 806-654-6920



lapel pin



past sheriff's pin pin



bolo tie



lucite paper weight



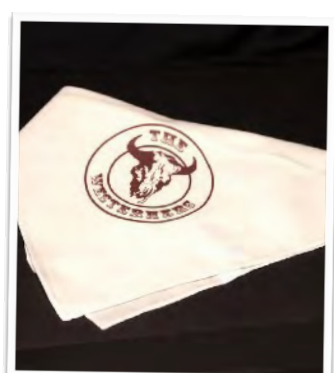
3" Decals



Westerner cap



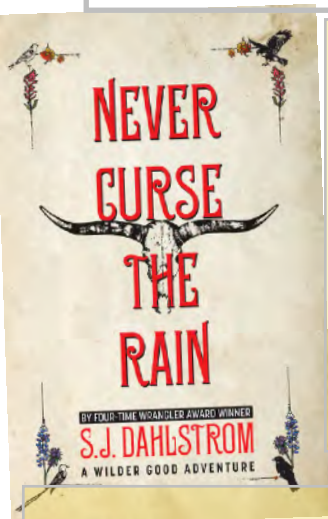
Polo shirt



white bandana

BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



Never Curse The Rain author S.J. Dahlstrom

'Does praying for rain work?'

Wilder Good asks his Papa that question on a spring break visit to his ranch in West Texas. The ranch is mired in another drought and when Wilder's cousin from New York, Frankie, accidentally starts a wildfire, chaos erupts. Wilder and Frankie witness Papa struggle through the weariness from fire and drought and loss, and face family myth and folklore for the first time. Wilder and Frankie discover adventure in every canyon from wild pigs, horses, cattle; and are left to wonder at the danger and beauty of a landscape and lifestyle that can both kill and create.

available at: <https://wildergood.com/portfolio/never-curse-the-rain>

Westerners International
is proud to recognize
books by Westerners

The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston — by Marquis James (Author)

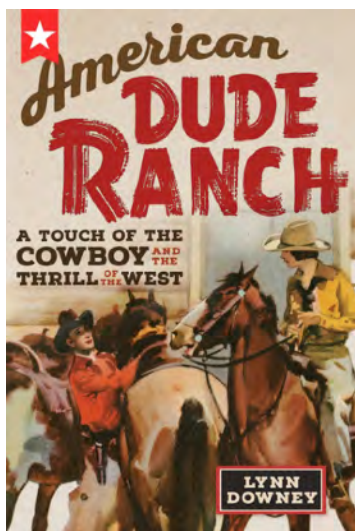
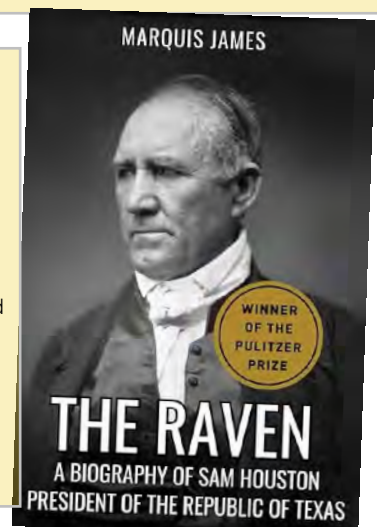
Pulitzer Prize Winner, 1930

paperback \$19.99

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, is a sweeping account of one of America's most extraordinary leaders. Sam Houston's life mirrors the tumultuous and ambitious spirit of 19th-century America—a life defined by courage, controversy, and an unwavering dedication to his ideals.

From his humble beginnings in Virginia to his formative years living among the Cherokee—where he earned the name "Raven"—Sam Houston's journey is a tale of transformation and resilience. Rising to prominence under General Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812, Houston's career spanned roles as a congressman, governor of two different states, military general, and the president of the Republic of Texas.

available at: <https://www.amazon.com/Raven-Biography-Sam-Houston>



American Dude Ranch, A Touch of the Cowboy and the Thrill of the West

By Lynn Downey 246 PAGES | 6 X 9 | 32 B&W ILLUS.

Paperback \$24.95

PUBLISHED: MARCH 3RD, 2022

Viewers of films and television shows might imagine the dude ranch as something not quite legitimate, a place where city dwellers pretend to be cowboys in amusingly inauthentic fashion. But the tradition of the dude ranch, America's original western vacation, is much more interesting and deeply connected with the culture and history of the American West. In American Dude Ranch, Lynn Downey opens new perspectives on this buckaroo getaway, with all its implications for deciphering the American imagination.

from the The University of Oklahoma Press

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.

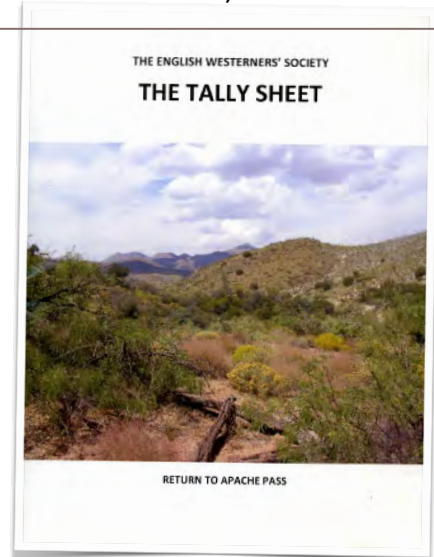
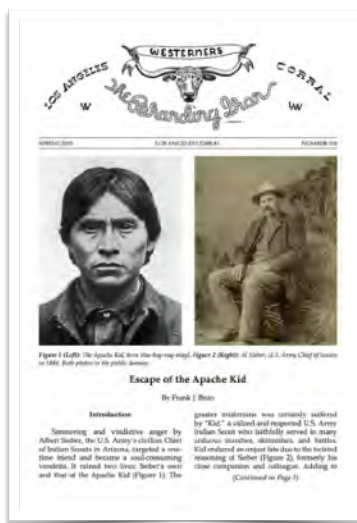
BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The Home Ranch is pleased to receive great publications from some of our Corrals and Posses. (upper right) *The Pikes Peak Inkspot* from the **Pikes Peak Posse**, Sheriff **Bob Thomas**. (upper right) *The Fremont Street Mail*, produced by the **Cochise County Corral of Westerners**. Thanks to **Doug Hocking** for sharing. (lower left) The latest **Branding Irons**, Spring and Winter 2025 issues, published by the **Los Angeles Corral**, edited by **Dr. John Dillon**. Thanks to **Brian Dillon** for sending these. Lastly, (lower right), *The Tally Sheet*, from **The English Westerners' Society**, editor **Richard Eggington** of Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, UK.

Each of these are very well done, full of great stories, informative and fascinating to read. Congratulations! and thanks to you all.



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 or the Home Ranch at 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