

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

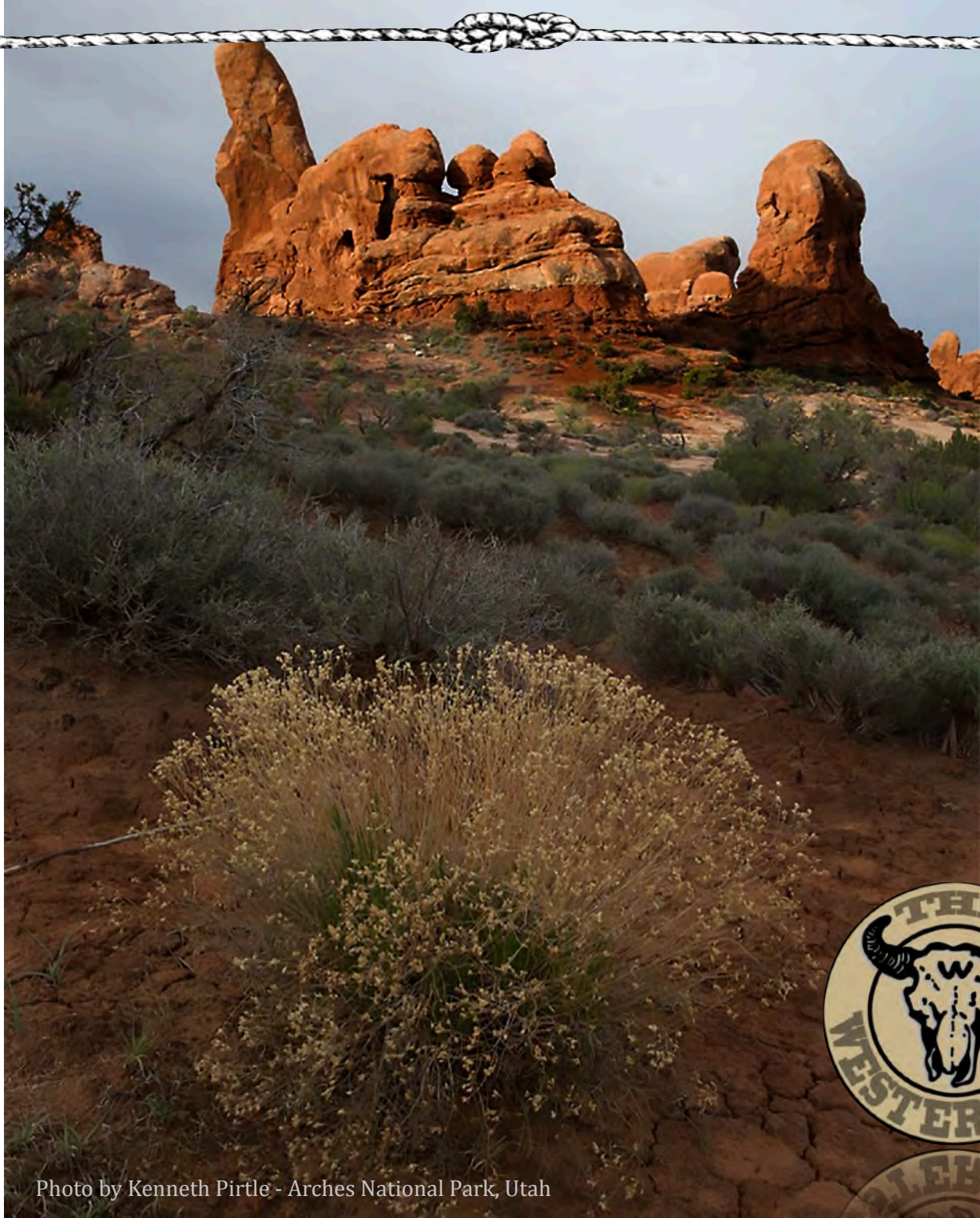


Photo by Kenneth Pirtle - Arches National Park, Utah





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

The winds sweep the prairies and mountains of the West, and we are glad for return of the sun and warmth. But along with the joy felt with the change of seasons, many Westerners have endured some hard times of late. We've seen strong storms, hail, and tornadoes in the Midwest, and tremendous, long-lasting fires, over thousands of acres, in the arid Western states. These weather events have struck close to home for many Westerners, and our hearts go out to you from the Home Ranch. The Amarillo and Canyon area was on the national news for its ravaging fires and loss of homes, and Nebraska has experienced horrific flames across its beautiful grasslands. To all of those affected by these weather events, we hope you are safe. The great Western writer, Wallace Stegner, once said that the West's determining characteristic is aridity. That was fifty years ago, and it remains true today. Despite these times, however, Western life and cycles do continue: gardens are coming up, new calves and lambs arrive, and we gather as family and friends in our coming summer get togethers. May the warmth of summer bring you all pleasure in your backyards, parks, and fields!

Delinda King/Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Jackson/ WI Assistant, and I have continued our work over the last season. As you'll see elsewhere in the Bulletin, the 2026 dues invoices, awards forms, and contact information sheets were sent out, and the Home Ranch is making preparations for the new season.

In case you need it all in one place, here's our contact information:

The Home Ranch email:

WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com

The Home Ranch mailing address:

Westerners International

2200 4th Ave

Box 309

Canyon TX 79015

The Home Ranch phone number : **806-654-6920.**

Happy Trails for all!

Bonney

Bonney MacDonald

Chairman, Westerners International

Inside this Issue:

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REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS ABOUT SENDING THE BULLETIN!

Sheriffs: Please remember to email 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! Please do this by returning the contact sheets that you get in the mail – or you can choose to download/print the copies we email you or even get them from the WI website. Please send them in hard copy. It's much easier for us to keep track of than if you send us contact info by email.



All Members: *** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs/representatives have your current email address so they can forward the Buckskin Bulletin to you when they get it from us! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

All Corrals 'n' Poses: If you have sent in your 2026 contact sheets, THANK YOU! If you haven't sent them, please, please do! If we have only your old contact sheets, we cannot get the Buckskin Bulletin to the right sheriff. And if we can't do that, there's no one to send the Bulletin to your membership. Again, if you've sent them, fabulous and thank you! If not, please send them to us.

The Buckskin Bulletin comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can forward it by 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

Annual 2026 Packets (dues, contact sheets, and awards forms)

In late Feb, we sent out annual packets with the 2026 contact sheets, dues invoices, award forms. These were sent by US Mail to your representative and by email to your representative and sheriff. They are also posted on the WI website's front page. We wanted to make it as easy and accessible as possible!

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY:

With respect to the dues invoice and contact sheets, please RETURN BOTH OF THESE IN HARD COPY to the address on the forms:

Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer, Westerners International
16750 Betty Blvd.
Canyon, TX 79015

The contact sheets are especially important so that we can reach you with Buckskin Bulletin, exciting information, and more! If we don't have the accurate contact info, then the Bulletin and other news can't be sent to the right officer and then be forwarded to the members! So please, if you haven't done so already, please do send them. Thank you!

The awards forms were in the packet sent by US Mail to your representative, in an email to sheriffs and representatives, and on the website. The awards were due May 15, and we have a good number of them to go through! Thank you for sending in your work from 2025!




SPOKANE

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! WESTERNERS GATHER WILL BE IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, FALL 2027

Maggie Crabtree, who attended the 2025 Gather in South Dakota, and fellow corral member, Dick Jensen, Sheriff, will be hosting the next Westerners International Gather in Spokane, WA in Fall 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! You won't want to miss the fun at this one!

Thank you in advance to the Spokane Corral!!



Sheriffs and Reps:

We love -- yes, we love -- hearing about what programs you are hosting in your corrals and posses! Many of you send us listings of your events and we sure appreciate it, because we can post them in our "Corral and Posse Highlights." If you're already doing that, thank you so much! It adds to the community spirit of Westerners; and seeing your titles and ideas for programs gives other corrals and posses good ideas for their events.

If you don't do so already, could you please do one of the following so that we can publish your exciting programs in the Bulletin for all to see?

When you email your monthly program invitation to your members, please send it either to the Home Ranch (WesternersHomeRanch@gmail.com) or to Ken Pirtle (kenneth.pirtle@me.com).

If you prefer, you can also just email either of us a list of your season's programs

Thank you from the Home Ranch and from the many Westerners members who will see your interesting events and programs!

WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS ENTRIES ARE IN AND WE THANK YOU!

Awards entry forms were sent out to Reps by email and US Mail, along with the dues and contact info sheets in late February. They were also posted on the WI website for downloading, in case that was more convenient to folks. The award entries were due on May 15, 2026, and we've received a good number of entries for this year!

You are all working on interesting programs and publications, and we're so glad, every year, to hear about your events and your work! We want to spread the good word and award you all for your efforts!

Decisions on awards will be made this summer and winners will be notified by September. Since we don't have a scheduled Gather this year (they are every other year), awards will be mailed out to award winners in October.

We thank you 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.

THANK YOU !!

CORRAL NEWS



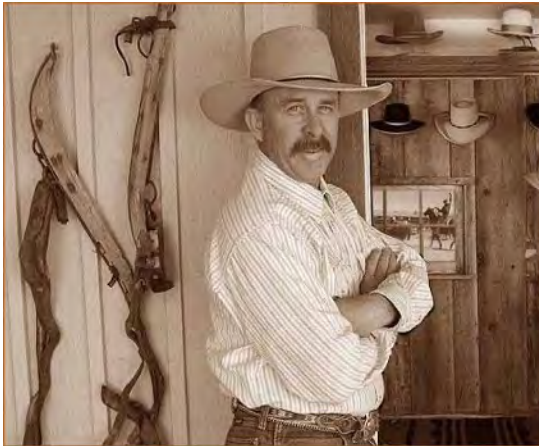
CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

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!

News from your fellow Westerners!

The **Palo Duro Corral** of Amarillo, Texas met on May 13th at the Sad Monkey Mercantile near the entrance of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Chris Larson presented on the Battle of Lyman's Wagon Train in the Texas panhandle. Chris has participated in several archeological digs at this battle site and has an impressive display of artifacts. The Sheriff of the **Palo Duro Corral** is **Bary Nusz**.

Bob DeWitt, Roundup Foreman, Membership, IT, Media Wrangler & "Rep" of the **Pikes Peak Posse**, Colorado Springs, CO. shared photos and details of a great recent program provided by the legendary hat-maker for Hollywood cowboys, Tom Hirt of Penrose, Colorado. Sam Elliott, Van Kilmer and Kurt Russell (Yes, of **Tombstone**) are just a sample of those who have looked good in a "Tom Hirt" hat. In Tom's program he demonstrated for the Posse the art of creating a beautiful hat from beaver fur to a "perfect fit".



Hat maker Tom Hirt

(An exciting sidenote; an idea was spawned at this event whereby a fund raiser might be in the near future involving a custom hat for some lucky Westerner! Watch future Buckskin Bulletins for details.)

For more information on Tom's custom hat creations, visit Tom's website at: <https://tomhirt.com/hatstyles.htm>

In April, the **Pikes Peak Posse** of Colorado Springs featured a program at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center on "The History of Clark and Gruber Co.: A Denver Pioneer Mint." And in April, the posse had a tour of the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum in Colorado Springs. And in May, the posse's meeting focused on locally renowned artist and illustrator, Archie Musick.

The posse met for the first time that evening at their new location -- the Colorado Springs Shrine Club, in the historic section of Colorado Springs known as Old Colorado City. Congratulations to **Pikes Peak Posse** on this new location!

According to a recent "Fremont Street Mail" newsletter, the **Cochise County Posse of the Westerners** recently visited the San Rafael Ranch House near Lochiel, Arizona. Located at the end of a rough and long dirt but all considered it worth the bumpy ride! The San Rafael Ranch, formerly known as the Greene Ranch, is a historic cattle ranch located in the San Rafael Valley.

Docents & Park Rangers were on hand to answer questions and chat with the tour group. The San Rafael Ranch House was the movie location for one of John Wayne's classic movies, "**McLintock**". The Posse enjoyed riding in a restored buggy that transported folks around the historic property.

The setting was peaceful and beautiful and the 360 degree view from the house provided memorable million-dollar views .

The Inkslinger for the Fremont Street Mail is Lindsey Zimmerman.





more **CORRAL NEWS**

The **Ft Worth Corral** reports that their March program was from Dr. Donald S. Frazier, Director of the Texas Center at Schreiner University. Dr. Frazier recently released a 250 video-series entitled "E Pluribus, Texas." Each of these five-minute videos tells the story of Texas from its beginnings to the present day. The audience learned about the origins of this project and its uses across Texas and its role in telling the larger story of the American West.

Also in March, Gary Pinkerton, historian and author, gave a program entitled "Paper Diver: How the World's Greatest Underwater Treasure Hunter Never Got Wet." In April, the corral offered a program from Jan Devereaux, entitled "Petticoat Rangers and Women in Law Enforcement". In May, Ron Wilson gave a presentation on "The Historic Cattle Trails and America 250." And in June, Dr. Richard McCaslin spoke on "An Unexpected Triumph: Bernardo de Galvez in the American Revolution".



The **Llano Estacado Corral**, in Lubbock, TX would like to extend an invitation to all Corrals and Posses, and their members, who would like to join them for a trip to Fort Chadbourne, near Bronte, TX. Interested persons may respond to **Monica Hightower** at mlh.hightower@gmail.com. The corral is looking forward to a great road trip and fine western fellowship! It sounds like a grand day!

www.flickr.com

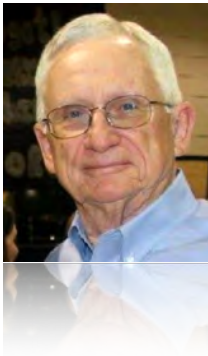
Enlisted Barracks (west), Fort Chadbourne, Bronte, TX

Bill Ellinger and **Linda Mazur** of the **Huntington Corral** report that, in April, Diane Loomis gave a presentation on Leonard Johannes Rose, a California pioneer and politician, who was one of the leaders of the ill-fated Rose-Bailey party, the first emigrant wagon train to attempt to the journey from New Mexico to California via Beale's Wagon Road. The corral's May program was delivered by Tom Zimmerman, a historian and photographer whose works are in many of the country's well-known collections. The title of his presentation was "Paradise Promoted – And the Result, 1888-1945," and was on the often-tumultuous development of early Los Angeles. Their June program features Luke Leuschner, who spoke on "Germans in the Desert: Beyond Amerikanismus in the American Southwest: 1914-1934."

Check our their website: <http://www.huntingtonwesterners.com>

Tim Christenson, Sheriff of the **Northwest Montana Posse**, gave a presentation in May on "150 Years Later: The Battle of the Little Bighorn." In June, the posse has planned a presentation from Douglas McDonald on "The Archeology of Montana's First Peoples." In their bulletin, "Pony Tracks," they also note that Brenda Wahler will present a program on how the introduction of horses changed the lives of local tribes.





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 101 RANCH

THE RANCH WAS A LEGEND. BUT GONE NOW...

In 1869, Colonel George Washington Miller headed west from Kentucky. Colonel Miller was a veteran of the Confederacy, and was looking to make a fresh start after a long and bitter Civil War. He thought California might be the place. However, when he reached Newtonia, Missouri, he decided maybe that was far enough, and he established his first cattle ranch. Colonel Miller liked ranching, and two years later, he moved on to Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he established another ranch in partnership with Texas cattleman Lee Kokernut.

While driving cattle from Texas to his Kansas ranch, Colonel Miller crossed what was known as the Cherokee Outlet, which was a strip of land along the Oklahoma/Kansas border. In Oklahoma Territory, it was 60 miles wide and 180 miles long. The lush, virgin grassland was certainly appealing to a cow man, but there was a problem, the land belonged to the Cherokee Indians and couldn't be bought. It could, however, be leased from the Indians, and Colonel Miller did just that.

In 1879, he started leasing two pastures in the Outlet. One, called Deer Creek, was along the stream by that name in what later became Grant County, Oklahoma. A little farther south, another piece of leased rangeland was called Salt Fork. It was located along the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River, near present-day Lamont, which was also in Grant County.

At the time, Colonel Miller still owned his Baxter Springs ranch, but by 1881 he had moved his wife and sons to a home in Winfield, Kansas, which was only about 18 miles north of the Outlet. By then, Miller's first Oklahoma ranch headquarters had become a crude dugout-and-log structure on a hill in the Salt Fork pasture, and it was from there that his cowboy crews operated.

During the time Miller was in partnership with cattleman Lee Kokernut, they branded cattle with the "Reverse LK," but Miller bought out Kokernut shortly after moving all his cattle to the Cherokee Outlet.

Although he continued using the Reverse LK brand for a couple of more years, it was 1881 when he devised his own personal mark with the now famous "101," which he initially used as a road brand during long distance cattle drives.

According to his sons, Joe and Zack, the 101 brand came about while the Millers were in the San Antonio area putting together a herd to drive north. On the last night they were in town, some of their cowboys were doing a little celebrating in a saloon called "The Hundred and One", which just happened to be located at 101 East Second Street in San Antonio. Some punches were thrown, and the cowboys were ordered to leave, which they did, but as they exited into the street, one of the cowboys took the 101 sign with him. When he got back to camp, he nailed the sign to the chuckwagon, and when they reached the ranch, he nailed it over the door to the cook shack.

Colonel Miller paid for the damages at the saloon, but then he told his cowboys, "When I'm through, you'll wish you'd never seen the 101 because I'm going to make you put it on every cow I own." According to ranch lore, none of the cowboys ever again frequented the San Antonio establishment that gave the cattle a brand and the ranch a name.

Early in his days of running cattle on leased lands in the Cherokee Outlet, Colonel Miller formed a mutually beneficial friendship with White Eagle, a prominent Ponca Indian Chief. The Indians had the opportunity to move onto the Cherokee Outlet, obtaining better lands and thereby better living conditions for themselves, and Miller hoped he could then lease some of those Ponca lands for his own ranching operation. But the lands the Poncas eventually controlled in the Outlet were not those Miller wanted. He did, however, maintain his relationship with them, selling them beef. Later, his son Joe would put some of the Poncas to work on various ventures at the 101.



While it was George W. Miller and his wife Molly who settled the 101 Ranch, their sons made it a nationally known operation. Wilkes Booth and John Fish, the first and third sons of George and Molly Miller, died as young boys, but Joe, their second son, became an able assistant to his father. Young Joe was only 12 when his father handed him a roll of money and sent him to Texas to "bring back a carload of cattle." But it wasn't just Joe, the younger sons, Zack and George Lee, learned to carry on the ranch traditions as well.

The boys were taught about cattle by their father before he died in 1903. And it's a good thing, because he left them an operation with an annual income of more than half a million dollars and a crew of more than 250 cowboys who were needed to manage the tens of thousands of cattle spread across a range that encompassed 172 sections of land, or more than 110,000 acres.

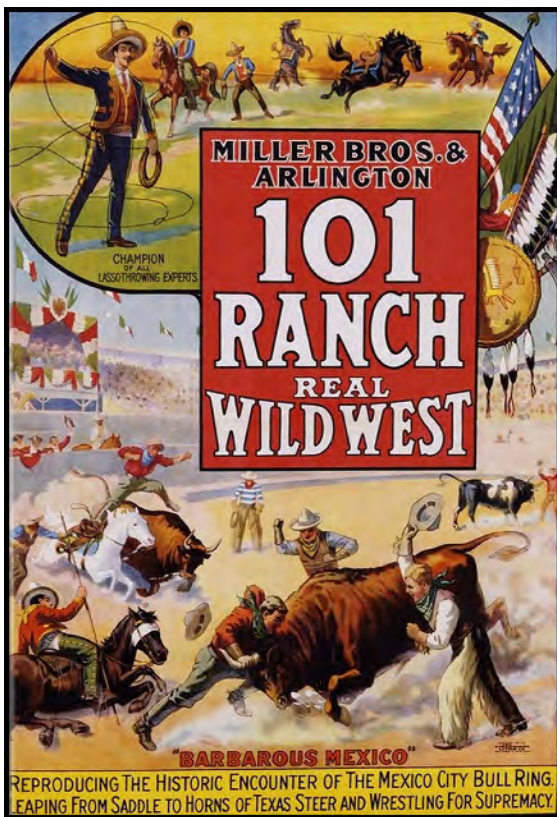
After Colonel Miller's death from pneumonia, his wife, Mollie, had the ranch turned into a trust, with her son Joe as the chairman, and Zack and George Lee as the only other members. She then built an impressive home on the land—known as the White House—where she lived until she died. Once the trust was established, Joe immediately started following in his father's footsteps. To further diversify the ranch operation, he began raising wheat, cotton, corn, kaffir, alfalfa and vegetables, and he also cultivated various fruit orchards. The ranch's array of livestock included cattle, bison, hogs, poultry and several horse breeds. Zack, a strong cowman like his father, handled the trading and marketing efforts for ranch production, and George Lee, the youngest son, became the financial manager.

The expansive 101 Ranch had schools, churches, its own network of roads, a telephone system and even a horseback delivery mail system. The Miller operation included oil and gas wells, ownership of trains, grape arbors, a cannery, tannery and packing plants, poultry farms, novelty shops, woodworking shops and a general store that accepted federal currency or 101 Ranch folding scrip and coins made of brass and copper. As Zack Miller noted in an interview for American Magazine in 1928, "We figured it wasn't much harder to do things in a big way than it was to worry along in a small way. We figured it was no worse to fail big than to fail little; but ever so much better to win big."

In September 1883, young Joe Miller, joined by Ponca Chief White Eagle, led a delegation of Poncas to the Alabama State Fair where Joe helped the Poncas establish an Indian village to hold traditional dances. Years passed before the show became a force in Western entertainment, but on June 11, 1905, the 101 Ranch hosted a Cowboy Reunion for the National Editorial Association convention. The show featured a buffalo chase and specialty acts, including the roping and riding

of 19-year-old Lucille Mulhall, a world-champion roper from Mulhall, Oklahoma, who had dazzled crowds—including Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William McKinley—in Oklahoma, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Also riding for that show was Bill Pickett, a black cowboy known for developing the sport of bulldogging, which he accomplished by biting the upper lip of the animal to subdue it rather than using his hands and strength to power it to the ground. Joining him were Apache Chief Geronimo, who shot a buffalo from the front seat of a car, and Oklahoma cowboy Tom Mix, who would become famous as one of the earliest film cowboys.



The show is believed to have been the biggest of its kind ever presented at that time in the United States. There were an estimated 80,000 persons in attendance. After its roaring success, the Millers' neighbor, Major Gordon W. Lillie, who performed as Pawnee Bill, urged them to take the show on the road. In 1907, the 101 Ranch Wild West Show performed at the Jamestown Exposition in Virginia. Later that year, it began touring seasonally throughout the United States and Europe. However, the Miller brothers came late into the Wild West Show business and they, along with the other shows, suffered financially after the invention of motion pictures.

In addition to the rodeos, the Millers had many industries, due to their diversified farming operation.

Several oil wells produced sufficient oil for the Millers to have an oil refinery of their own at the ranch headquarters, and the 101 Ranch operated a large general store, which was the mercantile center for northern Oklahoma for a number of years. The 101 Ranch Café, which was originally the old ranch cook house, became a modern restaurant, and every article of food served in the cafe, with the exception of olives, sugar and coffee, were produced on the ranch. In the same way, the bunk house became a modern hotel. The ranch had its own machine shop, blacksmith, woodwork and repair shops, and there was a complete ice plant with a capacity of 10 tons daily. It provided ice for the ranch and its employees, as well as the farmers of the community.

All kinds of Indian rugs, beaded belts and silver jewelry were manufactured in the novelty factory by Indians employed by the Miller brothers. There was also a large assortment of souvenir leather goods such as cowboy belts, boy's chaps and vests that were made and sold along with the Indian articles. At one point, the ranch had more than 2,000 employees.

By 1916, the two younger Miller brothers abandoned trying to work with their oldest brother, and everything was split up. George Jr. and Zack worked at the ranch, while Joe schemed to make the Wild West Show a financial success. Unwilling to let the show close, Joe continued to operate on a smaller scale, but it was of no use.

On October 21, 1927, a neighbor found Joe Miller dead in the 101 Ranch garage with his car running. In 1929, George Miller, Jr. died in a car accident.

Zack Miller tried to carry on alone, but in 1932, during the Great Depression, he filed for bankruptcy. The U.S. government seized the show's remaining assets. Completely broke, the 101 Ranch show closed after the New York World's Fair in 1939. Zack Miller died of cancer in 1952.

After Zack Miller's bankruptcy, the federal Farm Security Administration divided the remaining ranch lands and sold off parcels to individuals. A small portion of the ranch property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975, but the 101 Ranch house and most other buildings were torn down. The 101 Ranch store remained standing until September 22, 1987, when it burned in a fire of unknown origin. In 1990, the Oklahoma Legislature designated State Highway 156 as the 101 Ranch Memorial Road, and an historical marker is located on the highway about 13 miles southwest of Ponca City.



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



Rawhide Portfolio

items, left

- 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
- Five Panel Twill Cap, adjustable..\$25.00
- Bolo Tie with leather ban..... \$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



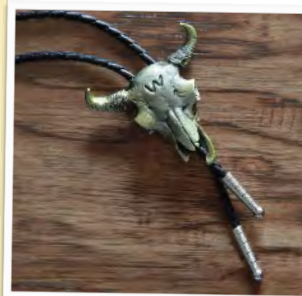
label pin



past sheriff's pin pin



Notepads w/Western logo



bolo tie



lucite paper weight



3" Decals



Westerner cap



Polo shirt



white bandana

BOOK NEWS OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS

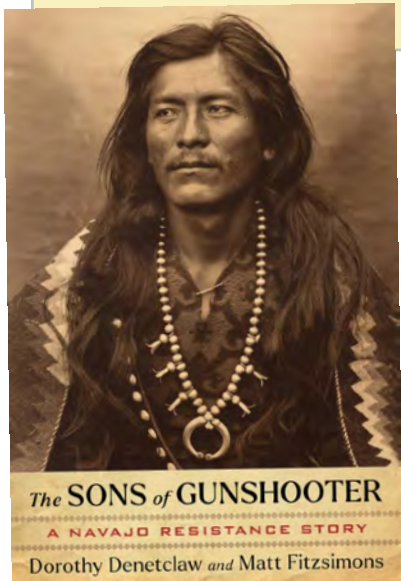
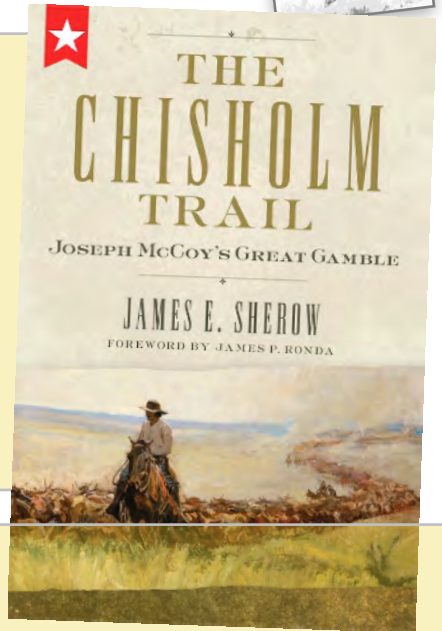


The Chisholm Trail Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble

By James E. Sherow paperback \$21.95

One hundred fifty years ago the McCoy brothers of Springfield, Illinois, bet their fortunes on Abilene, Kansas, then just a slapdash way station. Instead of an endless horizon of prairie grasses, they saw a bustling outlet for hundreds of thousands of Texas Longhorns coming up the Chisholm Trail—and the youngest brother, Joseph, saw how a middleman could become wealthy in the process. This is the story of how that gamble paid off, transforming the cattle trade and, with it, the American landscape and diet.

from the The University of Oklahoma Press



**The Sons of Gunshooter
A Navajo Resistance Story**

Dorothy Denetclaw & Matt Fitzsimons (Authors)
Paperback \$21.95

In 1919, the brother of one of the West's most famous Indian traders was shot to death in a remote corner of the Navajo Nation. Part history, part true crime, *The Sons of Gunshooter* reexamines the killing and subsequent murder trial, while simultaneously embedding the story in a much larger saga of colonization and resistance. The result is a book that's sweeping in its scope and surgical in its approach. Rewinding the clock to 1868, the authors follow the intertwining paths of two families to offer a riveting, deeply personal account that has been hailed as "a new way of doing historiography."

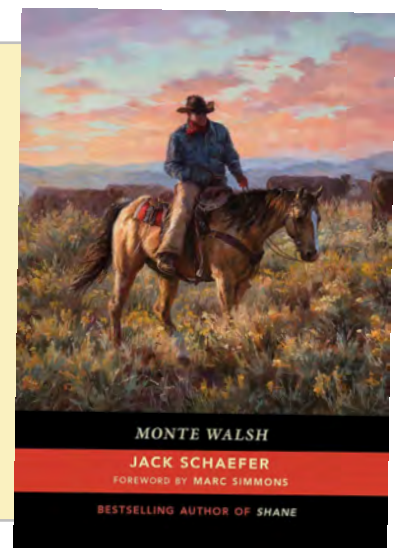
from the The University of Arizona Press

**Monte Walsh
by Jack Schaefer**

Foreword by Marc Simmons
Paperback \$24.95

Originally published in 1963, *Monte Walsh* continues to delight readers as a Western classic and popular favorite. The novel explores the cowboy lives of Monte Walsh and Chet Rollins as they carouse, ride, and work at the Slash Y with Cal Brennan. As the West changes and their cowboy antics are challenged, the two must part ways to pursue new ways of life. Chet marries and goes on to become a successful merchant and then a politician, while Monte can only find solace in continuing the cowboy's way of life until the very end.

Published by: University of New Mexico 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