

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

Issue Volume LIV - issue 1 - March 2019

**WESTERNERS RENDEZVOUS AND GATHER**  
**Thursday Oct 10 – Friday Oct 11, 2019!!!**  
**in Canyon, Texas**



**Featuring Juni Fisher and Michael Grauer**



*Juni Fisher, Western Music Assoc.  
Entertainer of the Year, True West  
Magazine, Best Solo Musician*



*Michael Grauer, McCasland Chair of Cowboy  
Culture/ Curator of Cowboy Collections and  
Western Art, National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK*

# WESTERNERS RENDEZVOUS AND GATHER

## Thursday Oct 10 – Friday Oct 11, 2019!!!

PACK Y'ER BOOTS AND HAT AND JOIN THE WESTERN FUN!

Canyon was voted the #1 small town in the U.S. by Dish America in 2018. Have a look at our area!  
[www.visitcanyontx.com](http://www.visitcanyontx.com) and [www.visitamarillo.com](http://www.visitamarillo.com)

Canyon motels: Best Western, Holiday Inn, Buffalo Inn, Hudspeth House B&B  
Amarillo I-40 motels, convenient for the 20-min drive to Canyon: Hilton Garden Inn, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Drury Inn

Registration fee of \$75 covers Thurs afternoon reception; Friday breakfast and lunch; history program on Adobe Walls and Red River Wars; cocktails, BBQ, and wonderful concert on Saturday night.

For info, contact WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald: [westerners@wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@wtamu.edu)



### THURSDAY, OCT 10

- 10-12 am Board of Directors meeting. Lunch provided. Education Classroom, 1<sup>st</sup> fl, Museum (in rear of building entrance at loading dock)
- 1-3 pm All members – Welcome Reception and Awards Ceremony, Education Classroom, 1st fl Museum (in rear of building, entrance at loading dock)  
Afternoon snacks and desserts provided  
Education Room, 1<sup>st</sup> fl, Museum (in rear of building)
- 5:30 pm Dine around: Dinner at local restaurant

### FRIDAY, OCT 11

- 7:00 am Meet at United Bank Center parking lot. Bring your coffee! We'll have breakfast burritos, juice, and fruit all ready for you!  
(4<sup>th</sup> Ave & 38<sup>th</sup> St, Canyon; just east of Canyon's hotels)  
Leave for Adobe Walls Battle Site on Turkey Track Ranch  
Michael Grauer, presenter: Onsite History Program on Red River Wars and the Adobe Walls battles at the battle site where it all took place.
- 3:00 pm Arrive back in Canyon
- 3:30-5:15 Tour museum; freshen up
- 5:30-9:00 Hazlewood Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum  
Cocktails and BBQ dinner

#### News on 2020 and 2021 GATHERS!

#### THANK YOU TO PIKES PEAK WESTERNERS AND THE LA CORRAL!!

The Fall 2020 Gather will be hosted by the Pikes Peak Westerners in Colorado Springs, CO. and the 2021 Fall Gather will be hosted by the Los Angeles Corral in Los Angeles, CA. We are tremendously grateful to these two organizations for their enthusiasm and look forward to all they will plan for us. The new tradition of a social and educational Gather continues, and we know we will enjoy these wonderful venues and sites. Thank you to Pikes Peak Westerners and to the LA Corral!!



WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



## CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings to all corrals and posses! I hope this finds you starting to see the signs of spring in your part of the world! At the Home Ranch, we've left the winter season behind and are beginning what is fondly known around here as "wind season." Soon enough, however, the sun will warm the high plains and summer will be on its way.

I write with much excitement and grand news. We had, as previous Bulletins have shown you, a wonderful time at the 2018 Westerners Gather at the Home Ranch. And we're here to tell you that it's going to be in Canyon, Texas for a second year – with a brand new schedule, program, and format. We'll all gather on Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11 for a truly grand time. If you came last year, you'll have a brand new experience. And if you didn't come last year, hitch up y'er wagon and get y'erself to the Lone Star State this fall! You don't want to miss this one!

Thursday will have a Board of Directors meeting (10 am – 12 noon); our Welcome Reception and Awards Ceremony (1-3 pm); museum walk-about 3-4:30; and dining out on the town after 5:30. On Friday, we meet bright and early. The Home Ranch will supply you with breakfast and we'll all drive to the Turkey Track Ranch where we'll enjoy an extensive history program on the Adobe Walls Historic Battlesite. Michael Grauer, Chair of Cowboy Culture at the National Cowboy Museum, will host the program on Adobe Walls and the Red River Wars on the this very historic and special site in Texas. There's nothing like learning history right where it all happened. Friday night will feature cocktails, dinner, and a concert you won't forget from Juni Fisher -- a much-celebrated singer and song-writer with multiple awards from the Western Music Association and *True West* Magazine, as well as other organizations.

Fellow Westerners enjoyed the fun last year, and we plan to give you a new and memorable experience this year! Registration and flyer details are printed here in the *Bulletin* and will be posted on the website, as well.

On other fronts, Westerners corrals and posses are thriving. We've just started communications with a Western enthusiast who would like to start a corral in Virginia, and we have good attendance in some corrals by young people. Please do read the story on the winner of our \$1,000 Scholarship for Academic and Leadership Excellence, Sarah Brown.

Please see other parts of the Bulletin for notices and announcements of upcoming events and summaries of corral and posse activities. Enjoy the issue and –

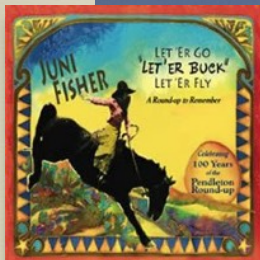
Happy Trails!

*Bonney*

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# JUNI FISHER CONCERT, FRIDAY NIGHT OF THE GATHER!!



Y'all are in for a rare treat at this year's Westerners Gather. Juni Fisher, award-winning songwriter, entertainer, and writer will be performing a concert just for us during our Friday night banquet. Her voice and lyrics will charm you and keep you humming a tune for days, and her stories will entertain you and keep you close to the legends and histories of the West.

Juni was raised in a California farming family. She took part in 4H and FFA as a youngster, rode sale pens and exercised show horses in her formative years, and sang in big-band orchestras for extra money during school. After college she apprenticed with well-known cow-horse and bridle-horse trainers, winning events as she rose up in the horse world and, eventually, in the cutting horse world.

She sang and played rhythm guitar in California and honed her skills with some of Nashville's finest songwriters. Her first album, "Tumbleweed Letters" came out in 1999 and has been followed by many memorable and award-winning albums.

Juni is one of the nation's top solo Western Music Performers. Her recognitions include 2006, 2009, and 2011 Western Music Association Female Performer of the year; 2011 WMA Entertainer of the Year; 2013 WMA Song of the Year; 2008 Western Heritage Wrangler Award for Most Outstanding Traditional Western Album; and 2012 and 2017 True West Magazine Best Solo Musician.

Juni Fisher tours the country full time, delighting audiences with her original songs, storytelling, and guitar playing. "Juni Fisher's luminous intensity ignites her writing and her performances," notes one journalist. "At the heart of her unique and complex artistry is her ability to bring alive ... unforgettable characters and images." Or, as the famous cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell once put it, "Juni Fisher is the best thing to happen to western music in a long time."

When not touring, Juni rides and trains her beloved horses for cow-horse competitions. In 2012 she won the prestigious National Reined Cowhorse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity and she continues her riding career in NRCHA and other competitions.

Juni Fisher's passion for the West, its legends, and its horses and cattle will leave you grinning, tapping your foot, and feeling glad all over that you joined us for the Gather. We know you'll love it!

Come join us for a grand time with fellow Westerners!  
 Enjoy a wonderful history program on the site of the Adobe Walls battlesite  
 Be part of a memorable concert from Juni Fisher, Western Music Assoc. Entertainer of the Year. Don't miss this 2019 Gather!!



## REGISTRATION FORM

(Registration form and Gather information also available on Westerners website)

WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL RENDEZVOUS AND GATHER  
 HOME RANCH, CANYON, TEXAS  
 THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCT 10 – FRIDAY NIGHT, OCT 11

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CORRAL/POSSE \_\_\_\_\_

CORRAL/POSSE TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

The fee for the Gather is \$75 per person, which covers the costs of Thurs afternoon snacks, Fri breakfast and lunch; fabulous and expert history programs from Michael Grauer, and Saturday's big evening event – cocktails, dinner, and a memorable concert of music and story from award-winning Juni Fisher. It's gonna be fun!!

**Please print and complete this form and then send it with your \$75 check to:**

Westerners Gather 2019  
 Westerners International  
 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum  
 2503 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 Canyon, TX 79015

If you have questions, contact WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald at [westerners@wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@wtamu.edu)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2019**  
**LATE REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 1: \$85**



# Happy 75th Birthday to *Westerners International*

**Fred R. Egloff shares information about the early days of WI**  
by Kenneth Pirtle, *Buckskin Bulletin* Editor

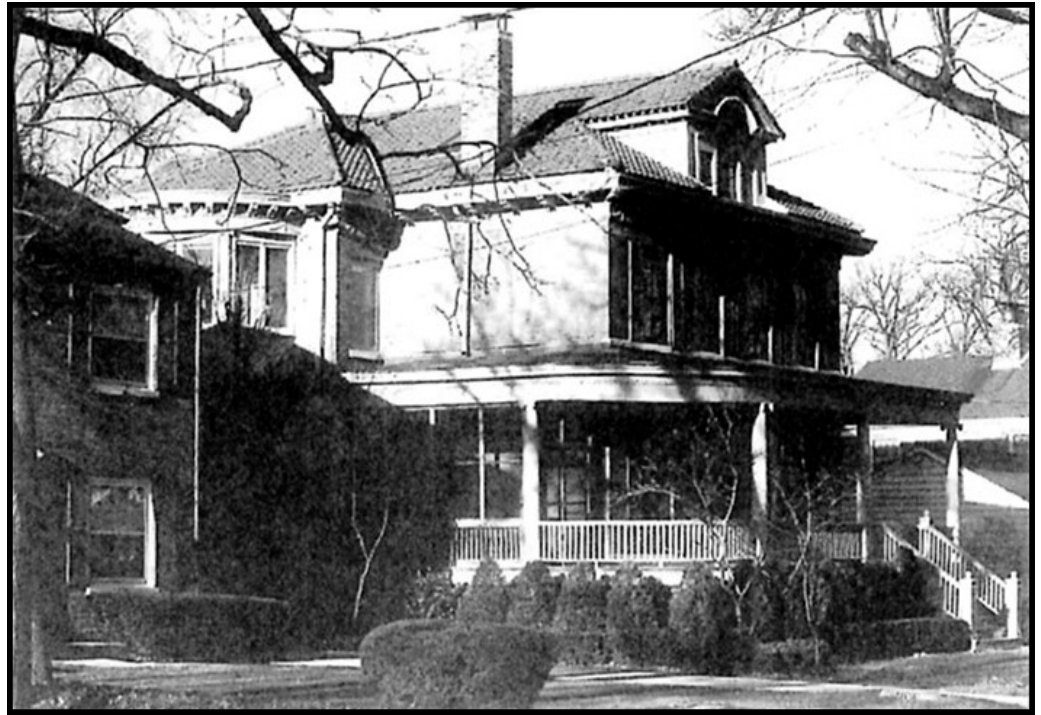


Your WI Home Ranch recently received a wonderful packet from **Fred R. Egloff**, past Sheriff from 1978 to 1980 of the original Chicago Corral. Fred in a letter reminded us that Feb. 25th, 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of **Westerners International**.

Fred also served WI as Buckskin Bulletin editor. Fred's mailing included some fascinating news articles, photos, flyers and Buckskin Bulletins from our early years.

Fred, who now lives in Texas, was WI President from 1997-2000 and is a "Living Legend".

Thank you Fred for reminding us of the wonderful heritage of **Westerners International**.



*The Watson home in Winnetka, Illinois, birthplace of Westerners, International, February 25th, 1944*

Ken Pirtle, *Buckskin Bulletin* Editor,  
March 2019

## About **Fred Egloff**

*(from a photo and bio in a past undated Chicago Corral Newsletter)*

Fred Egloff is a past director of **Westerners International** and former Chicago Corral Sheriff from 1978-1980. Past editor of the *Westerners Brand Book*. Fred is a graduate of Loyola University and a retired captain, U.S. Army. He raced and rallied sports cars in both the U.S. and Mexico. He is a founder of the Windy City BMW Club. Fred received Sports Car Club of America national awards for both editing and writing. He is a member of the **Western Writers of America** and a spur award finalist. He has reviewed over 300 books on Western Americana for the American Library Association publication *Booklist*. Fred is listed amount Who's Who in America.

Fred is presently retired and living in Kerrville, Texas.



The men who started Westerners International 75 years ago, Leland Case (left photo) and Elmo Scott Watson (right). Watson was a well respected Journalist and Professor. Case was also a journalist and the editor of Rotary International's magazine, *The Rotarian*. Both men were passionate students of history and the west and came up with the idea to form a group to study and present stories about our western heritage.

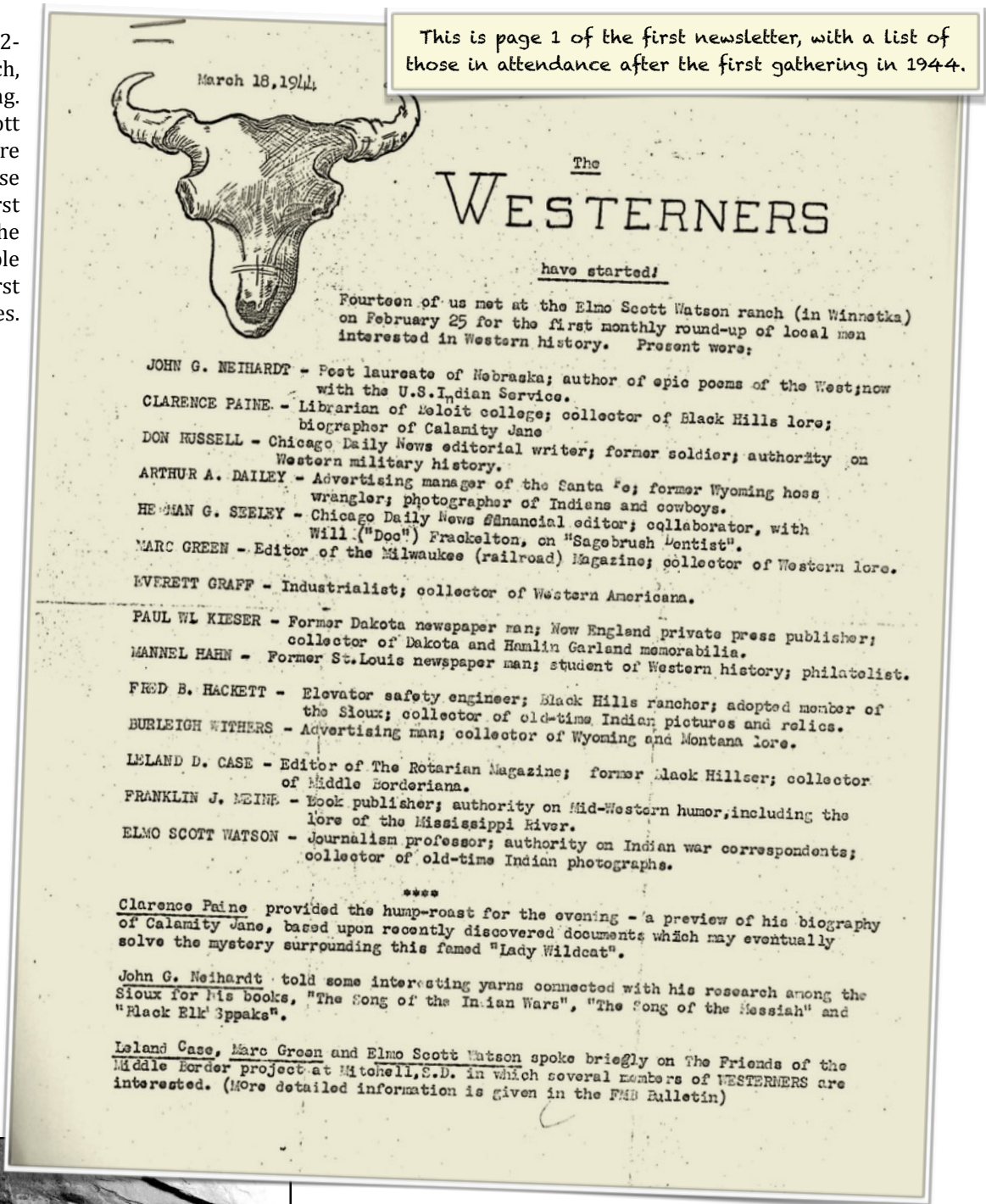
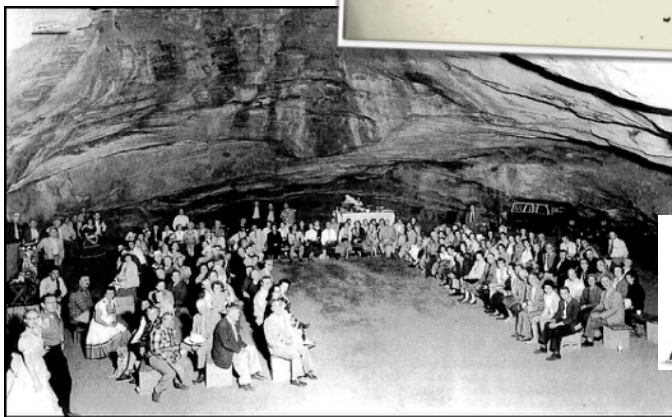
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Fred Egloff has shared a 2-page copy of an early, March, 1944 Westerner meeting. Leland Case and Elmo Scott Watson, founders of WI are listed. Names of those attending included the first fourteen members. Notice the descriptions and notable credentials of the first Chicago Corral attendees.



The Denver Posse hosted the first national inter-Posse Rendezvous of WI in 1956. A large cave near Denver was the setting for this well-attended event.

This nostalgic photo appeared in the winter 1998 **Buckskin Bulletin** as part of the promotion for the upcoming 1998 WI Rendezvous scheduled to be hosted at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City - the headquarters for WI's Home Ranch.



This is page 1 of the first newsletter, with a list of those in attendance after the first gathering in 1944.

Page one is above. Page two is on the next page.

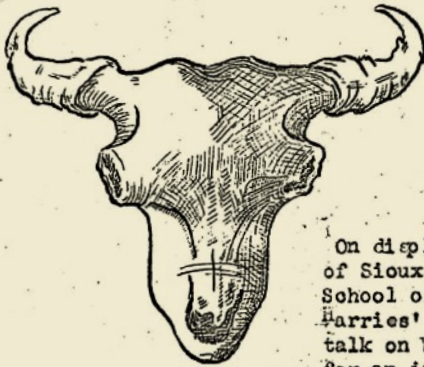
**Happy 75th Birthday to Westerners International!**

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# Happy 75th Birthday to *Westerners International!*

The Chicago Westerners propose rules for membership on page 2 of their March, 1944 newsletter.



## WESTERNERS

On display was the Gen. George H. Harries Memorial Collection of Sioux weapons, costumes, etc. recently presented to the Medill School of Journalism and the Friends of the Middle Border by Harries' widow. Most of the evening was devoted to round-the-fire talk on Western subjects, but there was some discussion of plans for an informal organization to serve the purpose of bringing together at regular intervals a bunch of congenial-minded men with a common interest

\*\*\*\*

As a starter a "Posse" ( alias committee) was appointed to set up a minimum of organization machinery necessary to keep WESTERNERS going. Until decided otherwise, this consists of "Sheriff" Watson and "Deputies" Meine and Case. Based upon the discussion that evening, the "Posse" suggests:

1. Membership in WESTERNERS to be restricted to men and limited to those who have an active interest in some phase of Western history.
2. Those to whom this letter is addressed ( men who attended the round-up and those interested but unable to attend) to be charter members. Charter membership to be limited to 30 and closed as of the next meeting.
3. To feed the kitty ( for getting out notices of meetings, round-robin letters and other necessary expenses) membership dues to be set at \$5, these dues giving members also an annual membership in Friends of the Middle Border and in a Chicago chapter of FMB which is to be organized soon.
4. Meetings to be held the fourth Monday of each month (in the evening) at some central spot in the Loop.

\*\*\*\*

There it is! We hope you'll indorse this plan and use the enclosed stamp to send your check for \$5 and your reservation for the next round-up on Monday evening, March 27.

"Deputy" Meine has made arrangements for us to use the rooms of the Cliff Dwellers Club at 220 South Michigan Avenue (eighth floor of the Orchestra Hall building). We'll meet there at 6:30, have dinner (\$1.25) and then hold our pow-wow. Don Russell has consented to talk on one of the subjects which he is now researching -- either his study of Jesse James or some unwritten history of "Buffalo Bill" Cody. After that -- more round-the-circle talk.

Please send in your acceptance not later than Saturday, March 25, to Franklin J. Meine, Consolidated Book Publishers, Inc. 153 North Michigan Avenue.

Elmo Scott Watson  
Island D. Case  
Franklin J. Meine.



# FROM THE HOME RANCH



## *The Hon. William French, Recollections of a Ranchman*

**Delinda King, WI secretary**

Hello Westerners! My work in the Special Collections/Rare books Department of Cornette Library at West Texas A & M University provides the opportunity to read a few OLD books. I am, of course, particularly attracted to books on life in the American West. Recently, I came across a book with yellowed pages and fragile binding written by "The Hon. William French" which bore the gilded title *Some Recollections of a Western Ranchman*.

Mr. French was an Englishman who came to America in 1883. He most aptly chronicles his travels across the country from 1883-1899. French made it to California; however, a coin toss decided his future and sent him to New Mexico where he settled into the ranching business. French relates personal stories about ranch life, problems with Indians, hunting experiences, and even outlaws he knew (you might recognize the names Ketchum or Cassidy). The book has an easy reading tone as though he is reminiscing while sitting on the porch having a cold beer.

The following is a sampling of French's stories. In this one, French offers a look at the many dangers and courage one might have encountered on a 19<sup>th</sup> c. working ranch. A fair warning here - if you have a weak stomach you might want to skip this one as French relates:

"One of the odd jobs which necessity compelled me to perform about this time was a surgical operation. I was awakened sometime about two a.m. by Lem and Tip coming into my room. They had come from camp, about a thirty-mile ride, somewhere near the head of Devil Creek. Tipton's hand was all wrapped up in a

handkerchief. They told me that he had got his thumb almost torn off, it being caught in the kink of his rope as he was catching his night horse. It was really in a horrible state, with the flesh torn off and all the sinews and bone exposed.

All I could do was to bathe it with an antiseptic and wrap it with cotton and Vaseline. Then when I had bandaged him up and put his arm in a sling I directed him to go the first thing in the morning and seek medical assistance in Mogollon, which was the only place nearer than Silver City that had a resident doctor. However, the next day when they went there they were unable to find him, he having been called away unexpectedly on some urgent case.

Tip's arm was swelling up, and I told him I was sure it was necessary to have an operation, at the same time advising him to hurry off to Silver City. He didn't like the idea of the trip, however, hoping it would get better without it. In this way he kept postponing it for a day or two, until his arm got in such a state that something had to be done to relieve him. He had no faith in the medico at Mogollon and begged of me to undertake the operation.

I didn't much like the idea of tackling it, but he didn't seem to realize his danger, and if he let it go much longer he would certainly lose his arm. Under the circumstances I was bound to do something, so I amputated his thumb with a razor. The operation took place in the bunk-house and Tip sat on the kitchen table. I turned my back to him to keep from being nervous, passed his hand out under my left arm, where I clamped down on it with all my strength, and got through with it as quickly as I could.

I had plenty of bichloride as an antiseptic and the razor was bright and new, but it seemed to me that I took an unconscionable time about it, and when it was over the sweat was dropping from my brow and I felt thoroughly exhausted. As for Tip, he should have been a Christian martyr, for he neither moved nor uttered a sound. When I had him bandaged and bound up he smiled, quite pleased, and picking up the amputated thumb examined it closely and put it in his purse."

*Some Recollections of a Western Ranchman, pp.239-40*



The Executive Committee (a subset of the larger Board of Directors) met at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum on January 30, 2019. Pictured from left to right: Ken Pirtle, Editor, *Buckskin Bulletin*; Rodney Laubhan; Tim Bowman, President; Gregg Bynum, outgoing Treasurer; Michael Grauer; Bonney MacDonald, Chairman; Delinda King, Secretary; Janie Rodarte, incoming Treasurer.





## MORE NEWS FROM THE **HOME RANCH**

### **REMINDER FOR ALL WI REPRESENTATIVES: DUES, AWARDS, and TALLY INFORMATION SHEETS PACKETS**

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

The **dues** deadline is **April 1, 2019**; please include the Tally Information Sheets. Without current contact info for your officers, we don't have a way of reaching sheriffs and other officers, and I don't have a way of emailing the *Buckskin Bulletin* to your corral or posse! So please be sure and include those out with your dues.

**Awards entry forms** were included in hard copy in the Dues/Awards/Tally Info packets, and they can also be downloaded from the WI website. All award entries are due by **April 15, 2019**. You are all working on interesting programs and publications; let us know about your events and your work! We want to spread the good word and award you all for your efforts!

And we thank you in advance for sending in your dues. These monies fund all kinds of good things in Westerners – from the basics of keeping the lights on and the copier working, to the editing and formatting of the Bulletin, the office staff and supplies, the annual awards and scholarship monies, participation in Western History Association and more!

And we thank you in advance, too, 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!

## **Home Ranch Reminders to all Corrals**

### **REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS**

*The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now emailed from the Home ranch to your Sheriff and Representative, and your Sheriff should be emailing it to all corral or posse members. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses of your officers, so 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*

# CORRAL NEWS



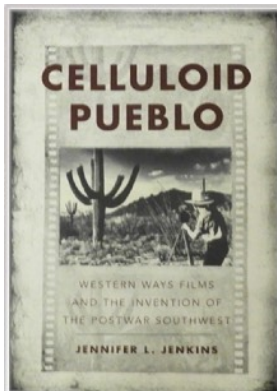
## CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

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 **Scottsdale Corral** met in Feb for a potluck and a program on "The Men Who Made Rushmore," given by Robert Kolbe. From 1927 to 1941, nearly 400 men worked on Mt. Rushmore at one time or another. The work wasn't steady, but during the depression years any job was welcome. With the skillful use of interviews with workers, old pictures, newsreel footage and some newly discovered film from a private collection, Historical Footprints provides the viewer with a much different perspective on this colossal mountain carving. Presenter, Bob Kolbe, graduated from Westmar College and later received a Masters in Zoology and Geology from Univ. of South Dakota. He taught for several years and then started an antique clock shop. In 1999 Kolbe received recognition for Historic Preservation from the Dakota History Conference of the Center for Western Studies. He was again honored by the Siouxland Heritage Museum for preservation and interpretation of history in 2009. Kolbe received the West River History Conference's Zoom Zoom award for outstanding support of local history in 2011. In 2006 Kolbe published a book he co-authored on the photographers of Dakota Territory Kolbe completed twenty years (five terms) as a Minnehaha County Commissioner at the end of 2008. In addition to being a Life Member of the South Dakota State Historical Society, Kolbe is in his fourth elected term to the South Dakota Historical Society Board of Trustees.



The December meeting of the **Adobe Corral** featured a fascinating program from Richard Collins (photo right), who spoke on the book *Riding Behind the Padre: Horseback Views from Both Sides of the Border*. Mr. Collins took the corral audience on a trip with Los Caminos de Kino, riding the trails of Father Eusebio Francisco Kino. They learned about Kino's work as a Jesuit priest, as well as about his exploration, mapping, farming, and ranching in the area. The program closed with observations regarding the border in contemporary times. Thank you to **Nan Schubel** for keeping us informed!



The **Adobe Corral** hosted a fascinating January meeting, with corral member, Jennifer Jenkins, talking on "Celluloid Pueblo: Western Ways Films and the Invention of the Postwar Southwest." Charles and Lucile Herbert settled in Arizona in 1936 after a decade of worldwide travels for Fox Movietone. From their downtown adobe headquarters, the Herberts ran a photo finishing studio, and aerial photography business, all the while making promotional and curiosity films about the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Jennifer Jenkins showed some of the more notable sequences from their films, including clips from the first sound news films made in Arizona, "How to Move a Giant Saguaro," "Byways in Sonora," "Apache Scouts at Ft. Huachuca," and "Cowgirls Shopping," a promotion for hand-painted skirts by Ted DeGrazia, sold at Steinfeld's department store. Jennifer Jenkins works at the intersections of literature, film, and archives at the University of Arizona. She is author of the book *Celluloid Pueblo: Western Ways Films and the Invention of the Postwar Southwest* (University of Arizona Press, 2016). She has presented on archival film at the Orphan Film Symposium, *Mujeres en el cine mudo*, the Association of Moving Image Archivists, and the Northeast Historic Film Archive Summer Symposium, which she directed for a decade. She has been working to develop an archive of amateur and locally-made films of the Arizona-Sonora borderlands, including the Tombstone Home Movie Project. To inform her work with archival film and print materials, she earned a Master's in Library and Information Sciences and a graduate certificate in Archival Studies in 2014. In 2019 she will hold the Cátedra Primo Feliciano Vázquez research chair in History at the Colegio de San Luis in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, where she will lead a research project on the history of cinema-going and theatres in the early days of Mexican cinema. She is the founder of Home Movie Day Tucson, now in its seventh year. Thanks to **Nan Schubel** for the update on the **Adobe**

## Corral!

The Fort Worth Westerners welcomed, **Dr T. Lindsay Baker** for their January program. Dr Baker has a long and distinguished connection to Westerners International. He was the president of Westerners International in 1989-90 and was on the board 1990-99. Dr. Baker retired in May 2017 after 15 years as the W.K. Gordon Endowed Chair in Industrial History of Texas and Director, W.K. Gordon Center, Tarleton State University, Mingus, Texas. His impressive resume and Top Ten Facts about him are attached. The title of his program, "Searching for the Lost Route 66," was drawn from the research for his 2016 book, *Portrait of Route 66: Images from the Curt Teich Postcard Archives*. Dr Baker recounted the adventures that he and his wife experienced in two end-to-end trips along the historic pavement of "The Mother Road," former U.S. Highway 66, while searching for the locations in photographs of a collection of heretofore unknown black-and-white photos that he discovered in the archives of the old Curt Teich postcard company in Chicago. Thanks to **Phil Williams** for the corral update!





## Young Westerner Profile: John Dervin Yi An Dillon, Third-Generation Member of the Los Angeles Corral

Brian Dervin Dillon



Left: John Dillon as a youngster at CA-KER-25, a prehistoric rock art site in the upper Kern River Drainage, California. Center: Berkeley undergraduate John Dillon at Tikal National Archaeological Park, Guatemala. Right: John Dillon (at right), inducted into the Los Angeles Corral as the Jerry Selmer Fellow in 2016: Living Legend the late Jerry Selmer at left, Living Legend Abe Hoffman at center. All photos by Brian Dervin Dillon

The membership of most Westerners International corrals is geriatric, with “youngsters” often in their forties or fifties. To attract much younger members the Los Angeles Corral recruits college/university students and recent graduates through its fellowship program. We get them young, make it easy for them to stay in, and give them important jobs to do. Fellows’ annual and monthly membership fees are paid by the corral, and they are given a two-year monetary stipend. In return, they help with the audio-visual needs of speakers, with photographic and video recording tasks, and contribute book reviews and monthly roundup reviews to the corral’s quarterly Branding Iron – often their first scholarly publications. The Los Angeles Corral proudly notes that six outstanding young people have become fellows so far.

John Dervin Yi An Dillon was made the Jerry Selmer Fellow in 2016. In 2017 he became Editor of the Los Angeles Corral’s Branding Iron, and has gotten that publication out on time and under budget with outstanding literary contributions ever since. John is an Eagle Scout, a 6th generation Californian with Gold Rush ancestors, a 4th generation historian, and the only 3rd generation member of the Los Angeles Corral. His grandfather was a member of both the Los Angeles and the San Francisco Corrals, and was made a Living Legend of the latter in 2003. His father was Sheriff of the Los Angeles Corral in 2017. John is eager to communicate with any other 3rd generation Westerners, wherever they may be.

John is Hakka Chinese on his mother’s side and Irish, Scots, Dutch, German, Spanish, English, Italian and French on his father’s. One of his grandfathers was one of four brothers at Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941; the other was the 4th generation combat soldier of his family to be WIA. One great-grandfather was amongst the last Hansen Disease victims exiled to Kalaupapa, Molokai, while another great-grandfather fought on four different continents (Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe) during a 30-year career in the infantry, cavalry, and artillery. One of his great-great-grandfathers survived being shot 5 times on the final day of 1862 in the American Civil War, while another great-great-grandfather helped quell a mutiny on a square-rigger sailing around the Horn to California.

John was educated at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving his B.A. in History with Honors in 2012, after a year abroad as an exchange student at Humboldt University, Berlin, where all coursework was in German. While a Berkeley student he was awarded an NRA Scholarship (2008), and the Edward Frank Kraft Scholarship Prize (2009). His graduate studies in history were at U.C. Santa Cruz, where he obtained his MA degree in 2015. John taught at Los Angeles Pierce College in 2016, and since 2017 has been Adjunct Instructor at Los Angeles Valley College, where he is a very popular, and also the youngest, teacher of Western Civilization, New World, and U.S. history.



# Western History Association News

Thanks to Matt Despain for organizing the panel for the 2019 Western History Association in Las Vegas!

## Landscapes of Violence and Sacredness: Native Reclaiming and Reinterpretation of Historic and Hallowed Spaces

Matthew Despain, Rose State College (Chair)

Donald Fixico, Arizona State University (Commentator)

### First Presentation:

**"Shadows of Sand Creek: The Massacre As A Pivotal Moment in the American West"**

**Presenter: William Winslow Carroll, Austin Peay State University**

Abstract: The Sand Creek Massacre was a momentarily brief attack perpetrated by Colorado militiamen against Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers with repercussions far beyond that fateful November morning. Sand Creek represents a turning point in the history of the West as it brought an end to the Borderland society that had existed in Colorado and simultaneously laid the foundations for Federal Reconstruction. Beginning with a brief overview of this society built by the Bent family, the presentation will observe contemporary reactions to news of the Massacre and how these reactions became a template for Greater Reconstruction. All the while placing these overviews into the context of the preexisting historiography of both Borderlands and Greater Reconstruction. Having achieved this, recommendations will be made on incorporating this perspective into the current interpretive efforts at the site of the Massacre in order to widen both the scope and appreciation of the event for future visitors.

### Second Presentation:

**"Voices From the Dust: A Shoshone Perspective of the Bear River Massacre"**

**Presenter: Darren Parry, dparry@arrowpoint.us; Tribal Chairman**

Abstract: From shortly after the final shot in 1864 to the present, the process of remembering and interpretation have been inextricably linked to the landscape where the Bear River Massacre occurred. In 1932, the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers erected a monument calling the massacre a "battle" and commemorating the actions of soldiers and saints as heroic. This presentation addresses this process of colonizing history and memory, of Native erasure, and recent efforts of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation to reclaim more than 700 acres of hallowed ground and reinterpret the narrative of the Massacre from Shoshone perspectives. Such reclaiming and rebalancing of history utilizes the past in the process of forging new understandings and relationships with hopes of reconciliations of Native with non-Native worlds.

### Third Presentation:

**Reclaiming and Decolonizing the Land: Modern Plains Tribe Consortiums and Bear Butte**

**Presenter: Daryl Max Bear, mbear@c-a-tribes.org; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma**

Abstract: Recent efforts by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma, in partnership with other Northern Plains tribes, to purchase lands near the sacred Bear Butte near Sturgis, South Dakota, is part of a grander indigenous effort of decolonizing the past, reclaiming and protecting sacred lands, redefining human relationships with such location, and rebalancing the narrative and place of Native peoples in the West. This presentation explores the sacred significance of Bear Butte to certain Plains tribes and the history and process of regaining Native management of lands adjacent to it. The presentation also explores the differing relationship and interpretation of tribes, particularly the Southern Cheyenne, with such sacred landscapes as compared to landscapes associated with colonial violence, defined as hallowed, principally Sand Creek and the Washita Massacre sites.



*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."*

## **Frenchy McCormick of Old Tascosa**

*by Jim Jennings, Palo Duro Corral*

Elizabeth McGraw left her home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a 16-year-old girl in 1868. And that is just about all the early background anyone knows of the woman who became arguably the most famous resident of the old Texas cow town of Tascosa.

It is known that from Baton Rouge, Elizabeth went to Saint Louis, Missouri, and some say that she made her way there after running away from a Baton Rouge convent. Others claim that her father was a Mississippi steamboat captain who took her with him to Saint Louis following the death of her mother. Regardless, when she arrived, she got a job dancing on the burlesque stage in Saint Louis' famous Benedict Bar.

But Elizabeth didn't stay in Saint Louis, and before long she was on a stagecoach bound for Dodge City, Kansas. With the trail herds coming into town from Texas, there was no shortage of saloons in Dodge City, and soon Elizabeth was again dancing for bar patrons in the various establishments on Front Street. It was in one of those saloons that she acquired the name for which she would be known the rest of her life.

Elizabeth, probably due to the time she spent in the convent, was more educated than most of those she encountered in the saloons, and probably because she was raised in the French-Canadian area of Louisiana, she spoke English with a unique French accent. One evening, while dancing in one of the Dodge City saloons, a Texas cowboy grabbed her from the arms of another man and yelled, "I want to dance with Frenchy." She was never known by another name.

After a while, Frenchy grew tired of Dodge, and caught a stage coach headed for Mobeetie, Texas. Mobeetie was never a large town, but in 1880, when Frenchy arrived there, Mobeetie was a busy and a thriving center. It served the nearby United States Army outpost of Fort Elliott, and was the commercial center of much of the Panhandle. Its several businesses included merchandise stores and other business firms, blacksmith shops and livery stables, law offices and real estate agencies, and nine saloons. And it was in one of those saloons that Frenchy met Mickey.

Michael McCormick – whose nickname was Mickey – was a witty and dapper Irish gambler from Tascosa, Texas, which was more than a hundred miles west of Mobeetie. Mickey had a livery stable in Tascosa, and in the course of business, had contracted to take a



*Frenchy McCormick*

lawyer from Tascosa to Mobeetie, which at the time was the seat of government for the Panhandle. After delivering the lawyer to his destination, Mickey retired to one of the town's saloons to practice his other profession, which was that of a professional gambler.

During the next several days, with Mickey gambling in the various Mobeetie saloons, at some point he met Frenchy. And then he discovered that, coincidentally or not, anytime Frenchy was standing next to him, his luck was good. When Mickey left Mobeetie to go back to Tascosa, Frenchy went with him.

In 1880, four-year-old Tascosa was booming and the livery business was good, but Mickey knew that

the real money was to be made on the gambling tables in the back rooms of the Tascosa saloons. Most nights found him in one of the saloons – there were six of them in town, even though the total population of Tascosa was only about 300 – where he played cards as long as there was anyone willing to play.

There is as little known about Mickey as there is about Frenchy. He was born in Ireland in 1848, but no one ever knew how he ended up in Tascosa – or, if they did, they never told. When the couple first arrived in Tascosa, Frenchy dealt cards at the monte tables, just as she had done in Dodge and Mobeetie, while Mickey played poker at another table.

But then Scotty Wilson, who was a bartender at one of the saloons in town, and also served as justice of the peace, declared that since Tascosa was now the county seat of the new Oldham County, all those couples in town that were cohabitating had to be married. Most people think that this was just an idea Wilson came up with to make some money, but, regardless, Mickey and Frenchy lined up with the other gamblers, cowboys and dance hall girls, and were married on September 26, 1882. Few of the other marriages lasted, since most of the participants drifted out of town, but Mickey's and Frenchy's did, and they later had the union blessed by a Catholic priest. Frenchy later said that Mickey took both her hands in his and they pledged to stick to each other and to the town of Tascosa. Throughout the 30 years they spent together, Mickey never called her Frenchy, nor did she call him Mickey. She was Elizabeth to him and he was Mack to her.

After Frenchy and Mickey married, she no longer dealt monte. As a matter of fact, she never again went into a saloon or gambling house unless Mickey was losing heavily. Then, being superstitious, she'd go in and ask all the women to leave. If they didn't get out, it didn't take her long to make them understand she meant business. Although she was described as a beautiful woman, standing straight as a string, and being vivacious and smart, she was also a powerful woman for her size. She never failed to throw any women out of a room where her husband might be gambling.

Mickey built Frenchy a two-room adobe house three blocks west and across Tascosa Creek from his livery stable. He dug a water well in front of the house and planted a small cottonwood tree next to it. Hanging the water bucket on a limb of the tree distorted it, causing it to grow in a Z shape.

Both of them knew that they had lived somewhat on the seamy side of life. Mickey's name would occasionally appear in the pages of the Tascosa Pioneer, the town's newspaper. Frenchy's did not. His professions – livery stable owner and gambler – were both perfectly acceptable in Tascosa society. But it's likely that during the years spent in the saloons of Saint Louis and Dodge, Frenchy worked at least part of the

time as a prostitute. That all ended after her marriage to Mickey, but for all the years they lived there, Frenchy's former life kept her on the other side of that invisible line that ran down the center of the town's main street. The respectable element of the town had nothing to do with Frenchy and the other girls of her class.

But Frenchy was totally dedicated to Mickey, and he to her. When he was away on business – hauling a doctor to Mobeetie or maybe a distant ranch, for instance, or on a hunting trip – he sent a letter to his wife with every mail delivery to Tascosa. Her neighbors remembered hearing her on the day mail was delivered, telling everyone, "I heard from Mack!"

In the late 1880s, when the railroad bypassed the town, Tascosa began to die. Most residents started moving away, but as they promised each other, Frenchy and Mickey stayed in Tascosa. The livery stable was closed, and fewer gamblers frequented the saloons that were still open. Mickey had always been a hunter, and now he began to hunt in order for he and Frenchy to eat. With supplemental provisions from a milk cow, chickens and a vegetable garden, the wild game that Mickey was able to provide served them very well.

But one day in October 1912, Mickey was about to go hunting, but instead of leaving the house, he lay down on the bed. Frenchy walked over and asked him if he wanted a drink of water. He said that he didn't, but he looked up at Frenchy and said, "I wonder what you'll do?" She walked into the kitchen, and when she returned a few moments later, Mickey was dead. He obviously knew he was dying, and his last thoughts were about Frenchy.

Frenchy had Mickey buried in the Casimero Romero cemetery, which was only about a half mile east of her house. Casimero Romero, who had died some years earlier, had been a sheep herder who had actually founded the town of Tascosa.



For the next three years, Frenchy still had neighbors, but in 1915, the county seat was moved to the town of Vega, and Tascosa became a ghost town. Before long, Frenchy was the only resident. As the years went by, Frenchy's house began to crumble. In the winter, rattlesnakes had a den under her house, and at least one got in the house through a hole in the floor. She was able to kill it after it had bitten her dog.

For the next 27 years she lived alone in her home, refusing to move to one of the nearby towns. She had promised Mickey that she would never leave, and she was determined to keep that promise. Finally, in



*Frenchy's house at Tascosa, in disrepair.*

1939, the county decided that she must be relocated to Channing, which was about 20 miles away. Frenchy at the time was 87 years old, thin, unkempt and increasingly feeble. However, before she would let them take her away, she exacted a promise that when she died, she would be brought back to Tascosa and buried alongside Mickey.

She moved in with a friend in Channing, and when she started eating regularly, she began to gain

weight. But she often reminded her hosts that she was just visiting and that her home was in Tascosa.

If anyone questioned her about her past, she wouldn't talk at all. Once, two women from Louisiana, who had seen her picture in a Fort Worth newspaper, became convinced that she was their long-lost aunt who had run away from her home in Baton Rouge 60 or 70 years previously. They offered her a home with them. Frenchy wouldn't go, but said she would talk to them if they came to Channing, "to get it straightened out," she said.

But still she refused to say anything about her past. "No one knows who I am and I'll never tell," is all she would say.

Early Sunday morning, January 12, 1941, Frenchy died in her sleep. She was 88. Frenchy was buried at noon the next day, in the Casimero Romero cemetery, next to Mickey. And that brought to an end one of the great love stories of the West.



## ***Please congratulate Sarah Brown for winning a \$1,000 Westerners Scholarship in Academic and Leadership Excellence***

Sarah was nominated by her professor and mentor, Dr. Shawn Holliday, for her graduate-level paper on "Justice in the Western Novel," written during her course on "The Western Novel" with Dr. Holliday at Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Sarah Brown is an educator and advocate who remains inspired by the prospect of learning something new. She is passionate about justice, culture, and she firmly believes that education is power and opportunity. Although raised in the mountains of Alaska, Sarah has eagerly relocated to Oklahoma. She teaches English, Philosophy, and Religion at Carl Albert State College and is a proud student of fellow Westerner, Shawn Holliday, and others in the graduate English Department at Northwest Oklahoma State University in western Oklahoma. Her courses now include sections on how the West has shaped our national identity. Her involvement with Westerners began at the encouragement of Dr. Shawn Holliday at NWOSU, during a graduate course on Western Novels. Sarah reports that the all the class members became members of Westerners and that their discussions were greatly enhanced.

Congratulations, Sarah! And thank you to Dr. Shawn Holliday for nominating Sarah for this prestigious award!





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**Upcoming Events at the  
Panhandle Plains  
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***CATTLE, COWBOYS & CULTURE WALKING  
TOUR - Historic Amarillo*** Date: Apr 06, 2019  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



PPHM brings you a brand new walking tour conducted by Dr. Amy Von Lintel co-curator of the Cattle, Cowboys & Culture exhibition at PPHM. Learn the connections between Amarillo and Kansas City and how both towns thrived in the cattle industries with a little murder and mayhem thrown in.

Tickets are \$30. Only 25 tickets are available. Tour will conclude at Six Car Brewery. \*No refunds due to weather.

 West Texas A&M University

**CSAW**  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF THE AMERICAN WEST



**Tuesday, March 19:** Dr. Deborah Liles, "Oliver Loving: Dean of the Trails," 7 p.m. in the Hazlewood Room at PPHM

**Thursday, March 28:** "Red Dead Rouge" Panel Discussion, 7 p.m. in the Hazlewood Room at PPHM.

From Sacagawea to Frenchie McCormick, women have played an important role in the work, identity, and expansion of the American west. Join Center for the Study of the American West and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum for "Red Dead Rouge," a panel discussion about women's roles in the Old West, with emphasis on the portrayal of these roles in the video game Red Dead Redemption II. More details soon!

**Tuesday, April 9:** Garry L. Nall lecture with Stephen Graham Jones: "Growing up Dead in Texas," 7 p.m. at JBK Legacy Hall (WTAMU campus). Earlier that day, guests can attend an author Q&A with Jones from 3-4 p.m. in the Cornette Library Blackburn room.

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



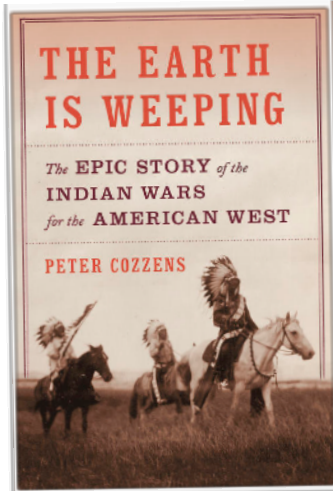
"The PPHM is my single favorite museum and has been a huge source of inspiration to me as a historian. Touring it is an amazing learning experience. For almost 20 years now I have been recommending the place to travelers. You can do whatever you like, I tell them, but don't miss the PPHM!"

- S. C. Gwynne



# BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



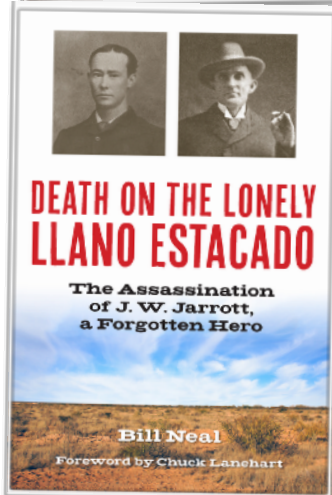
## ***The Earth is Weeping* by Peter Cozzens**

- Hardcover: 576 pages
- Publisher: Knopf; 1st edition (October 25, 2016)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0307958043

**Price: \$18.00 paperback**

“A detailed recounting of random carnage, bodies burned, treaties broken and treachery let loose across the land... Cozzens admirably succeeds in framing the Indian Wars with acute historical accuracy... demonstrates vast knowledge of American military history.”

—Douglas Brinkley, The New York Times Book Review



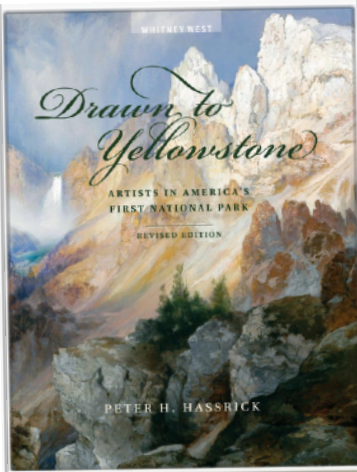
## ***Death on the Lonely Llano Estacado: The Assassination of J. W. Jarrott, a Forgotten Hero* by Bill Neal**

**price \$24.95**

- Hardcover ISBN-13: 9781574416954
- Publication Date: July 2017

In the winter of 1901, James W. Jarrott led a band of twenty-five homesteader families toward the Llano Estacado in far West Texas, newly opened for settlement by a populist Texas legislature. But frontier cattlemen who had been pasturing their herds on the unfenced prairie land were enraged by the encroachment of these “nesters.” In August 1902 a famous hired assassin, Jim Miller, ambushed and murdered J. W. Jarrott. Who hired Miller? This crime has never been solved, until now.

University of North Texas Press



## ***Drawn to Yellowstone***

### ***Artists in America's First National Park* By Peter H. Hassrick**

**price \$25.00**

- 105 COLOR AND B&W ILLUS.
- 160 PAGES
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- PUBLISHED JULY 2016

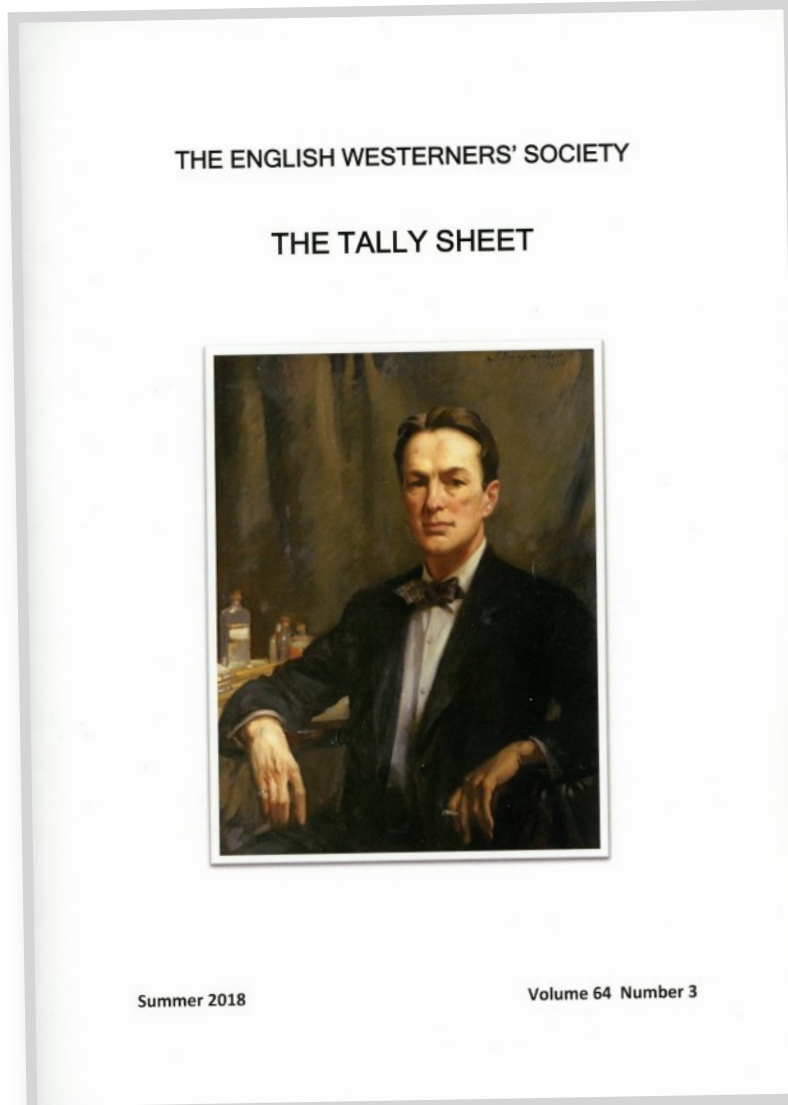
Old Faithful Geyser, Emerald Spring, the magnificent canyons and falls of the Yellowstone River—these and other sites, familiar to the millions of visitors who travel through Yellowstone National Park each year, have been an inspiration to generations of artists. Thomas Moran, Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Remington, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and dozens of other artists have braved difficult conditions to capture the splendors of Yellowstone in many media.

from the The University of Oklahoma Press

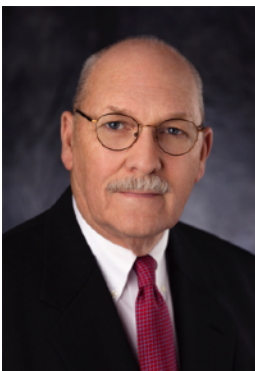
If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.

# BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The Summer 2018 issue of **The Tally Sheet**, printed by the English Westerners' Society has a feature article on the Scottish born western artist John Young-Hunter. The editor of **The Tally Sheet** is Michelle Pollard of Hailsham, East Sussex, UK.



**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