

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Volume LV - issue 2 - June 2022

The Rugged Beauty of Historic Palo Duro Canyon

and site of the
final battle of
the 1874 Red
Rivers wars

more on Palo Duro
Canyon on page 4 and 5





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! Let the summer begin, let the birds continue singing, and let all Westerners be well in this coming season.

We all continue to have challenging times with the stubbornness of the COVID virus; many of you, however, have continued with your creative ways of meeting through Zoom, and other small corrals and posses have begun to meet again in person. We salute you all! For those of you who haven't had local corrals or posses that were meeting, you can always catch a wonderful program on Zoom with another group and get your "Westerners fix"! See the Corral and Posse Highlights in this Bulletin for details on the corrals or posses that offer Zoom programs. If you need assistance connecting with one of those groups, just email me and I'll put you in touch with the sheriff of a Zoom-hosting corral or posse: bmacdonald@wtamu.edu

On the top of our list at the Home Ranch are the judging of the award entries; we always love receiving your work, and will be contacting the winners by email or phone in July. We will also, of course, email everyone who submitted entries after winners have been contacted.

AND, mark your calendars! The ANNUAL FALL GATHER will be hosted by the Pikes Peak Posse, with support from the Denver Corral. We'll all be gathering in Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 15-17, 2022. Look for the complete announcement in this Bulletin. We hope to see you there!!

Finally, in case you missed it in the last Bulletin, the Home Ranch has a new phone number: 806-654-6920

Happy Summer and Happy Trails to all!

Bonney

*Bonney MacDonald
Chairman, Westerners International*

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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.

In case you missed the announcement in the March Bulletin:
THE HOME RANCH HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER

Please note that our office has a new phone number that will get you through to Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer. When you want to reach us by phone, please call
806-654-6920



2022 DUES AND THANKS FROM THE HOME RANCH

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

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

Please, even if your corral or posse cannot send in dues for the year because you haven't been able to meet, be sure and send in your current contact info for your officers. Those forms are in the Dues and Awards packets sent out by US Mail in February. If you need a new copy, just email Bonney MacDonald, Chairman, WI, at bmacdonald@wtamu.edu.

2022 AWARDS SEASON

Thank you

to all who sent in submissions for awards!

It's such a treat to read through all of your programs and written submissions for awards. It reminds us all of the good and enthusiastic work you all are doing in Westerners. The committees will be reading the entries and making decisions, and we will notify award winners in July.



Palo Duro Canyon



Photos by Ken Pirtle

If you drive across the Texas Panhandle passing miles of flat prairie land you might never guess that just over the horizon the grasslands open up to a vast canyon stretching from just southeast of Amarillo for 120 miles towards the SE. Width of the chasm varies from 1500 feet to 15 miles and a depth of over a 1,000 feet in places. The Prairie Dog Fork of the Red River has flowed through for a million years.

“Palo Duro” is Spanish for “hard wood”, named for the native juniper and mesquite trees that grow there. The red soil, cactus and wild flowers make for a beautiful palette especially after a rain which brightens and enhances the colors. Today Palo Duro Canyon is a Texas State Park (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/palo-duro-canyon>) with bike and hiking trails. Reservations are required.

Native Americans have used the canyon for thousands of years for grazing animals, water, winter protection, food and security. As recently as 150 years ago bears and wolves flourished. Today, bobcat, deer, coyotes, porcupine, raccoon and, of course, the prairie rattle snake are commonly seen.

Charles Goodnight first came to raise cattle in Palo Duro Canyon when the last of the Native Americans were removed to reservations in Oklahoma in the late 1870's. Goodnight, of course, brought Texas steers and Longhorns but kept a small herd of surviving buffalo. This group grew and survives today in several protected and managed herds in the western United States, thanks to Goodnight.

Historically the Canyon is significant in that the final battle of the Red River Wars were fought there. In the late summer of 1874 a band of Cheyenne and Comanches with their large herd of horses sought the assumed security of Palo Duro Canyon for the upcoming winter. Colonel R.S. Mackenzie discovered their hidden trail to the bottom of the chasm and, along with his 600 troops surprised the sleeping Indians. The village was destroyed and the horses captured. One soldier died along with three of the Indians and the survivors escaped without food, shelter or their animals. Within a short time they made their way to reservations in Oklahoma. (see the related story in Corral News on page 5).

Kenneth D. Pirtle

more

CORRAL NEWS



J. Brett Cruse
photo by Rodney
Lauhban

On a cool and breezy evening of Wednesday, April 13th the **Palo Duro Corral** (Amarillo, Texas) met at the historic Harrell Ranch home on the north rim of Palo Duro Canyon, about 40 miles SE of Amarillo. On the far opposite south rim, our group could look across and see traces of the hidden trail used 148 years ago by the evasive bands of Comanche and Kiowa Indians to descend into the depths of the canyon, seeking refuge from the troops of Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie. Colonel Mackenzie had been sent to find these renegade Indians and do whatever necessary to subdue them and bring them to reservations in Oklahoma.

In the dark of an early September morning in 1874, Mackenzie's troops discovered the Indian trail into the Canyon and quietly descended and attacked the surprised camp. After a battle that lasted until noon, three Indians and one trooper were killed. Most from the Indian camp, however, escaped to the northwest, further into the canyon.

Most importantly, the troops captured 1,424 Indian horses and a few mules. After the battle these animals, desperately needed by the Indians, were led to Tule Canyon, about 30 miles to the south. Some of the troops and their Indian allies were allowed to keep a few of the best horses while the majority were shot. Although difficult to do, Colonel Mackenzie ordered this because hostile Indians had the frustrating propensity to re-capture stock. This final and drastic strategy marked the end of the last bands of Indians seeking to avoid the reservations.

The **Palo Duro Corral**, joined by the **Llano Estacado** (Lubbock, TX) Corral heard this story from J. Brett Cruse, noted author of **BATTLES OF THE RED RIVER WAR** (2008, Texas A&M University Press). Mr. Cruse is currently Director of Historic Sites for the Texas Historic Commission.

Corral members, the Harrell family and guests totaled 60 participants. Your's truly (**Ken Pirtle**) and **Palo Duro Corral** member **Rodney Lauhban** planned and hosted the memorable affair.



photo by
Ken Pirtle

The following is a military report written by Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie, dated Monday, September 28th, 1874.

Broke camp at four o'clock a.m. taking the trail lost the night before after marching about four miles north and northwest found and Indian camp in the great canon of the Red River.
Several camps were reported seen by the scouts from the hill and some fifteen minutes was taken in finding a trail leading down the canon and when found the 2nd Bat. and Lt. Thompson with the scouts were ordered down and the 1st Bat. was ordered to remain on the hill.
The men were a very short time reaching the foot considering the length and roughness of the hill.
As soon as the first two companies of the 2nd bat. ("A", and "E" Comp 4th Cav.) had reached the foot they with Lt. Thompson of the scouts were ordered to attack the Indians who were getting away as fast as possible in the mountains.
The other two companies of the 2nd Battalion ("H" & "L" Comp. 4th Cavalry) were sent to the support of the other two companies and the 1st Battalion was ordered down into the canon.
"A", and "E" Comp 4th Cavalry with the scouts under Lt. Thompson had a running fight with the Indians for about four miles in which they killed three Indians and captured 1424 head of stock consisting of ponies, colts and mules. The Indians were all killed by the scouts under Lt. Thompson who was in the advance. The advance companies were ordered to fall back, driving off the stock and destroying the camps etc.

"H" & "L" Comps. Were ordered up and protected the flanks and rear which were for a short time considerably annoyed by a few Indians on the sides of the canon among the rocks where they could not be reached until men were sent on foot up on the sides of the canon.
Here the 1st Battalion having come to position in rear of "H" & "L" Comps. Those companies were ordered back and H & E companies to occupy the hill where the trail led down. The other comps. of the 2nd Battalion drove off the stock and got it safely up on the plains, about an hour was spent in getting the stock together, when the command started back to the wagon train which was supposed to be at Tule Canon and reached the train about half-past twelve Sept. 29th, 1874 at the place with all the captured stock.
Our casualties were as follows.
One man severely wounded by a carbine shot, Trump. Henry E. Hard Co. C, Cav. Three horses killed and ten wounded.
The officers and men generally behaved very well and are worthy of credit.
Official J.H. Taylor
Ass't. Adj't. General
Respectfully submitted (sgd.) R.S. Mackenzie
Colonel 4th Cavalry
Commanding

more

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!



Dr. Brian Dillon

The Home Ranch has received interesting news of "research in progress" by **Dr. Brian Dillon** of the **Los Angeles Corral**. If you know Brian you would agree he is a "high-energy" guy, always researching, doing anthropology and archeology and writing about western history and/or his amazing family. The following is a brief update from Brian on his research into a very special and intriguing lady related to Brian by marriage:

"I am off to Hawaii in a couple of days to finish up oral history interviews and archival research on the biography of my wife's aunt, Alice Chong (1909-1972) who was not only born "West of the west" (Kauai, Territory of Hawaii) she had a uniquely heroic life "west of the west" behind enemy lines in war-torn China. . .she was absolutely fearless, absolutely unique, and very, very lucky. . .

Alice was born on the island of Kauai, and was one of the very first Chinese-American women to earn a degree (in English, at the University of Hawaii in 1933), and went off to teach English at three different girl's schools in China, First in 1933, then again in 1937. . .she left Honolulu for Shanghai and Nanking the very day the Japanese launched their all-out attack by land, sea and air on both cities.

She evacuated the Ginling College girls 2,500 miles one step ahead of the invading Japanese in 1938, talking her way through roadblocks (she spoke three Chinese languages, English, Hawaiian and Japanese) and surviving many bombings by the Japanese Imperial Air Force.

(Photo right) Here she is on the truck bumper in Shanghai in 1938, with a full load of Ginling College girls in the back -all have just escaped the horrific Rape of Nanking in 1937-1938.

Alice was the war correspondent for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin Newspaper, and her byline was "Behind the Lines."

After teaching at Ginling in exile for five years, she went to work for General Claire "Flying Tigers" Chennault as his top-secret intelligence expert at the main 14th U.S. Army Air Force base at Kunming. She translated radio intercepts and written messages from "stay behind" informants, Providing crucial targeting information for Chennault's Fighters and bombers. . .

Her "cover" story was that we worked as the "Base Librarian" but she worked and lived in the Kunming H.Q., which didn't fool anybody. . .at times the men on the Kunming air base outnumbered the very few women (just about all others were army nurses) 900 to one.



Compared to the ETA and the Pacific, China was very much America's "forgotten war" during WWII, and, in any case, Alice was fighting it as early as 1937, four years before the Pearl Harbor attack. After the war she earned an MA degree at Columbia University In Hawaiian Folklore, then came back to Honolulu to teach school. So I am not the first anthropologist in the family, but the second. . .

She had been gone exactly 10 years and had traveled entirely around the world from east to west. . .westwards, ever westwards. . .

She was one of only two (2) female members of the 14th Air Force Association (the other was her friend and roommate, a white Missionary lady who also spoke Chinese and Japanese). . .and when she died in Honolulu in 1972, the 14th Air Force held a special memorial service for her. She was absolutely, positively, unique in American history, and I hope to publish her life story next year. ETA for publication, Early 2023. . .the thing already is 212 pages long, and will probably hit 300 by mid-summer."

Dr. Brian Dillon



more **CORRAL NEWS**



COCHISE COUNTY CORRAL

Doug Hocking, Cochise County Corral, reports that, in April, Chris Enss, president of the Western Writers of America and author of more than forty books on women in the frontier West, delivered a presentation on "Iron Women: Women Who Helped Build the Railroad." The Corral's April program was from Nancy Sosa on "The Notorious Brunckow Cabin." The building was known as the "bloodiest cabin in America," and was built by Frederick Brunckow in the late 1850s. In 1859, he established a mining company, hiring workers from Mexico. In 1860, those workers revolted and murdered Brunckow and others on the site. In May, the Corral hosted Jan Cleere, author of *Levis and Lace: Arizona Women Who Made History*. Her program was entitled "Military Wives of the Arizona Territory."

In June, Mike Mihaljevich spoke on "The Photos of Charles Watkins," and, for the summer, the Corral is planning the following programs: In July, Bill Cavaliere will speak on "The Early Settlers: A Colorful Past," and, in August, Matt Greenway and friends from Empire Ranch will speak on Empire Ranch.

See the **Cochise County Corral's** website at www.CochiseCountyCorral.org for their Fremont Street Bulletin and their quarterly publication, *Border Vidette*.

FORT WORTH CORRAL

Thank you to **Phil Williams** and **Bob Saul** from the **Ft. Worth Corral** for keeping us posted on your programs.

The Corral's April program was presented by Fort Worth Westerners member, **James Blackshear**, entitled "Skulduggery and Double-Dealing in the Borderlands".

Their May meeting was from University of North Texas professor, Richard B. McCaslin, PhD, who presented a program entitled "El Diablo Capitano: William L. Wright of the Texas Rangers." The talk was based on his newest book *Texas Ranger Captain William L. Wright*, which is available on Amazon.

The Corral has a June program from historian, Tom McDonald, on the topic of a cattle drive from Seguin, TX to the California Gold Rush in 1854.

Please see fortworthwesterners.com for information on other exciting programs and events.



SCOTTSDALE CORRAL

Linda Cravens, Scottsdale Corral, reported that the Corral's May program was presented by Bob and Nancy Stahl and was entitled, "A New History of Billy the Kid's Escape from the Lincoln County Jail: How It Happened." The talk provided a detailed timeline of what happened, where, and why things happened during Billy the Kid's escape from the Lincoln County Jail and the killing of James Bell. Robert Stahl is Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University, and after retirement is a full time Arizona and New Mexico historian. Nancy Stahl is retired from the position of Director of Gifted and Talented Education, Arizona Department of Education and a part-time researcher and editor.

Please visit the Corral's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Scottsdale-Westerners/122907851122916>

NORTHWEST MONTANA POSSE OF WESTERNERS

Ron Beard, long-time sheriff of the Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners, in Kalispell, MT, has moved to Maryland to be with his family and has stepped down as sheriff. However, we thank him for continuing as Deputy Sheriff for Programs. and we hope you are doing well out East, Ron!

The **Northwest Montana Posse** of Westerners had a May Program from Doug Ammons on "Western Montana in Time-Lapse Photography." The Posse met at the Northwest Montana History Museum in Kalispell. Ammons precisely re-shoots historical photos, carefully matching the location, and uses those photos to create time-lapse videos that seamlessly merge the past into the present. What interesting work!



The Posse also welcomed new members, **Richard Bauer** of Kalispell, Montana; **Stephen Olson** of Kalispell, Montana; **Bob and Sandy Schneller** of Kalispell, Montana. Welcome to Westerners International!

PIKES PEAK POSSE, Colorado Springs -- Host of our 2022 Gather!!



In April, the **Pikes Peak Posse** went to the movies for their program. They hosted Patricia Butler-Spiers and her company, From Mists of Time, who played their latest storytelling documentary "They Came For Coal" on the big Masonic Lodge screen. Patty Butler Spiers is an independent film and video producer, and director of a non-profit "From Mists of Time," dedicated to recording "eyewitness stories from those who were there for those who will follow." Her prior films are broadcast all over the world through film festivals and media. "Soul Of The Delta" was screened at the Denver International Film Festival, Memphis International & the Cannes International Film Festival. It's a documentary of the Mississippi Delta, and the music her film team recorded in juke joints and in the churches.

The June program from Gary Horton was on the Woods Brothers and was entitled, "The Woods Investment Co: Spare No Expense! Well ... Maybe a Little!" The Woods Investment Co was instrumental in the founding of the City of Victor in Colorado. Little did they know that the advertising for the city as a "gold mine on every lot" would turn out to be true. This presentation followed their meteoric rise of wealth and the travails of managing that wealth.

PRESCOTT CORRAL

The Prescott Corral has an exciting event they are hosting, and we thank **Ken Leja** and **AJ Sheridan** for keeping us posted. The corral will host the 19th Annual Western History Symposium on Saturday, August 13, 2022. Six scintillating free lectures provide a variety of interesting, informative, and new perspectives on Western history presented by six renowned authors, historians and researchers. Specially featured will be the event location for 2022 at the Phippen Museum of Western Art in Prescott, which will be free to all WHS attendees. See the prescottcorral.org website for program details, presentation times, or call the Prescott Corral Sheriff at 928-830-8236. The one-day, six multimedia Western History presentations, and cowboy art museum are free.



Western History Association News

Saloons, dime museums, and the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at this year's WHA in San Antonio, Oct. 12-15!

WHA Westerners Panel, 2022

Location: San Antonio, TX

Dates: Oct 12-15, 2022

Entertainment in the Midwest, 1880-1920

Chair: Dr. Sara Lampert, University of South Dakota

Carole Irene Butcher, Independent Historian
Seven Saloons and a Hurdy Gurdy House

Kaitlyn Weldon, Independent Scholar and Adjunct Professor
"Palace of Wonders": Dime Museums in the American Midwest, 1880-1920

Alida Boorn, Independent Historian, Greater Kent Historical Society Board Member
How Visiting the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition Influenced the Life of Young George E. Hyde

Comment: **Amanda Katz**, Carnegie Mellon University

With thanks to Dr. Tim Bowman, President, Westerners International, and to Dr. Elaine Nelson, Executive Director, Western History Association, for your help with the panel!

Notice: please visit <http://westerners-international.org> to access active links



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 15-18, 2022



Gather in Colorado Springs for the . . .
2022 Westerners International Conference

Hosted by the:

Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners

with support of the Denver Posse



Mix and mingle with fellow Westerners, authors and like-minded history buffs from far and near

- ◆ Meet & Greet reception
- ◆ Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
- ◆ Silent auction view / bid
- ◆ Bus tour: ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy, Garden of the Gods Trading Post, Visitor Center and Park
- ◆ Bonus Tours on Thurs/Sun included
- ◆ Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner & Western Performance
- ◆ Local historical presentations in Pioneers Museum's Grand Court Room
- ◆ Westerners Int'l award presentations
- ◆ Catered dinner at Al Kaly Mule Train Event Center with Historical Presentation

- **À la Carte conference options offered**
 - * Purchase the "package" OR select piecemeal events
 - * Guests are always welcome



Extend your stay and enjoy local attractions



Check website for updates

Contact info: Bob DeWitt, Conference Chair

PikesPeakWesterners@gmail.com or call (719) 473-0330

Pikes Peak Posse Hosted Westerners International Conference

Notice: please visit <http://westerners-international.org> to access active links

Colorado Springs, Colorado
September 15-18, 2022

The [Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners](#) is honored to host [Westerners International](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado from September 15th through 18th, 2022. We invite fellow Westerners to share in our exciting and scenic local, regional and Western history, as well in the camaraderie common to Westerners all over.

Thursday, we'll start off with a meet & greet reception in the historic [Pioneers Museum](#), a landmark of the region which used to house the El Paso County Courthouse, built in 1903. An historical program and museum tours will be provided. We will also launch the silent bid auction viewing.

On Friday, we offer a charter bus tour to the [ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy](#), [Garden of the Gods Trading Post](#), [Visitor Center and Park](#). Friday evening's event will be at the historic [Flying W Ranch](#) with a Chuckwagon Dinner & Western Performance by the renowned Flying W Wranglers.

Saturday, finds us back at the Pioneers Museum in the Grand Court Room for a fascinating day of historical presentations on local topics with lunch included. We wrap up the day at the Al Kaly Mule Train Event Center for a delicious catered meal and program. The Westerners International awards will be presented.

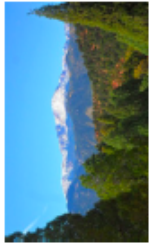
For those wishing to arrive early or stay late, we are offering bonus Posse hosted tours available on Thursday and Sunday.

Naturally, it would be great if you could attend the entire duration, however for those unable to do so, we offer À la carte options and the ease of paying by credit card. Guests are always welcome.

Please find complete details and downloadable PDF documents on our website. If you would like to receive the latest notifications by email, please contact Bob DeWitt, Chair: PikesPeakWesterners@gmail.com or by calling (719) 473-0330. Members will also find details in our monthly e-newsletter, The Pikes Peak Inkspot.

Doc: WI Conference Overview – WI BB - 220607

2022 Westerners Conference



Please join us for our Gather in Colorado Springs, CO

Mix and mingle with fellow Westerners, authors and like-minded history buffs from far and near

We are located in central Colorado between Denver and Pueblo along I-25

www.visitcos.com

Local Weather

Our altitude and proximity to the mountains provides for a year-round, mild climate. Classified as alpine desert, we enjoy an average of 300 days of deep blue skies, abundant sunshine and low humidity. In cooler months, layers are recommended for maximum comfort. The low humidity keeps out the bone-chilling cold found in other destinations. Average September temps: High 74 Low 45. Don't forget that jacket for our cool mountain evenings.

Bonus Walking Tours: FREE
Evergreen Cemetery—Thursday 10 - 12

Old Colorado City—Sunday 10 - 12
Manitou Springs—Sunday 2 - 4

Tour "Home of the Secret Book Shop"
with refreshments

Thursday 9-12 and Sunday 12-3

Notice: please visit <http://westerners-international.org> to access active links

Agenda

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
215 S. Tejon Street
<https://www.cspm.org/>

Thursday, September 15, 2022

- 2 PM Registration Opens
- 3 - 5 PM WI Board Meeting
- Meet and Greet Reception
- 5:30 - 8 PM
- 6 PM Historical Overview / Museum Tour

Silent Auction View & Bid

Friday, September 16, 2022

- 9 AM - 3 PM
- Scenic Bus Tour
- Meet and Park . . .
- ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy
 - 103 Pro Rodeo Dr, Colorado Springs
- <https://www.prorodeohalloffame.com>
- Garden of the Gods Trading Post
<https://www.gardenofthegodstradingpost.com>
- Lunch, Gift Shop and Art Viewing
- Garden of the Gods Visitors Center & Park Tour
<https://www.gardenofgods.com>
- Return to Pro Rodeo parking lot
- * Freshen up and Drive or Carpool to dinner

Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner & Western Performance

<https://www.flyingw.com>

5 to 9 PM (Gates open at 5)

3330 Chuckwagon Rd, Colorado Springs



Saturday, September 17, 2022

Historical Presentations at Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
9 AM - 3 PM
Lunch provided

- Cartographic Roots of Colorado: 1540 to 1861
 - * Wesley Brown
- Colorado Springs; A Changing Landscape
Photography of Glenn W Murray and the Creative Eight
 - * Don Kallaus and Angela Crews
- History of Charles Goodnight and His Barn in Pueblo Colorado
 - * Laurel Campbell
- Pikes Peak of Bust Rodeo History
- Tuberculosis Sanatoriums in Colorado
 - * Leah Davis-Witherow
- Railroad History
- Sheriff and Outlaws in Colorado

Saturday Evening 5 - 9 PM
Dinner and Historical Presentation

Al Kaly Mule Train Event Center
3415 Janitell Rd, Colorado Springs

<https://muletrainevents.com>

Details subject to change - see website for updates

**2022 WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

(Please complete separate form for each person)

<i>Please circle selection price(s):</i>	
Full Conference Package <i>with Early Bird Discount</i> <i>(Postmarked by August 9)</i>	\$190
Regular Full Conference Package <i>(Postmarked after August 9)</i>	\$200
THURSDAY RECEPTION	INCLUDED
BONUS: Thursday/ Sunday Tours	INCLUDED
A la Carte Pricing	
FRIDAY	
All day Friday	\$133
Bus Tour (includes lunch & all fees)	\$69
Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner and Western Musical Performance	\$67
SATURDAY	
All day Saturday	\$72
Daytime only (speakers & lunch)	\$28
Al Kaly Barn Dinner with Program	\$45

* Total amount \$ _____ CC Check

Full Conference fee (per person) includes: Thursday reception, Friday bus tour, Friday & Saturday lunches, dinners and Saturday programs.

* Lodging, and alcoholic beverages excluded

* Conference fee **NON-REFUNDABLE**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Check if Senior or Military

Complete and send Registration & Release ASAP!
 Remit payment via website:
<https://pikespeakwesterners.square.site/>
 or make check payable / send to:
 Pikes Peak Posse
 PO Box 25095
 Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5095
 Email: PikesPeakWesterners@gmail.com



**Release and Disclaimer
of Responsibility**

The undersigned hereby recognizes that The Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners will be conducting events for the Pikes Peak Posse hosted International Conference held in Colorado Springs, Colorado and surrounding area, for the benefit of the undersigned, one's guests, and invitees. In order to minimize operating costs, it is necessary that the undersigned agrees to release and hold harmless The Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners and Westerners International, all its officers, members, volunteers and agents thereof from any and all liability, relating to or arising out of such events, including personal injury or death, illness from the intake of beverages or foods at such events, and/or property damage or loss that the undersigned may incur relating to or arising out of any activities conducted at such events and/or travel to or from such events.

Print Name: _____
 Signature: _____

Thank You !

To the Presenters, along with the volunteers who helped facilitate this most rewarding experience. We appreciate your help in keeping our history alive. A very special thanks to the dedicated Special Events Committee.

Doc: 2022 Registration 220608

Notice: please visit <http://westerners-international.org> to access active links

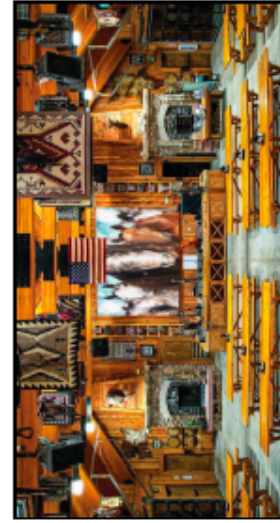


2022

**Westerners International
Conference**

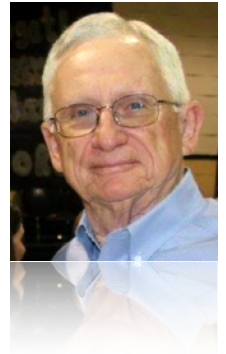
Hosted by The Pikes Peak Posse
of the Westerners

September 15-18, 2022
Colorado Springs, Colorado



FLYING W RANCH
Chuckwagon Dinner &
Western Performance

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."



Tom Mix

Hollywood's First Western Film Star



Tom Mix was born January 6, 1880, in Mix Run, Pennsylvania, which is a small community about 60 miles north of State College, Pennsylvania. His father, Edwin Mix, handled horses for a wealthy lumber merchant in nearby DuBois, Pennsylvania, and that's how Tom learned to ride and ride well. Young Tom had dreams of being in the circus, and there was a rumor that he was caught by his parents practicing knife throwing against a wall, which wasn't all that bad, except for the fact that he was using his sister as an assistant.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Tom enlisted in the Army. Although there was a story that said he was one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, that wasn't true. In fact, his unit was not involved in the war at all, and the story probably came from the fact that

in 1905 he rode in President Roosevelt's inaugural parade with a group of horsemen that included several former Rough Riders. Tom didn't even serve out his full enlistment in the Army. On July 18, 1902, during a furlough, he married Grace Allin, and he never went back to his unit. In November, he was declared AWOL, but the Army never pressed charges against him. The fact that he was a deserter was not known during his career as a movie star, and when it did come up after his death, he was so famous that the Army still gave him a full military funeral.

After Tom and Grace were married, Tom didn't know if the Army was looking for him or not, so he decided to move west and ended up in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He became the Guthrie high school athletic director and football coach. In addition, he also worked at the Blue Belle Saloon as a bartender and he broke horses down near the railroad station. However, when Grace's father found out that Tom was AWOL, he had their marriage annulled.

After Grace left, Tom landed a job as a drummer in the Territorial Cavalry Band, which attended the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. But after the fair was over, the band returned to Oklahoma City and Tom went back to work as a bartender. In the saloon where he worked, Tom met two of the Miller brothers, who owned the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show, and they gave him his first ranch job. And, it was about this time that Tom met and courted his second wife, Kitty Jewel Perrine, whose father owned the hotel where Tom lived in Oklahoma City. They were married on December 20, 1905.

In the beginning, Tom's job with the 101 Ranch primarily consisted of breaking horses and acting as host

to the dudes from back east who were looking for a cowboy experience. But before long, Tom became a part of the touring wild west show. He stood out as a skilled horseman and expert shot, and won national riding and roping contests at Prescott, Arizona, in 1909, and Canon City, Colorado, in 1910. Show business captured the young Tom Mix, and maybe it even reflected on the time, as a kid, he wanted to join the circus. But Kitty did not like being married to a roustabout cowboy who had no desire to settle down and stay in one place. The marriage did not last long, and pretty soon they were divorced.

In 1909 Tom married Olive Stokes, a part Cherokee beauty from Dewey. He had been introduced to Olive by Will Rogers at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis when she was only 17. Olive was raised on a ranch just a few miles west of Dewey and could ride, rope and was even known to bulldog steers. In fact, she was a beautiful and accomplished cowgirl who could hold her own with most any of the performers in the wild west shows. She seemed to be the perfect match for Tom. They were, however, divorced in 1917. Tom and Olive had one daughter, Nadine Ruth Jane Mix, who was born in July of 1912 on the Stokes ranch while Tom was performing in a wild west show in Montreal.

Tom performed in several different wild west shows and it seems only natural for him to have migrated from the wild west shows to the movies. His first movie was made for the Selig Polyscope Company, on Sherman Moore's ranch, the Horseshoe L, just outside Dewey. The movie was called "Ranch Life in the Great Southwest," and Tom was originally asked to handle the animals and act as a safety man. However, he was always wanting to be a part of show business, so he asked the director, Francis Boggs, if he



could be featured in the film. Boggs put Mix in the "Bronco Busting" sequence in the film, and that launched his career as an actor.

Tom became hooked on the movies and the movies became hooked on him. Compared to the movies of today, those of the early 1900s were very primitive. They had no sound, they were in black and white, and they generally only lasted about 15 minutes. But the public could not get enough. Between the years 1909 and 1917, Tom made 236

movies for the Selig Polyscope Company.

Tom stayed with Selig until 1917, when the movie company got into financial trouble. When the manager at Selig suggested that the horses that worked in Tom's movies not be fed on the days they did not work, and that he fire several of his cowboy friends, Tom left Selig and began looking for another production company. Soon, he decided he wanted to work for William Fox, who was the owner of Fox Studios. Fox liked the fact that Tom did all of his own stunts, and they soon struck a deal that included not just Tom but also his horses and his cowboy friends.

Tom Mix was an agile and skillful rider and roper. He could mount his horse and perform a stunt almost faster than the old motion picture cameras could film. Tom Mix films were well-known for their authenticity, and he loved performing his own stunts and using his own stunt horses. Old Blue was the first horse Tom used in films. Old Blue was retired in 1914, and Tom then bought Tony, which he trained to perform all kinds of tricks, from jumps to untying roped hands.

Tom and Tony did all their own stunts, even after Fox Studios insisted that they were too valuable to do so. Tom tried to keep up with the increasing physical demands that filming and his audience wanted to see, and the result was a lot of broken bones as the

cowboy-actor performed more and more daring stunts, most of which he crafted himself in order to keep the audience on the edge of their seats. Tom even had his own, permanently constructed sets at what was known as Mixville.

Tom was good for Fox Studios and they were good for Tom. When he was hired by Fox, Tom was paid \$350 a week. That was a lot of money in 1917, but he became one of the highest paid movie stars of his time, eventually earning more than \$17,000 a week. In addition to being on a solid financial footing, the Fox Studio movies played to a much wider audience than the Selig movies. The wider exposure afforded by Fox undoubtedly contributed to Tom's move from just a prolific actor to a genuine world-famous movie star.

Initially Tom's films at Fox were similar to those he had made at Selig, which were what was known in the industry as one-reel quickies. The public, however, was becoming impatient with 15-minute movies, and soon Tom and Fox were making multi-reel feature films. In 1917, Tom made four one-reel comedies and two feature dramas. In 1918 he made six feature films and only one single-reel. As Tom became more popular, the budgets for his films grew. Also, his costumes became more elaborate and he became more popular at the box office. Tom Mix made 85 films with Fox studios, making both he and William Fox millionaires. The days at Fox were Tom's finest in the motion picture industry.

Back in 1915, before Tom left Selig, a new actress was brought in to work with Tom in the movies. Her name was Victoria Forde. She became his fourth wife in 1918.

Tom and Victoria seemed compatible enough but it may have been because they lived apart much of the time. Tom spent a lot of time on location, and since his movies were taking more than a few days to film, even though he was only making six to 10 movies a year, he was gone a lot. This was fine with Victoria, as long as she didn't have to join him on location. She was a city girl and loved the excitement of Hollywood. Not very long after Victoria and Tom were married, she gave up her film career to concentrate on promoting Tom and his movies. And she was a very good promoter. She

was also very good at spending Tom's money, but he was no slouch himself. He was one of the highest paid entertainers of his time and one of the biggest spenders. In February of 1922, Tom and Victoria had a daughter they named Thomasina.

Being the highest paid cowboy star in Hollywood also meant his movies cost the most to make. In the late '20s Tom was also getting less than sterling reviews on some of his movies and despite the fact that most all of Fox's profits came from Tom Mix movies, Fox and Tom parted ways in 1928. Tom signed with Film Booking Office studios, which was known as FBO. Tom made five films for FBO, and all were made in 1928, although the last one, "The Big Diamond Robbery," was not completed until January 1929.

Tom was never very happy at FBO. He was used to the big budgets of Fox, and things were quite a bit different at FBO. For one thing, Tom's salary was only a little over half of what he had made at Fox. For another, the sets, the scripts and just about everything else associated with the FBO movies were low budget. But Tom and Victoria continued spending money just like Tom was bringing it in as fast as ever.

In 1929, the Great Depression wiped out most of Tom's savings, and he and Victoria divorced in 1931. In 1932, he married his fifth wife, Mabel Hubbell Ward, a circus aerialist who Tom had met while he was appearing at the Sells-Floto Circus. Also in 1932, Universal Studios offered him the opportunity to perform in talking movies, and he made nine films for Universal.

Tom's last screen appearance was in "The Miracle Rider," a 15-episode serial produced by Mascot Pictures in 1935. On October 12, 1940, as Tom was driving north toward Phoenix, Arizona, he came to a bridge that had been washed out by a flash flood. He didn't see the construction barriers in time, and his car overturned in the gully. A large aluminum suitcase hit him in the back of the head and broke his neck. Tom was 60 years old.



from the

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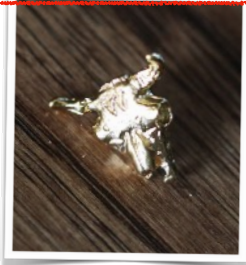
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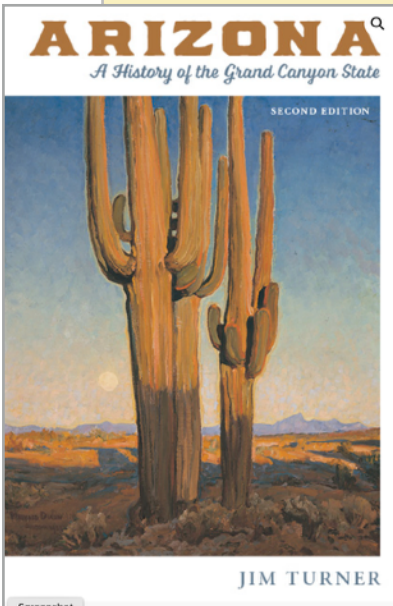
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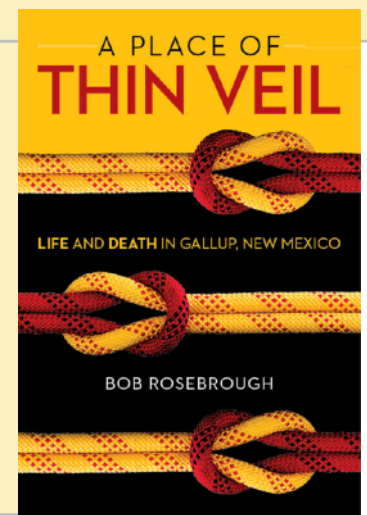
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If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: kenneth.pirtle@me.com so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.



BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

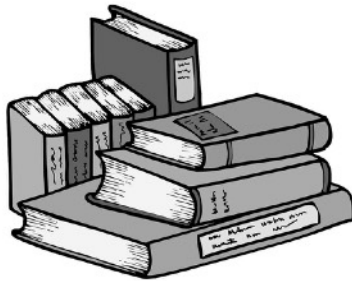
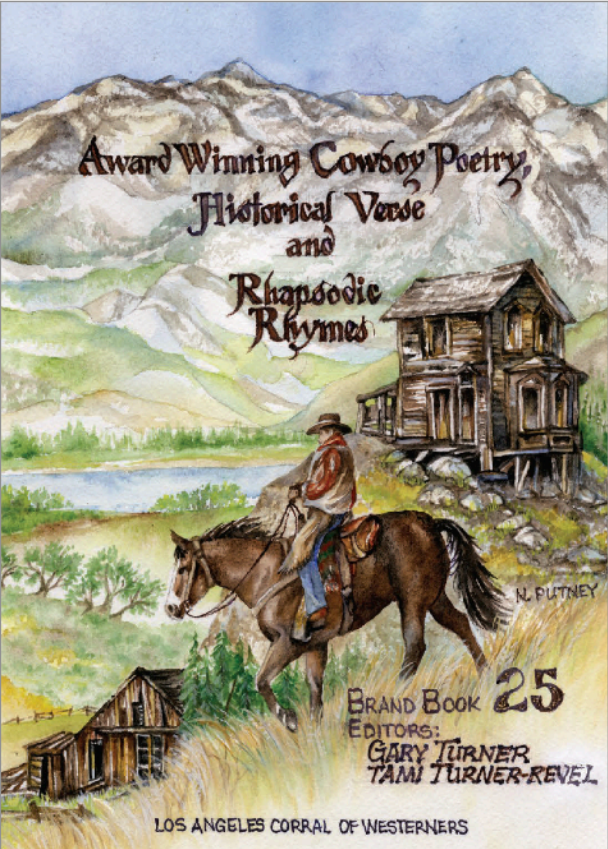
OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS

Western Sports, Organized and Disorganized
 Edited by John D. Dillon

19th historian Frederick Jackson Turner characterized Americans as a restless people, always chasing an ever-shifting Western frontier—first the Appalachians, then the Mississippi, and finally the Pacific. This restless, he argued, came from Americans' individuality, daring, and pioneer spirit. Perhaps a less romantic, alternative explanation for Turner's "Frontier thesis" is boredom. Americans have shown amazing ingenuity in finding new ways to waste time—or, relax through spirited competition. Some Western sports that emerged were organized team activities like baseball, and became "national pastimes." Other sports were individual—and indeed disorganized—but the likes of cowboy-popping had no less American a cultural pedigree. For all things sports, read on in this special themed issue of *The Branding Iron*.
 (Continued on Page 5)

The **Los Angeles Corral** has been busy cranking out publications at an amazing rate. They proudly announce the completion of **The Branding Iron # 306**, titled **"Western Sports, Organized and Disorganized"**, edited by John D. Dillon.

Brand Book #25 is forthcoming but the cover art is completed thanks to the very talented western artist Nancy Putney. The Brand Book is titled **"Award Winning Cowboy Poetry, Historical Verse and Rhapsodie Rhymes"**. LA Corral members **Gary Turner** and **Tami Turner-Revel** are the editors. Congratulations LA Corral!



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