

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

Westerners Gather



in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado



Left: touring the Garden of the Gods. Below: the show at the Flying W.





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU



CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! I hope that this finds you all in festive holiday spirits and looking forward to Christmas, a wonderful holiday season, and New Year's festivities.

As you'll see in this edition of the Buckskin Bulletin, the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners hosted a marvelous 2022 Gather in Colorado Springs. To Bob and Dorothy DeWitt and all the members of the Posse, we THANK YOU very much for your hospitality, excellent planning, and wonderful programs! Attendance was excellent and the information and camaraderie for members was enjoyed by all!

Since this is the holiday season, awards and dues season is not far away. Please see the announcement in this issue for details on the awards and dues packets that will be going out to each corral or posse in early February. We had a record number of books and articles in this last cycle, and I'm sure we'll be seeing much the same this year. We look forward to seeing your work from 2022! To corral and posse reps, please be sure to send back the contact sheets to us, so we can keep in touch with you throughout the year!

I know that many of you have exciting programs planned for 2023, and we wish you the best – be they in person or in a Zoom setting. I also want to announce here – as you'll see elsewhere in the Bulletin – that plans for the 2023 Gather are in the works! Thank you to Doug Hocking and all members of the Cochise County Corral. They will be hosting a fabulous 2023 Gather in Tombstone, AZ, Sept. 14-17, 2023. We hope you will put it on your calendars!!

Happy Trails, Merry Christmas, and all best for the holidays –

Happy Trails!

Bonney MacDonald

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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.



AWARDS AND DUES PACKETS COMING IN FEBRUARY 2023

Awards and dues packets will go out by US mail and by email in early February 2023, as usual; awards will be for books, articles, programs, and poetry from the 2022 year.

Dues and Contact Sheets are respectfully requested by April 1, 2023.

The awards submission deadline will be May 1, 2023.

Awards forms will be included in the US mail packets, via attachments in emails to sheriffs, and will be available on the Westerners website in early February.

Please be sure to get those Contact Sheets to us; without your addresses, we can't keep in touch or email the Buckskin Bulletin to you!

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 Bulletin, the office staff and supplies, the annual awards and scholarship monies, participation in Western History Association, and more. As with the last dues cycle, we know that it's been a tough year; so, if your corral or posse has had challenges with meeting and/or membership, just let us know. We're happy work with you and we understand! In the meantime, thank you for your membership and dedication to this wonderful organization!

Thank you to the Indian Territory Posse!

The Home Ranch would like to extend hearty thanks and expressions of gratitude to the Indian Territory Posse. At the 2022 Gather, Kent and Cheryl McInnis graciously presented a donation to the Home Ranch from the Posse for \$1,000. We are extremely appreciative of this generosity and extend our thanks to all members of the Indian Territory Posse in Oklahoma! Thank you for your support of this wonderful organization!

Fondly remembering the good times and festive events from the Colorado Gather...



Kent McInnis takes a moment to react when his name is called out by the show emcee.



(editor's note)

It is always a pleasure to cross paths with Kent, our former Westerners International's Chairman and his lovely wife Cheryl McGinnis. They were both at the Colorado Gather and were responsible for many of the fun times! Kent and Cheryl along with most of the Gather participants attended the Chuckwagon Supper and show at the Flying W Ranch, home of the world's "second oldest famous cowboy band". The Flying W has been a well known entertainment destination since 1953. Kent has a remarkable photograph of him and his family attending the show in 1956. He shared this family photograph with the "W" staff and to all of our surprise, the picture appeared on the screen in front of the 400-500 guests. Kent was recognized, stood and proudly waved his cowboy hat to the crowd.

Kent shared with those of us at the Gather his family's humorous little "diddy" from these early days. Kent states:

"I still remember one of the songs that my parents sang all the way back home to Oklahoma City. I still sing it today."



*A little bird dropped a message on me.
It lit on my ear
And it smelled mighty queer.
My girlfriend said, "what can it be?"
I said it's a message of love.
sent to me from that birdie above.
but I'm thankful somehow
that it wasn't a cow.
'neath the shade of the old apple tree.*

Left, Kent is the youngest kid on the far. right. Below, the crowd at the Flying W.





The Pikes Peak Corral, assisted by the Denver Corral did a grand job of hosting the 2022 Westerners International Rendezvous and Gather in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. **Bob DeWitt** along with numerous Corral volunteers were “over-the-top” gracious hosts. The events were well planned, on-time with knowledgeable presenters. Great job! and many thanks to you all!

Left: Leah Davis-Witherow tells the story of the “History of Tuberculosis Cures in Colorado History” in the historic Pioneers Museum, one of the best preserved “treasures” of Colorado. The Museum hosted seven fascinating lectures. Below: Megan Winterfeldt of the ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy led the tour of that magnificent facility. Lower left: Rodney Lauhban of the Palo Duro Corral offers his hand as a meal at the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center. Center lower: Delinda King, of the Home Ranch presents Glen Sample Ely, Denver Corral, his first place plaque for the Co-Founders Best Book Award. Lower right: Roger Nichols accepts second place for Co-founders best book award. Roger is a member of the Adobe Corral.





Scenes from the "Springs". upper left: former WI Chairman Kent McInnis finds a large "old Joe". Ken Pirtle and Rodney Lauhban are hosted by Bob DeWitt in his impressive history themed Book Store. upper right: Dr. Bonney MacDonald leads the WI board meeting. center: the big bunch, at the Al Kaly Shrine Mule Barn prior to dinner and award presentation. lower photos: WI awards are announced by Bonney in the Mule Barn.





in memory

of our Westerner Friends



Robert "Bob" Stahl 1945 - 2022

The Home Ranch was sorry to hear from Linda Cravens of the Scottsdale Corral that long-time member, Robert "Bob" Stahl has passed away. Bob was a dedicated and enthusiastic historian of the West who dedicated his life to education.

Dr. Robert 'Bob' Stahl, Chandler, AZ, passed away August 31, 2022. Bob, a life-long Roman Catholic and member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chandler.

After earning a doctorate in Florida, he came to Tempe, AZ, where he taught for over thirty years in the College of Education at Arizona State University. His fellow Westerners knew him as the man who tirelessly pursued the truth about Billy the Kid. Bob's expertise, masterful storytelling, and detective's instincts will be missed by his family, friends, and fellow corral members.

The Llano Estacado Corral of Lubbock, Texas has contributed an honorarium to the WI Home Ranch in honor of the late Wallace McGee. Wallace was a long-time active member, working hard behind the scenes to make sure meetings and programs ran smoothly. His cheerful continence and positive attitude will be missed by all.

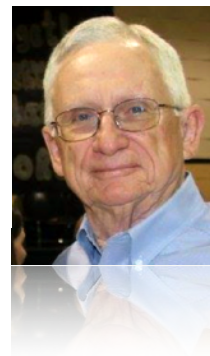


Doug Hocking

*The Home Ranch would like to send special recognition and gratitude to **Doug Hocking** and all the Ranch Hands in the **Cochise County Corral**. They are hosting our Gather next year in Tombstone, Arizona – Sept 14-17, 2023. Mark your calendars. We hope you can attend!!*



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."

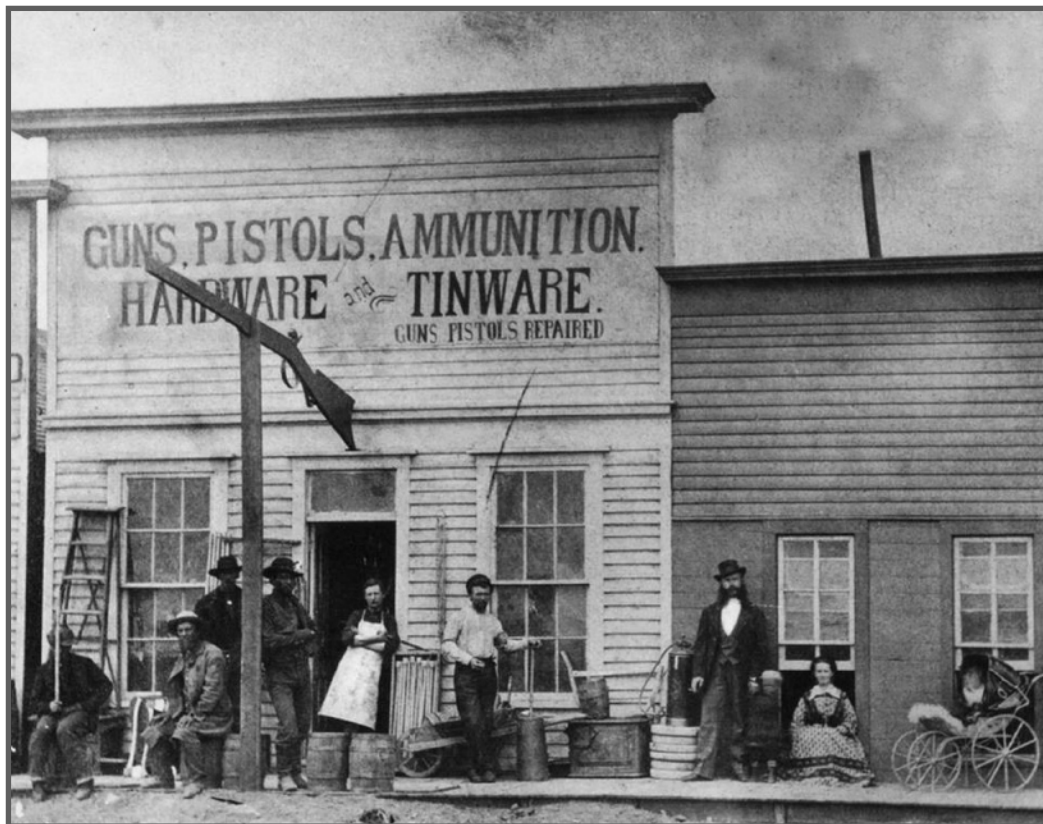


Dodge City

The Most Famous Town in the West

If there is a town in the history of the West that is more well known than Dodge City, Kansas, I don't know what it could be. That, of course, is due to the longest-running prime-time TV drama in American history, "Gunsmoke," that appeared weekly on CBS from 1955 to 1975, and still runs today on RFD. And, it was a radio series from 1952 to 1961. The characters in the show, most prominent of which were Marshall Matt Dillon and Miss Kitty, were fictional, but there really was, however, a Long Branch Saloon. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's go back to Dodge City's beginning.

In 1846, traffic on the Santa Fe Trail between Franklin, Missouri, and Santa Fe, was so heavy that some historians of today say that it interfered with the annual migration of the buffalo to their southern grazing grounds. But just because traffic was heavy didn't mean it was safe. The Comanche and other Indians were pretty upset with all these people coming through their land, and they continually harassed wagon trains on the trail. As a result, Captain William M.D. McKissack, who was



assistant quartermaster to the Army of the West, and who was stationed in Santa Fe, ordered that a fort be built halfway between Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Santa Fe. The fort was built by master teamster Daniel P. Mann and it was called Fort Mann.

The fort was located about three miles west of where the town of Dodge City is today, and it was strategically positioned at a site on the route that all supply trains, regardless of the route they were taking to Santa Fe, would have to pass by. However, both the wagon trains and the fort were often the target of hostile Indians. In June 1847, the post was attacked by about 400 warriors and though the teamsters who were inside were able to repel the attack, the fort was soon abandoned. That summer, bands of Kiowas, Apache,

Pawnee, and Comanches became more aggressive, killing 47 travelers, destroying 330 wagons and stealing some 6,500 head of stock and horses.

In 1850, the U.S. Army arrived to provide protection in the region and constructed Fort Atkinson on the old Fort Mann site. But the army abandoned Fort Atkinson in 1853, and the area around what would become Dodge City remained vacant until the end of the Civil War. In April 1865, the army constructed Fort Dodge to assist in providing protection on the Santa Fe Trail.

The site of Fort Dodge was originally an old campground for wagons traveling along the Santa Fe Trail. It was very near the Cimarron Cutoff. On March

Once it was determined that the post would be permanent, it was renamed Fort Dodge. The first buildings are believed to have been sod houses for the officers, and dugouts cut into the bank along the Arkansas River, along the south side of the post, for the enlisted men. Later, the dugouts were replaced with wooden and stone buildings.

Fort Dodge was used to maintain order along the Santa Fe Trail between there and Fort Lyon, Colorado. The post was raided by Indians several times, with many horses being stolen and a number of soldiers killed in the raids. In a June 1865 raid, U.S. Army Inspector-General D. B. Sacket reported the Indians took every horse at Fort Dodge. Corporal



23, 1865, Major General Grenville M. Dodge, who commanded the 11th and 16th Kansas Cavalry Regiments, wrote to Colonel James Hobart Ford to propose establishing a new military post west of Fort Larned. On orders of Colonel Ford, Fort Larned's Captain Henry Pearce, with Company C, Eleventh Cavalry Regiment, and Company F, Second U.S. Volunteer Infantry, occupied and established Fort Dodge on April 10, 1865.

Fort Dodge was named for General Grenville M. Dodge. General Dodge wrote in his autobiography that Fort Dodge was named after him, not as an honor, but because he sent the troops out there in the winter, after it was too late to furnish them lumber or anything for an encampment, and they had to make dug-outs in the bluffs to live in. He said that the Colonel in command of the detachment wrote him that they were so mad at being sent there in the winter, with so little accommodations, that they had named the place Camp Dodge.

Leander Herron received the Medal of Honor for heroism in action on September 2 and 3, 1868, about 12 miles from Fort Dodge. Corporal Herron, while delivering mail from Fort Dodge to Fort Larned, rescued a labor detail that was under attack by Indians. In its heyday, up to four companies of troops occupied the post. Apparently, in its later years, only about a dozen men occupied it, and their main duty was to provide escorts to protect mail passing through the area. In 1882 the post was closed.

But, as happened at many frontier forts, a small community sprang up as close to the fort as possible, with various merchants plying their trade to the soldiers. First was rancher Henry J. Sitler, who, in 1871, built a sod house on the west side of Fort Dodge to oversee his cattle operations. However, since the house was conveniently located near the Santa Fe Trail and the Arkansas River, it quickly became a stopping point for travelers. On August 15, 1872, a group of businessmen from Forts Dodge, Riley, and Leavenworth, Kansas, organized the Dodge City Town Company and began the planning and development of the town site on the western boundary of the Fort Dodge reservation. At first, the settlement was named Buffalo City until they learned there was already a town by that name, so it was changed to Dodge City, after the fort. George M. Hoover established in a tent the town's first bar. His idea, of course, was to serve thirsty soldiers from Fort Dodge.

In September 1872 the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Dodge City, to find a town

ready and waiting for business. The railroad would initiate a tremendous growth for many years. Adjacent to the railroad tracks, hastily built frame buildings and tents sprang up, housing two grocery and general merchandise stores, a dance hall, a restaurant, a barber shop, and a blacksmith shop. Robert M. Wright, one of the directors of the Town Company and the owner of a general store in the town, said later, "Hardly had the railroad reached there, long before a depot could be built, business began. Dozens of cars a day were loaded with hides and meat, and dozens of carloads of grain, flour, and provisions arrived each day. The streets of Dodge were lined with wagons, bringing in hides and meat and getting supplies from early morning to late at night."

Dodge immediately became a major shipping point for buffalo hunters. By 1873 some 2,000 hunters roamed western Kansas. In a three-year period, 850,000 hides were shipped east out of Dodge, 754,529 of those in 1873. That same year, 112 million pounds of buffalo meat and 50 carloads of buffalo tongues were also shipped out.

Dodge City became the buffalo capital of the West and buffalo hides towered along Front Street awaiting shipment. Filthy buffalo hunters and traders filled the town's establishments.

Initially, there was no law enforcement and Dodge City quickly acquired its infamous stamp of lawlessness and gunslinging. As the many buffalo hunters, railroad workers, drifters, and soldiers streamed into the town, they quickly found the saloons, and the inevitable fights occurred. With the gunfighters dying with their boots on, Dodge City developed the Boot Hill Cemetery, which was used until 1878. Then came the cattle trade. The idea of driving Texas Longhorn cattle from Texas to railheads in Kansas originated in the late 1850s, but it was cut short by the Civil War. In 1866, the first Texas cattle started arriving in Baxter Springs in southeastern Kansas by way of the Shawnee Trail. However, Texas Longhorn cattle carried a tick that spread Texas cattle fever among other breeds of cattle. Alarmed Kansas farmers persuaded the Kansas State Legislature to establish a quarantine line in central Kansas. The quarantine prohibited Texas Longhorns from the heavily settled, eastern portion of the state. As a result, they began moving north along the Chisholm Trail to Abilene. But the quarantine line kept moving west, which essentially eliminated Abilene and the other towns in the central part of the state from the cattle trade. With no place else to go, Dodge City suddenly became the "queen of the cow towns."

A new route known as the Great Western Cattle Trail or Western Trail branched off from the Chisholm Trail to lead cattle into Dodge City, and Dodge, as it was

known, became a boomtown, with thousands of cattle passing annually through its stockyards. The peak years of the cattle trade in Dodge City were from 1883 to 1884, and during that time the town grew tremendously. By 1886, more than 5 million head were driven up the trail into Dodge City.

But the cowboys brought even more lawlessness to Dodge City and soon the mayor contacted Wyatt Earp, who was working as a Wichita, Kansas, lawman. Pleading for Earp's help, he offered Wyatt the position of Chief Deputy Marshal with the unheard of salary of \$250 per month. When Wyatt arrived, Dodge City's population was 1,200, and 19 businesses were licensed to sell liquor.

Soon, four assistant deputies were hired – Bat Masterson, who was Wyatt's old buffalo hunting friend; Charlie Bassett; Bill Tilghman; and Neal Brown. Intending to restore order, one of the first things the new lawmen did was to initiate a "Deadline" north of the



railroad yards on Front Street to keep the commercial part of the city quiet. On the north side, guns could not be worn or carried. On the south side of the "deadline," those who supported the lawlessness continued to operate as usual, with a host of saloons, brothels, and frequent gunfights. The gun-toting rule was in effect around the clock, and anyone wearing a gun was immediately jailed. Soon, Dodge City's jail was filled.

As more agricultural settlers moved into western Kansas, in 1885, the quarantine line was extended across the state, and the Western Trail was all but shut down. By 1886, the cowboys, saloon keepers, gamblers, and brothel owners had moved west to greener pastures, and Dodge City became a sleepy little town much like other communities in western Kansas.

Located in and around the city today are a number of historical sites, museums and landmarks dedicated to Dodge City's Old West heritage. One of those is the Long Branch Saloon. Dodge City is worth a visit to the most famous town in the West.



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

Look what's new!

New items, left

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

Items, right & below

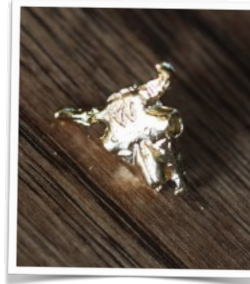
- Lapel pin with pin clasp \$13.00
- "Past Sheriff" lapel pin \$13.00
- Bolo Tie with leather band \$25.00
- Lucite paper weight \$17.00
- T-Shirts/round or v-neck \$25.00
- Polo Shirt \$45.00
- Bandanas \$7.00
- Decal 3" \$4.00
- Cap -adjustable size..... \$30.00

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

If you would like to place an order or send payment, contact:

**Delinda King, WI Secretary,
Westerners International, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum,
2503 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015**

You can also email her at dlking1@buffs.wtamu or call the office at 806-651-5247



lapel pin



past sheriff's pin pin



bolo tie



lucite paper weight



tee shirt



white v-neck



3" Decals



Westerner cap



Polo shirt



white bandana



BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS

Announcing another fine literary effort by a Westerner

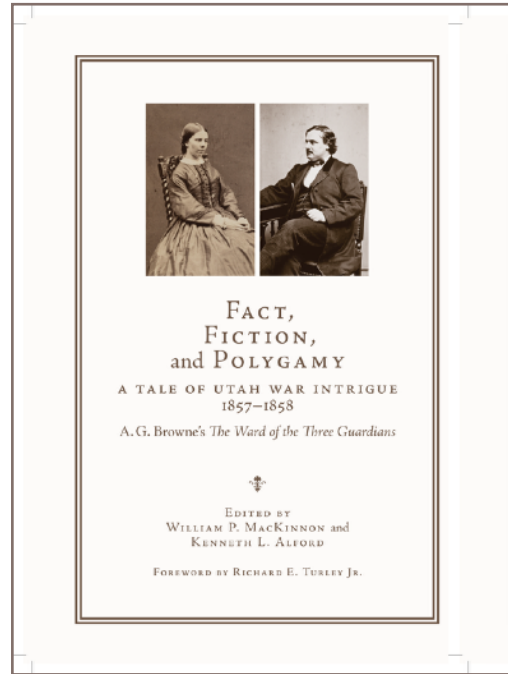
Fact, Fiction, and Polygamy

A Tale of Utah War Intrigue, 1857–1858—A. G. Browne's The Ward of the Three Guardians
Foreword by Richard E Turley
Edited by William P. MacKinnon, Kenneth L. Alford

Tanner Trust Fund and J. Willard Marriott Library

Fact, Fiction, and Polygamy rescues an exciting true tale of international intrigue from 150 years of neglect. It tells of the travails of Henrietta Polydore, a young Anglo-Italian girl spirited out of an English Catholic convent school in 1854 and bundled across the Atlantic, the Great Plains, and the Rocky Mountains by her Mormon-convert mother and aunt to live in Salt Lake City under an alias in the polygamous household of a Latter-day Saint leader with five wives and twenty children. Midway through Henrietta's secret sojourn in the City of the Saints, she was caught up in the Utah War of 1857–1858, President Buchanan's attempt to suppress a perceived Mormon rebellion with nearly one-third of the U.S. Army. MacKinnon and Alford present Henrietta's story through their editing for twenty-first-century readers of a "lost" non-fiction novel about Polydore's saga published during 1877 in Boston's Atlantic Monthly. This short piece—dubbed a "novella" and titled *The Ward of the Three Guardians*—was the work of Albert G. Browne, Jr., a Boston Brahmin with two Harvard degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg, who, at age twenty-three, was in Utah as the war correspondent for Horace Greeley's New-York Tribune. Browne reported on and then became part of Henrietta's story using his legal training to bring about her repatriation to her father in England through a sensational legal case. Her return home precluded an early, perhaps polygamous, marriage as a teenager.

a re-publication of Ward that helps readers separate Browne's telling of Henrietta's story into its strands of fact and fiction.

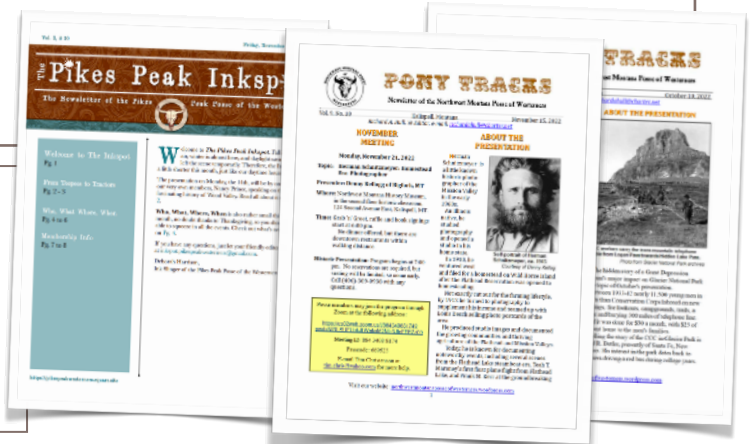


Fact, Fiction, and Polygamy is the work of two historian-editors with disparate backgrounds working collaboratively as professional colleagues as well as personal friends. MacKinnon, an independent historian from upstate New York now living in California, is a Presbyterian, veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and former vice president of General Motors Corporation. Colonel Alford, a Latter-day Saint and Utahn, is a professor teaching at Brigham Young University after a thirty-year career as a U.S. Army officer with teaching assignments at the U.S. Military Academy and National Defense University. MacKinnon and Alford have brought their decades of research on the subject to bear on

Co-editor William P. MacKinnon is a historian, management consultant, and community volunteer residing in Montecito, CA. He grew up in Schenectady, NY and Fort Wayne, IN. William is an active member of the Santa Barbara (CA)

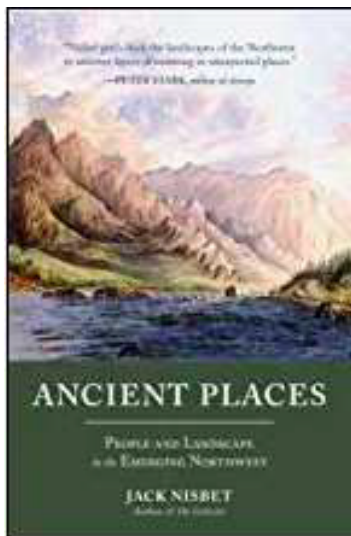
The Pikes Peak Corral is publishing a great newsletter for its membership. Deborah Harrison is the "Inkslinger". The **Inkspot** is full of Corral news, information and stories of a local historical nature.

Pony Tracks is produced by the **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners**. Richard A. Hull does a great job as editor. There is meeting information, interesting Montana stories and book



BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



Ancient Places – People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest, by Jack Nisbet (recommendation from Richard Hull of the NW Montana Posse of Westerners)

is a collection of off-the-wall essays about the Pacific Northwest. Nisbet lives in Spokane. His stories start with a night in November 1792 when a meteor strikes a lake in northern Canada, landing “with a sound like a mass of jelly.” But daylight showed no sign of broken branches or marks in the snow or ice. He also retells the story of 15-ton meteorite found in the

Willamette Valley and a mysterious 1872 earthquake. Nisbet picks several local characters as subjects, and how they were influenced by the Northwest. A history of the terra-cotta industry in eastern Washington becomes a story about Leno Prestini, who expanded his sculpture with the clay material into some fame as a painter. Wes Wehr turned his interest in geology and fossils into artwork from melted crayons.

The stories take the mundane and make it entertaining,

256 pages. \$18.95

Aloha, Amigos! Dr. Brian Dervin Dillon, Editor

Los Angeles Corral Brand Book 24, Aloha, Amigos! Is the Richard H. Dillon Memorial Volume. Dick Dillon (1924-2016) was a world-famous western historian, librarian, teacher, and public speaker. He was the single most productive historical writer on California and the American West, who published dozens of full-length books, hundreds of scholarly journal and popular magazine articles, and thousands of book reviews over a longer period of time (82 years) than any other writer. Richard H. Dillon was a long-time member of both the Los Angeles and the San Francisco Corral of Westerners International, and was made a W.I. Living Legend in 2003.

*Aloha Amigos! Won the **Westerner's International** Best Book Award in 2021. It features the first-ever biography of Richard H. Dillon, culture-historical studies and paeans by his friends, colleagues, and admirers, and the first comprehensive bibliography of his published works. Contributors from four different Westerners International corrals include Will Bagley, Peter Blodgett, John Boessenecker, Matthew Buxt, Phil Brigandi, Robert Chandler, David Dary, James Delgado, Brian D. Dillon, Lynn Downey, Abraham Hoffman, Tommy Killion, Gary Kurutz, Valerie Sherer Mathes, James Shuttleworth, Kevin Starr, and Francis J. Weber.*

Brian Dervin Dillon, editor; hardbound, illustrated, 588 pages, 2020. To order: please use the multi-volume order form on the next page.



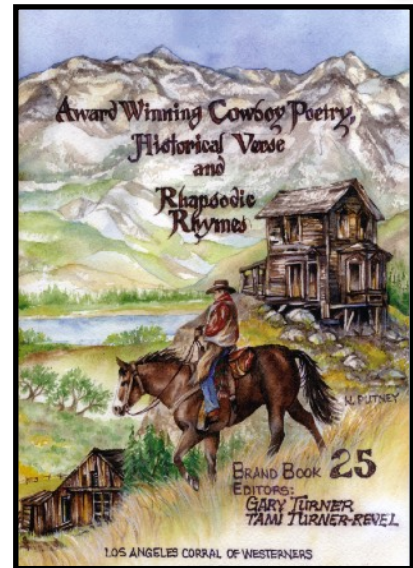
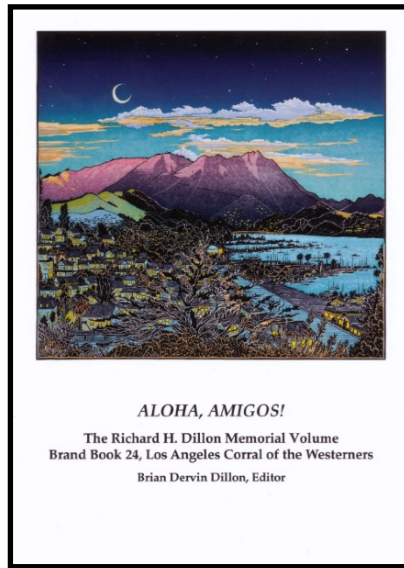
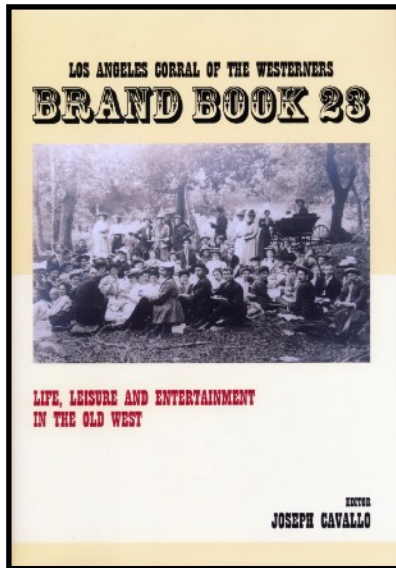
ALOHA, AMIGOS!

The Richard H. Dillon Memorial Volume
Brand Book 24, Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners
Brian Dervin Dillon, Editor

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



Brand Book 23, 2019

Brand Book 24, 2020

Brand Book 25, 2022

ORDER FORM FOR BRAND BOOKS 23, 24 and 25 Los Angeles Corral, Westerners International

Please send me ___ Copies of Brand Book 23 for **\$30.00** (includes tax and postage) per book.

Please send me ___ Copies of Brand Book 24 for **\$30.00** (includes tax and postage) per book.

Please send me ___ Copies of Brand Book 25 for **\$30.00** (includes tax and postage) per book.

I am ordering _____ Books

My name is (Please Print): _____

My mailing address is (Print): _____

My Email address (for confirmation of shipment) is: _____

I belong to Westerners International _____ Corral or Posse

Enclosed please find my check to *Westerners, Los Angeles Corral* for: \$ _____

Please complete this order form and mail it in with your check. Please send your order to:

**Brand Books -Los Angeles Corral, Westerners International 16007 Lemarsh Street
North Hills, CA 91343**

BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The **Los Angeles Corral** is prolific in its literary energy. Since 1948 they have published **The Brand Book** with articles and artwork from notable western historians and artists. The **LA Corral** proudly unveils "**The Branding Iron**" for Fall 2022, # 308. The cover features "*Cherokee Miners on the Kern River*", (lower left) by Brian D. Dillon and Richard H. Dillon.

In anticipation of the forth-coming # 309 of "**The Branding Iron**" due out in March of 2023, here is a humorous sneak peak of "*Cowboys of Science and Big Bigotes*" (lower right) by **Brian Dervin Dillon**.

And if they were not busy enough, the **LA Corral** produces "**Keepsakes**" with occasional offerings on a wide range of subjects. The **Keepsakes** typically appear as small-format booklets of greater length than the quarterly **Branding Iron**, but of many fewer pages than our much longer **Brand Books**.

The Corral offers limited copies of these publication through their website: <http://www.lawesterners.org/publications/>

Cherokee Miners on the Kern River
By Brian D. Dillon and Richard H. Dillon

Introduction

On Monday, May 25th, 1863, fifteen years after the California Gold Rush began, U.S. government scientist William H. Brewer left Keyesville on the Kern River for Millerton and noted that:

The hotel where we stopped showed a truly Californian mixture of races- the landlord was a Scotchman [sic], Chinese cooks, Negro waiter, and a Digger Indian as stable boy.¹

(Continued on Page 3)

Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D. Big Bigotes, Version 4 For Branding Iron 309 11 20 2022

Cowboys of Science and Big Bigotes
Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D.

Introduction

When old-time Westerners get together and engage in self-entertainment, a little bit of one-upmanship often occurs. This sometimes takes the form of: *¿Quién es más macho?*—my horse is faster than yours, my dog is meaner, my pickup truck is uglier, my wife bakes better biscuits, etc. Sometimes the rivalry extends to facial hair: who has the biggest mustache, the best *bigotes*.¹

The progenitors of this hoary, if not hairy, tradition in Western America are legendary. James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickock (1837-1876) always sported exuberant *mustachios* (Figure 1), if only to distract the observer from his receding chin, and thin, protruding, lips. Hickock had a very "non-Irish" lower jaw; he was badly short-changed in this department. In fact, *Wild Bill* was touchy and trigger-happy at least in part because of the unkind nick-name bestowed upon him by his detractors: *Duck-Bill*.

And then there was George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876), whose bad tactical decisions led to the greatest U.S. Cavalry defeat at the hands of Amerindians during the long, sorry, drawn-out conflicts between Eastern American "civilizers" and beleaguered Western Natives. Amongst his other "accomplishments," George managed to unintentionally hit his *own horse* in the back of the head while firing his six-shooter at a full gallop, abruptly terminating his forward progress that day.² Custer (Figure 2) had declared war on barbers at least as early as his Civil War service. A decade later, as his hairline receded, his mustache seemed to grow ever longer, perhaps in compensation. And a little Frenchified "goatee" or goat-beardlet came and went, as if Custer couldn't seem to make up his mind whether or not to conceal or to celebrate his chin (a much more "Irish" protuberance than Hickock's). At least he did not follow the *facial fashion*

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the latest issue, # 308, **The Branding Iron**

sample from the upcoming # 309, **The Branding Iron**