

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Newly arrived settlers have help from neighbors in building their first home, a log home. (Harpers Weekly, January 24th, 1874. Frenzeny and Tavernier)



WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU

### CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! Spring is on its way – right??; there's a little green on the ground that we can see, the herons have started their return, Canada geese fly above, and warmer weather is on their way! At the Home Ranch, Delinda King (WI Secretary/Treasurer), Lisa Jackson (WI Assistant) and I continue to work both onsite and remotely, and the WI calendar and seasonal activities continue.

As was the case last year, we've heard from a few sheriffs and reps about the challenges of the year and know that some of you haven't gathered yet for in-person programs. Some corrals and posses are still a few exercising caution about COVID. Some corrals and posses have put Zoom programs together and have even expanded their membership.

We appreciate your keeping in touch about your activities and with you all the best with resuming regular programs and events.

As you'll know, the awards season is upon us. Packets with dues info, contact info sheets, and awards entry forms were posted on the website at the beginning of February. For those who did not access them there, I will send out email copies. Delinda King, WI Secretary and Treasurer and Lisa Jackson, WI Assistant, will send out hard copies next week. The address is on the forms, and you'll have everything you need to send us materials through the mail. Entries are already arriving in the mail – that's a great sign!

Because corrals and posses often elect officers in January, and/or also because some corrals and posses have still not met over the last year, the Home Ranch may not have your up-to-date contact information for officers. Please be sure and mail back your Contact Information forms so we can continue to be in touch in 2024. Once we feel we have a sufficient number of responses, we will take that new information and put it all on the website's contact information list.

Finally, as you'll see on the website and as announced in the Buckskin Bulletins throughout 2022-23, we have a new phone number. So if you want to call the Home Ranch, please use this number: 806-654-6920. I want to mention it here, just in case you missed it in previous issues of the Bulletin.

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

Happy Spring and Happy Trails!

*Bonney*

Bonney MacDonald  
Chairman, Westerners International



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**Cover Image information**

(from the Park City Museum website <https://parkcityhistory.org> )

In 2022 the **Park City Museum** in Park City, Utah showcased an impressive exhibition of illustrations created by the European team of **Jules Tavernier and Paul Frenzeny**. The team traveled the American west in 1873 documenting the migration of foreign and domestic pioneers.

The opening of the West after the Civil War drew a flood of Americans and immigrants to the frontier. The public clamored for images of the newly accessible American West, prompting Harper Brothers' publishing firm in New York to send **Tavernier and Frenzeny** on a trip West to provide readers with images of the frontier.

Depicting newsworthy places or events that favored the plight of the common man, their artistic and journalistic talent and keen powers of observation made them a powerful team; **Tavernier** created each engraving's watercolor painting before handing it off to **Frenzeny**, who added newsworthy details and drew the scene in pencil on wood blocks.

Natives of France, both artists came to the American frontier and their documentary project with fresh eyes. **Paul Frenzeny**, a Frenchman of noble descent, was one of the leading "special correspondents" in the United States and Europe when woodcuts, rather than photographs, were used to illustrate newspapers. He became an illustrator of choice for Western Adventure stories and for *Harpers Weekly*. He also worked as a rider in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in London, where he spent the rest of his life.

**Jules Tavernier**, a celebrated French painter, became one of the American West's foremost talents. Remaining in California after completing his work for Harper's, **Tavernier** returned to painting and became one of the most successful and best paid artists on the west coast. His studios in San Francisco and Monterey became hubs for California's developing art scene.

**The Park City Museum** is a lively nonprofit organization dedicated to Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Park City's rich history and culturally significant sites. Our solid 40-year history as one of Utah's most popular and successful cultural anchors has resulted in numerous awards, accolades, and regular inclusion in national and international travel guides as a Top Ten Park City attraction.

**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.

**2024 DUES and CONTACT INFO SHEETS: Due May 1, 2024**

COVID continues to hang around – albeit with less frequency and ferocity. At the Home Ranch we want to do all we can to support and encourage corrals and posses. Some sheriffs still report that their groups haven't met in a while. As a result, it's just hard to come up with dues at this point. We understand!

As was the case last year, we know you can only do so much. So for the corrals and posses that have continued on Zoom or in person, and find themselves able to send in dues, we thank you! However, if your corral or posse is not in that position, you are welcome to send in 50% of the dues. And if that's not possible now, we will work with it! Our main concern is that we all stay healthy, get back to meeting in person or on Zoom when you deem it safe and doable, and keep the Westerners spirit alive. Do what you can and we'll support you in whatever way we can!

And please, even if you're not sending in dues now, please return the contact information sheet by **May 1** to the address indicated on the form. We need that information so we can send the Bulletin to the right place, and so we have current email and mailing information for your officers.

*Thank you!!*



## Reminder

The 2022 and 2034 Bulletins included this information; but, in case you missed it:

THE HOME RANCH'S PHONE NUMBER IS

**806-654-6920**

Please note that our office has a new phone number that will get you through to

Delinda King, WI Secretary/Treasurer



### WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS ENTRIES DUE MAY 1, 2024

**Awards entry forms** were sent out to Reps by email, along with the dues and contact info sheets. They can also be downloaded from the WI website and have been posted since the beginning of February. All award entries are due by **May 1, 2024**. 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! We know it's been a tough year or two, and that programs have been sparse. But maybe you've written an essay, book, or article – or even some poetry. Send in your work so we can brag on you!

We thank you in advance 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! Be sure to let your fellow members know what you're doing by sending in your nominations! All the information you need is on the forms, including mailing address.

### 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!

## CORRAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Peg Kolsrud** retired this November from being Sheriff of the **Cheyenne Corral of Westerners** after serving for many years. **Bill Loyer** has been a member of the **Cheyenne Corral** for nearly fourteen years and has volunteered to carry on as Sheriff. **Tom Kunz** will serve as the new Treasurer.

The **Cheyenne Corral** meets six times each year. We meet in April, May, and June and again in September, October, and November for a dinner meeting in the evening and presentation by a speaker. We take a vacation in the Winter months and also for two months in the summer. Our attendance averages from a low of forty or so to a high of fifty five including a few guests. Our attendees are about the same as before the Covid epidemic. Some members still refrain from attending and a few have died over this same period, but we have gained new members to make up for those who cannot attend. Our monthly meetings usually are usually held at the Red Lion in Cheyenne, but perhaps once a year we have a splendid dinner and program at the Cheyenne Country Club.

Most of our programs are about Wyoming or Western History but occasionally a program will inform us about news concerning the exploits of a Cheyenne or Wyoming person. Here is a list of our 2023 programs:

- **April - Carol Matteson Pascal** talked about growing up in South Side Cheyenne in a mixed neighborhood of Mexican Americans Italians, Irish, Greek, Japanese, and Jews and over time becoming a vice-president of a large corporation.
- **May** - A Cheyenne couple gave a presentation about there many rips to Central America.
- **June -Dr. Herb Stoughton** gave a detailed and interesting of historic land boundaries up to the present time.
- **September - James Hargraves** gave histrical information about ochre mining in the Guernsey, Wyoming area going back thousands of years up to the twentieth century.
- **October - Dan Lyon** presented information about his new book " The Japanese in Wyoming." It covers the Japanese arriving in Wyoming in 1882 up to the the beginning of World War Two.
- **September - Jessica Flock** recounted her trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers in 2019 to the Grand Canyon as she retraced the the 1869 trip of John Wesley Powell.



**The Los Angeles Corral:** On March 4th, 2024, **Dr. Brian Dillon** will be making his annual pilgrimage to Fresno, CA to give a talk hosted by the **Garden of the Sun (Fresno) Corral** jointly with the Fresno County Archaeological Society. Brian's talk is available via Zoom for this program. <https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/89603650536>

One of the newest recruits into the **Los Angeles Corral of Westerners International** is **Matt Bernstein**, who is the incoming editor of the **Wild West History Association Journal**. **Brian Dillon** will soon be published with his article "**ON THE BORDER WITH SERGEANT DILLON**". Brian has chronicled his grandfathers interesting history in America's "almost war" with Mexico simmered between 1914 and early 1917. It reached its climax with General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing's punitive expedition, a full-scale invasion in retaliation for Pancho Villa's murderous March 9, 1916 rampage in Southern New Mexico. Pershing's campaign, with thousands of combatants and many casualties on both sides,



Photo left: William T. Dillon, First Sergeant of the 61st Company, Coast Artillery, on the California-Mexico border, Spring, 1914. Photographer Unknown, W.T. Dillon Collection.

## News from Arizona

**Sheriff Doug Hocking** of the **Cochise County Corral** recently spoke to the **La Frontera Corral**, Green Valley, AZ. **Sheriff JoAnn Herbst** provides the leadership for **La Frontera Corral**. **The Cochise County Corral** held a December 7 meeting at Shieffelin Hall, where **Joe Moramarco** spoke on the "History of the Arizona Rangers."

See the Corral's website at [www.CochiseCountyCorral.org](http://www.CochiseCountyCorral.org) for their Fremont Street Bulletin and their quarterly publication, *Border Vidette*. And hearty thanks to the Corral for hosting the 2023 Gather in Tombstone!

By the way, **Doug Hocking** is well known for his great presentations on anything to do with western lore. Doug has created a Westerners speakers bureau serving primarily Arizona and New Mexico. Contact Doug ([dhocking@centurylink.net](mailto:dhocking@centurylink.net)) if you would like more information.





more **CORRAL NEWS**

**Linda Mazur** of the **Huntington Corral** in San Marino, California, reports that they held a luncheon and meeting on Feb 3. Barbara Ann Burns, a 26-year volunteer docent of the Mission Inn Foundation in Riverside, spoke about Alice Miller Richardson, who ran the Mission Inn Hotel in Riverside for 62 years. She also promoted Tahoe as a summer destination in the 1900s, and bought many acres in Laguna. She is one of the successful California women of the 20th century. The **Huntington Corral** held its March meeting where, Sara S. "Sue" Hudson, the retired curator of literary collections at the Huntington Library, spoke on Jack London.

**Ft. Worth Corral Sheriff, Bob Saul**, provided the December program regarding President Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 wolf hunt in Oklahoma Indian Territory

**Ron Priddis** of the **Utah Westerners** wrote to tell us that he is now the editor of the Utah Westerners. He kindly sent us a copy and we learned that their January meeting featured **W. Paul Reeve, Christopher B. Rich Jr., and Lalean Purcell Carruth** who discussed the harsh realities of Black and Native American slavery in the Utah Territory. The issue also contained a very interesting article on the Snake River Natives.

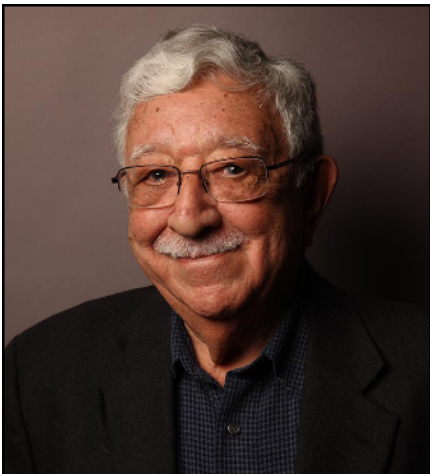
The **Kansas City Posse of Westerners** held a meeting on January 9 in which **George Pettigrew** spoke on "From Slavery to Buffalo Soldier." George Pettigrew is Executive VP of the KC Buffalo Soldiers Chapter and Cochairman of the new Fort Leavenworth Museum Project. He is a Certified Oral Storyteller and a U.S. Navy veteran. On February 13, Richard Gooch spoke on "The Texas Rangers -The Early Years." And on March 12, Steven B. Gingery, western collector and historian, spoke on "the Life and Times of Buffalo Bill Cody: Our Native Son." **Joe Sullivan** also reports that the Posse is teaming up with the Village Inn for its meetings this spring; The Village inn will be donating part of its profits from the meetings to local charities. A great idea!

**Ron Beard**, long-time sheriff of the **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners**, in Kalispell, MT, reported that he is now the Deputy Sheriff of the Posse.



## Ernie Marquez

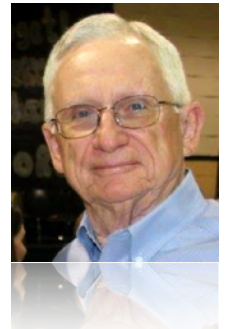
1924-2024 Los Angeles



We are profoundly saddened to note the passing of the oldest member of the **Los Angeles Corral of Westerners International**, Ernie Marquez, who went west only a few weeks before his 100th birthday. Ernie was a long-time member and former Sheriff of the Corral, who was made an honorary member in 2018. A well-respected historian and the author of four outstanding books on Southern California history, Ernie was descended from a *soldado de cuero*, a Jalisco-born member of the Portolá expedition of 1769, the very first overland venture by Colonial Spain to California. Juan Francisco Reyes later (1797) became the *Alcalde* (Mayor) of the tiny *Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles del Rio Porciúncula*, which we now know, more than 200 years later, as modern Los Angeles. Ernie was the only member of the **Los Angeles Corral** directly descended from an old Mexican land-grant family: his *antepasados* owned the *Rancho Boca de Santa Monica*, now overlaid by the modern city of Santa Monica. Ernie's old family plot cemetery still exists, completely hemmed in by modern apartment buildings, a living link to our all-but-obliterated Mexican Period (1822-1848) and Spanish Colonial Period (1542-1822) past.

*Vaya con Dios a la más allá, Don Ernesto*

**Brian Derin Dillon**



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."

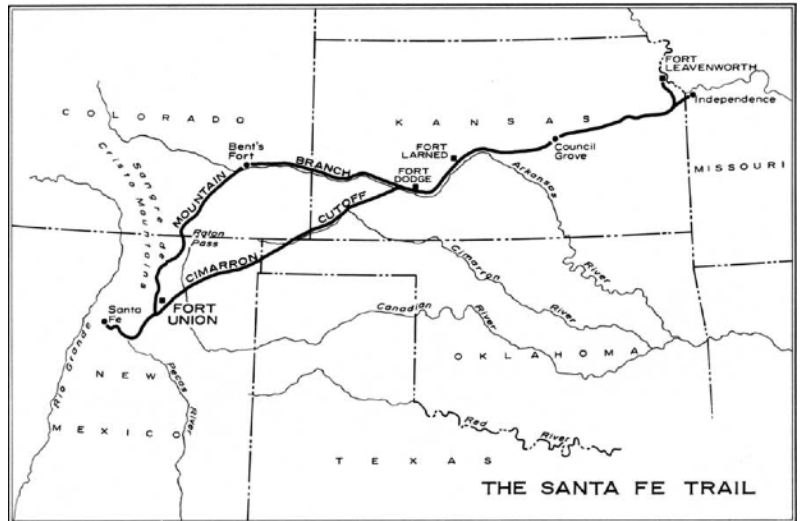
# FORT UNION

*This New Mexico fort participated in both the Civil War and the Indian wars of the 1860s and '70s.*



At the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, which signified the end of the Mexican-American War, New Mexico became United States territory. Therefore, the protection of its citizens became the responsibility of the United States. By 1851, nearly 1,300 soldiers served in the New Mexico Territory. They were scattered throughout 11 small outposts, with the headquarters being at Fort Marcy in Santa Fe. However, Indian raids in the territory and along the Santa Fe Trail demanded that something more be done by the troops stationed in the region.

Trade over the Santa Fe Trail from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, increased tremendously after the war, and so did the Indian attacks on those traveling the trail. U. S. Secretary of War C.M. Conrad declared that the economy and efficiency of the army in New Mexico might be improved by relocating the troops from the towns where most were stationed, to positions nearer the Indians they were expected to control. Conrad said that "the Indians had become so bold as to commit their depredations within a



few miles of the military posts, and in no instance was their audacity chastised." Peace could not be achieved, Conrad believed, until the Navajos, Utes, Comanches and Apaches had felt "the power of our arms" and received "severe chastisement."

To achieve what the government thought was necessary, the war department turned to an officer with lengthy experience on the frontier and previous service in New Mexico, Colonel Edwin Vose Sumner. On March 29, 1851, Adjutant General Roger Jones notified Sumner that he was to "proceed to New Mexico without unnecessary delay" and assume command of the Ninth Military Department. Jones made it clear that "there is reason to believe that the stations at present occupied by the troops in the 9th Department are not the best for the protection of the frontiers against the inroads of the Indians." He directed Sumner to reorganize the distribution of troops and to "use sound discretion in making such changes, as you may deem necessary and proper."

Sumner was not unfamiliar with New Mexico, for he had commanded a portion of

Kearny's Army of the West in 1846 and marched with the troops to New Mexico over the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail. On that expedition, he had camped along Wolf Creek, at a place located several miles northwest of the confluence of the Sapello and Mora rivers. The site was known as Los Pozos, which is Spanish for "the wells." It was given the name because of the many natural pools of water.

Sumner had already decided to remove the headquarters and supply depot of the Ninth Military Department from Santa Fe, a town that he called "that sink of vice and extravagance." He planned to place troops in a position where they could better protect settlements exposed to Indian raids, as well as have a better line of communication with Missouri. He selected Los Pozos as the location for the headquarters and supply depot of the Ninth Military Department and established Fort Union there. It was an important site because of the supply of water in an arid land, but it was also a strategic location near the junction of the Cimarron Cutoff and the Mountain routes of the Santa Fe Trail. In addition, it was near the trail across the mountains from the Mora River valley to the Rio Grande valley, and near settlements threatened by the Jicarilla Apaches, including Rayado, Mora, and Las Vegas.

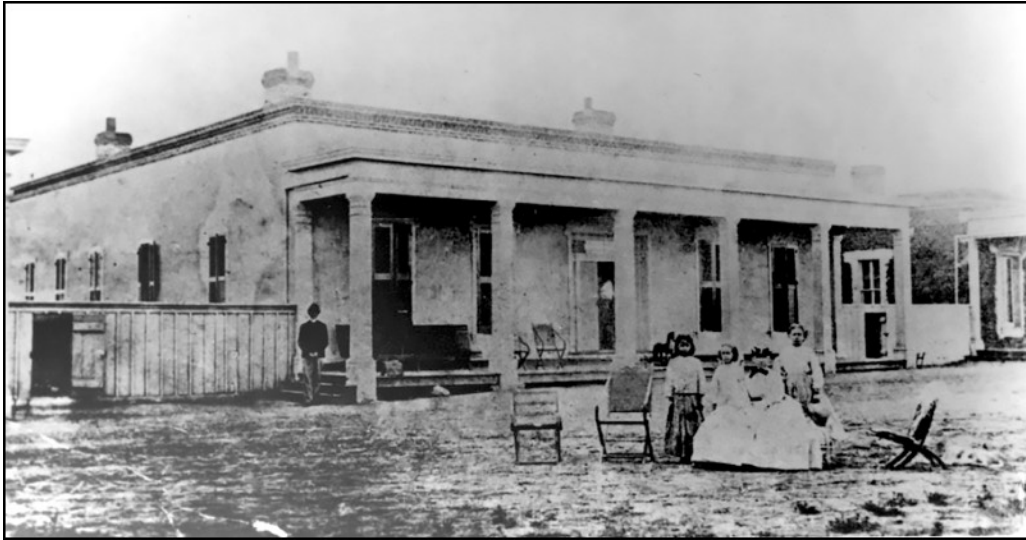
Usually, it was civilians employed by the Quartermaster Department who built frontier posts, but Sumner discharged

these men and assigned the work to his soldiers. The result was what one might expect from unskilled laborers.

Assistant surgeon Jonathan Letterman, in describing the fort in 1856, said that unseasoned, unhewn, and unbarked pine logs were placed upright in some houses and horizontally in others, and were rapidly decaying. He said that one set of the barracks had to be torn down to prevent it from falling, although it was only four years old. He also said that "the unbarked logs afforded excellent hiding places for bed bugs, which were common in the area, and that because

of the bugs, the men slept in the open air when the weather would permit.

Despite the dismal living conditions, the soldiers managed to live there for 10 years, and participated in several Indian campaigns. But in 1861, things began to change. News of the Civil War



had reached New Mexico, and in August, Confederate actions in the southern half of New Mexico Territory had the U.S. Army convinced that a large-scale invasion was imminent.

Fort Union was located on the steep foothills on the west side of Wolf Creek, which made it completely vulnerable to cannon fire from the overhead bluffs. As a result, Major William Chapman, who had taken over command of the fort in June 1861, ordered that a new earthwork fort be constructed a mile and a half to the east, in the open valley. Chapman and the fort's designer, Captain Cuvier Grover, believed that the new fort would be well out of artillery range from the bluffs.

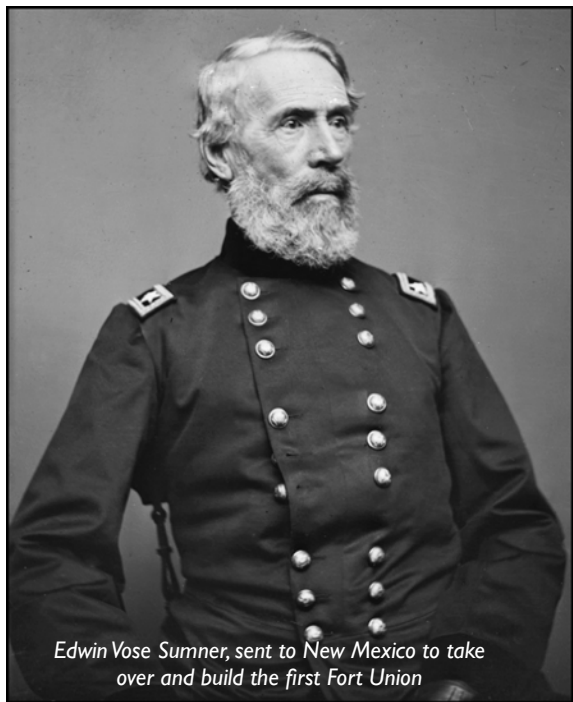
Construction of the second Fort Union began on August 4, 1861. At this time, there were more than 1,000 troops stationed at the fort, and their first and primary duty became to construct a massive 23-acre fortification that had been designed by Grover. The troops worked 24 hours a day in four-hour shifts of 200 men each, and by February 1862, as Confederate forces advanced into New Mexico Territory, the construction of the second fort was completed.

The second Fort Union was constructed for battle. It was built to accommodate 28 cannons along its parapet. Officers' Quarters, enlisted barracks, powder magazines and storerooms were all inside the fort. Also inside the fort was a



manmade tunnel that led to Wolf Creek so that the troops could access fresh water in case of siege.

On the outside of the fort, they dug a dry moat that would



*Edwin Vose Sumner, sent to New Mexico to take over and build the first Fort Union*

hamper any attempt by an enemy to climb the fort's walls. Also outside the fort, and located on each of its four sides, were four large bastions or angled earthwork walls that were to be used for forward artillery and infantry positions. It

is these bastions that gave the fort its star-shaped appearance.

There was some question about the defensibility of the new fort, but it was well known by both the Union and the Confederacy that Fort Union and its vast amount of supplies and weapons was the key for controlling New Mexico Territory.

In 1862, the early days of the Civil War, everything was going the Confederacy's way. The South had yet to face a major defeat, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis had dreams of adding New Mexico, then Colorado and then California to the Confederacy. Davis commissioned General Henry Hopkins Sibley to raise three full regiments in West Texas, march up the Rio Grande from El Paso and capture Santa Fe. Then he was to turn northeast up the Santa Fe Trail about 70 miles to Fort Union, capture it and take possession of all its supplies, and then go on into Colorado to capture the gold fields.

Sibley, with little resistance, captured Santa Fe. However, when he reached there, he found it largely abandoned. Knowing the Rebels were coming, everyone had left, and the territorial government had moved 70 miles east to Las Vegas, New Mexico. All of the armaments had been moved to Fort Union, which was another 25 miles the other side of Las Vegas. Sibley knew he couldn't go on to the gold fields in Colorado without conquering Fort Union, and he needed

those supplies. He made plans for his army to take Fort Union.

Glorieta Pass was on the Santa Fe Trail at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains southeast of Santa Fe. Control of the pass would allow the Confederates to advance onto the High Plains and make an assault on Fort Union. However, due to some Colorado volunteers who had come down to Fort Union, and then advanced on south to Glorieta, the Confederates were defeated at the pass. In an attempt to save the campaign, Sibley wrote the governor of Texas requesting reinforcements, but no answer came. The Texans eventually took a long, dangerous march back to Texas. By July 1862, all Confederate troops had vacated New Mexico Territory, and for the duration of the Civil War, New Mexico remained under Union control.

Before the Civil War was over, a third Fort Union was under construction. It was built in the traditional territorial style of adobe brick that stood on stone foundations. The walls were coated with plaster and adorned with red bricks brought to New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. Other materials, such as tools, nails, window glass, fire bricks, and roofing tin were transported along the trail from Fort Leavenworth.

The Indians were especially troublesome during the Civil War, and the tribes seized the opportunity offered by the Confederate attack on New Mexico to step up their raiding. New Mexico and California Volunteers under Colonel Kit Carson, an experienced Indian fighter, conducted three major campaigns out of the fort: against the Mescalero Apache in 1862, against the Navajo in 1863, and against the Kiowa and Comanche in 1864. Fort Union Regulars, who replaced the Volunteers after the Civil War, along with troops from other New Mexico posts, took part in the final wars against the southern Plains tribes in General Sheridan's 1868-69 campaign, and in the Red River War of 1874-75. These campaigns ended the fort's participation in the Indian wars.

Fort Union stayed in operation until the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in 1879 slowly put an end to the Santa Fe Trail. The fort lingered on for another 10 years, but as the buildings deteriorated, the end came into sight. Fort Union was abandoned in 1891.

After its abandonment, the buildings fell into ruins. However, in 1954, it was declared a National Monument, and today the site is maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, which preserves the second of the three forts constructed, as well as the ruins of the third. There is a visitor center with exhibits about the fort and a film about the Santa Fe Trail, and a visitors' trail winds through the fort's adobe ruins.

Fort Union was one of the most important forts in the West, and a visit there is interesting. Westerners who plan to visit New Mexico should include Fort Union on their trip.



## Upcoming special events of interest to Westerners



for additional information check out: <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/>



Exhibition through May 5th

### Italy's Legendary Cowboys of the Maremma, Photographs by Gabrielle Saveri

The *butteri*, or Italian “cowboys” — hailing from the lands spanning from the plains of northern Lazio up through the coastal Italian region of Maremma into southern Tuscany — have a long-standing connection to Buffalo Bill and the history of America’s Wild West.

In 1890, Buffalo Bill brought his Wild West Show to Naples, Italy and proceeded to Rome as part of his European tour to offer the world an authentic wild frontier experience and showcase American cowboy skills. During that time, he met a local duke and prince named Onorato Caetani and a bet, or *sfida* was made between the two men as to who had the better horsemen.

In March, 1890, during Cody’s Wild West Show, *La Sfida* took place on the outskirts of Rome between the *Butteri* of Cisterna di Latina (located in the Agro Pontino region, where the original *butteri* came from), and the American cowboys. According to Italian lore, the *butteri* handily defeated the American cowboys thanks to the superior riding skills of a humble, shy, and soft-spoken horseman named Augusto Imperiali.

To this day, modern-day Italian cowboys claim that they won the event and Buffalo Bill never paid the 1000 Lire he owed from the original bet.

Exhibition through April 28, 2024

### Nations at War! Field Sketches of a Pawnee Warrior

Most people assume Native American ledger art was limited to the North American Great Plains. Known for their colorful and realistic depiction of Indigenous life, these drawings were socially validated and extremely accurate. They show landscapes and couples courting. They display prisoners of war and the brutality of combat. Many assume this tradition ceased in the late 1800s making the sketches created by Brummett Echohawk, a Pawnee Soldier in the American 45th Infantry Division, not only important historical resources, but part of an artistic and social legacy dating back thousands of years in North America.

Sketching soldiers from Germany, Japan, India, Algeria, as well as soldiers from many different Native American nations serving in the 45th Infantry Division, Brummett Echohawk brings a unique perspective to the history of art and war. His viewpoint is personal and unparalleled. He drew the battles he fought and the friends he lost—something not known to have been done by an indigenous artist since the late 1800s.

This exhibition is being completed in partnership with Oklahoma State University Departments of History and Art History and is curated by Dr. Eric Singleton (NCWHM) and Dr. David D’Andrea (OSU).



## More upcoming special events



# PRIX DE WEST INVITATIONAL ART EXHIBITION & SALE

for additional information check out: <https://pdw.nationalcowboymuseum.org/>



Presented by Eskridge Lexus

**ART SALE WEEKEND JUNE 7 - 8, 2024**  
**ON EXHIBIT MAY 31 - AUGUST 4, 2024**

Featuring paintings and sculpture by the finest contemporary Western artists working today, the 52nd annual Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will open May 31, 2024, with the Art Sale Weekend scheduled for June 7 – 8.

Prix de West is the nation's premier Western art exhibition and sale showcasing original works ranging from historical depictions of the American West to more contemporary and impressionistic pieces. Artwork from this world-renowned event will be on exhibit through August 4, 2024.

This exhibition is organized by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

The Wilson Hurley Memorial Award winner of 2023, **West I Know: Summarizing Solitude, Utah**, Len,



**The Western Cattle Trail Association** will be sponsoring its annual conference in Dodge City, Kansas this year focusing on the 150th anniversary of the Western Trail. This trail carried more cattle (6-8 million), lasted longer (1874-1897), and covered more territory (nine states and parts of Canada and Mexico) than all the other cattle trails combined. The last cattle drive on the Western trail was by the XIT Ranch in 1897.

The conference will take place at the new Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City and include proposed presentations on the Western Trail in many facets, including:

**Presentation on trailing cattle from South Texas, by King Ranch manager (retired), Bob Kinnan**

**Paper on the "last cattle drive" by XIT historian Michael M. "Mick" Miller**

**Discussion of trail songs by Michael Martin Murphey**

**Presentation on the Northern Cheyenne exodus from Indian Territory to Montana along the Western in 1878**

**Maker panel including bootmaker, saddle builder, spur maker, and rawhide and leather braider**

**A conversation with the historians of the Western, Margaret and Gary Kraisinger, Newton, Kansas**

The conference will also include a round-table to discuss the formation of a "cattle trails consortium" to educate about these historic trails that built America, including the Western, Goodnight-Loving, Chisholm, Shawnee, et al.

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame induction will follow the program and conclude with a solo performance by Michael Martin Murphey at the Dodge City Convention Center.

For additional information: <https://www.westerncattletrailassoc.com/about.html>

# Upcoming Events at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas



## FRANK REAUGH GALLERY

No collection of Texas or Southwestern Art is complete without work by the "Dean of Texas Painters," the western artist Frank Reaugh (1860-1945). Reaugh began sketching West Texas in 1883 after studying at the St. Louis

Museum and School of Fine Art and at the Academie Julian in Paris, France. Using pastels and paints to capture the stark realities of life in the Southwest, Reaugh had a particular fascination with the longhorn steer, the cowboy, and the landscape of the Great Plains.

His greatest success came between 1890 and 1915, during which time he exhibited works at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904. At the turn of the century, Reaugh was a fixture in the Dallas art community as both a teacher and artist. He helped establish the Dallas Art Society in 1900.

More than 700 of Reaugh's works are displayed on a rotating basis in the Frank Reaugh gallery at PPHM.

**PPHM**  
PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

*Coffee with a Curator Series*

Join our PPHM Curators to get a behind the scenes look at our features exhibitions.

November 10th at 9:00AM  
January 19th at 9:00AM  
March 22nd 9:00AM  
April 19th at 9:00AM

Free for members  
\$35 for the series for nonmembers!

806-651-2242  
RSVP at [www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org)

For additional information: <https://www.panhandleplains.org/>



## Garry L. Nall Lecture in Western Studies with George Saunders

Lecture, Thursday April 4, JBK Legacy Hall, 7 p.m., Reception to begin at 6 p.m. **CSAW** is partnered with the Distinguished Lecture Series and Amarillo College's Creative Minds Lecture for this event.

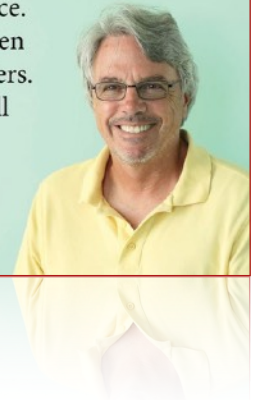
<https://www.wtamu.edu/museum/csaw/index.html>

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



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**

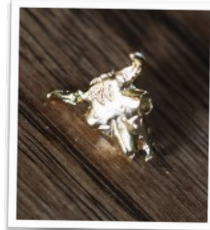
- Lapel pin with pin clasp ..... \$13.00
- "Past Sheriff" lapel pin ..... \$13.00
- Bolo Tie with leather band ..... \$25.00
- Lucite paper weight ..... \$17.00
- T-Shirts/round or v-neck ..... \$25.00
- Polo Shirt ..... \$45.00
- Bandanas ..... \$7.00
- Decal 3" ..... \$4.00
- Cap -adjustable size.....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

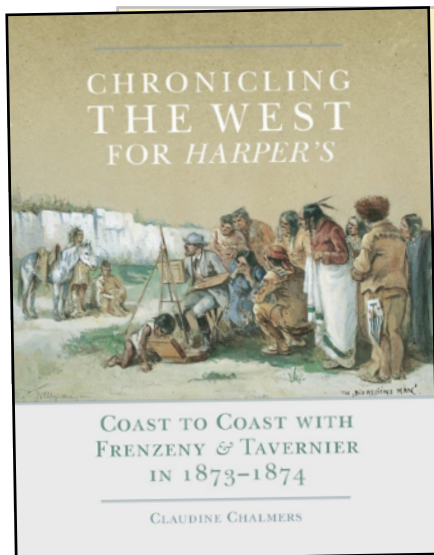


Polo shirt



white bandana

# BOOK NEWS OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



## Chronicling the West for Harpers

**Coast to Coast with Frenzeny & Tavernier in 1873–1874** (The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West Series) Hardcover \$45.00 – October 4, 2013 by **Claudine Chalmers** (Author)

The opening of the West after the Civil War drew a flood of Americans and immigrants to the frontier. Among the liveliest records of the westering of the 1870s is the series of prints collected for the first time in this book. Chronicling the West for Harper's showcases 100 illustrations made for the weekly magazine by French artists Paul Frenzeny and Jules Tavernier on a cross-country assignment in 1873 and 1874. The pair—"Frenzeny & Tavernier," as they signed their work—documented the newly accessible territories, their diverse inhabitants, and the changing frontier.

Historian Claudine Chalmers focuses on the life and work of Frenzeny and Tavernier, who were accomplished and adventurous enough to succeed as "special artists," the label Harper's Weekly gave the illustrators it sent into the field.

Part of: The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West

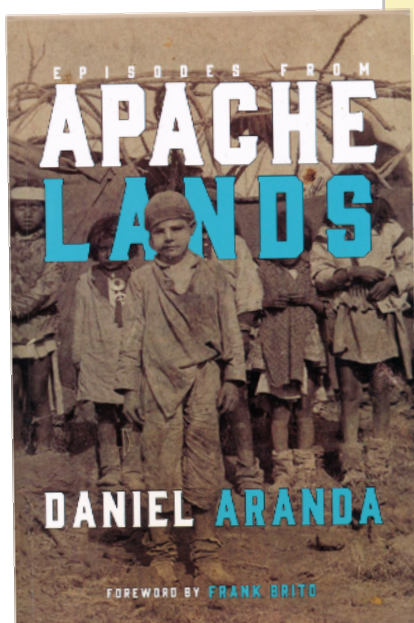
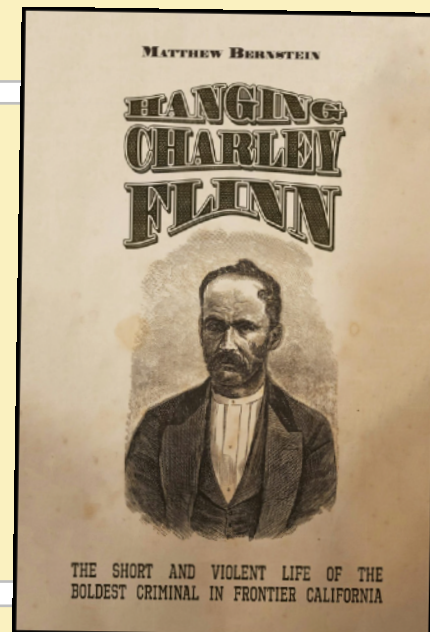
**Westerners International**  
*is proud to recognize*  
*books by Westerners*

## **Hanging Charley Flinn: The Short and Violent Life of the Boldest Criminal in Frontier California,**

by **Matthew Bernstein**. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2023. 209

+ xi pages, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Softbound, \$24.95.

Book review by **Dr. Brian Dillon** on the next page.

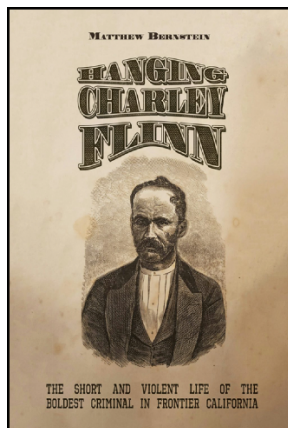


## **Episodes from Apache Lands** by Daniel

Aranda. Eco Publishing, Rodeo, NM, 88056, 2023. 189 + xiv pages, illustrations, Foreword by Frank Brito, bibliography, index. Softbound, \$16.95.

Book review by **Dr. Brian Dillon** on the next page.

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.



Matthew Bernstein's excellent new biography of the most despicable of all California badmen, Charley Flinn, *aka* Charles Mortimer, adds a name to the roster of Old West villains that will be unfamiliar to most readers.

Charley Flinn was a sociopath, pure and simple. A vicious, predatory parasite, he divided all human beings into only two categories, potential prey, or potential enemies. Flinn had no friends, for every person he ever "befriended" was victimized in one way or another. "Mad Dog" Mortimer studied complete strangers the same way coyotes study small rodents, calculating how much effort might be expended in relieving them of their valuables. Matthew Bernstein labels him "the boldest criminal" of Frontier California, and bold he was indeed. Fearless, merciless, and predatory, anyone within reach was fair game and likely to become Flinn's next victim. He was a man

without conscience of any kind, without remorse.

Most of the better-known Old West desperadoes and not a few lawmen had California connections. The Earp brothers, for example, were Californians before and after they moved to Arizona, Black Bart with only one or two exceptions robbed stagecoaches exclusively in California, and both Joaquin Murrieta and Tiburcio Vásquez confined all of their holdups at gunpoint to the Golden State. It was no accident that Charley Flinn's criminal activity played out where the pickings were richest and the victims most numerous, in California.

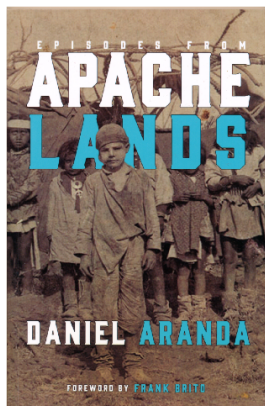
Despite an abundance of *bona fide* law and order history, third and fourth-generation American TV babies have been brainwashed by Tinseltown into believing that the roughest, toughest, Wild West towns with the most trigger-happy, bloodthirsty, desperadoes were places like Dodge City, Kansas or Tombstone Arizona. Not so. Both places were Johnny-come lately also-rans when compared to the *ne plus ultra* of Western lawlessness and violence, California, U.S.A. Bad men from all over the country, and from Europe, Asia, Latin America, even Australia, headed for California to "mine the miners" at gun or knifepoint. As early as 1848, more than a quarter century before either Dodge City or Tombstone could count more than a handful of residents, California was a criminal's paradise. Throughout the Mother Lode there was more treasure to be ill-gotten than in any other happy hunting ground way out west, and even in the biggest cities law enforcement was mostly theoretical, not actual. Most of the gold passed through San Francisco, so the city by the bay became the most convenient hangout for criminals preying upon hardworking miners and the businessmen who supplied them. By 1863 Flinn/Mortimer was in California. In and out of jail, he practiced every kind of illegal behavior in San Francisco, throughout Northern California, and even "over the line" in far Western Nevada, until he was finally "turned off" at the end of a rope in 1873.

San Francisco was already famous for its two Vigilance Committees, both raised in the 1850s, when dozens of upright citizens took the law into their own hands and lynched known or suspected criminals, deported them back to Europe or Australia, or simply drove them out of town. Los Angeles, the tiny cow-town far to the south, went even farther with lynch-law than San Francisco or Hangtown, *aka* Placerville, ever did. More people, both guilty or innocent, were hanged in and around Los Angeles between 1850 and 1875 than in all the other contemporary western states and territories combined. And only in Southern California did Anglo and Latino residents encourage a well-armed and well-mounted Indian tribe to wipe out more than a dozen badmen, all of them White, most of them from Australia, who had already been run out of San Francisco and Los Angeles. While shootouts between Sheriffs or Marshals and badmen did take place in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and elsewhere, more lawmen were gunned down on the streets of just one California town, Los Angeles, and more prisoners were busted out of jail and strung up by lynch mobs in and around that same dusty hamlet, than anywhere else in the Old West. So Charley Flinn's robberies, murders, and eventual execution were all in keeping the general pattern of Golden State lawlessness.

Some Wild West badmen were sympathetic characters: Black Bart comes immediately to mind in this context, for he took great care never to kill nor wound any of the victims of his 30+ stage robberies. And most Americans are willing to cut Billy the Kid and Jesse James a little slack, seeing as how both had good points (loyalty, generosity, etc.) as well as bad. Other badmen have even been compared to Robin Hood: Tiburcio Vásquez is most prominent in this unmerited role. But Charley Flinn, as so ably described by Matthew Bernstein, deserves neither sympathy nor forgiveness. He was as purely evil a man as ever walked the streets of any Western town, preying upon his fellow man, and, occasionally, his fellow *woman*, as well.

I am perhaps the only reviewer of present-day books with "lynching" or "hanging" in their titles to have been on both sides of that unfortunate extra-legal

means of terminating human life. Fortunately, my own impassioned harangues on three separate occasions, in Spanish, long ago and far away, and not in this jurisdiction, persuaded angry individuals to spare their victims (one of them me, exactly 50 years ago) and seek alternative forms of punishment for real or imagined transgressions. But had I been present in 1873 when Charley Flinn finally "stretched hemp," I would not have uttered a single word of protest. Rather, I would have asked why it had taken so long for right-thinking people to get around to hanging one of the worst sociopaths of 19th-century Western America. Matthew Bernstein has done a tremendous job of bringing a unique and all-but-forgotten Old West character out of the shadows and back into the light. *Hanging Charley Flinn* is a great read, and highly recommended.



The Apache of the American Southwest and Northern Mexican borderlands were the most effective, resilient, determined and persistent AmerIndians resisting the tidal wave of European invaders. Thousands of White newcomers almost submerged badly-outnumbered Native American people coast to coast beneath European "civilization" and this economic, political, demographic and military steamroller left the very few AmerIndians lucky enough to survive it strangers in their own land.

Many conscientious historians, ethnohistorians, and anthropologists have written about what most Americans think of as the "Apache Wars," yet none have cast their research net as widely as has Dan Aranda in his

engaging and very readable new book. Rather than attempting a comprehensive review of the conflict from start to finish as have most previous treatments, Dan has instead focused upon ten different episodes, each one with different protagonists, and set in different locations. These ten Apache War vignettes reveal just how complex and diffuse the long, bloody, struggle was. Aranda's ten chapters are set across thousands of square miles of mountains and desert in West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Arizona, and deep into Northern Chihuahua. One of the greatest strengths of the book, lacking from most earlier ones, is the inclusion of Mexican governmental and military actions against the Apache. These were sometimes in concert with simultaneous ones by the Anglo-American military on the other side of the border, but just as often independent of them. Another major contribution of Aranda's new book are the mini-biographies of Mexican ranchers, soldiers, and Apache captives all too often missing from the works of Anglo historians.

Almost as soon as the last Apache exiles were returned to Arizona from their turn-of-the-century Florida banishment, Hollywood got busy reducing the cultural and geographical complexities of the long, drawn-out, Apache Wars to a cliché. In movie after movie and then, a generation later, in idiot box shoot-em-up drama after TV drama, blue-eyed actors in face-paint, wigs, and turkey feathers masqueraded as putative Apache warriors, grunting but seldom talking. Even when "Apache" protagonists were positively portrayed, Tinseltown still could not bring itself to have real AmerIndians, much less actual Apaches, play Geronimo, Cochise, or Chato. Former Anglo baseball-players, East Coast Italians and even a Lithuanian were used instead.

The layer of Hollywood-inspired pseudo-historical Apache Wars garbage inflicted upon all Americans for more than 70 years is quite thick. It is a heavy burden that any serious historian or ethnohistorian must confront in his or her writing about one of the most violent periods of American history. Fortunately, Dan Aranda's many years of scholarly research on both sides of the border have produced a work of non-fiction about as far from Hollywood pseudo-history as can be. His humanistic writing style brings long-dead protagonists from all three sides of the Apache Wars back to life. The intensity of each episode transports the reader back in time, making him or her a contemporary observer of the action Aranda describes. His splendid new book is most highly recommended.

**Dr. Brian Dillon**

# BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



**Lisa Jackson** of Canyon, Texas and active member in the Palo Duro Corral (Amarillo) has created a coloring book. And not just any coloring book, one for kids and adults. Additionally, it is not just for your creative inclinations but educational as well. This spiral bound book offers insight into the rich symbolism of fascinating and beautiful Native designs. While created to be informative, the overall purpose should be that coloring books are FUN!

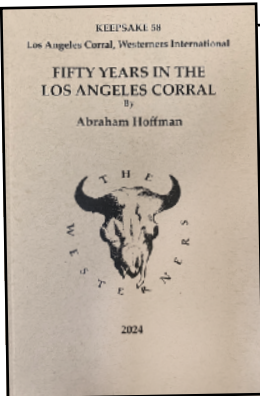
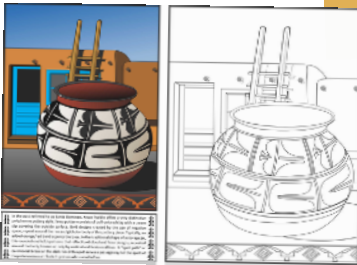


In *Native Design Inspirations*, you will find a coloring book that offers images inspired by Native artists. In addition, this book provides an educational component. For each of the coloring pages, you will find on the opposite, facing page colorful renditions of the objects depicted. Below the colored images, look for the included reference box that discusses pottery styles, explains symbols, and designates tribal affiliations. On certain pages you will find introductions to the work of Native artists as well. Another added feature is the spiral binding. Instead of fighting splines that do not bend easily, *Native Design Inspirations* lays flat for your coloring ease.

As an excellent way to provide a respite from a busy world, coloring books serve as a way to allow you to simply slow down for a moment in time. You may read about how they are meditative and offer mindful introspection. To have those qualities would be wonderful; however, as the designer, I simply hope this book offers you hours of enjoyment by tapping into your creative spirit and simply take your mind away from that busy world we all live in.

To order or for more information contact:

**Lisa Jackson at [lisa@canyonvision.net](mailto:lisa@canyonvision.net)**



Congratulations to the **Los Angeles Corral** on the recent publication of *Keepsake #58*, featuring "Fifty Years In the Los Angeles Corral" by **Abraham Hoffman**. Edited and designed by **Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D**, this impressive publication includes stories, events and photographs from this incredible Corral's past 77 years of existence. This *Keepsake* is the most recent in an annual series of *Keepsakes* that began in 1985.

for additional information check out: <http://www.lawesterners.org/keepsakes/>

This just arrived! The latest issue of **The Branding Iron** from the **Los Angeles Corral**, edited by John D. Dillon. This one is the long-awaited Cowboy Cookery issue, with recipes and Wild West Culinary History from a whole passel of contributors.

Thanks to **Brian Dillon** for sharing and for his incredible seven (7) entries in this issue.



**Kenneth D. Pirtle, Palo Duro Corral, Amarillo, Texas, Buckskin Bulletin Ink Slinger contact info: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com)**

