WESTERNERS



Volume LII - issue 2 - June 2017



# WI Newsletter to go digital

WI Board votes to print one final mailed Buckskin Bulletin

by Kenneth Pirtle - Buckskin Bulletin Inkslinger

A MESSAGE FROM DR. BONNEY MACDONALD, CHAIRMAN, WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL



The Executive Committee of Westerners International met on April 24th and heard a sobering report regarding the expense of printing and mailing WI's Buckskin Bulletin. The cost of the first Bulletin of 2017 totaled \$2,465, more than what had been budgeted for two printings for this year. Historically, the Buckskin Bulletin has mailed 4 newsletters per year. The Board discussed in depth the reasons for the rise in prices and sought solutions.

Abandoning the mailed print version and going exclusively to an emailed PDF version or the web PDF Buckskin Bulletin were also addressed. The bottom line is simply that Westerners International does not have the resources to provide four mailed printed BB's per year to each member. Increasing WI membership dues to cover the expense was also discussed but the benefit from increased resources, even if approved, would not be realized for at least one year.

The Westerner International Executive Committee recognizes that many members prefer a printed copy of the BB. Those of us who now produce the Buckskin Bulletin would prefer continuing as we do now but the reality is that WI cannot afford to provide the mailed version any longer. The most recent BB was printed and mailed at an expense of 64 cents each.

After a thoughtful review, the committee voted unanimously to print one final mailed version (this BB) and to begin offering an electronic version only. A PDF Buckskin Bulletin will be emailed to all Corral Sheriffs

(hopefully you have sent your updated information to the Home Ranch) and members who prefer a printed version may print a copy on their own. Also, please remember that the current, and back issue Buckskin Bulletins are available on the WI web site. (http://westerners-international.org)

If you have any suggestions or comments feel free to email me at kenneth.pirtle@me.com.



Greetings from the Home Ranch - located in the Panhandle-Plains Museum on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Well, the time has flown by since our last Buckskin Bulletin. Since then we have moved the furniture into the office, unpacked all the files, and unpacked the beautiful art that graces the walls and shelves of the Home Ranch! Our Treasurer, Gregg Bynum, has done a marvelous job updating our non-profit charter paperwork, not to mention overseeing the finances; and our secretary, Delinda King, has done wonders for office organization. We all are working together to create a great space for any of you to visit when you come through this part of the country. nominations have now all arrived and the judges will be working diligently in the coming weeks to read the wonderful materials you all sent in. It's a fine 'crop,' as they say; and the judging will be difficult for all because of the impressive scholarship and the many active corral programs and events. The annual Western History Association conference - where the awards are given out - will take place in San Diego, Nov. I-4. I would like personally to encourage you to take the trip - after all, it's San Diego AND you'll have a chance to visit with your fellow Westerners in a grand setting. On other fronts, Sharon Kasper has continued to work with the website, and we will be updating the corral information once all the tally sheets and dues have arrived. In other news: at the last Executive Committee meeting, April 24, 2017, Gregg Bynum presented an award of appreciation to Kent McInnis who served as Chairman of the Board with energy and dedication from 2001-2016; I would like to extend my appreciation to Kent for his service and for his great help in getting us up and running here in Texas. Finally, the Home Ranch looks forward to continued communication with all of you and is also making efforts to make the WI library more widely available. We will be setting up "Western Study Days" for university students in West Texas A&M's Western Studies Program and will be putting the WI library into a data base in the coming year. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be on Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 11 am at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Thank you for sending us your updated information on membership and, of course, for sending us news of your exciting programs throughout the year. Please keep in touch with us through our new phone number -806-651-5247 — or through our new email address: westerners@mail.wtamu.edu. Happy Trails from Canyon, Texas!

April Board med	eting
Corral News	
Meet Delinda Ki	nσ

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## Westerners International Minutes, Executive Committee Meeting, April 24, 2017 Canyon, Texas

The Westerners International Executive Committee Meeting, at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, was held April 24, 2017, with Bonney MacDonald, Board Chairman, presiding. The meeting started at 11:00 AM. Michael Grauer ordered lunch and members paused for a lunch break at 12:10 PM-to 12:25 PM.

Board members present: Bonney MacDonald, Gregg Bynum, Michael Grauer from the Goodnight Corral, Kent McInnis, Chairman Emeritus, Cheryl McInnis from the Chisom Trail Corral, Jim Jennings, Dr. J. Paul Matney, Kenneth Pirtle, and Rodney Laubhan from the Palo Duro Corral.

Bonney MacDonald gave a welcome to all present.

Meeting was called to order. Approval of minutes

Motion was made by Jim Jennings and seconded by Michael Grauer to accept the minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 Board of Directors Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Updates were presented by Chairman MacDonald:

Expenses for the last move of office items from Oklahoma City have been completed and the books in the office are now in the new book cases. Expenses for the move will be taken care of and acknowledged fully at the August meeting.

Bonney MacDonald reported that all office equipment would be up and running by the end of April and that files are almost complete. The office should all be open by mid-May.

Sale of WI merchandise was discussed, focusing on finding some local providers and using the ones in Oklahoma City for now. Sale of merchandise in the museum store is to be investigated by Michael Grauer and a revision of prices for merchandise will be made by the Chairman in the fall.

The web pages are being revised with the assistance of our web programmer, Sharon Kasner

Awards nominations are coming in and award certificates will be made in house. The Heads-Up and Danielson Awards will be headed up by a committee with Jim Jennings providing leadership.

Finance Report by Gregg Bynum:

Assents in Amarillo National Bank as of 4-20-2017 are \$1,291.35.

After expenses for February through April, 2017, and deposits through April gives Westerners International a bank balance of \$4,190.95.

Assets in the Arvest account are \$23,933.22. Petty cash balance is \$68.00. Checking account of \$4,190.95 gives a balance for Westerners International on April 20, 2017 of \$28,192.73.

Gregg provided a report on getting the charter moved from California to Texas.

Westerners International filed 10 years of worth of financial reports to prove that we are a non-profit. Once approved, the Home Ranch will move the charter to Texas.

A report was given on the costs of the newsletter, The Buckskin Bulletin. The cost of printing the first issue of the Bulletin was \$2,464.79. We had budgeted \$2,340.00 for



printing of two bulletins. The cost of printing our first bulletin is more than our budget for printing costs for two bulletins.

After discussion, with a cost analysis of why costs have gone up and what should be done, a motion was made by Gregg Bynum and seconded by Michael Grauer that "Westerners International print and send one four page copy of the Buckskin Bulletin and the remaining two

Buckskin Bulletins for the year be sent via email with a PDF copy to the Sheriffs of each corral for sheriff to make copies for members of their respective corrals."

Motion passed unanimously.



Gregg Bynum presented a plaque to Kent McInnis a for Kent's long time contributions to Westerners International. The plaque was inscribed as follow; Award to Kent McInnis, Chairman of the Board - January 1, 2008------December 31, 2016 - Westerners International

Kent received a standing ovation from all the board members for an award well deserved.

WHA Report-Bonney gave the report for President Juti Winchester and Kent McInnis reported his findings...

WHA is November 1-4, 2017 in San Diego. Arrangements have been made by President Winchester for the Home Ranch. Room is reserved for our awards final board meeting of the year, awards ceremony, auction and reception. Kent will order awards and certificates and get them to San Diego.

A table in the exhibit hall has is booked, only items that will go in the booth are pending at this time. We will be notified when it is time to do this.

An ad has been submitted for the program. Thanks were given to Kent for his input on this.

The WHA Panel will focus on the fur-trade.

A report by Delinda King was presented by Bonney MacDonald. Bonney said that there is a possible study-day for university students in WI offices being considered. We will be pursuing more outreach to other corrals.

Mention was made concerning the Czech Republic sponsoring a Pony Express Ride from Europe-through the United Stated-to Australia. Ken McInnis provided update information on that planned event. The Home Office will check into the plans.

Schedule for Future Meetings

Board of Directors meeting: Saturday August 26, 11 AM, PPHM Board of Directors meeting: WHA, San Diego, CA, day/time TBA Executive Committee meeting: February 2018, day/time TBA Executive Committee meeting: April, 2018, day/time TBA

Meeting adjourned, 1:31 PM

Minutes recorded by Rodney Laubhan



The Buckskin Bulletin is pleased to receive news and information from all of our active Westerner International Corrals. Your WI Inkslinger will strive to post most if not all news information that we receive. Please send your Corral news and photographs to westerners@mail.wtamu.edu or to kenneth.pirtle@me.com.

Scottsdale, AZ from Robert Stahl. Met on the 22nd of March with a presentation titled: "The Death of Billy the Kid and My Efforts to Get an Official Death Certificate Created for Him" by Robert J. Stahl. Bob Boze Bell, Editor of True West Magazine, was invited to attend in meet and greet and to promote his magazine and western history.

Dakota Midlands Corral from Sherri Rawstern. The Dakota Midlands Corral of Westerners met Friday, April 7, 2017, at the Dacotah Prairie Museum with a Catered buffet. The April program featured Dr Brad Tennant of Presentation College and his program "Lewis and Clark's Wildlife Observations."

Omaha Corral, NB from Joan Kraft. May's program was Melissa Marsh and the history of the numerous Prisoner of War Camps in Nebraska. The May 6th outing was at Union Pacific Museum in Council Bluffs. Museum manager and director Patricia Labounty will entertain us with a program entitled "Move over, Sir!" concerning the history behind the advancement of women in railroading.

From Donald Sender, Chicago. Bill Molony, is a Vietnam combat veteran, and shared his interest at the March meeting, in railroads of our past including a book about the Chicago and Western Indiana RR and a book on the role that the Illinois Central RR played in logistics during the Civil War. The Corral met by the dim glow of the campfire at Sawa's Old Warsaw.

From Sharon Burchett, South Central Cross-Timbers Corral, Norman, OK. Met Monday, March 27 at the Charles M. Russell Center in Norman, OK. The program was Two "Perfect" Culture Regions in 1900 by Richard L. Nostrand, Ph.D., David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus of Geography, University of Oklahoma.

From Susan Richards, Pahaska Corral, Cody, WY. Thanks Susan for the "Dispatch" and the news about the March program, "Art in Cody, the Whitney Legacy" with Peter

Pine Ridge Corral, Chadron, NB., from June Ballard. Met on May 21st and heard a program from Randy James about the History of the James Gang.

Llano Estacado Corral, Lubbock, TX sent a memorial to Westerners International in honor of Marcy Bateman Hester, longtime member and wife of Westerner David Hester. Mrs. Hester was a long time participant in Corral activities and will be missed.

Denver Posse of Westerners publishes an impressive publication "The Denver Westerners Roundup". The March-April 2017 has a fascinating story titled "Boozers, Brothels and Bare Knuckle Brawlers" by Kellen Cutsforth. Mr. Cutsforth shared this story at the June 22, 2016 Corral gathering. Thanks, Denver Posse for sharing this wonderful booklet.

San Dimas Corral, California, hosted Luis Fuerte, award winning cameraman for the "California Gold" TV show at their April 2017 meeting.

Huntington Westerners, Pasadena, CA. hosted Dr. Robert C. Ritchie at their March meeting who gave a program "Medieval America" .

San Francisco Corral, CA., recently presented "San Francisco Beer: A History of Brewing by the Bay" by Bill Yenne from his recently published book of the same name.

Boulder County Corral, CO. from Ed Bathke, their March meeting featured Russel Morse, Jr., and "The Colorado Gold Rush".

Utah Westerners, from Vern Gorzitze, Their April meeting program was "Alma Richards: Olympian" by Larry Gerlach. Larry's compelling biography recounts and interprets the life of Alma Richards, who in 1912 became the first and only Utahn and Mormon to win an Olympic gold medal in the 20th century.

Kansas City Posse, from Phillip Young, "Cowboy Action Shooting" was their April Program by J.D. Bittel, whose cowboy alias is Zeke Proctor (1831-1907) who happens to be J.D.'s ancestor.

El Paso Corral, from Patricia Kiddney, The April 21, 2017 John Wesley Hardin, August 19, 1895 by Constable John Selman. from the point of view of then 9 year old Perry Greer, son of the shooting happened and along with another youngster, Stanley Good, youngest speaker in it's 50 plus years of programs!

speaker was a father & son team speaking about the rest of the story regarding the killing of Keith Erickson spoke from Selman's point of view, and his 9 year old son Everett will speak barkeep of Acme Saloon. Perry was playing across the street at a vacant lot when the tried to gain entrance to the saloon to see who'd been shot (Perry fearing it was his dad). Stanley Good was small enough to crawl through the legs of the crowd and get close enough to call back "It's not your Pa, this fellow has black hair". Everett will be the Corral's

Silver City Corral, NM., from Bea McKinney. Sent a message sharing the good news from The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero, TX in DeWitt County. "150th Anniversary of Chisholm Trail at the Capitol", by Robert Proctor. More info at: https://www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org

Central New Mexico Corral, Albuquerque, NM., from Gloria Bullis, met in May and had a program on "Historic Ranches of Northeastern New Mexico" by Baldwin G. Burr, noted photo historian and educator.

Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck, ND, from Sheryl M. Zaun, their May meeting featured Dr. Brad Kroupa who presented a program on Arikara History & Culture.

Los Angeles Corral, CA. sent their nicely produced publication "The Branding Iron" with an extremely interesting story of the mutiny on the Clan Buchanan by Brian Dervin Dillon. The Clan Buchanan was a clipper ship launched in 1887 and served as a fast cargo ship until it was sunk during WW1. Thanks for sharing LA Corral!

Rodney Lauhban of the Palo Duro Corral, Amarillo, TX sent along an announcement about the National Pony Express Association's Commemorative re-run from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California scheduled for June of 2017.

Westerners International Panhandle Plains Historical Museum 2503 Fourth Avenue Canyon, Texas, 79015





The WI Home Ranch is happy to introduce you to our office manager and Secretary for Westerners International, Delinda King. Delinda is a recent graduate of West Texas A&M University and is now a graduate student focusing on the study of the American West. She is attending graduate school as a recipient of a Haley Fellowship. Delinda commented: "A Master's degree is an item on my bucket list. I am happy that WT has given me the opportunity to concentrate on the West and also be involved with Westerners International. We have plans to use the Home Ranch office as a place to promote the study of literature, history, and the environment of the great American West. Being here at the museum, just down the hall from Dr. Alex Hunt and the new Center for the Study of the American West (CSAW), and having a mentor like Dr. Bonney Macdonald offers a great concentration of information for both Westerners members and students."

Message from your "Ink slinger", Kenneth Pirtle

I am pleased to report that the Home Ranch is up and operational. It took longer than we had hoped but the furniture is in, the phone (806 651-5247) and email (westerners@mail.wtamu.edu) are operational and our new Chairman is getting into the swing of things. The office space is more than adequate. Thanks to the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum and their Executive Director Carol Lovelady for graciously sharing their facility.

We unloaded and cataloged some wonderful art and interesting books that WI has acquired over the years. We are excited about sharing these wonderful resources to the students of West Texas A&M University.

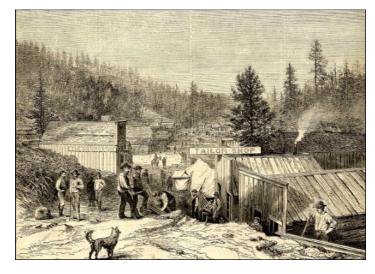
### http://westerners-international.org/home-ranch.shtml

Don't forget to check the Westerners International web site from time to time. You will find up to date information about Westerner activities, upcoming Board meetings and Corral news.

### **Deadwood**

South Dakota

by Jim Jennings
Palo Duro Corral Amarillo, Texas



Just the sound of the name brings up images of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, gold mining and gunfights, gambling halls and Indian battles. But that's a natural reaction because all of that was a part of the history of Deadwood, which is where we are today.

Deadwood is located in what is known as the Black Hills of western South Dakota, about 30 miles east of the Wyoming border. The Black Hills are a small, isolated mountain range that rises to a little more than 7,000 feet from the upper plains. The Hills got their name from their dark appearance at a distance, due to being covered in trees.

The Black Hills has long been home to the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Pawnee, Crow and Lakota Sioux, the latter of which consider the area to be sacred. Probably the first white men to see the Hills were Jedidiah Smith and a group of about 15 traders who traveled through them in 1823. Some other trappers and traders also explored them, but most avoided the area because of the Indians, and the Lakota never welcomed the white man there.

But in the early 1860s, miners began to make excursions into the Black Hills, following rumors of gold, and there was gold there. But as immigration into the area increased, there was a marked decline in relations between the Indians and the whites. The Army established outposts nearby, but they seldom went into the Hills, and trouble escalated when bands of Lakota began to raid nearby settlements and then retreat back into the Black Hills.

In 1868, the U.S. Government signed the Treaty of Fort Laramie, which established the Great Sioux Reservation, including all lands from the Missouri River west to the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming. The treaty ceded forever the Black Hills to the Lakota Sioux and prohibited settlers or miners from entering the Hills. In return, the Lakota agreed to cease hostilities against pioneers and people building the railroads. But by 1870, stories of gold in the Black Hills continued to spread eastward, and miners began again to enter the forbidden area. As a result, the Sioux began again their hostilities.

In 1874, General Phil Sheridan proposed to Congress that the government establish a fort in the Black Hills, and sent Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer to find a suitable location for the fort. No one today really knows why, but a geologist and a miner went with Custer's party, and while the soldiers searched for a fort location, the miners were looking for gold. On June 30, 1874, they found it.

The U.S. Government tried to conceal the discovery of gold from the public in order to honor the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, but word quickly spread and during the next year, more and more miners went into the Hills, despite the military's efforts to keep them out. In the spring of 1875, the federal government encouraged the tribes to sell the land for cash, but the Indians refused all offers.

And it was about this same time that a miner named John B. Pearson found gold in a narrow canyon in the northern Black Hills. The canyon was called Deadwood Gulch because of the many dead trees that lined the canyon walls. There was an estimated 800 miners in the Black Hills at that time, but by the next year the gold rush was full blown and there were approximately 10,000 settlers in the Hills.

The town of Deadwood was established in Deadwood Gulch in 1876, and the mining camp was soon swarming with thousands of prospectors. Though most of the early settlers of Deadwood were gold miners, the lawless region naturally attracted a crowd of rough and shady characters. A mostly male population eagerly patronized the many saloons, gambling establishments, dance halls and brothels, which were considered legitimate businesses and were well known throughout the area. The new mining town averaged one murder per day in that first year.

In June of 1876, Custer met his demise on the Little Bighorn River, and as a result, Congress reacted quickly in cutting rations of food and clothing to the Sioux. Eventually, a new treaty was exacted that ceded the Black Hills to the federal government, but by July 1876, a million dollars in gold at \$20 an ounce had already been taken from the Black Hills.

That same summer was when the legendary Wild Bill Hickok rode into town. Hickok had been an actor, working in one of Buffalo Bill Cody's productions, and he was a former scout for the 10th Cavalry of the U.S. Army. He was also a professional gambler and a lawman, having served as constable, sheriff and marshal in several towns in the Midwest. However, he had recently been dismissed from his job as marshal in Abilene, Kansas, for what we'll call over enthusiasm – he had accidentally shot and killed his deputy. Regardless, he was well known throughout the West, having received numerous sensational newspaper accounts that described his gun fighting skills.

Calamity Jane also showed up in town about the same time. Jane was renowned for her excellent marksmanship, and was said to have been an Army scout, a bullwhacker, a nurse, a cook, a prostitute, a prospector and a gambler. She partnered with Hickok as an outrider for Charlie Utter's wagon train, and that's how she and Hickok ended up in Deadwood. Jane claimed to be Hickok's girl friend. However, Wild Bill had recently married and his letters home from Deadwood indicate that he was a dedicated husband.

Once in Deadwood, Hickok began to frequent the saloons, continuing his long-time habit of playing poker. On August 2, 1876, he was playing cards at Nuttall & Mann's #10 Saloon. Ignoring his cautious habit of sitting with his back to the wall, he had taken a seat that exposed his back to an open door at the rear of the saloon. That's when Jack McCall slipped through the door and fired a shot into the back of Hickok's head.

From Hickok's fingers fell two aces, two eights and another card, a combination that since then has been called "aces and eights" and is considered to be a dead man's hand. McCall claimed that he was seeking revenge for Hickok having killed his brother in Abilene. Later it was determined that McCall had no brothers, and he was convicted of murder and hanged.

 $\label{eq:hickok} \mbox{Hickok was buried in Deadwood's Mount Moriah} \\ \mbox{cemetery, and next to him is Calamity Jane} - \mbox{although that was} \\ \mbox{by her choice, not his.} \\$ 

By 1877, Deadwood was evolving from a primitive mining camp to a community with a sense of order. It had lost its rough and rowdy character, and developed into a prosperous town. The crude tents and shanties that had housed the early miners had given way to wood and brick buildings. Then on September 26, 1879, a fire started at a bakery on Sherman Street and rapidly spread across the business district, destroying more than 300 buildings.

But the community rebuilt itself, and with preventing another fire in mind, the local government enacted laws that permitted only brick and stone for building construction, rather than lumber.

Then, after Thomas Edison demonstrated the incandescent lamp in New Jersey in 1879, Deadwood's Judge Squire P. Romans founded the Pilcher Electric Light Company of Deadwood in 1883. He ordered an Edison dynamo and 15 incandescent lights, and Deadwood had electricity less than four years after the invention, which was around the same time as much larger cities around the country.

In 1891, the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad connected the town to the outside world, and Deadwood gradually evolved from a wild frontier town to a prosperous commercial center. Although the community still focused primarily on its gold mining industry, Deadwood became the place where people traveled in the Black Hills to conduct their business.

Deadwood moved forward into the twentieth century, but the image of the Wild West town lingered. And as the city moved forward, the gambling and prostitution establishments were still considered legitimate businesses. However, the new century brought new beliefs and ideas. The gambling and prostitution came under attack from reformers who also supported the temperance movement that was sweeping the country.

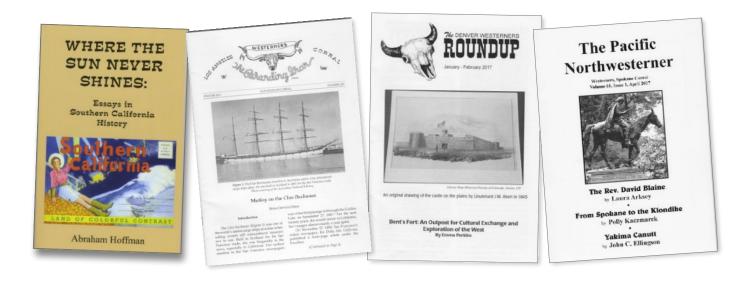
In 1919, the U.S. government passed the Prohibition Act banning the sale of alcohol, and during the Roaring Twenties, gaming became illegal. But with the repeal of the Prohibition Act in 1935, gambling once again flourished in Deadwood until 1947, when it was officially closed. However, prostitution remained a business until the 1950s, when the state's attorney shut down many of the brothels. Still, due to past events and all the individuals responsible for making the town into a legend, in 1964, Deadwood became the only city in the United States to be named a National Historic Landmark.

During the 1980s the question of gaming resurfaced, and in 1986, local business owners agreed to lobby for legalized gaming to create economic development for the community. At the same time, the Deadwood City Commission established the Historic Preservation Commission in 1987 to oversee the restoration of historic sites in the community. When the gaming issue initiative was put on the state ballot, it passed with 64 percent of the vote, and the introduction of gaming has enabled Deadwood to preserve its historic buildings and dramatically increase tourism. What you'll see in Deadwood today is a careful, accurate restoration of a historically significant city.

Deadwood's extensive Victorian architecture is unique to the West. While the gold rush of 1876 brought the likes of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, it also provided the wealth to construct a thriving commercial center in the heart of the Black Hills of South Dakota. Today, the historic old mining town is a full service small community full of historic buildings and sites. And with its tourist attractions, Deadwood is again booming, although on a somewhat quieter scale than when Wild Bill and Calamity Jane were roaming the streets.

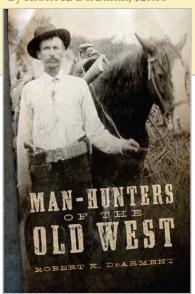
The Buckskin Bulletin is pleased to receive publications from several Corrals across the country. A hearty "thanks" to those who create these booklets and share them with the Home Ranch. We look forward to reading the interesting stories and essays reproduced here. What an excellent way to share history and spread the ways of the west.

Abraham Hoffman, Professor of History at Los Angeles Valley College, put together a collection of essays of Southern California History titled **Where the Sun Never Shines**. The Los Angeles Westerners publishes **The Branding Iron**. The featured story is about the "Mutiny on the Clan Buchanan", by Brain Dervin Dillon. The Denver Westerners prints a quarterly publication titled **The Roundup**. Young Emma Perkins has a essay printed here about "Bents Fort". This essay won the Denver Posse's History Day award. Congratulations to Emma and thanks for sharing your research and this fascinating history. Thanks to the Spokane Corral of Westerners for sending **The Pacific Northwesterner**. There are 3 essays in this issue, the first being by Laura Arksey about the Rev. David Blaine, a Methodist Circuit rider who came to Seattle in 1853 and traveled and preached the back roads of Oregon in the late 1800's.

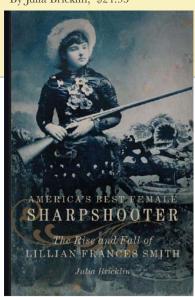


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