

# BUCKSKIN WESTERNERS BULLETIN



## Thomas Nast's classic image of Santa.

Thomas Nast (September 27, 1840 – December 7, 1902) American cartoonist working during the last half of the 19th century. His cartoons were instrumental in the toppling of William Magear Tweed, aka, Boss Tweed of the New York City Tammany Hall machine. Among his notable works were the creation of the modern version of Santa Claus and the image of Uncle Sam. He was also responsible for the political symbols of the two major United States political parties: the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey.



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM THE HOME RANCH  
OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU

## CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Greetings from the Home Ranch! We hope that your holidays will be filled with joy and health, and we hope and pray that you are all keeping safe and well during this pandemic, which has affected so many. Here on the High Plains, we are getting our winter winds in strong force and are looking for the rain and snow that the ground and plants need to thrive next season. Yes, spring will come!

Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer, and I are both working remotely as Canyon, Texas and the campus of West Texas A&M University have had a significant spike in positive tests for the virus. But we're keeping the 'virtual' doors open! We are eager to hear how you are all doing and greatly appreciate the updates, newsletters, and emails that we receive. Please do keep in touch and let us know how your posse or corral is faring these days. There are a few tech-savvy corrals and posses that are meeting virtually, and a couple that have participated in virtual lectures from local museums – and that is always good to hear about. However, I know that it's hard for most of the corrals and posses and only hope that we find suitable medical solutions soon so that Westerners can once again gather for great programs, stories, and presentations. Keep in touch!

Our awards decisions came in this fall. It was later than expected, but trouble with one of the presses that submitted books partly held us up. But I think we have fixed that for next year's cycle and should not experience the same delay next cycle. Look for the list of award winners in this issue of the Buckskin Bulletin! A reminder: awards are given out each fall for work done in the previous calendar year – in this case, for work done in 2019. Congratulations to all of our award winners and hearty thanks to all who submitted entries. We were very surprised here at the Home Ranch; even in the midst of the pandemic, you all sent in entries – and you sent a lot of them! The good part is we were able to witness the fine work you are all doing; the downside is that it made the decisions even more difficult.

Wishing you health and Happy Trails in this Holiday Season –

**Bonney MacDonald**

Chairman, Westerners International



### Short Christmas message from the Home Office:

I was doing some lazy looking around the internet the other day and came across some "cowboy" quotes. I felt that two of them represented the world around us. The first one was attributed to Roy Rogers: "People are always asking me why they don't make Westerns like they used to. The world changed. Hollywood changed. I think we've lost something, and we don't know how to get it back." It made me wonder what Roy would say today. I think maybe he would say the latter part of that quote covers just about everything we are experiencing. With the "pandemic," and the absolute insanity of the election, it feels like we have lost many things we held dear in our lives. For some, that has been the PEOPLE they held most dear. For others, our very freedoms seem to be fading into memory like those old Western movies. As Westerners, our purpose is to keep all things "American West" from riding off into the sunset, never to be seen again. I like to think about what this holiday season might have been like for those in lonely homesteads or sitting around a fire tending cattle on a cold, snowy



day. I imagine the thoughts of those old-timers would be the same as we have today. Memories or imaginations of family, of warmth, of a good hot meal, of plenty, and of want. Maybe even how the world seems to be changing and where we fit in a future that seems unsure. Maybe even if what we are doing now will mean anything a year from now. All in all, I think we need to ponder Roy's words, "...we don't know how to get it back." We might not be able to turn back time and get back all we have lost, but we sure as heck can document and pass down the spirit of all the people it took to settle this great nation and the visions of all the great men who saw the possibilities. To that end, we need to remember a line from one of John Wayne's movies: "Slap some bacon on a biscuit and let's go! We're burning daylight!" Let us not allow the mess around us keep us from researching, writing about, and passing down the wonder of the West. Someday it all might help a new generation figure out how to get it back.

**Merry Christmas**

**Delinda King, Home Ranch, Secretary/Treasurer**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Friday, October 8 & Saturday, October 9, 2021**

Only 11 Months Until (Covid-19 Permitting) Our Fabulous

**Westerners International 3rd Annual Gather!**  
**And**  
**Los Angeles Corral 75th Anniversary!**

**Saddle Up Yer Cayuse, Drowse the Chuckwagon Fire, and Head Down from the Rimrock!**



Photo by Maynard Dixon, Arizona, 1917. Original caption thought to be: *More Beans, Mr. Taggart?*

**Join Us at the Autry Museum, San Fernando Mission, and the Hacienda Turner for Two Days of Educational Entertainment, Music, Dancing, Dining, Drinking, the Biggest Western Book Auction in the U.S. of A., Eskimo Wrestling, Shovel Racing, Hot Rods, Prestidigitation, and the WI Annual Awards Ceremony!**

**Information About How to Sign Up for this Landmark Event (Covid-19 Permitting) To Be Announced in the Next Two *Buckskin Bulletins!***



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS!

## CO-FOUNDERS BEST BOOK AWARD

### *First Place*

Doug Hocking, *Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache*, Two Dot Press, 2019, Cochise Corral

### *Second Place (tie)*

Geraldine Knatz, with Foreword by William F. Deverell, *Port of Lost Angeles: Conflict, Commerce, and the Fight for Control*, Angel City Press and Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, 2019, Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners

### *Second Place (tie)*

Peter H. Hassrick, *The Life and Art of Joseph Henry Sharp*, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, 2019, Awarded posthumously, Pahaska Corral

### *Third Place*

Marian Ann J. Montgomery, *Cotton and Thrift: Feed Sacks and the Fabric of American Households*, Texas Tech University Press, 2019, Llano Estacado Corral

## "COKE" WOOD AWARD FOR HISTORICAL MONOGRAPH OR PUBLISHED ARTICLE

### *First Place*

Elaine Marie Nelson, "Draft by Draft": *The Battle of Sandoz and Her Big Horn Manuscript*," Great Plains Quarterly, Vol 39,, No 2, Univ. Nebraska Press, 2019, Omaha Corral

### *Second Place*

Susan Wefald, "Convincing the Men: North Dakota's Woman Suffrage Campaign, 1912-20," North Dakota History, Vol 84,, No. 2, Winter 2019, Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral

### *Third Place*

Brian Dervin Dillon, "Cowboys of Science Say 'Make Mind Mules,'" The Branding Iron, No 295, Summer 2019, Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners.

## PHILLIP A. DANIELSON AWARD FOR BEST PRESENTATION OR PROGRAM

*(award goes to the hosting corral or posse)*

### *First Place*

Llano Estacado Corral, "Osage Slaughter" presented by David Lanehart

### *Second Place*

Denver Posse, "Major Brisbin's Fort Pease Relief: Humanitarian Action or Commercial Boondoggle," presented by Dennis Hagen

### *Third Place*

Jedediah Smith Corral, "Kit Carson," presented by Uriah Luallin

## HEADS UP AWARD - LARGE CORRAL

Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners

## HEADS UP AWARD - SMALLER CORRAL

The Utah Westerners



## FRED OLDS AWARD FOR COWBOY POETRY

### *First Place*

Abraham Hoffman, "Drifter," Work Horse," "Ode to a Western Outhouse," Los Angeles Corral Keepsake 50, 2019, Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners

### *Second Place*

Gary Turner, "Lonesome Cowboy," "The Deadly Northwind," "The Sourdough's Advice," Los Angeles Corral- Keepsake 50, 2019, Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners



# CORRAL NEWS

## 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.

Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer for the Home Ranch new email update:  
[delinda.king70@gmail.com](mailto:delinda.king70@gmail.com)

The **Northwest Montana Posse** of Westerners (NMPW) is a fairly new (2014) Posse in Westerners, International. Check out their website at:  
<https://northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com>



By the way, there are two older, well established Corrals in Montana; the **Yellowstone Corral** in Billings and the **Last Chance Gulch Corral** in Helena.

### Cochise County Corral News

**Doug Hocking's** history of **The Jicarilla Apache, Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache**, Guilford: TwoDot, 2019, won the Will Roger's Medallion for best history and was awarded Spur Finalist (2nd place) by the Western Writers of America.

In August 2020, the Corral initiated its website publishing its first monthly, electronic newsletter, the Fremont Street Mail, which will be emailed to Ranch Hands and will appear on the website [www.CochiseCountyCorral.org](http://www.CochiseCountyCorral.org).

In September, the Corral's electronic, quarterly journal, **The Border Vidette**, saw its first issue published online. A vidette is a mounted cavalry lookout and the name, **Border Vidette**, preserves the name of a bygone Arizona newspaper. The format is eclectic.

Membership in the **Cochise County Corral** is growing again. Many of our speakers and those whose work has appeared in **The Border Vidette** have asked to join the Corral.



**David Cummins** of the **Lubbock Llano Estacado Corral** shared a photo and update on **Harvey Pratt's**, Warriors Circle of Honor (2020) sculpture at National Native Americans Veterans Memorial on the exterior grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC. **Harvey** (left photo) is a member of the **Indian Territory Posse** in Oklahoma.

The memorial is located on the east side of the National Museum of the American Indian, just off the National Mall and overlooking a freshwater wetland. Designed by **Harvey Pratt** of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, it features a 12-foot-tall stainless steel ring resting on a carved stone drum at the center of a circular seating area. The shape of the circle holds special significance to many Native American cultures, recurring in dance,

storytelling, and prayer. Water for sacred ceremonies flows from the monument, and visitors may leave prayer ties, a symbol of spirituality for Native people, on four vertical lances.

The memorial was designed by Harvey Pratt (left photo) of the Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma and a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran. For more about Harvey, see the Buckskin Bulletin, December 2018.



# more **CORRAL NEWS**



## MORE CORRAL UPDATES

**Bill Loyer**, of the **Cheyenne Corral**, let us know that his corral met in person during September for the first time since March. They had about forty members in attendance for dinner and for a presentation by Dan Lyon, who talked about Boyd Briggs, Wyoming's first Army aviator. Mr. Boyd served honorably in both WWI and WWII as well as in the expedition against Poncho Villa. We're glad to hear your news!

Updates from the **Ft. Worth Corral**: For their October Zoom meeting, member **Ruth Karbach** provided an excellent program on the 100th anniversary of famed tenor, Enrico Caruso, and his 1920 visit to and performance in Fort Worth. The corral also has a great head start on 2021. In January, **Tom Ashmore** will give a program on Horsehead Crossing.

From **Linda Cravens** and members of the **Scottsdale Corral**: Their planned Zoom meeting in November included a presentation by **Jay Mark** on "Tempe Downtown: Lost and Found." **Jay Mark** has had a long association with Tempe's downtown, has worked with museums and historical societies, and has written more than six-hundred "Ferry Tales" columns for the Tempe Republic. For the December meeting, the corral has planned a talk by historian, **Jen Sweeney** on Tempe's parks history.

The **Cochise County Corral** has surely been busy. For those of you who would like to see their Facebook page, here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/CochiseCountyCorral/> The most recent news is that they have just started a newsletter. Please do look this up so you can see all of what the corral is doing and maybe catch a glimpse of some warm, desert landscapes! To learn more, go to [www.cochisecountycorral.org](http://www.cochisecountycorral.org) You can also contact **Doug Hocking** at [dhocking@centurylink.net](mailto:dhocking@centurylink.net) with any questions. In October, **Glenn Minuth** presented on "Who Made the West?," and in November retired NPS Ranger, "**Butch**" **Farabee**, spoke at the historic Schieffelin Hall in Tombstone on "El Camino del Diablo," or the Devil's Highway." This was a historic road that stretched across the western deserts of Arizona, and was the Spanish and Mexican road from Sonora to California. The corral also has a great head start on meetings in 2021. Their January meeting will feature **Hugh Grinnell** talking on his new book, The Father of Glacier National Park (see notice on this publication elsewhere in this Buckskin Bulletin). In February, **George Whitehead** will give a presentation on "Doctors, Medicine, and Quacks in Cochise County"; and, in March, **Jacque Kasper** will talk on Sarah Herring Sorin.

The **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** reported to us in their Newsletter, **Pony Tracks**. In September their program featured an unprecedented glimpse at a little understood chapter in Montana's past - the Chinese pioneers. Chinese laborers helped develop Montana's mineral resources and, as placer mining dwindled, some 17,000 Chinese recruits helped lay the tracks of the Northern Pacific across the Northwest. Other meetings in fall 2020 were postponed due to covid19, but the posse has great programs in the works for 2021. In February, which is Black History Month, they will feature a program on "Vignettes of Valor: African Americans in the Military in Montana." and their meeting for March will be on "Sophie, the Hard-Living, Hard-Bargaining Montana Frontier Woman." Thank you to **Ron Beard** for keeping us posted at the Home Ranch! For more information on the posse, go to <https://northwestmontanaposseofwesterners.wordpress.com/>



Above photo, historic structures at the Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, TX  
Right photo, horse barn from the "6666's Ranch in Guthrie, Texas.

Members of the **Palo Duro Corral**, Amarillo, Texas, toured the **National Ranching Heritage Center** on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas this past August. The NRHC features almost fifty authentic ranch buildings dating from the late 18th to the mid-20th century. These structures include a railroad depot, homesteads, barn, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, windmills and other historic structures. Visitors may view the exhibits through a self-guided walking tour. It is free to the public. For more information see: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc/>



# News From the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners, International



Check out our website:  
<http://www.lawesterners.org>



Branding Iron #299



Branding Iron #300

Our literary friends at the **Los Angeles Corral** have been very busy on the publication front, despite the worst that Covid-19 has hurled at them.

Late last year (2019) **Joseph Cavallo** broke the 15-year dry spell of Brand Book publishing with his *Life, Leisure, and Entertainment in the Old West*, which came out as **Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners Brand Book No. 23**.

Then, this summer (2020) **Brian Dervin Dillon** delivered the second half of the one-two publication punch, with his *Aloha, Amigos! The Richard H. Dillon Memorial Volume*, published as **Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners Brand Book No. 24**.

With the signature series of **Los Angeles Corral** publications now firmly back on track, one new Brand Book should appear each year for at least the next three successive years. In progress are future Brand Books on Cowboy Poetry, Edited by **Gary Turner**, on Los Angeles Biographies, Edited by Paul McClure, and on Pacific Coast Maritime History, Edited by Geraldine Knatz. So the future looks bright indeed for this scholarly series.

Additionally, all earlier Brand Book volumes (1-22) have been digitized through the hard work and dedication of **Joe Cavallo**, and the **Los Angeles Corral** will begin to re-issue them for the very first time as affordable paperback editions, which can be ordered over the Internet. **Paul McClure** has agreed to ramrod this project, and we anticipate the arrival (or, should we say, renaissance?) of Brand Book 1, in paperback, followed shortly by its more recent literary brethren, next year, 2021.

And, despite the closure of all lecture halls, Corral meeting spots, and other Westerners hangouts, three Literary Lions of the **Los Angeles Corral** recently ventured into the hearts and minds of the reading public thanks to the magic of the Internet and to the generosity of one of the most respected literary organizations Way out West, the venerable Book Club of California.

For more than a Century, the Book Club of California has promoted the publication of books, keepsakes, and its own quarterly news-letter, and has been especially supportive of fine-printing efforts and of Western history and historians. The Book Club has always enjoyed a very close relationship with **Westerners International**, with many of its members also proud to belong to the **San Francisco, Los Angeles,** and other **Corrals**.

So we are very pleased to announce, not one, not two, but THREE Zoom Webinar presentations by Los Angeles Corral Authors, just in the month of November, 2020, hosted by the Book Club of California. The first was by Elizabeth Pomeroy, on her recent biography of **Glenn Dawson, Westerners International Living Legend No. 47**; the second by Geraldine Knatz, on her award-winning recent Port of Los Angeles book; and the third and most recent (November 23, 2020) by **Brian Dervin Dillon**, on his **Richard H. Dillon Memorial Volume, Los Angeles Corral Brand Book 24**. Many thanks to Kevin Kosik, Executive Director of the Book Club of California, and to all of the other Book Club members for being such good

Brian Dillon of the Los Angeles Corral announces that the long awaited **Branding Iron**, No. 299 is now available. Cover shown above left. It is the "Detroit Iron" issue, and the longest one yet, at 48 pages. The next issue is the **LA Corral's** landmark 300th Issue. This marks the Corral's 75th year of existence. . . Yippee! Also, all previous Los Angeles Corral Brand Books (Volumes 1-24) published over the past 70+ years, will soon be available as reasonably-priced paperbacks:

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=The+Branding+Iron+of+the+Los+Angeles+Corral&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=The+Branding+Iron+of+the+Los+Angeles+Corral&ref=nb_sb_noss)





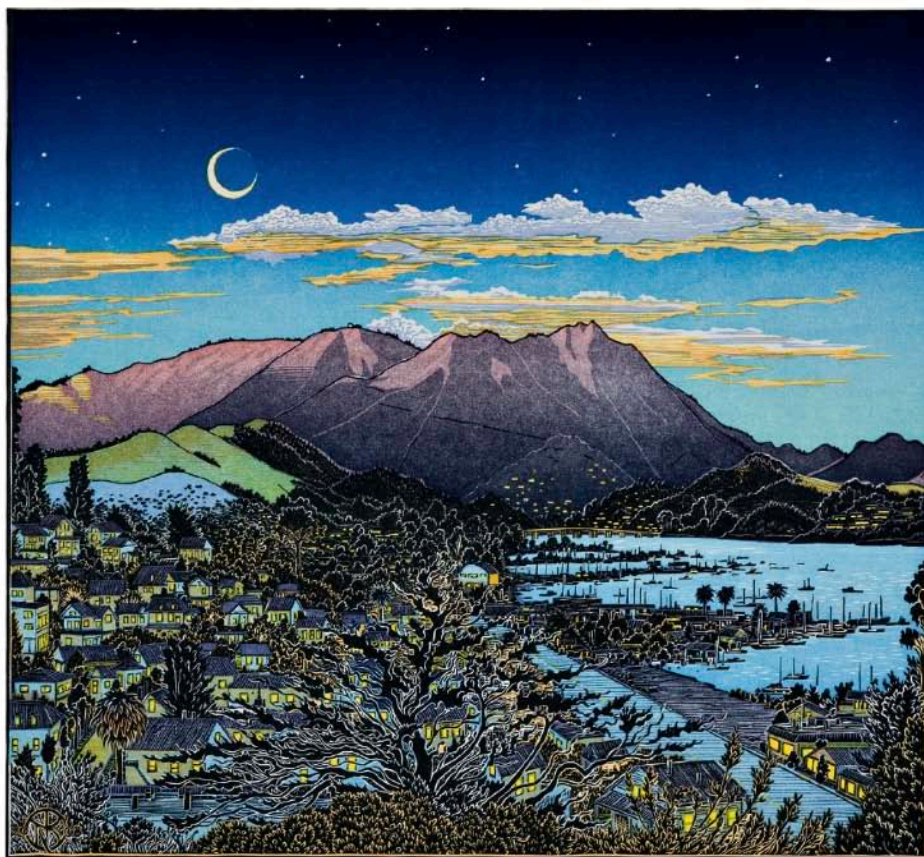
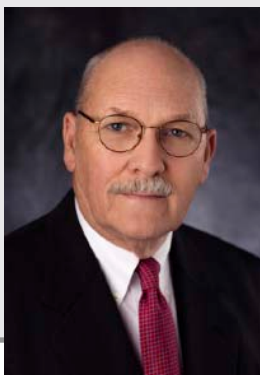
## More News From the Los Angeles Corral

### Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners Brand Book 24

**Greetings** from your **Buckskin Bulletin** editor, Kenneth Pirtle. Many of us are hunkered down with limited activities these days. Some Corrals are Zooming or meeting via some internet technology. Please share your meeting experiences with us at the Home Ranch.

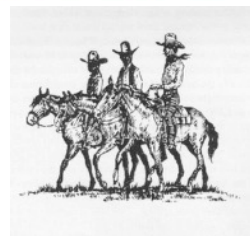
I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "BB" and share with our membership. Please share your **WI** news and activities to me at [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) or the Home Ranch at [westerners@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@mail.wtamu.edu) so I can include it in the upcoming issue.

The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now sent to your Sheriff or Corral representative from the Home Ranch. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses and we ask that you keep your Corral information updated. Hopefully the **Buckskin Bulletin** is getting distributed among your local membership. I would humbly request that you read your "BB" and share it when you have the opportunity. Happy Trails, KP



### Just Published! Order Now!

**Brand Book 24**, edited by Brian Dervin Dillon, is entitled *Aloha, Amigos! The Richard H. Dillon Memorial Volume*. Dick Dillon (1924-2016) was a world-famous western historian, librarian, teacher, and public speaker. He was the author of dozens of prize-winning full-length books, hundreds of articles, and more than a thousand book reviews. A 4<sup>th</sup> generation Californian and WWII WIA combat veteran, Dick Dillon was a member of the Los Angeles and the San Francisco Corrals and became Westerners International Living Legend No. 46 in 2003. *Aloha Amigos* incorporates a biography of RHD, culture-historical studies and paeans by his friends and admirers, and a comprehensive bibliography of his published works. Contributors from four different WI corrals include Will Bagley, Peter Blodgett, John Boessenecker, Matthew Boxt, Phil Brigandi, Robert Chandler, David Dary, James Delgado, Brian Dervin Dillon, Lynn Downey, Abraham Hoffman, Gary Kurutz, Valerie Sherer Mathes, James Shuttleworth, and Francis J. Weber. Foreword by Kevin Starr, cover art by Tommy Killion. Price for Westerners International members is \$25.00, plus \$5.00 for U.S. shipping. Price for all others is \$35.00, plus a \$5.00 shipping charge for U.S. orders. Please make your check out to *Westerners, Los Angeles Corral*, and send your order, with return address, to P.O. Box 1891, San Gabriel, CA, 91778. Need more information? Contact BB 24 Editor Brian D. Dillon [briandervindillon@gmail.com](mailto:briandervindillon@gmail.com).







*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."*

# WINDMILLS

*by Jim Jennings, Palo Duro Corral*



*Tongue River, photo by Jim Jennings*

In 1806, when Zebulon Pike crossed what we now know as part of the High Plains -- on his way to discover Pike's Peak in the Colorado Rockies -- he referred to those endless, flat plains as the Great American Desert. The High Plains actually stretch from South Dakota down through the Texas Panhandle, and Pike wrote in his journal that "these vast plains of the western hemisphere may become in time equally celebrated as the sandy deserts of Africa." In 1823, Major Stephen Long, a government surveyor and the leader of the next official expedition out that direction, produced a map on which he labeled that same area as the Great American Desert. His party's geographer wrote that: "I do not hesitate in giving the opinion, that it is uninhabitable by a people depending upon agriculture for their subsistence. Tracts of fertile land are occasionally to be met with, yet the scarcity of wood and water will prove an insuperable obstacle in the way of settling the country."

The term "desert" at that time didn't have quite the same connotation as it does today. Pike obviously knew it wasn't a desert in today's sense of the word because of the thousands of buffalo he saw as he crossed the plains, and they were doing just fine. But at that time, anything that wasn't

inhabitable by man was a desert, and the lack of available water made the area uninhabitable. Those 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers had no way of knowing that one of the largest lakes of water in the world, the Ogallala Aquifer, lay under a good bit of the High Plains, and it wasn't very deep.

The problem throughout the West was lack of water, especially in the more arid areas where there were no watercourses. Westward expansion tended to follow the natural waterways, the rivers and other streams, but then some homesteader finally put down a hand-dug well and discovered water. He dropped his bucket attached to a long rope into the well and brought it up full of water. That was plenty of water for his household and the milk cow he kept in his barn. But then some rancher, in the mid-1800s, ordered an Eclipse windmill from back east, put it up over his well, and the almost never ending wind pumped water for his cattle, 24 hours a day.

That's probably how it all started, and today one can't drive very far across the High Plains without seeing a windmill. Windmills are literally the lifeblood of the ranching industry throughout much of the West. And although their use as a source of water on the High Plains is relatively new, probably only 150 or so years old, the practice of using wind power to turn machinery, grind grain and pump water is centuries old.

A Greek engineer used a wind-driven wheel to power a machine in the first century, and later, in the ensuing centuries, other windmills were used to grind grain or draw up water in various parts of the world. And, of course, we all remember from when we were in school those pictures of the Dutch windmills that dotted the landscape in Holland. The oldest mill in Holland is a watermill that dates back to the eighth century. Windmills were used there to pump water out of the hundreds of lakes and swamps, and to prevent land from flooding. Then they used the mills to grind the corn they raised on those reclaimed lands.

In this country, windmills have been used for centuries as well. Probably the first windmill in what is now the United States was one that was erected at the Flowerdue Hundred Plantation on the James River near Jamestown, Virginia, in 1621. This mill didn't last very many years, but hundreds of European style windmills followed it, and were in use throughout the colonies in North America.

There were two basic designs for the European-style windmills. There were tower mills, where the four-bladed wheel was mounted on a swiveling

platform that sat on top of a tower. This way the platform could be rotated so that it always faced into the wind. The other most common type of windmill was the post mill, where the whole structure rotated in order for the blades to face the wind.

In the 1850s, many people took an interest in wind power. In that decade, the U.S. Patent Office issued more than 50 patents for windmills and their improvements. But it was a New England mechanic by the name of Daniel Halladay, who, in 1854, invented the first successful self-governing windmill. However, he didn't do it alone. John Burnham, one of Halladay's associates, actually had the idea, but Burnham needed help in designing it. Between the two of them, they came up with a mill that would automatically turn to face the wind and which would govern its own speed so it wouldn't self-destruct.

The new windmill came to be known as the Halladay Standard, and it truly governed itself. A rigid vane worked like a weather vane on top of a barn and kept the wheel facing into the wind. But in light winds, the blades faced the wind at the correct angle so as to get the greatest power possible from the wind. As the wind velocity increased and the wheel spun faster, a centrifugal governor changed the pitch of the blades, which kept the wheel from spinning too fast and tearing itself up. At some point, when the winds were too high, or when an operator turned the mill off, the blades turned to where they were positioned parallel to the wind and they quit turning.

In 1860, in the *Scientific American* magazine, a writer said, "The great want of Texas is sufficient water. There is a million dollars lying waiting for the first man who will bring us a windmill, strong, durable and controllable." He had no idea that the answer to his plea had already been developed by a rural mechanic in New England. But in one way, the writer was correct. Without the windmill, the settlement of the plains and prairies might have really been different.

The Halladay Wind Mill Company, for about the first two years, manufactured and promoted the sales of its new wind machine in New England, where the company was located. But sales in the region never achieved the volume that its makers desired. By 1856, Halladay and Burnham saw a much greater potential



for their product in the Midwest, where there were thousands of farms without running water. Then they discovered another market for their windmills. As the railroads started building west across the continent, they had to have water for their steam engines. An elevated water tank next to a windmill, which kept the tank full at all times, was the typical way the railroad engineer refilled his boiler as he steamed across the plains.

As more and more windmills began to be developed, the main competitor of the Halladay windmill was the Eclipse windmill, which was invented in 1866 by Reverend Leonard H. Wheeler from Wisconsin. After trying several different designs, Wheeler settled on a regulating mechanism that kept the wheel pointed at an optimum angle based on both the wind speed and direction. As we talked about a moment ago, the main design problem for windmills is to capture as much power as possible in light wind, but not be damaged or destroyed by high-speed winds. Wheeler developed a mechanism that pointed the wheel into the wind at low to moderate wind speeds, but turned the wheel to point obliquely to the wind at high speeds.

The Eclipse became one of the most common of all the nineteenth and early twentieth century American windmills. By the 1880s, it was made in a range of sizes from eight and one-half to thirty feet in diameter, and it was popping up on ranches and farms throughout the Midwest and the High Plains. For many years, the Eclipse windmill was the most used windmill on the High Plains, and those mills continued to be manufactured into the 1920s.

One of the most important factors that contributed to the growth of Eclipse production was the use of the mills in pumping water for steam locomotives. The first Eclipse locomotive water stop was erected at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in 1870, and used a 20-foot mill. Within the next 15 years, hundreds of Eclipse water systems were put into use by the railway lines.

It was during the 1880s and 1890s that windmills reached their peak in ranch country. Ranchers started locating wells throughout their ranches so as to reduce the distance cattle had to walk to get a drink. This

prevented weight loss on the cattle, but it also enabled the rancher to make better use of the grass on his ranch – cattle were able to graze the whole ranch rather than just those areas near a windmill.

Through the years, windmill design and manufacture changed tremendously. In the beginning, all windmills had blades of wood and, of course, were on wooden towers. Today, I doubt there are any wooden blades still in use, and very few wooden towers. Between 1854 and 1920, more than 700 companies had manufactured tens of thousands of windmills, but there are only two of those companies left. And most of the windmills from that period have been lost. Those that remain are primarily in the hands of private collectors or in sparse exhibits in general purpose museums. The passing of these windmills means that future generations can only learn about the windmill's history through pictures.

As I write this, the wind is blowing on the High Plains, as it normally does, and thousands of windmills are pumping water from beneath the ground. And it's likely they will continue to do so for a long time to come.



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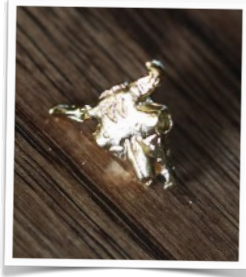
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# Lubbock's First Murder Trial

by Chuck Lanehart

Chuck Lanehart is a member of the Llano Estacado Corral and is an attorney who practices law in Lubbock, Texas. He has researched and written on the history of the west for most of his life.



Attorney for the defense, William H. Bledsoe

[from the Caprock Chronicles, No. 92, October 1, 2017]

In 1892, Lubbock citizens constructed its original county courthouse, located roughly in the same location as the current courthouse.

The small wood-frame structure hosted little litigation until the arrival of the railroad in 1909, when Lubbock became a boom town, and was incorporated as

a city. With the surge of activity, trouble follow, and the courthouse soon saw action.

In 1909, Lubbock elected its first mayor, Frank E. Wheelock—a founding father of Lubbock County. Wheelock took his job seriously, insisting on strict law and order, instructing a city marshal to “shoot the belly off the first man that bothers you.”

(continued next page)



*Jurors and trial officials for the William Taylor murder Trial*

Another man under Wheelock's charge was William E. Taylor, destined to be the first person tried for murder in Lubbock.

On October 24, 1912, the weekly Lubbock *Avalanche* recounted sparse details of a shooting. Feed store operator J. J. Reynolds and railroad grading contractor Tom Collins were shot dead by three pistol shots the previous Saturday evening at the Blue Front Restaurant. The city's night watchman, Taylor, was arrested at the scene and released on bail.

"The *Avalanche* does not deem it wise at this time to give the particulars of the sad affair as no trial has been had to date and it would not be best to give out the particulars now," the newspaper reported. "The affair is greatly regretted by everyone, and very little is being said about it one way or another."

But District Attorney J. E. Vickers knew the killings were the talk of the town. He was eager to win the first murder case to be tried in Lubbock County's new 72nd District Court, created a year earlier. He quickly impaneled a grand jury.

Vickers's star eye-witness, "Big Ben" Borger, told grand jurors the victims were unarmed and were felled by Taylor because they laughed at the deputy marshal and would not be quiet. Collins bragged he could take Taylor's gun, Borger testified.

Two murder indictments were handed down against Taylor. The Collins case was scheduled for trial first.

Vickers prepared zealously, outlining compelling evidence. A miniature model of the Blue Front Restaurant—indicating locations of bodies and stray bullet holes—was constructed. Statements were reduced to typewritten memos. At least 25 State's witnesses were prepared to testify against Taylor.

Taylor's lawyer was William H. Bledsoe, who arrived in Lubbock in 1908, as had Vickers. Bledsoe argued self-defense, noting "J. J. 'Jug' Reynolds had been arrested some 10 or 12 times and had numerous fights . . . 'Poker Tom' Collins had beaten the Negro to death . . . Collins hit this town on the warpath . . . Collins was drunk by 6 o'clock."

Twelve defense witnesses were subpoenaed, including influential names: Mayor Wheelock, Lubbock County Sheriff W. H. Flynn, Coleman County Sheriff W. L. Fritch.

The strength of the defense case did not escape Vickers. He scrambled to overcome Bledsoe's legal obstacles.

State vs. Taylor was tried in the creaky old Lubbock County Courthouse in early December of 1912. Judge W. R. Spencer oversaw 108 prospective jurors and more than a week of trial proceedings.

The *Avalanche* in subtle fashion reported the verdict in the first murder trial in Lubbock's first District Court on December 13: "The trial of William E. Taylor for the killing of Thomas M. Collins in the Blue Front Restaurant in this City on the 19th day of October, which consumed last week, was given to the jury late Saturday afternoon. The jury after about three hours of deliberations, made known their desire to return a verdict, which was 'Not Guilty.'"

The report continued, "This was one of the most interesting cases which has been tried in Lubbock in many days and the Court Room was crowded at each session of Court, there being many women in attendance."

After a change of venue, Taylor was to stand trial in Lynn County for the murder of J. J. Reynolds. When the prosecution appeared without witnesses, the remaining indictment against Taylor was dismissed, on September 3, 1913.

Taylor was never involved in law enforcement again. He farmed in the Lubbock area until his death in the 1961.

Within three years, Lubbock's aging wood courthouse was replaced by a beautiful new stone structure.

Bledsoe was elected State Senator, championing the 1923 legislation that created Texas Technological College. He was a founding partner in the law firm now known as Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam.

Despite the pair of bitter defeats, Vickers established himself as a prominent trial lawyer and later as District Judge. He is remembered for advising young attorneys: "If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If both law and facts are against you, jump on the opposing lawyer."

Law practice has thus changed little in the past century.



*James E. Vickers, Lubbock District Attorney  
Provided by Southwest Collection*





# BOOK NEWS *OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS*

## **Silverbelly: The Adventures of Wilder Good #6 Paperback**

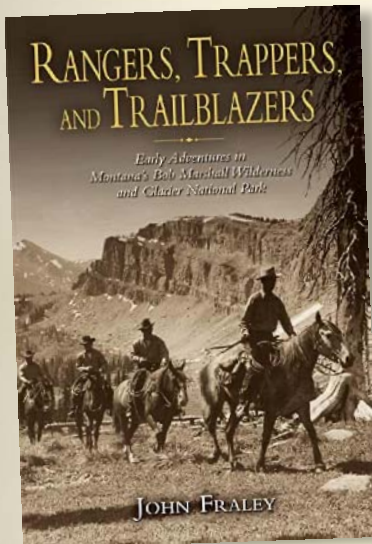
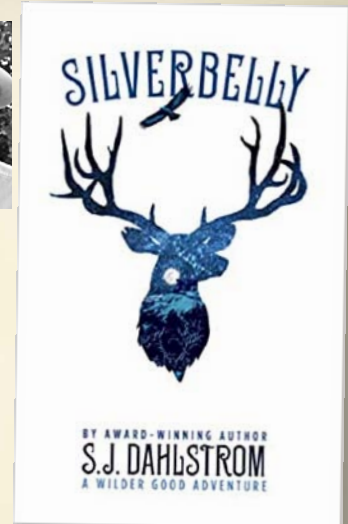
author **S.J. Dahlstrom** (Lubbock, TX Corral)



"What if everything you thought about deer hunting was wrong? That the biggest deer wasn't always the best one.

Wilder is back on his grandad's ranch in West Texas and a run-in with his dangerous neighbor, Saul, spins Wilder's head like the blizzard that hits the ranch the day before Thanksgiving. Along with his sister, Molly, Wilder must rethink his ideas about what a trophy is, and how he relates to the wild landscape around him."

<https://www.amazon.com/Silverbelly-Adventures-Wilder-Good-6/dp/1589881435>



## **Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers -Early Adventures in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park**

by **John Fraley** (Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners)

published by Farcountry Press

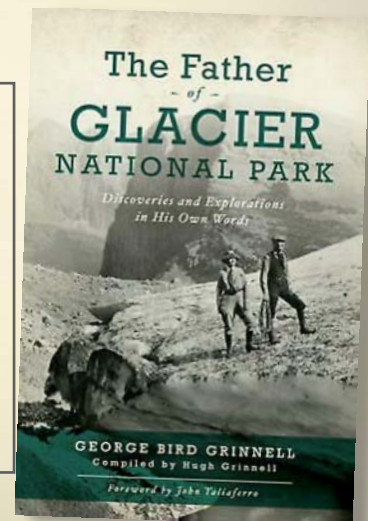
The North, Middle, and South Forks of the Flathead River drain some of the wildest country in Montana, including Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. In *Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers*, John Fraley recounts the true adventures of people who earned their living among the mountains and along the cold, clear rivers in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

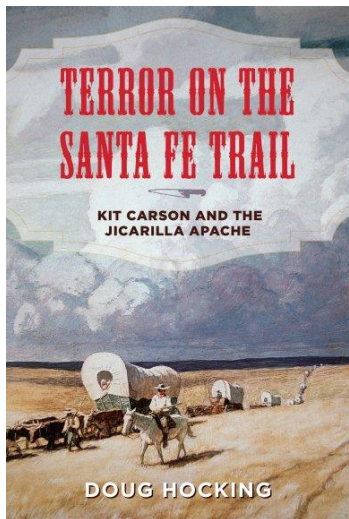
available at: <https://www.farcountrypress.com/details.php?id=841>

## **The Father of Glacier National Park by George Bird Grinnell**

This book is essentially a first-person narrative – George Bird Grinnell's own words -- of the activities undertaken prior to the creation of the Park. The last 30% of the book details efforts by the Great Northern Railway to construct hotels and chalets, roads and trails, and to introduce saddlehorses and passenger buses for use by the tourists expected to arrive in the Park via the Great Northern passenger trains.

Contact Hugh Grinnell directly ([grinnell797@gmail.com](mailto:grinnell797@gmail.com)) to obtain information about how to obtain a personally dedicated and autographed copy of his book.





*Between 1846 and 1855, the US Army  
"Pounded the Jicarilla to the dust"*



## Terror on the Santa Fe Trail

*Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache*

By Doug Hocking

People often overlook the Jicarilla Apache. Plains Apache who lived in tepees, they dwelt in the mountains of New Mexico on both sides of the Rio Grande north of Santa Fe and on the Llano Estacado, the Staked Plains. Their home was along both the Mountain Branch and Cimarron Cut-off of the Santa Fe Trail. The Jicarilla were in a position to close the trail and sever New Mexico's lifeline to the United States and this struck terror in the hearts of traders, soldiers, and the American administration.

On three occasions the Jicarilla closed the trail. In 1847, they declared war on the United States but the country was in such confusion over the War with Mexico that hardly anyone noticed until 1849. Hard fighting in 1850 brought them to a one-sided peace treaty in which they gave up everything and got nothing in return. Even this the US Senate would not ratify. Nonetheless the Apache kept their side of the peace until 1854.

That year a territorial governor decided he could promote his career by blaming the war he created on his predecessor and then taking credit for defeating the Jicarilla and making a peace treaty. War didn't come the way he expected until a vainglorious lieutenant attacked a peaceful camp and the Indians defended themselves inflicting casualties of 22 dead and 36 wounded while losing only two of their warriors. It was the worst defeat the Army in the West had suffered up to that time. The governor got his war.

Through this all, Kit Carson was a cautious neighbor, a fearsome foe, a scout and guide to the Army, Indian Agent, and advocate for the Apache, and finally a warrior who fought at their side against Kiowa and Comanche.

Beaten, the Jicarilla succeeded in shaping their own destiny. Although, in 1887, they were the last tribe granted a reservation, it was land that they chose.

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**Doug Hocking** has won a Spur Award from Western Writers of America, a Co-founders Award, and a Danielson Award from Westerners International. He has completed advanced studies in American History, Historical Archaeology, and Social Anthropology.

*The author is available for interviews, signings, and media engagements.*

Please direct inquiries to Doug Hocking: [doug@doughocking.com](mailto:doug@doughocking.com)

[doug@doughocking.com](mailto:doug@doughocking.com)