

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Volume LV - issue 1 - March 2022

## Will James cowboy, writer, artist

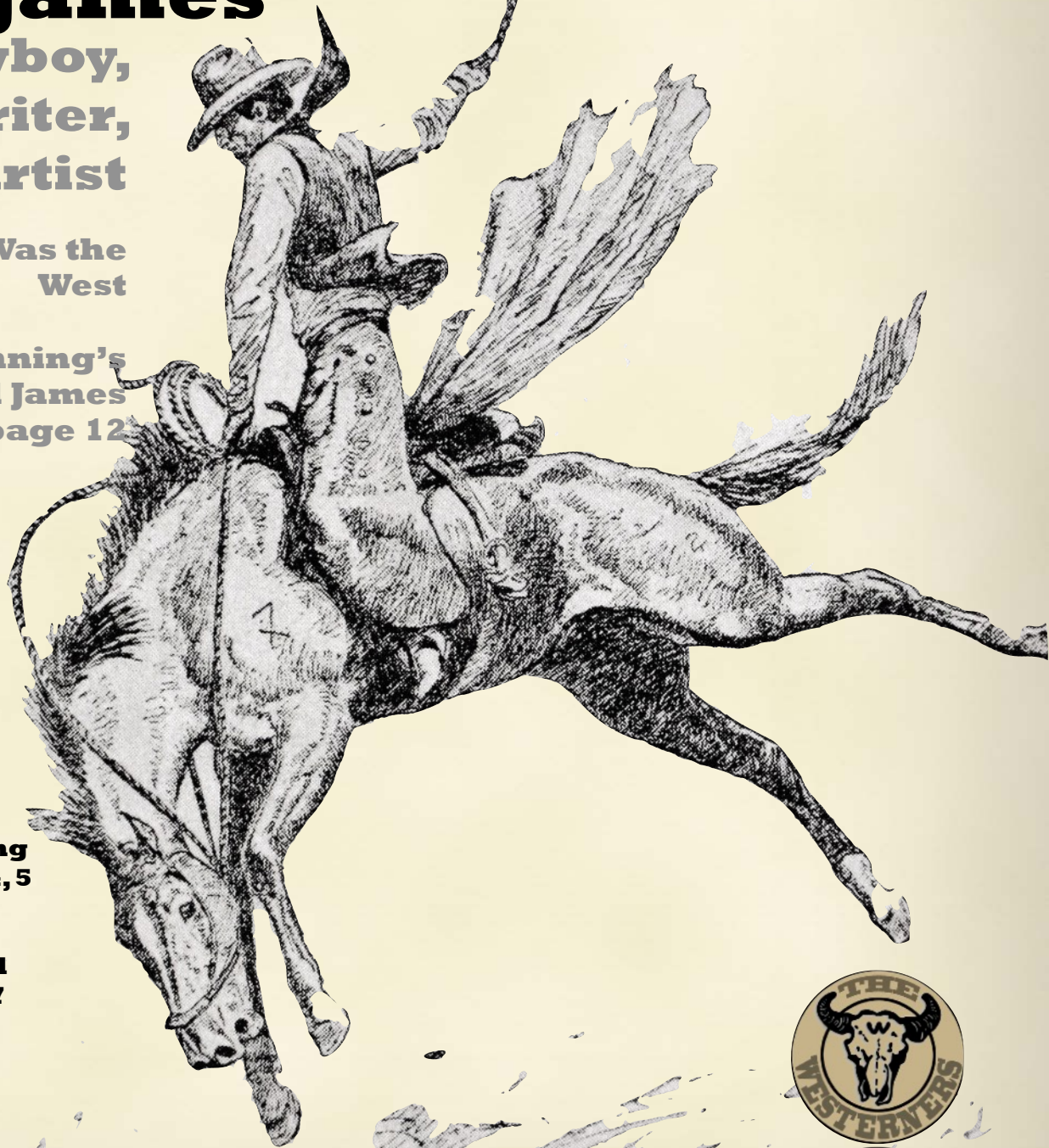
March 2022

His True Love Was the  
West

see Jim Jennings's  
story on Will James  
on page 12

Westerners  
International  
honors our "Living  
Legends" page 4, 5

"The Iroquois  
People" by David  
Cummins page 7







WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU

**THE HOME RANCH HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER**

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

**806-654-6920**  
or email:  
**westerners.king@gmail.com**

**CHAIRMAN'S GREETING**

Greetings from the Home Ranch! It has been another difficult year with the pandemic and I dearly hope that you and your loved ones have been able to stay safe and healthy. I hope, too, that each of us sees spring coming around the bend (those of you in more southern locales are probably already feeling the coming season's glories).

Delinda King, Secretary/Treasurer, and I continue to work remotely, and Delinda goes into the office regularly for mail and regular business. As was the case last year, we've heard from a lot of sheriffs and reps about the challenges of the year and know that many of you haven't gathered for programs for one or even two years. Some corrals and posses have put Zoom programs together and have even expanded their membership. However, for the less tech-savvy or for those who have not chosen that route, we're hoping that in-person meetings will start when it's safe for all concerned. Thanks to many of you for keeping us posted!

As you'll know, the awards season is upon us. Packets with dues info (with varying options for struggling corrals this year, just like last year), contact info sheets, and awards entry forms were sent to all corrals and posses in early February. The dues deadline is April 1 and the award entries deadline is April 15, so please do send us any material you've been working on. The address is on the forms, and you'll have everything you need to send us materials through the mail.

Because corrals and posses often elect officers in January, and also because many corrals and posses have not met over the last year or even two, the Home Ranch may not have your up-to-date contact information for officers. Please be sure and mail back your forms so we can continue to be in touch in 2023! As a backup, I have emailed those dues and awards forms to the sheriffs and reps that I have on file. They can print them and send them in, if need be. We want to cover all bases!

Finally, as you'll see on the website, **we have a new phone number**. So if you want to call the Home Ranch, please use this number: **806-654-6920**.

Happy Spring and Happy Trails!

**Bonney MacDonald**  
Chairman, Westerners International



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## **REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS AND MEMBERS!**

**Sheriffs:** Please remember to forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to all of your corral or posse members. And please keep us up to date on your contact information – we want to stay in touch and we always appreciate all of your updates, newsletters, and publications!

**All Members:** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to you! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The *Buckskin Bulletin* comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can email it to their posse or corral members. The current *Bulletin* is also always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the *Buckskin Bulletin* link.



## **2022 DUES and CONTACT INFO SHEETS**

COVID has hit corrals and posses hard this year. At the Home Ranch we want to do all we can to support and encourage corrals and posses. Many sheriffs report that their groups haven't met since last March or even the year before. As a result, it's just hard to come up with dues at this point. We understand!

As was the case last year, and as sheriffs and reps will know from the letter in the dues/contact info/awards packets (sent to all corrals and posses in February), 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 you're 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 safe, get back to meeting in person or on Zoom when it's safe to do so, 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 to the address indicated on the form. We need that information so we can send the Bulletin to the right place, and have email and mailing information for your officers. Thank you!!



## **WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL'S LIVING LEGEND AWARD**

Westerners International has a method for honoring those in our current membership who have gone beyond normal participation. One Living Legend honor is bestowed annually. If your Corral or Posse has an extraordinary individual worthy of this once-a-year award, please consider nominating them for WI consideration. Check out on the following pages with the impressive list of past Living Legend recipients and review the criteria for review and consideration. The Westerners International Home Ranch would love to recognize and honor the best among us.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE NEXT TWO PAGES.**





## WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL LIVING LEGEND NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Within your Corral or Posse may be individuals who stand out as uniquely productive members. These people might have published many significant books, monographs, or articles on Western history or delivered many outstanding presentations on Western historical topics. Alternatively, they may have supported Westerners International over many years or decades in other ways: starting new Corrals or Posses, or saving them from dwindling membership and oblivion. They may have solved problems of long-standing, or come up with innovative ideas for expanding membership or improving W.I. outreach and cooperation with sister organizations dedicated to Western history. Or, they may have contributed in significant ways to the protection and preservation of sites, archives, institutions, or organizations important to Western history.

If you think that one of your members is deserving of Westerners International's highest honor, then please consider nominating him or her as a Living Legend.

### Requirements:

- 1: The candidate must be living. Sorry, no post-mortem nominations can be accepted.
- 2: Only one candidate may be nominated per calendar year by each Corral or Posse.
- 3: The candidate must be approved by the Trail Bosses of the Corral or Posse.
- 4: If your Corral or Posse contains Living Legends, solicit their advice on candidates.
- 5: The candidate must have been a member of his or her Corral or Posse for at least ten years.
- 6: The candidate must have served as the Sheriff of his or her Corral or Posse for at least a year.

**The Nomination:** The candidate must agree to the nomination, then be interviewed any way (face to face, by telephone, etc.) he or she prefers. A brief biography detailing the candidate's contributions to Westerners International and to the study and dissemination of Western American history, based upon the interview and information supplied by the candidate, must then be prepared. This biographical sketch must be approved by the candidate. In its final form it becomes the nomination.

Please send the biographical sketch/nomination and a photograph supplied by the candidate to the Home Ranch either as a printed letter, or as an Email attachment, before April 15 of the calendar year for which he or she is nominated.



## WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL LIVING LEGENDS

For more than fifty years outstanding members of Westerners International have been singled out for recognition by their peers. Individuals who have contributed to WI through long service, leadership, recruitment, publication, lecturing, problem-solving and in other ways both in the United States and abroad have been honored as Living Legends. Each was nominated by his or her fellow WI members of their own corral or posse, and each nomination was approved by the WI Home Ranch prior to conferral of the honorific. The list of all Westerners International Living Legends, in chronological order, follows:

No.	Year	Name	Corral or Posse Affiliation(s)
66	2019	Robert A. Clark	Los Angeles, Huntington, Spokane, and Cross Timbers
65	2018	Harvey Pratt	Indiana Territory
64	2018	Robert J. Chandler	Los Angeles and San Francisco
63	2018	Jerome R. Selmer	Los Angeles
62	2017	Gary D. Turner	Los Angeles
61	2016	Abraham Hoffman	Los Angeles
60	2016	Francis J. Weber	Los Angeles
59	2015	Burnis Argo	Chisholm Trail
58	2014	Ester J. Murray	Pahaska
57	2013	Fred Egloff	Chicago and Southwest Vaqueros
56	2011	Bob Ihssen	San Dimas
55	2011	John Creech	San Dimas
54	2010	Vern Erickson	Fort Abraham Lincoln
53	2010	John W. Robinson	Los Angeles and San Dimas
52	2010	Edward J. Fraughton	Utah
51	2009	Watson Parker	Black Hills
50	2009	John Ellingson	Spokane
49	2007	Bruce Fee	Prescott
48	2003	William G. Bell	Potomac
47	2003	Glen Dawson	Los Angeles
46	2003	Richard H. Dillon	Los Angeles and San Francisco
45	2002	Joe S. Sando	Albuquerque
44	2002	Alvin G. Davis	Llano Estacado
43	2001	Robert J. Utley	Yale
42	2001	John Marohn	Tucson
41	2001	Albert W. Bork	Prescott
40	1999	David Dary	Kaw Valley
39	1999	Randall Johnson	Spokane
38	1998	Wallace E. Clayton	Tucson
37	1998	John Willard	Yellowstone
36	1998	José Cisneros	El Paso
35	1997	Ormy Gumfudgin	Los Angeles
34	1997	Al Shumate	San Francisco
33	1994	Jim Murphy	Tucson
32	1993	Bob Lee	Black Hills
31	1992	Merrill J. Mattes	Chicago, Denver, Omaha and San Francisco
30	1991	Harrison Doyle	San Diego
29	1989	Jeff Dykes	Potomac
28	1988	Otis H. Chidester	Tucson
27	1985	Leland D. Case	Tucson, Stockton and Chicago
26	1984	Donald R. Ornduff	Kansas City
25	1983	Dick Dunlop	Chicago
24	1983	C.L. Sonnichsen	El Paso and Tucson
23	1982	Harry Blair	Black Hills
22	1981	Peter J. Powell	Chicago
21	1981	Harold Shunk	Black Hills
20	1980	Donald E. Worcester	Fort Worth
19	1980	Ernest L. Reedstrom	Chicago
18	1979	Gerald F. MacMullen	San Diego
17	1979	John R. Bethke	Chicago
16	1978	Jerome Peltier	Spokane
15	1978	Charlie Evans	Buffalo Bill
14	1978	George Virgines	Chicago
13	1977	Joseph Rosa	English Westerners
12	1975	Nellie S. Yost	Buffalo Bill
11	1975	Richard Coke Wood	Stockton
10	1974	Iron Eyes Cody	Los Angeles
9	1974	Frank Thomson	Black Hills
8	1974	Fred Hackett	Chicago
7	1973	John F. McDermott	St. Louis
6	1973	Nolie Mumey	Denver
5	1972	Don Russell	Chicago
4	1972	George B. Eckhardt	Tucson
3	1971	Peter Decker	New York
2	1971	Arthur Woodward	Los Angeles
1	1970	John G. Neihardt	Chicago



### THIS YEAR'S AWARDS CYCLE

**Awards entry forms** were sent out in February, along with the dues and contact info sheets. These can also be downloaded from the WI website. All award entries are due by **April 15, 2022**. 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 few and far between. 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!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



# September 15-17, 2022

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

Hosted by the:  
**Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners**  
 with support of the **Denver Posse**



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

- ◆ Meet & Greet reception
- ◆ Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
- ◆ Silent auction view / bid
- ◆ Field trip to local sites
- ◆ Banquet and Keynote Speaker
- ◆ Historical themed lectures in CSPM Grand Court Room
- ◆ Westerners Int'l award presentations
- ◆ Western dinner with live music and entertainment

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



Extend your stay and enjoy local attractions



**Stay tuned for more details and pricing**

Contact info: Bob DeWitt, Conference Chair  
**posse@dewittenterprises.com** or call (719) 473-0330

Doc: 2022 Conference Flyer Rev: 220222 V1



# 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!

**Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners** -Meets the third Monday of every month except December and January in the Community Room of the Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC) in Evergreen, Montana. Posse meetings include a Grab 'n' Greet and book signing session prior to the evening program. See the Posse website [NorthwestMontanaPosseofWesterners.wordpress.com](http://NorthwestMontanaPosseofWesterners.wordpress.com) for availability of meals, menu, and time. Direct any questions to Posse "Rep" Ron Beard, P.O. Box 10811, Kalispell, MT 59904; (406) 210-2311; ron.nmpw@gmx.com

## "Hank The Cowdog author speaks to the Llano Estacado Corral

from Ken Pirtle, your Buckskin Bulletin Inkslinger

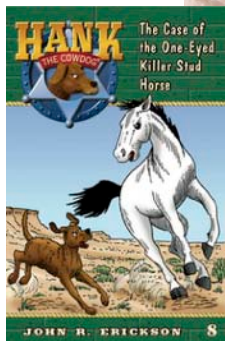
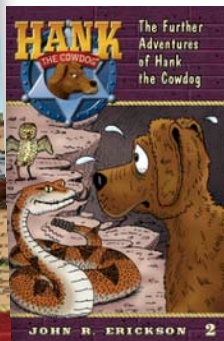
I was honored to get an invitation to attend the annual **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, January 29th. Thank you for inviting me **Sheriff Sara McKee**. The meal was excellent, the fellowship outstanding and the program even better. The noted author of the popular "**Hank The Cowdog**" series, John Erickson was the speaker. John did a wonderful job. He has written and published 75 books and more than 600 articles, and is best known as the author of the "**Hank the Cowdog**" series of books, audio-books, and stage plays. His stories have won a number of awards, including the Audie, Oppenheimer, Wrangler, and Lamplighter Awards, and have been translated into Spanish, Danish, Farsi, and Chinese. The **Hank the Cowdog** series began as a self-publishing venture in his garage in 1982 and has endured to become one of the nation's most popular series for children and families. Through the eyes of Hank, a smelly, smart-aleck head of ranch security, Erickson gives readers a glimpse of daily life on a ranch in the West Texas Panhandle. USA Today calls the series "the best family entertainment in years".



The Llano Estacado Corral's annual dinner participants enjoy hearing from noted author John Erickson, creator of "**Hank the Cowdog**" series. Far left; Nathan Dahlstrom, creator of the "Wilder Good Adventure Series" introduced Mr. Erickson.



Left: Award winner author, in his own right and **Llano Estacado Corral** member **Nathan Dahlstrom**, author of the "Wilder Good Adventure Series" books, introduced Mr. Erickson.





more

# CORRAL NEWS



To All Sheriffs:

We would love to feature the links and website addresses to the newsletters, bulletins, and websites that you produce. We want other Westerners to know what you are up to in your posses and corrals, and want to spread the good word. Please email us at the Home Ranch at [westerners@pphm.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@pphm.wtamu.edu) so we can feature your publications and news! Just send us your links and we'll publish them in each *Buckskin Bulletin* for your fellow Westerners to enjoy!

## Correction

In the last Buckskin Bulletin, we reported that "Ken McEwan" had delivered a program for the Prescott Corral on "The Romance of Western Art." The program was, in fact, delivered by Neal McEwen of the Phippen Art Museum. Thank you, AJ Sheridan, for letting us know.

## CORRAL AND POSSE HIGHLIGHTS

**Ft. Worth Corral's** December Zoom program was presented by Fort Worth Westerners Sheriff **Bob Saul**. Program title was "The Saga of Quanah Parker and Star House."

The Corral also informed the Home Ranch of a presentation from the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the Fort Worth Public Library. The program was from **Windy Goodloe** on Black Seminoles and the Seminole Indian Scouts.

Fort Worth's February Zoom WI program was presented by Fort Worth Westerners member, **David Beyreis**, and was titled "Blood in the Borderlands Part II: Conflict, Kinship, and the Bent Family, 1829-1849."

**Doug Hocking**, **Cochise County Corral**, reported that their December program was delivered by **Bill Cavaliere**, who spoke on "The Chiricahua Apaches and the Southern Emigrant Trails." The January program, from **Gil Storms**, was on "Raphael Pumbelly and the Apaches." The program included dinner at the Longhorn Restaurant. The Corral's February program featured **Butch Farabee** speaking on "El Camino Diablo" – the "Devil's Highway" that runs through southwestern Arizona. The March program will have **David Grasse** speaking on "Chacon: Arizona's Most Notorious Outlaw," with the speaker available to sign copies of his Western books. The Corral further reported that their Highway 80 Tour to St. David, Benson, and Mescal was a big success in 2021, and they are considering touring Mescal again in 2022. See the Corral's website at [www.CochiseCountyCorral.org](http://www.CochiseCountyCorral.org) for their Fremont Street Bulletin and their quarterly publication, **Border Vidette**.

**Scottsdale Corral**: Thanks to **Linda Cravens**, who does a great job of keeping in touch with the **Home Ranch**; and we were interested to hear about their January program where members viewed the PBS documentary, "Arizona's Dust Bowl: Lessons Lost." The Corral's February program was presented by **Jared Smith** and was on "Ghost Town, Colorado." Their Maricopa Side Trails often includes updates on membership and new programs, as well as local museum gems.



**The Pikes Peak Posse in Colorado Springs** – host of our 2022 Gather!! – had an intriguing December program entitled "Santa Claus and Norad." Their **Pikes Peak Inkspot**, the posse's newsletter, reported that their January program was from **Brad Bowers**, a history professor at Pueblo Community College. He spoke on the topic of his recent book about the Colorado-Kansas Railway. Their February program was from **Pat Musick**, who spoke on the controversy over Ward Lockwood's 1936 Theater and Cinema Murals. Thanks to **Bob DeWitt** and all the Posse members for keeping us up to date and for working on the Fall 2022 WI Gather in Colorado Springs!

**Ron Beard**, long-time sheriff of the **Northwest Montana Posse of Westerners**, in Kalispell, MT, wrote the Home Ranch to say he was moving to Maryland to be with his family and would be stepping down as sheriff. However, we were relieved when he reported that he would remain as Deputy Sheriff for Programs and would be taking part in all Zoom programming. We wish you the best out East, Ron! The **NMPW's** February program was presented by **Kyle Stetler** and was entitled "Preserving Our Historic Forest Fire Lookouts." Their planned March program will be delivered by Posse member, **Jeff Gruber**, and will be entitled "The History of Libby Dam."



# in memory

of our Westerner Friends

## A Tribute to Mary Marvel

1940 - 2021



Photo by Jim Argo

Mary Marvel, our former WI Home Ranch treasurer, passed away last December. Often a person reveals their true worth and high achievements only after their passing. Mary Marvel presented a quiet dignity with a soft tenor to her voice. She could work hard and tell funny tales at the same time. Her crowning achievement for **Westerners International** was her two decades serving as treasurer at the **Home Ranch** in Oklahoma City. At first Mary was assistant treasurer for an ailing John Marshall, but in truth, she was *The Treasurer*. In 2010, Mary officially assumed her overdue title as "WI Treasurer". She never asked for any recognition. Mary was a one of a kind—quiet, efficient, and tolerant. Mary and her good friend Burnis Argo taught their chairman how to be a more effective leader with good advice, a lot of help, and a boatload of patience. It was a time when the Home Ranch was going through a serious assessment of revenue shortfalls and high costs. With the added assistance from office manager Burnis Argo, Mary worked tirelessly to research and recommend ways to attack the problem. The effort speaks for itself. The Home Ranch budget eventually went in the green and WI was able to put money aside for a rainy day. Mary Marvel was part of a great team effort, including many outside of the office staff.

In Mary Marvel's life, **Westerners International** was only the tip of the iceberg. Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she grew to adulthood, Mary began her career as a legal secretary in her hometown. Later moving to Oklahoma City, she became executive secretary to the director of the Oklahoma Department of Economic and Community Affairs and in 1996 retired as Human Resource manager for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. During her career the Mistletoe Chapter of the American Business Women's Association honored Mary as "Woman of the Year."

In retirement Mary devoted her remaining years to volunteering for the **Westerners International** Home Ranch, serving on the WI Executive Board. Mary and her husband Fred have been members of the WI Chisholm Trail Corral in Oklahoma City for 25 years. Fred still serves as corral treasurer. The Marvels were a team. One seldom saw the two apart.

As a professional photographer's wife, Mary accompanied Fred on many interesting vacations throughout their marriage. There was always a story she delightfully told to the Home Ranch staff of these adventures with her husband and friends—and strangers they met along the way—all the while working away at balancing the books.

She leaves behind her husband Fred, a step-son, and two grandsons. Mary Marvel was a true and devoted Westerner and worthy of high praise for a job well done.

## Glenda L. Bell

March 1, 1938 - Feb. 9, 2021



Glenda Louise Wirt Bell, 82, died on Feb. 9, 2021, at home in Fort Collins, Colorado. Glenda was born to Virginia and Louis (Bud) Wirt, in Leavenworth, Kansas, on March 1, 1938. She was preceded in death by her parents and her life companion of 25 years, Barbara Fisher.

A graduate of West Georgia College and the University of Wyoming, Glenda taught English and geography in New Mexico and Billings, Montana, before becoming a school librarian.

In 1988, she retired from public education and launched a second career as a professional speaker. Joined by her companion, Barbara Fisher, the two entertained for 17 years as Calamity Jane and "BarbWire." In conducting research on Martha Jane Canary (Calamity Jane), Glenda became one of the nation's experts on the famous Old West personality.

Glenda loved to fish, hunt, gather rocks, watch birds and wildlife, garden and explore what was beyond the next hill. Although greatly appreciating Colorado's medical community and its services to treat her rare autoimmune condition, scleroderma, her heart was always in Wyoming.

She leaves behind one half-sister and five half-brothers, two nieces, three nephews, cousins, Barbara Fisher's loving family, and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Yellowstone National Park.

shared by the **Fort Collins Westerners**

## James "Big Jim" Griffith 1935 - 2021 member of the Adobe Corral in Tucson



James "Big Jim" Griffith was born in California in 1935 and moved to Tucson in the late 1950s to study anthropology at the University of Arizona, where began his lifelong love affair with the region. He spent the next sixty years passionately learning, discovering and sharing, enthusiastically helping others respect and appreciate the art and cultures of his adopted home. In 1974, Jim launched the idea of a regional folk arts festival as a showcase for the rich diversity of Tucson's folk and ethnic communities. Leaning on friends and family Jim put together Tucson Meet Yourself. As the festival has grown and blossomed, it has succeeded in validating so many folk traditions--making it easy for people to be proud of who they are. In addition, Jim continued to teach and to express his own creativity in his music and his many books and articles. Jim was a loyal citizen of Tucson and died peacefully at home on December 18, 2021. He will be missed by family, friends, and by his fellow Westerners.

The Home Ranch received a generous memorial gift from the **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, TX. in memory of the following members:

**Bob Carr Emerson Tucker Wallace McKee**



# The Iroquois People



**David Cummins, Llano Estacado Corral, Lubbock, Texas**

Who were the Iroquois people, the Native Americans in northeastern United States and eastern Canada when colonists and later new citizens of United States interacted with them? They did not know themselves by that name. Their enemy the Huron nation [another collection of tribes] called them "iroquo" that means "rattlesnake" in Huron language. It was the French in lower Canada who added the "ois" to "iroquo" to yield Iroquois. French and British Canadians referred to the Iroquois as a league of nations while American colonists and later U.S. citizens referred to the Iroquois as a confederation of nations. The Iroquois Confederacy included five nations [collection of tribes with common or connected languages, dialects and customs] Seneca, Oneida, Onandaga, Mohawk and Cayuga. In the early 18th century 1722 the Tuscarora from the North Carolina area joined the confederacy.

Benjamin Franklin was appointed by a British governor as envoy to the Iroquois. He learned the legend of the Peacemaker Hiawatha of centuries earlier. He learned of matri-lineal clans and head mothers who chose and had the power to remove male chiefs. Women held the property of the nuclear family and controlled it. He learned about small longhouse councils passing on their decisions to larger councils where chiefs of more nations were present, and he learned about techniques that led to unanimous agreement which was necessary for any proposal to be adopted by the Confederacy. Franklin recommended to colonists the Iroquois Confederation process for consideration as a structure of limited self-governance for colonials. This was some years prior to 1775 and the quest for American independence from British sovereignty.

The Iroquois called themselves Haudenosaunee pronounced "hoden-oh-SHO-nee" meaning in their language People of the Longhouse.

Why did they confederate or form a league? Why did they join the French in the French & Indian War against the British, the Americas continent portion of the global Seven Years War that ended in 1763? Great Britain versus France, Spain, Portugal that ended with a massive British victory in which a company grade military officer George Washington from Mount Vernon Virginia participated. From the early 17th century in the Massachusetts Bay Colony period, from the locations close to the Atlantic Ocean and westward into what is now upstate New York, colonists contested with the Mohawk in particular and later other Iroquois nations. In those contests Mohawk proved agile, capable and brave in combat despite not having metal weapons, and caused colonists much property damage, injuries and death. Massachusetts Bay Colony put a bounty on Mohawk scalps so colonists were paid when they brought in a scalp.

British colonists, i.e. future Americans, were persistent in their refusal to keep their own agreements with members of the Iroquois Confederacy and persistent in stealing Iroquois land and committing violence on the Iroquois. Some captured Mohawk were sold into slavery and deported by ship to the Caribbean. Of course



image from Pinterest, Native American Paintings

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/635148353680479939/>

the Iroquois preferred the French trappers, explorers and Black-robed friars who brought Iroquois gifts, friendship, hope of salvation, and then passed through without colonizing on Iroquois land. At the period of the American Revolution most Iroquois sided with the British against the revolutionaries who had seized and would seize more Native American land. When Americans won the War the

Iroquois were treated as a conquered people.

In the War of 1812 – 1815 the Iroquois sided with the British in Canada against Americans, long and bitter enemies. Once again, the Iroquois paid a price for choosing the wrong side, and most were confined to reservations that were repeatedly shrunk or redrawn.

When Congress passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the so-called "civilized tribes" Creek, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickisaw and Seminole were forcibly removed from the southeast to Indian Territory [future Oklahoma]. Thomas Jefferson's father dined with a Cherokee chief in Williamsburg Virginia similarly to Benjamin Franklin having dined with Iroquois chiefs but all Native Americans were eventually treated as "savages" and not accorded status of citizenship in the United States nor was their "foreign" nationality status on their own land respected.

In late 20th century we began to respect the legacy of the Iroquois as we came to grips with the atomic bomb, nuclear arsenals and environmental concerns. Folks focused on the Iroquois concept of managing the earth in such a way as to be kind to Iroquois on that earth seven generations in the future. We began to ask what that removed and displaced people had contributed to the formation of the United States. In 1987 hearings were held by a Congressional committee and a 392 page record of those hearings is located in the Government Documents section of Texas Tech University Main Library and another in the School of Law's Law Library. Accession Y.4In2/11:S.hrg 100-6-10. During the following year U.S. House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution No. 331 and U.S. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 were passed on October 4, 1988, 100th Congress Second Session. They recognize the Great Peacemaker Law of the Iroquois Confederacy was a model introduced and considered by our founding fathers at the first Continental Congress in 1775 prior to the Declaration of Independence being adopted the following year.

sources:

[The History of the U.S. Constitution We Weren't Taught in School \(mollylarkin.com\)](http://mollylarkin.com/)

Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian [HGuidefinalrevision.indd](#)





# Will James

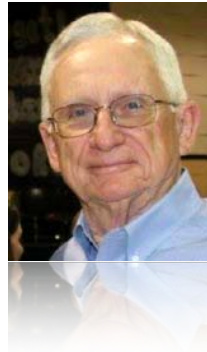
## cowboy, writer, artist

**His True Love Was the West**



Will James, artist and author. 1892-1942. (Photo from book "Will James- The Life and Works of a Lone Cowboy.")

**Will James** was a really interesting individual. He was a good cowboy, a great writer and a great artist, but he lived under an alias and with a made-up background just about his whole life. And a lot of people didn't know that until after he had died. Will became famous as a writer and a painter. He wrote about cowboys and cow horses, and that's what he painted, because he pretty well painted what he



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



knew. In his 1930 autobiography, he claimed to have been born in Montana, that his mother died of influenza when he was one year old, and that he was orphaned when he was four years old after his father was killed when a steer gored him. He then claimed to have been adopted and raised by a French-Canadian fur trader. None of that was true. As a matter of fact, it's been estimated that the first third of his autobiography is fiction. So, let's start at the beginning and see just exactly who Will James was.

Will was born Joseph Ernest Nephtali Dufault in 1892 in French speaking Saint-Nazaire-d'Acton, a small town near Montreal in Quebec, Canada, where his father was a merchant. He left home at the age of 15, after finishing the eighth grade, so that he could pursue his dream of living on the western frontier. In 1910, he settled near the new French-Saskatchewan settlement of Val Marie, and under the tutelage of local cowboy Pierre Beaupre, learned the cowboy ways. Both Will and Beaupre filed for homesteads along the Frenchman River in Saskatchewan, and the property Will filed on is today a part of Grasslands National Park.

At some point, Will had some trouble with the law, so he dropped south across the border into Montana, changed his name to William Roderick James and claimed to be a citizen of the United States. To anyone who asked about his French accent, he told them the made-up story about being raised by

a French-Canadian fur trapper who was not fluent in English.

Once in Montana, Will put his cowboy training to use and worked for a couple of cow outfits. Then he started capturing wild horses and selling them for profit in Montana, Idaho and Nevada. It was probably from this experience that, years later, he came up with the idea for "Smoky, The Cowhorse," which was his most famous book.

In 1914, Will ended up staying in Nevada longer than he planned. He was arrested for cattle rustling and spent 18 months in the penitentiary. But while he was in prison, he started developing his art, and when he turned in his parole application, he accompanied it with a sketch that he called "A Turning Point." He included a note that said, "Have had ample time for serious thought, and it is my ambition to follow up on my art."

Will didn't become an artist overnight, but until his stint in prison, he had not given much thought as to the talent he had in drawing cowboys and ranch scenes that had an uncanny resemblance to the work of Charles Russell.

When Will got out of prison, he started working for a ranch south of Carson City, Nevada, breaking horses, and was kicked in the jaw. He needed dental work, and was told the best dentists were in Los Angeles. Once there, in 1916, he went to work for the Fat Jones Stables, which was the top supplier of horses and horse wranglers to the movies, and he became a movie stuntman. But World War I interrupted his movie life and he was drafted into the Army. He served as a mounted scout with the 21st Infantry Regiment along the California-Mexican border. His discharge in 1919 brought him American citizenship, and he returned to his cowboy lifestyle.

First, he headed back to Nevada, and arrived in Reno just in time for what became the first annual Nevada Round Up. He worked as a horse wrangler for the round up, but more important, he was paid \$50 to illustrate the program cover. In addition, he teamed up with two men he knew before the war, Fred Conradt and Elmer Freel, to stage bronc busting exhibitions.

During one of the events, Will was thrown from a horse and sustained a severe concussion when he landed headfirst on a railroad track. While convalescing at his friend Fred Conradt's home, he again took up drawing in earnest, and after receiving a good bit of encouragement from Fred's 15-year-old sister, Alice, he decided to make a career out of art.

Later that year, Will moved to San Francisco to pursue an art career. He enrolled at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, where he took evening classes while working as a theater ticket-taker by day. In San Francisco, he met both Maynard Dixon, an artist who focused on the American West, and Harold Von Schmidt, an illustrator who specialized in magazine interior illustrations and who had worked as a cow hand as a youth. The three occasionally rode horses together and spent time discussing art. At the end of the year, through Von Schmidt's connections, Will was able to sell two series of sketches to *Sunset*, a West Coast magazine. Both of the series formed a narrative and contained text written by Will. They ran in the January and November 1920 issues, and this was the first indication that Will had a talent for drawing cow country action scenes with the ability to express himself in the writing style of a cowboy.

Will returned to Reno and married the 16-year-old Alice Conradt, and in 1921, the couple traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to mingle with the art colony there and try to develop a market for his work. In Santa Fe, he met Wallace Springer, who was a western art enthusiast and part of the family who owned the CS Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico.

By this time, Will realized that he wasn't going to be able to make a living on art alone. Wallace Springer's brother Ed was running the CS, and he gave Will a job. He sent him to a ranch cow camp about 9,000 feet up in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. During the summer of 1921, Will was getting a reputation in the cow camp for being as good with a story and a sketching pencil as he was with a rope and a cow horse. One day, Ed Springer rode into the camp with Jack Nairn, who was a





neighbor, and Nairn's house guest, Burton Twitchell, who was dean of students at Yale University.

All three men were impressed with Will's story telling ability and his art talent. Twitchell offered Will a special Yale art scholarship, and Springer and Nairn agreed to pay whatever expenses the scholarship did not cover. However, at Yale, Will quickly discovered that he had rather lead the cowboy life than the academic life. But even though he dropped out of Yale within a few weeks, his time spent there turned out to be very valuable. Twitchell introduced him to some New York publishers, and Will and Alice traveled there to try and sell his work. However, when Life magazine turned him down, the couple returned to Reno and moved into a cabin in Washoe Valley that Alice's father had built. It was there that Will first started writing for publication.

In the fall of 1922, Will wrote an article on bucking horses. Twitchell had also introduced him to Charles Scribner, who was the most important publisher in America at the time, and when Will sent the article on bucking horses to Scribner, editor Max Perkins believed the writing revealed what he called "authentic American vernacular" and recommended its publication. Scribner paid \$300 for "Bucking Horses and Bucking Horse Riders," with illustrations, and published Will's first major article in 1923 in Scribner's Magazine.

Perkins encouraged Will to write novels, and several short stories and books followed, all of which were published by Scribner. That enabled Alice and him to buy a small ranch in the Washoe Valley, and that's where he wrote his most famous book, "Smoky the Cowhorse." It was published in 1926, and won the Newberry Medal for children's literature in 1927. It also was made into three movies, one in 1933, one in 1946 and one in 1966. Will narrated the 1933 version, and both the film and the novel won the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, which was given by the University of Wisconsin.

His fictionalized autobiography, "Lone Cowboy," was written in 1930 and was a best-selling Book of the Month Club selection. He wrote his last book, "The American Cowboy," in 1942, shortly before his death. In all, he wrote and illustrated 23 books, five of which were made into feature films.

In the late 1930s, Will lived in the California high desert on the Godshall C Bar G Ranch, which overlooked the Mojave River. While there, he wrote at least one book, "Flint Spears." His later years were spent on a ranch he had bought near Pryor Creek, Montana, and at his home in Billings, Montana.

With Will's success, came pressures. His answer as a way to handle those pressures was to drink. He was living and writing in a cottage on the Godshall Ranch near Victorville, California, when he died of cirrhosis of the liver at the age of 50 on September 3, 1942.

Ian Tyson, who lives in Canada and has written some of the very best cowboy songs ever recorded, wrote a song about Will James. There are a couple of stanzas in that song, both of which talk about his paintings and drawings, that are particularly applicable to our story. The first one says, "His heroes were his horses, and he drew them clear and true. And on every page, they'd come alive, and jump straight out at you."

The second stanza goes like this: "So I've memorized those pictures, boys, they're still the very best. If whiskey was his mistress, then his true love was the West."



# from the Westerners International Mercantile

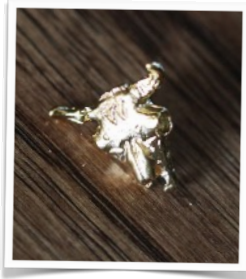
- Lapel pin with pin clasp ..... \$13.00
- "Past Sheriff" lapel pin ..... \$13.00
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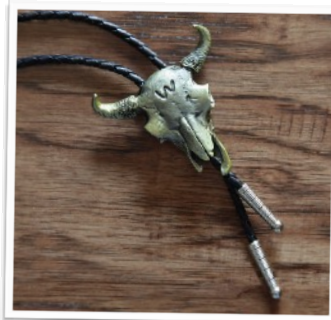
**coming soon: Western Belt buckles with WI logo!**



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lucite paper weight



tee shirt



white v-neck



Westerner cap



Polo shirt



white bandana



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



# THE PANHANDLE PROHIBITION EXHIBITION

October 17, 2020- July 2022 in the Furniture Gallery

On January 17, 1920, a new day dawned for most of the USA as the 18th Amendment went into effect. Americans could no longer manufacture, sell, or transport alcoholic beverages. The Temperance movement took Texas early but now had an impact on the rest of the US from organized crime to underground bars to fashion of the day.

The Panhandle Prohibition Exhibition takes you back to the Texas Panhandle in the 1920s. Learn the diversity of music and opinions in our very own recreated speakeasy complete with augmented reality and get your very own mugshot. Understand fashion, consumerism and politics of the day while listening to some great jazz.



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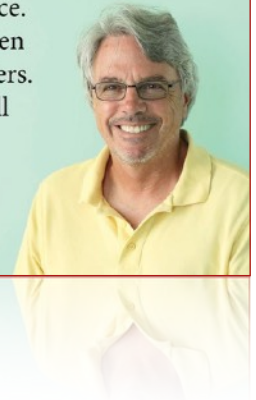
**Thursday, April 7, 2022: Garry L. Nall Lecture in Western Studies** featuring Red Steagall, "Values of the Cow Country told in Story, Verse, and Song"  
○ 7 p.m. (CST) [JBK Legacy Hall](#)  
○ Register here for the online option: [bit.ly/steagall](http://bit.ly/steagall)  
○ More details coming soon!

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>



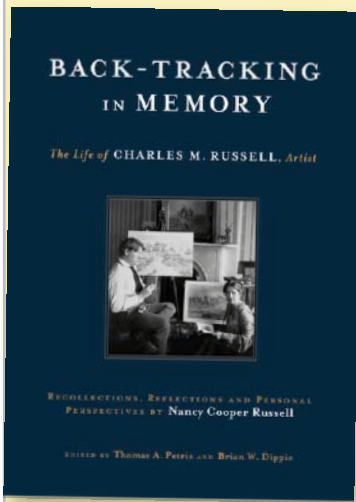
"The PPHM is my single favorite museum and has been a huge source of inspiration to me as a historian. Touring it is an amazing learning experience. For almost 20 years now I have been recommending the place to travelers. You can do whatever you like, I tell them, but don't miss the PPHM!"

- S. C. Gwynne



# BOOK NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



## **Back-Tracking in Memory**

*The Life of Charles M. Russell, Artist Recollections, Reflections and Personal Perspectives by Nancy Cooper Russell*

edited by Tom Petrie & Brian Dippie

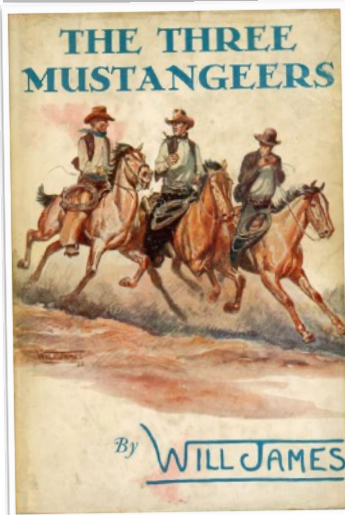
published by C.M.Russel Museum  
produced by Sweetgrass Books

She was eighteen, effectively an orphan, and he was thirty-two, a former cowboy from a good family in St. Louis struggling to make his living as an artist. She would be by his side for the rest of his life as his wife, cheerleader, and extraordinarily capable business manager. When he died in Great Falls, Montana, in 1926, shortly after they celebrated their thirtieth anniversary, Charlie Russell was at the top of the heap,

Back Tracking in Memory is available at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers, or from distributor Farcountry Press at 1.800.821.3874, [www.farcountrypress.com](http://www.farcountrypress.com)

softcover

ISBN 10: 1591522889



## **The Three Mustangers** by Will James

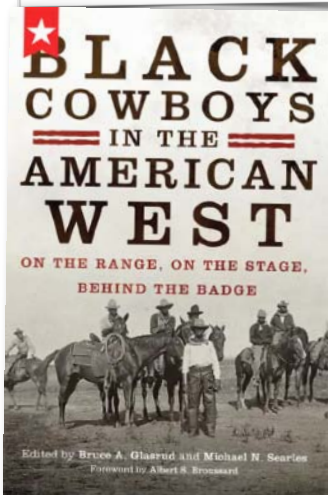
one only, collectable

price \$675

offered by: Buckingham Books, Dealer in Rare and First-Edition Books:

Western Americana; Mystery, Detective, and Espionage Fiction New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933. First edition. Bright green cloth, titles stamped in gilt on the front cover and spine with horse drawing and his name in black on the front cover, xii [2], 338 pp., preface, frontispiece, illustrated by the author. Fine bright copy in dust jacket a bit dull at the spine and lightly soiled on the rear cover. A story of three cowboy partners who catch wild horses for a living and reduce the overstocking of the range at the same time. An attractive copy.

<https://www.buckinghambooks.com>



## **Black Cowboys in the American West**

*On the Range, on the Stage, behind the Badge*

Edited By Bruce A. Glasrud And Michael N. Searles, Foreword By Albert S. Broussard

paperback \$24.95

256 PAGES | 6 X 9

Who were the black cowboys? They were drovers, foremen, fiddlers, cowpunchers, cattle rustlers, cooks, and singers. They worked as wranglers, riders, ropers, bulldoggers, and bronc busters. They came from varied backgrounds—some grew up in slavery, while free blacks often got their start in Texas and Mexico. Most who joined the long trail drives were men, but black women also rode and worked on western ranches and farms.

from the The University of Oklahoma Press <https://www.oupres.com>

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.



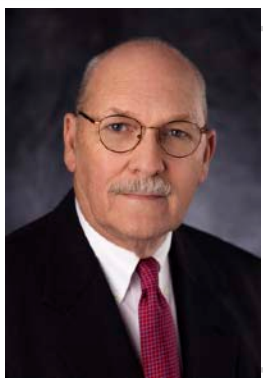
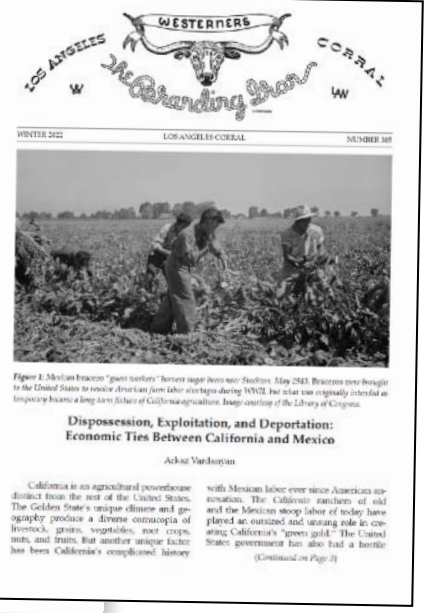
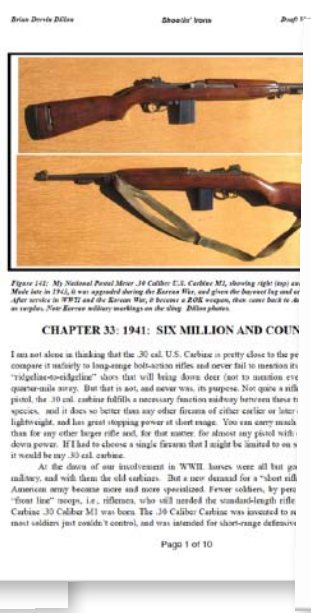
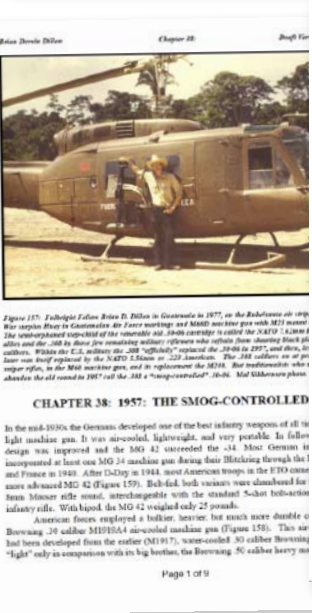
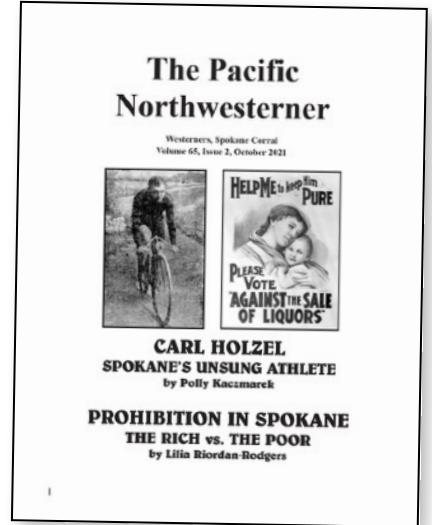
# CORRAL PUBLICATION NEWS

OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



The Home Ranch is pleased to receive publications from our various Corrals that create digital and paper versions. The quality and content of these samples are excellent. If your Corral publishes a newsletter, bulletin, report or pamphlet, please share it with us.

Left: the **Pikes Peak Posse** publishes the newsletter "Inkspot", courtesy Bob DeWitt.  
Right: "The Pacific Northwestern" Volume 65, Issue 2., **Spokane Corral**, Duane Broyles.  
Below: **Brian Dillon of the Los Angeles Corral** shared three bulletins featuring "my grandpa, another my dad, the last one yrs. truly". Thank you Brian.  
Bottom Right: the latest **Branding Iron** (No. 305) editor, **John Dillon**. The lead article is by the newest Student Fellow, **Arkaz Vardanyan**, history undergraduate at California State University, Northridge. . . Arkaz is also the youngest member of the **Los Angeles Corral**.



**Greetings from your Buckskin Bulletin editor, Kenneth Pirtle.** It is with pride that I put together these newsletters four times a year for **Westerners International**. I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "BB" and share with our membership. Please share your **WI** news and activities to me at [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](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