

Buckskin Bulletin

VOL. XLV

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL
www.westerners-international.org

ISSUE 3, 2012

Tom Powers Speaks to Group, Topic is The Killing of Crazy Horse

The **Omaha Corral** of Westerners kicked off their new lecture season in a big way by inviting Pulitzer Prize winning author **Tom Powers**, photo right, to speak to their members on September 6.

Best known as a journalist concerned with modern subjects such as the CIA and espionage, Mr. Powers has recently produced a book that analyzes the events that surrounded the killing of Crazy Horse at Fort Robinson in 1877.

At first the choice of subject matter may seem unusual, but as anyone familiar with the Plains Indian Wars knows, the enigmatic life and death of Crazy Horse is so clouded in legend and lore, that it has become difficult to



know fact from fiction. Adding to this already muddled situation is the century-long clash of intra-tribal politics, cultural traditions, Army duplicity and conspiracy theorists.

Crazy Horse's life has been told and retold by many well-known writers; among them Mari Sandoz and Stephen Ambrose. What author Tom Powers has done is not so much historic revisionism as bring an investigative journalist's critical eye to a complex story and work to make sense of it all. Judging by the comments and questions offered by the Corral of Westerners, Tom Powers' efforts were well received and appreciated.

His book was published by Vintage Publishers.

This special meeting began the corral's 50th anniversary year.

The President—Rodney Goddard

Greetings & Salutations:

We have survived another blast furnace of a summer here in Oklahoma and now it is time to look at what needs to be done in the cooler times ahead.

The annual **Western History Association** meeting in Denver is over and I hope everyone who attended had a chance to meet members of the new **Student Posse** from **Western State Colorado University**, Gunnison. I wanted them to circulate and sell attendees on the idea of organizing other student posses. I think they managed to accomplish this

as they certainly seemed to make a good impression on everyone they met.

Now the next step is to get WI members to give the Home Ranch names of possible contacts at colleges and universities. If this organization can get Student Posses established in the academic world, then WI can make the important generational leap that we must in order to survive. We hope this is a project WHA will consider working on with us as we believe it is to their advantage, too.

It is nearly time for the forms for the 2012 Awards submissions to go out. The

forms will be mailed to all Corral "Reps" as they always are in early January. However, they also will be posted on our web page:

<http://www.westerners-international.org>

I ask the groups to be sure to follow the instructions on the forms such as the eligibility of both the entrant and the sponsoring posse/corral and get them to the Home Ranch by the due date.

As your WI President I am open for invitations to attend your meetings and lastly, do not hesitate to offer suggestions for improving my role here at the WI Home Ranch.

The Chairman—Kent McInnis

Five years ago then Westerners Chairman **Revere Young** called me to ask if I would replace him as chairman. I said, "Yes," making him a mighty happy man. He was 79 years old. For six years he had led this organization with the precision of the general he was. Retiring in 1988 with the rank of Air Force Brigadier General, Revere brought to Westerners International the order that perhaps it had lacked before. The office never has looked as ready for inspection as during his tenure.

Several years ago I told him I was writing an article, nominating him as a **Living**

Legend. I wanted to ask him a few questions to get the story correct. Rather abruptly, he informed me that there would be no article. He ordered that the project stop. **Revere Young** did not want the attention to ever focus upon himself.

His heritage influenced his humility. Years ago, at a gathering we commonly attended, I forgot my billfold and had to ask Revere for a quick loan to pay for my dinner. Soon thereafter at another meeting, I handed him a \$20 bill. He refused to take it. "But I owe you," I protested. His reply told me volumes about his perspective of American history. "It has

a picture of Andrew Jackson," he stated, recalling the forced relocation and movement of so many Indian tribes westward into Indian Territory. "I refuse to carry his likeness on my person." The Trail of Tears of the 1830s forged the general's view of the American West.

In July, General Revere Young passed away. He was a great man. He leaves his wife, Mary, the consummate "General's wife," to carry on. We are so pleased to have her continued attendance at our **Chisholm Trail Corral** meetings in Oklahoma City. Westerners are family. We take care of our own.

The Editor—Burnis Argo

Those of you with sharp style, he felt, reflected that eyes may wonder why the story on the bottom of the last page, as well as this one, both about **Revere Young**, are written in a block style—or justified, with the lines all straight in the right margin as they are in the left. It is in honor of Revere who always wanted all letters and anything else sent from this office to be that way during the years he served as WI Chairman. Indeed, he wanted the bulletin articles that way too!

Being a military man he liked things to be precise, orderly and very neat. This

and being a very hands on Chairman, who spent many hours at the Home Ranch, it was pretty difficult to slip something by that wasn't written in that style. If he caught you he was very polite, but firm, "I think that would look better if you wrote it so the margins were the same. Don't you think so, too?" And then he would grin and the offending party, usually me, would immediately scurry around and take care of it.

So for you, Revere, I have done these two articles your way.

Corral Roundup

"Where to look for them. How to recognize them. What is their historical importance? What are they good for today? Who cares?" What was this intriguing sounding program for the **Denver Posse** all about?

"Buffalo Wallows" was the subject and **John Monnett** the speaker at the group's September meeting.



As do many of our member groups the **San Francisco Corral** placed a plea in a recent meeting notice hoping to attract volunteers for some vacant corral of-

fice positions.

"We do not want to keep calling on our ex-Sheriffs to do another term....This Corral cannot continue with no new people taking on responsibilities."



The September meeting of the **South Canadian Cross-Timbers Corral**, Norman, Oklahoma, was a chance for members to get caught up after the summer.

"Bring some books for the raffle, some treats to share and enjoy a chance to meet and greet friends from the trails," read the notice.



Brig. Gen Revere A. Young



When **Revere Young** joined the **Home Ranch** he noticed something he didn't like. Metal shelves for the WI Library? Couldn't we do better? WI was in a severe money crunch so he immediately made an offer. He loaned WI the money for handsome new wooden shelves and then arranged for them to be crafted. A grateful Executive Committee worked hard and soon had him paid back.



Mary Marvel, above, gives the financial report at the WI Summer board meeting following a dinner at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Board meetings are always open to any WI members interested and copies of the minutes are available. The Fall Board meeting is held each October during the annual Western History Association meeting.

W I S U M M E R



John & Melvena Heisch, left, consult the financial report while Don Reeves takes minutes. Above is board member Sandra Noble.

Photos by Jim Argo



BOARD MEETING



Above, left to right, are board members Ed Kelsay, John Marshall, rear, Dennis Noble and Leon and Marcene Nelson. Receiving Thank-You gifts for their service, below, is retiring WI President David Carter, Fort Smith Corral, left, and retiring WI executive board member Leon Nelson, Indian Territory Posse, right. Presenting the plaques was Kent McInnis, executive board chairman.



Corral *Roundup*

Potomac Corral sent a notice to the Home Ranch this past summer that it might go into Dry Camp. The reason is one we hear often "We have not been able to recruit new officers and the current office holders are 'trail weary'." We have received no further information from them.



Dennis Garstang, Kansas City Posse, and Bob Pulcifer, Denver Posse, recently attended the annual meeting of the Wild West History Association in Prescott, Arizona.

According to Garstang several other Westerners International members also were in attendance.

"The WWA is the premier western history organization in the U.S. with a current membership of about 700. For more information go to wildwesthistory.org," he said.



Fall Gathering of the **Santa Barbara Corral** was held October 7 at the Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort. **Palmer Jackson**, ranch host, related the history of his family and ranch from the early 1800s.

WI Award Winners For 2011 Are Named

Co-Founders Best Book Award

1st Place: **Chuck Parsons**, *English Westerners Society*
Captain John R. Hughes, Lone Star Ranger
University of North Texas Press

2nd Place: **David L. Bigler & Will Bagley**, *Utah Westerners*
The Mormon Rebellion, America's First Civil War, 1857-1858
University of Oklahoma Press

3rd Place: **Ernest Marquez, Los Angeles Corral**
Noir Afloat: Tony Cornero and the Notorious Gambling Ships
of Southern California
Angel City Press

Coke Wood Award for Monographs, Articles

1st Place: **Patricia A. Etter**, Scottsdale Corral
2nd Place: **John H. Monnett**, Denver Posse
3rd Place: **Erik Berg**, Scottsdale Corral

Philip A. Danielson Award, Best Programs

1st Place: **Major John Milton Hutchins**, Boulder County
2nd Place: **Gary Turner**, Los Angeles Corral
3rd Place: **Karen Iselin**, Scottsdale Corral

Fred Olds Western Poetry Award

1st Place: **Rod Miller**, Utah Westerners
2nd Place: **Abraham Hoffman**, Los Angeles Corral

Heads Up Award

Corrals Organized Prior to 1973
Los Angeles Corral
Eric A. Nelson, Sheriff

Corrals Organized 1973 and Later
Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral, Bismarck, North Dakota
Mike Knudson, Sheriff

Overseas Corrals
English Westerners Society, England
Francis Taunton, Sheriff

English Westerners Society Meets

By Ray Cox

The annual Members Meeting of the **English Westerners Society** took place on the first Saturday of October at Doggett's Coat and Badge, overlooking the Thames on the South Bank, London.

The lunch attendance was 20 and this provided the usual time for camaraderie, and the renewal of friendships and acquaintances in what is overall a relatively small Westerners community, members widely dispersed around the country.

At the business meeting there was unanimous decision to re-elect the present Committee *en bloc*.

During the afternoon there was the annual auction of books, a feature always of importance to the Society, both because books are an important source of the members' interests and because the auction produces additional funds.

The three talks during the afternoon were from:

1. **Michelle Pollard**, *Tally Sheet* editor and Jesse James expert. The talk was of unusual novelty, titled *Jesse James and Why They Called Him Dave* and concerned the intriguing analogue between incidents in Jesse's life and the life of David of the Old Testa-

ment.

2. **Tim Slessor**, society member and London author of a new book *More Than Cowboys: Travels Through the History of the American West*. His talk was called *Fifty Years of Going West*, about his love particularly for the Plains of Nebraska and Wyoming from his early years in the 1960s when he was sent out to make documentary programmes for the BBC.

3. **Keith Robinson**. His talk was called *Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson on the film Carson City 1997*.

BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

Issued quarterly by Westerners International, a Foundation to stimulate interest and research in frontier history. Send correspondence to:

Westerners International
c/o National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Phone: 1-800-541-4650
E-mail
WIHomeRanch@gmail.com

Annual Dues

\$5 per member

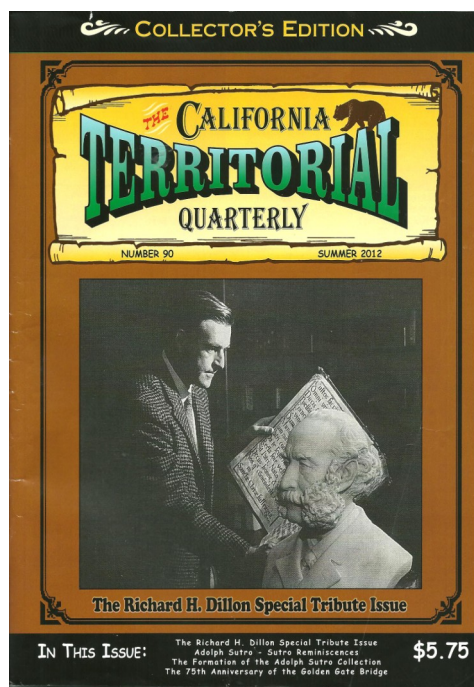
HOME RANCH BUNCH

Kent McInnis, Don Reeves, Rodney Goddard, Mary Marvel, Noel Kruger, Ed Kelsay, David & Shirley Carter, Bill Deupree, John & Melvena Heisch, Jim Argo, Fred Marvel, Cheryl McInnis, Sandra & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Burnis Argo.

Richard Dillon Honored

A regular feature in the *Buckskin Bulletin* is a book review column by **Richard**

H. Dillon. A longtime Westerner and member of the **San Francisco Corral** as well as a retired librarian, distinguished scholar, historian and author, we are honored to have him send us reviews to publish. A letter a few years ago chided us for not sharing more about Dillon himself. Where to start, we wondered, and fortunately this daunting job was tackled by the *California Territorial Quarterly* which published a special Richard H. Dillon Tribute Issue this past summer. Want to know more about Dillon? Find a copy of this treasure.



Westerners International

c/o National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Non-Profit Organi-
zation
U.S. POSTAGE

Paid

Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 891



TRUE WEST *from* WSU PRESS



Be Brave, Tah-hy!

*The Journey of
Chief Joseph's
Daughter*

Jack R. Williams
Illustrations by
Jo Proferes

In 1877, war swept Tah-hy and her people into a harrowing journey and ultimately, a new way of life. In this biographical novel, her young voice captures the Nez Perce Dreamer culture and their profound loss.

Paperback • ISBN 978-0-87422-313-2 • \$29.95

Crooked River Country

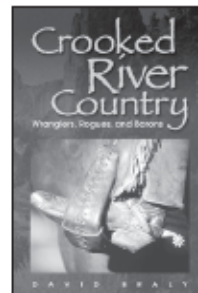
*Wranglers, Rogues,
and Barons*

David Braly

North Central Oregon's hostile country and severe climate bred genuine Wild West legends—hardy souls who defied immense adversity.

Paperback • ISBN 978-0-87422-293-7 • \$24.95

Available at bookstores, on-line at wsupress.wsu.edu, or by phone at 800-354-7360.



WSU PRESS

Fine Quality Books from the Pacific Northwest

WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

World Class. Face to Face.