Coming to a Computer Near You!

And Our New WI President

There is lots to report from the WI Home Ranch! First, we have a new president for WI—Juti Winchester, from the Old Hays City Corral in Hays, Kansas. Read more about and from her on page 2.

Second, is our newly refurbished and updated web site, the Home Page lead picture shown above. A lot of thought and long hours and research and discussion has gone into this project by the committee appointed to oversee it. Taking on the task were Don Reeves, Burnis Argo, Jim Argo and Fred Marvel, working with web designer Sharon Kasper. Drawn into the project was Mary Marvel who spent hours checking and correcting our 100 Best Book List and Active and Dry Camp Corrals lists.

We have included over 58 pictures showing WI members and their activities. These will be changed out from time to time and we will be relying on our various corrals, both US and International, to provide us with good, colorful images to choose from. We hope you like our efforts.
From the Chairman

David Carter and his wife, Shirley Croft, have been loyal members of the Westerners International Executive Committee for almost two decades. For nearly every board meeting the two made the trek from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Oklahoma City to attend and to share their ideas. At first only David served on the board, but it seemed obvious to the board that Shirley, who attended every meeting, deserved a vote as well.

For four years David served as our Westerners president, travelling with Shirley all over the country, from the Potomac Corral in Washington, D.C. to the far western corrals that pepper the landscape in the West. They timed their visits to coincide with the meeting times of these corrals and posses, bringing the Home Ranch message to our members in the trenches.

The two have always provided levity, insight and hard work for Westerners. Now they announce to the board that they are hanging up their spurs to focus on other projects closer to home. The local activities they will continue to support would make anyone’s resume look impressive.

As sad as I feel about losing such wonderful friends to the executive board, David and Shirley deserve our thanks for a job well done. They quit while at the top of their game, which is a fine way to be remembered. So we say “thank you” to these fine folks as they return to their own Fort Smith Corral to enjoy more active times near their home. Till we meet again.

From the New WI President

First, let’s thank Rodney Goddard for his work as President of this outfit for the past four years. He has pulled up stakes and moved to Minnesota; I note that there is not currently an active corral in that state so perhaps we have something to look forward to seeing! As for me, I am equally astounded and honored to have been asked to be President of this fine organization, and when the surprise wears off I hope I’ll have a real and lasting contribution to show for being chosen.

My first Westerners meeting was in 2000, when then-Sheriff Mike Wurtz asked me to do a talk for the Prescott Corral. Since then, I’ve been a member of three others – Garden of the Sun Corral in Fresno, California, Pahaska Corral in Cody, Wyoming, and now the Old Hays City Corral in Hays, Kansas. One thing I’ve observed about all of the Westerners groups I’ve been in contact with is the impact they can have on their local community. Prescott Corral gave research grants to local historians. Garden of the Sun Corral put forward one of their members as a candidate for Poet Laureate of California. Pahaska Corral sent a student to the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., they gave numerous small scholarships to nearby Northwest College, and they made yearly contributions to local charities at Christmas. They funded these projects through a monthly book raffle, a cussing jar (to which my husband made many deposits), and contributions by members.

There are non-monetary ways that your corral can help your local community. If there is a preservation project in town, you can lend your support by writing letters or attending public meetings. You can donate a volume of Western history or literature to your public library. As individuals, you can attend historical society events and meetings. These kinds of contact can help your corral as well as your community – ways that you can be visible, and it will give you an opportunity to lasso new members.

If your corral has a project they’re supporting, or a unique way of raising money, send a chirp to the Home Ranch and share it with the rest of us, so we can applaud your efforts and be inspired by you. –Juti Winchester.
By Doug Hocking

On March 22, 2015, the Bisbee Corral spent the day in Tombstone led by Trail Boss Matt Greenway.

Far too many people react to Tombstone as “just so fake.” But there is a real Western Town preserved here once you get beyond the silly gunfights. And the gunfights? What the heck, they’re having fun and having fun with history. More to the point, there is a great deal that is real to be found. More and more local folks are dressing in period costume, the town looks much like its 1880s photos and there are some fine museums. This is an important part of the old West.

Tombstone was founded in 1877 with a silver strike. It was instrumental in bringing Arizona to the attention of the nation and in opening the land. Before Tombstone, Arizona consisted of Tucson, Tubac, Prescott and Yuma and a lot of “empty.” Everything changed once silver was found by Ed Schieffelin. For a while, this was the biggest town between El Paso and San Diego and the most modern. It had telephones and electric lights almost as soon as they were invented. There were fancy restaurants that offered oysters and fish fresh from the Gulf of California.

We started at the 1882 Courthouse. While built too late for the Earps to have appeared there, it is now a museum that offers a wonderful glimpse into Tombstone’s real history. The corral spent hours looking before we wandered up town to the Birdcage Theatre. The sign says it was built in 1881, but it might have been 1882. Nonetheless, the theatre was host to Eddie Foy, Little Egypt, Sarah Bernhardt, Lily Langtry and other greats. This was an important theatre in an important town.

From there we did lunch at the Longhorn, then wandered over to Red Marie’s Bookshop where historian Ben Treywick entertained and sold books. Across the street are the offices of the Epitaph. As John Clum said when he started his newspaper, “Every Tombstone must have its Epitaph.” It is now a fine museum of printing history where you can buy old numbers of the paper.

We walked down Fremont Street passing the site of the Gunfight Near the OK Corral as gunfire erupted for the fourth time that day on the other side of the wall and continued on to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the first protestant church in Arizona. The stained glass is chipped with a bullet hole, the chandeliers were stolen from a clipper ship and there’s a crib (bordello) out behind the rectory. It is Tombstone after all. Rev. Peabody raised money to build the adobe church in the saloons, drunks are always happy to contribute to a good cause. He went on to found Groton School. It was a great day in a fun town and there is much more real history to see.

What’s in Your Backyard?

Bisbee Corral Tours Tombstone

Some Bisbee Corral members on the tour of the town of Tombstone.
By Mary Marvel and Sandi Noble

As members of Westerners when you read your Buckskin Bulletin you probably notice from time to time that certain members are honored as Living Legends. We think we have a Living Legend right here in our own Chisholm Trail Corral.

Burnis Argo is a fourth generation Oklahoman whose interest in Oklahoma history began with her four grandparents and two of her great grandparents.

Her paternal grandparents moved from Kansas to the Osage Nation in Indian Territory after the 1893 Land Run.

In the late 1890s her maternal grandparents and great grandparents moved up to Western Oklahoma Territory from Texas. It was hearing stories and reading written accounts from both sides of her family about pioneering westward that gave her a keen interest in history.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University, as was her father, sister, several cousins, two sons and a daughter-in-law, she put her BA in English to work as a feature writer in the Women’s Department of The Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times newspapers. After 10 years she quit to free lance and rear two sons and a husband!

In 1991 she agreed to co-author a book with Oklahoma historian and Westerner Kent Ruth. Ruth wrote the introduction to Oklahoma Historical Tour Guide, then unfortunately died, leaving her to complete the project. More recently she was a major contributor to a book on the steam train photographs taken by her father Preston George, a well-known photographer of steam trains in Oklahoma and Colorado during the late 1930s to the early 1950s.

In 1980 her husband, Jim, was joining the Indian Territory Posse, so she became a member of the Oklahoma City Women’s Posse. When the latter went into dry camp with the organization of the Chisholm Trail Corral in 1990, both Argos became charter members. In 1992 she was recruited to take on the Buckskin Bulletin as well as handle the day to day activities of the WI Office and especially to round up the many volunteers “promised” by the Men’s Posse when the Home Ranch was moved from Tucson to Oklahoma City. She got the help of a few but handled most of the duties by herself. Counting the early membership in the Women’s Posse she has given the last 35 years to Westerners and is a well-known goodwill ambassador for the organization, we believe.

She is a long-time member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, served 12 years on the board of the Edmond, Oklahoma, Historical Society and has worked on projects for the Edmond Historical Preservation Trust as well as belonging, past and present, to several genealogy groups.

It should be noted she is only the third woman to be a Living Legend!
At the May meeting of the **Boulder Corral** the group celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park with a history of automobile tourism to the park, starting with the Stanley Steamer.

Speaker was **Lee Whiteley**, a fourth-generation Coloradan. He and his wife, **Jane**, are both members of the **Denver Posse** and the authors of five books on early transportation systems of the West. They are associate producers of the PBS documentary “Paving the Way; the National Park-to-Park Highway.”

**Peter H. Hassrick**, director emeritus and senior scholar, at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, was the speaker at the April meeting of the **Pahaska Corral**.

Subject of his talk was American artist John Mix Stanley. The Center is opening a major show featuring the work of this artist this summer.

Speaker at the April meeting of the **Central New Mexico Corral** was member **Merideth Hmura**, author of “Mountain View Ranch: 1915-1945.” She told the group about the early history of the upper Pecos and the Mountain View Ranch.

**John G. Neihardt Corral** met in April to hear a program by **Larry Pauley**. His topic was “Toll Roads in Boone County.”

In March **David Sapp** discussed the Boonslick Trail, the first road from St. Charles to (Old) Franklin which ended where the Santa Fe Trail began.

**San Francisco Corral** members enjoyed their “annual outing” in May. The group went to the Jack London Square, meeting at the USS Potomac, presidential yacht of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for a tour. Following lunch at Lungomare, they retreated to Heinhold’s First and Last Chance Saloon, with an opportunity to tour Jack London’s cabin next door.

“**The Life and Sights of Abraham Lincoln**” was the subject of the talk by **Bob Ihsen** at the **San Dimas Corral** meeting in June.

**Fort Abraham Lincoln Corral** enjoyed a Summer Picnic with live Cowboy Music in June. The group met at Buckstop Junction for the chicken supper. **Vern Erickson** and **Les Vaagen** performed the program on the history of music.

Also enjoying a musical program were members of the **Chicago Corral** at their April meeting. Giving the program was **Ed Metz** who traced the development of Native American flutes and played the oldest Native melody from the 1600s.

**Utah Westerners** met in May for a program by **Donna Poulton**. Topic was “At a Glance, Cody, Wyoming.” Since the group’s field trip in June was to Wyoming the talk was a good introduction to some of the things they would be seeing, and gave the members not going an opportunity to enjoy some of the sights they would be missing.

**Los Angeles Corral** July Roundup was a program on “The Living Legacies of Spain in the North American West: Law, Natural Resources and International Treaties in the Borderlands.” Speaker was **Michael M. Brescia** who is a specialist in Mexican and borderlands history.

**Wanted:**

Pictures of Corral and Posse activities for Bulletin and for our new web page. Best are 4x6 or 5x7 color photos. These can be sent by email:

wihomeranch@gmail.com

or regular mail:

1700 NE 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK  73111

Include names of people and places and that of the photographer.
**Omaha Corral Field Trip**

End of season tour for the Omaha Corral was a visit to the steamboat *Bertrand* at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The group met in May at the refuge visitor center for an up-front and behind-the-scenes look at the Missouri River sternwheeler.

The Montana-bound boat sank there on April 1, 1865. Lives were not lost but the vessel was nearly a total loss. A salvage crew out of Omaha stripped the wreck of its boilers, upper works, smoke stacks and even her sternwheel—all of which could be used to repair other boats—but the cargo stashed under the main deck was untouched and disappeared in river silt.

In the late 1960s the same cargo emerged in salvage work and today virtually all of it is preserved and displayed at the visitor center.

Corral member and *Bertrand* curator Dean Knudsen was host to the group.

**Casper Posse**

*Up and Running*

The Home Ranch has received word from the Casper (Wyoming) Posse that they are now organized, beginning to hold meetings and have sent in the dues for their members. Also a mailing list so each new member will receive a copy of the *Buckskin Bulletin* this year. Congratulations to sheriff Douglas R. Cubbison and welcome is extended to all our new Casper Westerners members.

**Jedediah Smith Corral Meets**

Along with their dues and updated mailing list the Jedediah Smith Corral added a report on their March luncheon meeting. Correspondent was “Rep” Carol Sides.

“At the meeting we honored our Keeper of the Marks and Brands, Laura Batchlor, for her many years of service as she has stepped down. Our new Keeper is Trayce Dinkel.

“Speaker was historian Larry Baliz. A mountain here, as well as the VA Center, is named Battle Mountain and there has been controversy whether there was ever a battle here. Larry gave a very interesting account of the fighting between the Sioux and Cheyenne using the Sioux Winter Count.” she wrote.

“This is the hide with the history done in pictures, one for each year for whatever event was most important. Not all Winter Counts have the same picture, but for 1833-34 all have a depiction of the meteor shower that occurred Nov. 12, 1833, since everyone thought this was the end of the world as the stars fell day and night,” she continued.

“The 1840-41 record showed they were at peace with each other, largely because the Cheyenne had attacked a wagon train and came down with cholera and many warriors died.”

The speaker showed some Winter Counts of these events as well as some others, and also showed his personal Winter Count, “she concluded.

An interesting program.

**What is Happening Here?**

In the Home Ranch office Mary and Fred Marvel, left and right, check for mistakes and updates to the WI Tally Sheet of active and dry camp corrals while web designer Sharon Kasper, center, corrects the errors they find. Work on the new Westerners International web site has been a time consuming activity for members of the website committee. (Photo by Jim Argo)
**Plaque Mystery Solved**

Do any of you have a plaque such as this one associated with your corral or posse? We recently had a visit by **Kristi Keller**, member of the **Santa Catalina Corral**, Tucson, Arizona. While sitting around the Home Ranch office she mentioned the mystery plaque her group seemed to have rescued but know nothing about. She described it and we all shook our heads and said we knew nothing of such a thing but would try and find out.

The very next week the same group, minus Keller, were back at the office and someone, maybe several at once, suddenly realized we had such a plaque in our office. Actually Kristi and been sitting with it right behind her, leaning against the wall. The rest of us were looking that way but somehow didn’t connect it to what she described. **Fred Marvel**, who has been going through back issues of the *Buckskin Bulletin* worked his research magic and soon came up with the answer we needed.

The Old Joe sculpture on the plaque was created by a California Westerner **Dr. Joseph H. Shebl**, physician and sculptor. He had only three castings done of the 10-inch tall Old Joe, one he donated to Chicago, one to San Francisco and one to the Home Ranch office in Tucson at that time—pre-1971. He agreed that a few more could be struck and a corral could have one for $300 donated to Westerners International.

Were there any further castings done? We don’t know. The Home Ranch actually has two, apparently the one donated to Chicago and the casting alone from Tucson which hangs outside our office door. If your corral has one, take pride in it as it is a rare treasure and a rather expensive one costing $300.

**From the Editor**

Here is a question: some of you know, and some probably do not, that originally Westerners was an all male organization with a few Women’s Posses which met separate from the men, such as the **Rachel Snowden Posse** in Omaha and the **Oklahoma City Women’s Posse**. They were generally organized by the wives, sisters, aunts, etc. of the male members. Are there any all-male posses still around? Would be interesting to know.

Here is an unusual coincidence. Of the three women who are Living Legends two are loosely related. **Nellie Snyder Yost**, No. 12, is a distant cousin of **Jim Argo**, husband of Living Legend No. 59, **Burnis Argo**.

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*Burnis Argo*

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**Buckskin Bulletin**

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**HOME RANCH BUNCH**  
Kent & Cheryl McInnis, Don Reeves, Fred & Mary Marvel, Ed Kelsay, Bill Deupree, John Heisch, Jim & Burnis Argo, Sandi & Dennis Noble, John Marshall, Bob Berry, Brent Cummings and Harvey Pratt.
Members Visit the Home Ranch

It has been our pleasure recently to have two WI members pay a visit to the Home Ranch. First was Shebby Lee, member of the Black Hills Corral, who was in Oklahoma City to attend a tourism conference. Jim and Burnis Argo met her for a short visit at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum before a dinner she was to attend.

Several days later Kristi Keller stopped at the museum on her way back to Arizona after a trip east. She was able to meet the Argos, Fred and Mary Marvel and Don Reeves and tour the WI office. During the visit she mentioned an unusual plaque her Santa Catalina Corral had found but didn’t know any history about. After she left we were able to solve the mystery. See story on Page 7.

Putting faces with our members is always fun. If you are coming our way, let us know ahead of time and we will arrange to have someone at the office to meet with you and show you around. Visitors Welcome!

Shebby Lee, center, with Jim and Burnis Argo.
Here at the Home Ranch we think we have at least two copies of every bulletin except one. Issue No. 1, VIII, right, is one of only three published during the entire 1960s, as far as we know. Some things never change, such as the need for more volunteer help at the Home Ranch when it was in Tucson, below, Winter issue, 1987. We still need more volunteer help, 30 years later in Oklahoma City! The December, 1997, issue, below right, tells of approval to move the Home Ranch from Arizona to Oklahoma.

**Westerners Family Album**

**Buckskin Bulletin**

Winter 1994 Vol. IX No. 1

**Westerners Home Ranch Needs Help**

Westerners throughout the country and in foreign countries enjoy existing on their local Westerns bulletin.

And though Westerners International members at all our shows are the programs of awards for writing and music, in the publication of our bulletin, Buckskin, we have no tradition of scholarship.

Westerners participate in the Buckskin family in receiving the Buckskin Bulletin, and through the Westerners History Association, and in the discussions held at the annual National Westerners Reunion. The bulletin is a publication of the Westerners International, Inc., and all contributions to the Buckskin Bulletin are welcome.

Sometimes there is a need for more volunteer help at the Home Ranch when it was in Tucson, below, Winter issue, 1987. We still need more volunteer help, 30 years later in Oklahoma City! The December, 1997, issue, below right, tells of approval to move the Home Ranch from Arizona to Oklahoma.

**Stockton Corral Co-Hosts April California History Institute**

Stockton Corral President Donald Taylor will host the California History Institute on April 12-13, 1986. The special event of the Institute will spotlight the career of former Governor of California, Governor Pat Brown. The event will feature a panel discussion with Governor Brown and other distinguished guests.

The program of events will include a variety of historical exhibits, interactive activities, and discussions on the history of California. The event will be open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

**Home on a New Range...**

Ralph Orelli

Dary reelected WI President; Name
Oklahomans for Future Key Officers

David, Orelli, Lawrence, KS was elected President of the Westerners International for 1985-1986. Dary Orelli will remain as the National President of the Westerners International. The Westerners International is the national organization for the Westerners International, Inc., and all contributions to the Buckskin Bulletin are welcome.

Stewards of the Westerners International, Inc., are the national organization for the Westerners International, Inc., and all contributions to the Buckskin Bulletin are welcome.
Several of our corrals and posses do more than send out a small meeting notice. Some publish a more substantial offering various times a year for their members to enjoy. Above is the *Territorial Times* of the Prescott Corral and right the *Roundup* of the Denver Westerners. Above right is from the Old Hays City Corral, Hays, Kansas, one of our new groups.
Bisbee Corral at Tombstone

Here are some more sights from the tour of Tombstone, Arizona, taken by the Bisbee Corral. Above the Tombstone Epitaph office, now a museum, and above left, a stained glass window, complete with bullet hole at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Below right is the Bird Cage Theatre and below left, the church rectory with a crib (bordello) behind the tree.

Photos by
Doug Hocking