As of this writing, the folks at the Home Ranch are gearing up to head over to Portland for the next meeting of the Western History Association to represent our organization and greet members in attendance. If you’re fortunate enough to be there, please do stop by the Westerners table in the book room and say hello – it’s the friendliest spot at a friendly conference.

Westerners never fail to surprise me. First, I’ve got to brag on our local corral; our two youngest members took it upon themselves to begin producing a quarterly newsletter, The Limestone Post. The masthead reads, “The Old Hays City Corral of Westerners stands tall and sturdy like a limestone post, a lasting testament to our Western American Heritage.” We’re less than two years old, but I guess they plan on being here a while!

Recently, in an effort to cut costs for our corral, I decided to canvass the membership of the Old Hays City Corral and find out if they would prefer to receive the newsletter digitally via email instead of through the post office. The answer was almost universally “no,” and many of them gave the same reason. Many members told me that they not only read the newsletter, but they took their time reading it -- the articles were so interesting that they stretched them out as much as they could. And finally, a number of people said that they liked to leave a copy of The Limestone Post out where other people could see it (a coffee-table publication!) and use it as a recruiting tool. Who could argue with that?

I also found out that one of the members takes our monthly meeting notices, photocopies them, and puts them up around town. No wonder we’re almost busting out of our current meeting room. This just goes to show -- whether we’re in a crowd, hanging with friends over at the waterhole, or putting up wanted posters on our own, we can help get the word out about the interesting things to be found at the nearest Westerners corral.
From the Chairman — Kent McInnis

The best part of moving is unpacking the boxes. It’s like Christmas all over again. Perhaps some of you experience it, too. For the Home Ranch at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, it was the season to be jolly in September. We moved our offices upstairs. Still no windows, but we are out of the basement. Is that progress? I don’t know, but it certainly was enlightenment. The first gift I opened was the Los Angeles Corral roster that we lost two years ago. Thus, my *mea culpa*. We had not updated the LA Corral’s roster since 2008. We could have done it two years ago. Our mailing list is current now, but my apologies to the Westerners in and around Los Angeles. But life goes on.

For the Home Ranch bunch “Christmas in September” allowed Burnis & Jim Argo, Mary & Fred Marvel, Don Reeves, and me to review all of the publications that so many corrals and posses circulate regularly. They span the gamut from folksy newsletters to serious academic publications. One only has to review the 2014 awards entries to see in the “Coke” Wood, Philip Danielson, and the Fred Olds Poetry awards the extensive and important Westerners publications available. After reviewing our records, I counted 24 different publications that local corrals and posses distribute regularly or as needed. As for the Home Ranch’s *Buckskin Bulletin*, which adds the count to 25, we are always looking for contributions from fellow Westerners to fill our pages. Perhaps those aspiring authors without a local publication in their corral will consider a submission to us in the Home Ranch. Burnis Argo, our editor for the past two decades, delights in receiving your submissions. Make her happy every chance you get.

Sorting through the items we moved to our new offices also gave us at the Home Ranch a chance to review how things have changed in Westerners International. We are proud of what we have accomplished. In the past eight years, since I assumed the chairmanship, we took the organization from a yearly negative cash flow to a small surplus. We did this by:

1. Upgrading our antiquated computer system through judicious purchases of the latest technology, which we continually upgrade as necessary. We are preparing to upgrade to Windows 10.

2. Updating our mailing roster and increasing communication with each Westerner corral. We began providing a better service to our members.

3. Increasing our revenues substantially, because we earned the right to ask member corrals and posses for timely dues pay-

ments. This made treasurer, Mary Marvel, much happier.

4. Looking at expenses, asking some tough questions of ourselves, and getting better service with lower costs from our service providers. The reduced cost of telephones, printing, and postage cut our expenses almost in half.

5. Improving cash flow, which enabled the Home Ranch to leave untouched our endowment in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In the past five years, our investment has increased its value by around 50%. These are the future funds that will keep Westerners International afloat in hard times.

6. Enhancing the look of *Buckskin Bulletin* with better quality printing and paper stock, improved content through membership contributions, as well as accessibility to a color version of the *Bulletin* on our website, http://www.westernersinternational.org/bulletin.shtml.

7. Instituting university-sponsored chapters of Westerners International, which is an experiment in seeding future local members of Westerners International with a younger generation. Former WI president Rodney Goddard was instrumental in the execution of this effort, which is still in its infancy. We are awarding a $1,000 scholarship this year to Tanner Green, member of West Elk Wranglers of Western State Colorado University.

8. Upgrading our obsolete website by hiring a web designer. This project turned into a time intensive labor of love by the Home Ranch staff, encompassing hundreds of hours.

9. Continuing our presence at the Western History Association conference each year, while adapting our methods to the changing needs of our members. Our traditional breakfast is now an afternoon reception which boosted attendance.

10. Enhancing our cooperation and goodwill with other history groups, such as the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Western History Association and Phi Alpha Theta.

So now the warm glow of reflection about the meaning of “Christmas in September” at the Home Ranch is at an end. It is in the best interests of Westerners International to look for those squeaky wheels again. Resting on our laurels is a terrible strategy. May we continuously improve what is already a great institution.
Says Westerner Shebby Lee, September is the busiest month for her tour company and its Journeys of Exploration & Discovery. Don’t despair because you have missed a trip this September as she has come up with some great trips you might like later this year and early next year.

She has been asking for, and receiving, a number of future tour requests and reports “there have been a number of requests for Oregon Trail tours and interest in Lewis & Clark tours remains strong.”

A Featured Tour in late December is Scottsdale New Years December 29 to January 2, a great possibility for ringing in the New Year in an Arizona resort with lots of side trip possibilities to enjoy.

Being offered twice is Yellowstone in Winter by Snowcoach, January 23-27 and again February 6-10.

To receive information about all her tours and/or get on her mailing list you can write: Shebby Lee Tours Inc., PO Box 1032, Rapid City, SD 57709, or phone: 800-888-8306 or visit her http://shebbyleetours.com. If you do Facebook you can check out information there, too.

And if you have a tour idea you would like to see developed, be sure and let her know. Suggestions are welcome.

Our 2014 Award Winners

Co-Founders “Best Book” Award

1st Place: Will Bagley Utah Westerners, Salt Lake City
South Pass: Gateway to a Continent
University of Oklahoma Press

2nd Place: Abraham Hoffman, Los Angeles Corral, California
Mono Lake: From Dead Sea to Environmental Treasure
University of New Mexico Press

3rd Place: Alvin R. Lynn, Palo Duro Corral, Amarillo, TX
Kit Carson and the First Battle of Adobe Walls
Texas Tech University Press

Coke Wood Award for Monographs & Articles

1st Place: Al Bates, Prescott Corral, Prescott, Arizona
“Prescott Begins”

2nd Place: Brian Dervin Dillon, Richard H. Dillon, John Dervin Yi An Dillon, Los Angeles Corral, California
“COMANCHE: California’s Forgotten Ironclads”

3rd Place: Susan L. Richards & Rex C. Myers
Pahaska Corral, Cody, Wyoming
“Man + Opportunity = Success: D. Clem Deaver Sells Himself”

Philip A. Danielson Award for Best Programs

1st Place: Jeff Broome, Denver Posse, Colorado
“Collateral Damage: Sand Creek and the Fletcher Family Indian Captivity Story”

2nd Place: Dr. Thomas P. Collins, Prescott Corral, Arizona
“Stage Struck Soldiers: Military Theater in Territorial Arizona”

3rd Place: Jerry Selmer, Los Angeles Corral, California
“A Great American General War Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce”

Fred Olds Western Poetry Award

1st Place: Rod Miller, Utah Westerners, Salt Lake City
“Goodnight Goes Riding and Other Poems”

2nd Place (Three-way tie)
Tim Heflin, Los Angeles Corral, California
“Granddad’s Saddle”

(Continued on Page 4)
What’s Happening Here?
These are views from the WI Summer Board Meeting held July 18. Above left, board members get a chance to preview the new WI website. Don Reeves, above, is intent on taking the minutes while John and Melvena Heisch, left, check the agenda for the next item of business to be discussed. All board meetings are open to any WI member though only board members can vote. The minutes of this meeting are printed on pages 3 and 4 of the WI Extra, only available on-line as part of the bulletin. (Photos by Jim Argo)

Bernice Landers, Jedidiah Smith Corral, Hot Springs, South Dakota “The Homesteaders”

Pete Kennedy, Silver City Corral, New Mexico “Henry McCarty (Alias William Bonney)”

Heads Up Award
Small Corrals: Bisbee Corral, Arizona Doug Hocking, Sheriff

Large Corrals: Prescott Corral, Arizona Thomas P. Collins, Sheriff

Overseas Corral: Pony Express Corral, Czech Republic V. Michalicka, Sheriff

Westerners University Chapter Scholarship
For Academic & Leadership Excellence

Tanner Green, West Elk Wranglers Western State Colorado University, Gunnison Matt Martinez, University Corral Sponsor

(Editor’s Note: The forms for the 2015 competition will be available in December either from the Home Ranch office, address on page 7, or it can be found and copied from our on-line webpage: www.westerners-international.org so start planning now to get your corral represented in the competition for next year.)

WI Award Winners for 2014 Competition

(Continued from Page 3)
Although few realize it, Paradise is in the Bisbee Corral’s backyard and the cemetery there offers the consolation to friends and family that their departed amigos are indeed “Resting in Paradise.” Nestled in the idyllic valley of Turkey Creek in the eastern Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona some may have already glimpsed its hellish past as Galeyville, home of Curly Bill Brocius, a town that lived and died almost as fast as the outlaw between 1880 and 1883. It’s remnants were incorporated into the buildings of Paradise, established as a mining camp in 1904.

The origins of the name are in dispute. Some say George Walker brought his bride here on their honeymoon and in the morning she proclaimed this paradise. Others say the town is named for a prominent saloon, the Pair o’ Dice. Whichever it was the town boasted a large red-light district and more saloons than houses. Perhaps cowboys, prospectors and miners would have thought this paradise.

The Cochise County Historical Society and Peloncillo Historical Society invited the Corral to participate in their outing which was very well attended. Local residents, there are four both full and part-time, gave us a walking tour of the town pointing out various buildings and talking about famous and infamous things that had occurred there. One spot was the rather large remains of an outhouse where a local resident had perished one morning while about business, a truly crappy way to go, even in Paradise. They couldn’t agree whether it was the husband or the wife who had died in the privy.

Beyond the numerous saloons, cathouses and gambling halls, Paradise boasted a butcher shop, grocery store and several clothiers and a post office. The town died formally when the post office was closed in 1957. Mining had continued until then as the U.S. stockpiled strategic minerals like tungsten.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and were thrilled to visit and learn about this remote, forgotten treasure.
Awards Program Keeps Changing

It’s that time of year again when the annual awards are presented to the winners. This year’s group is listed on Page 3. But like many other Westerner “Old Traditions” the names and often content for our awards have evolved with the years.


“Through the public spiritedness of Westerner Philip A. Danielson, formerly of Chicago, now of the San Francisco Corral, these Awards are on a stable basis to continue indefinitely,” said the article.

Apparently, the four awards were all called Danielson Awards and were referred to as “Prizes” with names suggesting what the awards were for: Head’s Up, for communicating Western history to the community; “Ray A. Billington Prize” for an outstanding publication by a Westerner, “Jedediah Smith Prize” recognized a notable discovery in historical research and the “Elmo Scott Watson Prize” for the unit (corral or posse) with an outstanding publication program. Fifty dollars for each.

That year a new award was established. This prize was to honor Frances Parkman, western historian and was to be a $75 prize for the most outstanding non-fiction historical book of the year.

By 1973 there were six prizes, referred to as University of the Pacific Danielson Awards, totaling $550 in cash and with a few other changes. Added was a second place to an award for “Best Paper (speech).” Split into two divisions was Co-founders “Best Book” Award, one for books strong on verbal and one for books strong on graphics. The “Head’s Up” Award also was divided into Corrals organized before January 1, 1963, and those organized after that date.

Up until 1975 the winners each got a certificate and a monetary award. That year, however, it was decided to present the first place winners in each category, Best Talk, “Best Book” and Community Service with a little something extra.

As the Winter/Spring 1974 issue of the *Buckskin Bulletin* explained, “It is a mini-version of ‘Old Joe,’ that sun-bleached buffalo skull which has symbolized Westerners since the first Corral started in Chicago 30 years ago.”

“Cast in bone-bluff plaster, the head is mounted on weathered wood salvaged from the desert by the unique Nogales Corral which straddles the Arizona-Sonora border line,” the article continued.

The finishing touch was a brass plate, engraved with the name of the winner, attached just below Little Joe’s eroded nose. This was, of course, an early version of the cast metal Old Joe heads attached to a nice, polished piece of wood for the first place winners of today. As a side note, one of our overseas Heads Up winning corrals had their Old Joe gold plated!

At the Home Ranch we still have a couple of these plaster heads, though most of us had no idea what they really were until now. And how special.

The next question is—are there still any of this unique part of our past around? The plaster head on weathered wood? If so—send a picture.

Maybe sometime an interested Westerner will take on the task of tracing the entire history of our Award’s Program. There have been a lot of revisions and additions and subtractions through the years. It is something that is interesting and that has needed doing for a long time.

*(Editors’ Note: thanks to Fred Marvel, Chisholm Trail Corral, for going through our old Bulletins looking for this information as well as many other interesting facts from WI’s past.)*

**Utah Westerners Meet**

David L. Bigler, charter member and first president of the Utah Westerners returned to Utah to present a program in September on his latest book to the group. Title is “Confessions of a Revisionist Historian” which he was once called, a badge he says he wears with pride as “some of our nation’s history needs revising.”

Bigler is the author of seven other books and currently resides in California.
Congratulations to Bruce Fee, seated in center, who recently was honored by the Prescott Corral at a party on the occasion of his 89th birthday! (Photo by Joanna Dodder Nellans)

The Prescott Corral recently held a celebration to honor Bruce Fee, our last living charter member, on his 89th birthday. Corral members along with his family—including a new great granddaughter—plus many friends gathered to share memories, enjoy birthday cake and view paintings of northern and central Arizona.

In addition to being a charter member (1962), Bruce was an early Corral Sheriff (1966) and for decades a frequent and very popular presenter at our monthly meetings. He was awarded first place in WI’s Philip A. Danielson competition for a presentation he made in 2004. Bruce also has been honored by the WI Buckskin Bulletin as “Living Legend” #49.

Bruce also was a long-time member and Chief of Prescott’s now historic Smoki People so several fellow Smoki veterans demonstrated dance steps at the party from their 70 years of ritual performances which supported local charities.

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email
wihomeranch@gmail.com
Check our web page:
www.westerners-international.org
Annual Dues
$5 per member

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.
Each fall the **Los Angeles Corral** has a fund-raiser, called The Rendezvous. This year the event will be October 17 at Rubel Castle in Glendora. Some highlights of the day will be a tour of the historic home, a fine-dining lunch, musical entertainment, a bar featuring “various medications,” a live auction and silent auction.  

The **Denver Posse** attended their afternoon Summer Rendezvous in August at the Old Capital Grill in Golden. Following lunch, Robert and Kristen Autobee gave a presentation on “Lost Restaurants of Denver.”  

“Motoring West: Automobile Pioneers 1900-09” was the topic of the program presented in October for the **Huntington Westerners**, Pasadena, CA. The Velvet Frogs Barber Shop Quartet also performed at the noon meeting of the group.

The annual summer barbecue for the **Pahaska**, Cody-Wyoming, **Corral** was held in August at “Yankee Banker Rihard’s House.” Members were instructed to bring either a salad or dessert to go with the rest of the meal.

**San Dimas Corral**, California, Fandango was held at La Verne Heritage site where visitors can pick oranges, tour an old house and barn and enjoy a fine meal.

**Omaha Corral** opened the fall season in September at the Old Corral with a program by David Wishart based on his book “The Last Days of the Rainbelt,” concerning the high plains area during the 1880s and 1890s.

September meeting of the **San Francisco Corral** featured a program by Kathryn Ayres, vice president of the San Francisco Post Card Club who showed the group enjvintage postcards.

**Chisholm Trail Corral**, Oklahoma City, meet in October at The Greens for a program by member Rick Stahl. His topic is the Harvey Houses along the railroads.
A TRIP TO PARADISE

The Bisbee Corral recently joined two Historical Society groups for a tour of Paradise, Arizona. Some of the modern-day sights they saw are pictured in color above, including the local cemetery. What did Paradise look like in earlier days? At left is a view of the old main street. Above, a stagecoach approaches town.

Photos Provided by Doug Hocking
Bisbee Corral
HOME RANCH
MOVING DAY

After the furniture is in place the next important job is getting Old Joe back up on the wall, left and below. As Don Reeves and Fred Marvel discovered, Old Joe is no lightweight, and very old, so that became a procedure that required some muscle and a lot of careful maneuvering.

Finishing touch is the hanging outside the door of our Westerners plaque, held by Fred Marvel, above.

Kent McInnis, right and below, finds emptying the boxes a tedious chore. And how do you figure out which cord goes where?

Photos by Jim Argo
Chisholm Trail Corral
Kent McInnis, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting in the Burk Burnett Board Room of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Present: Burnis Argo, Jim Argo, Brent Cummings, Bob Berry, Rodney Goddard, John Heisch, Fred Marvel, Mary Marvel, Kent McInnis, Cheryl McInnis, & Don Reeves

Guests: Patsy Goddard, Sharon Kasper, Val Reeves, & Melvena Heisch.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 14, 2015 Executive Board meeting were reviewed. F. Marvel moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by J. Heisch. Minutes approved as submitted.

Financial Report

M. Marvel gave a report on the finances. She observed that the second quarter of 2015 is very similar to the second quarter of 2014 financially with fewer expenses. The current balance of the operating account at MidFirst Bank is $16,436.03 and the combined accounts of the money Market Account and Mutual Fund are $27,333.10. The balance of the WI Endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is $212,467.73 and the office was informed that we should expect a 2015 dividend of $9,235 from the OCCF. M. Marvel noted that as of June 30, among active WI corrals 38 out of 59 have paid 2015 dues totaling $10,812.

Brent Cummings moved that the financial report be approved as submitted. J. Heisch seconded. Motion approved.

Office Report

B. Argo reported that the most recent Buckskin Bulletin is currently viewable online. With the help of Sharon Kasper the Executive Committee was able to view the online newsletter at the meeting and see the three additional pages that are feasible in the digital format – the WI Extra.

Old Business

Longtime Indian Territory Posse member and current Chisholm Trail Corral Sheriff Rodger Harris has agreed to assume the chairmanship of the WI Award Committee to help prepare for the award presentations this fall. We have received 39 entrees this year including good corral participation in the Heads Up Award. This award has been divided into three categories based on corral size instead of the charter date of the corral – pre and post 1973 and international groups. This change has been well-received by the membership. K. McInnis noted that the WI office is in touch with the college corral, West Elk Wranglers, in an attempt to obtain one more submission for the $1,000 college corral scholarship.

The 2015 Western History Association Conference will be held October 21-24 in Portland, Oregon. The WI fall Board of Directors meeting has been set for Thursday and the WI Reception and Auction is on the conference schedule following the board meeting. K. McInnis stated that this reception format has worked well the last couple of years. The WI Session is in the program and WI Executive Committee member Harvey Pratt will be participating as a speaker.

At this time the WI office will be represented at the conference by K. McInnis, C. McInnis, R. Goddard and H. Pratt.

The WI office had recently submitted the annu-
al donation of $1,000 to the Dickinson Research Center of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in support of their activities. The Museum responded with an appreciative thank you letter that was read to the Committee by K. McInnis.

Computer programmer Sharon Kasper and the website subcommittee of B. Argo, J. Argo, M. Marvel, F. Marvel, & D. Reeves, reviewed the newly redesigned WI website. The subcommittee was assigned the task of implementing a website on a more current operating system and updating the information and search features. The newly redesigned web site went live the second week in July so the Executive Committee could view the new platform for approval and offer any changes that needed to be made. J. Argo added that some on the committee worked 200 hours on this project. Sharon Kasper noted that if the work is approved she will be submitting an invoice for approximately 100 hours of work at the agreed rate of $30.00 per hour – a little less than $3,000.

The Executive Committee had received a letter from Juti A. Winchester (Old Hays City Corral) accepting the office of President of Westerners International. Though she apologized for missing the Summer Board meeting due to prior travel commitments, she promised to be an active participant with special interest in the utilization of the WI web site.

B. Berry was asked at the April meeting to review the WI Bylaws for possible revision regarding the tenure of WI members of the Board of Directors. He reported that the management of the Board membership can be maintained without changing the Bylaws. As it stands members of the board may succeed to another three-year term if re-nominated for that office. He suggested that those members who have not been active not be re-nominated but thanked for their past service and allowed to revolve off the board of directors. B. Berry noted that if the Executive Committee wanted to consider revising the Bylaws, he would reach out to fellow Committee member Ed Kelsay for assistance. The Executive Committee agreed with his assessment of the problem and declined to pursue the revision of the Bylaws at this time.

**New Business**

K. McInnis formally nominated Rodger Harris of Oklahoma City as a new member of the WI Executive Committee. F. Marvel made the formal motion and B. Argo seconded his motion. The motion passed by acclamation. R. Harris is interested in assisting the WI officers as the chairman of the WI Awards Program.

K. McInnis informed the Executive Committee of a request from the North Montana Posse of Kalispell, Montana, to create a generic Westerners International challenge coin. They are also interested in the opportunity to market this item to other corrals. The Executive Committee agreed that all such WI items should be created and marketed by Westerners International and not by individual corrals. Kellen Cutsforth of the Denver Posse also asked permission to separately pursue advertising for new members in western publications utilizing the WI logos. The Committee also felt that any advertising under the WI logo should be administered by the WI office. J. Argo suggested that the Committee seek the advice of a lawyer regarding the legal status of the WI logo.

K. McInnis asked for a motion to approve the $2,925 invoice ($30.00 per hour rate) submitted by Sharon Kasper for the upgrade of the WI website. B. Berry so moved and R. Goddard seconded. Motion approved.

K. McInnis reported that the WI office received a letter from David Carter and his wife Shirley Croft requesting their resignation from the Executive Committee of the WI Board of Directors due to the health of David Carter. Those present accepted their resignations, however, recognizing the many contributions they have made over several years.

B. Berry moved that the committee meeting adjourn. R. Goddard seconded. Motion passed without discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Don Reeves, Secretary